

**ISRAEL NEWS**  
*A collection of the week's news from Israel*  
*A service of the Bet El Twinning Committee of*  
*Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

## From the PA Media...

### PA Libel: Israel Deliberately Addicts PA Kids to Drugs

By Itamar Marcus and Barbara Crook

The head of a Palestinian Authority drug prevention program accused Israel this week of intentionally "conquering the youth" by supplying drugs to Palestinian Authority areas.

This is not an isolated example of hate speech, but part of an ongoing drug libel that has been promoted by the PA leadership for more than six years. The accusations have included the lies that "there is a unit in the Israeli intelligence that specializes in drug distribution among teenagers," and that Israelis confessed to distributing "perfumes that cause their inhalers to become addicted to drugs."

"Israeli drug smuggling network." Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 5, 2000. The PA drug libel has been used for six years. A Palestinian official has even stated that Israelis "encourage the addiction to drugs by a payment of 4,500 shekels to he who proves he's addicted to drugs."

Participating in the drug libel are senior PA officials, including the Minister for Social Affairs, the Director-General of War on Drugs, head of the Professional Program of the Supreme National Council for Preventing Drug Distribution, Fatah leaders and others.

Libels like these are not harmless insults. They follow a long dark history of anti-Semitic libels, which range from the myth that Jews poisoned wells in the Middle Ages to the infamous 'blood libel,' that Jews used the blood of Christians to make the unleavened Matzah bread for Passover - all of which were used successfully in Europe to arouse hatred of Jews and incite murder.

Whereas the PA leadership is telling its people to curb terror for now because "it damages Palestinian interests," Palestinian Media Watch has documented in previous bulletins that the PA's many-faceted hate campaign continues unabated.

These drug libels are just one component of this PA campaign to keep hatred simmering. This campaign is indeed disturbing, as it indicates the PA is still stockpiling hatred for some future time, for if and when it decides that another terror war is in its interest.

Palestinian Media Watch has found dozens of examples of the drug libel over the years. The following is a limited selection of such libels, beginning with the most recent examples and going back to 1999:

1. "It is known that drugs are an imperialist weapon. The Occupation is not interested in conquering the land alone; it is interested in conquering the youth... The easiest way for the Occupation to control the youth is ... through drugs. You can see for yourself that a drug user is a man who does not oppose the Occupation, will not throw a stone and will not do a thing."

[Issam Jwihan, Head of the Professional Program of the National Supreme Council for Preventing the Distribution of Drugs, PA TV, November 7, 2005. "The Occupation" is a term frequently used by the PA to represent all of Israel - Ed.]

2. "Drugs, they fight us with drugs. They choose various means to fight us. At times by planes and at times by drugs." [PA TV Fictional series for Ramadan, The Canaanite, October 2005]

3. "There is a unit in the Israeli intelligence that specializes in drug distribution among the teenagers and the youth in our society." [Dr. Ahmad Faras, Director-General, Palestinian Human Rights Association, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 28, 2004]

4. "The Palestinian nation is under a savage attack by the Occupation in all areas. Among them, the role of the Occupation in distributing drugs in the Palestinian territories." [Director-General, War on Drugs, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 26, 2004]

5. "...The confessions of an Israeli espionage network who were arrested in Lebanon... They weren't satisfied in the planning of the [Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan] Nasrallah assassination, but also distributed harmful Israeli

merchandise ... including ת"ס  
sport shoes that cause the person wearing it to suffer paralysis, skin disease and perfumes that cause their inhaler to become addicted to drugs..." [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 17, 2004]  
6. "...In addition to encouraging drug dealing, Israelis welcome and encourage the addiction to drugs by a payment of 4,500 shekels to he who proves he's addicted to drugs..." [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, May 18, 2003]

7. "... There is a clear Israeli plan to cause many civilians to fall by drug spreading and distribution among the young... They have become a victim of the Occupation... They aspire to distribute the disease in the broadest way by lowering prices, so they can be afforded by the majority of the young..."

[Al-Ayyam, May 25, 2001]

8. "The Occupation Authority - by inserting and distributing them [the drugs] in our districts - wishes to destroy our ability, and to weaken our beliefs in the resistance against the occupier." [Um Jihad, Minister for Social Affairs, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 29, 2001]

9. "Since the '67 occupation, there has been an Israeli attack against the Palestinian youth in Jerusalem. This attack has many faces with the objective of emptying the youth of its national values and stripping it of its identity and Arab-Palestinian belonging, by the distribution of drugs and feeding the society with bad phenomenon. We have documents proving that the police and the Shabakh [Israel's internal intelligence service] plan to splinter the Palestinian youth in the holy city." [Hatem Abed Al-Qader, a senior Fatah leader in Jerusalem, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 12, 2000]

10. "The [current] stage of the Israeli occupation is the stage of the rapid spreading of drugs ... in our country... The goal of the Israeli occupation is to destroy the national wealth that manifests itself in our youth..."

[Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, September 2, 1999] (PMW Nov 15)

## Commentary...

### The Peretz Challenge By Caroline Glick

With Histadrut general strike king Amir Peretz's primary elections victory over Vice Premier Shimon Peres last week, the Labor Party has finally removed all its masks and officially embraced post-Zionism as its guiding ideology. By electing Peretz, the Labor Party of David Ben-Gurion has declined to the status of an anti-Zionist political party.

While Oslo and Labor's embrace of Yasser Arafat signaled Labor's inevitable embrace of the negation of Jewish nationalism, the party staved off its fate for the past six years by placing retired generals at the head of the party. Former prime minister and former IDF chief of staff Ehud Barak, former Labor chief and retired major-general Amram Mitzna, and former Labor chief and retired brigadier general Binyamin Ben-Eliezer along with former IDF deputy chief of staff and Labor leadership contender Matan Vilna'i, all obfuscated their party's post-Zionist platform by prominently parading their past military achievements and ranks before the public.

But all that is now behind us. With Peretz's ascension to party leadership, Labor has become a post-nationalist, socialist party along the lines of Meretz under Yossi Beilin.

It is not a surprise that Labor under Peretz is now a carbon copy of Beilin's Meretz. Peretz began his political career in Peace Now and achieved his first political prominence as a member of Yossi Beilin's crew of young, radical leftist Labor party activists in what was known as the Kfar Hayarok clique whose members were groomed for eventual party leadership by Shimon Peres in the 1980s. Along with Avrum Burg, (who failed in his attempt to take control of Labor in his 2002 race against Ben-Eliezer), and Beilin and the rest of the Kfar Hayarok crew, Peretz has for the better part of two decades consistently blamed Israel for Palestinian terrorism and for the Arab world's rejection of Israel's right to exist.

His line has been consistent. Like Beilin, Peretz has always contended that the only way to deal with terror is to capitulate to terrorists and that there can only be peace if Israel expels all 250,000 of its citizens from Judea and Samaria and divides sovereignty over Jerusalem. It is not coincidental that MK Yuli Tamir, (who also began her career in Peace Now and is one of the signatories of Beilin's Geneva Accord with the PA's former propaganda

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minister Yasser Abed Rabbo), is Peretz's most enthusiastic supporter among Labor Knesset members.

In his first comprehensive statement after his victory, Peretz proclaimed that if he was elected prime minister he would form a governing coalition with the anti-Zionist Arab political parties. If Peretz becomes prime minister, there can be little doubt that he would take measures to effectively put an end to Israel as a Zionist state. Even if he were subsequently replaced by a right-wing government, as was the case with Barak and his short-lived government's disastrous attempt to surrender to Arafat at Camp David, the damage he would cause would likely be irreparable.

IT IS a sign of the chaos into which Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has plunged the Likud that all of this seems to have escaped the attention of its members. Rather than consistently pointing out the national significance of Labor's descent into ideological bankruptcy, the Likud is squeamishly concerned about the electoral threat Peretz poses as a result of his economic demagoguery. Likud leaders warn that Peretz's socialist populism will erode Likud support among its voters from the lower socioeconomic strata. This is particularly the case, they claim, among Sephardic Jews who have formed the bulwark of the party's faithful since the Likud's first national electoral victory under Menachem Begin in 1977.

As the Histadrut boss, Peretz has been the strongest opponent of Binyamin Netanyahu's economic liberalization reforms. Peretz has consistently opposed the privatization of government companies, the break-up of economic monopolies and cartels, the lowering of taxes, curbing the growth of the welfare system and the weakening of labor unions. He supports raising minimum wage to NIS 4,700 per month, an increase that would immediately lead to a sharp rise in unemployment. He supports the mass expulsion of foreign workers from Israel, assuming, wrongly, that Israeli workers would be willing to take the low-paying jobs they now perform and assuming – again wrongly – that their employers would be willing to pay Israeli workers higher wages to perform these jobs.

In opposing every single economic reform that has been enacted over the past decade, Peretz has led general strike after general strike each of which has lost the economy billions of shekels and led to countless lost jobs and economic opportunities for the very people he claims to protect. In leading these strikes, he has ignored court orders to return to work, and he has encouraged striking workers to endanger public safety by illegally blocking highway traffic. Generally speaking, Peretz has made a name for himself by engaging in the kinds of activities that would have earned him jail time and a conviction for sedition were he to have acted thus while wearing a kippa and in opposition to Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas.

The economic reforms that Peretz has so thuggishly opposed are the only reason that Israel was able, at the height of the Palestinian terror war, to move out of its recession and into a period of sustained economic growth, low unemployment and low interest rates. Yet the Likud fears this radical post-Zionist because of the resonance of his calls for a reversion to the disastrous statist economy that Netanyahu so bravely shepherded the country away from. That is, what scares Likud the most about Peretz is his strident opposition to the party's most successful policies.

THERE ARE two central causes for these perverse fears. First, Israeli politics have never been motivated by economic issues. No general election has ever been decided on the basis of the economy. Security has always been the single deciding issue in Israeli politics. As a result, there has never been a serious, sustained, popular debate in Israeli society about the nature of the economy. Israeli politicians are, by and large, wholly ignorant of economics. And so, empty slogans about "social justice" and "social gaps" have an irrational resonance among Israelis.

It is little wonder that the most emotional economic debates tend to revolve around envy. Headlines are annually made when the list of the richest Israelis and the top government salaries are made public. As a result, the deleterious effects of a state-run economy have never been properly understood. A populist, socialist bully like Peretz, who screams in defense of the rights of fattened welfare queens and bloated workers' committees, and corrupt and incompetent public employees can gain traction for his ludicrous one-liners in such an intellectual desert.

Aside from this, in adopting the post-Zionist rhetoric and security (or insecurity) policies of the Left by accepting the so-called Quartet's road map and implementing the ill-conceived withdrawal and expulsion plan from Gaza and northern Samaria, Sharon split his own political camp on the one issue – national security – on which all its disparate factions agreed. In so doing, he lost the one coherent issue on which the Likud could stand against a radical gasbag like Peretz. In the absence of unity in the one area where it was previously strongest, the Likud under Sharon now finds itself flailing about madly looking for a way to show, not that Peretz is an anti-Zionist, but that like him the Likud too supports irresponsible populist economic policies.

In light of the fact that Peretz's popularity is based upon his economic populism, many Likud members worry that were Netanyahu to replace Sharon as party leader the Likud would lose its Sephardic voters. This is a cowardly and self-defeating view. Were he to defeat Sharon in the Likud primaries, Netanyahu's victory would solidify that base and reunify the various factions of the Right that Sharon has eviscerated over the past three years.

Netanyahu would be able to reinstate the Likud's preeminence in security policy – finally uncontested by a former general at the helm of Labor. As well, Netanyahu is the only politician who feels genuine passion for a competitive, free-market economy. As such, he would be able to explain to Israeli voters why a prime minister Peretz would not only undermine our national security and long-term survival, but would also plunge us into a long-term insurmountable economic recession.

Peretz's election to the helm of the Labor party is a defining moment in Israel's political history. It will be a national tragedy if the clarity his election brings to the Labor party is not matched by a parallel clarity in Likud. (Jerusalem Post Nov 14)

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#### Five Questions Non-Muslims Would like Answered By Dennis Prager

The rioting in France by primarily Muslim youths and the hotel bombings in Jordan are the latest events to prompt sincere questions that law-abiding Muslims need to answer for Islam's sake, as well as for the sake of worried non-Muslims.

Here are five of them:

(1) *Why are you so quiet?*

Since the first Israelis were targeted for death by Muslim terrorists blowing themselves up in the name of your religion and Palestinian nationalism, I have been praying to see Muslim demonstrations against these atrocities. Last week's protests in Jordan against the bombings, while welcome, were a rarity. What I have seen more often is mainstream Muslim spokesmen implicitly defending this terror on the grounds that Israel occupies Palestinian lands. We see torture and murder in the name of Allah, but we see no anti-torture and anti-murder demonstrations in the name of Allah.

There are a billion Muslims in the world. How is it possible that essentially none have demonstrated against evils perpetrated by Muslims in the name of Islam? This is true even of the millions of Muslims living in free Western societies. What are non-Muslims of goodwill supposed to conclude? When the Israeli government did not stop a Lebanese massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatilla refugee camps in Lebanon in 1982, great crowds of Israeli Jews gathered to protest their country's moral failing. Why has there been no comparable public demonstration by Palestinians or other Muslims to morally condemn Palestinian or other Muslim-committed terror?

(2) *Why are none of the Palestinian terrorists Christian?*

If Israeli occupation is the reason for Muslim terror in Israel, why do no Christian Palestinians engage in terror? They are just as nationalistic and just as occupied as Muslim Palestinians.

(3) *Why is only one of the 47 Muslim-majority countries a free country?*

According to Freedom House, a Washington-based group that promotes democracy, of the world's 47 Muslim countries, only Mali is free. Sixty percent are not free, and 38% are partly free. Muslim-majority states account for a majority of the world's "not free" states. And of the 10 "worst of the worst," seven are Islamic states. Why is this?

(4) *Why are so many atrocities committed and threatened by Muslims in the name of Islam?*

Young girls in Indonesia were recently beheaded by Muslim murderers. Last year, Muslims - in the name of Islam - murdered hundreds of schoolchildren in Russia. While reciting Muslim prayers, Islamic terrorists take foreigners working to make Iraq free and slaughter them. Muslim daughters are murdered by their own families in the thousands in "honor killings." And the Muslim government in Iran has publicly called for the extermination of Israel.

(5) *Why do countries governed by religious Muslims persecute other religions?*

No church or synagogue is allowed in Saudi Arabia. The Taliban destroyed some of the greatest sculptures of the ancient world because they were Buddhist. Sudan's Islamic regime has murdered great numbers of Christians.

Instead of confronting these problems, too many of you deny them. Muslims call my radio show to tell me that even speaking of Muslim or Islamic terrorists is wrong. After all, they argue, Timothy McVeigh is never labeled a "Christian terrorist." As if McVeigh committed his terror as a churchgoing Christian and in the name of Christ, and as if there were Christian-based terror groups around the world.

As a member of the media for nearly 25 years, I have a long record of reaching out to Muslims. Muslim leaders have invited me to speak at major mosques. In addition, I have studied Arabic and Islam, have visited most Arab and many other Muslim countries and conducted interfaith dialogues with Muslims in the United Arab Emirates as well as in the U.S. Politically, I have supported creation of a Palestinian state and supported (mistakenly, I now believe) the Oslo accords.

Hundreds of millions of non-Muslims want honest answers to these questions, even if the only answer you offer is, "Yes, we have real problems in Islam." Such an acknowledgment is infinitely better - for you and for the

world - than dismissing us as anti-Muslim.  
We await your response. (Los Angeles Times Nov 13)

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### **Palestinians Taste a Dose of Their Own Medicine** By Daniel Pipes

A suicide bombing in Hadera, Israel, on October 26 that killed five people inspired the usual Palestinian joy: some 3,000 people took to the streets in celebration, chanting Allahu Akbar, calling for more suicide attacks against Israelis, and congratulating the "martyr's" family on the success of the attack.

But Palestinian Arabs were uncharacteristically morose after three explosions went off on November 9, killing 57 persons and injuring hundreds, in Amman, Jordan. That's because, for the very first time, they found themselves the main victim of those same Islamist "martyrs."

The massacre at a wedding in the Radisson SAS hotel ballroom took the lives of 17 family members attending the nuptials of what the London Times called a Palestinian "golden couple, beloved of their prominent Palestinian families and friends." The bombing also killed four Palestinian Authority officials, notably Bashir Nafeh, head of military intelligence on the West Bank.

After two decades of doling out this horror against Israelis, some of whom were also attending festive events (a Passover dinner, a Bar Mitzvah), Palestinians, who form a majority of the Jordanian population, unexpectedly found themselves at the receiving end.

And, guess what: They did not like it.

The brother of a woman injured in the attack told a reporter, "My sister, I love her. I love her to death, and if something happened to her, I'd be really..." Choked, he stopped speaking and cried. Another relative called the terrorists "vicious criminals." A third cried out, "Oh my God, oh my God. Is it possible that Arabs are killing Arabs, Muslims killing Muslims?"

I extend my deepest sympathy to the family. I also hope that Palestinian Arabs, who have established a worldwide reputation not just for relying heavily on suicide murder but for doing so enthusiastically, will benefit from this unique learning opportunity.

No other press and school system indoctrinates children to become suicide murderers. No other people holds joyous wakes for dead suicide bombers. No other parents hope their children will blow themselves up. None other receives lavish endorsement and funding for terrorism from the authorities. Nor has another people produced a leader so inextricably tied to terrorism as was Yasser Arafat, nor so bountifully devoted its allegiance to him.

The memorials of his death on November 11 were marked by effusive statements how "he will remain alive in our hearts" and reaffirmations to continue his work.

The Amman bombings, attributed to Al-Qaeda, exposed the hypocrisy of Palestinians and their supporters, who condemn terrorism against themselves but not against others, especially not Israelis. Shaker Elsayed, imam of Dar al-Hijrah Mosque in Virginia, denounced the Amman wedding attack as a "senseless act." Very nice. But Brian Hecht of the Investigative Project notes that Mr. Elsayed has a long history of justifying terrorist attacks against Israelis: "The jihad is a must for everyone, a child, a lady and a man," he said. "They have to make jihad with every tool that they can."

Queen Noor of Jordan embodied this hypocrisy when she stated that the Amman terrorists "made a significant tactical error here, because they have attacked innocent civilians, primarily Muslims," implying her approval had the victims been non-Muslims.

Will the Palestinian Arabs' shameful love affair with suicide killings and "martyrdom" diminish after the atrocity in Amman? Might a taste of their own medicine teach them that what goes around comes around? That barbarism ultimately visits the barbarians too?

Small signs point to a shift in views, at least momentarily in Jordan. Survey research done in 2004 at Jordan University found two-thirds of Jordanian adults seeing Al-Qaeda in Iraq as "a legitimate resistance organization." After the bombings, the pollster found that nine of ten survey participants who previously endorsed Al-Qaeda had changed their minds.

To change Palestinian Arab behavior requires that civilized people finally get tough on suicide terrorism. That means rejecting Hamas as a political organization and excluding dialogue with it. It means shunning propagandistic movies such as Paradise Now, a film that whitewashes Palestinian suicide bombing. And it means convicting Palestinian Islamic Jihad operatives Sami Al-Arian and his Florida cohorts.

The message to Palestinian Arabs needs to be simple, consistent, and universal: Everyone condemns suicide terrorism, unequivocally, without exceptions, whether the arena is electoral, diplomatic, or educational, and whether the bombing is in Amman or Hadera. (New York Sun Nov 15)

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### **Poker in Washington** By Yoram Ettinger

Condoleezza Rice is a top Poker player, especially when facing Israelis who are unfamiliar with the Washington ropes, and are therefore easily intimidated by the Secretary of State.

The assumption that Israel cannot afford to defy the US is divorced from

reality. Such an assumption reflects miscomprehension of 1948-1992 precedents, of the wider context of US-Israel relations, of the special role played by the Jewish State in the US Judeo-Christian culture, of the impact by recent global circumstances on US empathy toward Israel, of the US state-of-mind, of the foundations of US democracy and of the declining fortunes of a second term president.

In 1948/49, the Department of State, Pentagon and the CIA pressured Ben Gurion to refrain from declaration of independence and accept a UN Trusteeship, to internationalize Jerusalem, to allow the return of - and compensate - Palestinian refugees and to end the "occupation" of the Negev. The ruthless pressure was accompanied by a military embargo and a threat of economic embargo. Ben Gurion defied the pressure, in spite of the meager resources at his disposal. In 1967, Eshkol launched a preemptive strike against belligerent Egypt, Syria and Jordan, in defiance of a French military embargo (then, Israel's key arms supplier!) and pressure by LBJ. In 1981, Begin bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor, despite a US threat of military embargo reinforcing international and domestic opposition. The three statesmen withstood pressure, launched unilateral military operations, were victimized by short-term sanctions and criticism, but produced dramatic long-term strategic gains for Israel and for the US.

The three statesmen realized that US-Israel relations did not evolve around the Arab-Israeli conflict, but around the larger scope of joint interests and mutual regional and global threats. Thus, strategic memoranda of understanding were concluded between the US and Israel in 1983 and 1988, despite (or because...) the coarse rejection - by Israel - of the "Reagan Plan", and in spite of the 1982 war in Lebanon and the 1987 eruption of the first Intifadah. The memoranda were concluded due to Israel's unique contribution to the US efforts against international terrorism, the USSR and ballistic missiles.

The special strategic ties between the US and Israel are embedded in a foundation of shared Judeo-Christian values, which have prevented a rupture following frequent tensions between the two countries. The 17<sup>th</sup> century puritan settlers were students of the Old Testament and appreciated Hebrew. The Founding Fathers considered the values of Moses, Joshua and Samuel an inspiration for the Constitution and a basis for political and social relationships. The sculptures of Moses feature prominently in the US Supreme Court and the House of Representatives. A replica of the Tablets is set on the lawn of the Texas Legislature, and hundreds of locations in the US bear biblical names. Most Americans consider the Jewish State as a prime domestic value, rather than a foreign issue.

The potential support of the Jewish State has been enhanced since 9/11, as a result of the daily reporting of US GIs killed by Arab/Muslim terrorists, the July 2005 terror blitz in London, the recent Muslim riots in France and the ongoing campaign of Islamic terrorism from the Philippines through Bali, India, Spain and Mauritania. Never has the image of Arabs/Muslims been so low, and never has Israel benefited from such a high potential of support.

However, the US state-of-mind respects winners with gumption, who defy the odds and stick to principles and values. The US state-of-mind offers sympathy - but little respect - to those who are afflicted by weariness and battle fatigue. Therefore, most Americans loved Reagan. And, therefore, the US upgraded its attitude toward the Jewish State from sympathy to strategic appreciation/respect as a result of the 1948 and 1967 wars, the 1976 "Operation Jonathan/Entebbe", the 1981 bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor and the 1982 decimation of the Soviet ground-to-air missiles in eastern Lebanon.

The state-of-mind of the US public and its representatives on Capitol Hill is different than the state-of-mind of the Department of State. The latter functions - just like any arm of the Administration - under the supervision of Congress, which has been a bastion of support for enhanced US-Israel connection, empowered with the "Power of the Purse" and with a stature equal to the Executive. Also, as the approval rating of presidents decline (which has afflicted second terms) so rises the assertiveness of the Legislature.

Until 1992, all Israeli prime ministers (from Ben Gurion to Shamir) considered Congress as a major platform for the upgrading of US-Israel strategic ties and for the neutralization of Department of State obstructionism. However, since 1992 all Israeli prime ministers have relegated Congress to the role of a "second team". Until 1992 all Israeli prime ministers were aware that succumbing to pressure by staunch critics in the Administration would pull the rug from under the feet of steadfast supporters in the US. Therefore, they have, usually, resisted pressure, and have consequently enhanced the bilateral strategic ties. However, since 1992, all Israeli prime ministers have adopted the policy of Israel's critics in Washington, and as a result have become role model for concessions and submission to pressure. (Yedioth Achronot Nov 11)

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## **The Case for Mitzpe Shalhevet** By David Wilder

During the past several weeks, over 100 members of the Likud Central Committee have come to Hebron to see, feel and experience the first Jewish city in the Land of Israel. They've come mostly to view Jewish property that is inaccessible to Hebron's Jewish community.

The story properly begins in 1807 when Haim Bajaio purchased, on behalf of the Hebron Jewish community, a five-dunam plot of land adjacent to the centuries-old Jewish Quarter, for 1,200 grushim. The deal was witnessed and signed by no fewer than 22 Hebron Arab notables. This property served Hebron's Jews and later accommodated the home and synagogue of its chief rabbi, Eliahu Manni.

Following the Jordanian occupation of Hebron in 1948, the entire Jewish Quarter - founded by Spanish-Jewish exiles in 1540 - was razed to the ground. Among the structures destroyed was the ancient Avraham Avinu Synagogue. In the early 1960s, an Arab fruit and vegetable market was constructed on the property bought by the Hebron community in 1807.

Following the liberation of Hebron during the 1967 Six Day War, these structures continued to function, having been rented to the Hebron Arab municipality by the Israeli government. The property contracts for these buildings expired in the 1990s, and the site was gradually closed over a period of several years, due to security concerns. The market was finally shut down following an attempted terrorist attack: Arabs placed a booby-trapped teddy bear in a plastic bag in the market near the entrance to the Jewish neighborhood, hoping a Jewish child, finding it, would play with it and be killed in the ensuing explosion.

Despite numerous requests by our community to rent the structures, the site has been left vacant.

On March 26, 2001, at the beginning of the Oslo War an Arab sniper shot and killed 10-month-old Shalhevet Pass. Following the murder, Hebron children began utilizing the abandoned Arab shuk as a place to play and take cover during shooting attacks from the overlooking Abu Sneh Hills. Over a period of time, the Hebron community invested tens of thousands of dollars to convert the former fruit and vegetable stalls into livable apartments. Presently, the former market, renamed the Mitzpe Shalhevet neighborhood, houses Hebron families and a Torah study hall opened in Shalhevet's memory.

Mitzpe Shalhevet is presently on the brink of obliteration, not by Arabs, but by the government.

FOUR YEARS ago, in response to an Arab demand to reopen the market, the Attorney-General's office notified the Supreme Court that: (1) the Arabs no longer had any legal rights to the market and (2) that Israeli "trespassers" would be evicted from the site.

The Supreme Court, however, never ruled that the former market's Jewish population should be expelled from their homes.

The reason behind the attorney-general's decision is summed up in his own words: "The criminal must not be rewarded."

The criminal, in this case, is not defined as the Arabs who murdered 67 Jews, destroyed the Jewish Quarter, shot at Hebron Jews from the surrounding hills and killed Shalhevet Pass. Rather, the criminal is defined as Hebron's Jews, who had "usurped" the vacant buildings belonging to the State of Israel.

Following issuance of an eviction order, Hebron's Jewish community appealed to the courts, claiming private Jewish ownership of the property. An appeals committee of three judges ruled 2-1 that the land did legally belong to a private Jewish organization, but that the buildings legally fell within the jurisdiction of the Israeli government. Concurrently, two of the three judges ruled that the optimal solution to the problem was to lease the structures to Hebron's Jewish community.

The defense minister delayed executing the eviction order for over two years, due to security issues and other concerns. However, recently, following the successful expulsion of 10,000 Jews from Gush Katif and northern Samaria, the Attorney-General's Office has exerted tremendous pressure on Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz to execute the eviction orders and remove Hebron's families from the Mitzpe Shalhevet neighborhood.

Mofaz may be under the mistaken impression that the Supreme Court ruled that the structures must be evacuated. This is, as previously noted, not true. To the contrary, the easiest and most just solution, as recommended by the judges, is to lease the buildings to Hebron's Jewish community.

On the Shabbat of November 26, thousands of Jews are expected to arrive in Hebron to celebrate the annual Torah reading of Hayei Sarah commemorating Abraham's purchase of Ma'arat Hamachpela, the Cave of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs, some 4,000 years ago.

There could be no better way to affirm a permanent, eternal Jewish presence in Hebron than to officially proclaim the reclamation and rededication of Mitzpe Shalhevet. No doubt Abraham and Sarah would smile down upon us from the heavens above. (Jerusalem Post Nov 16)

*The writer is the spokesman of the Jewish Community of Hebron.*

## **A World Without Israel** By Amnon Rubinstein

Iran's president is not alone in wiping Israel off the map. A group of academics and journalists are eradicating Israel - not with nuclear weapons but with ink and paper.

On bookshelves in the West, you can see quite a number of books which wipe Israel off the map, and it is almost impossible to find any book - apart from Alan Dershowitz's writings - which refute their arguments.

These books are not attacking the occupation, but the very idea of a Jewish state. Zionism: The Real Enemy of the Jews, by former BBC foreign correspondent Alan Hunt, is a lengthy - 600 pages in the first volume - diatribe against Zionism, the Balfour declaration and the idea of a Jewish state in Palestine.

The title is taken from a motion discussed in a symposium organized by London's Evening Standard, in which the mainly Jewish audience voted for the motion. Hunt, quite rightly, sees this debate and vote as an event of historical significance and develops this thesis into a two-volume treatise.

Jacqueline Rose's The Question of Zion and John Rose's Myths of Zionism are two similar attacks against Zionism. Professor Tony Judt of New York University also wiped Israel off the map in the New York Review of Books in October 2003 by writing that "Israel is an anachronism" and by proposing that it be replaced by a binational state.

Perhaps following Judt's lead, Prof. Ilan Pappé of Haifa University eradicates Israel in his article in the French L'Essentiel (summer 2005) in which he hopes that the return of the Palestinian refugees will give rise to "one unitary secular and democratic state" which would replace Israel. Naturally, Pappé surmises, the Jews will live happily ever after as a minority in a secular democracy, of which there are so many in the Middle East.

Madame Tussaud's wax museum in London - so Israeli visitors tell me - also wipes Israel off its display. Four Arab leaders - Yasser Arafat, Saddam Hussein, Muammar Qaddafi and King Hussein of Jordan - are exhibited but not one Israeli leader.

There are also those who do not advocate eradicating Israel, but work to remove any shred of justification for supporting the Jewish state. To the long list of Israeli academics who vilify their country, is now added a new opus: Suppressing the Guilt by Daniel Dor of Tel Aviv University. The source of guilt, of course, is Israel's actions in the West Bank and the suppressors are the Israeli media, who conceal the truth from their readers.

All of them? Yes, even Haaretz is reprimanded: its editors "misled their readers in a very fundamental way" on events in Jenin.

Why? Because they did not give more prominence to their own reporter Amira Hass - who had flown to London to defend the Evening Standard's motion defaming Zionism - by relegating her reports from Jenin to section B of the paper. For her part, Hass's blurb praises the Dor book for giving "ample evidence of how the Israeli free press easily turned into an instrument of propaganda."

Indeed, these, and similar attacks, have reached such force that Josef Joffe, editor and publisher of the German Die Zeit was let to write in Foreign Policy (February 2005) an article entitled "A World without Israel." The article explains that the disappearance of Israel will not solve the world's problems: suicide bombers and hate of America will not disappear with the elimination of Israel. It is significant to note that this question is asked only about Israel. Nobody writes an article entitled "A World without Syria" or without Iran.

In all this diatribe, one thing remains unexplained. Why shouldn't the Jewish people enjoy the right to self determination? Why should this right be granted to the Sudanese people and not to the Jews? Why is it so preposterous that there should be one state in which Hebrew is the official language and Jewish holidays are official days of rest? Did not the Jewish people show national solidarity with their state? Did not the Jews of Israel show a determination to withstand war, terror, boycott and siege directed at them?

The learned chorus does not even attempt to tackle these questions. Their attacks against Zionism are compulsive, non-academic, full of half-baked truths and barely disguised hysteria. Indeed, Israel-bashers use a style which is very similar to the language used by anti-Semites: Israel is inferior and should not enjoy the rights accorded to other peoples. Formerly it was the Jewish person, now it is the Jewish state. The Nazi refrain was "the Jews are our disaster;" now, the Jewish state is being portrayed as the world's disaster.

Consequently, all these eradicators, whether they are Israeli, Jewish or distinguished professors, are objectively - if one may revert to Marxist terminology - biological anti-Semites.

They should realize that the writings which wipe Israel off the map will, in turn, be erased - from our history, consciences, or from any influence. Let the Judts, the Pappes, the Roses and Hunts go on; their writings will eventually wind up in the one place which they deserve. (Jerusalem Post Nov 15)