



Jerusalem 3:55 Toronto 4:22

**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*

**Events...**

Tuesday December 14th, 7:30 pm  
Chanuka Concert for Gush Katif, at Shaarei Tefillah.

Tuesday December 14th, 7:30 pm  
Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivat HaKotel Rav Mordechai Elon's Parshat Hashavua shiur in Hebrew, via satellite, at Clanton Park Synagogue.

**February 20 to March 1, 2004**  
Bnai Brith, Rabbi Stern and Rabbi Zweig's **Mission to Israel**. Visit Gush Katif, Hevron, Beersheva, Ashkelon, Masada, Jerusalem. For information call 416-787-1631 or email [reingar@pathcom.com](mailto:reingar@pathcom.com)

**March 26 - April 6**  
One Israel Fund/Westmount Community Shul Mission to Israel. Visiting the Golan, Yesha, Yerushalayim, Dead Sea; Shabbat in Chevron. For details call 905-482-9488.

**Quote of the Week...**

"Canada should vote no on all anti-Israel resolutions until every nation in the region is held to an equal standard. We must not legitimize a process that tables resolutions condemning a fence to keep out suicide bombers but tables no resolutions condemning suicide bombing itself. As long as UN resolutions target only Israel, Canada's answer to each and every one must be no."

- Alastair Gordon of the Canadian Coalition for Democracy in Toronto, replying to Canada's insufficient realignment of their voting policy on anti-Israel resolutions at the UN. (National Post Dec 6)

This week's issue is sponsored  
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מאיר בן ישראל ז"ל **Max Pesses z"l**

**Commentary...**

**Season of Hope** By Naomi Ragen

Coming back from a long trip allows you the distance you need to view things more objectively. I returned to an Israel of bandaged wounds that are beginning to heal. Arafat is dead, and that in itself is a cause for celebration. Like the Munchkins, we are happy to get rid of the wicked witch, even though other wicked witches remain ( Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PLO, Tanzim). The fight is not over by a long shot, but that doesn't mean we can't feel joy about a year in which the deadly head of Hamas, paraplegic baby-killer Sheik Yassin was blown to bits, and Yassir Arafat, the father of terrorism, died in a French hospital.

Yay!  
The season has changed to a season of hope. The winter rains have begun to fall in abundance, watering our grape vines, our olive, date, pomegranate, apple, plum, and almond trees; promising a summer of cool, delicious fruits. Our hotels are full of tourists again, and our economy is climbing out of the doldrums.

There is still too much poverty, too many unemployed, too many poor children, especially in Jerusalem. There is still political turmoil over PM Sharon's disengagement plan that would destroy decades of building and government-sponsored and encouraged settlement activity in Gush Katif and other Jewish areas. But the Left is in disarray, the Labor Party stalwarts like Peres and former PM, the much despised Ehud Barak, at each other's throats. This gives me hope that the architects of Oslo, who have never taken responsibility for using the people of Israel as laboratory rats for a dangerous

and untried experiment which resulted in a thousand dead and thousands more horribly injured, may soon be relegated to history books where they can do no more harm. Hopefully, there will be new elections where the people of Israel can make the important decisions about their future democratically.

Outside the country, good things are happening. The U.N. has been shown up for what it is, the biggest obstacle to peace in the world. Thanks to U.S.

Congressmen, the oil-for-food scandal will not go away, and the millions diverted to support suicide bombers will make it difficult for Kofi Annan -- the do-nothing who watches millions dying in Darfur at the hands of roving Arab murderers out to steal the land of black Africans--will soon join the list of the unemployed. In Iraq, democratic elections are underway, showing the entire Islamic world that they don't have to live under murderous dictatorships that steal their country's resources and provide heartbreak and poverty and fear in exchange. We could have gone the appeasement way, the way of Germany and France, but we didn't. Americans decided the fate of the world not by a narrow margin but by millions of votes to stay the course. And although it was the Republicans they voted for, what they were supporting was a cherished American ideal that the Democratic Party once epitomized. After Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, in which fewer Americans died than on Sept 11, by the way...) Americans decided to take away the security of the Japanese enemy that their cities and people were too far away to experience any retaliation. Less than two months later, the U.S. bombed Japan.

But wars don't last forever, and neither does violence and bloodshed. I have hope that our determination to win this fight against the enemies of mankind will result in a peaceful world for our children and grandchildren.

A new wind is blowing, and there is reason to hope in the air. For everyone.

Happy Chanukah, and God bless us all. Naomi Ragen  
([www.naomiragen.com](http://www.naomiragen.com) Dec 8)

**Leaving the Hall of Mirrors**

By Caroline Glick

Freelance journalist Kevin Sites was just another guy trying to make his way in the business until the battle of Fallujah. While accompanying US Marines into a mosque, Sites filmed a Marine shooting a prostrate terrorist lying in the mosque, then crassly pronouncing him dead. As the pictures made their way around the world, millions of anti-US voices rang up angrily denouncing the Marines for committing "war crimes." Overnight, Sites became an international star. Everyone wanted to read the Left's dazzling Johnny-on-the-Spot and all "right-thinking" people pronounced him a professional upholding the highest standards of journalism. Heady stuff for a reporter on the make and a powerful message for all aspiring plyers of the trade.

In Israel, our TV news broadcast Sites's footage over and over as wizened anchors shook their heads with revulsion over the inhumanity of US armed forces in Iraq. The newspapers played up coverage of the event to make certain that all of us knew just how awful American forces really are.

No one bothered to make mention of the fact that Marines and soldiers fighting in Fallujah had been repeatedly attacked by terrorists playing possum. No one bothered to make mention of the numerous instances of terrorists raising the white flag of surrender only to fire at forces coming to take them into custody. What does the context of the battle matter when a case can be made for vilifying US Marines as war criminals - on the basis of Sites's isolated, deconstructionist footage - rather than praising them as battle-trained warriors?

Terrorists have two basic advantages over the Western armies and societies that fight them: their own invisibility, and the self-obsession and hatred of Western Leftists. By not abiding by the centuries-old rules of war that stipulate that combatants are uniformed members of the armed forces of a country or a recognized insurgency in control of territory, the terrorists have an upper hand despite their relatively small numbers and outdated weaponry. How can a war be justified against an enemy you can't see who looks just

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like the civilians you are obligated by law and your values to protect?

Add to this the fact that terrorists eagerly exploit universally recognized symbols of non-combatants and you have a war that you simply cannot justify on camera. Terrorist shoot from mosques so mosques must be raided. Terrorists are transported in ambulances so ambulances must be inspected. But of course, the television cameras aren't filming when the terrorists fire RPGs from minarets, only when terrorists wounded while shooting them lay pitifully on the floor. And there is no camera on hand when they plant explosives beneath gurneys.

AND FOR all that, the US in Iraq is in a better position than Israel is in waging its counterterror operations against the Palestinians. Iraq is a heterogeneous society. The US can mobilize the Shi'ites and Kurds to assist its efforts to fight the Sunni Arab terrorists and it can depend on Iraqis generally to support coalition forces' efforts against foreign jihadists. Israel, on the other hand, is fighting against a homogeneous enemy. The Palestinians are almost exclusively Sunni Muslims and the majority of Palestinians support the aims of the terrorists to murder Israeli civilians with the eventual goal of destroying Israel.

For solipsistic Leftists, who reign supreme in Israel's media, academia and judiciary, the homogeneity of Palestinian society makes it easy to ignore the enemy while vainly walking through their distorted halls of mirrors and echo chambers. Their goal is to create a perception of reality in which the Palestinians are all innocent and Israel is always at fault. In recent weeks, their primary target has been the IDF.

A week and a half ago, Supreme Court justices demanded that Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Dan Halutz present them, in writing, with his views on the morality of collateral damage. The fact that there is no legal basis for this Orwellian thought control has never been raised by any of Israel's legal pundits or court reporters. Halutz's appointment to his job was opposed by the radical Left for a statement he made in a newspaper interview in which he said he slept like a baby after arch-terrorist Salah Shehadeh was killed by an IAF helicopter in 2002, despite the fact that civilians were also killed in the operation. The crusaders of mercy for Palestinian terrorists petitioned the Supreme Court to revoke his appointment. No one in the media ever questioned whether in a normal country these radical leftist organizations would have any standing, or wondered about the credentials of these groups that never launched a petition questioning the moral probity of Palestinian murderers with whom the Israeli government has negotiated.

Then we have the Palestinian violinist. On November 9, the radical Leftist "human rights" organization Machsom Watch videotaped a Palestinian playing his violin at an IDF checkpoint near Nablus. Machsom Watch is a group of enlightened ladies that fan out to checkpoints to ensure that soldiers charged with keeping terrorists out of Israel behave politely to Palestinians wishing to cross into Israel. According to its Web site, the organization is devoted to advancing Palestinian human rights. No mention whatsoever is made of Israeli human rights, but then why get bogged down by details? The fact made very plain by Machsom Watch's Web site is that the organization is devoted to exposing the evil of the Israeli military forces.

But who cares about the inherent hostility of Machsom Watch to the IDF when it shoots great footage of soldiers caught red-handed "humiliating" a Palestinian violinist? The local media pounced on the tape. In last Friday's papers, the IDF was excoriated for its inhumanity. Novelist Meir Shalev, writing on the cover of Yediot Ahronot's news magazine, likened the scene to images of the Holocaust. Maariv devoted its cover story to eyewitness accounts of reserve soldiers enumerating the human-rights violations they committed during their reserve service. No mention was made by anyone of the fact that a violin case is a pretty good place to hide a bomb or of the fact that the terrorists who conducted the massacre at Sbarro pizzeria in August 2001 hid their bomb in a guitar case.

The incident at the roadblock was investigated by the IDF and the findings, released this week, show that the Palestinian in question was asked to remove his violin from its case by the soldiers and that he began playing his instrument on his own initiative. Indeed, the report reveals that the soldiers had to ask him to stop playing. But what does the truth matter when the image can be used by the Israel-bashing radical Left to "prove" that its narrative, in which Israel is the aggressor and Palestinians are innocent victims, is right and reality is wrong? The inability of Israel's "enlightened" elite, like their counterparts in Europe and the US, to ever see anything right about their own side, and their insistence on refusing to countenance that many aspects of their enemy's culture of hatred are unpardonably evil, extend to all aspects of life.

This week at the Jerusalem Summit conference, Shinui MK Etti Livni participated in a panel discussion regarding the persecution of women in Muslim society. Livni stated that in her view, the stories of abuse of Muslim women are similar to tales of abuse of ultra-Orthodox Jewish women. The preposterousness of this claim is boundless. In Egypt, the majority of girls are forced by their fathers to undergo the barbaric procedure of genital mutilation euphemistically referred to as female circumcision. Where does this happen in ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities? According to a report released this week by Human Rights Watch, one third of Egyptian women have been beaten by their husbands. In what ultra-Orthodox community are comparable numbers to be found? But admitting that Muslim societies and countries are misogynistic

and systematically enslave half their members would make Israel look good by comparison, so it is better to sweep the evil under the rug.

Washington Post columnist Anne Applebaum reported this week that a new legend is being propagated in left-wing circles in Europe and the US that the hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who have been demonstrating against the patently fraudulent elections results in their country are actually all CIA provocateurs. An article in the UK's Guardian, for instance, alleged that the protests are "an American creation, a sophisticated and brilliantly conceived exercise in Western branding and mass marketing." As Applebaum argues it, the myth is being created to explain away the inconvenient truth that millions of people look to the US as an inspirational beacon of freedom which they wish to emulate. It cannot be, say these reactionary anti-American "progressives," that good people actually like the US and oppose those who share the "enlightened" public's hatred of Uncle Sam. Therefore, anyone advancing a claim that could be viewed as pro-American cannot be an authentic activist. Rather, the CIA must be paying his light bill.

When faced with this sort of opportunistic America- and Israel-bashing we have to ask what exactly these people want. The only rational answer is power. If we can be convinced that they are right and reality is wrong, they will never have to pay a price for all their mendacious notions of Israeli racism and American imperialism. They will never be taken to task for the thousands who have died as a result of their conviction that anyone who fights for the right to be free and unmolested by Third World fascists is by definition a fascist.

The only way to fight these people is to refuse to play by their rules. We must be able to look in the mirror and realize that indeed we are the good guys here. And we must be willing to look at the rotten evil that characterizes the ideology of our enemies and say that defeating them is the mission of our generation. (Jerusalem Post Dec 3)

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### **The False Dawn of Peace** By Steven Stalinsky

*Now that the old brute's dead, are his successors any better?*

With Arafat's death, there has been an unprecedented amount of optimism in the West regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state and the possibility of peace. Yet amongst Palestinian officials there is little talk of such a peace, the continuation of Yasser Arafat's "jihad" against the Jewish state instead being endorsed. (To watch examples of these statements, visit [www.memritv.org](http://www.memritv.org).)

Some members of the Palestinian establishment close to Arafat are now stating in public that he never really wanted peace, and instead considered the Oslo Accords a strategy to destroy Israel in phases. It was reported on November 21 that Abd Al-Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based newspaper, Al-Quds Al-Arabi, discussed a meeting he held with Arafat shortly before the latter's return to Gaza from Tunis. When Atwan criticized the Oslo Accords, Arafat reassured him: "The day will come when you will see thousands of Jews fleeing Palestine. I will not live to see this, but you will definitely see it in your lifetime. The Oslo Accords will help bring this about."

The Palestinian ambassador in Iran, Salah Al-Zawawi, explained in an interview on Iranian Al-Alam TV on November 12: "[Arafat] knew that this path is the path of martyrdom and Jihad. He knew that this great cause requires martyrs, not leaders.... He fought the Jihad and we saw him in many battles...if you ask me what will surely be the end of this Zionist entity, I will say to you that this entity will disappear one of these days...It's a matter of time.... Our phased plan, which I already mentioned, is to establish an independent sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital...."

Similarly, Palestinian analyst Yunis Udeh told London's ANB TV November 11: "When we told him [Arafat] that the road to Oslo would mean the termination of the Palestinian cause, he said, 'I am hammering the first nail in the Zionist coffin'.... I asked him how. He said: 'I will go to Gaza, I will return to Palestine....'"

Fatah Supreme Council Member Abu Ali Shahin also hinted in an interview on November 13 on Lebanon's Al-Manar TV that Yasser Arafat considered the Oslo Accords a strategic move to destroy Israel: "Yasser Arafat led a revolution, a revolution of a barrel of gunpowder alongside a barrel of petrol.... But when Yasser Arafat saw that the USSR...collapsed without a single shot being fired.... Arafat understood this great international game. He made a 180-degree turn.... He accepted...Madrid, and after it Oslo...."

Countless Palestinian officials have also spoken about continuing the violent campaign against Israel. Fatah leader Hussein Al-Sheikh told Al-Arabiyya TV on November 11: "The gun Yasser Arafat raised...will be raised by...the Palestinian people, so they continue to believe that the gun is the way to get rid of this occupation, the shortest way to get rid of this occupation. This is Abu Ammar's promise and this is his will, and we will continue to be true to them."

Also on November 11, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades leader Raid Al-Aidi said on Al-Arabiyya TV, "We call from here to all the heroes...[to] strike this occupier anywhere, with no holds barred. We...will direct our painful blows

against this monstrous entity. The Palestinian state will be achieved only by strengthening the resistance.... This occupier understands only the language of gunfire and gunpowder and we will teach this occupier, Allah willing, a lesson as we have taught it in the past, in Tel Aviv, Hadera, and everywhere. We will escalate our blows against this occupier...."

In the same program, Fatah Central Committee member Hani Al-Hassan explained that, "In Fatah we have a rule: the armed struggle sows and the political struggle reaps.... Therefore, when Oslo didn't bring results, the sowing came in the form of the Intifada.... We will see now whether the political situation allows us to reach political results and to bring about a change in our favor. Otherwise, we will go back to sowing."

Quoting former Egyptian president Abd-Al Nasser - "what was taken by force will be restored only by force" - is how the new leader of Fatah, Faruq Al-Qaddumi, described the Palestinian strategy against Israel on Al-Arabiyya TV on November 14. Al-Qaddumi has considerable popularity among the Palestinian street for never accepting Oslo. With his naming as leader of Fatah, Al-Qaddumi is openly challenging Mahmoud Abbas and Ahmad Qureia to be Arafat's successor. As he stated in the interview, "Anyone who thinks that I have abdicated my authority is mistaken."

He explained Fatah's position about Hamas: "The Hamas movement is our friend. It is a...movement of heroes. It is part of the national Palestinian movement. No...Fatah member could possibly harm Hamas." Al-Qaddumi is also close to Hezbollah, and during a meeting with Sheikh Nasrallah on September 4, 2003, they discussed "cohesion between the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance."

At a memorial for Arafat on November 23, Al-Qaddumi explained, "We can not achieve these goals except through continued resistance by all methods and means." He has also called for attacking U.S. interests throughout the world.

The Palestinian leadership is not alone in stating in public that terrorist attacks against Israel must continue. The Arabic and Iranian press have been particularly vocal. In response to an interviewer's question as to whether the Intifada will continue and grow stronger, Lebanese MP Zaher Al-Khatib said on November 13: "It will escalate and develop technologically. The martyrdom operations are no longer the only kind of operations in Palestine. The martyrdom operations have become a strategy. A strategy doesn't mean that we carry out these operations whenever possible; it means [real] military operations.... There is an infrastructure of resistance that wages battles, enters Ashdod, crosses borders, penetrates military zones, conducts operations as in Ashdod, and so on."

American officials intimately involved in the Oslo Accords now publicly state that more attention should have been paid to the issue of Palestinian incitement, and what the Arabs were saying amongst themselves about peace in Arabic. With Yasser Arafat gone, the U.S. should be paying close attention to his heirs to understand their true intentions. (National Review Dec 8)  
*The writer is executive director of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).*

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#### UN Self-Interest Jerusalem Post Editorial

The UN, on the brink of irrelevancy, is struggling to save itself. Given its antipathy toward the Zionist enterprise, should we help it succeed or hope that it heads over the edge?

The answer should depend on whether plans announced Thursday at UN headquarters to radically transform the world body have the potential of offering Israel a "new deal."

When Israelis think of the UN, contrasting images come to mind. There was the 1947 General Assembly vote to partition western Palestine into two states - one Jewish and one Arab; and the adoption in 1967 of Security Council Resolution 242, which emphasized withdrawal - but to "secure" boundaries and not from all captured territories - in return for the termination of Arab belligerency.

But we shudder at other recollections: The GA's affectionate welcome of Yasser Arafat in 1974, when he delivered a speech loaded with references to "the Zionist entity"; the infamous - now rescinded - GA resolution in 1975 equating Zionism with racism; plus innumerable other unashamedly biased anti-Israel conferences and decisions.

And yet absent a UN, or something like it, the international arena would mimic a Hobbesian state of nature even more closely than it does now. Neither world Jewry nor Israel can thrive in a politically anarchic environment.

Fortunately, the UN's crisis has led Secretary-General Kofi Annan (himself embroiled in the "oil-for-food" scandal) to appoint a "High-Level Panel to Study Global Security Threats and Recommend Necessary Changes."

That panel, chaired by Anand Panyarachum, former prime minister of Thailand, and including Egypt's Amr Moussa, Russia's Yevgeny Primakov and America's Brent Scowcroft - has delivered its verdict.

Surprisingly, it offers cause for cautious optimism. Philosophically, the panel "affirms the right of states to defend themselves, including preemptively," empowers the Security Council to authorize "preventive war," and endorses "the idea of collective responsibility to protect civilians from genocide."

Semantically - at last - it defines terrorism as "any action... that is intended

to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or noncombatants, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population or to compel a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act."

Even more significantly, it says that "there is nothing in the fact of occupation that justifies the targeting and killing of civilians."

Structurally, the plan calls for expanding the Security Council to 24 members from today's 15 (the US, France, China, Russia and the UK have permanent seats and the coveted power of veto; another 10 states are currently elected for two-year terms).

To get to 24, one idea would be for the GA to elect six additional permanent members (most likely Germany, Japan, India, Brazil, and possibly Egypt and Nigeria), plus three countries for two-year terms.

Another option is to elect eight semi-permanent members whose seats would be renewable every four years, plus one two-year seat.

Whatever approach is chosen, if the UN wants to convincingly demonstrate a genuinely new beginning, the GA should elect Israel to a two-year Security Council seat.

No nation has been so mean-spiritedly singled out, so consistently and for so long, as Israel. No nation has suffered more from the tyranny of the UN majority, targeted through countless denunciatory, one-sided resolutions. Entire UN-related international bodies have been permanently hijacked for Israel-bashing.

Electing Israel to the Security Council would signal that the community of nations rejects, de jure and forever, threats to wipe Israel off the map.

At the same time, such a declarative vote would reassure Israel that its painful concessions (in Gaza, for instance) are valued by the world community.

If Palestine is to be the 22nd Arab member in a UN where 58 countries are already aligned with the Islamic bloc, Israel deserves preference on the rotation of countries that hold temporary Security Council seats.

By bumping Israel to the front of the line (having procedurally barred it until recently) the UN would begin to rectify decades of failure to fulfill the most basic principles of its charter: the right of every nation, not only to self-defense, but to the support of the international community in repelling aggression. Reforming the UN will be no easy task; we will know it is on the right track when it begins to apply the charter's universal values to Israel.

(Jerusalem Post Dec 7)

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#### Jerusalem Summit Condemns UNRWA By Moshe Dann

"The Greatest Obstacle to Peace in the Middle East" it turns out is not Jewish "settlements," but the United Nations, and specifically one of its agencies, UNRWA. This was the conclusion of experts at last week's Jerusalem Summit, an annual conference that brings together important thinkers from around the world on issues relating to Israel.

UNRWA, established shortly after the Israeli-Arab armistice in 1950 to assist Arab refugees exclusively, had a mandate designed specifically to perpetuate their status as refugees in order to further the Arab agenda of destroying Israel.

For half a century UNRWA has funneled billions of dollars to perpetuate the status of "Palestinians as refugees." But unlike all other refugees in the world, Palestinian refugees, according to UNRWA's definition, include not only those who became refugees, but all of their descendants as well.

UNRWA also includes anyone who applied for relief, regardless of when they arrived or where they came from. Even when they move out of the "camps" (actually neighborhoods and towns) and/or become citizens of another country (as in the case of Jordan), they still retain their status as "Palestinian refugees."

This explains why the number of refugees in other countries and areas of the world eventually dissipates, while for Palestinians, it amplifies.

According to Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum, Arab refugees numbered around 700,000 at most in 1948. Over the years that should have diminished to around 200,000. Instead, being a "Palestinian refugee" is passed down from one generation to the next. Today there are an estimated four million (although no one really knows because of UNRWA's faulty records) and the number is growing.

Terrorism prevents any progress towards peace. The "Palestinian Right of Return" (to Israel) -- a basic, non-negotiable demand encourages the refusal to accept Israel's existence and fuels Palestinian terrorism. It reinforces Palestinians' belief in their innocence and victimization, promoting a culture of denial and self-pity, sabotaging any hope for change.

A main perpetrator of this policy is UNRWA which not only provides food, educational and medical assistance to generations of "Palestinians," but insists that they not be repatriated into their host countries like all other refugees around the world. For "Palestinian refugees," their children and their great-grand children, UNRWA insists, their only home is "Israeli-occupied Palestine."

Not that these "refugees" have a choice. Martin Sherman, Professor of Political Science at Tel Aviv University presented recent polls which indicated that most Palestinians, given the opportunity, would prefer some

form of compensation and the opportunity to move to another country and get on with their lives. They can't. The UN, UNRWA and the Arab countries won't allow it.

No Arab country except Jordan -- where they now constitute more than two-thirds of the population -- accepted them as citizens. Saudi Arabia, for example, recently passed a law allowing all foreigner workers in the country to apply for Saudi citizenship next year except Palestinians.

In Lebanon, Pipes pointed out, where more than 400,000 "Palestinian refugees" live in UNRWA-supported "camps" residents cannot work or even go to school outside their designated areas. Ditto for Syria.

"UNRWA has outlived its utility and should be dismantled," Pipes suggested. Since more than a third of the funds for UNRWA come from the United States, he urged an immediate end to this policy.

(Saudi Arabia and the oil-rich Gulf states contribute about 2% of UNRWA's budget; the EU countries and Canada make up the rest.)

Dore Gold, Israel's former Ambassador to the United Nations and now head of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and legal expert and Columbia University Professor Anne Bayefsky, characterized the UN as a total failure. Gold's recently published "Tower of Babel" (Crown, 2004) effectively documents the case.

A major source of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiment, the UN has contributed to wholesale massacres and terrorism around the world in places like Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Its refusal to condemn Islamic-based terrorism against Israel has encouraged this scourge.

According to Bayefsky, nearly a third of the resolutions of the Committee on Human Rights condemn Israel; no resolutions are submitted against two-thirds of the rest of the countries in the world (including Sudan and North Korea). Official UN events supporting the "inalienable rights of the Palestinian refugees" are part of the demonization of Israel and encourage a hard-line stance that undermines any progress towards peace. The effect, she said is lethal.

The Organization of Islamic Conferences (OIC) dominates much of what goes on in the General Assembly, Bayefsky said, and prevents even a definition of terrorism. The 56 members of the OIC are also part of the 115-member Non-Aligned Movement which constitutes an automatic majority in the 191-member U.N.

Dr. Avi Beker, professor at Tel Aviv University's School of Government, called for UNRWA's elimination and the creation of a new mechanism to resettle and rehabilitate the refugees. This, he emphasized, is a prerequisite to any peace process.

Of the 4 million "Palestinian refugees," listed by UNRWA for Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza in 2002, about 1,250,000 reside in the areas controlled by UNRWA. The rest live comfortably -- sometimes luxuriously -- outside, often in nearby villages and towns. In addition to the free assistance and services they receive, as "refugees" they pay no taxes.

In Jordan, Syria and the West Bank only about 18% live in UNRWA administered areas; in Lebanon and Gaza that figure rises to more than half. The most violent and volatile areas are those with the highest number living under UNRWA.

Nearly all teachers in UNRWA schools belong to unions affiliated with terrorist organizations, like Hamas. Schools, textbooks, religious institutions and Palestinian media teach hatred of Jews and Israelis and glorify homicide bombing ("martyrdom"). This has been documented by Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), and Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace.

Recent revelations have shown that UNRWA receives funding from terrorist organizations (including al Qaeda connected) and that "refugee camps" for which UNRWA is responsible are major centers of terrorism. Nearly all the missile attacks from Gaza into Israel originate from UNRWA-administered territory. In Jenin, the UNRWA-run camp is called "the terrorist capitol of the world." Except by UNRWA.

This does not seem to have alerted world attention to the problem. Rather than confront the issue honestly and openly, UN and UNRWA officials deny and obfuscate. UNRWA is not part of the solution, experts concluded; it is at the core of the problem.

This year's Summit gathering focused on shifting attention from political to humanitarian solutions, exposing the oppression of Moslem women in Moslem countries, and using the Koran to teach tolerance rather than bigotry and hatred as ways of encouraging positive change.

Author David Pryce-Jones ("The Closed Circle"), senior editor of the National Review suggested that conflicts might be viewed as between closed and open societies, those which have democratic and humanitarian values and those which do not. In that context, he wondered whether political and territorial compromises would have any beneficial effect.

The Summit is promoting a Council of Civilizations (twelve are designated) which would offer an alternative to the UN. Their full program can be accessed at: [info@jerusalemsummit.org](mailto:info@jerusalemsummit.org). (FrontPageMagazine.com Dec 7)

*The author is a writer and journalist living in Jerusalem.*

## **Iran's West Bank Ambitions** By Aaron Mannes

Are the mullahs planning a takeover of Palestinian politics?

While the vacuum in Palestinian politics created by Yasser Arafat's death may seem like a great opportunity for moderates to assume power, the force best organized to take control is actually the Syrian- and Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah. If Hezbollah succeeds, Palestinians will be condemned to continue their confrontation with Israel, and the impact on the balance of power in the Middle East and the global war on terror will be profound.

Iran and Hezbollah are both Shia Islamist, but they support terrorist groups (including al Qaeda) across ideological and sectarian lines. With a secure base in Lebanon, loyal patrons in Syria and Iran, extensive financial resources, and control of the Al Manar satellite channel, Hezbollah is a potent ally for any terrorist. But Hezbollah's greatest asset is its reputation for effectiveness. In the early 1980s, Hezbollah drove peacekeepers from Beirut by truck-bombing the U.S. and French barracks. Around the same time, it also conducted a hostage-taking campaign in Lebanon that manipulated the United States and France, causing scandals in both countries. In May 2000, Israel withdrew from Lebanon after 15 years of fighting with Hezbollah, inspiring the Palestinians to believe that Israel could be defeated.

Iran and Hezbollah have provided funds, weapons, and training to Palestinian terrorists. Many of the intifada's most successful tactics were learned from Hezbollah. But all this assistance came at a price. According to Israeli intelligence, Iran is now "in control of terrorism in Israel."

Most small leftist Palestinian organizations are based in Syria and have close relationships with

Hezbollah. Palestinian Islamic Jihad receives a majority of its funding from Iran and cooperates with Hezbollah. Hamas is also falling into Hezbollah's orbit. Israel's crackdown on Hamas's leadership has created an opening for Hezbollah. Hamas's political leadership is now exclusively Syria-based, and Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon direct Hamas operations.

Hezbollah has also infiltrated Fatah and the Palestinian Authority, the leading Palestinian institutions. Officers in Arafat's personal bodyguard, Force 17, directed the first Hezbollah cells in the West Bank and Gaza. In exchange for providing arms such as those on the Karine A--the arms-smuggling freighter intercepted by Israel in January 2002--Iran was allowed to open hospitals and social institutions in the West Bank and Gaza. These institutions serve as a cover for an expanded Iranian presence. In late 2002, a captured Palestinian agent for Hezbollah confessed to Israeli security that Hezbollah had established a network of supporters in the West Bank and Gaza to infiltrate Fatah and the PA in order to take control when the PA collapses. Even Arafat complained about Iranian infiltration, telling reporters in mid-October, "[Iranian Supreme Leader Ali] Khamenei is working against us. He is giving money to all these fanatical groups. Khamenei is a troublemaker."

The captured Hezbollah agent also stated that he reported both to Iran and to senior Fatah/PLO leader Farouq Qaddumi. A Fatah founder and opponent of the Oslo process, Qaddumi lives in Tunisia and has never traveled to the West Bank or Gaza. Yet Qaddumi recently brokered an agreement to reopen Fatah offices in Damascus (Syria had closed them in 1985). In the wake of Arafat's death, Qaddumi was appointed head of Fatah, and he would be a plausible Palestinian frontman for Hezbollah and its proxies.

Elections are no panacea against Hezbollah's influence, which extends into every Palestinian faction. For one thing, no potential Palestinian leader has much popular support. Nor are there any well-organized Palestinian groups poised to counter Hezbollah's influence. So, Hezbollah, which has its own satellite channel and has been an effective political party in Lebanon, could be the crucial factor in Palestinian elections.

The consequences of an Iranian takeover of Palestinian politics would be grave. Judging from the number of terror attacks, the intifada is burning itself out. But Hezbollah could stoke the flames, making the Palestinians pawns to Iranian and Syrian strategic ends. This power play could then have a regional and even international impact. Hamas and Hezbollah have both opened offices in Iraq, and the Palestinians may prove ready recruits for the jihad against the United States. With a predominantly Palestinian population, strategic, pro-Western Jordan may be vulnerable to a Palestinian-Iranian-Syrian-Hezbollah axis. Also, the Palestinian terrorists bring assets that could augment Hezbollah's world-spanning terrorist network.

Arafat was a terrorist who locked the Palestinian people into a futile cycle of death and defeat. Perhaps his passing will lead to new, moderate Palestinian leadership. But in politics the advantage goes to the organized, and Hezbollah and its patrons have been preparing for this moment for some time. (Weekly Standard Dec 13)

*The writer is the author of Profiles in Terror: The Guide to Middle East Terrorist Organizations (Rowman & Littlefield-JINSA Press, October 2004).*

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# Happy Chanuka!