



Jerusalem 4:00 Toronto 4:26

From the Arab Media...

Egyptian Government Daily: The Nazis Did Not Massacre the Jews

"The Execution Chambers Were No More Than Rooms for Disinfecting Clothing"

In an article titled "Israel's Lies" in the Egyptian government evening paper Al-Masaa, columnist Hisham Abd Al-Rauf wrote that there were no massacres of the Jews during World War II, and that the gas chambers were intended for disinfecting clothing. Hitler, he wrote, was not against the Jews, and had even permitted Jews to emigrate to Palestine during his first years in power. (1)

The following are excerpts:

"The world is truly discriminative and oppressing. Israel spreads whatever lies it wants, and the so-called 'cultural' world congratulates it and views these lies as absolute indisputable facts. Israel refers to Palestine as a land without a people, which was inhabited by a people without a land, who established its country there. Sometimes it refers to Palestine as the land of the Jewish people who returned to it after long years of exile and diaspora.

"Even the 1948 war, which led to the declaration of the establishment of [the State of] Israel [is called], in the language of falsification and terror, the 'War of Independence,' in which the Jewish people participated.

"Sometimes Israel reminds the 1948 Arabs [i.e., the Israeli Arabs] that it did them a favor by letting them continue [to live] within its borders, which have not yet been settled. Israel claims that the land of Israel belongs historically to the Jewish people alone!

"We've had enough of the lies and the falsification of the facts with which the [Israeli] textbooks are replete. The most serious lie is the Jews' Holocaust, which they have exploited in order to extort global solidarity.

"When Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad refutes this lie, the entire world is up in arms, and the Iranian president is inundated with accusations of madness, fanaticism, and falsification. [Ahmadinejad] was inundated with these accusations even though he did nothing more than state the truth, which a number of honest researchers have [also] reached.

"What this truth means is that these massacres, which Israel alleges that the Nazis perpetrated against the Jews, never happened. The famous execution chambers [i.e., the gas chambers] were no more than rooms for disinfecting clothing."

"According to what we know, [the most recent of these researchers] is the courageous British historian David Irving, who paid a heavy price for his courage. Some other historians have proven that some of the massacres alleged to have been perpetrated against the Jews in World War II were carried out in coordination with the Jewish leadership, in an effort to push [the Jews] to emigrate to Palestine.

"It has also been proven that Hitler was not against the Jews, as disseminated by the Zionist historians, but that on the contrary, he permitted 120,000 Jews to emigrate to occupied Palestine in his first years in power, in order to appease the Jews.

"The onslaught against the Iranian president has intensified merely because he posed a logical and proper question to the Western countries, which planted Israel in the heart of the Islamic world, and which protected and continue to

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protect it. If you feel sorry ת"ב
for the poor Jews, why don't you
establish their country on your lands?!"
(1) Al-Masaa (Egypt), December 12,
2005. (MEMRI Dec 20)

Commentary...

Obsessive Anti-Semitism By Jeff

Jacoby

Once again, the president of Iran repeated his foul lie.

On Wednesday, in a speech broadcast live on Iranian state television, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a crowd of thousands that the Nazi destruction of European Jewry never happened. "They have created a myth with the name of 'Holocaust' and consider it to be above God, religion, and the prophets," he said. It was the second time in a week that Ahmadinejad had dismissed the most infamous genocide of the 20th century as a fairy tale. "Some European countries insist on saying that Hitler killed millions of innocent Jews in furnaces," he snorted in Mecca on Dec. 8, when he addressed an international summit of nearly 50 Muslim heads of state. "We don't accept this claim."

Even if there were a Holocaust, Ahmadinejad demanded, why should Muslims be stuck living next to a Jewish state?

"If European countries claim that they have killed Jews in World War II, why don't they provide the Zionist regime with a piece of Europe? Germany and Austria can provide . . . two or three provinces for this regime to establish itself, and the issue will be resolved. You offer part of Europe, and we will support it." Or, he suggested, the Jews could be dispatched to the United States, Canada, "or Alaska."

But whether Europe and North America take his advice or not, Ahmadinejad's bottom line doesn't change. As he put it in October, Israel must be "wiped off the map." And, vowed the president of the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism, "a new wave in Palestine will soon wipe off this disgraceful blot from the face of the Islamic world."

Thus Ahmadinejad promises a second Holocaust even as he denies the first one, and because his manner is so bellicose and crude, his words make news. But there is nothing

new about them. Iran's theocratic thugs have been threatening the Jewish state with genocide ever since Ayatollah Khomeini seized power in Tehran 26 years ago.

When it comes to Jews and Israel, Iran's fanatic rulers speak with one voice. "We have repeatedly said that this cancerous tumor of a state should be removed from the region," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the current supreme leader, remarked in December 2000. Former Iranian president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, whom Western journalists strangely describe as a "moderate," explained in 2001 how a nuclear weapon would settle Israel's hash once and for all: "The use of a nuclear bomb against Israel will leave nothing on the ground, whereas it would only damage the world of Islam." The same Rafsanjani once took to the airwaves to explain that "Hitler had only killed 20,000 Jews and not 6 million." Holocaust denial and calls for a new Holocaust are two sides of the same coin.

That coin -- virulent anti-Semitism -- circulates throughout the Muslim Middle East, not just in Iran. Ahmadinejad's ugly outpourings were condemned in the West, but they provoked almost no protest in Arab and Muslim countries, where Jews are routinely portrayed as evil subhumans fit only for extermination. In much of the Islamic world, Jew-hatred saturates the airwaves, spills from the mosques, fills the classrooms, permeates the press. Jews are represented as pigs and monkeys, as liars and connivers, as vile, hook-nosed scum who deliberately infect children with AIDS and poison Palestinian water. In their quest for power and world domination, they are

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said to be ruthless and devious. They were behind the 9/11 attacks, for example, and tipped off 4,000 Jews to stay home from the World Trade Center. And, of course, they concocted the "hoax" of the Holocaust, as part of an elaborate plot to establish a beachhead in the Middle East and extort money from the world.

Outsiders are rarely aware of how intense the Muslim world's Jew-hatred is. "What has surprised me is the virulence of this new anti-Semitism throughout all the Muslim countries," the distinguished journalist and editor Harold Evans wrote in 2002. "It is frenzied, vociferous, paranoid, vicious, and prolific, and is only incidentally connected to the Palestinian conflict." It is not the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that accounts for this loathing of Jews. It is the loathing of Jews that accounts for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Obsessive anti-Semitism almost always characterizes the most dangerous threats to America and the West. Nazism, Communism, Islamofascism -- one thing they have in common is intense anti-Semitism. Which is why Ahmadinejad's strident rhetoric should be setting off urgent alarms. Dictators who talk about wiping nations from the face of the earth generally mean what they say. We should know by now that it isn't only Jews who are endangered by the mullahs and their threats. All of us are. And time is wasting. (Boston Globe Dec 18)

The writer is a columnist for The Boston Globe.

Spielberg's Immoral Equivalence By Jonathan S. Tobin

Steven Spielberg's latest film, *Munich* - which opens this week in the US - is, the opening credits tell us, "inspired by real events."

The events center on the 1972 Munich massacre of Israeli Olympic athletes, and the subsequent campaign by the Jewish state to hunt down those involved in the murder of its citizens.

Carried out in the presence of the international media and televised live, the "Black September" assault on the Olympic Village helped put the Palestinian Arab war against Israel on the international agenda. And the ability of the Palestinian Liberation Organization to literally get away with murder helped set the stage for much of the carnage that followed.

The film prompts us to ask what Israel should have done in response.

In the film, an actress playing prime minister Golda Meir sees the answer clearly: Strike back! If the terrorists respect no limits in their war against the Jewish people, then the killers and those who direct them should not feel safe anywhere either. She orders the Mossad to track them down in their European havens and kill them.

If such an order seems vaguely familiar to American audiences, it should. The comparison between Meir's order and the reaction of President George W. Bush when he told rescue workers at ground zero that those who brought down the towers would soon be hearing from Americans is more than obvious.

That sort of blunt threat wasn't well-received in those quarters where our conflict with fundamentalist Islam is seen as a function of America's alleged sins against the world. Rather than seeking out al-Qaida, some sages told us to look in the mirror if we wanted to see the real bad guys. And that is precisely the message that Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner (who shares a writing credit with Eric Roth) seem to be making about Israel in *Munich*.

It should be noted that the film has already come in for justified criticism for being primarily based on a book whose primary source was a fraud. Vengeance by George Jonas purported to tell the tale of a disillusioned Mossad agent, but it turned out the man was just a cab driver with an Israeli accent, and not an ex-spy.

But even if we discount this, the film still fails its subject matter. That's because the goal here is not merely to wrongly argue that the battle against Palestinian terror is as criminal as anything the terrorists have done; its purpose is also to humanize the terrorists.

In a *Time* magazine story on his movie, Spielberg said the insertion of a fictional conversation between the leader of the Israeli team and a PLO operative was essential to his vision of the film. In it, the Arab speaks of his longing to recover his family's dignity and property that he claims they lost to Israel.

Without this and other elements that serve to break down the legitimacy of killing the men behind the attack on the Olympics, he says the film would not have been worth making. What Spielberg seems most proud of is the fact that those who seek to destroy Israel - and either slaughter or scatter its people - are not "demonized." They are, he insists, "individuals. They have families."

TO WHICH we can only reply, "So what?" You could say the same of the 9/11 hijackers, as well as the operatives of Hamas, and Fatah (from whom the

members of "Black September" - a front for the PLO - came) who have cut down Jews in pizza parlors, bus stops and at Pessah seders. And even go on and include the German villains of Spielberg's World War II films.

But the problem with this film isn't just an obsessive refusal to be judgmental about terrorism or the tedious speechifying that overwhelms the action. There's something even more insidious at play here.

The main character, the Israeli agent Avner (played by Eric Bana), doesn't just lose his marbles because of a mission whose efficacy might well be debated. Spielberg's Avner rejects not merely a policy but Israel itself, which he abandons for the apparently more humane confines of Brooklyn, New York.

Spielberg even uses an image of a still-standing World Trade Center to punctuate a scene in which Avner rejects Israel to lead us to falsely think 9/11 might have been avoided had America also abandoned the Jewish state.

That *Munich* would have such an anti-Zionist denouement (in contrast to Schindler's List, which tearfully concluded with the playing of the song "Jerusalem of Gold") is unsurprising due to Kushner's involvement.

Though primarily known for his extravagantly praised plays about the plight of gays suffering from AIDS, Kushner is also a hard-core left-wing Jewish critic of Israel. He has edited a book of anti-Israel essays, and even told *Haaretz* that Israel's birth was a "mistake" he wished had never happened.

As for the director and prime mover of this project, in the years since the release of *Schindler's List* and his subsequent contributions to Holocaust remembrance projects, Spielberg has become something of a secular Jewish saint. As such, he's apparently worried enough about his image to employ former Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross to spin for *Munich*, in addition to Eyal Arad, a leading Israeli public-relations torpedo who also works for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

They may well succeed, but if there was ever a movie that ought to provoke outrage, it is *Munich*. The film concludes with a bizarre scene in which the disillusioned Avner daydreams (fantasizes?) about the actual events of the massacre while having sex with his wife. As their coupling reaches its conclusion, we see the bound Israeli athletes slaughtered by their Arab captors.

By this point, a weary audience that has been subjected to many other obvious and heavy-handed clichés so familiar in Kushner's work is forced to wonder whether Avner now sees himself as one of the killers. At the same time, the audience is also being asked to see Israel and the war on terrorism as forces that are literally screwing the world.

Perhaps the fact that *Munich* is such poor entertainment will do more to limit the damage it does than anything said by its critics. But it would be a mistake to let this film pass without a response from those who care about the survival of both Israel and the West.

You don't have to insist that everything Israel or America does to fight terror is wise to understand that the war they're fighting is just. Judging the murderers and those who fight such madmen as morally equivalent is not wisdom. It is, as Steven Spielberg has now shown us, the ultimate obscenity. (Jerusalem Post Dec 22)

The writer is executive editor of The Jewish Exponent in Philadelphia.

Am I an 'Uncle Jake'? By Dennis Prager

A Jewish 'traitor' contemplates his selling-out

Jews who support the Christian right are "Uncle Jakes."

So says a pro-Israeli Jewish official in his recent column for the Israel Policy Forum, a pro-Israel organization. "Uncle Jake" is M. J. Rosenberg's term for Jewish equivalent of "Uncle Tom." Just as the left sees conservative blacks as traitors to African-Americans, so it sees conservative Jews as traitors to the Jewish people. I am the "Uncle Jake" most criticized in the Rosenberg column.

That a Jew on the left would use this term to describe Jews who support conservative Christians gives one an idea of how irrational, how hysterical are the arguments of the Jewish (and non-Jewish) left. And lacking a rational basis, they frequently rely on name-calling.

Speaking personally, I have been called many things in my life, but "Jewish traitor" is a first. For the record, and offered with obvious embarrassment at having to list these things about myself, here is a brief review of my Jewish activities:

From 1969 onward I was one of the leaders of the Soviet Jewry movement, beginning with being the national spokesman for the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the leading activist group in that cause.

I have lectured in more Jewish communities in North America - federations, synagogues of all denominations, Jewish community centers - than almost any living Jew. And I have spoken at the national conventions of virtually every major American Jewish organization - including Hadassah, the General Assembly of Jewish Federations; the United Jewish Campaign; AIPAC; and the American Jewish Committee.

I co-wrote with Rabbi Joseph Telushkin perhaps the most widely used introduction to Judaism in the English language.

I am the recipient of the American Jewish Press Association's 2004 Prize for excellence in Jewish Commentary.

For seven years I was the director of the Jewish retreat center, the Brandeis-Bardin Institute.

I am a founder of a Jewish day school in Southern California.

I am the emcee of the annual Chabad telethon; I've been teaching the Torah at the University of Judaism for 25 years, and teach Torah at my Reform synagogue. And I have brought tens of thousands of Jews back to Judaism and Jewish identity - Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox.

How then does a Jewish writer call me, a man whose life has been so committed to the welfare of the Jewish people, a traitor to Jews?

The answer is simple: To many leftist Jews, a non-leftist Jew is by definition a traitor. It's as simplistic as that. To these Jews, "left" and "Jewish" are synonyms. Just as to many on the left, "left" and "black" are synonyms.

The use of this smear is the tactic of those who cannot argue. Blacks and whites who smear black conservatives such as Thomas Sowell, John McWhorter, Larry Elder, Walter Williams, and Ward Connerly as "Uncle Toms" do so because they cannot, or wish not, to engage them in intellectual argument. It's far easier to libel them than to debate them.

The same libel and intellectual shallowness characterizes the Rosenberg piece.

His major charge is that Jews who support conservative Christians are "Jews taking positions hostile to the Jewish people in order to stay faithful to some political agenda."

And what are these positions that are "hostile to the Jewish people"? Rosenberg enumerates them: "the entire Christian Right agenda: opposing abortion, poverty programs, progressive taxation, laws that protect gays, affirmative action, the environmental movement, and feminism.

Even if that portrayal of conservative positions were accurate, why are these positions "hostile to the Jewish people"? Because they are conservative positions! Again, to such minds, "left" and "Jews" are synonymous, and therefore "conservative" and "hostile to Jews" are synonymous.

If you think most abortions are immoral; that a lower tax rate is better for society, including the poor; that the problem of poverty in America will not be solved by the government spending trillions more; that marriage should not be redefined; that a race-blind society is a finer society and that race-based affirmative action hurts both the recipients of the lowered standards and the society at large; that we desperately need the oil from a small percentage of the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve because doing so will help us rely less on Saudi oil and won't hurt any caribou; and think that, in retrospect, the feminist movement (as distinct from the belief in man-woman equality, which every religious conservative I know holds) hurt more men and women than it helped - you are anti-Jewish.

Such shallowness is based in part on ignorance. For example, Rosenberg writes that "He [Prager] conveniently ignores the fact that Christian Right support for Israel is largely based on a religious belief that Christ will only return after Jews are all in Israel accepting the divinity of Jesus Christ."

That is the lie about Christians that the left spreads to prevent Jews from knowing the truth about Christian support for Israel: that it is rooted overwhelmingly in the beliefs that G-d promised the return of the Jews to Israel, that Christians are grafted onto the tree of Israel, that G-d blesses those who bless the Jews, that Israel is a humane democracy and its enemies are bloodthirsty and backward regimes.

To Rosenberg, conservative Christians are a caricature.

Rosenberg's charges that Jews who support Christian conservatives do so from nefarious motives and that Christians who support Israel do so from nefarious motives is typical of the left. They judge motives, not deeds. And the reason is clear. They are so certain of their moral superiority, they can only deduce that all those who differ with them are bad people. That's how a Jew who has devoted his life to the Jewish people can be called an Uncle Jake. (Jewish World Review Dec 20)

The writer hosts a national daily radio show based in Los Angeles. He the author of, most recently, "Happiness is a Serious Problem".

A Real Likud, Not Another Kadima By Israel Harel

In forming Kadima, Ariel Sharon unknowingly gave the Likud, which he wished to shatter, two important gifts. He gave it a chance to recover from the identity crisis he caused it in the last three years, and, no less important, he enabled it to get rid of the depravity that he, his sons and a fair number of his cronies had forced on it. His departure should have evoked a sigh of relief among the real Likudniks and increased the flow of adrenalin in their arteries.

But only the rebels reacted in this expected, healthy fashion. Not Benjamin Netanyahu. The new chairman does not regret the departure of his arch rival, but not for the right reasons, as his declared courtship of the "center" and his spin about acting to get rid of Moshe Feiglin indicate.

Netanyahu has been known primarily to react to stimuli, rather than create revolutionary political realities like his arch rival. His first moves following his election as chairman imply that this behavior pattern is about to be repeated. After all, just from reading the polls correctly, he should conclude that if he falls into Ehud Olmert's frequent venomous verbal traps and wants to prove - by turning the Likud into a second Kadima - that he is not "radical right wing," he will lose it all. The Likud will not recover from its identity crisis, Sharon will continue forging ahead, and the nationalist camp, in which the Likud was and is supposed to be the dominant factor, will remain crushed and devoid of an identity.

In the struggle for the "center," the target Netanyahu is focusing on, Sharon has won even before presenting a platform - as if anyone is interested in or believes anything Sharon would write in it - and a list of candidates. In this business, the original Sharon is much better than Netanyahu, his imitation. And Netanyahu, who knows full well that in the next elections he will not bring the Likud back into power, must stop looking for a niche that does not exist in the crowded center.

Instead, he must take the only step that could rehabilitate his party and himself as a leader: He must heal the Likud of the split personality and the moral filth that has been foisted on it by the Sharon family and its partners. This, apart from the long-term dividends for the Likud, could also rehabilitate the general political behavior in Israel and set real parameters for the existential debate culture taking place here. If he succeeds in doing this, Netanyahu will also accumulate considerable political credit.

The direction Feiglin is striving toward is indeed problematic. The Likud's roots are national-liberal, not religious. But the two current Likud leaders' shift to the left of the party's platform, by voting for uprooting settlements, is much worse than Feiglin's deviation. Moreover, the Likud's target audience, the secular and observant right wing, objects to Feiglin, yet sees him as a legitimate component, which counterbalances the Likud and its leaders' gallop toward the left.

In the upcoming elections, this audience will not be able to put the Likud in first place, but it is capable, if Netanyahu focuses on it, of turning the Likud into the second-largest party. Then, when that one-person, one-time party Kadima crashes, the Likud, with the help of the religious and right-wing parties, will be able to return to power.

The only political reality that Netanyahu can therefore create involves the rehabilitation of the national camp. The very consolidation of a large national camp (there is one), not religious, that remains loyal to Zionism's fundamental principles - and the knowledge that this loyalty is not the exclusive domain of the religious Zionists - will be good news to many people. These people have understood for a long time that without a grass roots national and Zionist basis, Israel would not be able to exist. It is among these people that Netanyahu, if he is patient - one of the main components in a leader's personality - must seek his crown. (Haaretz Dec 22)

Islam's Religious Intolerance By Rachel Ehrenfeld

The following statement by Dr. Ehrenfeld was read by Alyssa Lappen at the meeting on "Protection of Religious Sites and Prevention of the Use of Religion to Incite Terrorism/Violence" which took place at the U.N. Headquarters in New York on December 13th, 2005. Dr. Ehrenfeld was ill with pneumonia.

No churches or synagogues have been destroyed in Saudi Arabia since it was established in 1932 —because none are allowed. Those who want to establish churches "are, unfortunately, fanatics," according to the Saudi First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, in an interview with the Associated Press on March 13, 2003. He concluded: "There are no churches - not in the past, the present or future...."

There is no declared Muslim state, which offers full civil rights to members of other religions. Many Christians work in Saudi Arabia, but they are not allowed to practice their religion in public because there is no religious freedom in Saudi Arabia. The State Department's report on Religious Freedom points out that the Saudis do "not always respect this right in practice and do not define this right in law."

Last April, 40 Pakistani Christians including men, women and children were arrested for holding prayers in a private home in Riyadh. Needless to say, their prayer-books were confiscated.

Moreover, in the 1990's, Christian religious services in the American Embassy were terminated at the Saudi government's request. And even websites devoted to other religions and to religious freedom and tolerance are blocked by the Saudi government.

And the Saudis not only oppress all other religions but actively promote an ideology of hate in their own country and abroad. Freedom House documented how the Saudi government is involved in propagating internationally a "religious ideology that explicitly promotes hate, intolerance, and other human rights violations, and in some cases violence, toward members of other religious groups, both Muslims and non-Muslims."

In Iran, where the president has repeatedly said, "I want to stop Christianity in this country," last month, a Protestant pastor has been murdered because he himself converted from Islam. It is important to note that all five schools of Islamic law agree that the penalty for conversion - "apostasy" - is death.

In Indonesia, especially in the Moluccan islands, thousands of Christians were massacred and tens of thousands driven from their homes in the last decade alone by Islamist mobs.

In Egypt, Christians face persecution in the form of rapes, kidnappings and forced conversions as well as economic discrimination and restriction on their property and on what they can build.

Similar situations apply in most Gulf States, which were Islamized long ago. In Yemen, "the government forbids conversions, requires permission for the construction of new places of worship and prohibits non-Muslims from proselytizing." The country has two churches in the city of Aden. One of the churches was bombed on January 1, 2001. And on December 30, 2002 - three Southern Baptist missionaries working in the Baptist Hospital at Jibla were killed.

In November 2005, Qatar allowed to construct the first church in 14 Centuries. However, no "freestanding cross" to identify the building as a church is allowed. Yet, this is seen as a big step towards reform.

However, radical Islamists adhere to medieval traditions and laws mandating the Jihad. According to the Dictionary of Islam: conquered by jihad, subjugated people are given three choices:

1) convert, 2) pay a head tax, or 3) die.

Thirteenth Century jurist Ibn Taymiya, often quoted by Osama bin Laden, wrote that spoils of war "received the name of fay since Allah had taken them away from the infidels in order to restore them to the Muslims.... [The] infidels forfeit their persons and their belongings which they do not use in Allah's service to the faithful believers who serve Allah and unto whom Allah restitutes what is theirs...."

This creed dictated that in conquered regions, ancient religious sites be confiscated and infidels banned from using them. Thus, the Dome of the Rock was constructed on the ruins of the Temple Mount in 691 AD., Al-Aqsa Mosque over the Basilica of St. Mary in 712, AD, and the Grand Mosque of Damascus, was built over the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in 715 AD.

In India, the Vikramasli temple was razed to the ground in the 13th Century, and its foundation- stones thrown into the Ganges. According to scholar K.S. Lal, thousands of Hindu temples were destroyed and their stones used to build mosques.

Muslim scribes recount the detestation on a church in Georgia in 1551 by Safavid Shah Tahmasp. "The Shah and his nobles went to see the church and slew twenty evil priests and broke the bell of 17 maunds...and destroyed the doors of iron and gold and sent them to the treasury."

Only when infidels surrendered could they preserve religious buildings, and then only if a clause specifically allowed them, but in that case modifications and improvements were prohibited. Furthermore, 11th Century jurist Abu Al-Hasan Al Mawardi wrote that non-Muslim dhimmis "are not allowed to erect new synagogues or churches in the territory of Islam and any built are to be demolished without compensation."

In countries with a Muslim majority, Islamists regularly target churches, synagogues and other non-Muslim holy sites for desecration and destruction. The list of old and new examples of Islamic edicts preaching intolerance of others and calling for their destruction as well as the destruction of their holy

sites is long.

Unless those - still the majority of the world - who do not adhere to such dogma, take action to stop this aggression, our future is in jeopardy.

The history of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, headed by Yasser Arafat, is filled with religious violence. From 1975 to 1982, when the PLO operated in and from Lebanon, it terrorized Christian communities and ransacked their churches. Even after the newly established Palestinian Authority committed to religious tolerance in the Oslo Accord, its own police forcefully took over Abraham's Oak Russian "Holy Trinity" Monastery in Hebron, on July 5, 1997, wounding several monks and nuns.

Then, in January 2000, the PA evicted five White Russian monks from their 19th Century Jericho Monastery.

In September 1996, Palestinians destroyed the synagogue at Joseph's tomb in Nablus. Then, in October 2000, the reconstructed synagogue and yeshiva at Joseph's Tomb was sacked and burned by mobs, and Rabbi Hillel Lieberman, who went there hoping to save Torah scrolls and other holy objects, was murdered. The next day his bullet-ridden body was found in a cave. Today, the Jewish holy site is buried under the new mosque that was built over the ruins of Joseph Tomb.

The PA's Tanzim terrorist group invasion and desecration of Bethlehem's Church of Nativity, in May 2002, was premeditated, according to their commander Abdullah Abu-Hadid. He stated on record: "The idea was to enter the church in order to create international pressure on Israel... We knew beforehand that there was two years worth of food for 50 monks. Oil, beans, rice, olives, good bathrooms and the largest wells in old Bethlehem."

The PA terrorists "stole gold objects from the monks, ate their scarce food, and urinated on the church floor."

Muslims have attacked the "infidels" and their houses of worship in order to take over their properties for centuries. In the September 1955 "Istanbul Pogrom," Muslims sacked the homes, businesses and churches of tens of thousands of Greek Christians, Armenians and Jews in Istanbul. "Dozens of Greek men and women were raped, and a number of men were forcibly circumcised by the mob." Today, of the 200,000 of the Greek community, only 1,500 live in Istanbul. And only 24,000 Jews remained of more than 100,000 at the beginning of the last Century. As for the Armenians, their massacre in 1915 has been well documented.

In the Balkans, since the Serbs were defeated in Kosovo in 1999, more than 100 ancient Orthodox holy places were destroyed, some dating back to the 13th through 15th centuries.

The destruction of the two fifth-century Buddha statues lining Bamiyan Valley's soaring cliffs, in March 2001, came after a fatwa ordered by the Taliban that all Afghan "idols" be destroyed as anti-Muslim.

Islamists scholars supported the destruction of the Buddha statues. Among the supporters was American Muslim, Sheikh Ali al-Timimi, who in July this year was sentenced by a judge in Virginia to life in prison because he worked to get a group of young Americans Muslims to obtain terrorists training so that they could go to Afghanistan and fight with the Taliban against the "infidels." He wrote that there is "overwhelming evidence from the Quran and the Sunna where we have been commanded to destroy all images and flatten all graves."

Unfortunately, many other holy sites of other religions have been destroyed because of the intolerant Islamists - both Shiite and Sunni dogmas that teach disrespect for the rights of Jews, Christians and other non-Muslims. The most flagrant proponent of this hate lately is Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who not only denies the Holocaust as a historical event, but uses every opportunity to reiterate that Israel "must be wiped off the map."

Statements like this encourage not only the massacre of Jews and their holy sites, but also are responsible for the mass murder of Christians and the razing of churches worldwide—in Indonesia, Pakistan, Sudan and Nigeria—which happens in in 83% of nations with Muslim majorities, according to Tom Barrett in American Daily.

To remedy the situation, the UN—as well as all other international organizations—should sanction all the countries that do not allow religious freedom and withdraw all membership privileges of all the countries that do not provide legal protection and equal rights to all their citizens.

(FrontPageMagazine.com Dec 19)