



## ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel  
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of  
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

This leader is erratic enough, so who knows about him.

That leaves us with Jordan and the Palestinians themselves. In the case of the former, there is a state-run agitation conducted from above by King Abdallah himself, a dangerous game on his part, and one which exposes weakness. It is the fear of the

## Commentary...

### Trump Roared on Jerusalem and Reactions Are Mute By Josef Olmert

It is arguably the case that when American administrations do not want to embark on any initiative which can be construed as pro-Israel, they mobilize to their cause an old weapon, General Fear. Do not do what is on the agenda, because all hell is going to break loose, and the Arab and Muslim world is going to react in a way which will turn American interests upside down, apocalypse now, if not worse.

That started with Secretary of State George C. Marshall warning President Truman against recognition of the Jewish state to be declared in 1948, and continued on many occasions until now. Truman did not blink, and gained his proper place in the Hall of Fame of the Jewish people, perhaps more importantly, in the list of great American presidents. President Trump ain't Harry Truman, but with his announcement about Jerusalem, he showed that fear-mongering is bad advice.

It is too early to pass final verdict on the fallout of his announcement, but after few days it is becoming increasingly clear that, even in the Middle East, doing the right thing is not the trigger for a calamity. The sky hasn't fallen, the sun shines, and the provocations of CNN and NBC correspondents are another indication that fake reporting is taking over the American media but cannot change realities on the ground.

Yes, there were some demonstrations, very poorly attended in some Arab and Muslim Capitals, very low-key riots in Jerusalem, where on some occasions in the last few days, there were more American and other Western correspondents than demonstrators, and in case we forget, the Defense Minister of Malaysia announced that his army (yes, no joke...) is ready to march to Jerusalem. The Israelis are surely on the watch listening to his threat (not really...), but when returning to the world of reality, not that of political fairy tales, it is very clear why the reaction has been so muted.

To start with, it is not really the interest of Arab and Muslim rulers to ignite large-scale demonstrations, because with the instability in so many of these countries, you know how a demonstration starts, while you never know how it ends, and who would end up being the real recipient of the popular anger. It was very clearly so during the early days of the so-called Arab Spring. There was an attempt to divert attention to the traditional bogey man of the Middle East, Israel, and the "Palestine" problem, but it did not work. That said, here we touch upon another reason. The "Palestine" problem is simply not on top of the list of problems which are on the agenda of Middle Easterners. In Yemen, they deal with a devastating civil war, starvation and cholera; in the Gulf, they deal with Iran; and the Saudi shake up, which, by far, is the most important event unfolding in the Middle East these days. In Iraq they continue to fight, and they know very well that getting rid of ISIS is not the end of their sectarian problems, and surely so in Syria. In Lebanon, the PM Hariri melodrama signaled very clearly what is the biggest problem there, again the Sushu war (Sunnis-Shi'as), rather than "Palestine."

President of Egypt Al-Sisi fights ISIS in Sinai, and the Israelis are the allies there, rather than the enemies. In fact, the Israelis are Al-Sisi's allies also when dealing with Gaza, and while the Egyptian leader does not say it in public, his actions speak volumes in this regard.

There are two Middle East states, Iran and Turkey, which are in the business of trying to stir the pot as much as they can. The fact that they are not Arab states says a lot about the overall weakness of the Arab world these days. Iran is serious however, as the Arab Sunni world viewed it, and not Israel, as its main problem, and while the incitement from Tehran is at its height, an official delegation from Bahrain is openly visiting Israel, under the specific authorization of the King of Bahrain. This country formally announced an end of the boycott of Israel.

Bahrain knows well where the real enemy is — Iran, which tries to mobilize Bahrain's Shi'a population against its Sunni rulers. Turkey is another story, as President Erdogan is conducting a vicious propaganda war against Israel and the U.S. The secular opposition in Turkey, though, provokes Erdogan by arguing that his government continues some forms of military cooperation with Israel, and encourages extensive trade with her. So, while Erdogan screams aloud, on the ground nothing has yet changed.

Hashemite regime about the Palestinian majority in the Kingdom, but when it comes to Jerusalem, the King needs to realize that the Israelis are hyper-sensitive as well. The Hashemite regime encouraged the UNESCO resolutions which outrageously negated any Jewish connection to Jerusalem, and now the Jordanian Parliament decided to reevaluate the peace treaty with Israel. The King may think that Israel's traditional guarantee to the very existence of Jordan under the Hashemites may prove stronger than his provocations, but he may misjudge here. There are strong elements in the Likud-led Right Wing coalition which toy in public with various versions of the "Jordan is Palestine" concept. These elements are encouraged by President Trump's statement, that it is time to re-examine old Middle East axioms and conventional wisdoms. King Abdallah will have to take this also into account, and so will Mr. Abbas, the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Abbas is working hard to agitate, inflame, and incite, but it does not work now, as it has not since 2011, when the entire Middle East seemed to be on the brink, and the PA -controlled territories were the most peaceful in the region. Abbas tries to do something, which may still lead to a political and diplomatic achievement for him. He hopes to arouse enough violence to allow him to renew contacts with the Israelis and the Americans from a position of strength, much the same as Arafat did after the riots in Jerusalem in late 1996, which brought PM Netanyahu to the table and to the major Israeli concessions in Hebron, something which is hard to envisage now.

Netanyahu of 2017 is not Netanyahu of 1996, but also the Palestinian population is not the same. In the West Bank and Gaza, there is despair, and despair can lead to violence, but also lead to the passivity of helplessness. The Palestinian population sees the events in neighboring countries, and the more prevailing feeling is that the Arab world lost a lot of interest in them.

Hamas in Gaza understood it with the attempted reconciliation agreement with the PA, and the rapprochement with Egypt, coming as they were due to the inability of the terror organization to address the problems of their population. They may still try to divert all the attention to Israel, in the wake of the Trump announcement, but they will think deep and hard before doing it, though other local factions there can still cause problems.

The overall situation in the Middle East today is still largely, if not almost exclusively, determined by the impact of the devastating repercussions of the Arab Spring and the rising Iranian influence. It is not "Palestine," not even Jerusalem. If President Trump gambled, it may still be a successful gamble and in the right time. (Newsmax Dec 11)

*The writer is a Middle East scholar and a former peace negotiator.*

### Resist the Psychological Warfare By Amnon Lord

If you think all Israelis feel ashamed over the images of young Palestinian women hitting IDF soldiers, then think again.

Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth was gleeful over the images, playing its role as a collaborator and employing Palestinian-style psychological warfare against the Israel Defense Forces and the State of Israel.

The purpose of this type of psychological warfare is to make the Israeli public feel negatively about the IDF and soldiers. This psychological terrorism is intended to foment divisions among us.

From the Left, the response has been predictable. After all, from the standpoint of the Left, which often plays along with the enemy's psychological warfare ploys, Israeli soldiers should not even be in Nebi Salah, where the incident took place.

Meanwhile, we can expect the Right to wage another all-out media attack, similar to the one following the ramming attack in Armon Hanatziv.

The public and its leading media pundits need to be cognizant of this form of warfare. It appears the soldiers caught on film had been properly briefed on how to cope with provocations. I do not want to argue with the IDF about when the Palestinian girls should have been arrested: as the incident was unfolding, or later, as actually occurred.

In that same vein, it must be noted that the shooting incident in Hebron involving soldier Elor Azaria was also a psychological terrorist attack, which drew senior IDF and defense officials into its trap. The strategic effect achieved in Hebron by the enemies of Israel and the manner in which Azaria's case should have been handled did not have to correlate. He could have been punished and at the same time the Palestinians and their collaborators did not need to be awarded with the ensuing discord among the Israeli public and its leadership.

Prominent incidents of this sort have occurred in the past. We remember the case of Lt. Col. Shalom Eisner in the Jordan Valley, who hit a pro-Palestinian European activist with his rifle butt during a demonstration. We also recall the soldier in Hebron's Jewish quarter who was videotaped cocking his rifle at a Palestinian boy. All these incidents fall under the category of IDF soldiers who were documented while being provoked. Severe provocations are also perpetrated against certain Jewish communities near Har Hebron and other areas in Judea and Samaria, normally with a video camera at the ready.

Israel should consider adopting an "offensive" policy on the psychological warfare front, such as rounding up all the European activists engaged in these sorts of provocations and expelling them from the country.

Generally speaking, restraint and self-control are beneficial. Israel and the United States are forging a revolutionary strategic shift in policy surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A little friction and discomfort are not an intolerable price to pay. (Israel Hayom Dec 20)

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### **Time to Recognize the Golan** By Itzik Tsarfati

The U.S.'s recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel raises the question whether it was the most significant move Israel could have asked the Trump administration to make. It was a declaration, whereas recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights would not only change the reality, it would also shape it for many years to come, as well as dovetailing with the American interest in stopping Iran from gaining control in the region.

As the U.S. relinquishes its hold on the Middle East, Russia – and particularly Iran – are filling the vacuum. Iran's entry into Syria is part of its grand plan to occupy collapsing regions in the Middle East as a way of expanding its reach as a rising regional superpower. That is what is happening in Yemen and parts of Iraq, as well as in Syria.

The Iranian threat has long ceased to be a matter that concerns Israel only. By seizing crumbling areas and states, by challenging Saudi Arabia, by establishing military bases in Syria, and by developing missiles that can reach Europe – and maybe one day the U.S. – Iran is becoming a threat to the entire western world. Iran establishing a foothold in Syria and its significant proximity to the Israeli border on the Golan Heights mark the first time Iran has approached the borders of a western country. In effect, Israel is now the advanced guard of the western world in the inevitable future conflict with Iran, which will try to undermine Israel's legitimacy on the Golan Heights and drag it into small-scale clashes.

Israel is currently at a historic juncture. First, the formula of interests that has held for the past 50 years – peace with Syria in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan – has fallen apart and dropped off the radar. Syria, in its new incarnation as a Russo-Iranian protectorate, is a bleeding political entity burdened by a murderous tribal conflict and a brutal civil war. It is treading a path of instability that could continue for years; in the best case scenario, the evolution of Syria will bear similarities to the breakup of the former Yugoslavia, but in the worst case scenario, Syria will come to resemble Lebanon of the past few decades. Syria will never return to what it was.

Second, Israel is in the rare position of its interests coinciding with those of the U.S. and the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, all of whom see Iran as a major threat, for their own reasons. Europe, too, which as usual is tardy in understanding geo-strategic threats, will soon realize that the attempts to pacify Iran haven't worked. It's clear to all these countries that any Israeli retreat from the Golan Heights will create a vacuum that Iran will fill – an event that would be *casus belli* for Israel and that could pull the entire region into a war.

It's not implausible that the international community could demand that Israel make concessions on the Golan Heights as part of an attempt to put together a new regional order in Syria, or an Iranian attempt to blackmail the world into extending the nuclear agreement.

Israel should identify the opportunity that exists with the Trump administration and convince the U.S. – which until a few months ago still held the position that it should leave Syria after the Islamic State was defeated, and now understands how the move led to Iran and Russian influence growing stronger in the region – that recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights will allow it to take steps to maintain U.S. influence that will cost very little.

A window of opportunity is open, the conditions are right, and now is the time. An American recognition of Israel on the Golan Heights would be a historic contribution by the Trump administration to shaping the Middle East and erecting a stable defense doctrine for the next several years. (Israel Hayom Dec 18)

*The writer is head of the Coalition for the Israeli Golan.*

### **Why is Europe Always Against Israel?** By Eyal Zisser

U.S. President Donald Trump's declaration of recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital has sparked, as expected, outrage among Palestinians and their allies. Less expected, or perhaps not, was Europe's indignation. It seems Trump's diplomatic storm has been far stronger on the European continent than in Arab countries. During their meeting this past weekend, European leaders even considered rejecting the U.S. president's declaration and expressing a divergent position, the implication being the negation of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The European position toward Israel will always be influenced by the past, by those same entrenched views of Israel as the state of the Jewish people. In the 1930s, the slogan "Jews get out, go to Palestine" was prevalent across Europe. Today, "Jews get out of Palestine" is just as ubiquitous.

And yet, the question that remains is what brings Europe to repeatedly display unity and commitment to the Palestinian issue and stand on that side of the dividing line. As per the norm in Europe, it appears the answers to this question are not necessarily rooted in a dislike for Jews or special sympathy for the Palestinians but in cold, cynical interests.

These various interests, for example, were also the basis for Europe's alienation of the Kurds and their demand for self-determination. In retrospect, it is an issue where conscience and compassion, as well as an obligation to morality and national rights, for which Europe is proudful, could have manifested.

Europe, however, is first and foremost only interested in itself. It is a combination of economic interests – in the past it was oil but today it is commerce and investments with Arab and Muslim countries – alongside the fear of immigrants; those who already live there and have significant electoral clout, but also of radical Islam and terror and those who inspire it. The fear is also of potential immigrants still living in the Middle East, those who Europe wants to prevent from reaching its shores.

In another 30 years or so, in 2050, the Middle East's population will be 700 million, almost twice as much as 2010 when the Arab Spring erupted. Many will seek a path to Europe in light of the regional chaos: failed states, societies and economies, and the struggle to secure minimal earnings and dignity.

The Europeans want to restore stability to the Middle East. This means the return of tyrannical regimes across the region, which the Europeans believe will block the stream of immigration and also make it easier to cope with Islamic terror.

Apparently, however, Europe is still cemented in the view that the Israeli-Arab conflict is the key to achieving stability in the Middle East, to easing social, economic, religious and ethnic tensions throughout the region; and that if only the Palestinians were appeased and peace is achieved to their satisfaction, terror would be defeated and radicalism eradicated. From this vantage point, in the eyes of the Europeans, Israel sabotages Europe's efforts to resolve the problems afflicting the Middle East, and thus its efforts to defend itself.

Many European politicians also realize the electoral benefits of catering to their Muslim constituency by being critical toward Israel. Indeed, for many Muslim immigrants in Europe – undergoing a crisis of identity – the conflict with Israel and the Jewish people is a way to find something in common with other Muslim immigrants; and it helps them forge a new identity to replace the one they left behind.

Europe's position toward Israel over the years, under left- and right-wing governments alike, has always been predictable. The considerations forming the bedrock of its policies, evidently, have not changed one bit. (Israel Hayom Dec 19)

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### **Nikki Haley: A Diplomat who Delivers** By Daniella J. Greenbaum

Nikki Haley's diplomatic career is no longer nascent, but her support for the Jewish state, while no longer surprising, is still one of the most reassuring features of the Trump administration.

Today, 14 members of the Security Council voted for an Egyptian-sponsored resolution regarding Jerusalem's status. Nikki Haley, speaking for the United States, vetoed that resolution. She explained declaratively and unhesitatingly: "We do it with no joy, but we do it with no reluctance. The fact that this veto is being done in defense of American sovereignty and in defense of America's role in the Middle East peace process is not a source of embarrassment for us." And then the zinger: "It should be an embarrassment for the rest of the Security Council."

Speaking directly to those who would accuse the United States of being unconcerned with the plight of the Palestinians, she noted that the U.S. funded nearly 30 percent of UNRWA's budget last year. Uninterested in the soft subtlety once expected of female diplomats, Haley minced no words. "I'll be blunt," she promised. "When the American people see a group of countries whose total contributions to the Palestinian people is less than 1 percent of UNRWA's budget, when they see these countries accuse the United States of being insufficiently committed to peace, the American people lose their patience."

As they should.

Haley, too, seems to have run out of patience. “What we witnessed here today in the Security Council is an insult,” she said. “It won’t be forgotten.”

She took the time to reiterate some of the finer details of Trump’s Jerusalem announcement. His speech—which had served as a departure from the isolationist America First rhetoric that had dominated the campaign—portrayed a president who is willing to go out on a limb for our allies, and who understands that an internationally engaged America is a stronger America. If Haley’s fingerprints were not all over the text of the speech itself, her ideas and beliefs have certainly influenced the administration’s international policy.

Indeed, Trump’s Jerusalem speech was filled with an uncharacteristic level of nuance and sophistication. Abandoning his usual flair for the dramatic, he explained that his administration’s acknowledgment of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital was “nothing more or less than a recognition of reality.” He went on to reiterate his commitment to fostering a long-term solution, noting that “this decision is not intended in any way to reflect a departure from our strong commitment to facilitate a lasting peace agreement.” In a speech that was clearly favorable to Israel, he made sure to throw a bone to the peace-process posse, and to the Palestinians: “We are not taking a position of any final status issues including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem or the resolution of contested borders,” the President said. “Those questions,” he insisted, “are up to the parties involved.”

Haley repeated many of those salient details today. She chastised the international body for their history of bias against the Jewish state, and noted that “if the United Nations history in the peace efforts proves anything, it is that talking in New York cannot take the place of face to face negotiations between the regional parties.” It is refreshing to see a President and a U.N. ambassador who understand this, and if Israel truly had a partner for peace, this frame of mind would offer a prime opportunity to truly re-engage in peace efforts. But as Abba Eban observed years ago, “the Arabs never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.” (CommentaryMagazine.com Dec 18)

### Could This Extremist New Jersey Imam Be Deported? By Oren Litwin

Ayemen Elkasaby, the extremist imam at a New Jersey mosque (now suspended) who called for genocide against the Jews in a December 8th sermon, appears to be in America on a temporary work visa.

Elkasaby repaid the American hospitality he received by calling on all Muslims to engage in violence against Jews, as a religious obligation. And this was not his only foray into frothing bigotry.

In a November sermon, newly translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), Elkasaby peddled a bizarre conspiracy theory that Jews were responsible for a deadly terror attack in Egypt, rather than ISIS.

America has enough problems with homegrown extremism; we hardly need to import more extremists from abroad — and particularly not to place them in positions of authority.

According to government sources who spoke to the Middle East Forum, Elkasaby’s employer — the Islamic Center of Jersey City (ICJC) — applied for a non-immigrant worker visa in 2016, presumably a religious-worker visa (R-1).

The first ICJC video featuring Elkasaby (which has since been taken down, along with all of Elkasaby’s other sermons) was posted in August 2017 — a year after ICJC submitted its application. The head imam there, Farghal Ali, has been at ICJC for some time, making it highly likely that the visa application was for Elkasaby, who is the only other imam employed by the ICJC.

The R-1 visa program has a troubled history. Begun in 1990 to help the Catholic Church address a shortage of American clergy, the program has been a favored tool for fraudulent entry into the United States almost from the beginning. In 1999, the then-named General Accounting Office (GAO) warned that fraud was rife and uncontrolled in the R-1 visa program. In 2006, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) determined that about 33% of R-1 applications were fraudulent.

And this isn’t an isolated incident.

Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the “Blind Sheikh” who masterminded the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, came to the United States on an R-1 religious-worker visa. So did several employees of the Holy Land Foundation (HLF) and the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), both of which were front organizations for the terrorist group Hamas. Counter-terrorism experts have recently called for the R-1 program to be reformed, saying that it poses a grave national security risk.

Nor are R-1 visas the only program exploited by extremists. Imam Ammar Shahin, the Davis, California, imam who in July called for Muslims to kill Jews around the world, came to the United States in 1999 on a student visa — initially to study computer science, but then remaining as a perennial student of Arabic, Islamic Studies, and Islamic Sciences. (He is currently a PhD student at the Islamic University of Minnesota, which is known for pervasive links to extremism.)

One of the 9/11 hijackers, Hani Hasan Hanjour, was also here on a student visa, yet never attended school; three other 9/11 attackers had illegally overstayed their tourist visas at the time of the assault.

For many years now, watchdogs have been decrying the ease with which both violent and nonviolent extremists have enjoyed the hospitality of the United States — sometimes illegally, but often simply by taking advantage of legal visa programs. Yet the Trump administration’s attempts to address this issue — partly through “extreme vetting” policies — have been condemned as racist, or discriminatory against immigrants.

Such criticisms are beside the point. US law already sets forth that non-citizens may be deported for supporting terrorism and extremist violence. “Extreme vetting” is about giving these provisions teeth, and enforcing the law to protect the American people.

Far from being discriminatory against Muslims, keeping out extremist imams will serve to protect Muslim communities from radicalization, and from tarnishing the name of Islam. Mosques seeking to hire imams should know that the US government will help them avoid the tragedy of importing cancerous hatreds from abroad. “Extreme vetting” is a necessary tool to help accomplish this.

Meanwhile, if Elkasaby is in America on a temporary work visa, then that privilege can and ought to be revoked. Instead, an imam who can represent what is best about Islam within a pluralist society should be hired in his place. (Algemeiner Dec 20)

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### The International Community and the Liberal Media

By Caroline B. Glick

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley glared at her colleagues at the UN Security Council Monday as she cast the lone nay vote against a draft resolution presented by Egypt to nullify US President Donald Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

Haley then berated her UN colleagues for their assault against US sovereignty and for their prolonged efforts to delegitimize Israel and blame the Jewish state for the absence of peace. In her words, “The United States refuses to accept the double standard that says we are not impartial when we stand by the will of the American people by moving our US embassy, but somehow the United Nations is a neutral party when it consistently singles out Israel for condemnation.”

The liberal media, led by The New York Times chastised her.

“Punctuating America’s increasing international isolation, the United Nations Security Council demanded on Monday that the Trump administration rescind its decisions to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and to put the United States Embassy there,” the Times wrote in a purported news article.

While attacking Trump and Haley for isolating the US, the Times and its colleagues failed to explain what an international community-aligned US foreign policy looks like.

Notably, just such a policy and its consequences were the subject of a 15,000-word investigative report published Monday morning by Politico.

“The secret backstory of how Obama let Hezbollah off the hook,” by Josh Meyer, detailed how in the interest of advancing a policy supported by the international community, then president Barack Obama imperiled US public health, national security and its allies.

As Meyer recalled, Obama entered office in 2009 promising to turn over a new leaf with Iran.

By promising to turn over a new leaf in US-Iran relations, Obama signaled his belief that the sorry state of those relations was America’s fault. Because if it wasn’t America’s fault, then no American president could change the situation.

Obama’s assumption was entirely wrong.

The Iranian regime declared war on the US shortly after it seized power. Months later, the regime’s shock troops stormed the US embassy in Tehran and held US diplomats hostage for 444 days.

Despite an uninterrupted record of Iranian aggression, since 1979 every US administration tried to convince the ayatollahs to abandon their hostility to America. Iran pocketed every presidential concession and redoubled its hostile actions against America and its allies and interests.

Ignoring the record, Obama argued he had the Midas touch. Obama made his case for uniqueness to Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood in his speech at Cairo University in June 2009.

There Obama legitimized Iran’s grievances against the US. He invited Iran’s leaders and their Sunni jihadist counterparts in the Muslim Brotherhood to work with him.

At the same time, he attacked Israel and the US’s Sunni Muslim allies.

By attacking the US’s allies and embracing its enemies, Obama signaled Iranians and the Muslim Brotherhood that he was interested in a strategic realignment of America’s Middle East posture.

In its editorial following Obama’s speech, the Times’ editors gushed, “After eight years of [American] arrogance and bullying that has turned even close friends against the United States, it takes a strong president to acknowledge the mistakes of the past.”

In the months and years that followed his Cairo speech, Obama’s primary goal in the Middle East was to persuade Iran’s regime to reach a nuclear accord with him. Although Obama and his advisers insisted that his nuclear diplomacy didn’t affect their willingness to confront and punish Iran for its other rogue behavior, their actions showed the opposite was true.

From his earliest days in office, Obama turned a blind eye to all of Iran's bad behavior.

For instance, just days after his Cairo speech, the regime stole the presidential elections. Then Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared the winner of the poll against his two chief opponents Mir Hossain Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi. The public, which came out in the millions for Mousavi and Karroubi, rejected the official results. Millions took to the streets in what became known as the Green Revolution.

Instead of standing with the Iranians in the streets demanding freedom, Obama stood on the sidelines and so effectively sided with the anti-American regime against the Iranian people begging for American support.

In his report, Meyer showed another casualty of Obama's obsessive desire to reach a nuclear accord with Tehran. Meyer chronicled the shocking fate of Project Cassandra, a multi-year investigation led by the US's Drug Enforcement Agency. The DEA probe involved 30 US and foreign law enforcement and intelligence agencies. It was directed against Hezbollah's worldwide narco-terrorist empire, which netted Iran's foreign legion up to \$1 billion annually.

Project Cassandra investigators "followed cocaine shipments, some from Latin America to West Africa and on to Europe and the Middle East, and others through Venezuela and Mexico to the United States. They tracked the river of dirty cash as it was laundered by, among other tactics, buying American used cars and shipping them to Africa. And with the help of some key cooperating witnesses, the agents traced the conspiracy, they believed, to the innermost circle of Hezbollah and its state sponsors in Iran."

Rather than support the investigation, which showed that Hezbollah was importing thousands of tons of cocaine to the US and using US used car dealerships to launder their drug money, the Obama administration quashed it.

"As Project Cassandra reached higher into the hierarchy of the conspiracy, Obama administration officials threw an increasingly insurmountable series of roadblocks in its way.... When Project Cassandra leaders sought approval for some significant investigations, prosecutions, arrests and financial sanctions, officials at the Justice and Treasury departments delayed, hindered or rejected their requests."

Meyer reports that Hezbollah used its drug profits to supply Syrian President Bashar Assad with chemical and conventional weapons he used against his own people. It used its drug money to provide tank-destroying roadside bombs to Iranian-controlled Shi'ite militias in Iraq which killed hundreds of US soldiers. It used its drug money to build apartment blocks in south Lebanon which, as the IDF has documented, double as missile launch pads and storage facilities in preparation for its next war against Israel.

And it used the money to turn a slew of Latin American countries into US enemies and Iranian allies in Tehran's war to destroy America.

As Obama Treasury Department official Katherine Bauer claimed in written testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs last February, "under the Obama administration... these [Hezbollah-related] investigations were tamped down for fear of rocking the boat with Iran and jeopardizing the nuclear deal."

This then brings us back to Haley at the UN on Monday, and the US liberal media's condemnation of her defense of Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

In November 2015, the UN Security Council unanimously approved Obama's nuclear deal. The resolution was submitted by Obama's UN ambassador Samantha Power.

The EU, the Russians and the Chinese all happily partnered with the Obama administration in concluding a nuclear deal. That vaunted, unanimously supported deal paved the way for Iran to become a nuclear armed state within a decade.

The international community - along with the US liberal media - cheered as Obama attacked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for daring to warn of the consequences of his nuclear pact.

At the same time, the international community, the Times and its liberal media counterparts all hid the news of Hezbollah's narco-terrorist empire and its responsibility for thousands of cocaine-related deaths each year in America. Indeed, as of Tuesday, neither the Times' nor The Washington Post's websites mentioned Meyer's report.

In her statement Monday, Haley said, "This is the first time I have exercised the American right to veto a resolution in the Security Council. The exercise of the veto is not something the United States does often.... We do it with no joy, but we do it with no reluctance."

She added, "The fact that this veto is being done in defense of American sovereignty and in defense of America's role in the Middle East peace process is not a source of embarrassment for us; it should be an embarrassment to the remainder of the Security Council."

And it should be an embarrassment to the New York Times and its colleagues that they have refused to report why Haley and Trump are demonstrably right to stand alone and why Obama was catastrophically wrong to believe that the US should stand with the "international community" against itself. (Jerusalem Post Dec 19)

## **Hatred of Israel is Jew Hatred: It Has Nothing to do with the Jerusalem Embassy** By Jesse Bogner

America is under attack from both internal and external forces guided by Islamic extremism. Monday, a 27-year-old Bangladeshi immigrant, Akayed Ullah, detonated an unsuccessful suicide bomb in my hometown subway system. This is the second terror attack in Manhattan in the last six weeks. On Halloween, eight were murdered in a Grand Theft Auto style killing rampage by Sayfullo Saipov who murdered eight cyclists by running them over on a bike path with a flatbed truck. Though the extent of the collusion with the organization is a bit fuzzy, both incidents were connected to ISIS, if only to the extent that both of the legal immigrants attested to their allegiance to the terrorist organization. Saipov was radicalized in the borders of the United States, while my former neighbor, Kensington Brooklyn resident, Akayed Ullah, appears based solely on the sniff test and neighbor's testimony, to have always been of an extreme religious bent. This week's pathetic and pathetically executed attack by Ullah was particularly emblematic of the times, as he cited recent bombings and tensions in Gaza as the reason for the attack, after Trump's announcement of his recognition of the capital of Israel to distract us from truly abhorrent anti-Semitism.

One example of explicit Jew hatred occurred last Friday in Times Square. A large protest, ostensibly about Trump's Jerusalem announcement, became a chant for violence and the destruction of the state of Israel. It's not unusual for pro-Palestinian supporters to chant for the destruction of the state of Israel with lines like "We don't want no two state—we want 48," and "From the river to the Sea, Palestine will be free." Just as it's not all that unusual for these protestors to call for terror attacks with lines like their rallying cry, "There is only one solution—Intifada revolution," suggesting something not unlike Hitler's final solution.

While these above protest calls are truly horrific, unusually this protest became even more sinister as the Muslim protestors shouted, "Jews, remember Khaybar—the army of Muhammad is returning." What the protestors were referring to was Mohammed's 7th century massacre of Jews and they are explicitly calling for Jews to be massacred. As The Board of Deputies of British Jews elucidated after the London version of the protest the same day, "The 'Khybar, Khybar' chant heard and documented at Friday's protest outside the US Embassy in London can only be interpreted as a call to incite violence against Jewish people. It is outrageous that these protesters thought that such a chant would be acceptable on the streets of London in 2017. That this comes in the context of a firebombing of a synagogue in Sweden and an attack on a kosher restaurant in Amsterdam only increases our concern. These acts are not criticisms of a decision by the US government but demonstrations of anti-Semitism." If anyone thought the Palestinian state was a territorial political war and not a religious war aimed at killing Jews, this protest and similar protests across Europe show us the true intention of anti-Zionism.

Though it should be clear to all, that the root of anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism deeply steeped in Islamic fanaticism, cut to Newsweek's front page where Trump is blamed for a steep rise in anti-Semitism, particularly in Europe.

The above article had another ludicrous title, "BECAUSE OF TRUMP, PEOPLE ARE BURNING ISRAELI FLAGS AND ATTACKING JEWS." Though Trump is not to blame, in Germany 12 were arrested as they burned flags, and in Malmö, 200 Palestinians were shouting, "Shoot the Jews," just after masked men firebombed a temple in another Swedish city, Gothenburg.

How a major mainstream magazine like Newsweek, would blame Trump for Islamic extremists shouting "Shoot the Jews," is a mystery me. As I wrote last week, it certainly has nothing to do with Jerusalem as the Palestinian Liberation Army explicitly called for the destruction of Israel, in the 60s, when Jordanian Palestinians controlled Jerusalem and Jews were forbidden to enter most of Jerusalem, including the Wailing Wall. The Palestinians will not rest until all of Israel is theirs, preferably killing as many Jews as possible in the process and they're not even hiding it anymore.

The Jerusalem decision is only an excuse for the anti-Semitism that has existed for thousands of years. Jerusalem has been the capital and spiritual center of Judaism for 3,000 years and has always been hotly debated and a source of friction. This week as Jews celebrate Chanukah, we should recognize the importance of the city that the Maccabees fought the Greeks to protect. While Jews in America may be divided about nuances of Israeli policy, the understandably confusing election of Donald Trump and a bevy of other topics, as Jews it is our responsibility to unite behind Israel, the one place Jews were given sanctuary after the Holocaust and during the expulsion of nearly a million Jews from Arab countries. Terrorists and those chanting to kill us cannot dictate our policies. No matter what you think of Trump, recognizing Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish people should be a non-partisan issue.

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