

Israel's Right to Self-Defense

By Gerald M. Steinberg *The Wall Street Journal* February 23, 2010

The Dubai hit exposes the failure of international law to fight jihadi terror, forcing the Jewish state to act independently. The headlines and video images allegedly showing Israeli spies in Dubai are titillating, but they mask the serious issues involved in the death of Hamas terrorist Mahmoud al-Mabhouh. Along with predictable European hand-wringing over forged passports, this case is the latest example of the failure of the international legal system and the United Nations to provide a remedy to mass terror.

Al-Mabhouh was a cold-blooded murderer—in an interview just last year on Al Jazeera he boasted about kidnapping and then killing two Israeli soldiers. He was also a major figure in arranging arms shipments from Iran to Gaza. Al-Mabhouh shared responsibility for the thousands of rocket attacks fired at civilians in Sderot and other Israeli towns, which resulted in last year's war in Gaza. In his travels, the Hamas terrorist was probably making arrangements for the next round of attacks.

But international law provides no means for stopping terrorists like Al-Mabhouh, or for his Hezbollah counterpart, Imad Moughniyeh, whose life ended with an explosion in Damascus in 2008. (In addition to numerous attacks against Israelis, Moughniyeh has been blamed for the 1983 Beirut bombings that killed hundreds of American and French peacekeepers and the murder of Lebanese President Rafik Hariri.) Cases involving Muslim terrorists, supported by Iran, would never be pursued by the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, or raised in the framework of the United Nations. Al-Mabhouh violated the human rights of untold Israeli civilians, but the U.N.'s Human Rights Council—which is dominated by such moral stalwarts as Libya, Algeria, and Iran—has no interest in Israeli complaints.

It is equally hard to imagine Interpol issuing arrest warrants in response to Israeli requests. And if warrants were issued, history shows that German, French, Belgian, and other European governments would not risk the consequences of acting on them. Little effort was ever made to apprehend the perpetrators of the Munich Olympic massacre, or of the deadly bombing attacks against synagogues in Istanbul and Athens. It's a widely known secret that European governments had ungentlemanly agreements with the PLO that allowed the Palestinians to operate from their territories,

provided the terror attacks occurred elsewhere. Not until 2003 did the EU even put Hamas on its terror list. Hezbollah is currently free to operate in Europe.

The bitter reality is that for Israel, international legal frameworks provide no protection and no hope of justice. Instead, these frameworks are used to exploit the rhetoric of human rights and morality to attack Israel. In European courts, universal jurisdiction statutes, initially created to apprehend and try dictators and genocidal leaders, are now exploited as weapons in the service of the Palestinian cause. In this way, Israeli defense officials are branded as "war criminals."

Similarly, Richard Goldstone's predetermined "fact finding inquiry" into the Gaza war makes no mention of Al-Mabhouh or Iran, which supplied Hamas with over 10,000 rockets for attacks against Israelis. Mr. Goldstone and his team have remained silent about what would be the "legal" way to bring jihadi murderers to justice. In their efforts to demonize Israel, Palestinian terror actually doesn't really exist. The Goldstone team simply refused to accept conclusive Israeli video evidence of Hamas war crimes.

The same legal distortions are found among the organizations that claim to be the world's moral guardians, such as Human Rights Watch. HRW's systematic bias is reflected in a Middle East division that sees no problem in holding fund-raising dinners in Saudi Arabia—one of the world's worst human rights violators and a country officially still at war with Israel—to help finance their campaigns against the Jewish state.

In the absence of any legal remedies or Western solidarity, Israel's only option to protect its citizens from terror has always been to act independently and with force. When in 1976 a group of Palestinian and German terrorists hijacked an Israel-bound Air France plane to Uganda and separated the Jewish passengers, Israel decided to act. In a daring mission, it rescued all but three passengers while killing all terrorists and several Ugandan soldiers who had been protecting the terrorists. Back then, Israel's detractors also fretted about the "violation of Ugandan sovereignty" even though dictator Idi Amin was in cahoots with the terrorists. Entebbe, though, quickly became the gold standard for successful counter-terror operations. Only a year later, Israeli-trained German special forces freed in Mogadishu, Somalia a Lufthansa plane hijacked by

Palestinian terrorists. Similarly, when after years of horrific suicide bombings Israel pioneered the targeted killings of Hamas terrorists—often with the help of unmanned drones—Israel's Western adversaries complained about "extrajudicial assassinations." Today, though, U.S. forces have copied Israel's technique with their own drone killings of jihadi terrorists in the Afghan-Pakistan border region.

Unlike those Predator strikes, though, which hardly raise an eyebrow in the West these days, there was no "collateral damage" in the mysterious Dubai hit. No innocent civilians were hurt, no buildings

were damaged. Justice was done, and al-Mabhouh's preparations for the next war ended quietly.

All this is lost on those diplomats, "legal experts," and pundits who blame Israel for Dubai, and angrily denounce the passport infractions. In the absence of viable alternatives, and a refusal to share any of the risks, they are in no position to condemn actions aimed at preventing more terror.

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The Fatah fairy tale

By Caroline Glick The Jerusalem Post February 19, 2010

Israel's is the only government that can force the rest of the world to recognize that Abbas is not an ally.

Fahmi Shabaneh is an odd candidate for dissident status. Shabaneh is a Jerusalemite who joined the Palestinian Authority's General Intelligence Service in 1994.

Working for PA head Mahmoud Abbas and GIS commander Tawfik Tirawi, Shabaneh was tasked with investigating Arab Jerusalemites suspected of selling land to Jews. Such sales are a capital offense in the PA. Since 1994 scores of Arabs have been the victims of extrajudicial executions after having been fingered by the likes of Shabaneh.

A few years ago, Abbas and Tirawi gave Shabaneh a new assignment. They put him in charge of a unit responsible for investigating corrupt activities carried out by PA officials. They probably assumed a team player like Shabaneh understood what he was supposed to do.

Just as Abbas's predecessor, Yasser Arafat, reportedly had full dossiers on all of his underlings and used damning information to keep them loyal to him, so Abbas probably believed that Shabaneh's information was his to use or ignore as he saw fit.

For a while, Abbas's faith was well-placed. Shabaneh collected massive amounts of information on senior PA officials detailing their illegal activities. These activities included the theft of hundreds of millions of dollars in international aid; illegal seizure of land and homes; and monetary and sexual extortion of their fellow Palestinians.

Over time, Shabaneh became disillusioned with his boss. Abbas appointed him to his job around the time he was elected PA head in 2005. Abbas ran on an anti-corruption platform. Shabaneh's information demonstrated that Abbas presided over a criminal syndicate posing as a government. And yet rather than arrest his corrupt, criminal associates, Abbas promoted them.

Abbas continued promoting his corrupt colleagues even after Hamas's 2006 electoral victory. That win owed to a significant degree to the

widespread public revulsion with Fatah's rampant corruption.

With Israel and the US lining up to support him after the Hamas victory, Abbas continued to turn a blind eye to his colleagues' criminality. His new status as the irreplaceable "moderate," he allowed his advisers and colleagues to continue enriching themselves with the international donor funds that skyrocketed after Hamas's victory.

Since 2006, despite the billions of dollars in international aid showered on Fatah, Hamas has consistently led Fatah in opinion polls. Rather than clean up their act, Abbas and his Fatah colleagues have sought to ingratiate themselves with their public by ratcheting up their incitement against Israel. And since Abbas has been deemed irreplaceable, the same West that turns a blind eye to his corruption, refuses to criticize his encouragement of terrorism.

And this makes sense. How can the West question the only thing standing in the way of a Hamas takeover of Judea and Samaria?

Recently, Shabaneh decided he had had enough. The time had come to expose what he knows. But he ran into an unanticipated difficulty. No one wanted to know. As he put it, Arab and Western journalists wouldn't touch his story for fear of being "punished" by the PA.

In his words, Western journalists "don't want to hear negative things about Fatah and Abbas."

Lacking other options, Shabaneh brought his information to The Jerusalem Post's Khaled Abu Toameh. On January 29, the Post published Abu Toameh's interview with Shabaneh on our front page. Among other impressive scoops, Shabaneh related that Abbas's associates purloined \$3.2 million in cash that the US gave Abbas ahead of the 2006 elections. He told Abu Toameh how PA officials who were almost penniless in 1994 now have tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars in their private accounts. He related how he watched in horror as Abbas promoted the very officials he reported on. And he showed Abu Toameh a video

of Abbas's chief of staff Rafik Husseini naked in the bedroom of a Christian woman who sought employment with the PA.

If Shabaneh's stories were about Israeli or Western officials, there is no doubt that they would have been picked up by every self-respecting news organization in the world. If he had been talking about Israelis, officials from Washington to Brussels to the UN would be loudly calling for official investigations. But since he was talking about the Palestinians, no one cared.

The State Department had nothing to say. The EU had nothing to say. The New York Times acted as if his revelations were about nothing more than a sex scandal.

As for Abbas and his cronies, they were quick to blame the Jews. They accused Shabaneh - their trusted henchman when it came to land sales to Jews - of being an Israeli agent. And when Channel 10 announced it was broadcasting Husseini's romp in the sack, Abbas demanded that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu bar the broadcast, (apparently forgetting that unlike his PA-controlled media, Israel's media organs are free).

Shabaneh's odyssey from PA regime loyalist to dissident is an interesting tale. But what is more noteworthy than his personal journey is the world's indifference to his revelations.

Just as the mountains of evidence that Fatah officials - including Shabaneh's boss Tirawi - have been actively involved in terrorist attacks against Israel have been systematically ignored by successive US administrations, Israeli governments and EU foreign policy chiefs, so no one wants to think about the fact that Fatah is a criminal syndicate. The implications are too devastating.

Since at least 1994, successive US administrations goaded by the EU have made supporting Fatah and the PA the centerpiece of their Middle East policy. They want to receive proof that Fatah is a terrorist organization that operates like a criminal organization like they want - in the immortal words of former EU Middle East envoy Christopher Patten - "a hole in [their] head."

As for the Western media, their lack of interest in Shabaneh's revelation serves as a reminder of just how mendacious much of the reportage about the Palestinians and Israel is. For 16 years, the American and European media have turned blind eyes to Palestinian misbehavior while expansively reporting every allegation against Israel - no matter how flimsy or obviously false. When the history of the media's coverage of the Middle East is written it will constitute one of the darkest chapters in Western media history.

But while the American and European allegiance to the fable of Fatah as the anchor of the two-state solution accounts for the indifference of both to

Shabaneh's disclosures, what accounts for the Netanyahu government's behavior in this matter?

Shortly after the Post first published Shabaneh's story, the PA issued an arrest warrant against him. He was charged among other things with "harming the national interests" of the Palestinians.

But Abbas's henchmen couldn't put their hands on him. Israel had already arrested him.

Shabaneh was booked for among other things, illegally working for the PA. It is indeed illegal for Israeli residents to work for the PA. But oddly, although Israeli authorities have known whom Shabaneh worked for since 1994, until his disclosures were made public, they never saw any pressing need to arrest or prosecute him.

Official Israel has nothing to say about Shabaneh's information. Rather, in the wake of his disclosures, everyone from Netanyahu to Defense Minister Ehud Barak has continued to proclaim daily their dedication to reaching a peace accord with Abbas. This even as Abbas and his cronies accuse Israel of using the "traitorous" Shabaneh to pressure Abbas into negotiating with Israel.

There are two explanations for Israel's behavior. First, there is the fact that the presence of Barak and his Labor Party in the government makes it impossible for Netanyahu and his Likud Party to abandon the failed two-state paradigm of dealing the PA. If Netanyahu and his colleagues were to point out that the PA is a kleptocracy and its senior officials enable terror and escalate incitement to deflect their public's attention away from their criminality, (as well as because they want to destroy Israel), then Labor may bolt the coalition.

Beyond that, there is no doubt that an Israeli denunciation of Abbas and his mafia would enrage the US and EU. Apparently, Netanyahu - who to please President Barack Obama accepted the two-state paradigm in spite of the fact that he opposes it, and suspended Jewish construction in Judea and Samaria despite the fact that he knows doing this is wrong - is loathe to pick a fight by pointing out the obvious fact that the PA is a corrupt band of oppressive thieves.

Shabaneh argues that due to PA corruption, Hamas remains the preferred alternative for Palestinians in Judea and Samaria. In his view, the only reason Hamas has yet to take over Judea and Samaria is the IDF presence in the areas.

The strategic implications of his statement are clear. Far from being a bulwark against Hamas, Abbas empowers the Iranian-backed jihadist force. The only bulwark against Hamas is Israel.

What this means is that Israel must end its support for Abbas. Every day he remains in power, Abbas perpetuates a myth of Palestinian moderation. As a supposed moderate, he claims that Israel should curtail its counterterror operations and let his own "moderate" forces take over.

To strengthen Abbas, the US pressures Israel to curtail its counterterror operations in Judea and Samaria. To please the US, Israel in turn cuts back its operations.

Abbas's men fight Hamas, but they also terrorize journalists, merchants and plain civilians who fall in their path, and so strengthen Hamas. To ratchet up public support for Fatah, Abbas escalates PA incitement against Israel. This then encourages his own forces to attack Israelis - as happened last week when one of his security officers murdered IDF St.-Sgt. Maj. Ihab Khatib. And so it goes.

It is clear that Barak will threaten to bolt the coalition if Netanyahu decides to cut off Abbas. But if he left, where would he go? Barak has nowhere to go. He will not be reelected to lead his party. And if Labor leaves the coalition, Netanyahu would still be far from losing his majority in Knesset.

'The Struggle of the World'

By Pilar Rahola Tablet Magazine February 16, 2010

Why don't we see demonstrations against Islamic dictatorships in London, Paris, Barcelona?

Or demonstrations against the Burmese dictatorship? Why aren't there demonstrations against the enslavement of millions of women who live without any legal protection?

Why aren't there demonstrations against the use of children as human bombs where there is conflict with Islam? Why has there been no leadership in support of the victims of Islamic dictatorship in Sudan?

Why is there never any outrage against the acts of terrorism committed against Israel? Why is there no outcry by the European left against Islamic fanaticism?

Why don't they defend Israel's right to exist? Why confuse support of the Palestinian cause with the defense of Palestinian terrorism?

And finally, the million dollar question: Why is the left in Europe and around the world obsessed with the two most solid democracies, the United States and Israel, and not with the worst dictatorships on the planet? The two most solid democracies, who have suffered the bloodiest attacks of terrorism, and the left doesn't care.

And then, to the concept of freedom. In every pro Palestinian European forum I hear the left yelling with fervor: "We want freedom for the people!"

Not true. They are never concerned with freedom for the people of Syria or Yemen or Iran or Sudan, or other such nations. And they are never preoccupied when Hamas destroys freedom for the Palestinians. They are only concerned with using the concept of Palestinian freedom as a weapon against Israeli freedom. The resulting consequence

As for angering the White House, the fact of the matter is that by pointing out that Abbas is not a credible leader, Israel will make it more difficult for Obama and his advisers to coerce Israel into making further concessions that will only further empower Hamas.

Shabaneh told the Post that he fully expects the PA to try to kill him. But in a way, the yawns that greeted his story are his best life insurance policy. Until the world stops believing that Fatah is indispensable, no one will listen to the Shabanehs of the world and so the PA has no reason to kill him.

Just as the Post was the only media organ that would publish his story, so the Israeli government is the only government that can force the rest of the world to recognize that Abbas is not an ally. But to do that, the government itself must finally break with the fairy tale of Fatah moderation.

of these ideological pathologies is the manipulation of the press.

The international press does major damage when reporting on the question of the Israeli-Palestinian issue. On this topic they don't inform, they propagandize.

When reporting about Israel the majority of journalists forget the reporter's code of ethics. And so, any Israeli act of self-defense becomes a massacre, and any confrontation, genocide. So many stupid things have been written about Israel, that there aren't any accusations left to level against her.

At the same time, this press never discusses Syrian and Iranian interference in propagating violence against Israel; the indoctrination of children and the corruption of the Palestinians. And when reporting about victims, every Palestinian casualty is reported as tragedy and every Israeli victim is camouflaged, hidden or reported about with disdain.

And let me add on the topic of the Spanish left. Many are the examples that illustrate the anti-Americanism and anti-Israeli sentiments that define the Spanish left. For example, one of the leftist parties in Spain has just expelled one of its members for creating a pro-Israel website. I quote from the expulsion document: "Our friends are the people of Iran, Libya and Venezuela, oppressed by imperialism, and not a Nazi state like Israel."

In another example, the socialist mayor of Campozeulos changed Shoah Day, commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, with Palestinian Nabka Day, which mourns the establishment of the State of Israel, thus showing contempt for the six million European Jews murdered in the Holocaust.

Or in my native city of Barcelona, the city council decided to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel, by having a week of

solidarity with the Palestinian people. Thus, they invited Leila Khaled, a noted terrorist from the 70's and current leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a terrorist organization so described by the European Union, which promotes the use of bombs against Israel.

This politically correct way of thinking has even polluted the speeches of President Zapatero. His foreign policy falls within the lunatic left, and on issues of the Middle East he is unequivocally pro Arab. I can assure you that in private, Zapatero places on Israel the blame for the conflict in the Middle East, and the policies of foreign minister Moratinos reflect this. The fact that Zapatero chose to wear a kafiah in the midst of the Lebanon conflict is no coincidence; it's a symbol.

Spain has suffered the worst terrorist attack in Europe and it is in the crosshairs of every Islamic terrorist organization. As I wrote before, they kill us will cell phones hooked to satellites connected to the Middle Ages. And yet the Spanish left is the most anti Israeli in the world. And then it says it is anti Israeli because of solidarity. This is the madness I want to denounce in this conference.

Conclusion: I am not Jewish. Ideologically I am left and by profession a journalist. Why am I not

anti-Israeli like my colleagues? Because as a non-Jew I have the historical responsibility to fight against Jewish hatred and currently against the hatred for their historic homeland, Israel. To fight against anti-Semitism is not the duty of the Jews, it is the duty of the non-Jews.

As a journalist it is my duty to search for the truth beyond prejudice, lies and manipulations. The truth about Israel is not told. As a person from the left who loves progress, I am obligated to defend liberty, culture, civic education for children, coexistence and the laws that the Tablets of the Covenant made into universal principles.

Principles that Islamic fundamentalism systematically destroys. That is to say that as a non-Jew, journalist and lefty I have a triple moral duty with Israel, because if Israel is destroyed, liberty, modernity and culture will be destroyed too.

The struggle of Israel, even if the world doesn't want to accept it, is the struggle of the world.

Pilar Rahola is a Spanish politician, journalist and activist and member of the far left. Her articles are published in Spain and throughout some of the most important newspapers in Latin America:

If Israel Killed Mahmoud al-Mabhouh, Did it Have the Right To?

By Alan Dershowitz The Huffington Post February 18, 2010

I don't know whether Israel did or did not assassinate the leader of the Hamas military wing, Mahmoud al-Mabhouh. But assuming for argument's sake that the Mossad made the hit, did it have the right to engage in this "extrajudicial assassination?"

Not all extrajudicial killings are unlawful. Every soldier who kills an enemy combatant engages in an extrajudicial killing, as does every policeman who shoots a fleeing felon. There are several complex legal questions involved in assessing these situations.

First, was the person who was killed a combatant, in relation to those killed him? If Israel killed Mabhouh, there can be absolutely no doubt that he was a combatant. He was actively participating in an ongoing war by Hamas against Israeli civilians. Indeed, it is likely that he was killed while on a military mission to Iran in order to secure unlawful, anti-personnel rockets that target Israeli civilians. Both the United States and Great Britain routinely killed such combatants during the Second World War, whether they were in uniform or not. Moreover, Hamas combatants deliberately remove their uniforms while engaged in combat.

So if the Israeli Air Force had killed Mabhouh while he was in Gaza, there would be absolutely no doubt that their action would be lawful. It does not violate international law to kill a combatant, regardless of where the combatant is found, whether he is awake or asleep and whether or not he is

engaged in active combat at the moment of his demise.

But Mabhouh was not killed in Gaza. He was killed in Dubai. It is against the law of Dubai for an Israeli agent to kill a combatant against Israel while he is in Dubai. So the people who engaged in the killing presumptively violated the domestic law of Dubai, unless there is a defense to such a killing based on international principles regarding enemy combatants. It is unlikely that any defense would be available to an Israeli or someone working on behalf of Israel, since Dubai does not recognize Israel's right to kill enemy combatants on its territory.

If it could be proved that Israel was responsible for the hit--an extremely unlikely situation--then only Dubai could lawfully bring Israelis to trial. They would not be properly subjected to prosecution before an international tribunal. But what if a suspect was arrested in England, the United States or some other western country and Dubai sought his extradition? That would pose an interesting legal, diplomatic, political and moral dilemma. Traditional extradition treaties do not explicitly cover situations of this kind. This was not an ordinary murder. It was carried out as a matter of state policy as part of an ongoing war. A western democracy would certainly have the right and the power to refuse to extradite. But they might decide, for political or diplomatic reasons, to turn the person over to Dubai.

Turning now to the moral considerations, which might influence a decision whether to extradite, the situation is even murkier. The Goldstone report suggests that Israel cannot lawfully fight Hamas rockets by wholesale air attacks. Richard Goldstone, in his interviews, has suggested that Israel should protect itself from these unlawful attacks by more proportionate retail measures, such as commando raids and targeted killing of terrorists engaged in the firing of rockets. Well, there could be no better example of a proportionate, retail and focused attack on a combatant who was deeply involved in the rocket attacks on Israel, than the killing of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh. Not only was Mabhouh the commander in charge of Hamas' unlawful military actions at the time of his death, he was also personally responsible for the kidnapping and

coldblooded murder of two Israeli soldiers several years earlier.

Obviously it would have been better if he could have been captured and subjected to judicial justice. But it was impossible to capture him, especially when he was in Dubai. If Israel was responsible for the killing, it had only two options: to let him go on his way and continue to endanger Israeli civilian lives by transferring unlawful anti-personnel weapons from Iran to Gaza, or to kill him. There was no third alternative. Given those two options, killing seems like the least tragic choice available.

I leave to others, more expert in these matters, whether if Israel ordered the killing, it was strategically the right thing, or whether they carried it off in an intelligent manner. But as to the legal and moral right to end the threat posed by this mass murderer, the least bad alternative.

Who gains the most in the Peer story?

By Stephen Tignor Tennis.com (ESPN Sports) February 16, 2010

Which is the bigger tennis news out of the United Arab Emirates this week? That Shahar Peer of Israel, who was denied a visa into the country one year ago, is currently playing and winning in Dubai? Or that another, non-Israeli WTA player, Jelena Jankovic, has decided to move to the city and make it her home base?

It would be nice to say the former, of course. To have any athlete from Israel, whose diplomatic existence the UAE doesn't recognize, competing in that country is a political victory that resonates far beyond the lines of a tennis court. But in many ways this victory wouldn't have happened without a move like Jankovic's. Although the WTA and its former chief officer Larry Scott deserve credit for demanding that all of its players be guaranteed entry to the UAE this year, this wasn't just a righteous triumph for freedom. It was also a triumph for the publicity machines of both Dubai and Doha, which have labored for years to show off the world's top Western athletes -- golfers, tennis players and racehorses alike -- happily doing what they do best in their Middle Eastern cities, and receiving a king's ransom to do it. They'd invested too much in, among many others, Roger Federer, Maria Sharapova, Tiger Woods and the WTA's top eight, who play their year-end championships in Doha, to let it all be scuttled by *l'affaire Peer*.

Now Jankovic, a Serb who has always been based at the Bollettieri academy in Florida, says she's joining them. "I love so many things about this place," she said of Dubai. "The people are good and the place is lovely as I can step out anytime and

practice." This echoes sentiments shared by Federer, who has trained in the UAE for years. "I really like the nice climate in Dubai," he has written on his Web site. "It's always sunny, making it the ideal location for holidays as well as practice. I like to go shopping and eating out in the great restaurants and hotels. Dubai is a true melting pot of nationalities."

Sounds nice, eh? Perfect spot for a vacation, and there are plenty of condos for sale in Dubai as well. Besides the appearance-fee and prize-money dollars -- Dubai offers the sport's most lavish guarantees, and Doha hosts the richest women's tennis tournament in history -- local officials have also used tennis players in some of the more jaw-dropping photo-ops of recent years. Where else can you play tennis on a towering helipad, or on an indoor ski slope, or on a court surrounded by real live desert sands?

Peer's tale is approximately half a feel-good story. In the end, it doesn't matter how an Israeli got to play; it's the result, the breakthrough alone, that will count in future years. If it's money and publicity that made it happen, so be it; it's not the first time they've made progress happen. But we can also note the difference in Peer's description of her experience thus far in Dubai from those of Jankovic and Federer. An Israeli newspaper reports that her hotel has sealed off her floor for security reasons, and her movement has been restricted to the hotel and the tournament site. "The attitude to me is very warm," Peer says, "and I feel quite safe."

Hey, you have to start somewhere.

If anyone would like to receive this newsletter by a weekly e-mail, please drop us a note at sheldonb@rsfchart.com and we will be glad to add you to our growing list of subscribers. All of the newsletter archives can be found on the Suburban Orthodox webpage (Israel Action section) at <http://www.suburbanorthodox.org/israel-action.php>.

To be sure, Haiti is no Gaza

By Jason Epstein The Hurriyet (Turkey)

Last week, the Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review published a column in which the author, Dubai columnist Aijaz Zaka Syed, claimed that Israel was hypocritical for sending medical teams to earthquake-ravaged Haiti while ignoring the plight of Gazans. He wondered why “the gentile [sic] Jews who were moved by a tragedy on the other side of the world cannot see what’s been happening right under their noses for years.”

Syed also spoke of the “plane-loads of relief and aid supplies Muslim countries have sent,” but provides no specifics, suggesting instead that the amount in question is not known because Arab countries – he does not mention Turkey in his column – are not particularly media-savvy. (According to news reports, Turkey, in addition to making a financial contribution, dispatched a mobile hospital, two ambulances with drivers, two check-up devices, a 20-member relief team, and 10 tons of medicine and medical equipment to the country.)

Not everyone is satisfied with the immediate response to the earthquake from Arab states. The Middle East Media Research Institute, or MEMRI, translated Palestinian scholar Khaled Hroub’s Al-Hayat article on Jan. 23, 11 days after the earthquake had struck, in which he scolded the Arab world for not doing more. Hroub wrote: “All [we have seen] is some symbolic aid extended by charity organizations and semi-governmental organizations in Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, Jordan, and Lebanon. These organizations’ missionary and da’wa rhetoric is confined to helping Muslims, and they seem to respond only to Muslim pain. The pain of non-Muslims does not merit a reaction. ... The raucous statements and missionary and revolutionary rhetoric [of these organizations] seem to be in inverse proportion to their actions.”

In contrast, the Israel Defense Forces’ strong commitment to disaster relief is unambiguous and dates back to 1953. The IDF has provided rescue and recovery operations, as well as hospital services and identification of human remains on numerous occasions, such as in the wake of the 1998 terrorist bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami on Christmas Day 2004, and New Orleans in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina. Israel even offered immediate assistance to Iran following the tragic earthquake in Bam in 2003, but the Islamic Republic refused. In Haiti, a military medical and rescue team established a field hospital and began treating earthquake-stricken Haitians within four days of the earthquake.

Readers of this newspaper may be aware of the IDF’s work in response to the İzmit earthquake in August 1999 that claimed at least 17,000 lives. On

February 14, 2010

the same day of that tragedy, relief workers arrived in the affected areas, set up and installed a field hospital comprising two hospital wards for adults and children, an isolation room, operating room, x-ray facility, two clinics and medical equipment. The field hospital that the IDF operated in Adapazarı treated 1,200 injured, performed 40 operations, and assisted with 15 births. Israel would provide similar assistance a few months later after a second major tremor.

Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit commented at the time: “From the first moment after the earthquake, we found Israel in all her power by our side. I want to express my gratitude to all of the Jewish people for their support.”

Contrary to Syed’s hate-filled accusations, Haiti is no Gaza. Well over 200,000 Haitian men, women and children perished in this natural disaster of epic proportions. Furthermore, the Haitian government has not unambiguously and repeatedly declared its intention to destroy Israel and kill Jews.

As for Gaza, Israel unilaterally withdrew from the territory in 2005. The following year, the Hamas terrorist organization forcibly evicted the Palestinian Authority. Since gaining control, Hamas has deliberately targeted Israeli towns and villages with thousands of rocket and mortar strikes. As Atlantic magazine columnist Jeffrey Goldberg mused, “Perhaps there’s a reason that the welfare of Gaza is not uppermost in the hearts of the average Israeli.”

Moreover, the Hamas leadership and its militants have sought shelter in residential buildings, mosques and schools, acts that intentionally put civilians in harm’s way. After years of restraint, Israel responded in December 2008 with a three-week military operation that sought to end the wanton attacks while limiting civilian casualties. Curiously, Syed neglects to note too that the Egyptian border crossing with Gaza is also closed off; in fact, Egypt is building a deep, steel wall along the border to eliminate smuggling tunnels.

Despite all of these deterrents, Israel continues to transport supplies to Palestinians in Gaza through its border crossings into the Gaza Strip. According to the Israel Project, approximately 725,000 tons of humanitarian aid was delivered to Gaza from January 2009 until January 2010, representing a 900 percent increase from 2008. Moreover, over 10,000 Gazans entered Israel for medical and humanitarian reasons between January and November 2009.

In coming to the aid of millions of Haitians affected by the earthquake, Israel is simply following a millennia-long Jewish tradition of tzedakah – charity rooted in justice. In contrast, Gaza remains a war zone, courtesy of the theocratic thugs who rule

the territory. Unfortunately, Syed and his fellow travelers refuse to acknowledge the difference.

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Jew Vs. Jew By Steven Plaut The Jewish Press February 10, 2010

It sounds like a contradiction in terms. An oxymoron. If only it were.

Jewish anti-Semitism is a modern disease. The world is experiencing an explosion of it. Among the most malicious and venomous of all bigots, Jewish anti-Semites are at the forefront of just about every smear campaign against Israel and other Jews.

Such Jews are leaders in the campaigns to boycott and divest from Israel. A number of them make pilgrimages to the terrorist camps of Hamas and Hizbullah, with some even rationalizing or justifying terrorist atrocities against Jews. Such Jews pioneered the smear campaign painting Israel as an apartheid regime. Denouncing Israel as equivalent to Nazi Germany is their favorite pastime.

Western campuses are crawling with them. A Jewish judge chaired the UN commission that demonized Israel over Operation Cast Lead. A Jewish member of Britain's Parliament compared Hamas terrorists to Jewish fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto and denounced Israel as a Nazi entity.

Israelis and ex-Israelis comprise a shockingly large number of this group.

Most Jews dismiss such people as "self-hating," but that term is misleading. These rogues do not hate themselves. Indeed, they are masters of narcissism. They hate other Jews and wish them harm.

These are not assimilationists of Jewish descent who have simply lost interest in their Jewish heritage or are indifferent to Jewish history and Israel. No, these Jews often make a point out of waving their own Jewish "roots" as artillery support for their extremist positions.

In some extreme cases they collaborate with neo-Nazis, Islamist terrorists, and even Holocaust deniers. No, that is not a misprint; there are today in the world Jews who are Holocaust deniers or who ally themselves with Holocaust deniers.

Jewish anti-Semitism was once considered a bizarre irrelevance. Touched upon gingerly in the 1947 film "Gentleman's Agreement," the subject was long ignored by the organized Jewish community. Modern Zionists expected that the very creation of Israel would put an end to any neurotic self-hatred afflicting Diaspora communities.

The new sovereign Jewish state was expected to end not only Jewish physical insecurity but also spiritual pathology. Alas, history had a surprise up its sleeves: many of the worst examples of Jews with an anti-Jewish and/or anti-Israel agenda have emerged from the more radical fringes of the Israeli left, its academic institutions and its intelligentsia.

Take Professor Shlomo Sand, a hard-core leftist on the history faculty of Tel Aviv University. Sand last year published a book claiming to prove Jews are

not and never have been a "people." Recycling myths popularized by neo-Nazi websites, Sand's book is a pseudo-analysis that claims most Jews today are frauds, converts from the Khazar Turkic tribe, impersonators of Jews.

All real Jews, according to the learned professor, became Palestinian Arabs centuries ago. Hence Israeli "Jews" are not Jews at all, and certainly have no right to their own state. Sand is actually surpassed in his extremism by another Israeli professor, the now retired Ariel Toaff, who claimed to have evidence Jews use gentile blood in religious ritual.

(Other Israeli academics with anti-Jewish agendas are cataloged on the website Isracampus.org.il.)

Just what it is that makes such Jews tick is hard to explain. One of the few people to take a serious stab at doing so is Kenneth Levin, a psychiatrist at Harvard and an occasional op-ed contributor to The Jewish Press. He attributes Jewish anti-Semitism in part to attempts by some Jews to gain social acceptance in an environment that is hostile toward Jews.

He also says some of it can be compared with infantile attempts at self-blame resembling those common among abused small children. And he considers it a cousin to the notorious Stockholm Syndrome, whereby victims adopt the outlook and agenda of their victimizers.

Anti-Semitism is today the main common denominator that unites the far left with the neo-Nazi ultra-right in the United States and Europe. There are Jews to be found in both those wings on the political spectrum. Many serve as columnists for the extremist Counterpunch web magazine.

It would be difficult to find Jewish writers for Counterpunch who do not make the de rigueur comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany. For example, the University of Wisconsin's Jennifer Loewenstein published there a screed titled "Gaza Holocaust" in which she wrote: "Israel and its U.S. Master have long since resided in the lowest circle of Hell for betraying the name of humanity."

She added that Israel treats Palestinians as subhuman "Untermenschen," a term bringing to mind German treatment of Jews during the Holocaust. In a quote that could easily have been published by the Nazi newspaper Der Sturmer in the 1930s, she added: "The Neo-Jewish Masters and their allies in the United States ... have no intention of making a just peace with the lower forms of life in their midst."

In Loewenstein's take on reality, Israel engages in state terror while operating a cabal that enslaves the American government and dictates its policies. Even Yom Kippur for her is nothing more than a day to be exploited to help the terrorists and demonize the

Jews. Another Counterpunch regular is Richard Falk, a retired Princeton professor best known for serving on the UN commission that condemned Israel for genocidal war crimes even before it began its investigation of Israel's Gaza operations.

Falk is not only one of the worst collaborators in the academic wars against Israel, he is also America's leading practitioner of the Orwellian inversion.

For Falk, Israel is a terrorist aggressor while the Arab terrorist aggressors are innocent victims and peace-loving progressives. For him, Israel is a country essentially seeking to perpetrate genocide while the Islamofascists of Hamas and their backers are merely protesters against social inequality inside Israel; terrorist aggression against Jews is really the pursuit of peace, while self-defense by Israel is criminal, terrorist aggression and worse.

In 2007 Falk published "Slouching Toward a Palestinian Holocaust," in which he wrote it was not an "irresponsible overstatement to associate the treatment of Palestinians [by Israel]" with the "criminalized Nazi record of collective atrocity."

In it, he accuses Israel of mistreating Palestinians on a scale comparable to the Nazi extermination of Jews: Is it an irresponsible overstatement to associate the treatment of Palestinians with this criminalized Nazi record of collective atrocity? I think not. The recent developments in Gaza are especially disturbing because they express so vividly a deliberate intention on the part of Israel and its allies to subject an entire human community to life-endangering conditions of utmost cruelty. The suggestion that this pattern of conduct is a holocaust-in-the-making represents a rather desperate appeal to the governments of the world and to international public opinion to act urgently to prevent these current genocidal tendencies from culminating in a collective tragedy.

One of the regular contributors to Counterpunch is an ex-Israeli named Gilad Atzmon. A saxophone player living in the UK, Atzmon is so openly extreme that even some staunchly anti-Israel groups refuse to have anything to do with him. The British writer Oliver Kamm has denounced Atzmon as a Holocaust denier.

Atzmon has not only called for Israel to be annihilated but has stated, "I'm not going to say whether it is right or not to burn down a synagogue, I can see that it is a rational act."

He heads a small clique of followers, mainly in Italy, for whom he serves as something of a cult leader. Atzmon has asserted that the Protocols of the Elders of Zion is an accurate reflection of the state of modern-day America.

Paul Eisen, another Jewish extremist in the UK, has distributed an essay titled "Holocaust Wars" which claims, among other things, that the claim of gas chambers in Auschwitz is fraudulent and that they could not possibly have worked. Among the

essay's "sources" are the disgraced historian David Irving and the neo-Nazi crank Ernst Zundel, deported by Canada and now in prison in Germany.

Perhaps the most venomous Jewish-born Jew-baiter of all is one "Israel Shamir." An émigré from the Soviet Union, "Shamir" moved to Israel and later left for Sweden, where he changed his name to Adam Ermash and reportedly converted to Christianity.

As just one example of his poison, in an interview with the Islamist Mohamed Omar in August 2009, Shamir said:

"I think it is the duty of every Muslim and Christian to deny the Holocaust, to reject this belief, just like Abraham and Moses rejected idolatry.

"Every person who profess [sic] their [sic] faith to God should deny the Holocaust. I think it's much more serious that people deny God, isn't it?"

In other cases prominent Jews endorse Holocaust deniers while carefully tiptoeing around explicitly endorsing Holocaust denial itself. The best known of these is Noam Chomsky, an extremist anti-U.S. and anti-Israel professor of linguistics at MIT.

A long-term apologist for the Khmer Rouge, Chomsky seems to despise Israel almost as deeply as he hates America. He speaks of "points of similarity" between Nazi Germany and Israel and has campaigned on behalf of the French Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson and other European neo-Nazis. He not only demands that this hate be protected under freedom of speech but as Professor Werner Cohn has noted, Chomsky also endorses the contents of their speech:

"But in fact we saw that Chomsky justified Faurisson's Holocaust-denial, we found Chomsky publishing his own books with neo-Nazi publishers, we saw him writing for a neo-Nazi journal, we saw that the neo-Nazis promote Chomsky's books and tapes together with the works of Joseph Goebbels. It is this complex of anti-Semitic activities and neo-Nazi associations, not his professed ideas alone, that constitutes the Chomsky phenomenon."

Within Israel, one of the most openly anti-Semitic Jews was the late Professor Israel Shahak, who taught chemistry for decades at Hebrew University. He specialized in endorsing medieval anti-Jewish blood libels. He insisted that Judaism teaches Jews to worship Satan, to connive against non-Jews and to murder them. He stopped just millimeters short of saying Jews use gentile blood for ritual purposes.

Shahak claimed the Talmud is filled with calls to murder gentiles, and that Jews regard gentiles as subhuman. He collaborated with neo-Nazis all over the planet.

In an analysis of Shahak, the British writer Paul Bognador wrote: "According to Shahak, the Jews think of nothing but making money for the benefit

of the Jewish state ("The force of Jewish devotion in assembling money is thought to be infinite").

"According to Shahak, the Jews plan to dominate much of the world through an Israeli empire.... According to Shahak, the Jews facilitate the spread of vice in order to enslave the masses. Shahak also found excuses for the near-genocidal Chmielnicki pogroms, which he classified as a 'revolt of the oppressed.' "

And then there's Norman Finkelstein, who had been on the faculty of DePaul University until he was fired three years back (and has been unemployed ever since).

Finkelstein has built an entire career out of smearing Holocaust survivors as frauds and liars, and cheering on Islamofascist terrorism against Jews.

His personal website is a vulgar gutter of juvenile anti-Semitic catcalls. He claims Zionists exaggerate the dimensions of the Shoah to steal money and invent Holocaust survivors to exploit Germany. He has visited with Hizbullah terrorists and was denied

entry into Israel on grounds that he associates with terrorists.

Finkelstein wrote a book titled *The Holocaust Industry* that fast became a favorite with neo-Nazis and Holocaust deniers. He considers David Irving a reliable historian.

While Finkelstein is dismissed by serious historians, he is nevertheless celebrated by Jews with an anti-Jewish and/or an anti-Israel agenda.

The creation of Israel was supposed to turn Jews into a "normal" people. But the psychosis of Jewish anti-Semitism has no comparable analogue among the nations, making the Jews a therapist's *sui generis*.

The disease of Jewish anti-Semitism not only illustrates the absence of normality among 21st century Jewry, it threatens the very survival of Israel and of Jewish communities around the world.

Steven Plaut is a professor at the University of Haifa. His book "The Scout" is available at amazon.com.

Mullen to IDF Haiti Delegation: Humanity is proud of you

By Yaakov Lappin The Jerusalem Post February 15, 2010

"The important work you did will not be forgotten," says chairman of US Joint Chief of Staff. Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the US Joint Chief of Staff, met with members of the IDF's humanitarian delegation to Haiti at the Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv on Monday morning, telling the soldiers "the important work you did with your delegation will not be forgotten, not by us and not by the residents of Haiti."

Mullen had requested the meeting during his three-day visit to Israel. "I want to express my admiration for you. You represent the hope within the heavy tragedy the residents of Haiti had to live through.

"You created hope and a future for those people, and humanity is proud of you," the US military chief said.

"The residents of Haiti are amazing people, and they are experiencing a time full of challenges, and I hope that the international community will continue to assist in the rehabilitation and the future of Haiti, also after the spotlight and the cameras are turned off," Mullen added.

Mullen was accompanied by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi, who said, "The delegation to Haiti was a privilege, and an opportunity to represent Israel and the spirit of the IDF. I am personally proud of every single member of the delegation, and proud to know that I stand at the head of an organization with such good commanders."

Ashkenazi added that Israel's rescue effort "would not have succeeded as [it] did without the preparations by the US Army in Haiti. We know who will continue to assist in the long-term rehabilitation of Haiti. Now all we can do is to finish the treatment and prepare for the next operation."

The ceremony was also attended by OC Home Front Command Maj.-Gen. Yair Golan. "The first objective is to save lives. The second is to provide the best possible medical treatment and the third to represent Israel and the IDF honorably. We fulfilled all three objectives," Golan said.

Cpt. Sofia Moskovitch, a nurse who flew to Haiti as part of the delegation, told the US military chief, "Out of three brothers who we delivered in the field, only one survived. One of his brothers died during labor and the second passed away after a short time. A few days after I returned to Israel, I went to visit my sister and my nephew who was born recently. That's Haiti for me."

Later on Monday, Mullen and Ashkenazi visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. "We, all of us, must make sure that such terrible events will never happen again," Mullen said. "We ask for hope, a better future for coming generations," he added.

Ashkenazi said in his speech that "both of us understand the obligation to ensure that something like this will never happen again."

Mullen met with Defense Minister Ehud Barak on Monday, and held talks with several leading IDF officials.

Please Hold March 8 at 7:00 pm for a Nefesh B'Nefesh Mega Event at the Pikesville Hilton – details will follow, For more information, call (866) 4-ALIYAH.