

CAMERA®

Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America

On Campus

Volume 18 Number 2
Fall 2008

Ha'aretz Makes A Splash With
Palestinian Pool Falsehoods

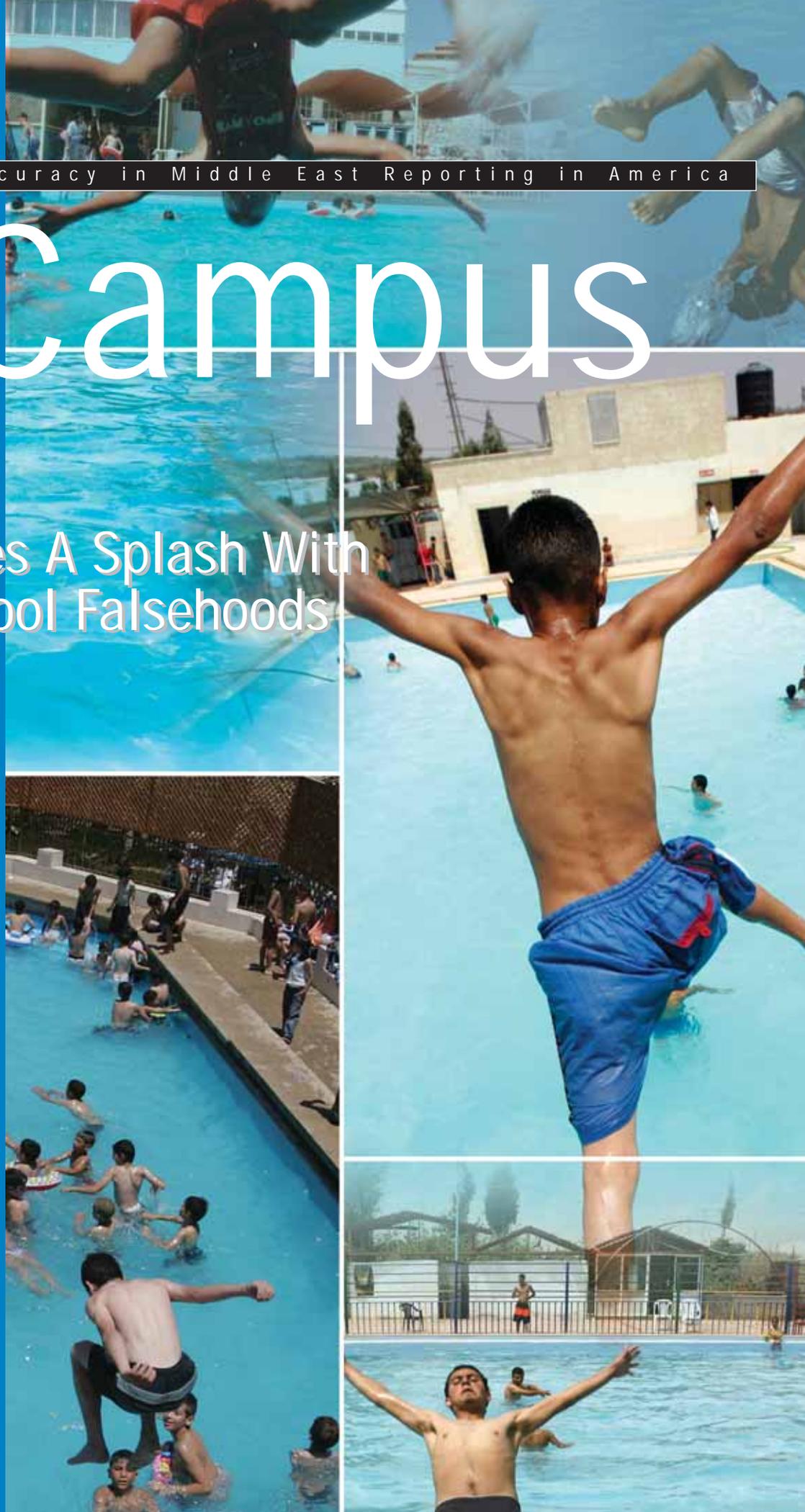
WEB 2.0

University of Toronto

ASMEA

Lonely Planet

UCI



CAMERA, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, is a national media-monitoring organization founded in 1982 that works to promote more accurate, balanced and complete coverage of Israel and the Middle East. Aware of the vital role of the mass media in shaping public perception and public policy, CAMERA seeks to educate both journalists and news consumers about the complex issues related to achieving peace in the Middle East. CAMERA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Volume 18 Number 2
Fall 2008

CAMERA ON CAMPUS

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ISSN 1086-7503

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Dear Reader,

Though the heat persists into September, another hot and completely dry summer comes to a close in Israel and the Palestinian areas. For residents of the West Bank, it was much more tolerable than *Ha'aretz*, which some consider the *New York Times* of Israel, would have you believe.

***Ha'aretz*, which is relied upon by Western journalists** and much of the Israeli cultural and intellectual elite, and which is also frequently cited by anti-Israel Web sites, falsely reported that hundreds of thousands of West Bank Palestinians have only one "last refuge," a pathetic water park near Jericho. In reality, there are dozens of swimming pools across the West Bank, at least one in every city.

If you are looking for more accurate information about Israel at a Web 2.0 venue such as Wikipedia, you will be disappointed. Thanks to its total anonymity, the online encyclopedia has been described as "part anarchy, part mob rule" by its own co-founder. Unsurprisingly, entries relating to Israel and the Palestinians are prime examples of the site's dysfunction. Yahoo! Answers is not much better. Persistent requests to remove blatantly false and anti-Semitic posts were answered only after negative publicity.

Educators have recently lambasted the use of Wikipedia and similar sites as resulting in declining test scores. But there is no lack of reliable information available the good old-fashion way – books. To that end, we review a critical new book by Jennie Lebel about the Mufti of Jerusalem during World War II, who plotted with Nazi Germany against the Palestinian Jews.

We also take a look at promising films such as *Unsettled*, a documentary about the stories of diverse Israelis during Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip. In addition, we interview the producers of a documentary scheduled for release this October, *The Case For Israel: Democracy's Outpost*. The cinematic counterpart of Professor Alan Dershowitz's valuable book, the film will be available for campus screenings.

It is always encouraging to know that students concerned about fair treatment of Israel and the Middle East on campus – both inside and outside the classroom – are not alone. In the realm of academia, prominent scholars Bernard Lewis and Fouad Ajami have founded a new Middle East studies association designed to rectify the well-documented failures of Mideast studies programs. As for extracurricular events, Congressman Brad Sherman took a stand against hate speech sponsored by the Muslim Student Union at University of California, Irvine when the chancellor wouldn't.

(But, enough bad news. Read on to learn how one entrepreneur put bad news to good use.) Here's to only good news this year.

Tamar Sternthal, Editor

'Last Refuge,' Latest Falsehood

Ha'aretz columnist Gideon Levy wrongly insists there's only one place in the West Bank where Palestinian children can swim

Gideon Levy's weekly column in *Ha'aretz Magazine* is aptly titled "Twilight Zone." At times, his reports have little or no connection to reality. His May 2, 2008 column ("Last refuge") about Banana Land, "the first Palestinian water park," serves as a prime example.

Levy writes that Banana Land, a "pathetic" affair located in the northern outskirts of Jericho, is the only place where West Bank Palestinian children can swim:

There is not a single swimmer here without a life preserver – where would a Palestinian child learn to swim? Even the Dead Sea, which is so close, is not open to Palestinians, although Defense Minister Ehud Barak recently promised publicly to the Americans and Palestinians to open the checkpoint that separates Jericho from the Dead Sea.

So Barak promised, so what. The checkpoint was open for two days and closed again. *Now the only thing left is this water park as a last refuge for the hundreds of thousands of children and families in the West Bank to come and take a momentary break from life's tribulations. An oasis in the*



A Palestinian boy in Jenin jumps into a swimming pool, one of dozens in the West Bank

Photo by Mohamad Torokman/Reuters

occupation, in the Jordan Valley. (Emphases added.)

Pools in Every City

Fortunately for Palestinian children, but unfortunately for Gideon Levy, there are plenty of places where a Palestinian child can learn to swim. And Banana Land is hardly a "last refuge." As Levy's colleague at *Ha'aretz*, Avi Issacharoff, wrote on Aug. 8, 2007:

Nowadays, every city in the West Bank has a pool or a recreational complex: Bethlehem has one similar to Al-Khaluf [a clover-leaf-shaped pool in Dura, near Hebron], while Ramallah has more than 10. One of Jenin's swimming champs committed a suicide bombing at Jerusalem's Sbarro restaurant in

August 2001. Nablus has a pool reserved for women, and an Olympic pool. Another pool and recreation complex sits between Nablus and Tubas.

Al Khaluf draws more than 2,500 people on an average weekend day, [lifeguard Ahmed] Rajoub says. ("West Bank swimming pools help Palestinians brave the heat," emphasis added)

Unless you're Gideon Levy, it's simple to find photographic evidence of Palestinians enjoying themselves in pools all over the West Bank – even without life preservers. A sample of images of pools in Jenin, Ramallah, near Nablus, and Hebron appear on these pages. They are drawn from major photo services.

School Outings

Levy reports: "Meanwhile, the school outings are divided between boys and girls – Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday for girls; Monday and Wednesday for boys."

He is apparently unaware that the previous month, the frequent Palestinian school trips to swimming pools (and not just Banana Land), were banned. As Ma'an News Agency reported on April 22, 2008:

The Palestinian ministry of education has banned swimming during school trips after a boy drowned in a swimming pool in Jericho last week.

10-year-old Yasser Abd Al-Baqi from Bizaria, Nablus district, drowned in a swimming pool in the Popeye Park in Jericho on April 19.

Thus, while things ended very badly for 10-year-old Yasser Abd Al-Baqi at Popeye Park in Jericho, its existence proves that Banana Land is not the “last refuge” in Jericho, nevermind the entire West Bank.

Palestinian Water Parks

In the first paragraph of “Last Refuge,” Levy insists that Banana Land, opened in October 2007, is “the first Palestinian water park,” despite the fact that the *Los Angeles Times* printed a 933-word article back on July 22, 2002 entitled: “Palestinians’ Slice of Paradise on the Frontline: Mideast: A water park provides relief from the heat and the trials of Israeli occupation. But economic hard times are keeping many away.” Barbara Demick wrote about the Beit Jalla facility, which opened in the summer of 2000:

Improbably enough, a sprawling water park with a swimming pool, sparkling fountains, fanciful water wheel and a water slide is hidden away in this Palestinian town next to Bethlehem. . . .

The water park was the inspiration of a Palestinian American businessman, 49-year-old Jadallah Zaidan.

But the Beit Jalla water park was also not the first. Abdulsalam and

Continued on page 28



Photo by Muhammed Muheisen/AP

Palestinian youths jump into a swimming pool as they enjoy the water during a hot summer day at a park near the West Bank city of Ramallah, July 30, 2007



Photo by Nasser Ishayeh/AP

Palestinians enjoy themselves at a swimming pool in a park near Nablus, July 13, 2007



Photo by Nayef Hashlamoun/Reuters

A Palestinian boy jumps into the swimming pool in Hebron

The Wild West of Wikipedia

The Internet encyclopedia is marred by major shortcomings including authorial anonymity and no genuine editorial oversight



“Part anarchy, part mob rule” might seem like a description of the American frontier in the days of the Wild West, but it’s actually a reference to today’s Internet frontier. It’s how Larry Sanger describes Wikipedia, the hugely popular online encyclopedia that, to the dismay of teachers everywhere, is used as an educational tool by millions worldwide.

Sanger isn’t just a casual observer. He was a co-founder of Wikipedia, making him perhaps the best authority on the Web site and its shortcomings. He explains that in the world of Wikipedia,

the people with the most influence in the community are the ones who have the most time on their hands – not necessarily the most knowledgeable – and who manipulate Wikipedia’s eminently gameable system.

He eventually left the project, blaming its “poisonous social or political atmosphere.”

The theory underpinning Wikipedia, as most know, is that anyone can be an “editor,” and add to articles whatever information (or

misinformation) they want. Less well-known is that contributors can make changes anonymously, thus shielding them from any real consequences. This acceptance – or even embrace – of anonymity makes Wikipedia wilder than the West ever was, and ensures that it will probably never be as reliable as mainstream news sources.

Anonymity and accountability are not compatible. Disgraced *New York Times* reporter Jayson Blair, who brazenly violated the ethical principles of journalism by fabricating stories, has been held accountable. He will never work for a newspaper again. Other journalists know this, and so even those less committed to the canons of journalism tend to follow the rules to avoid such a fate. Anonymous editors of Wikipedia articles have no such concerns. Their jobs and reputations are secure, regardless of how much inaccurate information they add to the encyclopedia.

Even less understood about Wikipedia are the contentious behind-

the-scenes arguments that help determine what information ends up in a Wikipedia entry, and what is excluded. Editors with the most time and allies often dominate these discussions and create the impression of “consensus.”

Wikipedia entries about the Middle East are among those most affected by anarchy, mob rule, and back-room bickering. Indeed, it’s in this setting that I, and my colleagues at CAMERA, set off a firestorm of discussion, accusation and recrimination centered around how the encyclopedia works. Convinced that directing more well-intentioned individuals to participate in the Wikipedia experiment could help offset the site’s problems, we sent a notice to our members calling for volunteers to learn about and edit Wikipedia’s often-skewed entries about the Middle East.

Dozens of volunteers responded, as did, it turns out, a friend of the anti-Israel activist Web site Electronic Intifada, who subsequently charged a conspiracy was afoot to “rewrite Palestinian history.”

This faux exposé set some

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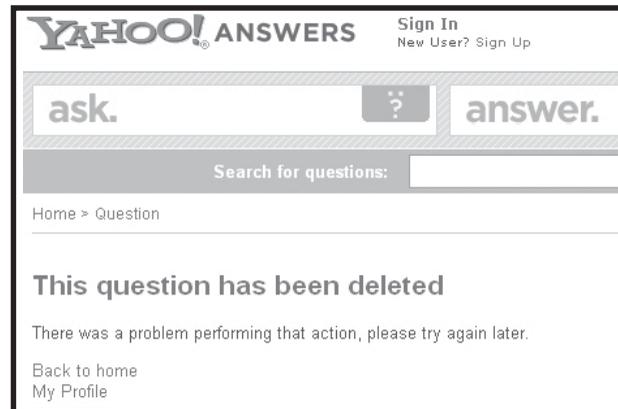
Yahoo! Deletes Anti-Semitic Diatribe

The Web 2.0 community Q & A forum removed the offending post only after negative online publicity

Yahoo! Answers touts itself as “the one place where the world shares what they know to help each other out,” a site where “you can share your intelligence for a good cause.” Yahoo! also brags that more people use Answers, its Web 2.0 community Q&A forum, than own an iPod.

With over 100 million sold iPods, it's obvious that many millions of people use Yahoo! Answers. And with so many millions of users, it seems safe to assume a whole lot of visitors to Yahoo! Answers have been informed that, according to one page of Yahoo! Answers, “Judaism glorifies genocide”; and that Orthodox Jews “consider mass-murder to be very honorable”; and that in the Old Testament there is a “creepy preoccupation with killing babies” as well as instructions to “dash their brains out against rocks.”

So much for “a good cause.” As with Wikipedia and other Web 2.0 destinations, those who wish to spread misinformation and hatred can – and clearly do – use Yahoo! Answers to propagate their bigoted views. And while Yahoo! has guidelines meant to prevent its being used as a mouthpiece for hate



speech, at least in this case it did not seem especially eager to enforce those guidelines.

Yahoo! Answers is pretty straightforward: An Internet surfer posts a question, and others reply with their answers. The community is then able to select the “best answer.” For over three months, between February and June 2008, Yahoo! hosted the following question and “best answer” for the world to see:

Question: Is the jewish strategy inspired by ancient “scripture”?

I'm thinking of the way judaism glorifies genocide – Joshua and Jericho, that type of thing. Are they basing their whole politico-military strategy on mimicing these old atrocities? [sic]

“Best Answer”: Yes, but more so in recent years than in the 1940's. The rise of the Religious Right in jewish-occupied Palestine has resulted in an increasing identification of the biblical enemies with

various Arab peoples. Certainly Orthodox jews consider mass-murder to be very honorable, and any reader of the Old Testament is acutely aware of the creepy preoccupation with killing babies, as in phrases such as “spare not the suckling babe” and the repeated recommendation to dash their brains out against rocks. There's worse in the Talmud. Today the viciousness of the ancient hebrews is a guiding principle in the continuing attempt to liquidate the remaining Palestinians. [sic]

The Yahoo! Answers Community Guidelines, supposedly “a core set of principles that must be followed by all members,” clearly forbid such hate speech. Another Yahoo! page clarifies that

questions and answers that express hate and intolerance have no place on Yahoo! Answers and should be reported. Do not use slurs to refer to groups of people

The possible consequences of violating the guidelines, according

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Congressman to Chancellor: 'It Is Your Duty to Condemn Anti-Semitism'

Democrat Brad Sherman calls on UC Irvine's chancellor to condemn hate speech by the Muslim Student Union

Student efforts to document anti-Semitic incidents at the University of California, Irvine, and the failure of the administration to properly address these incidents received two significant high-profile boosts in 2008.

First, on Feb. 12, 2008, the Orange County Independent Task Force released the findings of a year-long investigation which included campus visits and interviews with students, faculty and community members. The findings confirmed what students including blogger Reut Cohen had been saying all along: that the events sponsored by the Muslim Student Union (MSU) and lectures by their invited speakers propagate historical distortions and hate speech against Jews. Yet, according to the task force,

the administration has remained silent or when pressed, issued generalizations about hate speech



Cong. Brad Sherman

that does not name the hate speakers. This leads to the impression that there is equivalent hate speech from the Jewish students when there is not.

Congressman Brad Sherman, a Democrat from California, was also disturbed by the MSU's hateful events and the administration's failure to take a stand against them. On May 15, 2008, he sent the following letter to Chancellor Michael Drake:

I am writing to express my concern with the University of California at Irvine's ("UCI") Muslim Student Union's campus event entitled "Never Again? The Palestinian

Holocaust," which was held on the campus from May 7th to May 15th. This event appears to have intended to encourage violence against the State of Israel and propagate the spread of anti-Semitism. The title of the event itself is particularly inflammatory. Comparing current Israeli policies to the Holocaust, the systematic murder of the Jewish people of Europe, is clearly anti-Semitic. It wholly demeans the Jewish victims of the Holocaust and vilifies the Jewish citizens of Israel. The United States Department of State has officially declared that such a comparison is a prototypical example of anti-Semitism. In a recent report to Congress, the State Department adopted the following definition of anti-Semitism:

Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews.

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First, Refute the Defamation

Nothing in the war of ideas and images takes the place of the all-important work of debunking false claims

Almost simultaneously in early April 2008, separate news stories underscored Israel's public opinion quandary. A new BBC poll of more than 17,000 people in 34 countries reported only Iran ranked worse than the Jewish state in having a "mainly negative influence in the world." North Korea, Pakistan and China rated more favorably.

Another report told of conflict-ing public relations endeavors by Israeli governmental departments; the tourism ministry argued for its campaign to disseminate positive images via YouTube to attract visitors, while the Foreign Ministry contended graphic photos of the terrorist attack on Merkaz Harav had to be displayed to communicate what Israel endures.

At the same time, a new United Nations World Health Organization report entered the information stream, harshly condemning Israel for allegedly inhumane conduct toward Gazan Palestinians – the very kind of ostensibly objective study by an international body that has incrementally helped undermine Israel's global reputation.

The 54-page document is familiar fare from the U.N. in its lack of neutrality and fairness, its disregard for Israeli concerns and scapegoating



The IDF's Col. Nir Press did an effective job debunking this WHO report, and media coverage of the document quoted him extensively

of that country for difficulties Palestinians themselves have plainly caused. An introduction entitled "Collective Punishment of the Weakest" by Ambrogio Manenti, head of the WHO's Gaza and West Bank office, enumerates factors relating to Palestinian difficulties gaining admission to Israeli hospital care. It omits completely the ongoing rocket attacks and terrorist assaults on crossing points by Gazans that kill and maim Israeli civilians and necessitate Israeli countermeasures, including close monitoring of the entry of Palestinians – even those in ambulances.

(Nor, obviously, is there any hint of irony in the WHO's excoriating Israel for not doing a better job in

caring for the medical needs of a people whose leaders are sworn to the destruction of the Jewish state.)

What is notable about the WHO story in the context of Israel's struggle to communicate the facts about its actions is that media coverage of the U.N. report greatly benefitted from swift and effective response by Israeli officials. The *New York Times*, for example, noted in its second paragraph that

Israeli officials rejected the [WHO] findings on Wednesday. They said that the people who had compiled the report had never asked them about the cases, that Israeli officials had no records of entry permits being sought in some of the cases and that details of other cases were inaccurate.

Col. Nir Press, then commander of the Israel Defense Forces' Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration, was heavily quoted debunking the report. The *Times*, Associated Press, *Chicago Tribune* and others cited various of his statements. He responded specifically to a WHO claim that Israeli delays had caused the death of a critically ill boy. Disputing the charges, Press said

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Filling in Where the Establishment Fails

CAMERA On Campus reports from the inaugural conference of a new Mideast academic society which is 'breaking the mold'

"Middle Eastern studies programs have been distorted by a degree of thought control and limitations of freedom of expression without parallel in the Western world since the 18th century, and in some areas longer than that... It seems to me it's a very dangerous situation, because it makes any kind of scholarly discussion of Islam, to say the least, dangerous. Islam and Islamic values now have a level of immunity from comment and criticism in the Western world that Christianity has lost and Judaism has never had."

So spoke Bernard Lewis, Princeton University's Cleveland E. Dodge Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies, during his keynote address at the April 2008 inaugural conference for the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa in Washington, D.C. Lewis co-

Guest contributor Raymond Ibrahim is a historian and writer of the Islamic world, best known for editing and translating The Al Qaeda Reader.



Prof. Bernard Lewis, co-founder of ASMEA:
"Middle Eastern studies programs have been distorted"

founded ASMEA along with Fouad Ajami, director of the Middle Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University. The two leading scholars see ASMEA as a means of rectifying the failures of Middle East studies programs.

One of the organization's membership brochures further elaborates:

For decades, scholars of African and Middle Eastern studies have labored under the prevailing campus doctrines of political correctness and postmodernism – the cause of so much damage to the rest of academe. Instead

of protecting free inquiry and expanding the body of scholarship, the dominant academic associations in these disciplines have enforced a politicized academic orthodoxy where dissenting views and research are forcefully opposed. More an attempt at indoctrination than education, such efforts have resulted in an ongoing flow of low-grade scholarship rife with anti-American, and anti-Western screeds. The impact on students, ordinary citizens, and government officials tasked with defending the democratic West has been profound. As an alternative to the status quo, ASMEA vigorously defends academic freedom and promotes superior scholarship by providing professors and students with research and teaching resources, opportunities to publish and share their knowledge, and the ability to interact with scholars in an open atmosphere where ideas are freely debated.

As a student and writer of the Middle East and Islam who had been to many disappointing conferences, I identified with ASMEA's criticism of the field. Therefore, with great expectations, I attended and presented at ASMEA's opening event, which attracted nearly 250 people. The organization delivered.

For starters, the atmosphere of "you're either with us or against us" – or, in other words, you're either an apologist for radical Islam who believes that Israel is the root of all evil and who filters all data through a secularist/materialistic epistemology, or otherwise you're a hate-mongering, "Islamophobic" simpleton – was refreshingly absent. Here one could actually look beyond Israel as the source of all woes, breaking a standard taboo in Middle East studies. One could equally engage the topic of radical Islam from a theological – as opposed to merely sociological or political – point of view, revalidating the apparently "antiquated" notion that metaphysical considerations (such as faith-inspired motives) are equally as important as physical considerations like land disputes.

In fact, in my presentation, I addressed this objective stance towards Israel and Islamic theology:

If indeed Islamic theology, as so many Muslim authorities indicate, does teach eternal jihad [war] against infidels [all non-Muslims], until the world is governed according to sharia law, what Israel does or does not do – short of total submission to Islam – becomes irrelevant. Seems to me the first thing we need to be discussing is Islamic theology, not Israeli politics, since the latter has no bearing on the former.

ASMEA president Mark Clark

reported to *CAMERA On Campus*,

We had two days of lively presentations and discussions that broke the mold of political correctness. What I mean is that we had every major academic perspective represented; no one was left out, and no one felt cheated.

**At ASMEA's event,
theology and ideology –
long maligned
by entrenched
academic departments –
finally found
their rightful spotlight**

ASMEA's presentations included many inter-related and highly relevant topics which had been largely neglected by mainstream academia. Islamic jurisprudence (*usul al-fiqh*) and hermeneutics; *sharia* law and the role of jihad; the concepts of war and peace in Islam; the problematic practice of *takfir* (denouncing Muslims of apostasy); and apocalyptic discourse in Islam – all these were expertly handled. Long maligned as meaningless by entrenched academic departments, theology and ideology – the driving forces behind humanity's greatest revolutions and upheavals – finally found their rightful spotlight.

Compare these themes to those discussed at another Middle East studies event in Washington, D.C., that month: Georgetown University's Center of Contemporary Arab Studies

hosted Columbia Professor Joseph Massad who spoke on "Orientalism and Sexual Rights," two themes that, though not irrelevant, have been at the fore of Middle Eastern studies for decades. Meanwhile, the most relevant and pressing topics – jihad, *sharia* law, and Islam's war doctrines – which have been all but ignored by those who have been most expected to provide an answer, have finally found a scholarly organization where they will be taken seriously: ASMEA has promised to fill the vacuum.

To that end, within six months of its founding in 2007, ASMEA recruited some 500 members from 40 countries representing 230 colleges and universities from 35 academic disciplines.

In addition to its annual conference, ASMEA offers a book review service. The organization also plans to establish an annual journal, grants for travel and research expenses, a quarterly newsletter, a job bank and a syllabi bank, according to Clark, who also serves as professor of political science and director of the National Security Studies program at California State University, San Bernardino.

Summing up his favorable assessment of the inaugural conference, Clark recounted:

We received many favorable comments by participants. My favorites included such things as "I've never been to an academic conference where everyone seemed to truly enjoy themselves." And another: "Everyone seemed to want to be here, and that's not typical for most academic conferences."

As an attendant and speaker, I second that. ☐

Raymond Ibrahim

Anti-Semitism at the University of Toronto: Israel Apartheid Week

Professors and students battle the growing phenomenon

In 2005, the first ever Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) was held at the University of Toronto. This event was organized by the Arab Students Collective and has subsequently been endorsed by 25 distinct university and cultural groups. The stated aim of IAW is

to push forward the analysis of Israel as an apartheid state and to bolster support for the boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign in accordance with the demands outlined in the July 2005 Statement: full equality for Arab citizens of Israel, an end to the occupation and colonization of the West Bank and Gaza, and the implementation of the right of return and compensation for Palestinian refugees pursuant to UN resolution 194.

This year, the Toronto IAW and associated events, including a new conference called High Schools

The guest contributors of this article are faculty members at the University of Toronto. Dr. Sean Egan is associate professor of molecular genetics. Dr. Sergio Grinstein and Dr. Daniela Rotin are professors of biochemistry. Dr. Eldad Zacksenhaus is associate professor, medical biophysics.

Against Israeli Apartheid, attracted over 2,000 attendants. From its inception at the U of T in 2005, the IAW template has spread to 24 universities in eight countries. According to one of the IAW organizers at the University of Toronto,

The analysis of Israel as an apartheid state is spreading as people realize that this analysis reflects the actual reality of what is happening in Palestine, and not some slanderous gimmick employed to catch attention.

A 2007 IAW organizer similarly alleged,

Attracting not only large crowds and significant media coverage, the content of the week and its spread to an even wider network of campuses indicated a growing understanding of Israel as an apartheid state.

As designated by United Nations resolution 3068, “apartheid” is a crime against humanity. The statute of the International Criminal Court also incorporates “apartheid” as one of the central crimes against humanity. An “apartheid state,” therefore, is a criminal enterprise and those who support it, in any way, are

deemed to be accessories to an international crime.

Application of this label to a democracy like Israel is not some absurd misunderstanding or accident. On the contrary, it is part of a pernicious, carefully calculated worldwide propaganda strategy launched at the infamous 2001 U.N. Durban Conference Against Racism. Its purpose is to help destroy Israel and criminalize and delegitimize anyone who speaks up for the Jewish state.

After failing to destroy Israel in five wars, Israel’s enemies have chosen a different tactic: a combined terrorism and propaganda campaign to convince the West to withdraw its support for the Jewish state.

Today, about 20 percent of Israelis are Arabs and Israel has two official languages – Hebrew and Arabic. While Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druze and Baha’i experience complete freedom of religion in Israel, Jews are not permitted in Saudi Arabia and non-Muslims are not allowed to enter Mecca. After withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, Palestinians, backed by Iran, stepped up their rocket attacks on Israeli cities, while Israelis continue to supply gas, electricity, water and food to the very people whose declared role is to eliminate Israel. No other country in history

has ever provided food and electricity to her enemy at a time of war. Israel Apartheid Week should be viewed in this context.

The Line-Up

The invited speaker list for the IAW at U of T each year has included individuals that are on record either calling for the destruction of Israel, supporting terrorism against Israel, denying the Holocaust, and/or expressing anti-Semitic views. For example:

Ilan Pappé (2005 speaker) – A political scientist and revisionist historian. While at the University of Haifa, Pappé supported student Teddy Katz who fabricated a story for his MA thesis about a 1948 Israeli massacre of Arabs in Tantura. To justify the fabrication, Pappé claimed “Historical research need not be based on facts.” Pappé has called for the dissolution of Israel and is also a key player behind the British boycott movement against Israeli academics and universities.

Jaggi Singh (2005 speaker) – Based in Montreal, Singh helped organize the riot that prevented former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking at Concordia University. The activist was subsequently banned from Concordia.

Ward Churchill (2006, 2008 speaker) – A fired University of Colorado professor, Ward Churchill published an essay in which he likened the 3,000 people massacred at the World Trade Center on 9/11 to “little Eichmanns.” For good measure, he added that their killers had made “gallant sacrifices” to achieve noble ends. Churchill’s scholarly reputation is based mainly

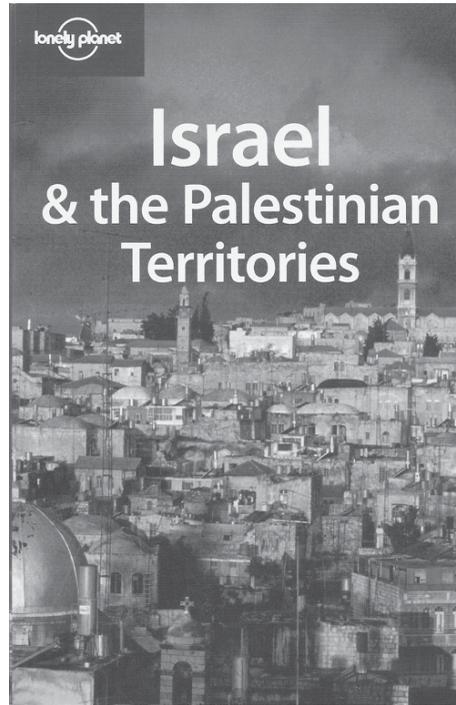
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We, the undersigned faculty members of the University of Toronto, oppose the hosting of the Israel Apartheid Week at our Institution, and request that the administration stop this hateful and divisive event from returning to our University in future years.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Dr. Sidney Aster, Professor, History | Dr. Gary Lewis, Professor, Physiology/Medicine |
| Dr. Beth Abramson, Associate Professor, Medicine | Dr. Lawrence Librach, Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Ida Ackerman, Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology | Dr. Ernie Lightman, Professor, Social Work |
| Dr. Richard Aviv, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Jeffery Lipton, Associate Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Aiala Barr, Assistant Professor, Medicine/Statistics | Dr. Andrea Litvack, Sr. Lecturer, Social Work |
| Dr. Neville Bayer, Assistant Professor, Neurology | Dr. Mortimer Mamelak, Associate Professor, Psychiatry |
| Dr. Jane Batt, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Morris Manolson, Associate Professor, Biochemistry |
| Dr. Yaakov Ben-David, Professor, Medical Biophysics | Dr. Eva Mate, Assistant Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Howard Berger, Assistant Professor, Obstetrics/Gynecology | Dr. Anne Matlow, Professor, Medicine/Pediatrics |
| Dr. Ari Bitnun, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics | Dr. Tirzah Meacham, Associate Professor, Near and Mid Eastern Civilization |
| Dr. Laurie Blendis, Professor Emeritus, Medicine | Dr. Paul Milgram, Professor, Engineering |
| Dr. Shauna Brail, Lecturer, Urban Studies | Dr. Faye Mishna, Associate Professor, Social Work |
| Dr. Joseph Brandwein, Associate Professor, Medicine | Dr. Michael Moran, Professor, Molecular Genetics |
| Dr. Aurel Braun, Professor, Political Sciences | Dr. Andrew Morris, Associate Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Ruth Brooks, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Morris Moscovitch, Professor, Psychology |
| Dr. Rena Buckstein, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Gilbert Miller, Assistant Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Frank Bures, Manager, Chemistry | Dr. Freda Miller, Professor, Molecular Genetics |
| Dr. Warren Cantor, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Eric Nauenberg, Associate Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. David Cherney, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Benjamin Neel, Professor, Medical Biophysics |
| Dr. Adam Cohen, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts | Dr. Peter Newman, Associate Professor, Social Work |
| Dr. Cyril Danjoux, Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology/Medicine | Dr. Kenneth Norwich, Professor Emeritus, Physiology |
| Dr. Wayne Deitel, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Joan O’Callaghan, Instructor, OISE |
| Dr. David Demson, Professor, Religious studies | Dr. Anthony Pawson, Professor, Molecular Genetics |
| Leslie Demson, Adjunct Faculty, Religious studies | Dr. Kusiel Perlman, Associate Professor, Pediatrics |
| Dr. Sharon Domb, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. N. Shira Pringle, Lecturer, Medicine |
| Dr. Paul Dorian, Professor, Medicine | Dr. Cheryl Rosen, Associate Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Sean Egan, Associate Professor, Molecular Genetics | Dr. Eileen Rakovitch, Associate Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Andrea Eisen, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Joel Ray, Assistant Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. David Eisen, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Heather Reich, Lecturer, Medicine |
| Dr. Charles Elkabas, Professor, Language studies | Dr. Robert Reisz, Professor, Biology |
| Dr. Norman Epstein, Professor Emeritus, Medicine | Dr. Chaim Roifman, Professor, Immunology |
| Dr. Joel Finkelstein, Associate Professor, Surgery | Dr. Daniela Rotin, Professor Biochemistry |
| Dr. Eleanor Fish, Professor, Immunology | Dr. Coleman Rotstein, Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Joseph Fisher, Professor, Medicine | Dr. Robert Rottapel, Professor, Medical Biophysics |
| Dr. Harry Fox, Associate Professor, Near and Mid Eastern Civilization | Dr. Russell Schachar, Professor, Psychiatry |
| Dr. Julie Forman-Kay, Professor, Biochemistry | Dr. Harry Schachter, Professor Emeritus, Biochemistry |
| Dr. John Freedman, Professor, Medicine/Lab Medicine & Pathobiology | Dr. Ayal Schaffer, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry |
| Dr. Jeremy Friedman, Associate Professor, Pediatrics | Dr. Aaron Schimmer, Assistant Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Richard Gilbert, Professor, Medicine | Dr. Bernard Schimmer, Professor, Banting & Best |
| Dr. Micheal Glogauer, Associate Professor, Dentistry | Dr. Dennis Scolnik, Associate Professor, Pediatrics |
| Dr. Marc Goldstein, Professor Emeritus, Medicine | Dr. Dvira Segal, Assistant Professor, Chemistry |
| Dr. Irv Gora, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Ben Zion Shapiro, Professor Emeritus, Social Work |
| Dr. Irv Gottesman, Assistant Professor, Medicine | Dr. Melvin Silverman, Professor Emeritus, Medicine |
| Dr. Kenneth Green, Associate Professor, Religious Studies | Dr. Marla Sokolowski, Professor, Biology |
| Dr. Sharon Green, Associate Professor, Near and Mid Eastern Civilization | Dr. Michael Sole, Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Sergio Grinstein, Professor, Biochemistry | Dr. Wilfred Steinberg, Assistant Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Gil Gross, Associate Professor, Pediatrics | Dr. Bradley Strauss, Professor, Lab Medicine & Pathobiology |
| Dr. Loren Grossman, Lecturer, Medicine | Dr. Katalin Szasz, Assistant Professor, Surgery |
| Dr. Eyal Grunebaum, Assistant Professor, Medicine/Pediatrics | Dr. Frank Tall, Professor, Mathematics |
| Dr. Daniel Gruner, Computer analyst, Chemistry | Dr. Stephen Tanny, Associate Professor, Mathematics |
| Dr. Paul Halpern, Professor, Finance | Dr. Howard Tenenbaum, Professor, Lab Medicine & Pathobiology/Dentistry |
| Dr. Mitchell Halperin, Professor Emeritus, Medicine | Dr. David Urbach, Associate Professor, Surgery |
| Dr. Andrew Herzenberg, Assistant Professor, Lab Medicine & Pathobiology | Dr. Robert Wagman, Instructor, Ophthalmology/Medicine |
| Dr. David Hummel, Assistant Professor, Pediatrics | Dr. Ron Wald, Assistant Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Difat Jukubovicz, Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine | Dr. Ellen Warner, Associate Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Robert Josse, Professor, Medicine | Dr. William Weiser, Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Stuart Kamenetsky, Faculty Advisor, Psychology | Dr. Sheila Weitzman, Professor, Pediatrics |
| Dr. Andras Kapus, Associate Professor, Surgery | Dr. Eldad Zacksenhaus, Associate Professor, Medical Biophysics |
| Dr. Lewis Kay, Professor, Biochemistry/Chemistry | Dr. Jeff Zaltzman, Assistant Professor, Medicine |
| Dr. Amira Klip, Professor, Biochemistry | Dr. Robert, Zeldin, Associate Professor, Surgery |
| Dr. John Kloppenborg, Professor, Religious Studies | Dr. Joaquin Zuckerberg, Adjunct Professor, Law |
| Dr. Laurence Klotz, Professor, Medicine/Surgery | |
| Dr. Arthur Kruger, Professor (emeritus), Economics | |
| Dr. Jacob Langer, Professor, Surgery | |

Lonely Planet, Guide to Bias

If you are an anti-Israel activist, this is the guide for you



Lonely Planet's *Guide to Israel and the Palestinian Territories* (5th edition, 2007) by Michael Kohn, Roxane Assaf, Miriam Rephael, Amelia Thomas, Matt Beynon Rees and Alon Tal caters to the rabidly anti-Israel activist, providing a skewed view of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and even offering up suggestions about anti-Israel activism.

No section is safe from revisionist attitudes and pro-Palestinian falsities, ranging from the occasional jab at Israeli culture – such as the claim that Israel will not relinquish the Golan Heights “because holidaying Israelis would be left with nowhere to escape the heat” – to outright lies and misrepresentations about historical events.

In April of 1999, CAMERA published an article highlighting *Lonely*

Guest contributor Noam Blum, originally from Israel, studies Music Production and Engineering at Berklee College of Music. He interns at CAMERA.

Planet's biased, anti-Israel attitude. Nine years since, the picture is still not good.

History

The history section of the guide covers the land of Israel from prehistoric time (around 10,000 BCE) until modern time. The section's author, Matt Beynon Rees, seems to have drawn heavily from his experience as a fiction writer to present readers with a tendentious history of the region. Rees downplays archeological evidence of ancient Israel, claiming:

[a]rcheology involves a lot more opinion than you might think, but it's rather more intelligent guesswork than the politically motivated mythmaking that muddies the waters even at the negotiating table.

He then proceeds to exclude three major 20th century events – the 1920, 1921, and 1929 Arab riots in Palestine, which resulted in roughly 175 Jewish dead and over 500 wounded. While ignoring these violent attacks and their mass Jewish casualties, Rees does cite the 1936-1939 Arab revolt, pointing out the loss of Arab leaders due to infighting. He writes:

The revolt, however, set up the dismal failure of the Palestinian Arabs to cope with political developments as Israeli statehood approached, because infighting wiped out most of their best leaders.

He makes no mention, though, of the 100 Jews who lost their lives in the Arab revolt.

Rees continues his selective account of Israel's history by referring to the 1948 War of Independence as a “two-month Arab-Israeli War,” despite the fact

that it was an assault on the nascent Jewish state by five Arab armies that lasted more than a year. He then cites fringe Israeli historians such as Benny Morris and Yeshayahu Liebowitz and credits them for acknowledging unspecified “Israeli atrocities” allegedly carried out during the 1948 war. He does not include any mainstream Israeli perspective.

Rees likewise skews his account of the Six Day War, writing that Israel launched “a pre-emptive attack on its Arab neighbors, devastating the armies of Syria, Egypt, and Jordan.” In truth, Israel attacked only the Egyptian air force in its pre-emptive strike (nicknamed “Operation Focus”). Israel’s decimation of the Egyptian air force was followed immediately by Egyptian and Syrian attacks on Israel by forces which had spent months before the war amassing along Israel’s borders.

As the history section progresses through the decades, the writer’s bias becomes increasingly apparent. In the subsection titled “Peace &...Another Intifada,” Rees writes:

But a peace agreement [the Oslo accords] didn’t bring real peace. In fact, *it drove those on both sides who opposed the compromises necessary for peace into greater acts of violence.* Hamas and Islamic Jihad took their terrorism to new heights with the suicide bomb... *Israel hit back by assassinating Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders.* [Emphases added.]

Rees equates Israel with Hamas and Islamic Jihad as opponents of peace. He compares Israel’s targeted military strikes against leaders of terrorist groups to Hamas and Islamic Jihad’s bloody acts of terrorism, meant specifically to strike civilians.

Next, Rees faults Israel for the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2001:

Most media at the time blamed Israel’s Likud Party leader Ariel Sharon for the outbreak of violence, because he had made a visit to the Temple Mount. Palestinians called Sharon’s visit “a provocation”, *and it surely was insensitive.* [Emphasis added]

Riddled with factual errors and unsubstantiated claims, the guide also recommends volunteering with ICAHD, a group which supports academic boycotts against Israel and promotes a ‘one-state solution’

Not only does Rees fail to mention that the Temple Mount is the holiest place in Judaism and is under Israeli jurisdiction, but he also parrots the claim he says was made by “most media.” (Did he take a comprehensive survey of all media outlets?) According to Palestinian leaders such as Palestinian Communication Minister Imad Faluji, that claim is totally false:

Whoever thinks that the intifada broke out because of the despised Sharon’s visit to the Al-Aqsa mosque is wrong, even if this visit was the straw that broke the back of the Palestinian people. This intifada was planned in advance, ever since President Arafat’s return from the Camp David negotiations... (Al Safir, March

3, 2001, translated by MEMRI).

Rees’ editorializing tone, critical mostly of Israel, permeates much of the guide, including a section on the Jewish Law of Return. Comparing the Jewish Law of Return with the so-called Palestinian Right of Return, which Israel rejects, he comments:

This Arab “Right of Return” is unthinkable for most Jews, as it would threaten the Jewish majority. This double standard runs counter to Israel’s declaration of democracy, although the chances the policy will change is slim to none.

Aside from the obviously editorializing nature of this quote, it is also a gross misrepresentation of the situation. While Israel has allowed tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees to settle in Israel under a family reunification plan, and has permitted another 165,000 to enter the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the 1967 war, it rejects the notion that millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants should be allowed to enter Israel, thereby bringing an end to the Jewish state by either democratic or militaristic means. Instead, Israel supports the two-state solution, wherein Israel would remain the homeland and place of return for Jews from around the world, and a future Palestine would likewise be the homeland and place of return for Palestinians from around the world.

Moreover, the Jewish Law of Return is hardly unique in Western democracies. Several, including Mexico, Finland, Greece, Poland, Germany, Italy and Denmark, have similar laws granting easier citizenship for certain ethnic groups with ties to the country.

Continued on page 34

A New Tool in Fighting Media Bias Is 'Bad News'

Blogger Manfred Gerstenfeld collects negative news items about the Netherlands to expose distorted coverage of Israel

Without mentioning Israel at all, how can you make people understand anti-Israel media bias in a matter of minutes and at no cost? Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld, a retired internationally renowned environmental expert and business consultant-cum-purveyor of bad news, believes he has the answer.

It is completely novel, it reframes the discussion, and it makes the Netherlands look very bad.

The idea and format are simple. Gerstenfeld, chairman of the steering committee for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, posts four negative news items on his blog, called "Bad News from the Netherlands," five days a week. He provides a short English summary of the Dutch articles and their links, all drawn from major mainstream Dutch media outlets, and dealing with negative aspects of culture, economy, military, government, medical care and any other element of Dutch life. He includes little or no commentary of his own. (His blog is a private endeavor, and not a project of the JCPA.)



Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld: Purveyor of bad news

The top of his blog clearly states:

This project sets out to demonstrate that media coverage can degrade a country's image by using selective news without context. It uses the Netherlands as an example. It is a reaction to the frequent misrepresentations of Israel in many ways in major media, including those of the Netherlands.

From the time he started the blog in October 2007 until his July 2008 interview with *On Campus*, Gerstenfeld accumulated some 700 items of bad news about the Netherlands.

'Bad News' Benefits

How can bashing the Dutch be good for Israel?

In a number of ways, the Vienna-born Gerstenfeld maintains, pointing to the project's "multi-faceted" nature. For starters,

it exposes a substantial part of the foreign correspondents in Israel because there are only two differences between Bad News From the Netherlands and what they do. One, I honestly say I distort the news while they distort and don't say so. Secondly, I don't give good news,

whereas many correspondents do intersperse some good news along with the disproportionately negative and distorted coverage, which has the effect of blurring what they're really doing.

A quick scan of the home page, which has two days worth of coverage (everything else is archived), "can change your opinion about a sizeable country in two minutes," says Gerstenfeld. "A person who reads this even knowing

that I use a distorted method gets the impression . . . that the country barely functions.”

“Imagine what distinguished journalists do to Israel when they report negative items, some invented, some with false comments, for years,” he adds.

And, Gerstenfeld maintains, it serves as an eye-opener about media coverage. He recounts that a Dutch politician who attended a “Bad News from the Netherlands” seminar he gave in the summer of 2007 responded:

The news items are all known to me, as they are printed in the major newspapers. But the fact that you put them together will cause me to look at Dutch news in a radically different way.

The summer seminar later became a catalyst for his blog.

Foot in the Door

Gerstenfeld also credits his blog as providing an opening for him into the media. Since he founded “Bad News,” he has been interviewed as many as 20 times for radio and television, and 40 blogs in eight languages have picked up on his work.

According to all the senior news people I’ve spoken with, this was something that was not there before and for that reason it draws attention in a different way than the regular media discussion about Israel,

Gerstenfeld notes.

That foot in the door has allowed him to publish a critical analysis of Dutch journalist Jors Luvendijk in a major Dutch paper. Luvendijk was a longtime Jerusalem correspondent for another large paper in the Netherlands, and also authored a best-selling book

on the conflict. “I exposed in a major Dutch daily how he just blurs and deletes murderous characteristics which permeate Palestinian society,” Gerstenfeld relates. “You can read the 80 pages of his book on the conflict and not know that the platform of Hamas calls for the killing of Jews.”

The retired businessman said he had expected a rebuttal from Luvendijk in the paper and when none came, a

Dr. Gerstenfeld hopes his pioneering concept of Bad News blogs will catch on with journalism professors

friend speculated about the silence, saying: “If you are being shaved by the barber, it’s better to sit still.”

Gerstenfeld notes that as the “Bad News” founder he can appear on the media “not as a classic Israeli who defends Israel but as someone who attacks the Netherlands and the Dutch media.” The advantage, he says, is “I can allow myself an aggressiveness on the criminality which permeates Palestinian society in a way that no defender of Israel can ever do.” A defender of Israel, he maintains, is from the start “put into a difficult position by the interviewer and it’s really hard to get out of it.”

His starting point, in contrast, is that “large parts of journalism are corrupt; it’s not what is Israel doing wrong.”

Gerstenfeld declines to reveal how many hits his blog receives (though an earlier media report said 300 per day), emphasizing that “it’s not an informational blog. It is a caricature.” Regarding gauging the site’s influence, he insists that

you cannot expect at this stage to measure any impact of a zero-cost project. But it’s absolutely true that when I wrote my article against Luvendijk, I could not have taken him apart without going through the bad news process.

Wanted: ‘Bad News’ Promoter

Gerstenfeld aspires for coverage in the biggest news outlets, such as *Time* or *Newsweek*, or a leading television network.

In the meantime, the “Bad News” concept has caught on in some quarters, prompting spin-off blogs dealing with Bad News from Belgium, Britain, Canada, Finland, Los Angeles, France, Mexico, Norway, Germany and Sweden.

The purveyor of bad news is on the lookout for a promoter of Bad News. That person’s role would be to help gain more media attention promoting Bad News blogs around the world and to introduce the concept to journalism professors as a teaching tool.

Out of the Box

On a broader scale, the Bad News project’s impact can be felt in the morale boost of Israel’s supporters, says Gerstenfeld. “We see this in the enormous number of talkbacks when we publicize it in the Israeli media.”

In addition, another benefit is that it has helped connect him with new contacts abroad “who then become your contacts for other issues,” Gerstenfeld asserts.

Moreover, he hopes that it will serve as a “trigger to start thinking about other projects that you’d call out of the box.” And, always the boardroom strategist, Gersensfeld emphasizes these projects should be low cost with high returns, just like his prototype. ☐

Tamar Sternthal

Department of Corrections

In the fast-paced, high-pressure world of journalism, it is impossible to get the story 100 percent right 100 percent of the time. Recognizing the inevitable obstacles, the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics calls on its members to "admit mistakes and correct them promptly." After receiving notice from CAMERA staff and members regarding mistakes in their coverage about Israel and the Middle East, the following media outlets commendably corrected the record and distinguished themselves as news organizations concerned about accuracy.



word Palestina, the name that Roman conquerors gave to the region more than 100 years after Jesus's death. The error was pointed out by a reader in an e-mail message on Monday.

Correction (*Tribune*, 6/21-2/08): An article on April 23 about efforts in the village of Malula, Syria, and two neighboring villages to preserve Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus, referred incorrectly to the name of the region where Jesus spent most of his time. It was Galilee — not Palestine, which derives from the word Palestina, the name that Roman conquerors gave to the region more than 100 years after Jesus's death.

DEMOLITIONS

Error (BBC, "World News with Jonathan Charles," Nick Miles, 3/5/08): In the hours after the attack, Israeli bulldozers destroyed his [the Merkaz HaRav terrorist's] family home. Later, his mourners set up Hamas and Islamic Jihad banners nearby.

Correction (3/13/08): Now, we would like to clarify a report we heard at this hour last Friday about the

attack by a Palestinian gunman on a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem. In the report, the day after the attack, BBC World said that the gunman's home in east Jerusalem had been demolished by the Israeli authorities. That was not correct, and the images broadcast were of another demolition.

GAZA STRIP

Error (*Los Angeles Times*, Richard Boudreaux, 1/28/08): Israel began reducing the flow of electricity . . . across Gaza's borders after the militant Islamic movement Hamas, which had won parliamentary elections in 2006, seized full control of the territory in June.

Correction (3/25/08): Gaza electricity: A Section A article on Jan. 28 reported that Israel had begun reducing the flow of electricity to the Gaza Strip after the Islamic movement Hamas seized full control of the territory in June. Although Israeli sanctions had caused electricity shortages by curtailing supplies of diesel fuel to Gaza's only power plant, Israel did not reduce the amount of electricity it sells to Gaza until early February.

ANCIENT HISTORY

Error (*New York Times*, Robert Worth, 4/22/08 and *International Herald Tribune*, 4/23/08): Yona Sabar, a professor of Semitic language at the University of California, Los Angeles, said that today Malula and its neighboring villages, Jabadeen and Bakhaa, represent the "last Mohicans" of Western Aramaic, which was the language Jesus presumably spoke in Palestine two millenia ago.

Correction (*Times*, 6/20/08): The Malula Journal article on April 22, about efforts in the village of Malula, Syria, and two neighboring villages to preserve Aramaic, the language spoken by Jesus, referred incorrectly to the name of the region where Jews spent most of his time. It was Galilee — not Palestine, which derives from the

Error (*Washington Times*, Nicholas Krlev, 3/6/08): Mr. [Mahmoud] Abbas suspended talks with Israel over the weekend because of its military offensive against Hamas in Gaza in response to the rocket attacks. More than 120 civilians have died, including women and children.

Correction (3/7/08): The *Washington Times* incorrectly reported yesterday the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli military action in the Gaza Strip. Of more than 120 people killed during Israeli incursions into Gaza, the Israeli military estimates that about 10 percent were civilians. The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem said earlier this week that about half of the Palestinians killed in Gaza were noncombatants.

Error (*New York Times*, photo caption, 2/7/08): Bat El Ifrah, 10, removed articles on Wednesday from her home in Sderot, Israel, as her family prepared to flee...Two children on a playground near the Gaza border were also wounded in the attack, *which was in retaliation for an Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza that killed seven Hamas policemen*. [emphasis added]

Correction (2/11/08): A caption on Thursday with a photograph of a home in Israel hit by a Palestinian rocket described the events surrounding the attack imprecisely. While the rocket attack followed an Israeli airstrike in southern Gaza, it was not known whether it was in fact in retaliation for the airstrike.

HOLY SITE

Error (*Washington Post*, photo caption, 3/20/08): As Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.) watches, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) lays his hand on the ancient stones of the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site.

Correction (3/27/08): A photo caption with a March 20 A-section article mischaracterized the religious importance of the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The wall is the holiest place Jews can pray, not Judaism's holiest place.

CAMERA Adds: The Temple Mount is Judaism's holiest site.

LEBANON

Error (McClatchy, Dion Nissenbaum, 7/20/08): Israeli planes, tanks and artillery batteries staged relentless attacks that killed more than 1,200 Lebanese civilians...

Correction (Updated story, 7/28/08): Israeli planes, tanks and artillery batteries staged relentless attacks that killed more than 1,200 Lebanese citizens...

JERUSALEM

Error (*International Herald Tribune*, Isabel Kershner, 7/29/08): Israel took Jerusalem in the 1967 war and then annexed it.

Correction (8/2-3/08): Because of an editing error, an article Tuesday about tensions between Hamas and Fatah misstated the history of Jerusalem. Israel conquered only the eastern part of the city in the 1967 war, not all of it, and later annexed that part.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Error (*New York Times*, online letter by Alison Weir, 2/24/08): In our two-year study — from Sept. 29, 2000, to Sept. 28, 2001, and in 2004 — of The Times's coverage of Israel and Palestine, we discovered that the newspaper had covered Israeli children's deaths at a rate seven times greater than it reported on Palestinian children's deaths.

Correction (Online correction, 3/7/08): A letter online on Feb. 24

stated that a two-year study by If Americans Knew — from Sept. 29, 2000, to Sept. 28, 2001, and in 2004 — of The New York Times's coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict “discovered that the newspaper had covered Israeli children's deaths at a rate seven times greater than it reported on Palestinian children's deaths.” This study examined headlines or first paragraphs of news articles.

TERMINOLOGY

Error (BBC Web site article, 1/28/08): Israel began tightening its blockade of the Gaza Strip after an increase in rocket attacks by militants targeting its *settlements* near the border. [emphasis added]

Correction (2/2008): Israel began tightening its blockade of the Gaza Strip after an increase in rocket attacks by militants targeting its *communities* near the border.

WEST BANK

Error (AP, Steve Gutkin, and CNN.com, 5/7/08): Israel at 60 is a place where creativity flourishes but where Palestinians are not allowed on West Bank roads reserved for Jews.

Correction (AP Updated story, 5/8/08, and CNN.com, 5/19/08): Israel at 60 is a place where creativity flourishes, but also where Palestinians are not allowed on West Bank roads reserved for Israelis. ☑

Did you elicit a correction from your campus paper?

If so, please send errors and corrections to campus@camera.org to receive recognition in the next issue of *CAMERA On Campus*. Include your name, university, the date of publication and the name of the newspaper in which the error and correction appeared.



Book REVIEWS

The Mufti of Jerusalem: Haj-Amin el-Husseini and National-Socialism

Jennie Lebel

Cigoja Stampa, Belgrade 2007

Translated from Serbian by Paul Munch

As the Nazi program to murder all the Jews reached its peak, desperate attempts were made to rescue several thousand Jewish children by ransoming them in exchange for German nationals held by the Allies. In late 1942 and in May 1943, deals almost came to fruition. But Haj Amin el-Husseini, the Mufti of Jerusalem, got wind of these plans and protested vociferously. The deals were cancelled and the children presumably perished in the Nazi killing centers. As German official Wilhelm Melchers testified after the war: "The Mufti was making protests everywhere ... The Mufti was an accomplished foe of the Jews and did not conceal that he would love to see all of them liquidated."

These incidents and many others are part of the extensive documentation included in Jennie Lebel's penetrating book, *The Mufti of Jerusalem Haj-Amin el-Husseini and National-Socialism*. Lebel exposes the intimate involvement of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem with the Nazis. The noted Serbian-Israeli historian gives particular attention to the Mufti's activities in Yugoslavia adding new insight into the substantial service el-Husseini provided to his Nazi paymasters. Her book includes numerous letters written by the Mufti and photographic evidence of his close association with Nazi officials.

The Mufti was instrumental in helping to recruit several SS divisions made up of Bosnian Muslims to engage in anti-partisan operations and even to serve on the eastern front battling the Soviet forces. He lent his prestige to convince Muslims in the Soviet Union to defect to the German side. Little wonder that he came to be regarded as Hitler's "Moslem Pope."

Lebel explores the reciprocal affinity many Nazis felt for Islam. She reveals that SS chief Heinrich Himmler evinced a fascination with Islam. For example, Muslim SS units were unique in being allowed to include a religious officer and regular prayer. One chapter describes the efforts of German propagandists to eliminate the use of the term anti-Semite in official Nazi publications and replace it with more specific terms like anti-Jewish, in order to avoid lumping Arabs together with the object of their hatred, the Jews.

Through Lebel's account, el-Husseini emerges as a consummate political operator, combining in equal measure pathological ruthlessness towards Arab competitors and

obsequiousness to murderous demagogues. The Mufti cultivated personal friendships with senior Nazi officials, especially Himmler. The book reproduces fawning letters penned by the Mufti as he strove to ingratiate himself with Nazi officials. In one letter intended to court Hitler on Jan. 20, 1941, he described the German Fuehrer as a descendent of the Prophet and the saviour of Islam.

At the war's end in 1945, el-Husseini stood accused of committing war crimes. The Yugoslavian government in particular indicated their intention to try him for his role in war crimes committed by Muslim SS units on Yugoslavian territory. British and French ambivalence over prosecuting him, however, facilitated his "escape" to Egypt where he reasserted his role as the principle Palestinian leader.

Back in the Arab world, el-Husseini again fiercely rejected any compromise solution and promoted violent opposition to the establishment of the new Jewish state. Ultimately, his machinations failed to prevent the birth of Israel, and his hardline stance left the Palestinians without their own state. Yet el-Husseini left an indelible mark by enshrining the dismantling of Israel as a central tenet of Palestinian nationalism.

The Mufti's Rise

Descended from a prominent family which had held the role of mufti, Haj Amin el-Husseini was appointed Grand Mufti of Jerusalem in 1922 with the help of British officials he had befriended. From the start, he advocated violent opposition to Jewish settlement in the Palestine Mandate and incited the Arabs against the increasing Jewish presence. Lebel describes the violent events of 1929, when el-Husseini

invented and disseminated the story that the Jews wanted to destroy the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque. Distributing fake photos of the burning mosque and propaganda tracts that borrowed from the anti-Jewish forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the Mufti instigated a widespread pogrom against Jews in Palestine. On Aug. 23, Arabs streamed into Jerusalem and began rioting against Jews. On Aug. 29, the pogrom's second wave of attacks began. Sixty-four were killed in Hebron, 45 in Safed. The Jews were not the most numerous of el-Husseini's victims in Palestine. During the years of the Mandate, local Arabs who did not share the Mufti's extreme hostility towards the Jews were targeted and eliminated. Throughout the 1930s, the Mufti instigated a campaign to intimidate moderate Arabs and assassinate those branded as traitors for selling land or cooperating with the Jews. El-Husseini's followers killed many more Palestinian Arabs than the British colonial occupiers or Jewish defense groups combined. This campaign succeeded in solidifying the link between Palestinian national aspirations and the Mufti's opposition to any accommodation with the Jews.

Lebel relates how in 1931, he organized the Pan-Islamic Congress which demanded the end of Jewish immigration and the rescinding of the Balfour Declaration. Jewish journalists were expressly not invited to the Congress as Gershom Agronsky, the Jewish correspondent for the *Christian Science Monitor*, found out when his paper was notified that he would not be allowed to attend. Presaging modern boycott proposals against the Jewish state, el-Husseini called on all Muslims to boycott Jewish goods

and organized an Arab strike on April 10, 1936. The Arab Higher Committee, controlled by the Mufti, proposed a ban on the sale of land to Jews and a halt to Jewish immigration.

El-Husseini's extreme positions inevitably led to a clash with the British, who had to temper their desire to appease the Arabs with their commitment to a Jewish national home. He saw in the Nazis and Italian fascists natural allies



Haj Amin el-Husseini meets with Hitler

who would do what the British were unwilling to do – purge the region of Jews and help him establish a unified Arab state throughout the Middle East free from British control. As early as 1933, the Mufti sought to establish an alliance with the Germans. It was the Germans who were more circumspect.

Believing that the Axis might prevail in the war, the Mufti secured a commitment from both Italy and Germany to the formation of a region-wide Arab state. He also asked for permission to solve the Jewish problem by the "same method that will be applied for the solution of the Jewish problem in the Axis states." In addition, the Mufti approached fascist Italy, requesting assistance in poisoning the water of

Tel Aviv.

Lebel also examines the Mufti's role in the April 1, 1941 Iraqi revolt against the pro-British government. Although the coup was defeated quickly and relatively easily, the unrest inspired a pogrom in June that left 180 Jews dead. A British Commission's investigation found the German League and the Mufti responsible.

Above all, Lebel provides new details on the Mufti's wartime sojourn in Nazi Germany, precisely tracing his contacts with Nazi leaders. He arrived in Berlin on Nov. 5, 1941 with assurances by Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop that "Germany considers the Arab question with sympathy." On Nov. 28, 1941, he met with Hitler for the first time and relayed to the German leader the Arab conviction that Germany would win the war and that this would benefit the Arab cause.

While Hitler shared the Mufti's belief that the present war would determine the fate of the Arabs, his priority was the struggle against what he saw as Jewish-controlled Britain and the Soviet Union. Lebel reveals Hitler's promise that when the German army reached the southern borders of the Caucasus, he would announce to the Arab world their time of liberation had come. The Germans would annihilate all Jews who lived in Arab areas.

El-Husseini repaid Hitler's promise of support by providing a bridge to the Muslim world. An office known as the Das Arabische Buro was opened in Berlin under the auspices of the German Abwehr. The Mufti provided a spy network to the Germans while receiving a salary of

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Logic Suspended

A Clemson University professor of philosophy bucks logic and facts
in assaults on Israel

In a case of self-deprecatory irony, Todd May, a philosophy professor at Clemson University, mused, “Philosophers are often renown for two things: their ability to think logically and their irrelevance to public discussion and debate” (*Counterpunch*, April 16, 2002).

He attempts, though, to “buck the trend” regarding the latter by offering “a practical solution to a complex issue before the public” via his writings on the Mideast conflict, both in the mainstream and the alternative press. He also apparently bucks the trend of logical thinking, most recently in an Op-Ed appearing in the *Anderson Independent-Mail* on May 25, 2008, in which he accused Israel of perpetuating a “slow motion genocide” and called for cutting off all aid to the Jewish state.

This, indeed, is a bizarre application of logic, given that in the last 60 years, the Palestinian Arab population increased from just over a million to over six million, doubling in size with each new generation. This extraordinary population increase is not only due to large family size, but is also a result of Palestinians living longer and healthier. In 1967, when Israel took over the administration of the West Bank and Gaza, the average life-span of a Palestinian was 48 years and infant mortality approached 100 per 1000 live births.



Prof. Todd May accuses Israel of perpetuating a “slow motion genocide”

Access to clean drinking water was limited and illiteracy was rampant. Today, despite the on-going conflict, Palestinians live to 72 years on average, infant mortality has dropped to 23 per 1000, most residents of Gaza and the West Bank have clean drinking water and literacy is nearly universal among those born after 1967. Given these documented facts, the charge of genocide is neither credible nor logical.

CAMERA refuted May’s Op-Ed with a published letter in the June 26 *Independent-Mail* bringing these facts to light.

The professor of logic has been spewing nonsense about Israel for a long time. During the height of the suicide bombing attacks against Israel in April 2002, May vehemently demanded that America cut its support for Israel (*Counterpunch* magazine, April 16, 2002). Engaging in grotesque distortion, May accused Israel of committing massive human

rights violations and compared the Jewish state to genocidal regimes like Pol Pot’s Cambodia. Exhibiting evidence of his skewed perspective, he wrote, “If the U.S. media begins to pay due attention to what Israel has done in Jenin, that would go a long way toward remedying the problem.”

This is a reference to the April 2002 Israeli Defense Forces incursion into Jenin, where Palestinians and their advocates alleged that Israel had committed a massacre. Despite the fact that a United Nations investigation rejected the spurious allegation, May had a vested interest in perpetuating the charge since he co-edited a book entitled *Operation Defensive Shield: Witnesses to Israeli War Crimes*, premised on alleged Israeli war crimes (published by Pluto Press and distributed by University of Michigan Press).

The professor’s charge is absurd based on the evidence. The U.N. investigation found 52 Palestinians died in the nine-day incursion, as well as 23 Israeli soldiers. Between 26 and 45 of the Palestinian fatalities were identified as combatants. The Israeli death toll was unusually high due to the decision by Israeli commanders to send troops into the crowded city instead of using stand-off weapons, a

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Thumbs Up!

To **Avraham Ben-Melech**, editor of "A State Almost Sixty: The Anti-Zionist Congress," a two-part series airing on the Israel Broadcast Authority April 27 and May 4, 2008. Presented by **Kobi Barkai**, the radio broadcast focused on the post-Zionist trend among Israeli academics, examining the veracity of the professors' claims, the integrity of their research, and the risk that they pose to the legitimacy of Israel.

In the first part of the series, Ben-Melech presented the claims of "post-Zionists" Ilan Pappé, Avi Shlaim, Shlomo Sand, Uri Ram and Teddy Katz, among others. Their claims include the notion that Israel is not an historic entity, but rather a fabrication of the 1900s; that Israel was founded in sin, and that therefore cannot continue to exist in its current form.

In the second part, professors Elhanan Yakira, Shlomo Avineri, Alexander Yaakovson, and others, provide both broad and detailed refutations of the post-Zionist claims. Yakira characterizes post-Zionist research as shallow and distorted by political ideology. Thus the broadcast exposes the post-Zionist long-term agenda: to erode the legitimacy of Israel.

To **Christoph Schult** of Germany's *Der Spiegel*, for his March 11, 2009 article "Palestinian twins under rocket fire from Gaza," which was translated to English and published on Spiegel Online.

The article highlights the often-ignored danger faced by Israeli communities within rocket range of the Gaza Strip by telling the remarkable story of Gaza resident Iman Shafii, who gives birth to twins in a southern Israeli hospital. Not long after Israeli doctors in Ashkelon save the lives of the Palestinian woman's newborn twins, Palestinian terrorists in Gaza nearly kill them.

"You have to go to Israel," a doctor in Gaza is quoted telling Shafii after discovering serious complications with her pregnancy. Fortunately, she makes it in time to the Israeli hospital. But there is yet another complication. As Schult points out, "there was a sharp increase in the Palestinian rocket attacks after Israel cleared the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip in September 2005," and "the breaching of the border fence between the Gaza Strip and Egypt by Hamas in January made it possible to bring in Russian and Iranian rockets with longer ranges."

A rocket lands in the hospital grounds, 200 meters from where Shafii is recovering. Her husband explains that Palestinian terrorists "shoot [from houses in Beit Lahia] at Israeli civilians, which is completely unacceptable. And they put us Palestinian civilians in grave danger, because the Israelis shoot back."

Schult notes that Shafii had previously seen Israelis only as "perpetrators." But after her experience in the Israeli hospital, where she encounters kind doctors and a wheelchair-bound child injured by a Palestinian rocket, she concludes that "the people in Sderot are suffering just as we are in Gaza." The analogy might not be perfect, but it's a good start.

Thumbs up to British historian **Andrew Roberts** for his May 8, 2008 Op-Ed in the *London Daily Express* on the occasion of Israel's 60th anniversary. In his Op-Ed, "Happy Birthday, Israel and Shalom," Roberts lauds Israel's remarkable survival in the face of unrelenting hostility from its vast surrounding enemies.

Roberts recalls that on the very day of its rebirth, Israel faced the invasion of Arab armies from the states surrounding it. He reminds readers of salient facts that need to be repeated because they are so often ignored or misrepresented. For example, he compares tiny Israel's 8000 square miles to the vast territories of the Arab League, some 650 times larger at 5.25 million square miles, and compares Israel's 7 million citizens, one-fifth of whom are Arabs, to the Arab League's 330 million people. This overall context is crucial to counteract the persistent portrayal of Israel by influential members of the British media as a Goliath to the Palestinian David.

Roberts expresses gratitude to the Jews for their extraordinary achievements and wonders how many advancements were lost when millions of Jews perished in the gas chambers because they lacked a country to shelter and protect them. He scolds his own country's liberal media for treating Israel as an international leper and describes the failure of any significant member of the British royal family to visit Israel as a disgrace.

Roberts' piece is particularly noteworthy at a time when much of the British media, including the influential BBC, have adopted a pro-Palestinian narrative of the conflict between Israel and the Arabs.



Unsettled

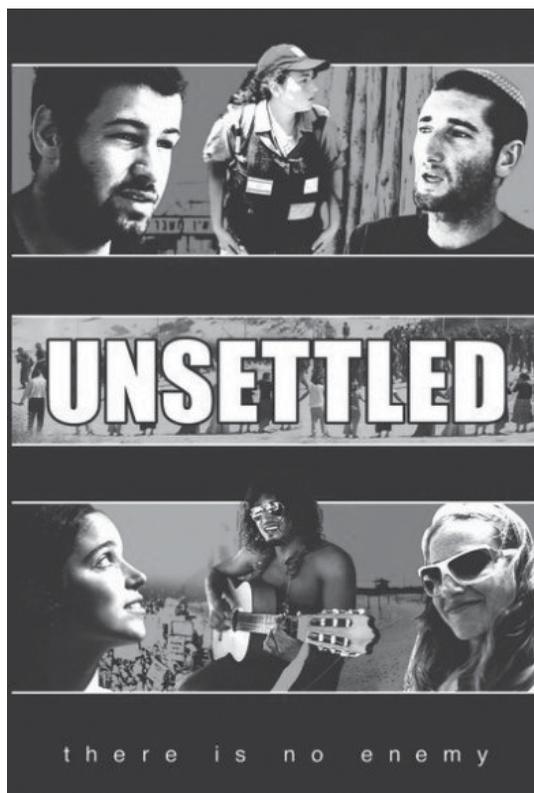
Written and directed by Adam Hootnick
English/Hebrew (with English subtitles)
80 Minutes
2007 USA

I am usually pretty careful when I sit down to watch a documentary. Most documentaries I've seen in recent years were no more than a platform from which the director can lecture us all on his world views, and wrap it up in an objective-looking package. Yet, for some reason, the documentary film is generally accorded more credibility than, say, the average blog entry, so I tend to be cautious.

Unsettled, directed by Adam Hootnick, is one of those rare exceptions to the rule. Hootnick uses the documentary medium to do just that – document.

In the summer of 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in a move that became known as disengagement. This move, which was one of the most internally controversial government decisions Israel has ever made, caused a very serious rift in Israeli society. While the political aspects of the disengagement are debated continuously both in Israel and

abroad, Hootnick has a different approach. He presents differing Israeli perspectives of this struggle through the stories of individuals — the young settler who was commissioned to make a movie about her home in the Gaza Strip; a girl whose sister died in a suicide bombing, and who is campaigning for withdrawal; soldiers, both for and against the disengagement; and a pair of lifeguards in the Gaza Strip, who care less about political jousting, and more about losing their home, job and beach. Aside from



providing an interesting glimpse into these people's worlds, this method also helps convey the torrent of emotions that swept through Israel in the summer of 2005.

In addition, the movie serves another, very important purpose. It shows the world that Israel is not the faceless, emotionless

occupation monster that some make it out to be.

Almost every part of this movie demonstrates how far Israel is willing to go to avoid bloodshed and to foster peace. The country's willingness to go forward with an extremely unpopular, unilateral act that aims, among other things, to show its desire for peaceful coexistence is globally unprecedented in recent years. Also striking is the extensive training to ensure that no one was hurt, or even offended (we can hear a commander telling his soldiers not to smile or gloat during the evacuation). This same restraint is shown by most of the evacuees. True, emotions are flaring. People are crying and screaming, and accusations and even racial slurs are uttered (a settler screams "Heil Hitler" at the soldiers), but in the end, clearer heads prevail. Most people are escorted to the buses waiting to take them away in tears (usually shed by both evacuator and evacuee), with little or no resistance.

The Israeli army, also a favorite punching bag around the world, is shown here not as a faceless organization, but as a collection of children (most of them are) who, for the first time in their lives, are confronted with a general conflict of conscience. On the one side lie their oath to the army and their sense of law and order, and on the other lie their emotions, political opinions, and sometimes even their religion.

Unsettled provides a very interesting glimpse at Israel, not Israel the violent occupier that some would like us to see, but Israel as a home

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Rape, Condoms and Israeli Academia

A Hebrew University graduate student wins a prize for her 'finding' that Israeli soldiers aren't rapists because they're racists



For some time, I have been waiting for a hysterical outburst from the anti-Israel squadrons in the Israeli academia, one that would bring their claims to such an absurd point, that they would be finished. I always believed that their “post-intelligent” anti-Israeli claptrap would eventually climax in an paroxysm of extremist mumbo-jumbo lunacy, after which there would no longer be anything to argue about. They’d be exposed.

Ben-Dror Yemini provided me with just that evidence (*Ma’ariv*, Jan. 11, 2008), in an article in which he tells of a research project carried out by graduate student Tal Nizan at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research question was: *How is it that, contrary to the*

accepted practice among other occupation armies, the Zionist occupation army does not rape?

The researcher had two explanations: First, IDF soldiers do not rape Palestinian women because for them, these women have been dehumanized, and “consequently, a sexual act cannot be carried out with someone that is perceived as less than human.” Second, the soldiers refrained from raping the Palestinian women in the service of a higher, demographic goal, because the rape could cause pregnancies that would subsequently increase the numbers of our enemies. In other words, not only are there no rapes, there are no condoms either.

The significant aspect is not this surreal research project. It is not unusual. Incitement against Israel can be found on the lowest level in some of the social science departments in Israel’s universi-

ties. A well-known philosopher in Tel Aviv University called Israel the dustbin of Europe – and students, as we know, are influenced by their teachers, even when the latter are seized by a frenzy of hatred toward the state that provides their livelihood, and at the expense of which, thanks to their attacks on it, they make their names.

The interesting thing is that this “research” project won a prize from a sociology association, with a number of distinguished professors voting in favor of granting the researcher a prize.

It would be interesting to hear how these professors propose that Israel amend this serious flaw, that IDF soldiers are not serial rapists. Does that fact that female tourists are not raped mean that they too have been dehumanized?

These professors are wrong. It’s not true that there is no rape. There is – the rape of the academia, of science and of the students forced to listen to these professors’ drivel. ☒

Prof. Amnon Rubinstein

Guest contributor Amnon Rubinstein is a professor of law at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, a former minister of education and MK, and the recipient of the 2006 Israel Prize in Law. This piece is excerpted from a column which first appeared in the Jerusalem Post (www.jpost.com).

The Case For Israel: Democracy's Outpost

In an exclusive interview, CAMERA gets the scoop from the producers of a new documentary coming soon to theaters near you



Michael Yohay
Producer and Director

Gloria Z. Greenfield
Producer
www.susanwilsonphoto.com

Professor Alan Dershowitz's best-selling book *The Case For Israel* appeared at a particularly key moment – in 2003 – as Israel fought back against an unprecedented war of terror on its civilian population and a daunting tidal wave of media coverage, all too much of which was marred by bias – and worse.

In the academy and in the United Nations too, Israel faced an onslaught of distorted criticism. Although terrorism in Israel has diminished in recent years, the information battle has not.

Now *The Case for Israel* has been turned into an important new documentary film. Producer Gloria Greenfield and Director Michael Yohay here describe their work and goals in creating this cinematic counterpart of Professor Dershowitz's book.

CAMERA: *Gloria, tell us what you hope to accomplish with this project?*

Gloria: The goal of this documentary is to present a vigorous case for Israel – for its basic right to exist, to protect its citizens from terrorism,

and to defend its borders from hostile enemies. We cannot ignore the fact that while Israel repeatedly and tangibly demonstrates its commitment to peace, biased attacks continue in the media, on campuses, in the churches and in the international community. Israel's detractors – some with international prominence – deny the fact that Israel has made painful concessions in working toward a two-state solution, including the 2005 disengagement from Gaza initiated by former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and that Israel has expressed readiness to take additional difficult measures. They ignore the rise in Gaza of Hamas, which rejects peaceful coexistence. They turn a blind eye to the grave challenges inherent in the Palestinian Authority's unstable gover-

nance of the West Bank under Mahmoud Abbas. They rarely acknowledge the ongoing terrorist attacks against Israeli children and other civilians, and they equate that terrorism with Israel's attempts to protect its citizens.

Professor Dershowitz has achieved international distinction as one of Israel's most prominent and articulate advocates. His book *The Case for Israel* serves as an essential resource for everyone interested in reaching a fair understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We felt it essential to bring his detailed and penetrating analysis of the issues – along with commentaries of other key political, judicial and academic leaders – to a broader audience. And film is one of the most effective vehicles to do so.

CAMERA: *What is your target audience? Can you reach beyond the "choir" and educate those who believe Israel is, for example, acting illegally in building a barrier to keep suicide bombers out of its cities?*

Gloria: We want to reach fair-

minded people of all races and creeds who support democratic values. We believe that the integrity inherent in this film will be compelling to individuals who are seeking historical facts and clear analyses. However, we have no expectation of changing the minds of Israel-haters, because we do not believe that they are interested in facts, clarity or honesty.

CAMERA: *What are some of the falsehoods leveled against Israel that the documentary addresses?*

Gloria: The documentary is organized into six chapters: J'accuse, Historical Facts, Democracy and Difficult Choices, Justice, Threats, and Fortitude. Within each chapter, world-renowned historians, judicial experts, political leaders and senior analysts effectively challenge false accusations leveled against Israel, including Israel as: an apartheid state, an obstacle to peace, the worst violator of human rights, a manipulator of U.S. foreign policy through an overpowering lobby, colonialists and imperialists, the cause of Arab refugees, a racist and illegitimate state.

CAMERA: *Michael, you're a veteran director with a lot of experience in Israeli film-making. How do you make a work dynamic that's primarily making a "case" with lots of interviewees and talking?*

Michael: The integrity of Professor Dershowitz – who serves as the spine of the documentary – and the featured commentators – all experts in their respective fields – together have great impact. The documentary also features amazing archival footage that helps to “unpack” the commentary – and give it visual expression. And as important to me as the film director is the amazing Doc Emet team and

film crew. Our hearts and souls were totally committed to the goals of this project, and we worked as a family.

CAMERA: *Who are the main figures in the documentary, other than Professor Dershowitz? Why did you choose them?*

Michael: After identifying the critical issues related to the Arab-Israeli conflict, we sought out the leading experts who are directly related – with hands-on experience

“We felt it essential to bring [Dershowitz’s] detailed and penetrating analysis of the issues . . . to a broader audience.”
– Gloria Greenfield

– to specific issues. In addition to Professor Dershowitz, we feature historians Benny Morris, Michael Oren, and Jonathan Sarna; ambassadors Dan Gillerman, Dore Gold and Dennis Ross; judicial leaders and law professors Aharon Barak, Anne Bayefsky, Irwin Cotler, and Amnon Rubinstein; political leaders Ehud Barak, Tzipi Livni, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Shimon Peres; senior analysts Dan Diker, Caroline Glick, Israel Kimhi, Alex Safian, Natan Sharansky, Gerald Steinberg; human rights activists Phyllis Chesler and Eytan Schwartz; archaeologists Eilat Mazar and Gabriel Barkay; and others.

CAMERA: *Is there an audience for the documentary in Europe where there is so much anti-Israel sentiment? What about in Israel itself where there are also misconceptions about history, law and the global double standard?*

Michael: There is definitely a need to broadcast the documentary throughout Europe, Israel and Asia. And when we look at the popularity of *The Case for Israel* in Europe and Asia, it becomes obvious that we should translate the documentary into several languages, including: French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, and Russian. Broadcasters in Israel have expressed serious interest in the documentary, and we anticipate it being broadcast there in the coming year.

CAMERA: *When and where can people see the documentary?*

Gloria: CAMERA and Doc Emet Productions are working together to schedule premiere screenings during the next six months in major cities in North America and Israel. Both New York and New England screenings will be held at the end of October 2008. We are also working with campus leaders to schedule screenings on college campuses, and we are looking forward to working with synagogue and church communities. DVDs will be available for purchase, and we are in discussion with broadcasters in North America and Israel. We hope to reach Europe and Asia through international film festivals. Please check CAMERA’s Web site for further details on specific screenings. If you are interested in bringing the documentary to your campus or community, please contact me at ggreenfield@docemetproductions.com

Gloria and Michael: Together, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of the invaluable support and encouragement that we have received from CAMERA. We would not have been able to achieve what we have without this partnership. *Todah rabah!* 

L'Affaire Al Dura: The Saga Continues

A French appeals court vindicated a critic of France 2, citing 'inexplicable inconsistencies of the viewable images'

Nearly eight years after a reporter claimed in a French television newscast that Israelis had shot dead 12-year-old Mohammed Al Dura – who, as a result, became an icon of Palestinian martyrdom and a symbol for jihad – the debate about the incident continues. Ballistic investigations demonstrated the implausibility that Al Dura was shot by an Israeli. So what really happened? Was the incident staged?

When we last wrote about the controversy in the Spring 2008 edition of *CAMERA On Campus*, the 11th Chamber of Criminal Appeals in Paris had begun hearing the appeal for Philippe Karsenty, the blogger who was found guilty in court of defaming Charles Enderlin, the reporter who originated the report. In 2002, the blogger called for the removal of Enderlin and the television network's (France 2) news director, Arlette Chabot, because, Karsenty contended on his Web site, they reported a staged event as news. Enderlin and Chabot responded by suing Karsenty for defamation. Karsenty lost and appealed the ruling.

On Nov. 14, 2007, the appeal court ordered Enderlin and his television network to release the 27



France 2's Charles Enderlin exits the Paris courthouse in November 2007

Photo by Michel Euler/AP

minutes of unedited footage they had refused to make public. After weeks of stalling, they turned over only 18 minutes of spliced together scenes. One third of the original footage was missing! But what was clear from the footage provided was that even after the point on the film that Enderlin pronounces Al Dura dead, the boy raises his arm to peek at the camera before dropping it again. The judges took note.

On May 21, 2008, in a stunning reversal of the lower court's verdict, the appeals decision was handed down. It cited "the contradictory answers given by Charles Enderlin to the questions relating to the editing of the film," the "inexplicable inconsistencies of the viewable images," and the "contradictory answers of [the camera-

man] on the issue of the sequence of the scenes and the conditions under which they were filmed." It also noted "France 2's persistent reluctance to allow the viewing of its cameraman's rushes," and Enderlin's "imprudent claim that he edited out the images of the child's agony."

While the court could not say that Karsenty had definitively proven the broadcast to be a hoax, it did find that there was a "sufficient factual base" for the charges he had made. The appeals court therefore overturned the lower court's judgement, concluding that "Philippe Karsenty exercised his right of free criticism in good faith; that, in doing so, he did not overstep the limits of the freedom of expression."

Within a week of the ruling, hundreds of French journalists – friends and colleagues of Enderlin's – together with several French "personalities" and Internet readers, posted a petition of support for Charles Enderlin on the *Nouvel Observateur* Web site. Far from acknowledging that Enderlin was remiss in his reporting, they characterize him as the victim of an "obstinate and hateful campaign to tarnish [his] professional dignity."

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The *New York Times*' Fulbright Campaign

Coverage by the paper of record on seven Fulbright Gazans
ignored key information

The *New York Times* was appalled! On May 30, 2008, the paper splashed across its front page – along with a large photo – the story of seven Palestinians in Gaza who were denied visas to attend U.S. universities on Fulbright scholarships they'd been awarded.

Multiple stories followed, along with a finger-wagging editorial, the message of which was that bungling and benighted Israelis had thwarted the educational advancement of innocent Palestinians who sought nothing more than advanced degrees.

Congratulating itself, the paper reported on June 6:

When Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice read last Friday of the cancellation of the Fulbright grants, she told her lieutenants to get the Israelis to let the grant recipients out and to reinstate the scholarships, and that is now happening.

The editorial writers declared the Fulbright recipients to be “seven highly qualified and carefully vetted Palestinian students” and advised



Photo by Adel Hana/AP

From left: Fidaa Abed, Zuhair Abu Shaaban and Osama Daoud, the three Fulbrights affiliated with Islamic University of Gaza

Israelis they should “want to see more of Gaza’s young people follow a path of hope and education rather than hopelessness and martyrdom...”

On June 3, the English-language Israeli Web site Ynet reported that the State Department acknowledged an internal error – as opposed to Israeli heavy-handedness – was responsible for the students’ detainment in Gaza. Headlined “US says it erred in case of Gaza Strip students,” the article stated:

The United States said on Monday it had erred by not approaching the Israeli government earlier to help seven Palestinians from the Gaza Strip obtain Israeli exit visas to take

up US Fulbright fellowships. . . .

“Was there a faulty decision-making process internal to the State Department in this particular case? Yes, there was,” State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters. . . .

“A real test of management is if there is in fact a bad process and a bad outcome, do you go back and fix it? – and that’s what we have done, we hope,” he added.

Yet, the *Times* ignored the State Department’s blunder, sticking to the story that Israel’s policy was to blame for the students’ initial detainment in the strip.

In addition, the *New York Times* coverage notably neglected information reported in the *New York Sun* on June 20 that there were potentially serious questions about several of the Fulbright winners. According to the *Sun*’s Eli Lake, Fidaa Abed, Osama Dawoud, and Zohair Abu Shaban “have studied or taught at the Islamic

Continued on next page, top

The *New York Times*' Fulbright Campaign

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University of Gaza.” Lake cited Israeli news reports that kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit had been held captive at the same university at one point and that rifles and rocket launchers had been stored there.

He quoted U.S. Congressman Mark Kirk faulting the State Department for allowing the Fulbrights to be awarded to students associated with Islamic University. Kirk said such action seemed “on its face” to be “a direct violation of new U.S. law.”

Kirk called on the inspector general of the State Department, Harold Geisel, to make sure the Fulbright winners were vetted through the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Terrorist Screening Center.

Lake reported a letter to Geisel

from Kirk that quoted Jameela El Shanty, a professor at the Islamic University who said: “ Hamas built this institution. The university presents the philosophy of Hamas. If you want to know what Hamas is, you can know it from the university.”

And so it came to pass eventually on Aug. 5, the *New York Times* had to report that all might not be on the up-and-up with every one of the Fulbrights. While three were said to be in the United States and one had changed her mind about leaving Gaza, the three others cited by Eli Lake were, indeed, on closer inspection raising concern.

Seemingly annoyed, the *Times* began its story saying:

The State Department has, for a second time in two months, *reneged* on its offer to three Palestinians in Gaza to study in the United States on Fulbright grants, this time citing

unspecified security concerns (Emphasis Added.)

The reporter then recounted the faltering efforts of these three to reach the U.S. with reference to initial U.S. irritation that Israel proffered only “broad accusations of links to Hamas.” In the 10th of 11 paragraphs in the story, the reporter notes that Israel provided “more specific information” leading to the State Department rescinding the Gazans’ entry into the U.S.

Evidently something in that information alarmed the Americans, who, as the *Times* relates, refused entry to one of the three students who reached Washington only to be turned back to the Middle East.

Nowhere, however, did the reporter indicate the concerns of Congressman Kirk and the information regarding the Islamic University of Gaza. ☒

Andrea Levin

L’Affaire Al Dura: The Saga Continues

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They are amazed, the petition states, that the court would

grant the same credibility to a journalist known for his serious and rigorous work who practices his profession under sometimes difficult conditions as to his detractors who are engaged in a campaign of negation and discredit, who ignore the realities of the terrain and who have no experience reporting from a conflict zone.

In other words: news consumers have absolutely no right to question a veteran reporter, never mind to demand journalistic accountability.

But the petition set off a storm among readers. Online comments on

the petition ran overwhelmingly against *Le Nouvel Observateur’s* initiative until the editors hid the comments link. And some started to break ranks with the journalists and personalities who support Enderlin. Prominent among them is Elie Barnavi, a historian and former Israeli ambassador to France, who refers to his reputation as a “humanist and man of the left.” Until the publication of the petition, he had steered clear of the suggestion that France 2’s broadcast was mendacious and had opposed confronting the public television station. But after the petition’s publication, he penned an Op-Ed in the French weekly, *Marianne*, calling for an independent commission of inquiry into the entire affair.

Within a few weeks, the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions of France (CRIF) followed suit by calling on President Nicolas Sarkozy to establish an independent investigative

commission on the Al Dura affair. CRIF’s proposed “independent” commission, however, includes France 2 as well as CRIF itself. Given the years of cover-up and deception by the French network, it is questionable that such a commission could possibly be “independent.” Nonetheless, the proposal was announced with much hoopla at a large press conference in Paris attended by many in the French mainstream media. After years of essentially ignoring the entire controversy, the French media reported about the proposal.

Meanwhile, in the American media, there is a gaping silence. In the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Washington Post*, there has been nothing about Karsenty’s vindication in court and nothing about the emerging new debate about the Al Dura affair. ☒

Ricki Hollander

The Mufti and the Nazis

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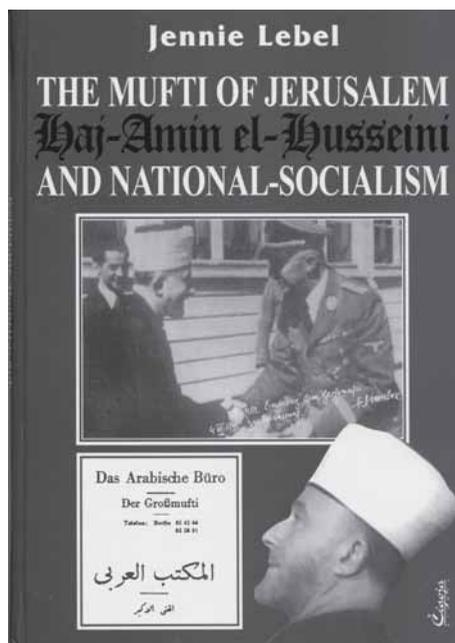
75,000 RM. Even after the defeat of the Axis forces in North Africa, el-Husseini continued to urge Arabs to rebel against the Allies, claiming that the British would establish North Africa as a "second Jewish homeland to bring the remainder of European Jewry and some of the Jews and Negroes from America."

In early 1943, while the Second World War still raged, the Mufti urged Germany to bomb Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. He also proposed parachuting forces into Palestine for sabotage operations.

Like his successor as leader of the Palestinian cause, Yasir Arafat, the Mufti's weakness was his ineffectiveness in carrying out the more practical responsibilities of leadership. Having gained prominence through assassination and maneuvering under the umbrella of powerful patrons, he was ill-prepared for the role of organizing an effective military effort to oppose the establishment of the Jewish state.

The forces he helped organize, a mixture of local Arabs, German and Bosnian SS recruits and volunteers from surrounding Arab states, rapidly deteriorated into a rabble. By the time the Jewish leadership announced the founding of the Jewish state on May 14, 1948, the military effort against the Jews had passed to the regular Arab armies of Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq. With the disintegration of his forces, el-Husseini's influence declined as well.

Foreshadowing the current Palestinian political alignment, the Mufti established himself in Gaza backed by the Muslim Brotherhood, while the more moderate Jordanians dominated the territory that would



come to be known as the West Bank. Distrusted by the Egyptians, who then as now had an uneasy relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood, the Mufti's position eroded.

On Dec. 20, 1948, Jordan's King Abdullah removed el-Husseini from his position. By March 1949, el-Husseini's authority was so reduced that when he boycotted the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission, he was simply ignored.

The Mufti's Legacy

Lebel's thorough documentation of the Mufti's intimate involvement with the Nazi regime sheds needed light on the virulent anti-Jewish and fascistic underpinnings of his brand of Palestinian nationalism. While his political plans to establish a Palestinian state and bestow upon himself the role of preeminent leader of the Arab world ultimately failed, Haj Amin el-Husseini left a deep imprint on Palestinian consciousness. The view of the Jews as contaminants of society and malevolent conspirators persists today in the founding charter of Hamas.

In a radio broadcast from Germany on Nov. 16, 1943, which Lebel

reproduced in her book, el-Husseini laid out his vision of the conflict with the Jews: "The Jews bring the world poverty, trouble and disaster...they destroy morality in all countries...they falsify the words of the prophet, they are the bearers of anarchy and bring suffering to the world. They are like moths who eat away all the good in the countries. They prepared the war machine for Roosevelt and brought disaster to the world. They are monsters and the basis for all evil in the world."

His conspiratorial view of Jewish ambitions is reflected in the widespread dissemination of such publications as *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and Hitler's *Mein Kampf* in the Arab and Muslim world. ❏

Steve Stotsky

'Last Refuge,' Latest Falsehood

Continued from page 2

Baslan Fares opened a water park sometime before September 2000 in Al Badhan (Michael Matza, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 12, 2005). Baslan Fares testified to B'Tselem that in September 2006 Israeli army closures forced his business to shut down. Nevertheless, there were at least a couple of West Bank water/amusement parks predating Banana Land.

Chances are, if a Palestinian child from Jenin, Ramallah, Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarem or Jericho would read "Last refuge," they wouldn't recognize Levy's description as relating to his or her life.

His piece is yet another example of what Israeli writer Irit Linor once described as "Planet Ha'aretz." Landing in Levy's "Twilight Zone," readers in the know might muse, "Beam me up, Scottie. There's no intelligent life down here." ❏

Tamar Sternthal

First, Refute the Defamation

Continued from page 6

Israel approved an application for the patient's transfer to an Israeli hospital the same day it was received, but that delay ensued at the behest of a Palestinian doctor seeking to stabilize the boy's condition before moving him.

Many of the news stories also included Press's reminder that delays in admitting Palestinian patients are unavoidable for security reasons. The *Tribune* reported:

Press said in May 2007 two Gaza women who received permits to travel for treatment were discovered under interrogation to have been sent to carry out suicide bombings. In June 2005 a woman allowed into Israel for medical care was discovered in a border security check to be wearing explosives.

Elsewhere, Press was quoted saying: "They [Hamas] use humanitarian needs to attack us. We have to check every request."

Much more can and should be said about the shoddy, indefensible WHO report. (A haphazard chronology for one patient is suggestive of the careless attention to accuracy. A woman is said – in the study dated April 2008 – to have died on Nov. 11, 2008 after a fall on Sept. 24, 2007 for which she sought treatment on Sept. 6, 2007.)

But Press's rejoinders and their reverberation in the media's coverage of yet another distorted attack on Israel are a reminder that nothing in the war of ideas and images takes the place of the all-important work of refuting defamation. One day perhaps journalists will interject a caveat whenever writing about a U.N. study on Israel cautioning readers that the contents are very likely propagandistic and unreliable. Meanwhile, Israeli

officials should follow Press's example and respond rapidly and in detail to false, poisonous claims against the Jewish state from any source. ☐

Andrea Levin

Logic Suspended

Continued from page 19

step which minimized civilian Palestinian casualties. (Thirteen Israelis were killed when a booby-trapped building was detonated.)

Equating the Middle East's only liberal democracy with a criminal, May wrote in *Counterpunch*: "The longer a criminal uses my support to commit crimes, the more urgent it becomes that I stop supplying that support." The fact that Israel has been under attack since its founding, first by Arab states and later by Arab terrorist groups, apparently has no weight in May's thinking.

An article titled "The End of the Holocaust," which he penned during the July 2006 war against Hezbollah, reveals an even more unsavory side to this opponent of American support for Israel (published online at Indymedia and elsewhere). May accused Israel of using "the silent extortion of the Holocaust" to carry out repeated massacres. He adds that "for Israel's neighbors (and non-Jewish citizens), perhaps the crime is LWA: Living While Arab."

May's characterization does not reflect the reality of the circumstances of Arabs, and non-Jewish citizens in general, living in Israel who enjoy more freedoms than any Arabs in the Middle East. Polls of Israeli Arab opinion repeatedly show that the majority of Israeli Arabs prefer living in Israel over any other country despite complaints about discrimination in employment and government services.

Concerning Hezbollah, identified by the United States as a terrorist

organization, May opines, "nor is its murderousness a match for that of the IDF." Apparently years of education in logic cannot compensate for moral obtuseness. May fails to distinguish between Israel's military response and Hezbollah's unprovoked cross border attack and bombardment of northern Israel. Why is May unable to comprehend that by attacking civilian populations in Israel, Hezbollah is guilty of war crimes? The fact that more Lebanese died than Israelis attests to the more lethal military capabilities of the Israeli forces and to Hezbollah's tactic of launching rockets at Israel from residential areas.

A more reasoned and rational understanding of the conflict was provided by another philosopher, Bernard Harrison, a professor emeritus at the University of Utah, who wrote:

The principle that every Israeli, including women and children, is a legitimate target has been repeatedly and expressly proclaimed and acted upon by the Palestinians and rejectionist Arab states. . . . To kill civilians has been the whole point of innumerable actions both by Al-Fateh and by such "Islamist" fascist groups as Hamas, Hizbollah, or Islamic Jihad. On the other hand, while actions undertaken by the Israeli armed forces have resulted in the deaths of Arab civilians, the object of these actions has not been to bring about those deaths. . . .

May's misrepresentations and defamations do not reflect well upon the South Carolina university that employs him as a chaired professor. Indeed, they confirm the philosopher's irrelevance to public debate as well as his inability to think logically. ☐

Steve Stotsky

The Wild West of Wikipedia

Continued from page 3

Wikipedia “editors,” a number of whom have a clear history of pro-Palestinian editing, on a rampage of denunciation. They attacked anyone they thought was involved in the group – now referred to as a “cabal” – and Wikipedia “administrators” banned a number of editors. (Administrators – people elected to a position of power on Wikipedia – are basically editors with friends. Also anonymous, they often edit as problematically as other editors, or worse.) Tellingly, it was later revealed that one of the Wikipedia editors who led the attack is an employee of Electronic Intifada.

Many editors who hoped to ensure accuracy and balance on Wikipedia are now banned. Partisan editors, meanwhile, continue to freely manipulate Wikipedia articles. To cite just one example: An article about the Second Intifada – the recent years of Palestinian suicide bombings and other attacks against Israeli men, women and children – tells readers that “most people of the world” regard the violence as a “war of national liberation against foreign occupation,” while the view of the Intifada as a terrorist war is held only by “many Israelis.” Never mind that Wikipedia’s shoddily-enforced “rules” bar such unverifiable and dubious speculation. And never mind that it’s not just many Israelis, but also the United States, European Union, Canada and others, who label Hamas and other Intifada protagonists as terrorists.

Other articles similarly misinform – there is “some very, very bad stuff,” says a former editor-in-chief of Encyclopedia Britannica – because Wikipedia is, unfortunately, an anarchic battleground on which the casualties are unsuspecting readers looking for a credible encyclopedia. 

Gilead Ini

Wikipedia Editing Basics

Create an Account

Go to www.wikipedia.org, and select [English](#). At the top right of the screen, click [Log in / create account](#). Click the link in the sentence: [Don't have an account? Create one](#). Choose a username and password. Per Wikipedia's advice, “you are recommended to choose a username that is not connected to you.” Click [Create Account](#), and you're ready to go.

Edit Pages

As Wikipedia notes, “Don't be afraid to edit — anyone can edit almost any page, and we encourage you to *be bold!*” Edits can be made to both *article* pages — the pages that most visitors to Wikipedia see — and an article's associated *discussion* pages, meant for behind the scenes discussion. When making changes to a Wikipedia article page, it is very often helpful to also discuss the changes on the discussion page.

At the top of every Wikipedia article, there are five tabs: “article”; “discussion”; “edit this page”; “history”; and “watch.”

All you need to do to make changes to a page is click on the “edit this page” tab. Clicking this tab opens a page with an editable text box that contains the entire text of the article, along with some code that controls the formatting.

Make changes, additions or subtractions in the text box, and click the “Save page” button underneath the box.

Before clicking “Save page,” though, it is useful to very briefly describe the changes you made in the “Edit summary” box immediately above the Save icon. You can also click “Show preview” before saving, to see what your changes look like. If you do so, don't forget that what you will see on the preview page has not yet been saved. If you like the changes you see on the preview page, you must then scroll down past the preview, past the editable text box, and click “Save page.”

After clicking “Save page,” you will automatically be moved from the “edit” page to the main article page, which now shows your changes.

Add Citations

You will almost always want to use citations when you add new material to Wikipedia articles. Adding footnotes to a sentence requires a minimal amount of simple code. Immediately after the end of the new sentence you add, type `<ref>`, then the citation, then `</ref>`.

Edit Discussion Pages

It is on the discussion pages that, at least in theory, disputes over content are resolved through civil discussion and attempts to find consensus over language. In reality, these pages are too often marked by anarchy, mob rule, and bickering.

To edit a discussion page, click on the “discussion” tab at the top of the article. Then click “edit this page” and add your comments just as described above for an article page. You will want to sign your pseudonym after every comment you add. Wikipedia does this automatically when you add four tildes (~~~~) after your comment. The tilde can be found at the top left of your keyboard.

Israel Apartheid Week at University of Toronto

Continued from page 10

on a tract called *A Little Matter of Genocide* (1997), in which he argues that the murder of European Jews was not at all a “fixed policy objective of the Nazis.” He has stated that Jewish scholars who argue for the unique character of the Holocaust are worse than Nazis. According to Colorado University Professor Hank Brown, Professor Churchill “falsified history and fabricated history” and “did not express regret, apologize or agree to refrain from this behavior in the future.”

As’ad Abu Khalil (2006 speaker) – A California State University political science professor, Abu Khalil advocates a one-state solution, or the elimination of the Jewish state.

Hazem Jamjoum (2007 speaker) – A Palestinian-Canadian lawyer and activist, he defended the organizers of a 2003 pro-Palestinian conference at the U of T who refused to denounce suicide attacks, stating: “the point of the conference is not to start telling the Palestinians how to resist their occupation.” Members of the Al-Adwa group that were organizing the conference, at which Jamjoum was a speaker, were required to agree to a mandatory list of beliefs that included rejection of the right of Israel to exist and a refusal to condemn suicide attacks. The group also rejected the concept of a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Jamjoum said, “if the Jewish people found a little uninhabited island somewhere, I’m sure that the Palestinians would be very happy for them.”

Issam Al Yamani (2007 speaker) – An admitted former member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of

Palestine (PFLP), Al Yamani is currently fighting deportation from Canada. PFLP is an outlawed terrorist group in Canada.

Gabi Piterberg (2007 speaker) – A University of California, Los Angeles History professor, he alleged that during the 1948 war for Israel’s independence,

People were removed from their homes, massacred, raped and lost their property on the basis of ethnic belonging...because they were Palestinian Arabs.

**While the administration
refuses to take
any action against
Israel Apartheid Week,
it removed
from the campus copies
of the Dutch cartoons
critical of Islam**

Jamal Zahalka, MK (2007 speaker) – An Arab-Israeli member of the Knesset who holds a PhD degree from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Zahalka hypocritically claimed that to call Israel a democracy is “abuse of the tongue” and that the Israeli education system is “forced on Arabs.” He said that Israel is a racist state, compared the Israeli government to Hitler and the treatment of Arabs by Israel to the treatment of Jews by the Nazis. He calls for a bi-national state – a euphemism for the dissolution of the State of Israel.

The Impact

Unfortunately, the IAW may have a serious and transformative long-term

effect on the University of Toronto. It creates an atmosphere on campus that is hostile to Jewish students and to students that have affinity for the Jewish people or Israel.

The IAW at the U of T has also been used as a platform to spread anti-Semitism outside of the university system. Last year’s event included a “Day of Action” to initiate a boycott of Chapters/Indigo, a book retailer owned and operated by prominent Jewish philanthropists with ties to Israel. The stated justification for such a boycott is to force Chapters/Indigo to “publicly announce that they will cut all financial ties to Heseg – the Foundation for Lone Soldiers” in the Israeli military.

Moreover, the IAW organizers boast their association with an array of international boycott, divestment and sanctions movements against Israel. In 2006, this collective movement succeeded in convincing CUPE, the largest public sector union in Ontario, to unanimously pass a resolution expressing its support for the global campaign against “apartheid Israel,” for its participation in the international campaign of boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel, and for its support of the “right of return of Palestinian refugees.” The CUPE resolution was followed two days later by a boycott of Israeli academics and academic institutions by British university teachers.

Over several years, student groups, faculty groups, the Canadian Coalition for Democracies and B’nai Brith have expressed concern over the U of T’s hosting of IAW and have asked the administration to cancel it. One Jewish student organization has filed formal grievances about IAW with the university.

In 2007, 70 Jewish and non-Jewish professors signed a letter addressed to Dr. David Naylor, the

university president, respectfully requesting that the event be stopped. The president has refused to do so. Following this year's IAW in February, 125 U of T professors placed a one-page ad in the *National Post* stating the following:

We, the undersigned faculty members of the University of Toronto, oppose the hosting of the Israel Apartheid Week at our Institution, and request that the administration stop this hateful and divisive event from returning to our University in future years.

The university responded to students' requests (as described below) but has so far failed to respond to a letter by 70 professors or the professors' ad – except for saying that this is a free speech issue.

The Administration's Position

As the Toronto police department felt that the IAW did not reach the level of a hate crime, the administration felt that it should be allowed to proceed on campus based on free speech concerns.

This approach does not appear to be consistent with university policy as applied in other contexts. The university has a code of conduct rejecting any form of racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, etc. According to the university Code of Student Conduct,

No person shall engage in a course of vexatious conduct that is directed at one or more specific individuals, and that is based on the race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, sexual orientation ... and that is known to be unwelcome, and that exceeds the bounds of freedom of expression or academic freedom as these are



Photo by Zuma Press

University of Toronto president Dr. David Naylor has spoken out against racism and discrimination, but has refused to take a stand against Israel Apartheid Week

understood in University policies [sic] and accepted practices, including but not restricted to, those explicitly adopted.

President Naylor, in his March 23, 2006 address to the Governing Council, stated: "Racism and discrimination on the basis of religion or ethno-cultural identity were unacceptable on the University's three campuses." Indeed, the anti-racism office of the university removed copies of the Danish cartoons offensive to Muslims that had been posted around the campus.

Why is IAW protected by freedom of speech, whereas the cartoons are not? In response to a formal complaint from students about the IAW, a university administrator stated that

because the comments of speakers at the events were not directed at identifiable persons (i.e., identifiable by name), I do not believe that the Student Code of Conduct could apply since the activities could not be described

as "vexatious conduct directed at one or more specific individuals."

It is difficult to imagine how the same argument does not apply to the cartoons in question. Clearly a double standard is at play.

While the administration insists that it does not endorse IAW, by allowing this despicable and anti-Semitic event to take place on campus, the university legitimizes its message and goals. ☒

Drs. Sean Egan, Daniela Rotin, Sergio Grinstein and Eldad Zacksenhaus

Movie Reivew: *Unsettled*

Continued from page 21

to a multitude of people with a multitude of opinions, all engaged in free and open debate.

Three years after the disengagement, it is clear that Israel was not torn in two. That situation, however, was perfectly conceivable. The massive efforts, however, invested by both sides to ensure that the social bridges in Israel remain intact created an atmosphere in which Israelis on both sides of that conflict continued to coexist.

Unsettled brought this Israeli reviewer back to the wild emotions of the summer of 2005, when it was difficult to decide who was "right" and who was "wrong." The documentary embodies the unsettling struggle which took place inside many Israelis who found themselves on both sides of the same argument. ☒

Noam Blum

Check out www.camera.org for the latest media updates!

Congressman to Chancellor: 'Your Duty to Condemn'

Continued from page 5

Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Such manifestations of anti-Semitism could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to: *Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to*

that of the Nazis. [Emphasis supplied] (Contemporary Global Anti-Semitism Report, Released by the Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, U.S. Department of State, March 2008)

The titles of some of the lectures at the event – “Death to Apartheid: A Farewell to Zionism” and “Silence is Consent: Stop the Palestinian Holocaust” – are also disturbing. And, the guests invited to give these lectures have a record of making anti-Semitic statements. As is observable on YouTube, one of the lecturers, Amir Abdel Malik Ali, stated in a speech at UCI in May 2006, “The truth of the matter is: [Israel’s] days are numbered. *We will fight you until we are either martyred or until we are*

victorious.” It should be of concern that a speech given at UCI calls for “martyrdom” – the euphemism for suicide bombing.

Having myself grown up near UCI and even taken a course there, I recognize that it is an excellent educational institution with a history of intelligent, vigorous debate. While I strongly support the First Amendment rights of individuals to speak freely and without impediment at your campus, I hope that you share my belief that we all have a moral responsibility to denounce speech that is clearly and unam-

biguously hateful in nature. As an American, you have a right to speak out. As Chancellor, it is your duty to condemn anti-Semitism, especially when it occurs at the UCI campus. If you share that believe, I would ask that you publicly denounce the hate speech discussed above. **C**

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Dry Bones ARTIST AT WORK . . .



DryBonesBlog.com

Lonely Planet, Guide to Bias

Continued from page 12

Unfounded Claims

In addition to frequent editorializing, the guide is also marred by numerous unsubstantiated and outright false claims. Following are several examples:

In the decade following the Oslo Peace Accords of 1993, which included a pledge to freeze land claims and settlement building, the settler population more than doubled as construction continued.

The Oslo accords of 1993 included no Israeli pledge to freeze land claims and settlement building.

The writers proceed to make a series of false allegations about a supposed Israeli plan to annex more Palestinian owned lands:

The West Bank's largest and, in ways, most contentious Jewish settlement, Ma'ale Adumim, sprawls atop the hills outside of Jerusalem. A glance at its magnitude and permanence make it obvious why a final two-state solution with this as Palestine is so complex – especially with Israel's plans to annex the colony. In so doing, Israel will radically re-draw the boundaries of Jerusalem to include this confiscated Palestinian land, stretching its de facto Jerusalem jurisdiction deep into the West Bank. Some say the plan is to extend "Greater Jerusalem" to the Jordan River.

Can the editors document their claim that Israel plans to include Ma'ale Adumim within Jerusalem's boundaries? Or their wild assertion that Israel's plan "is to extend 'Greater Jerusalem' to the Jordan River"? The writers incorrectly

describe Ma'ale Adumim as a "colony" (an alien community established in foreign territory by an imperial power), and falsely claim that it is "confiscated Palestinian land." As reported by the Associated Press and *International Herald Tribune* in March 2007, only 0.5 percent of Ma'ale Adumim is built on private Palestinian land. The rest – more than 99 percent – was owned by the Ottoman state and emir long before the establishment of Israel and is not privately owned Palestinian land.

The guide also levels unsubstantiated allegations at the Israel Defense Forces:

Despite its military prowess, the Israel Defense Force (IDF) is one of the least disciplined armies in the Western world... When military campaigns start to go badly, the soldiers bluntly tell reporters what a lousy job their commander-in-chief did in preparing for war and how their commanding officers really didn't understand about how to fight their enemy.

The IDF is certainly less formal than most armies, but notably, the guide did not include any examples or documentation to substantiate its claim that the Israeli troops are among "the least disciplined armies in the Western world," or that soldiers freely criticize their commanders to the press.

Some of the guide's most wildly unfounded claims appear in a section titled "Walls not tumbling." This section frequently compares the West Bank security barrier to the Berlin Wall, despite the obvious differences – the Berlin Wall was constructed by the East Berlin government to keep its population trapped *in*, while Israel built its barrier to keep *out* Palestinian terrorists.

In addition, the section cites a

number of one-sided "facts" about the barrier, some of very dubious veracity. They include: "Location – 80% within Palestinian territory," (in fact, much is located on *disputed* territory whose status is to be resolved in negotiations); "Area of historic Palestine for 2.3 million Palestinians to live in – 12%" (in actuality, in 1922 the British severed Mandate Palestine, allotting 80 percent of it to Transjordan, now Jordan, and barring Jewish immigration there. Today, the large majority of Jordan's population is Palestinian); and "Palestinian civilian deaths related to wall construction – 553 as of 2005." Extensive research did not turn up any evidence to substantiate this bizarre claim.

Tellingly, "Walls not tumbling" ignored statistics about the number of terrorists stopped by the barrier, the reduction in terrorism thanks to the wall, and the number of Israelis killed in terror attacks. The section ends with an endorsement for www.stophewall.org, the self-described "grassroots Palestinian anti-apartheid wall campaign."

Another section that emphasizes the anti-Israeli outlook of the guide is entitled "Conversation starters: Religion and politics – Yes" and suggests conversation starters when in the West Bank. These conversation starters include: "Respectfully learn if a person has been in Israeli prisons or 'administrative detention,'" as well as "ask adult refugees if their homes still exist and if they can enter Israel to see them." Significantly, it does not suggest that readers query West Bankers about participation in violent anti-Israel activity, about their opinion of the genocidal hate indoctrination endemic to their society, or their involvement in war crimes, such as using ambulances to smuggle terrorists or weapons.

Taking Their Word for It

Throughout the guide, the writers recommend various outside sources of information such as movies, books, and Web sites. There is a section on “predeparture reading,” and the page margins are full of various anti-Israel sources. In addition to citing fringe Israeli scholars Benny Morris and Yeshayahu Leibowitz, the authors recommend rabidly anti-Israeli sources, such as Muhammad Bakri’s discredited propaganda film *Jenin Jenin*, and books such as *Drinking at the Sea at Gaza* by Amira Haas (who is also guilty of repeating the “Jewish-only roads” lie on the pages of *Ha’aretz*) and Richard Ben Cramer’s *How Israel Lost*.

Ben Cramer’s book asserts, among its many lies, that Palestinian violence against Jews began “only after the Jewish state stepped up its program of settlements, expropriations, assassinations” post-

1967, failing to mention the Arab pogroms of 1920, 1921, 1929, and 1936-1939, as well as the terrorist raids in the 1950s launched by Palestinian groups based in Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon.

The guide suggests fringe anti-Israel Web sites such as alternativenews.org and electronicintifada.net. It also recommends volunteering at the Israeli Committee Against House Demolition, which routinely describes Israel as “apartheid,” actively promotes academic boycotts against Israel and advocates a “one-state” solution, meaning the dismantling of the Jewish state. Another suggested volunteer option is the rabidly anti-Israel International Solidarity Movement (ISM), whose activities have included disrupting IDF counter-terrorism operations by, for example, serving as “human shields” in the homes of suicide bombers as well as in the Church of

Yahoo! Answers Deletes Anti-Semitic Diatribe

Continued from page 4

to the Web site, include termination of a user’s Answers account or Yahoo! ID.

Visitors can flag questions or answers that violate Yahoo! guidelines by clicking on a Report Abuse icon. But the offensive posting was not removed even after a number of users clicked the link to notify Yahoo! of the anti-Semitic page.

Twice in April 2008, after it became apparent that flagging the question and answer as inappropriate had no real effect, CAMERA phoned Yahoo! and reported the abuse to representatives of the company. Nothing happened. Twice, CAMERA sent an email to Yahoo!’s abuse department pointing out the viola-

tion, asking why the posting wasn’t removed even after it was flagged. The emails were unanswered, and the anti-Semitic Q&A were kept online.

Finally, on May 29, CAMERA prominently highlighted the issue on its own Web site, quickly informing thousands of readers that Yahoo! was complicit in spreading hate. Within days, visitors to the offending Web page could see only the following information: “This question has been deleted.”

Where Yahoo!’s own reporting mechanisms didn’t work, the spotlight of public exposure, and the embarrassment that comes with it, did. And until Yahoo! can be counted on to respond to individuals’ complaints about its Web pages, that’s a good thing.

Still, other bigoted questions and answers remain on the Answers site,



Photo by AFP

An ISM activist interferes with the building of Israel’s security barrier near Jenin

Nativity during a 2002 stand-off involving Palestinian terrorists.

Unless your plans to visit Israel include a stint with the ISM or a like-minded group, you are better off picking up a copy of *Frommer’s Guide to Israel*, or the equally good *Fodor’s Guide to Israel*. Both manage to provide a bevy of useful information about the country without catering to pro-Palestinian activists. ☐

Noam Blum

publicized under the respected Yahoo! logo. One published answer refers to the Jews as “egotistical,” having an “overbearing persecution complex,” and being indifferent to the killing of non-Jews. Another comment (disguised as a question) asserts: “Time to move again. Black people have ruined my peace and quiet in the apartment complex?” To which someone replied: “Black people are just loud. ... It’s like they didn’t have any grasp on respecting other’s personal space.” Another question describes Mexicans as “slobs and lazy.” And so on.

Will Yahoo! makes necessary changes to ensure that hate speech flagged by the community will be quickly taken offline, or will it leave itself open to more well-deserved bad publicity? ☐

Gilead Ini

Silver Lining on Gaza's Population Density

We often read about the Gaza Strip's high population density, including false reports (including in *Haaretz*) that it is the most densely populated place in the world.

But here's something we haven't seen before: Gaza's high population density is partly the result of better health care introduced by Israel.

Ha'aretz's Amir Oren reports:

"As uncomfortable as it is to admit, the data suggests that the Israeli occupation did well by Gaza. Life expectancy in the Strip has risen from 48 years in 1967 to over 72 years now, higher than the life expectancy in Egypt, which was not very kind to Gaza when the Strip was subject to its military rule. According to a study conducted by Daniel Nadav of the Defense Ministry, the introduction of Israel's health-care system into Gaza, the adoption of local hospitals by Israeli medical centers, and the transfer of Palestinian patients to hospitals in Israel resulted in a sharp and immediate drop in the mortality rate. This positive development had negative consequences – a growing population density caused by a high rate of natural increase, and diseases that are more common in societies that have changed their consumption habits and aged (in 1967 only one in 70 people in Gaza was elderly)."

– Posted by TS on May 19, 2008



Photo by Abid Karib/Getty

Arab States Not Fulfilling Pledges to the Palestinians



Photo by KRTABACA

Ever since the Oslo accords were signed 15 years ago, Arab states, especially those infused with petrodollars, have routinely promised large sums of aid to the Palestinians but delivered only a fraction of the amount pledged. A *Washington Post* [article](#) by Glen Kessler discusses this phenomenon.

In reality, the sources of the vast majority of financial aid to the Palestinians are the Western nations – the EU and the United States. At a time when Arab oil-producing states are flushed with money, it is curious how little discussion there is on this anomaly of the West providing the bulk of the aid to the Palestinians while their Arab brethren provide empty promises. Meanwhile Egypt makes sure that the economy in Gaza continues to flounder by keeping its borders tightly closed.

An even more interesting analysis would be to evaluate how Arab fulfillment of pledges correlates with periods of Palestinian cooperation with Western peace initiatives versus periods of increased terrorism.

– Posted by SS on July 29, 2008

Click on blog.camera.org today!

LA Times Corrects: Not a Wall After All

The *Los Angeles Times* yesterday corrected a falsehood that appeared in a July 7 article by Ashraf Khalil: "West Bank barrier: An article in Monday's Section A about divisions between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem said a 'massive concrete barrier' separates Israel from much of the West Bank. The barrier is a series of walls, trenches and fences and is not all concrete."

The paper has failed to correct, though, a July 3 news brief about the planned prisoner swap between Israel and Hezbollah. The brief falsely stated that "All the Lebanese prisoners to be freed by Israel are alive." [In fact](#), remains of nearly 200 Lebanese and other Arabs will be turned over to Lebanon, as CAMERA pointed out to the *LA Times*.

The paper did not print a correction, though it did have a news brief and photo [July 8](#) about Israel's efforts to dig up the Lebanese remains in the days before the exchange. Nevertheless, the printing of correct information does not abrogate the need to correct an earlier false report. Write to Readers Representative Jamie Gold at Readers.Rep@latimes.com.

– Posted by TS on July 15, 2008



'I gained so much knowledge'

CAMERA's trip to Israel for students is not your standard Israel trip. Just ask any of the 33 talented students from across North America who spent 10 days with CAMERA this summer. "Perhaps the greatest part of the trip was the students. CAMERA did a great job selecting bright students with extremely high levels of dedication to and knowledge of Israel," reflected participant Ben Alter of Yale University, "The speakers could thus skip over the basics. . . . Conversations during group events and after were always engaging, and in many senses we learned as much from each other as we did from the speakers."

As for the speakers, Alterman raved about "Mark Regev, spokesman for the prime minister, and Khaled Abu Toameh, *Jerusalem Post* correspondent, [who] showed how in an open and free society like Israel, any sort of criticisms can be easily magnified, especially in comparison to oppressive and silenced societies such as those of the Arab world."

Another participant, Adrienne Potter Yoe, of Mount Holyoke College, was particularly moved by a stop not normally made during student trips – a visit to Hadassah Hospital where "we got to see how developed and human



Israel's health care system is. The experience at Hadassah made me teary, seeing a little boy from Gaza in the same room as Orthodox Jews. Where else in the Middle East does this happen?"

The diverse group of trip participants hailed from across the United States, from large and small universities. The students were selected based on their participation in the CAMERA Fellows program or on their Israel-related journalism.



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