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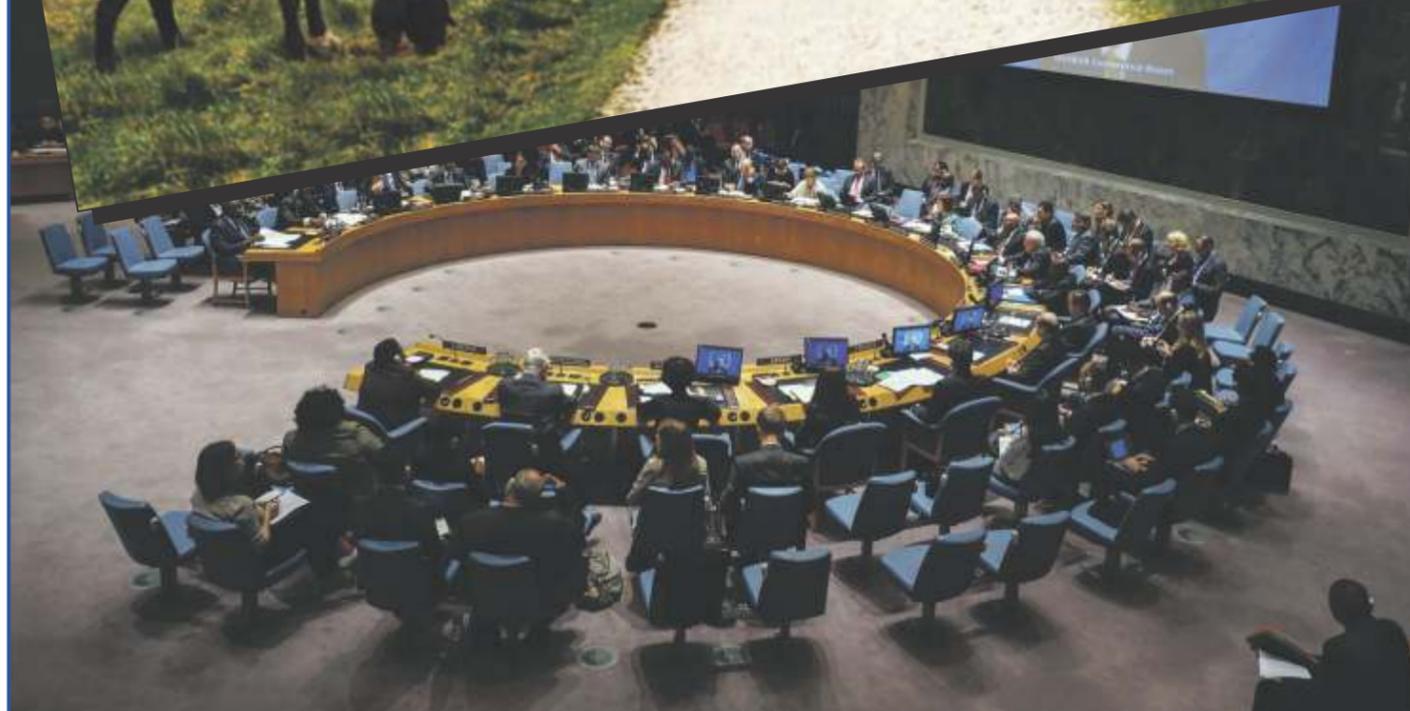
Jewish Voices



11



12



Highlights

Ambassador Prozor - The Question of Palestine Debate	2
"Je suis juif"	3
Bethlehem Pastor: There are Palestinians Who Love Israel	4
GPC News	5
PM Netanyahu Addresses the Foreign Press in Israel	6
Sharansky to 'Post': 50,000 French Jews Inquired About Aliyah in 2014	11



Ambassador Prozor - The Question of Palestine Debate *(abridged)*

Speech given to the United Nations, December 2014

By Isi Leibler - Ambassador Prozor, to my mind, is the best Ambassador Israel has had at the United Nations. It is regrettable that his term is coming to a close.

Mr. President, I stand before the world as a proud representative of the State of Israel and the Jewish people. I stand tall before you knowing that truth and morality are on my side. And yet, I stand here knowing that today in this Assembly, truth will be turned on its head and morality cast aside. The fact of the matter is that when members of the international community speak about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a fog descends to cloud all logic and moral clarity. The result isn't realpolitik, its surrealpolitik.

The world's unrelenting focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an injustice to tens of millions of victims of tyranny and terrorism in the Middle East. As we speak, Yazidis, Bahai, Kurds, Christians and Muslims are being executed and expelled by radical extremists at a rate of 1,000 people per month.

How many resolutions did you pass last week to address this crisis? And how many special sessions did you call for? The answer is zero. What does this say about international concern for human life? Not much, but it speaks volumes about the hypocrisy of the international community.

I stand before you to speak the truth. Of the 300 million Arabs in the Middle East and North Africa, less than half a percent are truly free – and they are all citizens of Israel. Israeli Arabs are some of the most educated Arabs in the world. They are our leading physicians and surgeons, they are elected to our parliament, and they serve as judges on our Supreme Court. Millions of men and women in the Middle East would welcome these opportunities and freedoms.

Nonetheless, nation after nation, will stand at this podium today and criticize Israel – the small island of democracy in a region plagued by tyranny and oppression.

Mr. President, our conflict has never been about the establishment of a Palestinian state. It has always been about the existence of the Jewish state.

Sixty seven years ago this week, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations voted to partition the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state. Simple. The Jews said yes. The Arabs said no. But they didn't just say no. Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon launched a war of annihilation against our newborn state.

This is the historical truth that the Arabs are trying to distort. The Arabs' historic mistake continues to be felt – in lives lost in war, lives lost to terrorism, and lives scarred by the Arab's narrow political interests.

According to the United Nations, about 700,000 Palestinians were displaced in the war initiated by the Arabs themselves. At the same time, some 850,000 Jews were forced to flee from Arab countries.

Why is it, that 67 years later, the displacement of the Jews has been

completely forgotten by this institution while the displacement of the Palestinians is the subject of an annual debate? The difference is that Israel did its utmost to integrate the Jewish refugees into society. The Arabs did just the opposite. The worst oppression of the Palestinian people takes place in Arab nations. In most of the Arab world, Palestinians are denied citizenship and are aggressively discriminated against. They are barred from owning land and prevented from entering certain professions.

And yet none – not one – of these crimes are mentioned in the resolutions before you. If you were truly concerned about the plight of the Palestinian people there would be one, just one, resolution to address the thousands of Palestinians killed in Syria. And if you were so truly concerned about the Palestinians there would be at least one resolution to denounce the treatment of Palestinians in Lebanese refugee camps.

But there isn't. The reason is that today's debate is not about speaking for peace or speaking for the Palestinian people – it is about speaking against Israel. It is nothing but a hate and bashing festival against Israel.

Mr. President, the European nations claim to stand for Libert ,  galit , Fraternit  – freedom, equality, and brotherhood – but nothing could be farther from the truth. I often hear European leaders proclaim that Israel has the right to exist in secure borders. That's very nice. But I have to say – it makes about as much sense as me standing here and proclaiming Sweden's right to exist in secure borders.

When it comes to matters of security, Israel learned the hard way that we cannot rely on others – certainly not Europe. In 1973, on Yom Kippur – the holiest day on the Jewish calendar – the surrounding Arab nations launched an attack against Israel. In the hours before the war began, Golda Meir, our Prime Minister then, made the difficult decision not to launch a preemptive strike. The Israeli Government understood that if we launched a preemptive strike, we would lose the support of the international community.

As the Arab armies advanced on every front, the situation in Israel grew dire. Our casualty count was growing and we were running dangerously low on weapons and ammunition. In this, our hour of need, President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, agreed to send Galaxy planes loaded with tanks and ammunition to resupply our troops. The only problem was that the Galaxy planes needed to refuel on route to Israel.

The Arab States were closing in and our very existence was threatened – and yet, Europe was not even willing to let the planes refuel. The U.S. stepped in once again and negotiated that the planes be allowed to refuel in the Azores.

The government and people of Israel will never forget that when our very existence was at stake, only one country

came to our aid – the United States of America. Israel is tired of hollow promises from European leaders. The Jewish people have a long memory. We will never ever forget that you

failed us in the 1940s. You failed us in 1973. And you are failing us again today.

Every European parliament that voted to prematurely and unilaterally recognize a Palestinian state is giving the Palestinians exactly what they want – statehood without peace. By handing them a state on a silver platter, you are rewarding unilateral actions and taking away any incentive for the Palestinians to negotiate or compromise or renounce violence. You are sending the message that the Palestinian Authority can sit in a government with terrorists and incite violence against Israel without paying any price. The first E.U. member to officially recognize a Palestinian state was Sweden.

Mr. President, the State of Israel is the land of our forefathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is the land where Moses led the Jewish people, where David built his palace, where Solomon built the Jewish Temple, and where Isaiah saw a vision of eternal peace. For thousands of years, Jews have lived continuously in the land of Israel. We endured through the rise and fall of the Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman Empires. And we endured through thousands of years of persecution, expulsions and crusades. The bond between the Jewish people and the Jewish land is unbreakable.

Nothing can change one simple truth – Israel is our home and Jerusalem is our eternal capital. At the same time, we recognize that Jerusalem has special meaning for other faiths. Under Israeli sovereignty, all people – and I will repeat that, all people – regardless of religion and nationality can visit the city's holy sites. And we intend to keep it this way. The only ones trying to change the status quo on the Temple Mount are Palestinian leaders.

President Abbas is telling his people that Jews are contaminating the Temple Mount. He has called for days of rage and urged Palestinians to prevent Jews from visiting the Temple Mount using (quote) "all means" necessary. These words are as irresponsible as they are unacceptable.

Mr. President, as we came into the United Nations, we passed the flags of all 193 member States. If you take the time to count, you will discover that there are 15



Lev Radin/Shutterstock.com

flags with a crescent and 25 flags with a cross. And then there is one flag with a Jewish Star of David. Amidst all the nations of the world there is one state – just one small nation state for the Jewish people.

And for some people, that is one too many. As I stand before you today I am reminded of all the years when Jewish people paid for the world's ignorance and indifference in blood. Those days are no more. We will never apologize for being a free and independent people in our sovereign state. And we will never apologize for defending ourselves.

To the nations that continue to allow prejudice to prevail over truth, I say "J'accuse." I accuse you of hypocrisy. I accuse you of duplicity. I accuse you of lending legitimacy to those who seek to destroy our State. I accuse you of speaking about Israel's right of self-defense in theory, but denying it in practice. And I accuse you of demanding concessions from Israel, but asking nothing of the Palestinians. In the face of these offenses, the verdict is clear. You are not for peace and you are not for the Palestinian people. You are simply against Israel.

Members of the international community have a choice to make. You can recognize Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, or permit the Palestinian leadership to deny our history without consequence. You can publically proclaim that the so-called "claim of return" is a non-starter, or you can allow this claim to remain the major obstacle to any peace agreement.

You can work to end Palestinian incitement, or stand by as hatred and extremism take root for generations to come. You can prematurely recognize a Palestinian state, or you can encourage the Palestinian Authority to break its pact with Hamas and return to direct negotiations.

The choice is yours. You can continue to steer the Palestinians off course or pave the way to real and lasting peace.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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“Je suis juif”

By Andrew Tucker, International Editor & Executive Director, Christians for Israel International

The past two months (December 2014 and January 2015) have witnessed a number of very different yet significant events affecting Israel and the Jewish people. All of them should deeply concern Christians, as each in some way threatens the freedom Jews and Christians currently enjoy in Western society.

In late December, after months of speculation, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) initiated a UN Security Council resolution intended to force Israel to leave the “Occupied Palestinian Territories” (East Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria). Drafted by France and sponsored by Jordan, the resolution was defeated – thanks to rejection of the proposal by USA and Australia, and a last-minute decision by Nigeria to abstain. The PLO promptly responded to this defeat by seeking formal accession to the International Criminal Court, whereby they intend to have Israeli leaders who sought to defend their citizens in Operation Protective Edge prosecuted for war crimes.

The ultimate goal of the PLO is clear – by means of international diplomacy, to delegitimise Israel as a national home for the Jewish people. The Palestinian Charter to this day states that the object of the PLO is to liberate all of Palestine from the Zionists – meaning the whole of the territories west of the River Jordan - ie. all of Israel plus the “occupied territories”. Adoption of the resolution would have effectively resulted in further measures to force the eviction of Jews from the Old

City of Jerusalem and many other places in Judea and Samaria holy to the nation of Israel. It would also have meant a further step in the creation of (yet) another Islamic state in the region – in which neither Christians nor Jews (or any other infidels) will be welcome.

The ensuing weeks of January 2015 saw a wave of attacks by Islamic extremists in Europe, starting with the tragic attack in Paris on Charlie Hebdo, in which 12 people were killed, and the siege of a Kosher supermarket resulting in the murder of four Jewish people, including the youngest son of the Chief Rabbi of Tunisia. These were followed by further incidents in France and Belgium. Across Europe, authorities are on red-alert for more incidents involving European born-and-bred jihadist warriors returning to Europe from the killing fields of Syria and other parts of the Middle East. Jewish synagogues and schools are under heavy surveillance. The attack on the Jewish supermarket was no accident. Radical Islam will accept neither infidels nor those who blaspheme the Prophet.

Finally, 27th January marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, ushering in our remembrance of the final months of World War II in Europe. That event marks the victory of freedom over tyranny and oppression – achieved at the cost of millions of lives of young men and women from nations across the globe. The survivors of the death camps - the remnant of the Jewish people that had almost been extinguished - rose from the ashes, and

within only three years the Jewish State of Israel was established in May 1948. Today Israel is the only real democracy in a region dominated by tyranny and oppression. The liberation of Auschwitz stands as a memorial to the freedoms we enjoy today in Western societies.

Each of these events in a different way reflects an attack on the freedom to worship the God of the Jewish people. One senses that Europe is being shaken – spiritually, physically and morally.

Western society has lost its internal compass, it no longer knows why it exists or what it stands for. After the January attacks in Paris the streets and media were full of people shouting “liberté, fraternité, égalité”, and “Je suis Charlie”. Apparently this is the new religion in Europe, the one uniting force. The right to create hate-filled cartoons is apparently more valuable than the right to live as a God-fearing Jew in Europe. No wonder so many Jews of France are considering leaving France.

In the hours following the horrific attacks in Paris there was barely a word about the four Jews who were killed not for what they did, but for who they were. That is not to justify the murder of the Charlie Hebdo journalists. But there is something fundamentally wrong when people can be killed in broad daylight simply because of their identity, without a public outcry. The Paris massacre follows many fatal attacks on Jews in France and Belgium in recent months.

In Luke 11 Jesus tells a story about a house that is cleansed, only to be filled



with seven worse spirits. “Every kingdom that is divided against itself is brought to desolation; and a house divided against a house falls”. He could very well have been talking about Europe at the beginning of the 21st century. Is it possible that, having cleansed ourselves of the Jews, our spiritual house has become filled with unclean spirits?

Many Jews in Europe are frightened. They face a difficult dilemma – to emigrate to Israel, or remain as citizens in the countries in which they have made their homes. In all likelihood we will see a new wave of aliyah from Europe in the coming months. That may well be a great blessing to Israel, but it will be a tragedy for Europe. French Prime Minister Manuel Valls is reported to have stated that “without the Jews, France is no longer France”. He is dead right. In fact Europe without its Jews will not be the same any more.

But it may be too late to turn the tide. The door of the house has been open for too long, the unclean spirits have made their home here.

Translation: Je suis juif - I am Jewish.

The Church and the Holocaust. Time to Turn a New Page?

By Kees de Vreugd (M. Div), Christians for Israel Theologian

Over time, the church has been mainly a church from the gentiles. She has for the most part forsaken or forgotten her Jewish roots. By her ‘teaching of contempt’ of the Jewish people, the church has contributed to anti-Semitism.

January 27 was designated as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Seventy years after the Shoah¹, some hard questions could be asked: 1. Should the church time and again be reminded of her role regarding the Holocaust? 2. Has the church done enough to confess her guilt and to repent? 3. What steps should the church take to go further? Of course, these questions will lead to a certain conclusion. But I think that we should also keep them as questions, without being satisfied too early by an answer. Maybe it’s still even too early to have an answer in the first place.

1. The Church and Holocaust

Every church and denomination, whether Catholic, or Protestant, or Evangelical, that wants to be serious about her relation to Israel and the Jewish people, has to confront herself with this burdened past. Moreover, every church, no matter what denomination, should be seriously concerned with her relation to Israel. For as Christians from the gentiles, we are engrafted into the noble olive tree and now share with the Jews in the nourishing sap from the olive root (Romans 11). Christians today may not be personally responsible for what in the past happened to the Jews in the name of Christ. But we have a

responsibility to re-think the theology of the past that at least has contributed to the circumstances in which persecution of the Jews, culminating in the Shoah, could take place. Besides, the average Jew still associates Christianity and Jesus with Inquisition and Catholic Church.

If we want to be faithful to the name of Christ, then we have to get rid of the burden of the past, not by denying our responsibility, but by being fully aware of this burden. Our responsibility is then to create a new theology – I mean, to start reading the Bible again from the beginning as God’s word for our time, to get a new understanding of God’s ways with Israel. This is necessary to clear away the rubble, to remove the stones (Isaiah 40).

Why now? Because in the resurrection of Israel from the ashes of the Holocaust we witness a turning point in history. The restoration of the nation of Israel has literally caused a reorientation. The world is turning its attention to Jerusalem, for better or for worse. The question is: where does the church stand on this issue?

The church (again: no matter what denomination) stands for the immense task of reorienting its theology towards Jerusalem! Only the first shaky steps have been set on this path. We need the awareness of the past as warning signs not to leave the path and to go astray in the minefield of replacement theology and anti-Judaism. So we need to be reminded of the role the church played regarding the Holocaust.

Sure, many Christians have risked their own lives to save Jews from persecution. Sure, there are stories of bishops in Medieval Germany, who opened their churches for Jews to protect them against raging mobs. But this is no excuse to minimize the anti-Semitism which has pervaded Christian theology from a very early stage on, which fostered the Inquisition and the pogroms, and which at least reinforced a climate of Jew-hatred in modern Christian Europe.

2. Guilt and Penitence

Has the church done enough? Has any church ever unequivocally confessed guilt about Christian anti-Semitism? There have been initiatives here and there to come to a confession of guilt. There have been ecclesiastical documents acknowledging the church’s responsibility for a climate in which anti-Semitism could rise. But I am not aware of any broadly carried confession.

Is there a need to? When the church would confess her guilt to the Jews, a Jew would probably say something like: “Thank you, I am deeply moved. But I cannot forgive on behalf of all those millions of victims. And for the rest, the best thing the church can do now is to leave us in peace.” That is something I have often heard. I understand it and we have to accept it. On the other hand, the Jews have a right to our honesty. They want to see that the church comes to terms with her history.

This is the way of penitence, or teshuva in Hebrew. It is a sometimes painful self-examination, in order to return from ‘any offensive way in me’ to the ‘way everlasting’ (Psalm 139:24). From arrogance to fear and love (Romans 11:20). That is a process in which the church has taken only a first hesitating step. And many Christians haven’t even moved a foot!

3. What the Church Should Do

First of all, as I mentioned before, history urges us to seek a new biblical understanding of God’s way with Israel. God has not forsaken Israel. He remains faithful to His people and to His word. That means also that Israel remains His primary instrument in bringing redemption to the world. In other words, for the church it is impossible not to be faithful to Israel.

What then? Preach the gospel to the Jews? Or criticize the state of Israel that it does not resemble enough the people of God? For too long the church has dictated her word to Israel. Today, the church should live the love of Christ and share it, probably more in deeds than by words. And all of a sudden she will discover that this love comes from the heart of Israel (John 4:22). The church shares in that love! ‘Love is patient, love is kind. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres’ (1 Corinthians 13). That should be the attitude of the Church.

¹Shoah means catastrophe in Hebrew.

Bethlehem Pastor: There Are Palestinians Who Love Israel

Extract courtesy of *Israel Today*



PROFILE IN COURAGE: A Palestinian Christian leader goes against the grain

Naim Khoury, director of Holy Land Missions and pastor of First Baptist Church in Bethlehem, has a long history of boldly going against the grain and telling it like it is.

Israel Today's Ryan Jones sat with Dr. Khoury to discuss the situation in Bethlehem, growing Christian opposition to Israel, and how believers abroad can better relate to the conflict.

Israel Today: What is the situation for Christians in Bethlehem today?

Naim Khoury: Every year it gets harder and harder. This is for several reasons. The bad economy, which hurts everyone, but especially the Christians, drives many to emigrate. So many Christians are leaving Bethlehem and this hurts the whole community.

Many also leave because of the political situation, which gets worse all the time, both within and from outside. Inside [the Palestinian Authority] the political [apparatus] is not functioning; it is not helping its own people.

From the outside, the Israelis want to keep their borders safe to prevent attacks by suicide bombers.

And during this difficult time there has been no support from the 'Mother Church.' The [worldwide] Church has not stood with the Christians of Bethlehem in their need.

Many in the international Church would say they are standing with the Christians of Bethlehem by opposing Israel.

When you try to blame Israel for everything, it doesn't work. This is not the way to plant the seed of peace. This is not how Christians should act.

Christians need to plant the seed of peace and love and harmony in the hearts and minds of the people. Let's change the mentality.

The bi-annual Christ at the Checkpoint conference hosted by Bethlehem Bible College has taken a different tack.

They are free to think and say what they want. I do not participate in that [conference] and I am against it because [the premise] is not biblical.

They are wolves in sheep's clothing who are playing politics. And for me, as an Evangelical Bible-believing Christian standing with the whole Word of God, I don't believe that I should be involved politically. The Bible, the whole Bible, meaning the Old Testament and the New Testament, is the real answer to our situation. Those at Christ at the Checkpoint go up to the checkpoint and rally against Israel, but that's not the way to deal with the situation. We need to change the subject. There is no need to say 'Christ at the Checkpoint.' That's politics. That's not biblical.

The message of Christ at the Checkpoint is that Christian Zionists are the ones playing politics in opposition to the Word of God.

Every Christian from abroad that I met [that supports Israel] builds their position regarding Israel upon the Word and covenants of God. The other side builds its position on Replacement theology [which teaches that the Church has replaced Israel].

A few years ago, I did a study and discovered that most of the Palestinian Christians and churches are basing their positions on Replacement theology. And this is because they are involving themselves in politics. I don't see those who are standing with Israel biblically as being political.

Still, many argue that Christians too blindly support Israel.

Israel is not perfect. No nation is. But that does not mean I should deny the basic tenets of my faith concerning the Word of God.

Are you saying, as a Palestinian Christian leader, that you see a connection between the Bible and the modern State of Israel?

Oh yes. Biblically, there is no doubt about it. I have to accept it because you cannot accept part of the Bible and deny the rest. I believe in the whole Bible as the infallible, inspired Word of God.

And this is my answer to those who don't accept the State of Israel or who use Replacement theology to say the Church has replaced Israel. They need to read the Bible. Romans 9, 10 and 11 say that God has not finished with Israel. The covenant and the promises are still relevant. And that's biblical, it's not politics.

Nativity Scene: Palestinian nationalism has taken Jesus out of Christmas celebrations at Manger Square in Bethlehem, which is home to the Church of the Nativity



Yasser Arafat used to declare every Christmas that Jesus was a Palestinian. Has this message sunk in with young Palestinian Christians?

You can't believe that Jesus was a Palestinian for the simple reason that historically it would be impossible. Ever since the Palestinian Authority arrived in Bethlehem and this region, Christmas has become a national day, instead of a religious holiday. Today in Bethlehem [during the holiday season] you see Santa Claus and the snowmen, but you hear nothing about Jesus.

But the young people don't really know or care. They are excited to be on holiday, but I haven't seen any who truly understand what is being done. They put Jesus in a kaffiyeh [Palestinian headdress] as a symbolic gesture, but they don't really understand what they are doing.

Do you fear the persecution faced by Christians in Syria and Iraq could reach the Christians of the Holy Land?

Until now, I have not seen this as a threat for one primary reason, and that is the existence of the State of Israel. The safest place for Christians to be is here because Israel is not going to allow ISIS or any terror group to kill and murder Christians in this land. A recent poll showed 77 percent of local Arabs prefer Israeli rule to living in a Palestinian state. Maybe even more. Some are still afraid to say that. Let's face it, [Israeli Arabs] enjoy so many privileges and benefits under Israel that you cannot get under the Palestinian Authority. So, it's logical for these people to want to remain under Israel.

Do you think the creation of a Palestinian state would make things better for the Arabs in this land?

I really don't know because the Palestinians themselves don't have a [domestic] agenda. If there was an independent state, what would its agenda

be, what would it do for the people? Since the Palestinian Authority came here in 1995, we haven't seen much done for the sake of the people. There is no clear plan.

Is there hope for this conflict?

I don't believe so. At least not at the present time. Who knows what will happen in the future.

What more could Israel do to lessen the burden of Palestinian Christians in the meantime?

They have started giving more permits for people to work in Israel. But not everybody is able to get these permits. I wish all Christians could just freely come into Israel, even without permits. As a Christian leader, I don't see any harm in allowing this. In general, the Christians have not caused harm to Israel.

What would you say to Christians abroad who are taking sides in this conflict?

You cannot love the Jews and hate the Arabs. And, you cannot love the Arabs and hate the Jews. Yeshua [Jesus] died for both people, and He loves both people. May God open your eyes and hearts to the fact that there are Palestinian Arabs who love Jesus and love Israel, and they are taking a stand and paying a price to preach the Word of God in this land. Please, don't be half-blind. Open your eyes and see the need on both sides.

Publisher: In March 2013, a New Zealand group of Christians for Israel visited Pastor Khoury's church in Bethlehem.

He told of the many attempts by Muslims to destroy his church. It was a privilege to pray for this courageous man of God.

Christians for Israel has been supporting First Baptist Bethlehem church for several years.



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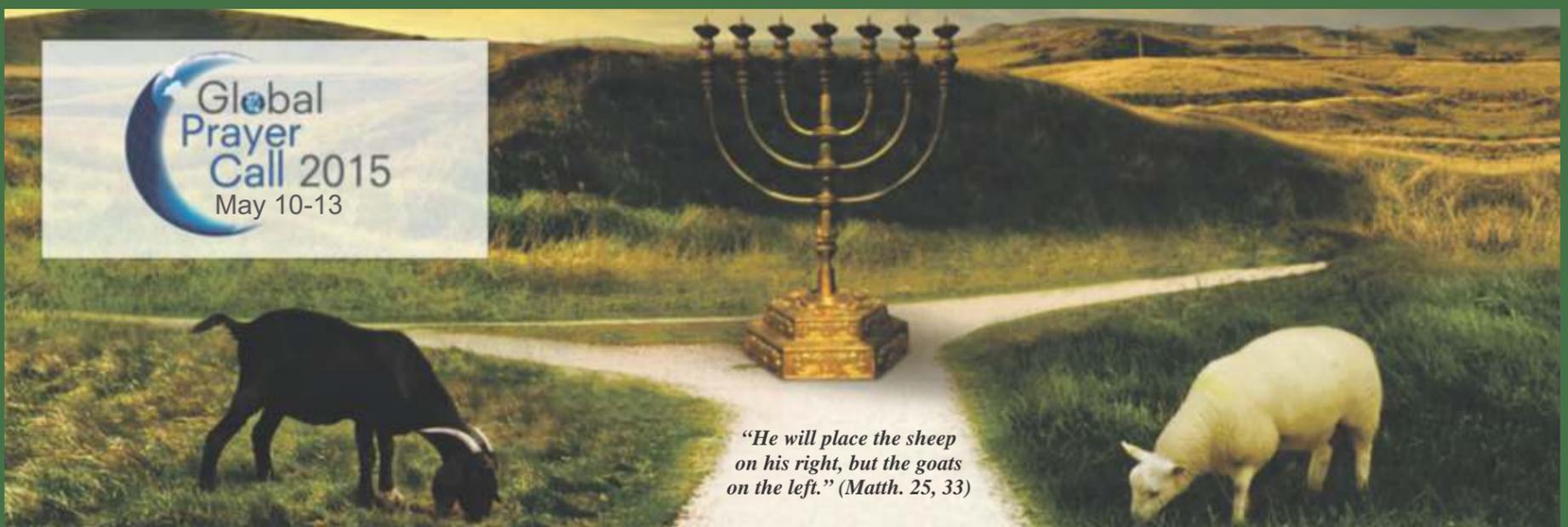


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Ora et labora - Pray and Act - NOW!

By Harald Eckert, Chairman Christians for Israel International



Global Prayer Call Study Tour

10 - 18 May 2015



I would like to inform you about the **GPC International Study Tour** which takes place from **10-18 May 2015**. Christians for Israel International is organising this tour in partnership with Keshet Educational Journeys. The tour includes the GPC Conference in Jerusalem (www.100-days.eu). Rev. Conrado Lumahan (C4I Philippines) and Jos van Westing (C4I International) will lead the tour. You'll experience the land of Israel and its many cultural sites and Biblical places, as well as teachings by Rev. Willem Glashouwer (President C4I International) and Harald Eckert (Chairman C4I International). You'll meet the people of Israel, discover the miracle of modern Israel and learn more about God's unique purposes with Israel, the church and the nations!

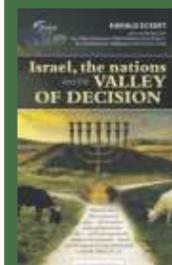
You're also welcome to join the **ECI Educational Tour** after the conference, **13-17 May 2015**, of our partner, the European Coalition for Israel. This tour will enable you to approach the major geopolitical issues facing Israel today by going on site, by meeting with specialists of the Middle-East and listening to media, and government leaders who will offer a first hand perspective on the main challenges for Israel. You'll then go to the Gaza border, pass the security fence at Bethlehem, visit disputed territories and Palestinian cities, learn about the relevance of the Temple Mount in the Arab-Israeli conflict and visit the Knesset.

For all the information about these tours and for registration for the GPC Conference and/or tours visit: <http://bookings.www.travel/gpc2015>

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Report on GPC Conference in Krakow - 70 Years after the Liberation of Auschwitz Concentration Camp

Up to 300 participants from over 20 different nations from four continents gathered January 25-29 in Krakow, Poland to commemorate the Holocaust and to launch 100 Days of Prayer.

Under the leadership of Harald Eckert (Germany) and Henryk Wieja (Poland), the first half of the conference was focused on the German and European history of Christian anti-Semitism in Europe. It covered the indifference of the European nations in the face of growing Nazi persecution in the 1930s and the culmination of both under Nazi leadership in the Holocaust. Most of the conference participants then made a first-time visit to the Auschwitz

concentration camp – a deeply moving and challenging experience. Christians for Israel International President Willem Glashouwer's message on the "Kingdom of God" and the "Holy Remnant in the End Times" contributed powerfully to the starting point of those three days.

The second full day of the conference was highlighted by intensive worship and the launching of the 100 Days of Prayer! This launch happened with the meaningful spiritual support of messianic



brothers like Benjamin Berger, who we met in Auschwitz. We were also able to connect with another Christian prayer conference of mostly German intercessors for the afternoon. On the evening of

January 27, European Coalition for Israel and the Jewish Community of Krakow jointly invited everyone to a concert of commemoration which was attended by Holocaust survivors, members of the diplomatic service,

representatives of the churches and the Mayor of Krakow. A deeply moving evening!

On the third and final day of the conference, International Christian leaders George Annadorai (Singapore), Chuck Pierce (USA), Rick Ridings (Jerusalem), Tomas Sandell (Brussels), Henryk Wieja (Poland) and Harald Eckert (Germany) provided a collective perspective for the 100 Days of Prayer and Fasting leading up to the Global Prayer Conference in Jerusalem.

We believe it will be a global prayer movement as we pray for Israel, for the nations and for the church on the basis of Genesis 12:3 "Those nations who bless Israel, will be blessed and those nations who curse Israel, will be cursed."



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In addition to our previous prayer points (see www.100-days.eu), please pray:

- For the Lord to continue expanding Global Prayer Conference grassroots network in more nations;
 - for national coordinators;
 - for translation of grassroots material into many languages;
 - for translation of material on the Global Prayer Conference website into many languages.
- For the Global Prayer Conference, May 10-13, 2015 in Jerusalem:
 - for the Lord to bring intercessors from many nations;
 - for EU visas for participants who require this;
 - for a "Daniel" anointing to humble ourselves before the Lord, asking forgiveness for ourselves, our leaders and our nations on account of our sins against the Jewish people and Israel, appealing to the Lord's grace and forgiveness for His Holy Name's sake (*Daniel chapter 9*).
- For the Lord to continue pouring the Spirit of grace and supplication on the Body of Christ in all nations to come before Him during the 100 days of Global Prayer Conference.
- For the Lord to continue providing the finances needed for the GPC.

PM Netanyahu Addresses the Foreign Press in Israel

Sourced from www.pmo.gov.il, 17 December 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen, recently we witnessed a series of examples of European naivety, and may I add, hypocrisy: the decision of the European court in Luxembourg on Hamas, the resolution of the EU Parliament in Brussels on Palestinian statehood, and the call from Switzerland to investigate Israel for supposed violations of the Geneva Convention. Now all these point in the same direction.

They point to a spirit of appeasement in Europe of the very forces that threaten Europe itself. Too many in Europe are calling on Israel to make concessions that would endanger not only the security of Israel, but also paradoxically, the security of Europe itself because Israel is the forward position of European civilization. Israel is the bulwark of European values. Israel is a pluralist, vibrant multi-party democracy.

In Israel there is equality before the law. The rights of all are vigorously protected - of minorities, of women, of gays, of everyone. Only in Israel. In Israel there is a true separation of powers. Our judiciary is fiercely independent and we're proud of this.

And you as journalists know something that applies to your profession: In a very, very large expanse, Israel is the only country in the Middle East and beyond with a truly free press. No one is incarcerated. No one is pressed. No one is harassed. You could write what you want. You do. You can say what you want. You do. And you can just about photograph anything you want and you do that too. Only in Israel, and it stands in sharp contrast to what we see in the region around us, in the horrors that afflict human beings there, in the horrors that afflict journalists who cover these savageries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Israel is an embattled democracy in a region plagued by totalitarianism, tyranny and Islamist terrorism; a region where human rights are trampled upon; where basic human freedoms are ignored; where arbitrary violence is par-for-the-course. Israel is forced to defend itself against terrorists who time and again try to target our civilians. This summer they fired thousands of rockets on our cities and while they were doing this, these terrorists committed a double war crime. They deliberately targeted our civilians. That's a war crime. And they used their civilians as human shields. That's a second war crime.

Yet the focus in Geneva today was that Israel must be investigated for war crimes. What hypocrisy. What a travesty. I ask, where is elementary European integrity?

Now I know that some in Europe say that they are frustrated with the situation in the Middle East. Well let me tell you a secret. We in Israel are frustrated with the

situation in the Middle East. We are frustrated that our Palestinian neighbors refuse to recognize the right of the Jewish people to a state of their own at the time that they're asking for us to recognize their right to have one. We're frustrated that our Palestinian neighbors continue to incite against Jews and the Jewish state, creating a climate of hatred and violence. We're frustrated that they refuse to negotiate seriously about our legitimate security concerns. And I think all of you know that in this part of the world, there can be no genuine peace without security for peace will not last if it cannot be defended.

The simple truth is that half of Palestinian society has been taken over by Islamist extremists who openly call for Israel's destruction, while the other half refuses to confront the first half. So when Europeans say that they are frustrated, we say, "Join the club". And I don't believe that frustration can be an excuse for wrong policy.

Removing the terrorist designation of Hamas is a grave mistake. Hamas is a ruthless terrorist organization with a proven track record of brutal terror attacks against innocent civilians - by the way, not only Israelis: hundreds, hundreds and hundreds of Palestinians who have been murdered by them. Just this year, Hamas kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teenagers. It launched thousands of rocket attacks indiscriminately at our children, at our civilians. And it celebrated just recently the murder of innocent worshippers massacred at a Jerusalem synagogue, and called upon its followers to commit more such terrorist atrocities.

Some erroneously believe that Hamas terror is a function of a failed peace process. Well, I will remind all of you that in the heyday of Oslo, when leaders across the globe were excited about the new momentum in the peace process, hundreds of Israelis were the victims of one of Hamas's most brutal terror campaigns. Now, it was said then that Hamas uses terror to destroy the peace, and it is said now that Hamas uses terror because there is no peace.

Well, the truth is that Hamas uses terrorism against Israel because it's a terrorist organization committed to Israel's destruction.

It's as simple as that. That's the nature of this organization and that's its fundamental goal. Now if anyone had any illusions about that, you could hear one of the leaders of Hamas this weekend, Mahmoud al-Zahar. *He reminded us that Hamas's goal isn't to rule over Gaza or to rule over Judea/Samaria in the West Bank. He said it clearly: Hamas's goal is the total and complete annihilation of Israel and the murder of Israel's citizens.*

Justice Minister Tzipi Livni, with whom he had clashed over the budget, negotiations with the Palestinians and other matters.

The Prime Minister decided to disband his 20 month-old coalition as Israel struggles with slowing economy and escalating Palestinian violence after the collapse of US backed peace talks.

Well, do the self-proclaimed Palestinian moderates confront Hamas and the other Islamist extremists? Unfortunately, they often seem to be trying to compete with them over who can use the most inflammatory language and who can summon wells of anti-Jewish sentiment and anti-Israel sentiment.

It was President Abbas himself who spoke seriously, slanderously of a Jewish threat to the Muslim holy sites. There is no such threat. We keep the status quo rigorously. That's not going to change. We guard the holy sites of all the religions. That's not going to change. And by the way, again, in the broad Middle East, we're the only ones who do so - for Jews, for Christians, for Muslims. In fact, the only place where Christian communities are not persecuted, where Christian communities have not shrunk - they've actually grown four-fold since the founding of the State of Israel - is Israel. It's the only place.

So to speak about our "attack" on the holy sites is not merely a lie, it's just wrong. It's wrong because it creates the wrong impression among Palestinian youngsters, among Palestinians at large and it produces these waves of attacks from people who seriously believe that we would destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque.

There was recently a poll taken in Palestinian society. About 90% believe this, 85% believe that Israel seeks to achieve such a goal so this rhetoric has consequences. It forces a change in people's minds and it forces radical and violent behavior. It has to stop. It was Abbas who actually called the Palestinians to use "all means" to fight this fabricated threat; and it was Abbas who accused the Jews of "contaminating" - that was his word - "contaminating" the Temple Mount.

Now, the question I raise for you tonight is; where is Europe in all of this? Does it hold the Palestinian leadership accountable for its coddling of extremism? Does it demand that the Palestinian Authority break its signed pact with Hamas? Does Europe call for an end to outrageous official Palestinian incitement against Jews and the Jewish state?

The sad truth is that Europe is largely silent on these questions and when it raises



its voice, it's typically in the other direction. In fact, the European Parliament and some parliaments of EU member states have been calling for the recognition of a Palestinian state.

And I ask you, why should the Palestinian leadership demonstrate responsible behavior? Why should the Palestinian leadership jettison its maximalist and extreme positions? Why should it abandon its call to flood Israel with millions of Palestinians? Why should the PA do any of this if its extremist and irresponsible behavior is rewarded time and again by European parliaments? Let there be no mistake: parliamentary recognitions do nothing to advance peace. Quite the contrary. These declarations merely reinforce Palestinian intransigence, pushing peace further away.

And the point that I came here tonight to make, this is the point I close with: There is a simple truth that cannot be ignored. Peace will only come when the Palestinians are willing to confront their own extremists. Instead of embracing the militants, the PA should fight them. And instead of rewarding Palestinian intransigence, the European democracies should support the one and only democracy in the Middle East and that, ladies and gentlemen, is the State of Israel.

Thank you.

Israel Sets March 17 Election as Polls Favour Netanyahu

Israel will elect a new parliament on March 17, 2015. It is considered that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will win a fourth term and be able to form a new government. Parliament Speaker Yuli Edeistien announced the election date after meeting with party leaders.

Netanyahu set the election in motion by firing Finance Minister Tyair Lapid and

Coalition partners had been at odds from the very beginning, with conflicting views on issues ranging from peacemaking to housing. With nine years in office over three non-consecutive terms, Netanyahu has served longer than any leader except Israel's first premier, David Ben-Gurion.

A poll of 500 Israelis showed Likud winning 22 seats in the 120-member

Knesset, a slight rise from its current tally, while Yesh Atid dropped to nine from 19, and Hatenuah to four from six.

Jewish Home, a coalition partner that opposes a Palestinian state, would rise to 17 seats from 12, helping Netanyahu to forge a more hardline majority. The poll had a margin of error of 4.5 percentage points.

Is Iran Already Cheating on a Nuclear Deal?

By William H. Tobey, Senior Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs



Just before Labor Day weekend, the State and Treasury Departments sanctioned several individuals and organizations “providing support to illicit Iranian nuclear activities.” Due to the holiday, or perhaps because a few days later the Islamic State murdered an American journalist, the announcement attracted sparse attention. But, it should have been big news.

Some of the actions cited in the notice seem within what the Obama administration tolerates during ongoing negotiations, even if they violate UN Security Council Resolutions. These include illicit procurements for centrifuge enrichment and the heavy water reactor under construction at Arak. The administration recently detailed Iran’s ongoing illicit procurements in a report to a UN panel.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani boasted this summer, “Of course we bypass the sanctions, and we take pride in it.”

Indeed, no one seems particularly concerned about ongoing violations of UN sanctions. After all, in July 2006, the Security Council demanded that Iran suspend all uranium enrichment-related activities, but eight years later, more than 9,000 centrifuges are still spinning at Natanz and Fordow.

One item in the August sanctions announcement, however, stood out as even more serious. It alleges work by “a Tehran-based entity that is primarily responsible for

research in the field of nuclear weapons development.” The Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND) answers to Brigadier General Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps. According to the State Department, General Fakhrizadeh led such “efforts in the late 1990s or early 2000s.” Noting that he was sanctioned by UN Security Council Resolution 1747 (2007), the Department concludes that, “SPND took over some of the activities related to Iran’s undeclared nuclear program that had previously been carried out by Iran’s Physics Research Center [and other entities].”

So the State Department is sanctioning an organization created in 2011 and referring to its illicit actions pursuing nuclear weapons in the present tense, charging that the work is ongoing. Sanctions announcements are not casually written on the backs of cocktail napkins. They are pored over by lawyers, policy makers, and intelligence officers for legal reasons and to protect intelligence sources and methods. They mean what they say.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is also after General Fakhrizadeh. He is cited four times in its November 2011 report on the “possible military dimensions” of Iran’s nuclear program, which states, “The Agency is concerned because some of the activities undertaken after 2003 would be highly relevant to a nuclear weapon program.” To date, General Fakhrizadeh has refused the IAEA’s repeated invitations to speak with them.

Last month, a new report added to the evidence. The paper, “Examining 10 Warning Signs of Iran Nuclear Weapons Development,” largely tracks the IAEA’s conclusions and supplements them with information gathered independently within Iran. It describes a hidden Iranian weapons program, sheathed within civil nuclear work, drawing on a common base of people, procurement mechanisms, and technical organizations.

The report’s most sensational charge is that General Fakhrizadeh recently split his organization in two, relocating half of it in an attempt to elude inspectors and evade sanctions.

If the newest allegations prove to be true, they will be devastating to the negotiations. Because of their seriousness and the origin of the information (an affiliate of a group seeking to overthrow the government in Tehran, which former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton removed from the US designated terrorist list in 2012), the report will be controversial. Its contents, nonetheless, deserve careful examination. The group has been the source of important disclosures in the past, including the original August 2002 revelation of nuclear activities at Natanz and Arak. For years, the IAEA has patiently worked to uncover Iran’s clandestine nuclear weapons efforts. The analytically rigorous agency calls these the “possible military dimensions” of the Iranian nuclear program. This anodyne term describes 12 sets of activities, most of which can only be explained as efforts to build nuclear

weapons, including: military leadership of the program; clandestine nuclear material acquisition; work on “nuclear components for an explosive device”; “detonator development”; “hydrodynamic experiments” which test nuclear weapons designs; “integration into a missile delivery vehicle”; and work on a “fusing, arming, and firing system.”

Peaceful programs to produce energy or medical isotopes have no use for such work. Tehran denies the agency’s charges, but refuses to provide the information necessary to resolve them.

Some argue that these matters are of the distant past, or that we cannot expect Tehran to admit its illegal work, having denied it for so long. But these problems are not past. There are strong signs that nuclear weapons work continues. Understanding them is crucial to verifying and enforcing a new agreement. If we do not insist on answers before a comprehensive agreement is concluded, we will never get them.

Secretary of State John Kerry and his team should use the new deadline for a deal to charge the IAEA to get to the bottom of the “possible military dimensions,” and the work cited in the August sanctions as a precondition to concluding any comprehensive agreement. If Tehran refuses, it will stand as stark evidence that Iran has no intention to honor its word. A negotiated end to Iran’s nuclear weapons ambitions is by far a better outcome than the alternatives, but only if Iran abides by it. To protect the future, we must understand the past.

Palestinians Accelerate “Lawfare” Against Israel

By Andrew Tucker, International Editor & Executive Director, Christians for Israel International

As most people around the world celebrated the New Year in the hope that 2015 would be a year of peace, a new wave of “lawfare” was launched in New York against the Jewish state of Israel.

On December 29, 2014, a draft resolution calling for finalization of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations was defeated in the UN Security Council. The resolution had been drafted by the Palestinian leadership in close cooperation with France, and was sponsored by Jordan. If adopted, it would have effectively recognized “Palestine” as an independent state, and laid down certain parameters for resolution of the conflict, such as the division of Jerusalem as the capital of both states. As such it would have enabled the PLO to by-pass many of its obligations to negotiate with Israel pursuant to the Oslo agreements. Those agreements are still in force.

The USA and Australia voted against this resolution, their main reason being that “Palestine” is not yet a state. Five UN Security Member states abstained. One of those was Nigeria, which decided to abstain at the last minute. This was enough to ensure that the US did not have to exercise its power to veto the resolution.

Rejection of the resolution was a huge blow for the Palestinians, who had been lobbying hard for several months to make sure it was adopted.

President Abbas immediately responded by signing a number of international treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Palestinian accession to the Rome Statute is a potential “game-changer” in their campaign to use international law and institutions to achieve the creation of the

state of “Palestine”, and to delegitimize and ultimately cause the dismantling of the Jewish state of Israel.

Accession to the Rome statute basically means that Israelis can potentially be charged and tried for war crimes by the International Criminal Court. It also opens the door for Palestinian leaders to be charged with war crimes.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (the official depository of the Rome Statute and many other international treaties) announced that the Palestinians would become a member of the ICC as of 1st April 2015, and that the ICC’s jurisdiction would apply to crimes committed on “occupied Palestinian territory” as from 13th June 2014. That means the Prosecutor could charge Israeli and Palestinian leaders with war crimes committed during the last Operation Protective Edge in the summer of 2014. As Israel is not a party to the Rome Statute, the ICC has no jurisdiction over actions on Israeli territory.

The ICC welcomed the Palestinian accession, and the ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, immediately opened a “preliminary examination of the situation in Palestine”.

Palestine is Not Yet a State

Only “States” can accede to the Rome Statute. The UN Secretary-General, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, and the ICC Prosecutor all accepted that Palestine is a “State”. This had always been the stumbling block for the Palestinians - the ICC Prosecutor has refused earlier Palestinian requests to

intervene on the ground that Palestine was not yet a State. The ICC Prosecutor now argues that UN General Assembly Resolution 67/19 adopted on 29th November 2012 in which “Palestine” was granted UN Observer State status was effective to grant Palestine statehood.

This is disturbing, to say the least. UNGA Resolution 67/19 could not and did not affect the status of Palestine. United Nations organs do not have the authority or power to recognize or create “states” that do not otherwise exist under international law.

Under international law, States exist only when they satisfy certain criteria. Those criteria include the requirement that the people claiming statehood have an effective government that is capable of governing the whole of the claimed territories effectively and independently. That is simply not the case in the West Bank and Gaza.

Under the Oslo agreements, the West Bank has been divided into three kinds of areas (A, B and C), and power is being gradually transferred to the PLO, subject to negotiation of final status issues such as borders, the status of Jerusalem and settlements. The regime established under the Oslo agreements is “that of a Palestinian autonomy under the supreme authority of the Israeli military government.” Israel has complete control over Area C, and in Areas A and B of the West Bank Israel retains responsibility for essential matters such as external security and external relations. Notwithstanding the transfer of extensive powers in Areas A and B, Israel still retains “reversionary” powers. Further, Palestinian power and authority have been carefully

(and intentionally) fragmented between the PLO and the Palestinian Authority (PA). The PLO retains power and claims ultimate authority as “sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people”, while the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority is extremely limited. Finally, the PLO does not have control over the Gaza Strip, where Hamas has assumed power since 2007.

ICC Procedures

Palestinian accession to the ICC is only the first step. The Palestinians will have to overcome many legal and diplomatic loops before Israelis (not Israel, as the ICC only deals with individuals) could be brought to trial in The Hague. First, the Prosecutor needs to decide that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation. The ICC is a court of “last resort” – it has no jurisdiction over crimes committed by Israelis in “Palestinian territories” if Israel itself takes appropriate and reasonable proceedings in relation to those crimes. Israel has already ordered 13 investigations into the Gaza war.

Next, the Palestinians would need to file an official complaint, and the ICC Prosecutor then has to decide whether to order a preliminary examination, and after that a full criminal investigation. Finally, the ICC Prosecutor – not Palestine – needs to decide whether or not to indict.

All in all, there are many steps that would need to be taken before Israeli – or Palestinian – leaders were brought to trial by the ICC.

Andrew Tucker is an international lawyer. He is Executive Director of Christians for Israel International, and Legal Counsel to the European Coalition for Israel.

God's Truth on Israel, the Church and Replacement Theology

By Rev. Hon. Graeme Lee, Publisher & National Leader, Christians for Israel NZ



The principal issue of this paper is to identify and explain Replacement theology thereby endeavouring to encourage Christians to realise the shortcomings of Replacement theology.

However before that is addressed, it is important to know what Christian people think about Israel in general; how people perceive Israel in terms of its political and cultural decisions and why so many evangelical Christians believe Replacement theology is correct!

What Do People Say About Israel?

I believe many earnest Christians would like to know more about Israel and the Jewish people, but it sounds too complicated and controversial to do anything about it. It is easier to find sanctuary in the fact that as a born again believer you are a member of the family of God, destined for heaven, and your whole purpose in life now is to love and serve Jesus. Any distraction from this must be wrong! Many pastors avoid ministering on Israel. Church life is so full that 'fringe matters' like Israel is not possible or desirable.

Jewish people by and large are not born again believers. I understand approximately 50% of Israel's population are secular and the remainder divided into orthodox, ultra-orthodox and other derivatives. If there is only one way to God and that is to receive Christ as Saviour and there is no other way then why are we asked to accept that the Jews are God's chosen people?

Add to this thought, the constant controversy about Israel as a nation. The whole world seems to be against Israel. This nation approximately a quarter of the size of New Zealand is almost more in the news than any other nation. Why is this? Is God allowing this? Is He punishing Israel now for historic wrongs? What about Arab Christians? How do they relate to Jews? Don't we overlook these people?

Many Christians still stumble over the dreadful never-ending terrorist warfare between Israel, the Palestinians and Hamas. You can also add Hezbollah and now the ISIS state. Add to this the surrounding nations of Israel which are all Muslim and want to see Israel annihilated. Who is right?

What is the place called the 'West Bank' that features so prominently in the world news? Some say the West Bank should be given to the Muslim Palestinians and Israel be forced to live with a two state arrangement. Can that work when the Muslim bottom line is that the Jews have no right to be a nation at all? What about the continuous building and battle over new settlements by Israel in the West Bank. The claim is that the new building works are provocative and unnecessary.

What is the Answer to these Questions?

When you visit Israel you quickly realise that matters are not always straight forward and require a lot more than shallow consideration and comments.

We shouldn't be too surprised. When Jesus addressed His disciples on the Mount of Olives before His death on the cross He spoke of these end times and said firstly beware of deception. Deception is certainly everywhere today and it is one of the devil's arch plans to deflect Christians from knowing and fully understanding what is happening.

We have witnessed in 2014 the 50 Day conflict between Israel and Hamas. After continuous rocket attacks surely Israel had every right to protect its people. I believe God intervened in "Operation Protective Edge" and exposed some very horrendous plans. One was the intention of the Hamas terrorists to emerge from their twenty plus attack tunnels which had been secretly dug well into Israeli territory. The designated day was September 24th, the national holiday of Rosh Hashanah. The Gazan militants intended to murder as many Israeli people as they could on this day and take hostages. I understand that the target was approximately 10,000 people. This fact should cause Christians alone to ask more questions about what they read in the paper.

The response around the world to this now exposed and depraved plan and the continuing rocket attack was not unexpected! Instead of commending Israel for its attempt to preclude the killing of civilians etc., it is once again attacked by the world media. Any support and sympathy was only for the Gazan terrorists.

What about the West Bank? Without a doubt there are many complicated matters. But when you understand that the Palestinian population is 4.6 million and the Israeli settlers only 360,000 there is obviously a lot of deception and distortion of matters by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The West Bank covers the biblical areas of Judea and Samaria. This is true biblical heartland and has been so for three thousand years for the Jews.

The Palestinians have no interest in becoming Israeli Arabs. However it should be noted that Israel has right now 1.6 million Arab citizens.

Indeed those Israeli Arabs are represented both in the Knesset (Parliament) and in the Judiciary. The two state solution however is never going to happen. It cannot happen when the Palestinian Muslims want only one state and that is a state without any Jews at all.

The controversial new settlements should be explained. There is an arrangement by both parties that areas not otherwise occupied may be 'settled.' Regrettably Christians do not always understand matters and the radicals want only to use the issue as a basis for anti-Semitism and the inflaming of people who don't want to know the truth.

If Christian pastors are not including Israel in their sermons and this appears to be increasing then the congregation must challenge them to do so. What is most important however is to go beyond the

constant dialogue of boundaries, strategies and confrontation and seek the truth of God.

So What is God's Truth?

Our reference point is not our own understanding of matters but what the Word of God says. Paul asked this question a long time ago in Romans Chapter 3 – "Do the Jews still matter to God?" The answer he gives is straightforward and positive "Much in every way." Again Paul asks – "Did the Jews stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?" *Romans 11:11*. The answer again is the same – "Not at all." In the same Chapter verse 17 Paul makes the relationship even clearer and says that the Jews are the olive tree and the gentiles are the wild olive shoots that have been grafted in. Paul warns that the branches do not support the root, rather the root supports the branches.

Let us remember at this point that Jesus was a Jew. Yes, He is the Son of God to the whole world but He came into the Jewish race and the tribe of Judah. His ancestors were Jewish. He was raised in the Jewish traditions. He worshipped as a Jew! His disciples were Jewish. Some say that since His death and glorification everything is different. There can only be one church. Again His wonderful salvation is to everybody who will call upon the Name of the Lord from whatever race or creed. But isn't it amazing that in the book of Revelation Chapter 3 the Saviour is spoken of as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

Now we know that the Jews did not receive Jesus as Messiah when he walked on this earth. It is much the same today. However, God has never stopped fulfilling His plans and purposes for this unique nation. The most obvious example in our day is the restoration of the Jews from all over the world to their homeland of Israel. It is called 'Aliyah' in Hebrew and is a modern day miracle. Tens of thousands of new immigrants are arriving in Israel every year.

A Personal Testimony

I had the privilege to visit Israel when I was a teenager in 1954! Most readers will know that this was only 6 years after the Declaration of the Rebirth of Israel on May 14, 1948 by PM David Ben-Gurion! I was not a Christian at that time and had no real knowledge or understanding of Israel. My Dad however, was and he probably thought it would be good for his son to be in the land and that is so.

One of the first places we visited was Bethany. It became the place where I first encountered the Lord. The area surrounding Lazarus' tomb was almost devoid of buildings. But in the sand lying flat was a sign, broken and neglected which read "I am the resurrection and the life" - as found in John 11:25. I was very upset at the neglect of such a wonderful truth and with the knowledge of what the Son of God had done that I cried uncontrollably. I made a decision for Christ that day.

I would never have known how that encounter would shape my spiritual life in terms of understanding God's plans and purposes for the Jewish people.

This is why I am very determined to confront the error of Replacement

theology! I really believe it is a mandate the Holy Spirit has given to me to stand up and speak out about this Devilish plan. So let us examine the super-cessionist theology controversy.

Replacement Theology - So What is it?

This is the teaching which has plagued the church since its earliest day. It is endemic in the Christian church today. It is also called super-cessionist theology. In plain terms it means that God has replaced Israel with the Church. That also means that the Abrahamic covenant has been annulled and the promises and the purposes of God are now transferred solely to the Church.

This unscriptural doctrine of a finished Israel and of a replaced church is not only opposed to the teaching of the Word of God but is in fact encouraging directly and indirectly, anti-Semitism!

Replacement theology teaches that the Promised Land is not the boundaries identified by the covenant but it always envisaged something much bigger – like the whole world! In other words the covenant wasn't what God said, it always meant something else. It therefore can be said that the existence of the modern state of Israel is not the fulfilment of the covenant.

I mentioned that this teaching commenced in early days of the church. Indeed after the first century the church began to be dominated by the Gentiles and subtle changes were made to elevate the place of the Church. So for nearly 2000 years Replacement theology has been the fertile soil from which anti-Semitism has grown.

Liberal Christians don't have a reason to address this error and many evangelical Christians choose by default or ignorance to side step it! It is of great concern that some of our major bible institutions have been openly supportive of Replacement theology and engaged lecturers and invited speakers that hold these views.

The group who are most vocal, adamant and dangerous are those who say Jews killed Christ and because of that God has wiped all His association with the Jews and made a new covenant with the Church. It is not surprising that the devil is using every tactic he can to hide and distort the fundamental truths.

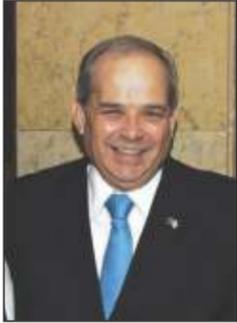
Supporters also contend that the New Testament supports Replacement theology. For instance Galatians 3:29 – the church they say is the heir to the promises of Abraham. But this Messianic promise to the Gentiles does not exclude the Jewish people or change the original covenants.

They also quote Matthew 21:43 – The Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to people who will produce its fruit. Who was Jesus speaking to in this passage? It was to the Pharisees and the religious hierarchy of the day who had failed. Another is Ephesians 2:11-18. This is about the relationship between the Jews and the Gentiles who have been brought near by the Blood of Christ. There is no possible replacement distortion in this passage. This erroneous interpretation is based on Israel as only a spiritual entity.

Continued on page 9...

A Chain Over Sea and Time: Anzac and the Zionist Enterprise

By New Zealand Israeli Ambassador Yosef Livne



2015 is not just another New Year. In different parts of the Globe, the coming year will also usher in the memories of highly significant events in the history of many nations and peoples. One such

event is the centennial commemoration of the battle in Gallipoli. That battle was certainly a life changing chapter in the lives of Australians and New Zealanders, as well as others. Besides this event 2015 will also see the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and the victory over Nazi Germany in World War 2.

For us Israelis, these events cannot go unnoticed. Any which way we may look at them, both World Wars are intertwined with the story of our rebirth as a sovereign state. Whereas the memory of the Holocaust is well known, relatively little is known of the Zionist involvement in the different facets of W.W. 1. As we approach the New Year, I thought it appropriate to shed some light on the role played by our founding fathers back in the time of the Great War as well as

some of the encounters between our two peoples in WW2.

The Zion Mule Corps was established in Alexandria, Egypt in April 1915. Its founders were two young Zionist activists, Zeev Jabotinsky who always dreamt of forming a Jewish unit that would join the allies and would advance the cause of Jewish statehood, and Joseph Trumpeldor, a heroic figure in the Russian Army. Even though the idea of forming a fighting unit did not prosper, a transport regiment, based on mules, was formed and was sworn on 1 April as the Zion Mule Corps. Lt. Colonel John H. Patterson, a pro-Zionist officer was appointed as its commanding officer and Trumpeldor was appointed as adjutant with the rank of captain. The regiment was shipped to Gallipoli on the 16 April, half landed in the southern part of the peninsula and the other half was attached to the ANZAC troops on the Western side. That must have been the first time New Zealanders, Australians and Hebrew men in uniform came into contact.

Two years later, The Hebrew population of the Holy Land came to know the Kiwis and Australians as they fought to defeat the Ottoman army.

Two decades later the world was

engulfed in a new global conflict. Once again our men in uniform found themselves together in different circumstances- from the sands of North Africa to the battle over Greece. Soldiers of the Auxiliary Pioneers stood together with New Zealanders and Australians, building fortifications in the Western Desert as well as in Greece. Both Palestinian Jewish, Kiwi and Australian soldiers were taken prisoners and spent captivity in the same camp. Those who died in captivity found eternal rest side by side in the same cemetery. Kiwi Rail workers participated in laying down railroads in British Mandated Palestine and got a firsthand look at the early Kibbutzim.

It is known that troops from New Zealand visited Tel Aviv and Kfar Vitkin, a village some 30 km to the north which became a convalescent center for New Zealand troops. When the orders to move the 2nd division back into Egypt, a Hebrew transport unit was among those who participated in the operation. As the war progressed, troops from New Zealand and the Jewish Fighting Brigade were shipped together from Egypt to Italy on the same ship. These are but a sample and yet the conclusion is one. Though geographically distant from each other, our paths crossed in



times of challenge and established the first rings in the chain across the oceans and time.

God's Truth on Israel, the Church and Replacement Theology

Continued from page 8

To fully understand the impact of Replacement theology, we need to study the generations and centuries of activities against the Jews. Incredibly in the name of God, Satan plans to always thwart the plan of God. It became very visible during the time of the Roman Empire. Emperor Constantine did some good but primarily institutionalized Roman paganism. The slaughter of Jewish lives followed. The Papal leadership organized Crusaders over several centuries who butchered both Muslims and Jews! The Spanish Inquisition again was a terrible 'church' based denunciation of the Jews. Many other horror events in history culminated in the Holocaust. Space in this article alone limits all the dreadful stories that should be told. But our response should not only be one of repentance but confidence that we know precisely what the Bible says about the past, present and future of Israel!

What Does the Bible Say?

God cut a covenant with Abraham approximately 4000 years ago which started the plan of redemption. That plan included not only personal salvation from the sacrifice of our Lord but also the creation of the nation of Israel. The covenant was initiated by God and is unconditional. It is

not only unconditional, irrevocable and irreversible but everlasting! It is therefore unique in the world and is applicable to only one nation – Israel.

Genesis 12 verses 1-2 describes how God formalised and sealed this covenant with Abraham. Genesis 15 v17 describes this unique moment when God in the form of a blazing torch passed between pieces of sacrificial animals and birds. On the same day scripture says God gave the land as an everlasting covenant and described it as from the Euphrates River to the River of Egypt. This area covers the present nations of Israel, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran and Iraq.

However, God also confirmed His unconditional everlasting covenants a total of seven times.

1. *Abrahamic Covenant – Genesis 12:1-3*
2. *Land of Israel Covenant – Genesis 15:12-21*
3. *The Levitical Covenant – Numbers 25:10-13*
4. *The Davidic Covenant – 2 Samuel 7:13*
5. *The New Covenant – Luke 22:20*
6. *The Jerusalem Covenant – Isaiah 2:2-4*

7. *The Covenant of Peace – Ezekiel 37:20-28*

To claim that God has annulled His covenants with Israel is therefore to make out that God is a liar!

As indicated earlier recent Jewish history itself eliminates Replacement theology. The Jewish people can only be restored and redeemed – not replaced! The promises to the people are unique i.e. Romans 11:26-27 – that all Israel will be saved.

The Word of God teaches that both the church and Israel are separate identities and have separate plans and purposes in God. Jesus Himself referred to the separate entity of Israel in Matthew 10:6, John 4:22 and Romans 1:16. Surely this is all we need to understand.

So What is Our Response?

In terms of Replacement theology:

- If you knew nothing about this theology before reading this article then I trust you will now accept that the theology is the devil's dangerous error.
- That the heart of God is at stake in this whole matter. Either God means what he says or he doesn't. It is an extremely dangerous place to be questioning God!

- If you have understood the error of this theology then it is most important to take every opportunity to share the truth with others. Their salvation won't be imperilled but their place in the Kingdom will be!
- Understand that it is a spiritual battle. The Word of God states that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." *Ephesian's 6:12*

In terms of Israel, we of the Church, need:

- To understand how the Jewish people feel about the centuries of persecutions in the name of the 'Church'!
- To show repentance for all that has happened.
- To pray for the nation of Israel and our own nation.
- To pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
- To pray that the Jewish people recognise and accept their Messiah.
- To recognise that we live in days of great change, urgency and responsibility.
- To pray for the Christians for Israel International Global Prayer Conference in Jerusalem, May 2015.
- To have a vision of and fully support Aliyah. It is of God and it is Holy.

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"Christ-Centred Churches among all African peoples"

Jewish Designers Lead the Way

Written by Aviel Schneider. Extract Courtesy of Israel Today

Did you know that fashion designers such as Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren and Donna Karan are Jewish? Or that Levi Strauss, the inventor of the world's most popular jeans by the same name, was also a Jew? His actual name was Loeb Strauss and he emigrated from Germany to the US with his family at the time of the California Gold Rush of 1849.

During the 20th century, Jews have contributed greatly to the international fashion industry. Their trademark names are known everywhere, but few are aware that behind these world-renowned labels lies a creative, entrepreneurial Jewish mind. Some have changed their Jewish names to something more "fashionable," while others kept them as is.

Here are a few of the more famous Jewish designers that you probably recognise and whose labels you may even wear:

CK **CALVIN KLEIN**
Calvin Richard Klein, 72, New York

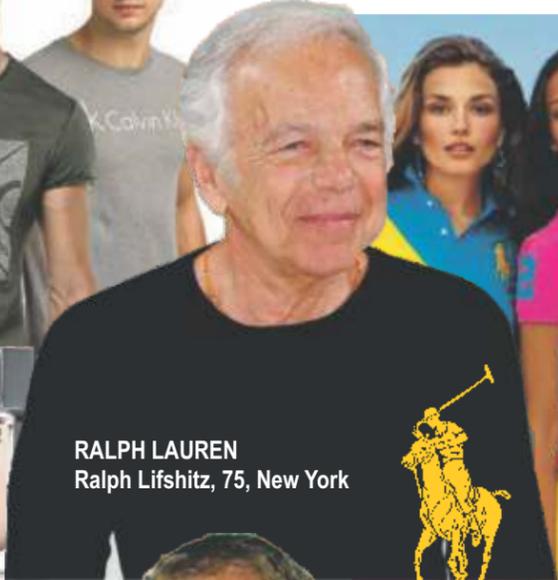


DKNY
DONNA KARAN NEW YORK

DONNA KARAN: Donna Ivy Faske, 66, New York



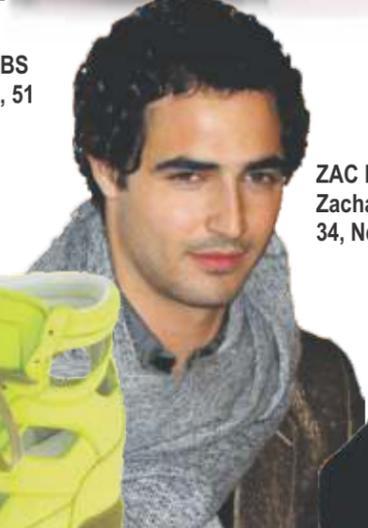
RALPH LAUREN
Ralph Lifshitz, 75, New York



MARC JACOBS
Marc Jacobs, 51
New York



ZAC POSEN
Zachary E. Posen
34, New York



MICHAEL KORS
Karl Anderson, 55, New York



ISAAC MIZRAHI
Yitzhak Mizrahi, 53, New York



ABERCROMBIE & FITCH: David Abercrombie and Ezra Fitch, New York
KENNETH COLE: Kenneth Cole, 60, New York
DIANE VON FÜRSTENBERG: Diane Simone Michelle Halfin, 67, Brussels
ALEXANDER JULIAN: Alexander Julian, 66, North Carolina
JOE MIMRAN: Joseph Mimran, 62, Casablanca

Harnessing the Power of the Sun

Extract Courtesy of Israel Today



Once again, an Israeli innovation is transforming the environment. The revolutionary eTree uses the sun's energy

to provide wireless Internet, a charging station for electronic devices, nighttime lighting and even drinking fountains for

both pets and their owners. They are all powered by a solar panel "canopy."

The new invention is the work of Israeli startup Sologic which provides these services to municipalities free of charge to the public. The solar panels are environmentally friendly and not only provide power but shade as well. The application can be used in all public settings to provide a shaded rest area as well as outlets for recharging smartphones, tablets and laptops.

A simple version includes two leafshaped solar panels which can produce up to 1,400 watts per hour - sufficient power for operating the integrated water cooler. A midrange version includes both the cooler and a charging station, and the deluxe eTree with seven panels offers shade, Wi-Fi service, electronic device chargers and the water cooler for pets and

owners. You can even communicate through a monitor connected to a camera to other eTrees and their users already operating in Nice, France and Shanghai.

"Our aim is that in the future there will be eTrees all over Israel and worldwide," says Sologic CEO Michael Lasry. "eTree is a social enterprise that aims to promote environmental awareness and sustainability, to create a link between the community and the environment."

Lasry, who founded Sologic six years ago with colleague Dov Kotler, says that his goal is to make the benefits of solar energy panels available to as many people as possible: "If you install panels on a house, only a small population is enjoying it. I wanted to bring this ecologically important way of thinking to the greater community."

Sharansky to 'Post': 50,000 French Jews Inquired about Aliyah in 2014

By Sam Sokol and Herb Keinon, writers for Jerusalem Post



Natan Sharansky greets new immigrants at Ben Gurion Airport. Photo: Sam Sokol

Some 50,000 French Jews asked the Jewish Agency for information about immigrating to Israel in 2014, and the Jewish Agency is holding two information seminars a day in France, whereas a year ago it held only one a month, Natan Sharansky told The Jerusalem Post on Monday (January 5, 2015). Interviewed in his Jerusalem office, the Jewish Agency chairman said that while it is difficult for many "Israelis to accept any compliment for themselves" and while they may find it hard to believe, "this is the first year that there are more immigrants from the free world."

While critics counter that there is no reason to be proud of the recent increases in immigration, which in the cases of the largest sources of immigrants – France and Ukraine – stem from a combination of anti-Semitism and economic factors, Sharansky

said that French Jews have a choice of where to move, and they have overwhelmingly chosen to come here.

Anti-Semitism may drive emigration from Europe, but other factors impel those who leave to come here, he said.

"They have a choice, to stay in France, where there is the biggest welfare basket ever," to travel

to other European Union nations or to immigrate to Montreal, where there are few cultural adjustments to make and which was until recently their primary destination, he said. According to Sharansky, "the overwhelming majority" of Jewish émigrés from France, possibly up to 70 percent, choose to go to Israel.

"So [Theodor] Herzl was right, Israel will be a magnet."

"When the Jewish Agency emissaries ask them why they want to go to Israel, they say they want to live in a Jewish state. People don't understand how the status of Israel is changing in the minds of people," Sharansky said, adding that previously, when Jews had the choice, "overwhelmingly they didn't go to Israel. During the second and third aliyah from Russia, for every Jew who went to Palestine, 20 Jews went to America."

"Here you have for the first time, a clear thing," he said. "There is a massive exodus from a community in the free world, which has all the doors open to them, and they are choosing Israel."

Most of those who have come from France have had some connection with the Jewish community and tradition, however defined, he said, reiterating the Jewish Agency's strategy of promoting Jewish identity abroad as a means of facilitating immigration down the line.

Of some 600,000 French Jews, "hundreds of thousands" of them are now contemplating leaving the country, he added.

"Right now, everyday the Jewish Agency is organizing two evening [meetings] for 200 people to give them basic information about aliyah.

A year ago we had one meeting a month, then we had one a week, and now we have two evening meetings every day. Fifty thousand people have asked for information this year, and I'm speaking about the area of Paris only."

According to a 2013 study of European Jewry by the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency, up to a third of the Jews in several countries are mulling over emigration.

France, followed by Ukraine, led the pack in terms of numbers of immigrants to Israel in 2014, the Jewish Agency announced at the end of December.

Immigration overall increased by 32%, the group said, in what Sharansky termed "a year of record-breaking aliyah."

Over the past year, Israel has made several moves in an effort to make itself more attractive to immigrants and to facilitate the immigration process.

Last April, the Jewish Agency announced that it would double the number of French speakers employed in its Israeli call center and increase the number of emissaries in France.

The government recently announced planned reforms aimed at taming the byzantine bureaucracy involved in integrating accredited members of white-collar professionals into the labor market, while the Interior Ministry has relaxed several bureaucratic requirements in the aliyah process for residents of Ukrainian cities occupied by Moscow-backed separatists.

Emigration from Ukraine has increased significantly since the Russian annexation of Crimea and the start of the civil war in eastern Ukraine, which has engulfed cities such as Donetsk, Sharansky's hometown, in brutal fighting.

Some 1,310 Jews have come to Israel from Donetsk and Luhansk, the central population centers of the rebel-held territory, between January and November – an increase of 1,000% over the same period in 2013, according to the Jewish Agency.



הסוכנות היהודית לארץ-ישראל
The Jewish Agency for Israel

Bring the Jews Home

By Koen Carlier, Christians for Israel Leader, Ukraine

The Exodus Continues!

2014 was a turbulent year in the Ukraine. The revolution in Kiev and other cities came first, and thereafter the annexation of the Crimea, by Russia. That was followed by what men thought impossible: war broke out in the eastern provinces of Donetsk and Lugansk. It resulted in the death of more than five thousand civilians, and caused a flow of refugees, amongst them hundreds of Jews!

New Year

The first trips in the new year are now something of the past, and we hope that many Ukrainian Jews will make the permanent 'journey', to the land of their forefathers, during the coming year. A total

of 5,840 Jews emigrated, from the Ukraine to Israel, during the previous year. As the Eternal One continues with the execution of His plan, we are allowed to be a small link in the chain of events!

Our most important task now is to assist, bring and shelter Jewish refugees from the Eastern Ukraine, on their way to Israel. 78 year old Margarita and her son, Michael, recently left for Israel, for good, from the airport in the east of Dnepropetrovsk. We interviewed her shortly before her departure. Her mother, then a small girl, survived the Holocaust, but many of her family members were locked up in the Odessa ghetto, where they died of hunger! During the heavy bombing at the beginning of October last year in Lugansk - a city in the East, close to the

Russian border, with a population of more than 400,000 - Margarita and her sickly, only, son decided to flee to a small village about 50 kilometres from Lugansk.

Thereafter, local Christians brought them, and other Jewish refugees, to a residence for Jewish refugees close to the megacity

Jewish refugees from the East of Ukraine now at the airport in Kiev for their one way flight to Israel



Dnepropetrovsk, where 70 Jewish refugees presently reside. It took 95 days before the travel documents were ready, due to obstacles in obtaining some documents. And then it was time to, finally, depart. When we asked Margarita how she felt, she thought hard for a moment, smiled and said that she feels it's a wonder that she can go to Israel. She never thought she would ever make the 'journey', but then she cried as she remembered the war in the east, the uncertainty, the fear, her little-girl memories of the Holocaust, the 43 years she taught

Russian literature until the school was bombed, and having to flee for the second time in her life. Then the Jewish Agency called their names, and they received their air tickets. It was time to say good-bye! She grabbed me by the sleeve, one more time, and said: 'thank the Christians in Europe, because it is thanks to them that we can leave for Israel!' During the following days we've had a number of talks with other Jewish refugees. They hope their travel documents will be in order for them to depart on January 22.



78 year old Margarita and fieldworker, Alina at the airport

Bring the Jews Home

Continued from page 11

As the severity of the war intensified in Donetsk, a local chauffeur brought 10 new Jewish refugees to the shelter. He had to pass through many heavily armed separatist- and Ukrainian army control posts. There is a distance of 230 kilometres between Donetsk and Dnepropetrovsk.



On Tuesday, January 13, twelve people lost their lives when a rocket hit a passenger bus close to a control post. This caused an increase in the number of Jewish refugees, and others, who now wish to, urgently and permanently, depart.

By the end of January, more than 100 Jewish refugees will have arrived in Dnepropetrovsk to prepare, in more peaceful surroundings, for their departure to Israel. Newly arrived refugees tell us: 'we survived because of food parcels'!

People needed to tell their stories, and were deeply impressed when they heard our reason for doing this work. Amongst them were quite a number of new refugees who were visited, years ago, by Christians who shared with them, from the Bible, that the LORD continues to return His children to His country. Many of them never expected that the day would come, for them, under these circumstances! Following some discussions, an additional minibus and chauffeur will be employed to assist in transferring Jewish refugees.

There are strong suspicions that the war will be spreading to the provinces of Kharkov and Odessa, resulting in more refugees!

The costs of flights, accompaniment, preparation and accommodation are very high, and the Jewish Agency in the east has



requested us (and the other named Aliyah organizations?) to foot the bill!

The things you hear, see and experience is enough to whittle away your courage but, when I read Jeremiah 30 this morning, I was especially touched by verse 10: 'So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel,' declares the LORD. 'I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid.'

It costs, including shelter (minimum two weeks and maximum two months but can be longer) and all the necessary preparation until the moment they leave for Israel, €300 per Jewish refugee!

So please give generously, all amounts are welcome!

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