



ISRAEL NEWS

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

Hamas' military wing in northern Gaza. He prioritized rehabilitation efforts in areas where members of Hamas reside. When tunnel openings were detected in homes that were renovated by the UNDP, Hamas would take control of the site, and contrary to U.N. regulations, the UNDP would refrain

from reporting the incidents to the United Nations Mine Action Service.

In his interrogation, Burash revealed a list of Hamas operatives embedded in other aid organizations in Gaza.

Anyone who thought Hamas would honor its agreements rather than exploit these humanitarian aid groups, whose aim is to help the suffering civilian population in Gaza, was mistaken. This is because Hamas does not care for the population it governs, as those who sought to help the needy expected. Quite the opposite: Hamas sees the civilian population under its boot as just another resource to use in its war against Israel, and does not bat an eyelash when over half a humanitarian organization's budget is used to fund its military needs.

Obviously, these latest revelations are just the tip of the iceberg. Therefore, as part of our war against Hamas, Israel must expose any and all such cases, and block any funding geared toward Hamas' military expansion, while utilizing the anti-terrorism laws put in place by donor countries themselves. (Israel Hayom Aug 10)

Commentary...

Israel's Bloodthirsty 'Partner'

By NY Post Post Editorial Board

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' party Fatah had an important boast to share on its Facebook page last week: It has "killed 11,000 Israelis."

Mind you, these are the Palestinian "moderates" who the world expects Israel to treat as a "partner for peace."

Translated from Arabic, the post reads: "For the argumentative ... the ignorant ... and for those who do not know history ... The Fatah movement killed 11,000 Israelis."

Fatah also claimed to have "offered 170,000 martyrs," while hundreds of its followers are sitting in "Israeli occupation jails."

It's all part of Fatah's push to improve its image with Palestinian voters, as the Palestinian Authority looks to hold its first election in more than a decade. Fatah's arch-rival, Hamas, accuses Abbas and Co. of being insufficiently thirsty for Israeli blood.

Of course, Palestinian schools and state-run media have taught those voters to demand blood — to believe that the only path to Mideast peace involves Israel's extinction.

Yet it's the Israelis who routinely get blamed for the failure of the "peace process." And criticized for pointing out the truth about their supposed "partners."

Meanwhile, France is launching a major new push for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal. Reality, you see, is never allowed to impede the "peace process." (NY Post Aug 7)

Hamas Takes All the 'Help' it can Get

By Ze'ev Jabotinsky

Last Thursday we learned that Mohammed Halabi, head of the Gaza Strip branch of the international aid organization World Vision, had confessed to diverting charity funds and resources to Hamas' military wing. According to the indictment, for the past five years Halabi has funneled \$7.2 million a year, or 60% of the NGO's budget (chiefly foreign donations), to Hamas. These funds were used, among other purposes, to fuel Hamas' military growth, including the construction of underground attack tunnels leading into Israel, procurement of weapons in Gaza and Sinai and building a military base adjacent to Beit Hanoun in northeastern Gaza.

Halabi transferred to Hamas hundreds of tons of iron, digging equipment and plastic pipes, supposedly earmarked for agricultural purposes. In reality, these materials were used by Hamas to build military posts and to dig attack tunnels. Halabi toured the tunnels and aided Hamas' efforts to rebuild and fortify its military installations. He provided plastic tarps taken from World Vision warehouses, to be used to camouflage and conceal tunnel openings by making them look like greenhouses.

World Vision is a Christian, anti-Israel charity. Its website is pro-Palestinian and often condemns the State of Israel. The site decries, among other things, the lack of educational facilities in the Gaza Strip. It is now clear why global donations have not helped build them at the expected rate. Regardless of whether World Vision was aware of these activities or simply turned a blind eye, Halabi was able to funnel \$37.5 million to Hamas. A well-run organization would have realized after a year or two that 60% of its funds were being siphoned and put an end to it, but World Vision did no such thing. Therefore, the assumption that World Vision was complicit in these actions is quite reasonable.

After the affair was exposed, the German and Australian governments quickly announced the immediate suspension of all donations to the organization.

On Tuesday, just five days after the Halabi case came to light, an indictment was filed at the Beersheba District Court against Wahid Abdullah Burash, an engineer with the U.N. Development Program in Gaza, who allegedly used UNDP resources to help Hamas.

Burash is accused of aiding Hamas in a variety of ways. For example: In 2015, he used UNDP resources to build a marine dock for the use of

A Chronicle of Violence and Lies

By Nadav Shragai

Today, 1946 years after the destruction of the Second Temple, most of the media maintains a shroud of silence when it comes to the Muslim chronicle of violence and lies about the Temple Mount. They behave as though it wasn't the holiest place to the Jewish people.

Only two weeks ago, six Israeli archaeologists touring the eastern part of the Temple Mount were attacked and beaten. The incident garnered only marginal coverage, much like the regular ambushes on Jewish visitors to the Mount by the Morbitun and Morbitat guards affiliated with the Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement.

The attack on the archaeologists was reminiscent of another egregious, violent event that took place on the Temple Mount a few years ago, when an Israel Police station there was attacked and set on fire and the police officers were run out. Then, too, most of the media looked the other way.

The Muslim violence at the site is yet another aspect of the bias and discrimination against Jews on the mount -- a situation Israel put itself into knowingly. The original sin was committed by former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who gave the Temple Mount over to the Muslims and forbade Jews from praying there. Since then, what has come to be known as the "status quo" has evolved, with almost all the guidelines pertaining to Jews changing for the worse. Visits by Jews (unlike Jewish prayer) that in the past were permitted have become so difficult they are nearly impossible. Too often, the Mount is closed to Jews because the Muslims are making threats. Even when Jews are allowed to visit the Mount, they are subject to limitations that were not part of the original status quo agreement: they may no longer visit the Mount on the Sabbath or enter the Temple Mount mosques. The areas Jews are allowed to visit have been curtailed, as have visiting days and hours. The length of individual visits has also been restricted.

All these changes dovetail perfectly with a well-oiled machine of Muslim incitement and lies. In face of the many archaeological discoveries that confirm that the Second Temple existed there, and a range of historical sources by Jews and non-Jews that document its existence, the Muslims today refer to the Temple as "Al-Mazoum," which means the false or imaginary. Their lies place the Temple's location as far away as Nablus or even Yemen, claiming it never stood on the Temple Mount.

They also fake history and move the Muslim presence in Jerusalem back to the historical time of the Jews here. When discussing the Temple, the Palestinians go as far as to reject the writings of certain Muslim historians, whose assertions they wholeheartedly accept in reference to other historical points. These historians -- such as geographer Al-Muqaddasi of the 10th century C.E.; Bachar al-Wasti, who preached at Al-Aqsa Mosque at the beginning of the 11th century C.E.; or 13th-century Iranian scholar Hamdallah Al-Mustawfi -- identify Al-Aqsa Mosque with Solomon's Temple. Even the abbreviated guide to "Al-Haram al-Sharif," as the Muslims refer to the Mount, that was published by the Supreme Muslim Society under Grand Mufti Amin al-Husseini (who would later collaborate with Hitler) in 1924, says that "this site is one of the most

ancient in the world..." and that "its identity as the site of Solomon's Temple is beyond doubt."

At the same time, the Muslims decided that the Temple Mount compound and walls would be as sanctified as the name Al-Aqsa and the mosque itself. Today, they claim that it was never any other way, but that's also a lie. In an official Jordanian tourist map from 1965, which can be found in an extensive collection of maps of the Land of Israel belonging to Mr. Haim Steinberger of New York, Al-Aqsa Mosque is labeled simply as a structure located at the southern end of the compound. The Mount itself is labeled using its biblical name -- Mount Moriah -- yet another detail that Muslims today deny.

Another problematic element of the current reality on the Temple Mount, the location of the Second Temple, stems from the relations between Jordan and Israel, which are based on mutual interests of security and economics. But Israel is paying Jordan too high a price in the currency of the Temple Mount. Jordan has in effect become Israel's partner in managing the Temple Mount. It has vetoed the construction of a replacement for the Mughrabi Bridge; clearing trash out of the plaza of the "little Western Wall"; and even intervenes when it comes to the number of religious visitors to the Mount and how the police will conduct themselves there. Israel went too far with the Temple Mount. The verbal and physical Muslim violence there feeds off the mistakes we made here. (Israel Hayom Aug 10)

The Spirit of Unity By Annika Hernroth-Rothstein

Forty-four years ago, at the 1972 Munich Olympic games, a Palestinian terrorist group calling itself Black September entered the Olympic village and kidnapped members of the Israeli Olympic team, demanding the release of hundreds of prisoners being held on terrorism charges. Eleven Israeli athletes were killed in the attack or in the subsequent, failed rescue operation.

More than four decades later, the 11 Israeli victims of this massacre were finally commemorated in an official International Olympic Committee ceremony in Rio.

On Aug. 3, right before the opening ceremony, the IOC president led a moment of silence in the Olympic village in memory of the 11 Israeli athletes and coaches. In the Jewish media, this belated memorial was lauded as a diplomatic victory.

But if history has taught us anything, it is that we should know better than to celebrate prematurely, so often having taken one step forward only to be pushed back.

Last Friday, the Israeli and Lebanese Olympic teams were slotted to ride a bus together to the official opening ceremony. But that didn't happen. The Lebanese delegation refused to travel on the same bus as the Israeli team, with one Lebanese athlete physically blocking the Israelis from boarding the vehicle. The organizers, seeking to avoid an international incident, decided to put the Israeli team on a different bus. According to the head of the Israeli delegation, Gili Lustig, the team was ready to "move on" and put the whole ordeal behind it.

But the Israelis should neither move on nor put this behind them. They should make sure everyone knows about this. They need to demand answers for this harassment.

Each year, when the annual survey of global anti-Semitism is released, there is usually some degree of surprise at the gap between the respondents' answers and the overall impression that anti-Semitism is on the rise. However, upon taking a closer look at what was actually asked and answered, a picture of low expectations and prolonged exposure starts to take form, resulting in a collective desensitization.

I know it from my own world, where my friends and loved ones may not believe they have experienced anti-Semitism or racially motivated harassment, but when asked, will say they've been called everything from "dirty Jew" to "murderous occupier," or have felt physically threatened or frightened because of who and what they are. This kind of anti-Semitism does not figure into any survey because this is what we, as Jews, have simply come to expect, and therein lies the tragedy.

It took 44 years for the Munich 11 to be given a proper Olympic memorial, and when it finally happened it was done in a removed courtyard before the games even began. The bereaved families of the murdered Israelis have pleaded with the IOC to incorporate the victims' names into the closing ceremony, as they honor deceased athletes, but as of now there is no word on whether that will ever happen.

Even so, we celebrate this as a win, and we are said to have been given "closure." However, as far as I am concerned, the disrespect and indifference toward Jewish lives is very much an open wound. Israeli athletes were prevented from boarding a bus because of who and what they are, in a place where people are meant to be judged only on their athletic ability, hard work and determination. They chose to move on, because of prolonged exposure and low expectations, and the world is all too happy to let them, thus leaving another crime unpunished and another case of racism unexposed.

We deserve better than decades-delayed memorials and separate buses,

but we won't get it until we recognize this truth.

The head of the international Olympic committee, Thomas Bach, apologized for what he called the "bus incident," and added that the Olympic Games are held in a spirit of unity between nations. In this, he may actually be right. The nations of the world stand in solidarity against Israel, as they have throughout history, united on the one issue that truly defies borders. (Israel Hayom Aug 8)

The Truth about Humanitarian Aid By Ariel Bolstein

The reports surrounding the arrest of Mohammad Halabi, director of the Gaza branch of the humanitarian organization World Vision, have sent shockwaves throughout the globe. This is a well-known, worldwide charity organization -- one of the world's largest in fact -- that purports to help third world children.

As it turns out, when it comes to the Gaza Strip, the money donated by charitable individuals in Europe, Australia and the U.S. went mainly to help Hamas' military wing. Among other things, the money was used toward purchasing weapons in Sinai, digging attack tunnels and paying the salaries of terrorists and their families.

The Hamas murderers did not stop there. They accepted thousands of food packages as well as other supplies intended for the poor. When devout Christian worshippers in churches across the U.S. donated a dollar or two to "those poor children," the smiling faces on the receiving end were Hamas terrorists in Gaza.

More than half of the organization's annual aid budget was funneled directly to Hamas. In total, the terror organization received between 40-50 million dollars and this may just be the tip of the iceberg, as there are other humanitarian groups that have poured tremendous amounts of money into these black holes referred to at times as "rehabilitation of Gaza" and "assistance to the Palestinians."

For years, World Vision members, including senior officials, contributed to anti-Israel efforts. Time and again they have taken advantage of every possible forum to portray Israel as the culprit behind the suffering of Palestinian children. Never ones to be confused by the facts, they neglected to mention that they knew very well that Hamas was using the civilian population of Gaza as human shields, launching rockets at Israel from residential neighborhoods and storing weapons at schools.

Not a word of condemnation for Hamas was ever heard. But with respect to Israel, it has been a festival of lies and false accusations. In 2012, for example, the president of World Vision in the U.S. claimed that Israel had prohibited Christian from Judea and Samaria as well as Gaza from celebrating Easter in Jerusalem. The allegation was completely false (that year Israel granted more than 20,000 permits to travel to Jerusalem for Easter, far more than were requested). Still, the irreparable damage to Israel's reputation in the eyes of the Christian world was done.

And if that wasn't bad enough, World Vision has contributed extensively to other anti-Israel endeavors in the years since. For instance, the organization bankrolled a program called "Christ at the Checkpoint," which aimed to portray Israel to American Christians as the embodiment of all evil. The program appealed to this audience's most basic emotions: they were asked to imagine Jesus himself being harassed by Israeli soldiers at a border checkpoint. This was, in fact, anti-Semitism of the worst order, playing into the idea that the Jews abused the son of God and now they are abusing other poor souls.

In fact, a large portion of the funding that goes into the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement actually comes from innocent donors, who are certain their donations are going toward saving lives in developing countries somewhere in Asia or Africa.

Sadly, World Vision is not the only charity organization that has been dragged into the anti-Israel efforts. Other organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have also fallen into the same trap.

All this is happening in a world where there are tens of millions of people who really need charitable assistance, with tens of millions of people in the West who are willing to donate generously to help worthy causes, or so they believe. These kind, naïve donors, are being taken advantage of every day in the most awful of ways. (Israel Hayom Aug 7)

Petty Arab Apartheid, Olympic-Style By Gerald M. Steinberg

In the bad old days in South Africa, "petty apartheid" was the term used for the daily oppression and humiliation of blacks through separate public water fountains, bathrooms, buses, cafeterias and similar facilities. This strictly enforced separation was a sign of the black population being viewed as subhuman.

Since 1948, petty apartheid has also been a feature of the widespread Arab rejection of Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people. This practice is ongoing and is often taken for granted and ignored, as was the case of South Africa for many years.

For example, on Friday, just before the opening of the Rio Olympics, the bus provided by the International Olympic Committee picked up the

10-member Lebanese team and then went to pick up the Israeli team. The Lebanese blocked the Israelis from entering the bus, and according to media accounts team captain Salim al-Haj Nakoula “demanded that the door be closed on the Israeli team, but they ‘insisted on getting on.’” Haj Nakoula continued: “I then stood at the door of the bus to prevent the Israel team from entering and some of them tried to go in and pick a fight.”

The chronology was confirmed by the Israelis, who told the Olympic Committee officials that if the Lebanese could not stomach riding with Israelis, “They were welcome to take another bus.” After the brief standoff, however, and in order to avoid a violent confrontation, the Israeli team backed down and agreed to ride a different bus.

This is petty apartheid – practiced against Israel and Israelis on a daily basis, year in and year out, for 68 years, and still going strong. It is not a minor and childish “spat” as depicted in some media headlines (“Olympics spat as Lebanese stop Israelis joining them on bus,” Associated Press, The Washington Post) – but rather similar to the refusal to allow blacks in South Africa before 1994, or in the US before the civil rights movement, to sit with whites on buses or drink from the same water fountains.

Many Israelis have experienced this racism in one form or another.

I have been at academic conferences and diplomatic receptions around the world where Palestinian, Tunisian, Saudi and Iranian panelists, including government officials, have avoided shaking my hand or even acknowledging my standing as an Israeli Jew.

In cultural and sporting events, including previous Olympic Games, Arabs and Iranians have gone to great lengths to avoid being “contaminated” by Israelis, suddenly withdrawing from events, even when they would automatically lose as a result. In 2008, swimmers from Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran took this route, and during the 2012 London Olympics, the Lebanese judo team went as far as refusing to practice in view of the Israelis, forcing organizers to erect a separation barrier (an Arab “apartheid wall”). In Rio, a Saudi judoka suddenly dropped out, apparently to avoid facing an Israeli.

The so-called international community, including the Olympic Committee, has, at most, reprimanded the boycotting teams and athletes, becoming a willing accomplice to anti-Israel apartheid.

In previous displays of this racism, no action was taken against the Syrian, Iranian and Lebanese teams and no penalties exacted to create a deterrent or express opposition.

In these frameworks, like the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the 57 members of the Islamic bloc (formally known as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), including the wealthy oil producers, control the agendas and have veto power over the officials.

Similarly, the self-appointed guardians of human rights, including NGO superpowers such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, are silent when Israelis are the victims. Indeed, they are very active in promoting the apartheid inherent in the boycott movement, which is the current Western embodiment of the Arab League’s economic boycott of Israel. The anti-Israel campaigners in the democratic West who wrap themselves in the façade of human rights and opposition to racism are part and parcel of this apartheid.

In Lebanon, whose government and society is subject to intimidation by the Hezbollah terrorist organization, Minister of Youth and Sport Abdel Motaleb al-Hennawi praised Nakoula’s actions in Rio as “principled and patriotic.” Not surprisingly, Hezbollah noted that “the Israelis were sent away from the bus because normalization [with Israel] is not to be had in any form, and because the Lebanese identity [is that of] resistance. Be proud to be Lebanese.” As in the case of South Africa under the apartheid regime, contact with Israelis is treated as a form of impurity, and petty apartheid remains the norm. (Jerusalem Post Aug 10)

The Tourist Trojan Horse By Itai Reuveni

This week, the cabinet decided to establish an inter-ministerial task force charged with locating tourists who come to Israel to promote the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement and other forms of delegitimization. The decision comes after a considerable period in which various groups have sent radical members to Israel, disguised as tourists, to document “human rights violations” and contribute to the anti-Israel campaign.

Political tourism is nothing new. These are anti-Israeli organizations that exploit Israeli democracy to promote an international campaign of delegitimization. The most blatant example is the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, a project founded in 2002 by the World Council of Churches that has an annual budget of \$1.5 million. Its goal is to bring volunteers to Israel to “experience life under occupation and change the international community’s involvement in the [Israeli-Palestinian] conflict.”

EAPPI sends volunteers from dozens of countries to Israel for three months, after they undergo training in their home countries that includes explanations, methods of dealing with the military, and a briefing on how to enter Israel. Upon arrival, they are briefed again and then head out to the field clad in brown vests that bear the program’s logo. They deploy at

checkpoints and flash points, and even in the Old City of Jerusalem, and, in a very one-sided manner, document Israel’s supposed “violations.” One of their finest hours was when they documented Israeli security forces at the Western Wall.

At the end of three months, many of the activists return to their home countries to promote various anti-Israel campaigns at the express instruction of the program directors. Many of the volunteers put out messages that carry the extra weight of “we were there, so we know how to operate against the ‘Zionist entity.’”

Another example is the International Solidarity Movement, which opposes Israel’s existence and supports violent “resistance.” Its volunteers also undergo briefings in their home countries, enter Israel as tourists, and take part in anti-Israeli provocations. In the U.S., one ISM volunteer was convicted of aiding Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization. The suicide bombers who carried out the 2003 attack at the Tel Aviv bar Mike’s Place, in which three people were killed and 50 were wounded, spent time hanging out with ISM members. A simple internet search of ISM will turn up pictures of members carrying AK-47 assault weapons.

The NGO Monitor research institute recently issued an investigative report revealing that a number of anti-Israel organizations carry humanitarian visas issued by the Israeli government. One of these is the Quaker group the American Friends Service Committee, among the leaders of the BDS movement in the U.S., which has openly declared that its goal is to boycott Israel and encourage Israelis to become conscientious objectors. The group has an office in Jerusalem, and it even transfers funds to organizations registered in Israel that work toward the same purpose.

Every sovereign state has the full prerogative to decide who enters it. Europe decides which refugees will return to their countries of origin, and only a few days ago Australia deported refugees and tourists who were filmed speaking out against the country. That’s how it should be in Israel, especially in light of the many threats we face and the exploitation of humanitarian frameworks for political purposes.

The government gambit on humanitarian visas will have a number of ramifications. First, a line will be drawn over the absurdity of people who seek to hurt Israel being able to enjoy its hospitality. Second, it will create deterrence. Just as any tourist knows that provoking the security forces in Japan or the U.S. will get him or her kicked out of the country, anti-Israel activists need to understand that their activity carries a price. Third, striking the core activity of groups that promote nothing other than hatred and anti-Semitism will significantly reduce their influence abroad.

Lest there be any doubt, the World Council of Churches doesn’t operate an envoy program anywhere in the world but Israel. It, and organizations like it, use the flimsy excuse that they cannot operate in non-democratic countries and closed societies. Of course not. Why put themselves at risk in Syria when they can demonstrate in Bil’in in the morning and drink beer in Tel Aviv later that night?

(Israel Hayom Aug 9)

The writer is a senior researcher at NGO Monitor’s Israel desk.

Government to Expel BDS Activists. Bravo! By Isi Leibler

The decision by the Interior and Public Security ministers to form a special task force to expel foreigners engaged in Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) activities is a long overdue but urgent call for remedial action against anti-Semites and renegade Jews who demonize and delegitimize us. In this context, I applaud the government for, albeit belatedly, taking action to expel or bar entry to foreigners who come into Israel in the guise of tourists in order to promote or assist BDS and provoke West Bank Palestinians against the IDF. There is also a strong case to prosecute Israelis who engage in such seditious activities.

No doubt this will lead to a torrent of hysteria by the delusional left who will claim that this “denial of freedom of expression” is another move by the government towards implementing a “fascist” regime.

This legislation should have been introduced a long while ago and the timing coincides with impending actions by European governments, currently floundering in their efforts to provide security to their citizens under attack from crazed Islamic fundamentalist killers – both imported and homegrown. They will be seeking to impose legislation which will to some extent impose limits to unfettered civil liberties if they compromise security. If they fail to act they will be overwhelmed at the polls by radical right wing parties which have already mushroomed in response to the recent terrorist rampages.

The situation in Israel is infinitely more acute than in any other country. The Jewish state is the only country in the world whose right to exist is constantly challenged by neighboring states motivated by fanatical Islamic anti-Semitic dictatorships. Israel’s purported peace partner has made it clear that a Palestinian state is merely the first step towards the ultimate goal of eliminating Jewish sovereignty in the region. Ironically, even though much of the world refuses to recognize it, the reality is that today most Israelis are ready to separate from the Palestinians if this could be implemented in conjunction with long term security. It is the Palestinians, brainwashed by Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas, who

only see an end of conflict with the destruction of Israel

In addition, unlike the situation in Europe, Israel is an oasis of relative tranquility in a continent of dictatorships and fanatical Islamic rogue states where the concept of human rights is simply nonexistent. Moreover over the past few years the region has become transformed into the most brutal killing fields in the world where hundreds of thousands have been cruelly massacred and millions displaced from their homes at levels of barbarism reminiscent of the Dark Ages.

It thus particularly galling for Israelis to witness governments and media listing terror attacks throughout the world and yet exclude Israel, the greatest victim. Their sickening justification for these omissions is that terror attacks in Israel differ from those in Europe because they are based on "resistance to occupation". Never mind the fact that terror in Israel far predates 1967 when Israel repulsed the combined Arab armies which then sought to conquer it. The fact is that Israel has been the canary in the coal mine of terrorism and many Europeans are now likely to try to emulate our techniques and strategies in dealing with their own threats.

The government seems to have only now, belatedly, recognized that a crucial component in the effort of Israel's enemies to destroy us is the war of ideas - and we are painfully losing this battle. Not to mention the vast sums of money foreign governments surreptitiously pour into NGOs, not for the promotion of human rights but in order to delegitimize the State of Israel.

Our government has been nonchalant and intimidated by the delusional left from taking steps to protect itself from internal and external enemies.

There is also a strong case to prosecute Israelis who engage in activities which subvert the state or seek to delegitimize it. When the extreme leftwing media, academics and activists broadcast self-evident lies demonizing their country and besmirching it by falsely accusing the Israel Defense Forces of engaging in war crimes, in the present climate this amounts to subversion. No other country confronting the threats to its existence would tolerate such behavior or enable taxpayers' funds to be employed towards subsidizing "cultural" activities designed to demonize the nation.

Can one envisage how Churchill would have dealt with such behavior during the Second World War? A British parliamentarian expressing seditious remarks supporting those seeking the destruction of the nation - such as MK Haneen Zoabi has done - would face charges of high treason. Bleeding hearts opposing the exclusion of foreign BDS activists should review US policy during the Cold War which denied entry to any foreigner who had been a member of the communist party. The dangers confronting Israel are infinitely greater than those the US then faced from the Soviet Union.

And we should be under no illusions. Since the creation of the State of Israel we have been and continue to live in a state of war. The vast majority of the Israeli public would doubtlessly agree that limited curtailment of civil liberties is highly justified if it inhibits those engaged in demonizing and delegitimizing us or even saves a single Israeli from becoming a terrorist casualty. (Jerusalem Post Aug 10)

The Discriminatory Laws that do not Discriminate

By Joel H. Golovensky

On Thursday, the Movement for Black Lives announced it would engage in BDS actions against Israel because, among other reasons, "Israel is an apartheid state with over 50 laws on the books that sanction discrimination against the Palestinian people." It credits Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, as one of its "organizations currently working on policy." The movement is an offshoot of the American organization Black Lives Matter.

Adalah calls itself "an independent human rights organization," and thus its statements enjoy some of the halo effect attached to this self-anointed status.

But Adalah has goals far beyond human rights. It seeks to nullify Israel as a Jewish state - as the nation state of the Jewish people.

Thus it promotes a constitution for Israel that would grant citizenship to all Palestinian refugees and all their descendants, wiping out the Jewish majority in Israel, and its provisions substitute a bi-national state for the Jewish one, with no "right of return for Jews" and with mechanisms to eliminate all Jewish symbols.

One of its most effective tools to delegitimize the Jewish state is the compilation and dissemination of its list of "more than 50 Israeli laws enacted since 1948 that directly or indirectly discriminate against Palestinian citizens of Israel." This is the list that the Movement for Black Lives found so compelling that they embraced the BDS goals to work against Israel, which they call the "apartheid state."

What are the laws on this nefarious list and how do they discriminate? This is what the Institute for Zionist strategies set out to determine, and it recently completed a comprehensive analysis of every one of these laws. The study examines the text of the laws, their purposes, how they have been implemented, and how they compare to similar laws in other democracies.

The full report (Hebrew) and the English Introduction and Summary

can be found on the IZS website and Facebook page. Here is what it found.

A basic underlying presumption used to condemn 21 of the 57 laws, is that any enactment defining or promoting Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people discriminates against Arab citizens of Israel (e.g., the flag law and the law to support Yad Ben Zvi, a prominent institution promoting Zionist study and values). But this flawed premise would delegitimize the vast majority of the world's democracies, which are also nation states - that is, states established by and for a predominant ethnic or religious majority. As I pointed out in a Wall Street Journal article explaining the proposed Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People, "Most of the more than 60 democracies are built on the ethnic identity of a predominant group, which molds the character of the state while affording minorities full civil and religious rights. In this regard the Jewish state of Israel is a typical democratic country."

But Adalah goes far beyond this flawed proposition. For example, it lists as one of its 57 discriminatory laws the Trading with the Enemy Act (an Ordinance continued from British Mandatory law designed to fight Nazi Germany).

This law prohibits trade with "enemy nationals." It is discriminatory against Arab citizens, Adalah claims, because "Thus far, all "enemy states" all of are Arab and/ or Muslim states" [sic]. Israel could presumably cure this "discrimination" either by allowing free and untrammelled intercourse with Syria and Iran or by adding Great Britain, France and Switzerland to its list of enemies.

Adalah claims that laws designed to protect citizens against terrorism are discriminatory because the predominant majority of terrorists are Arabs. What democratic country would repeal laws defending against terrorist attacks because the suspected terrorists caught and charged were predominantly Muslims or Arabs? Laws that provide equal rights for both majority and minority groups are nevertheless labeled discriminatory by Adalah. The Law and Administration Ordinance (1948) that defines the country's official rest days, and the Law for Using the Hebrew Date, both explicitly exclude institutions and authorities that serve non-Jewish populations.

All members of minorities are guaranteed a day of rest on the day specified by his/her recognized religious faith or on Saturday, at the employee's option. Apparently, Israeli law on Saturday is discriminatory, but not Moslem and Arab countries with Friday or Christian countries with Sunday (most of which do not protect minorities' day of rest). But one thing is for sure, no Jew is discriminated on his day of rest in most of the Arab countries, because the Jews were kicked out in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Adalah outdoes itself by including the Golan Heights Law on its list.

The Golan Heights were captured in the 1967 war started by Syria and Egypt. The law in question grants citizenship and equal rights to all inhabitants of the Golan Heights.

The only minority residents living there are Druze, and the law prohibits any and all discrimination.

This law granting equality to all residents is denounced as discriminatory against Palestinian Arabs, none of whom live or work there.

Every single one of the 57 laws listed by Adalah list is proven by the Institute for Zionist Strategies study to be non-discriminatory. Anyone can read the laws and the Institute's conclusions on the IZS site to verify this fact for him/herself. One can also visit the Adalah site, for many of its claims are absurd on their face.

Adalah, of course needs money to compile this list, to draft constitutions, to build attractive Internet sites in three languages, and to appear all over the world before international organizations to condemn Israel. On paper, it would seem like a perfect candidate for funds from the EU, European states (and EU-funded NGOs), and the New Israel Fund.

And so it is. As reported by NGO Monitor, Adalah received generous funding from: Broederlijk Delen (Belgium), Bread for the World- EED (Germany), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland), Oxfam-Novib (Netherlands), Human Rights and International Law Secretariat (joint funding from Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark and the Netherlands), Christian Aid (UK), European Union, UNDP, and others. From 2012 to 2015, Adalah received direct funding from foreign governmental bodies of NIS 12,719,902. From 2008 to 2014, the New Israel Fund, which tells its donors that it will not support BDS efforts and that it will support Israel, authorized grants for Adalah in the amount of \$1,874,656.

And this funding continued into 2015.

The Movement for Black Lives credits Adalah for its general help and clearly justifies its resolve to engage in BDS activities by invoking Adalah's list of "discriminatory laws." The Movement, which declared that the US "is complicit in the genocide taking place against the Palestinian people," does not seem very interested in seeking or speaking truth. Its reliance on Adalah's list is therefore not surprising - no matter how reckless. But Adalah is not a new group, it is generously endowed, and it surely knows that the 57 "discriminatory laws" on its list do not discriminate. (Jerusalem Post Aug 9)