



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
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- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "The dogma that the only differences in culture are economic in origin is so patently absurd in the light of the evidence which can be gleaned by anyone who will visit the haunts of the present day rich, that it ought not to be, but it is a matter of importance to place on record the memories of a better day." – Clifford H. Douglas, 1950

"The ultimate lesson about the Liberty attack was that it had far more effect on policies. Israel's leaders concluded that nothing they might do would bring America's leaders to the point of reprisal. America's leaders did not have the courage to punish Israel for the blatant murder of American citizens. It seems clear their American friends would let them get away with almost anything."

– U.S. Under Secretary of State George Ball's comments on the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty, 8th June 1967. [As quoted by Ambassador James Akins in the documentary "The Loss of the Liberty" featuring the testimonies of survivors of the attack.]

"Western leaders are too cowardly to help save lives. It is a fact that it is ordinary people, activists, call them what you will, who now take decisions to change events."

– Robert Fisk: <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/fisk/robert-fisk-western-leaders-are-too-cowardly-to-help-save-lives-1987989.html>

"Jake Tapper, a reporter for ABC News writes that "there won't be any daylight between the U.S. and Israel." The rationale? A senior administration official says "The president has always said that it will be much easier for Israel to make peace if it feels secure." Of course, that's nonsense. Israeli security has nothing to do with it. The reality is that Israeli aggression is possible only because Israel understands that the U.S. is its poodle and that the U.S. will work on its behalf in the U.N. and elsewhere, no matter what Israel does. The Israel Lobby is ultimately to blame, meaning ultimately the influence of Jewish money on the political process."

– Kevin MacDonald: <http://theoccidentalobserver.net/tooblog/?p=2077>

ISRAELI PALESTINIAN MK FACES 'FLAK' IN KNESSET: Source: Tikun Olam, June 2010: For those not aware, the Israeli Knesset has a reputation as a place for bare-knuckle political brawling. But deliberations today, I think descended even farther below the normal level of screaming mayhem and general tomfoolery.

Haneen Zoubi (born 23 May 1969) is a Palestinian Arab citizen of Israel who currently serves as a member of the Knesset representing the Balad party. Elected in 2009, she is the first woman elected to

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"ON TARGET"

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the Knesset on an Arab party's list. Israeli Palestinian MK Chanin Zoabi joined the Gaza flotilla and testified that IDF commandos fired on her boat before landing on it and killing 9 other passengers including a Turkish-U.S. citizen. Today, she bravely returned to the Knesset and attempted unsuccessfully to exercise her right to address the political body of which she is a member.

In case you were wondering, this didn't earn her any fans on the far right of the political spectrum. In fact there was a veritable cat fight and near fisticuffs, including an episode when one MK approached the rostrum and appeared to try to assault her, before being held back by security. She was called a spy and traitor and told (in very bad Arabic by one rightist) to go back to Gaza where she belonged... This is not an edifying sight if you have any sympathy for the State of Israel. Here is the font of Israeli democracy polluted by the spew of hate. Here is a young Israeli Palestinian woman nearly pummelled for exercising her rights as an Israeli citizen to protest her government's policies. Everything that is wrong with the State of Israel currently is on display in this six minutes of eye-opening video.

Watch it and weep: http://www.richardsilverstein.com/tikun_olam/2010/06/03/israeli-palestinian-mk-assaulted-in-knesset/

REAL HISTORY - FRANK ADMISSION OF ZIONIST TERROR TACTICS: In 1991 *On Target* covered statements by the then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who, at the time, was honouring the establishment of the terrorist Stern Gang of which he had been the leader. There were not too many media outlets that would have published such material – and the mainline media-hounds would have savagely attacked those who did so. The Israeli state could do no wrong. But the news is no longer controlled by the financial/ political elite, thanks to the internet.

The article read: "Zionist Israel Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhak Shamir has not only frankly admitted that the Stern Gang engaged in terrorist attack and assassinations, but claimed that the Stern Gang was morally just to do what it did". At the time, Shamir was speaking on a radio programme. The Stern Gang was responsible for the cold-blooded killing of the British Minister of State for the Middle East in 1944 and for a similar assassination in 1948, when the United Nations Peace Mediator, Count Bernadotte, of Sweden, was killed. The late Sir Raphael Cilento has related how he had originally been scheduled to be in the car in which Count Bernadotte was killed.

Shamir said that he was proud of the Stern Gang's terrorist record. He had played a leading role in the 1948 massacre of 120 Palestinian civilians, including women and children, at the village of Deir Yassin. The bodies of those slaughtered were pushed down a well and this bloody deed widely publicised to force the Palestinians to flee from their homes in terror. Fear of further massacres was a major factor in causing the Palestinians to flee from the invading Zionist forces in 1948.

Shamir has revealed why it is impossible to have meaningful negotiations with Zionist leaders. He says, 'We believed in what we did, discussed and wrote. Therefore it was correct.' In defending the use of terror, Shamir says, 'From the moral point of view there is no difference between personal terror and collective terror. Here and there blood is spilled, here and there people are killed. One must look and judge it from the point of view of the utility of that means.' (In other words *the end justifies the means...ed*).

Shamir has always said that he will not enter into talks with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, which he describes as a terrorist group. When asked if the Palestinians were also justified in using terror to advance their cause, Shamir bluntly said, 'Their goal is not just.' That comment summarises the Zionist philosophy of the "one way street". He has insisted that Israel will never hand back to the Palestinians the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, taken during the 1967 war.

Shamir and fellow Zionists ignore all U.N. resolutions asking that they leave. There is no suggestion of Shamir being treated the same as was Saddam Hussein who declined to accept a U.N. resolution.

The Middle East is going to continue to be a major crisis area while the Zionists refuse to consider any justice for the Palestinians, whose homes they took from them by force and terror."

Source: <http://www.alor.org/Volume27/Vol27No35.htm> 13 September 1991.

BLOCK THE NEWS, VISUAL EVIDENCE & CONTROL SPIN? NOT THIS TIME! Armed to the teeth, the Israelis board a vessel in international waters with peaceful intent, only to meet with violent resistance from a bunch of potential terrorists consisting of members of parliament from Germany, Sweden, Ireland and Turkey. Among those on board: Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire of Ireland, Holocaust survivor Hedy Epstein, U.S. diplomats Amb. Edward Peck and Col Ann Wright, not to mention peace activists from forty countries – including a U.S. Navy survivor of Israel's infamous attack on the USS Liberty.

Under the heading "The Madness of Arrogance: Israel's Attack on Gaza Aid Flotilla" Dr. Alan Sabrosky a writer and consultant specialising in national and international security affairs wrote quickly in response to the Israeli attack in international waters on the aid flotilla bound for Gaza. "The Israelis confiscated food, oil trees, and medical supplies – lethal items, no doubt, in the hands of Palestinians!"

America's Memorial Day and attack on USS Liberty 8th June, 1967: "Israel's attack on the Gaza-bound aid flotilla on America's Memorial Day (similar to Australia's Anzac Day...ed) was all too predictable, although the form it took surprised even me. And it confirms the old proverb that "Those whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad," for the attack was the kind of madness only unbridled arrogance can assume.

It wasn't just that foreigners as well as Palestinians, flying flags other than that of Palestine, were attacked. Israel has a long history of doing such things, especially to the U.N. But except for the USS Liberty incident in 1967, it has generally done that on inland sites – Gaza, the West Bank, the Lebanon – where it can largely block news and visual evidence, and control the spin it puts on events, counting on its friends in the U.S. and other mainstream media to say little or nothing to contradict them.

The Attack Reprised: Not this time. An attack on the open seas, in acknowledged international waters, against unarmed ships carrying humanitarian aid with passengers and crews from many countries – especially a direct attack against a Turkish ship – is a different matter, and potentially an explosive one. The number of shipboard casualties indicates that once fighting started, the Israeli commandos simply sprayed automatic weapons fire into the people around them – another of their long-standing habits.

And technology is their enemy here, just as it became in an earlier day the enemy of communist regimes in the former Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries. Too many images and videos were taken, and some sent, and too many witnesses reported what was happening, before the Israelis were able to suppress communications from their victims.

Bad for their victims, but also potentially very bad for Israel, and the initial Israeli public-relations damage control efforts show that they are at least dimly aware of that fact. Trying to cast the attack in international waters as an exercise in self-defence would be ludicrous in the best or worst of circumstances – has anyone ever seen wheelchairs used as offensive weaponry?...

A Judging, Long Overdue: And that is what the initial responses appear to affirm. All of the major U.S. and many other media outlets are carrying this story, and even with the slant from many Jewish correspondents based in Jerusalem or Ashdod, the bloody particulars are slowly coming through to at least a general American audience for the first time:

1. The unarmed ships with unarmed passengers were trying to ferry humanitarian and reconstruction aid to ravaged and embattled Gaza.
2. Israel has imposed a blockade on Gaza, probably if not certainly in violation of international law, supported largely by U.S. vetoes in the U.N. Security Council.
3. Israeli warships and commandos intercepted and attacked the aid flotilla in international waters - which is an act of war, piracy or state terrorism, depending on one's view of the details.
4. Under attack, some of the passengers tried to defend themselves, scores were killed or wounded, and some Israeli commandos were also wounded - doubtless a surprise to them, but then their usual run of victims may have made them a bit too cocky.
5. Many governments and publics around the world - not only in Arab capitals - are openly outraged, and the discussion forums on U.S. news websites carrying the story suggest that much the same is happening at a public level in this country.
6. But for Israel, this is just another "we are the misunderstood victim" incident in a long, sordid and utterly unbelievable litany of such things - except that this time, they may not get away with it.

Seizing the Moment: This is a time for those interested in justice for Palestine to seize the moment and act, building on the promise engendered but not fulfilled after the submission of the Goldstone Report to the HRC. I would like to think that President Obama would take a stand, and perhaps he will, but if he does it will be with words and not with deeds. Neither the Congress, nor Rahm Emanuel would let him do much more, whatever his predisposition - and who knows, he may believe the "lynch" metaphor, or pretend to do so.

Americans shouldn't bother with letters or emails to U.S. Senators or Representatives, or Obama; AIPAC will be there ahead of you with more letters and money than you can generate. Go instead directly to the local offices of U.S. Senators and Representatives, stay until you speak personally to the senior person there, and make your case as forcefully as you can. Make sure as many people hear you as possible - but be polite, and leave your signs at home. (Australians take note if you intend to offer a protest on behalf of the beleaguered Palestinians in Gaza)...

The meaning of duty and service - to country and people: And for the U.S. armed forces, on this Memorial Day, it would be well to reflect on the meaning of duty and service to country and people. Oaths of allegiance, obedience and loyalty are important to professionals in the armed forces, in or out of uniform. They were to me when I was in the Marines, and later as a civilian at West Point and the Army War College. I'm sure serving professionals today are no different.

But the elected and appointed civilians overseeing the armed services have also taken their own oaths, and many have violated them by serving the interests of Israel rather than the U.S. itself, and especially by spending American lives and treasure furthering Israeli interests rather than safeguarding American ones. This, to me, is clearly treason, and utterly negates any loyalty anyone else owes to them. Remember that the cornerstone of our oaths is not to obedience, but to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." Think about it on this Memorial Day."

Source: <http://www.veteranstoday.com/2010/05/31/dr-alan-sabrosky-the-madness-of-arrogance-israels-attack-on-the-gaza-aid-flotilla/> *Alan Sabrosky (Ph.D, University of Michigan) is a ten-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

Continued in The Bulletin