

# NEWS REVIEW



4 DECEMBER 2009

17 KISLEV 5770

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Never believe that Demjanjuk is a 'victim'**  
Times Online

**Statement by Amb Shalev to the UN General Assembly**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Switzerland and the Minaret**  
The Wall Street Journal

**From Dreyfus to Goldstone**  
Canadian Jewish News

**Understanding undermines racism**  
Armidale Express

HELP SAVE A LIFE

PAEDIATRICIAN  
WITH LEUKAEMIA

## Never, ever, believe that Demjanjuk is a 'victim'

Daniel Finkelstein | Times Online | 2 December

Does the idea — that decent human beings can behave in an evil way just to conform — justify the Demjanjuk defence? Of course it does not.

Let us not lose our moral clarity. The “Demjanjuk defence” — that the perpetrators of Nazi crime can be seen as victims themselves, alongside those who suffered from their criminal acts — is an abomination.

Whatever the nature or their circumstances, human beings retain a moral choice. The ability to judge people by the choices they make is the cornerstone of civilisation. The very basis of human co-operation is our insistence that others behave to us as we would to them. The progress of mankind involves ensuring that this standard is continually raised.

The ability, therefore, to distinguish between perpetrator and victim is one of the most fundamental abilities of all. Without it there can be no such thing as society. [READ MORE](#)

[In pictures: The story of John Demjanjuk](#)

## Statement by Israel Ambassador Gabriela Shalev to the UN General Assembly Agenda Item 16 - "Question of Palestine"

**33 for. 13 against. 10 abstentions. The resolution is approved. Those were the words that announced the UN General Assembly adoption of resolution 181 on November 29, 1947.**

33 for. 13 against. 10 abstentions. The resolution is approved.

Those were the words at Lake Success on November 29, 1947 that announced the [United Nations General Assembly adoption of resolution 181](#). Those were the words that conferred international legitimacy on the creation of two states for two peoples.

33 for. 13 against. 10 abstentions. The resolution was approved.

The Jewish population in then-British-Mandate Palestine accepted this historic resolution. It reflected the Zionist conviction that it was both necessary and possible to live in peace with our neighbours in the land of our forefathers.

Yet the Arab side within the mandate territory and across the region instantly rejected resolution 181. And Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon - members of the United Nations - launched a war of annihilation against Israel together with Jordan and the Arabs of Palestine.

As a result of this rejection and this war, many Palestinian Arabs became refugees, while a similar number of Jews, who lived in Arab countries, were forced to flee their homes and they, too, became refugees. They all - Jews and Arabs - lived in refugee camps, torn away from their homes.

The difference between the two distinct refugee populations was - and still is - that Israel has done its utmost to redeem these Jewish refugees from their misery and to absorb them successfully in Israel, whereas the belligerent Arab States did not lift a finger to redeem their brethren. To wage war - yes, by all means. To help in redeeming and resettling, let alone absorbing their brethren, is another matter altogether. [READ MORE](#)

## Switzerland and the Minaret

The Wall Street Journal | 30 November

**Sunday's vote keeps European heads in the sand about Muslim immigrants.**

Nearly 58% of Swiss voters Sunday cast their ballots in favour of banning the construction of new minarets in the Alpine republic, a surprise result that led at least one Swiss member of parliament to declare that "the foundations of Switzerland's direct democracy have failed."

That is clearly wrong. Swiss direct democracy shows its mettle when Swiss voters use it to stand up to their political elites, as happened here. Having said that, Sunday's vote, for all the hand-wringing leading up to it, was a decidedly mild-mannered sort of protest. The construction of new minarets is banned, but the building of mosques is unaffected, and the vote does not affect the four existing minarets in the country. Nobody's freedom of worship is threatened, but a symbolic message has been sent.

But what message, exactly? The vote betrays an undercurrent of fear among the Swiss—a fear that is not without cause. There is no denying the connection between radical imams and terrorist acts. Nor should anyone look away from the fact that too many European Muslims flatly reject the norms of their host countries, sometimes in ways that are criminal: honor killings, child brides and the like.

Yet banning minarets does nothing to address that fear. It merely makes it less likely that the average Swiss will be confronted by a visible symbol of Islam upon his skyline. Thus, even as a symbolic gesture, it seems to encourage a head-in-the-sand approach toward the 5% of Swiss who are Muslim. In much of Europe, this is the norm anyway, the result of political correctness and cowardice.

Rather than being a blow against that attitude, Sunday's vote seems only to reinforce it. Banning minarets won't do anything to assimilate Switzerland's or Europe's Muslims, or to ensure that economic opportunity is available to everyone of whatever creed, or to deal with Western Europe's demographic problem of too few newborns.

The ban, in other words, does too much and too little at once. Too much because it becomes a very visible and easily exploited symbol of supposed European intolerance. But it accomplishes too little because it seeks merely to hide from view the problems that gave rise to the fear of the minaret in the first place.

## From Dreyfus to Goldstone

Gerald M. Steinberg | Canadian Jewish News | 19 November

The 1895 prosecution and conviction of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer in the French army, under fabricated charges of treason was a decisive event.

It was the product of anti-Semitism – fuelled by the Catholic Church and compounded by political manipulation and media hysteria – and it took 11 years before the truth was finally revealed and Dreyfus was exonerated.

More than a century later, a similar process is taking place in indicting not an individual Jew, but the entire Jewish nation on false charges of “war crimes,” deliberate killing and disproportionate force. Now as then, the combination of anti-Semitism (thinly disguised as anti-Zionism) and religion – in this case, one that uses the language of human rights to promote its power and anti-democracy dogma – play a major role. [READ MORE](#)

## Understanding undermines racism

**Josh Paterson | The Armidale Express | 2 December**

The many faces of racism - and the effects that it can have - were explained to students of local schools during a tour by the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.



**Chief Executive Officer for The NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Vic Alhadeff, with O'Connor Catholic College boys captain for 2010, Alexander Frost, Board of Deputies education manager Lynda Ben-Menashe and O'Connor girls captain Ashleigh Stier**

Chief Executive Officer Vic Alhadeff and the board's education manager Lynda Ben-Menashe visited The Armidale School, Duval High, O'Connor Catholic College, the New

England Girls' School and Armidale High during their two day visit.

Mr Alhadeff said the purpose of the board's visit was simple: “The Jewish community of NSW has always had a good relationship with regional areas, in fact the first Jewish Member of Parliament was from Orange, so we are just continuing to build that good relationship,” he said. [READ MORE](#)

## Become a Member

Ensure that the voice of your community is heard by supporting the work of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

Join us in the work of strengthening Jewish life.

Contact the Board for more information:

## New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies

Level 2  
146 Darlinghurst Road  
Darlinghurst 2010

T: 02 9360 1600

F: 02 9331 4712

E-mail:  
[pilman@nswjbd.com](mailto:pilman@nswjbd.com)

We're on the net!

[www.nswjbd.org](http://www.nswjbd.org)

## Help save the life of a Pediatrician with leukemia

*“Dr Les Markman is a paediatric specialist who has leukemia. His only hope is a stem cell/bone marrow cell transfusion. Maybe you are a match?”*

*Please inform as many Jewish people as possible. “*

Your help is needed to save a life. As blood types are inherited only a Jew can save the life of another with a blood /stem cell/ bone marrow transfusion.

Please round up as many appropriate potential donors as plausible to help save a wonderful Paediatric specialist who saved many children's lives and who called Gift of Life Australia himself to say he's dying because sadly a suitable match has not been found for him within his family or worldwide. His children in Melbourne are also organising a drive & the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry agreed to accept as many testings as we'll manage.

His chances are only 1 in 10,000 .....Can you be the one?

**As a paediatric specialist he saved the life of many children**

Dr Les Markman was diagnosed with leukaemia and his only hope is a stem cell/bone marrow cell transfusion.

**Can you help save his life now ?**

Sadly no one in his family has been found matching so he must search within his own Ashkenazi Jewish community for a match.

**Testing will be held at**

Save the life of a savior. All it takes to register as a potential donor is a simple blood test of 2 teaspoons and completing a Red Cross ABMDR questionnaire.

**Our Big Kitchen,  
36 Flood St, Bondi  
on Sunday 6 December**

You must be between 18 & 50 years old and would like to give the Gift of Life.

**10am-4pm**

Celebrate the Gift of Giving with a sausage sizzle  
Children will be entertained whilst their parents are tested.  
An appointment should be made for your convenience & to avoid waiting

**For more information call Shula 0414 780 444  
[www.giftoflife.org.au](http://www.giftoflife.org.au)**

