

NEWS REVIEW



27 AUGUST 2009

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Palestinian Prime Minister: We'll build state institutions in two years. What have you been doing for the last 15?

Barry Rubin | Rubin Reports | 25 August

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad has a new peace plan: he's just going to create a state without reaching a peace agreement with Israel.

If Palestinians are so steadfast in getting a state, why don't they negotiate for one? If they are suffering under so much brutality doesn't this give them an additional incentive to make a deal?

But the suffering is just used as a public relations' gimmick. Weird as it might sound in the West, this is how Palestinian politics work. If you simultaneously suffer and bleed--through violence and intransigence you yourself induce—and reject a compromise peace, this will hopefully bring international intervention to hand you everything you want with no cost on your part.

If you truly understand the above paragraph you know everything you need to know about the Israel-Palestinian conflict and the failure to achieve peace. [READ MORE](#)

Lockerbie Lessons: How not to deal with dictators

Arthur Herman | New York Post | 26 August

President Obama is lucky. The scandal over the release of convicted terrorist bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, which is melting down the political class in Britain and Scotland, offers powerful lessons on how not to deal with rogue dictators.

If, that is, Obama and his team are willing to listen.

Deciding to send the man convicted of killing 270 people on Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 home to Libya "on compassionate grounds" was (to paraphrase the French statesman Talleyrand) worse than an outrage. It's turning out to be a major political blunder.

It may bring down the Labor government of British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. It certainly signals an end to the career of the justice secretary who signed Megrahi's release, Kenny MacAskill.

Right now the Obama administration is contemplating sending a US envoy to North Korea to open direct talks with Moammar Khadafy's dictatorial twin, Kim Jong Il. It's itching to do the same with Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. First, the Obama team needs to treat the Megrahi case as a crash course in international relations and the War on Terror.

The Megrahi case demonstrates what happens when the West decides to indulge its conscience in the face of the enemy. It also shows what happens when a democratic political leader thinks his most potent weapon in dealing with a dictator is the power of persuasion rather than the power of force.

Let's not make the same mistake with North Korea and Iran. [READ MORE](#)

“The story derive from age-old antisemitism”

An Open Letter by Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress, in The Swedish Wire after Sweden's Aftonbladet newspaper claimed on Monday that Israeli soldiers snatched Palestinian youths and returned their dismembered bodies a few days later. [READ MORE](#)

When Israelis denounce Israel: Legitimate criticism of Israel or arrogant self-delusion

Dr. Alex Grobman | Global Politician | 27 August

Critics of Israel abound. Some are antisemites who seek the demise of the Jewish state. Others have legitimate concerns about particular Israeli policies. Among the most vocal are a number of Israeli intellectuals who challenge the country's *raison d'être*.

Self-hating Jews play a significant role in anti-Israel campaigns of the Western media. Historian Robert Wistrich noted that Jews highly critical of Israel are featured in the British media.

Israeli's condemnation of their country is a result of living under “a state of chronic siege,” posits Kenneth Levin, a historian and psychiatrist. Israelis have been abused for so long, that they escape their pain by espousing anti-Israel sentiments. Appeasing the terrorists, they believe, will end hostilities. Israel only has to acquiesce to Arab demands, cease obsessing about defensible borders and other strategic issues, and peace would ensue and such concerns would become irrelevant.

Sol Stern, a former editor of the New Left Ramparts magazine, adds that this assumes both sides act rationally. According to this scenario, when Israel's concessions are considered equitable, amity will compensate for any remaining differences. Didn't the enmity between the U.S. and the former Soviet Union end in *détente*? Hadn't President Richard Nixon gone to China? Aren't “the Arabs rational” people?

Stern credits neoconservatives with understanding that Israel's right to exist as a democratic Jewish state has always been the main problem for the Arabs, not the “disputed territories.” Arab attempts to bring their case to the attention of the world are not arbitrary. Suicide bombings are a cleverly planned strategy that has produced considerable advantages. After the first series of attacks against Israeli supermarkets, cafés, malls and buses, the Arab cause was championed by European governments and on American campuses.¹² Israeli victims receive little sympathy, historian Tony Judt and a severe critic of Israel claims, because they are not seen as victims of terror, but as “collateral damage of their own government's mistaken policies.”

Israeli offers to exchange land for peace have not succeeded. Appeasement has only increased hatred of Israel. Yet Israel is continually pressured to make concessions. The reason, Stern believes, is that progressive critics cannot acknowledge a fundamental truth: “that there can be political movements, like Islamic terrorism—in which the jihad and the intifada merge—that are so pathological in their hatreds that we can solve the problems they purport to care about only after they are defeated.”¹⁴

Levin sees an element of arrogance in “this self-delusion” by Israelis who believe they can affect change. Jews assume a responsibility for something over which they have no control, to ward off despair. This is similar to an abused child who feels responsible for his plight and views himself as “bad.” The child maintains, “the fantasy that if he becomes good enough,” his father will stop hitting him, his mother will give him attention and whatever other form of abuse he suffered will end. In the same way, some Israelis are delusional when they assume they can control Arab behaviour. [READ MORE](#)

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Behind the Headlines: Iran's terrorist defense minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem | 24 August

Wanted

VAHIDI, Ahmad



Legal Status	
Present family name:	VAHIDI
Forename:	AHMAD
Sex:	MALE
Date of birth:	(unknown)

Iran once again revealed to the world the true nature of its regime by appointing a terrorist wanted by Interpol to be its Minister of Defense.

On 19 August, President Ahmadinejad announced that Ahmad Vahidi was nominated to be Iran's defense minister. Perhaps it is only fitting that a terrorist-supporting regime would appoint an internationally-wanted terrorist as its Minister of

Defense. Maybe it is entirely appropriate that a Holocaust-denying President would appoint a perpetrator of the largest antisemitic massacre since the Holocaust to his Cabinet. Nevertheless, Iran's promotion of Vahidi to minister of defense should not fail to shock those of good conscience around the world.

Vahidi is no ordinary terrorist. He is one of five prominent Iranians wanted by Interpol for the suicide bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Argentina (AMIA). In that horrific attack in the morning of 18 July 1994, a large part of that building was destroyed, killing 85 innocent Argentinian citizens and wounding 240. By appointing Vahidi, Iran has demonstrated that it will continue to support international terrorism. At least four nominees have ties to the Revolutionary Guards. Iran today is the largest exporter of terrorism in the world and all signs from the new government demonstrate that it has no intentions of changing. [READ MORE](#)

Kennedy seen as giant on domestic issues, Soviet Jewry

Eric Fingerhut | JTA | 26 August 26

U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy is being remembered in the Jewish community for his huge impact on domestic issues such as education and health care, but also as a giant in the Soviet Jewry movement.

Kennedy also will be remembered as a strong champion of Israel. Jewish organizational officials noted that he was a stalwart supporter of foreign aid, opposed arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia in the early 1980s, and was a strong backer of recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. He also publicly rebuked President George H.W. Bush when he linked settlements to U.S. loan guarantees for the emigration of Soviet Jews, and was a leading voice in speaking out against the Arab boycott of Israel. [READ MORE](#)

Drivers and doctors on the road to peace

Karin Kloosterman | Israel 21C | 26 August

A growing number of Palestinians are being personally chauffeured to life-saving medical appointments in Israel by volunteer Israeli drivers.

It took more than half of her young life for doctors to diagnose two-year-old Aya Aiid Abo-Mois's chronic kidney disease. Today, it's the dialysis she receives four times a week at an Israeli hospital that keeps her alive.

Aya's is just one story about how Israelis and Palestinians are working together to ensure that children in the PA have access to healthcare in Israel when necessary. The Palestinian Authority and private donors foot the bill and Magen confirms that doctors treat all patients equally, regardless of nationality. [READ MORE](#)