

NEWS REVIEW



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Worst Natural Disaster in Israel's History

The Jewish Community and Zionist organisations of NSW stand together in support of Israel in the worst national disaster in the history of the State. As of 3 December, 3pm, 40 lives have been lost; 13,000 people have been evacuated; 2 kibbutzim have been destroyed and a national day of mourning has been declared. Prime Minister Netanyahu called this "a disaster on the scale that has never been seen before". The community stands ready to assist Israel in this time of crisis.



Disaster in the North: fire in Carmel Mountains

Israel is in a state of "shock and heartbreak" after the nation's worst ever fire disaster killed at least 40 people near the northern city of Haifa.



The views from Haifa university.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that this is a "disaster on an international scale" and has called for aid from other countries. "We do not have what it takes to put out the fire, but help is on the way. As a result of calls I have made, there are currently ten aircrafts on their way to Israel from Greece, France and Cyprus," he

stated. "This is a difficult hour, and we will need to learn lessons for the future, but at this

moment, our only thoughts are to save lives and protect the forces that are dealing with this catastrophe". [READ MORE](#)

Australia offers help to fight Israel forest fires

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd has offered the help of Australian emergency services in tackling deadly bushfires raging out of control in Israel.

Mr Rudd said in a statement Australia knew about the devastation of bushfires.

"I understand several of Israel's neighbours are sending assistance to help tackle the fires, including aircraft'. "At this point, given the urgency, we understand that Israel is seeking assistance from countries in its region. "Australia stands ready to offer assistance to Israel."

Mr Rudd said the Australian embassy in Tel Aviv had been in touch with Israel authorities and at this stage there was no indication of any Australian injured or killed as a result of the fire.

Mr Rudd, who is currently in Bahrain, will travel to Israel later this month for an official visit. [READ MORE](#)

Turkey offers help despite tense relations

Officials in Turkish embassy in U.S. say Israel accepted two firefighting aircraft, say Turkey was one of the first governments to offer help.

Turkish officials in Washington said Thursday that Turkey has offered to send Israel two firefighting aircraft to help control the huge brushfire that has been raging through northern Israel. "Israel has accepted the offer and ours was, I guess, one of the first governments to offer help," the spokesperson of the Turkish embassy in the US said.

After the fire resulted in the death of 40 and kept raging into the night on Thursday, Israel has turned to foreign countries in search of firefighting aircraft needed to control the blaze. Israel asked the US and other European countries for urgent help in taming the flames by sending firefighting aircraft.

Turkey's offer comes as its relations with Israel have deteriorated in recent years and reached a low point last May when nine Turkish citizens were killed as Israeli naval commandos boarded a Gaza-bound aid flotilla.

JEWISH CONTRIBUTION RECOGNISED WITH VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Ethnic Communities' Council awards Josie Lacey

Communal stalwart, Josie Lacey OAM was among six others recipients of an 'outstanding' Service Award' at a reception hosted by Premier Kristina Keneally. The awards were presented for the contribution to the Ethnic Communities Council and the principles of multiculturalism.



From left to right: Deputy Premier Carmel Tebbutt, Ross Tzannes, Josie Lacey OAM, Edna McGill, Premier Kristina Keneally, Jack Passaris OAM (ECC President) George Varueghese, and Aziz Akbar

A Vice President of the ECC, Josie has chaired the Interfaith and Anti-racism committee since 1991. The committee was pivotal in the achievement of a NSW

racial vilification law, and subsequently she convened and chaired the NSW Community Consultation on the Commonwealth Race Hatred Law at the request of the Federal Attorney General's department.

Board's past President Robin Margo S.C. receives CRC Award

The Annual Community Relations Awards for Volunteering honour those individuals in NSW whose tireless community service has enhanced the cultural and social wellbeing of their migrant communities.

Robin Margo S.C. receiving Community Service Award from NSW Premier Kristina Keneally

Immediate past President of the Board of Deputies Robin Margo SC was the recipient of the 2010 Community Service Award.



This award is

bestowed for distinguished volunteer community service, and Robin was acknowledged for longstanding service in leadership positions within the Jewish community and being instrumental in broadening and strengthening relationships between the Jewish community and other culturally diverse communities in NSW.

A walk to remember

ABC 7:30 Report | 1 December

William Cooper is recognised as one of the founders of Aboriginal activism - he fought for the plights of many oppressed groups as well as his own people. This weekend he is being honoured for the protest he led to the German consulate following Kristallnacht - a dark night in Germany and Austria's history when thousands of Jews were sent to prison camps

and nearly a hundred killed. Next week William Cooper's descendants will fly to Israel where he'll be honoured with an academic chair established in his name. [READ MORE](#)

PA removes Western Wall report from website

Khaled Abu Toameh | Jerusalem Post | 1 December

A senior PA official in Ramallah revealed that at the request of the U.S., a PA "study" that rejects Jewish claims to the Western Wall in Jerusalem was removed on Wednesday from the official website of the Palestinian Ministry of Information.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office said it was not enough for the PA to pretend this "study" never happened, but it was important that the leadership denounce it publicly. "It is important for confidence-building that the Palestinian Authority publicly prepare people for peace and reconciliation, and that can only be done if Palestinian leaders publicly disassociate themselves from such remarks and condemn all statements that call Israel fundamentally illegitimate," one official in the Prime Minister's Office said. "As long as the Jewish state remains illegitimate in Palestinian eyes, peace will not be real." [READ MORE](#)

A lethal leak or a boomerang?

Melanie Phillips | The Spectator | 30 November

Only the western left is obsessed with the "Palestinians" and Jewish "settlements" while Arab regimes actually couldn't care less. Contrary to leftist and Obama administration claims, the Israeli-"Palestinian" conflict, which in any case is code for blaming everything on Israel, has not been an obstacle in garnering the support of Arab regimes for stopping Iranian nukes. Quite the contrary in that Arab countries have been far more frantically pleading with America to bomb Iran than Israel has. The WikiLeaks revelations have backfired on the anti-Israel crowd, big time. [READ MORE](#)

The Amish come to Israel asking Jews for forgiveness

National Examiner | 30 November

When most of the news we hear involves killing, lies and denial, here's news story that stands out as unique: Members of the Amish community from the United States and Switzerland paid a visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem for the express purpose of asking the Jewish people's forgiveness for their group's silence during the Nazi extermination of Jews in the Holocaust. [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:

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We're on the net!

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15th TALKING ABOUT ISRAEL COURSE

become a member of the Board and

**EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES AND YOUR SKILLS
IN RESPONDING TO THE MEDIA**

What's in the course?

Session 1 – Israel's history to 1948 + media response skills
Session 2 – 1948, Refugees + media response activity
Session 3 – 1967, Settlements + media response activity
Session 4 – Human Rights and Terrorism + media response activity
Session 5 – Accusations against Israel and Prospects for Peace + media response activity

On completion of the course you will be better equipped to answer tough questions about Israel in the workplace and social situations, respond to various forms of media and more!

Where and When?

UIA Boardroom, 146 Darlinghurst Rd Darlinghurst
Mondays 10am -12noon

January 31
February 7
February 14
February 21
February 28

Membership of the Board

Membership of the Board is a pre-requisite to doing the course. Your enrolment and course fee include first year membership of the Board if you are not already a member.

To enrol: Contact Education Manager, Lynda Ben-Menashe on
benmenashe@nswjbd.com