

NEWS REVIEW



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IN THIS ISSUE

The Jewish State
Editorial, Washington Times

Loyalty acts, not loyalty oaths
Gil Troy, Jerusalem Post

Consult Arabs on a shared Jerusalem
Khaled Toameh, The Australian

Standing up to BDS movement
Speech by AWU's Paul Howes

Ahmadinejad trip to Lebanon
Meir Javendfar, The Guardian

Eye on Europe

The Jewish State

Editorial | The Washington Times | 11 October

It makes sense to recognize what already exists

Israel has approved an amendment to its citizenship law by which those seeking to become naturalized citizens will take an oath of allegiance to Israel "as a Jewish and democratic state." Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu explains that Israel was established as "the national state of the Jewish People, as the sovereign state of the Jewish People in its historic homeland." The citizenship oath only makes explicit that Jewish national identity is fundamental to the Israeli state.

This measure shouldn't be controversial. Israel is the most diverse country in the Middle East, in which people of many nationalities and religions live, work and worship. The citizenship oath only makes explicit that Jewish national identity is fundamental to the Israeli state. [READ MORE](#)

Loyalty acts, not loyalty oaths

Gil Troy | Jerusalem Post | 13 October

Trying to preserve Israel's Jewish and democratic character by imposing loyalty oaths like the one the Netanyahu government is proposing makes as much sense as trying to solve America's unemployment crisis by simply declaring the recession over. Words have meaning. They can set tones, define directions, articulate visions, reaffirm core values and, when done right, inspire confidence. But in building national identities – as with managing national economies – changing behaviors trumps pronouncements.

Israel's future as a Jewish and democratic state, with its pluralistic population in all its glorious contradictions, depends on loyalty acts, not loyalty oaths. We need a renewed covenant between the country's citizens and its government – not meaningless mouthings targeting Israel's Arabs. [READ MORE](#)

Consult Arabs on a shared Jerusalem

Khaled Abu Toameh | The Australian | 13 October

The future status of Jerusalem is back on the negotiating table between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. It is being described as one of the "core issues" in the US-sponsored

direct talks that were launched early last month.

Both Israeli and Palestinian negotiators need to take into account that it's completely unrealistic to talk about restoring the pre-1967 situation where Jerusalem was divided into two cities.

The division was bad for Jews and Arabs back then, and it will be worse if it happens once again. [READ MORE](#)

Standing up to the BDS movement

Speech by AWU National Secretary Paul Howes to Zionist Federation of Australia Conference in Melbourne, 10 October 2010

We are here at both an exciting time: the new round of peace talks between the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli leadership;

And at a time of a new threat to Israel: a spreading international de-legitimisation campaign largely under the banner of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

I am proud to join you here because like you I am a firm supporter of the State of Israel.

I believe that the Jewish people have a right to a homeland. I believe that the best way to deliver on that right to a homeland is the two state solution. This support for the State of Israel – and the two state solution - is part of a long tradition in our union.

How am I to apply AWU tradition in the context of the Middle East? [READ MORE](#)

Ahmadinejad looks to Lebanon to escape home truths

Meir Javendfar | The Guardian | 8 October

The Iranian government is very enthusiastic about Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's coming visit to southern Lebanon and has been doing much to promote it. While in Lebanon, Ahmadinejad is expected to tour the southern border, including the town of Bint Jbeil, which is a Hezbollah stronghold. Meanwhile, Ahmadinejad will also throw stones towards Israel from the Fatima border crossing garden which he will be inaugurating, close to Israel's border.

The visit also comes at a time when tensions between Iran and Israel are at a high. Ahmadinejad visiting Lebanon's southern border could confirm the fear of many Israelis that the Iranian regime has truly arrived on its doorstep.

In Israel and the US, the reaction to the trip has been very negative. The Israeli government views the trip as a provocative measure, while the Obama administration has warned the Lebanese government about the risks such a visit could pose.

However, what both the US and Israel should note is that the biggest reason why Ahmadinejad has decided to go to Lebanon is domestic. Israel and the US are further down his list of priorities.

The Iranian president is visiting Lebanon mainly because of his growing unpopularity at home. [READ MORE](#)

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Eye on Europe

German woman fined for Holocaust denial: An elderly German woman and former president of a banned right-wing group has been fined for denying the Holocaust. The 81-year-old, who has been identified as Ursula H., was given a six-month suspended sentence and fined nearly \$1,400. She had admitted to sending an SMS message to schoolchildren in which he denied the Holocaust, according to the Germany news agency DPA. Another man, aged 91, was fined more than \$800 for putting his name on the pamphlet. The Munich judge said Ursula H. would be unlikely to change her views and should be punished for making them public. It is illegal in Germany to deny the Holocaust openly.

Journalist rewarded for 'courageous' work: A Spanish journalist has been given the Anti-Defamation League's Daniel Pearl Award, which goes to reports who have made a positive contribution to public understanding of Jews and their religion. Pilar Rahola, who received the award in Boston, was praised for his treatment of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. The Barcelona-born writer and former Spanish parliament member received death threats during the 2009 Gaza war for her support of Israel. The award is named after the Jewish-American reporter who was abducted and killed in Pakistan in 2002. Pearl's parents Judea and Ruth described Rahola as "one of the most courageous and encouraging voices that we have heard from Europe in the last decade."

OECD delegates boycott Jerusalem meeting: The UK and Spain are both set to boycott an international tourism conference being held in Jerusalem this month. Delegates of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had requested that the conference not be held in east Jerusalem or that its venue be shifted to Tel Aviv, according to Israeli tourism minister Stas Misezhnikov. Israel rejected the request to hold the OECD gathering in Tel Aviv but agreed not to use east Jerusalem as the location. Spain and Britain nonetheless pulled out, leaving delegates from 14 other states. Palestinian groups had pressurized OECD members to avoid the conference if it is held in Jerusalem at all, according to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Misezhnikov said the decision to go ahead with the conference in Jerusalem was a "declaration of intent and a seal of approval on the fact that we have a state whose recognized capital is Jerusalem."

EU Foreign Minister to add 'careful' voice to Middle East talk': The European Union foreign minister has said she wants to add her voice to Middle East peace talks but intends to do so "carefully." Catherine Ashton traveled to Israel last week, joining US envoy George Mitchell as parties attempted to prevent talks between Israel and the Palestinians from breaking down. Ashton, a member of the Labour Party in the UK, has represented the EU on foreign affairs since December last year. She said she needed to add the EU's voice in order to help Mitchell's work but would be "careful about when I add it." The baroness, who has been criticised for her absence from the discussions, said she met Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Row over Israeli Orchestra's Bayreuth date: The great-granddaughter of controversial German composer Richard Wagner has cancelled a trip to Israel in which she was set to invite an Israeli orchestra to open the next Bayreuth festival of Wagner's music. Katharina Wagner was due to announce that the Israel Chamber Orchestra would open the next season of the festival in Bavaria, but the invitation was withdrawn over fears of a "fiercely negative" reaction in Israel. Wagner's music is rarely performed in Israel or by Israeli musicians as the anti-Semitic composer was Adolf Hitler's favourite. Ephraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal centre, which tracks down Nazis, feared the invitation would "legitimise Wagner in Israel."