

#29 GWD Gaza War Diary July 19-Nov. 9, 2019

Dear Family & Friends,

Who remembers the 2 films: “The Manchurian Candidate”- the first in 1962 with Frank Sinatra, Lawrence Harvey, Angela Lansbury & the second in 2004 with Denzel Washington, Liev Schreiber, Meryl Streep, & Jon Voight? The villains brainwashed the subjects (American soldiers in '62) & (a Senate candidate in '04) into killing their own people. In 1962 it was simple brainwashing; in 2004 it was more high tech – same result.

During the hectic campaigning for Barack Hussein Obama’s 2 presidencies, my husband, Emanuel Winston, Z’I (Manny) & I noted the similarity with the “*Manchurian Candidate*”...the name.... Mansour (*Mansourian Candidate*) (etc. We wrote about it: Who funded Obama’s university schooling (no records of articles in the Law Review, no school friends recollection of him in class), etc. who funded Obama’s Senatorial & Presidential campaigns? Who schooled him (brainwashed) to think so negatively about everything Israel? & so on. Mansour. Was Obama a Mansourian Candidate?

Who is running & funding & polishing the 4 Muslim women like (clever) puppets on strings?

Antisemitism Avoidance at The Washington Post

By [Eric Rozenman](#) • July 25, 2019



When journalists ditch their trade’s “*who, what, when, where, why & how*” in the 3rd paragraph for “*something bigger,*” news seekers should see red lights. Those lights flashed all over a Sunday, July 7 *Washington Post* page 1 puff-piece headlined “*The complicated American story of Ilhan Omar; The congresswoman’s refugee narrative was made for the rancor & racial division of the Trump era.*”

This 3,639-word paean, including 3 adoring photos of the 36-year-old freshman Democrat from Minnesota, epitomized previous *Post* [soft-soaping](#) of Omar.

In just her first 2 months in Congress, Omar twice implied American Jews who supported Israel were guilty of dual loyalty—a centuries-old, anti-Semitic smear. She asserted that backers of close U.S.-Israel relations bought political allies. She falsely claimed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), a policy lobby, not a political action committee, raised funds for candidates. In a 2012 tweet—4 years before Omar won her first elective office, a term in the Minnesota House of Representatives—she echoed hoary Christian & Islamic portrayals of Jews with demonic powers: *"Israel has hypnotized the world. May Allah awaken the people & help them see the evil doings of Israel."*

The Post subhead's use of the word "narrative" is a clue. Journalists borrowed the term from academic "deconstructionist literary theory." It allows them to replace objective reporting with subjective story-telling. Hence the words anti-Semitic & anti-Semitism [never appear](#); the Omar feature deflects the issue by alluding to *"her suggestion that the Israel lobby was using its resources to buy off supporters."*

The newspaper does report that Omar wrote a letter in 2016 urging rehabilitation instead of prison for 9 Minneapolis-area Somalis convicted of trying to reach Syria to fight on behalf of the Islamic State in Iraq & Syria. In sympathetically portraying Omar as a politician shaped by poverty & periodic religious & racial intolerance in the US, the newspaper tells readers that *"since her letter she has kept her distance from the case, which she knew was politically toxic, an easy opportunity for her enemies to paint her as un-American."*

The Post acknowledges Omar *"had known other young men from school who died fighting for al-Shabab, the al-Qaeda affiliate in Somalia."* But it did not tell readers what the Anti-Defamation League had noted in 2015. This was that *"a wave of Americans traveling to Somalia to fight with al-Shabab, an al-Qaeda-linked terrorist group, was described by the FBI as one of the 'highest priorities in anti-terrorism.'"*

Beginning in 2007, at least 50 U.S. citizens or permanent residents were suspected of attempting to join or joining al-Shabab or ISIS. & *"most of the American men training with al-*

Shabab are believed to have been radicalized in the United States, [especially in Minneapolis](#), according to U.S. officials."

IMAGE POLISHING

If *The Post* queried Omar on radicalization of Somali-Americans in Minneapolis, the article didn't say so. Instead, the newspaper sanitized the representative's trail of anti-Jewish incitement by accepting her self-description:

"For Omar, figuring out what means to be the 'president's nightmare' on a national stage has been a work in progress. In theory it means amplifying marginalized voices at home & overseas.

"In practice, it has been more complicated. First came the backlash this winter over her suggestion that the Israel lobby was using its resources to buy off supporters—'it's all about the Benjamins,' she tweeted. Omar apologized for that remark, but she also blamed her colleagues for over-reacting."

"At issue," intoned Post reporters Greg Jaffe & Souad Mekhennet, with contributions from Julie Tate, "wasn't a piece of legislation or an election. It was something bigger—a battle over the American story—who was entitled to tell it & how it would be told." In other words, 'caveat emptor' (buyer beware), readers.

The newspaper reported that ***"In March, at a banquet for CAIR, Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim civil rights group, Omar appeared to minimize the Sept. 11 [, 2001 al-Qaeda] terrorist attacks [that killed nearly 3,000 people] ... 'CAIR was founded after 9/11,' she said, 'because they recognized that [some people did something](#)' [emphasis added] & that all of us were starting to lose access to our civil liberties.' (The Council was founded in 1994)."***

***The Post* corrected Omar's erroneous chronology for CAIR. But it failed to tell readers CAIR was an un-indicted co-conspirator in the US' biggest terrorism funding trial to date, the 2009 Holy Land Foundation for Relief & Development retrial. 5 men were sentenced to prison for raising more than \$12 million for Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist movement based in the Gaza Strip. One, Ghassan Elashi, co-founder of CAIR's Texas chapter, got 65 years. Information suggesting CAIR is something other than "a Muslim civil rights group" is plentiful, but [chronically avoided](#) by *The Post*.**

Silence from newspapers also covered Omar's role as a keynote speaker at a February 23 fund-raiser for Islamic Relief USA. In 2017, Bangladesh authorities banned Islamic Relief workers from aiding Rohingya Muslim refugees from Burma (Myanmar) for fear of Islamic

radicalization. In 2014, the United Arab Emirates designated Islamic Relief as a terrorist organization with ties to The Muslim Brotherhood. That same year Israel banned the group, saying it posed as a charity but actually funded Hamas.

Playing the Race Card

The Post acknowledged Omar's "complicated marital history." It said, "she & the father of her 3 children split temporarily in the 2000s but still filed joint tax returns in 2014 & 2015, when Omar was legally married to someone else." Instead of examining this convoluted tax & perhaps immigration status (for 1 husband) the newspaper immediately distracted:

"Omar danced in a Maroon 5 video alongside lead singer Adam Levine was interviewed by Trevor Noah of 'The Daily Show.'" That's when Noah asked her "what's the plan?" Omar replied " **I am America's hope ... & the President's nightmare.**"

The Post pointed out that when President Trump "tweeted a video that interspersed Omar's 9/11 remarks with footage of the burning World Trade Center towers, Democrats denounced the President for inciting violence against her. 1 week later a man who threatened Omar's life was arrested in NY with a cache of ammunition & guns."

So, "Omar's allies held a rally on her behalf in front of the U.S. Capitol." 1 of those on stage behind the congresswoman was "the civil rights activist Angela Davis." Angela Davis has been many things, most notably leader of the Communist Party USA, an associate of the Black Panther Party & knee-jerk anti-Zionist, **falsely charging** Israel with "ethnic cleansing," "genocide" & "apartheid" against Palestinian Arabs. A "civil rights activist?" With what accomplishments?

As for "rancor" & "racial division" of *The Post's* subhead, "In Omar's version, America wasn't the bighearted country that saved her from a brutal war & bleak refugee camp. It wasn't a meritocracy that helped her attend college or vaulted her into Congress. Instead, it was the country that had failed to live up to its founding ideals; this place had disappointed her, many immigrants, refugees & minorities like her.

But on race & rancor, when Omar spoke to Davis & her other supporters outside the Capitol, she said "this is not going to be the country of white people. This is not going to be the country of the few." Imagine *Post* coverage of a Congress-person declaring "this is not going to be the country of black people.-or- This is not going to be the country of a few million Muslims."

[An in-depth examination of Rep. Ilhan Omar—of her beliefs, how she came by them, who supports her financially & organizationally, her legislative platform & so on—remains to be written. A good start was made by Ayaan Hirsi Ali in "Can Ilhan Omar Overcome Her Prejudice?", a Wall Street Journal commentary.](#)

[The Washington Post, fixated by Omar as a Muslim woman of color rather than an anti-Jewish member of the House. It didn't even try.](#)

[Antisemitism Avoidance at The Washington Post](#)

A refugee's powerful message to Ilhan Omar

<https://ljsp.lwcdn.com/api/video/embed.jsp?id=835f653e-2698-4bff-8b1e-e7a3d9006f64&pi=b1009ec7-3f94-4d5c-bfa1-bb806fd8dc60>

JERUSALEM CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS BEIT MILKEN, 13 TEL HAI ST., JERUSALEM, 9210717, ISRAEL EMAIL: INFO@JCPA.ORG

ISRAEL IS THE TARGET FOR THE NEXT "SQUAD." EXPOSÉ

How rapidly America has fallen. An exposé of the foursome's alliances, backers & aides as 2 of them plan their trip to Israel. By Barry Shaw, 24/07/19 [Share](#)



Barry Shaw is the Senior Associate for Public Diplomacy at the Israeli Institute for Strategic Studies. He is also author of 'Fighting Hamas, BDS & Anti-Semitism.'

Politically, they have found the Democratic Party to be easy prey, particularly after an embarrassing defeat in the 2016 Presidential elections. The disillusioned party, bereft of direction or cause, was wide open to radical forces.

Maureen Dowd referred to Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) & Ayanna Pressley as "*the Squad*." Pelosi said, in a conversation with *New York Times* columnist, Dowd, after the 4 women voted against a Democratic bill for border funding, "*These people have no public whatever. There are 4 of them & that's how many votes they got.*" Pelosi flippantly under-estimated them.

Fox News host, Laura Ingraham, identified them as "*the four horsewomen of the Apocalypse*" as early as last November. They spread hate & division, even anti-Semitism & disdain for America but, in Pressley's words, they think they are "*creating a more equitable world.*" This is 'corruption of thought' by these new

policy makers who want the public to think they are doing justice as they express hateful, racist & divisive remarks. Where did they come from? Are there more?

They are products of the American campuses 'fraud factory', breeding grounds for radical professors & lecturers who pump indoctrinated activists off a conveyor belt of ideas to become the next generation opinion, influencers & policy makers. The academic battleground of ideas has been lost to the pragmatic, truly liberal & certainly the conservative educators. Academia has become dogma.

Faculties for formative ideas have been hijacked by the thought-control manipulators producing the AOCs, Omars, Tlaibs & Pressleys [Gail Sez: Like The Manchurian or Mansourian Candidates"]. Many more are following them from the incubator of incitement into positions of power. They found easy paths to power, in the social & print media or in politics. They complement one another & collaborate together in the one cause.

The freshmen come trained, nurtured & strategized by crafty spin-masters & operators with nasty ideas to, in Obama's words, "radically change America." [Gail Sez: "Was he Our Own Mansourian Candidate!?"]

AOC's chief of staff, Saikat Chakrabarti, looks like an Indian Harry Potter, but he is the US version of Seamus Milne, not-so shadowy Strategy & Communication Director who pulls strings of Britain's Labour Party leader, Jeremy Corbyn & formulates his policies & campaigns. Is it coincidence both Left-wing Parties are growing anti-Semitism & anti-Israel policies?

What motivates Chakarabarti can be found on the T-shirt he used to wear as he operated AOC's successful run for Congress. It depicted the face of Subhas Chandra Bose, an Indian who once dreamed of grabbing power in India. It was during World War II & Bose went to Nazi Germany to gain their support. Bose's ideological statements included, "Freedom is not given; it must be taken." & "No real change in history can be achieved in discussion."

In other words, power must be taken.

Bose died before he could do his power grab, but his political philosophy & motivation of the key strategist of the new Democrats, a disciple of Bose.

One would think that this is the complete antithesis of American values, but It is the next stage of Obama's stated aim to "fundamentally change America."

Supporting Chakarabarti is Cenk Uygur, a Turkish-American, creator of The Young Turks who broadcasts a radical progressive agenda & active plan for America. Not "The Young Americans." It's "The Young Turks for Uygur".

Uygur is also the founder of the Justice Democrats which calls itself a Political Action Committee to progress their radical policies. Rashida Tlaib & Ilhan Omar have said they are "extensions" of this movement.

Behind these dynamic operators is money. Uygur has an estimated \$Five million, but George Soros is one of the prime financiers of the radical agenda within the Democratic Party. According to Media Research Center, Soros's Media Consortium reaches nearly three hundred million people a month. Soros funds nearly every major Left-wing media source in the US. It is the propaganda arm of the political action strategists.

This new movement is not confined to the Democratic Party.

Just as Corbyn receives active support from pro-Palestinian, Hate-Israel, groups in the UK that includes the Islamic Human Rights Council, so in America the

support includes the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) who are actively emboldening their new political recruits. Leaders of CAIR can be seen marching through the halls of power in Congress. **Ilhan Omar was the main attraction at fund-raising events for Islamic Relief, with deep ties to groups that advocate terrorism against Israel, & for CAIR, a group named as a co-conspirator in a major Hamas terror-funding incident.**

Rashida Tlaib has personal friends that include **Ramea Odeh, a convicted terrorist murderer of 2 Israeli students; Mohammad Ali who stabbed 3 Israelis & other rabidly anti-Semitic Israel haters.**

This Red-Green alliance between hard Left politics & political Islam, the merging of radical ideas, the organizational power & money, marshalling of grassroots activism including getting voters to polling booths, is where the radical Left meets political Islamists as they march together to gain power.

Theologically, Islamists will never be members of secular political parties in Britain & America, but they'll place their candidates into positions of political power, vote for them & ensure they do their bidding once elected.

This new political force has rapidly gained ground in the US where the Democratic establishment has been caught off guard & unable to present a coherent opposition to its powerful & organized momentum. Pelosi made the fatal mistake of appeasing them, but when she objected to their policies she was accused by them of being a racist. Now she is attempting to wrest power back from them.

Joan Ryan, who resigned as a Labour Member of Parliament over her British Party's rampant anti-Semitism, delivered a stark warning to AIPAC last May on how quickly things can change. She told America, "I would never have believed just 3 years ago the party which backed a Jewish homeland would sink so low so fast."

This is now happening in America to a Democratic Party, a party that was unable to affirmatively condemn the anti-Semitic & anti-Israel rhetoric of Omar & Tlaib & is now paying the price for their negligence.

What is next for "The Squad"?

They intend to lead a delegation to Israel. Actually, they intend to lead it to "Palestine." They are not coming to advance peace or cooperation. They will be doing it to advance hate & confrontation.

This will become a diplomatic embarrassment for the US, both for the current Administration & for a Democratic Party, severely challenged trying to prevent such a visit. If American politicians fail to stop this visit, the Israeli government will be left with the diplomatic headache of a visitation by hostile US Congressional representatives & their guests coming to advance their inciteful Palestinian Arab agenda.

It will be an official Gaza Flotilla without the boats. What if they are accompanied by Linda Sarsour?

The visit will be made more embarrassing led by Ilhan Omar who sits on the US Foreign Affairs Committee & Rashida Tlaib who draped herself not in an American flag but in a Palestinian flag when elected to Congress.

How rapidly America has fallen.

A refugee's powerful message to Ilhan Omar

By Leah Rosenberg 6/17/19

[Boos` to this video to reach up to 1000 people](#)

Ilhan Omar acts as if she cares about those who are suffering. But this refugee just showed the world why she is nothing but a virulent anti-Semite.

Ilhan Omar's Obsession with Israel

Ilhan Omar focuses so much on the Middle East conflict. She paints herself as a defender of human rights who will speak out against the evils of the world. The problem is, she is lying. The Palestinian Arabs are treated better by Israel than Arabs in other countries. Israel treats them quite well given the tense circumstances. But Omar does not care. She will still criticize Israel for no reason other than the fact that [she is an anti-Semite](#).

What About the Somalis?

Congresswoman Omar is from Somalia. That makes her a Somali-American politician. Wouldn't it make sense for her to do everything in her power to help her people who are suffering in Africa? Listen to the facts in this video. See the disturbing footage of starving & sick men, women, & children in Somalia. It is heartbreaking. But apparently, Omar does not think it is tragic enough to focus on it. She would rather focus on Israel – the one democracy in the Middle East. She would rather spend her time spreading lies about the Jewish state than actually helping those who need her help the most.

A refugee's powerful message to Ilhan Omar

Patiently Squeezing Iran By **Shoshana Bryen** 7/19/19



Syrian regime forces look at the horizon from a hill in Bir Qabaqib, west of Deir Ezzor on September 4, 2017. (Photo: AFP)

What appears to be an oil tanker war brewing in the Red Sea & beyond, including downing of an Iranian drone by a US Navy ship, is more evidence Iran is showing the strain of American-led sanctions & reluctant European acknowledgment that appeasing the Islamic Republic is a losing proposition.

Cornered, Iran is aggressively pushing back on the West even as Foreign Minister Javad Zarif used [an American platform](#) to suggest talks with Washington. (He tried to [walk his words back](#), but his problem is clear.)

Iran has been riding high for a long time—not as high as it might have wanted to think, or as high as some Americans had feared—but the 21st century has, until now, been good for Tehran. The 2011 American withdrawal from Iraq gave the mullahs political & military influence in a

major oil-producing country as well as a pathway to pursue its interests in Syria. Iran's management of Yemen's Houthi minority gave it a base in the Red Sea, providing an avenue for transfer of weapons to the unstable countries along the coast & to jihadists in Egypt's Sinai, & for harassing the Sunni oil-producing states & international shipping.

The entire edifice, however, stood on the shaky pillar of money. The 2015 JCPOA (the "*Iran Deal*") provided that money, meaning Iran didn't have to choose among its nefarious & expensive activities – or between those activities & the needs of its own people. The deal supplied legitimacy, too, but Iran cared about legitimacy only as it allowed for moneymaking.

President Trump has squeezed the money flow & squeezed Iran in Syria. & Iran has begun to fail.

Iran & Russia are jockeying over the remains of the Syrian corpse. Russia is winning, in part because Iran has no money for bribes or military activity. Russia has taken over reconstruction; *not* of homes, farms & utilities, but of a new government for Bashar Assad. [Asia Times](#) reported on Russian changes among top-level Syrian generals & their replacement with: ...products of the post-2011 order, well-versed in warfare, backed & trained by the Russians... (with) very little room left in their careers as they approach the age of 60. Meaning, they will collectively be retired by 2021. Appointing officers who are so close to retirement is seemingly part of Russia's vision for revamping the security services... Things are notably different now, as most officers of Bashar's old guard, who led the government offensive in 2011-2015 are either retired or dead.

Iran has no role, & none in the Russian-led creation of a panel of a [Syrian government committee](#) for international talks on a new constitution. "*Assad & the Russian envoy agreed to continue working & intensely coordinate between both sides on the next steps, especially in forming a committee for discussing the constitution & the mechanisms & procedures of its work,*" said a recent government statement.

Humiliating as that is, it's worse to find the US & Israel jointly [monitoring the Iranian base at Bukamal](#), with no apparent interference from Russia – or Syria. According to Israeli sources, along with Iranian military officers, the base holds telecommunications, weapons stockpiles & members of Iranian Shiite militias from Hezb'Allah, Afghanistan, Iraq & Pakistan. The base, however, is located directly across the Euphrates River from American & allied Syrian forces. Couple this with the [American garrison at al-Tanf](#) in the South overlooking the Baghdad-Damascus Highway & the most important Iranian military movements in Syria are under American surveillance. Along with that of the Israel Air-DF.

Having Assad remain in power under Russian control is not an optimal outcome for Syria & the Syrian people. It is, however, *status quo ante bellum*. Russia was there before & Russia is there now. Iran appears to have retained no levers of power.

On American TV last week, Zarif was both cajoling & threatening. He followed up on Twitter, as is his habit.

"Had we wanted to develop nuclear weapons we would have been able to do it long time ago. We have the capability. We have always had the capability — for many years but we decided... not to develop nuclear weapons." @JZarif 2/3

"That decision stands. If President Trump really wants to insure #Iran never produces nuclear weapons, there are ways of doing that." @JZarif 3/3

Wait a second — didn't Ayatollah Khomeini issue a 'fatwa' against nuclear weapons? JCPOA supporters said there would *never* be Iranian nuclear weapons because they were forbidden, but **now Zarif wants to be paid to ensure that Iran doesn't do what it isn't entitled to do.**

The time for paying off Iran is over. Continuing to squeeze Iranian assets coupled with international backing for freedom of navigation in the Red Sea & Persian Gulf seems a better bet. But for that, we will need more patience.

Patiently Squeezing Iran By **Shoshana Bryen**

Dutch court rejects residents' petition looking to prevent construction of Holocaust memorial in former Jewish quarter of Amsterdam.

By Cnaan Liphshiz, JTA, 09/07/19 12:43 [Share](#) [An artist's impression of the plans for a new Holocaust monument in Amsterdam](#) "Holocaust namenmonument". A Dutch court rejected objections to the planned construction of a massive monument for Holocaust victims at what used to be the Jewish quarter of the kingdom's capital. Administrative court in Amsterdam on Tuesday ruled against an petition for injunction against the plan by several residents from the area, *Hart Van Nederland* website reported.

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The project, which will cost several million dollars, near Amsterdam's Weesper Street features a metal labyrinth designed by the renowned American architect Daniel Libeskind. Its 9-foot metal walls bear the names of approximately 102,000 victims.

Last year, locals published a petition against the plan, saying it means "*disappearance of the already scarce greenery*" from their area. Some of the critics filed the petition. They favor commemorating the Holocaust in principle, but **not on their street** as envisioned by the municipality.

Emile Schrijver, director of Amsterdam's Jewish Cultural Quarter, last week called on the plan's critics to "*accept it & move on.*" Jacques Grishaver, chairman of the Dutch Auschwitz Committee & the monument's initiator, argued the issue goes far deeper than a dispute over local land use.

"Residents living in houses where my family used to live don't wish to see a monument commemorating them. They want to erase their names," he said in a speech last year. Esther Voet, the editor-in-chief of the *NIW* Dutch Jewish weekly, on Tuesday congratulated Grishaver, who has for years led the project amid opposition.

"The small, abject 'NIMBY' not-in-my-backyard' club has lost," she tweeted.

Bid to bar Holocaust memorial at Amsterdam Jewish quarter denied

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7/19/18 Exclusive: Iran's Release of Lebanese Prisoner Was Failed Overture to US
by Reuters & Algemeiner



Freed Lebanese businessman Nizar Zakka, who had been detained in Iran since 2015, gestures as he arrives at the Presidential Palace in Baabda, Lebanon, 6/11/19 Reuters / Aziz Taher.

Iran's release last month of Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese businessman with US permanent residency, after 4 years in prison was meant as an opening for US-Iranian talks, according to 3 Western sources familiar with the issue.

The gesture, however, was not enough for Washington, which did not pursue it.

"It was a missed opportunity," one US source said of Zakka's June 11 release & the US decision not to pursue talks. "We should have explored whether something was there."

A second source — who is familiar with Iran's thinking & spoke on condition of anonymity — said Iran freed Zakka as a signal it wanted to cool tensions that fueled fears of a war & described his release as *"a goodwill gesture."* 7/12/19

"This was seen as a de-escalation step from their side, which obviously they expected to be somehow reciprocated from the American side," said the second source, "adding that the US did not take up the overture."

A State Department spokesman declined to address whether Washington had missed an opportunity to engage with Iran after Zakka's release & said if Tehran wanted to reduce tensions it should free an American citizen.

"If Iran wants to reduce tensions & engage with the US government, it should make a humanitarian gesture such as releasing 1 of the innocent American citizens it is holding hostage," the spokesman told Reuters.

Iranian officials declined to discuss whether it was an overture, or what concessions Tehran wants from Washington.

In the month since the release, already tense US-Iranian relations have taken several turns for the worse, including Iran's downing of a US drone, US economic sanctions against the Islamic Republic's supreme leader & capture last week of an Iranian supertanker by British forces.

The drone's destruction brought President Donald Trump to the brink of ordering the first overt US military strike on Iranian targets since 1988.

Zakka, a Washington-based information technology expert, was arrested in 2015 while attending a conference in Iran. His information technology company, IJMA3, is funded by private groups & governments, including the US.

Opportunity?

Held at Tehran's notorious Evin Prison, Zakka staged at least 6 hunger strikes. He was visibly shaken when he arrived in Beirut late on June 11 accompanied by Lebanese security chief Abbas Ibrahim, who had gone to Iran to collect him.

Zakka later told *The NYT* he believed his release was a conciliatory signal from Iran toward the US. His lawyer, Jason Poblete, represents other prisoners held in Iran & told *Reuters* he believes Zakka's release "*remains an opportunity for others unlawfully detained in Iran.*" "*With political will, it is possible. All stakeholders should weigh in more than they have on these matters,*" he said, referring to the US & other world powers that agreed a nuclear deal with Iran in 2015.

Trump has pulled the US out of the nuclear deal, tightened economic sanctions against Tehran & built up US military forces in the Gulf.

In a measured initial response to Zakka's release, the US State Department said it was a good day for his family & hoped the move would lead to the release of Americans.

It was a rare moment of agreement between the US & Iran, but it was not enough to change the dynamic despite Trump's stated willingness to open negotiations with Tehran.

"*We are encouraged by the news that Lebanese citizen Nizar Zakka has been released by the Iranian regime & hope that this is a positive sign for Americans wrongfully detained in Iran,*" a senior administration official told *Reuters* on July 3.

Washington has demanded Iran release the Americans it is holding, including father & son Siamak & Baquer Namazi; Xiyue Wang, a Chinese-American graduate student at Princeton University who was arrested in 2016; Michael R. White, a Navy veteran imprisoned last year & Robert Levinson, a former FBI agent missing since 2007.

Several dozen Iranians are being held in US prisons, many of them for breaking sanctions. They include Prof. Masoud Soleimani, a stem cell expert arrested at Chicago airport in October 2018 for allegedly attempting to export biological materials to Iran in violation of sanctions.

When Zakka was freed, officials in Tehran said his release was partly due to Iran's close ties with Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezb'Allah movement.

'Coercive diplomacy'

While some diplomats & analysts believe Iran badly wants negotiations to ease sanctions that have crippled its economy, it is unclear whether Washington is willing to tiptoe toward talks.

The first step, said former senior US officials, would be to try to de-escalate tensions.

One way might be for US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin not to carry out his June threat to sanction Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, Tehran's prime negotiator.

Visiting NY in April, Zarif proposed a US-Iran prisoner swap & also suggested Tehran could cooperate with Washington on Afghanistan & Iraq, where neither wishes to see a return to civil war or expansion of Islamic State militant group whenever the US withdraws its troops.

Former US Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns told *Reuters* last month that Trump's actions since withdrawing from the nuclear deal had convinced the Iranians & US allies that chances of a serious negotiation are increasingly remote.

"*This is coercive diplomacy without the diplomacy — in other words maximum pressure not tethered to clear or realistic goals,*" said Burns, author of *The Back Channel*, a memoir that describes the secret talks he led that paved the way to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Trump himself may be open to talks, but his administration's actions are closing the door. *"The problem is they are boxing themselves in rather than keeping options alive."*
Iran's Release of Lebanese Prisoner Was Failed Overture to US

Pence tour of migrant center shows men crowded in cages *'This is tough stuff,' US vp says; refutes comparison of facilities to 'concentration camps,' says they are 'providing care every American would be proud of'* By [AP](#)



US VP Mike Pence's motorcade enters the migrant tent city on 7/12/19 Donna, Texas. (Joel Martinez/The Monitor via AP)

WASHINGTON — US Vice President Mike Pence toured 2 detention facilities on the Texas border Friday, including a Border Patrol station where hundreds of men were crowded in sweltering cages without cots.

Some of the men said they were hungry & had been held there for 40 days or longer. *"Look, this is tough stuff,"* Pence acknowledged at a later news conference. *"I knew we'd see an overcrowded system,"* he added. *"It's overwhelmed. Congress has to act."*

Pence's office said the tour was part of an effort to show the Trump administration is providing adequate care for migrants. But the scene the VP witnessed is sure to spark new criticism of the conditions facing migrants in US government facilities.

The caged migrants were being held in an area at the McAllen Border Patrol station. When detainees saw reporters arrive, many began shouting, saying they had been there for 40 days or more. They were hungry & wanted to brush their teeth. Agents guarding the cages were wearing face masks. The press pool covering the vice president was removed within 90 seconds.

Conditions were described by a pool reporter from The Washington Post, who said the fenced cages were so crowded it was impossible for all the men to lie on the concrete.

The scene resembled what an inspector general found in a scathing report delivered last week based on trips to Border Patrol facilities near the Rio Grande, including the station Pence visited. The report quoted a senior government manager the situation is a *"ticking time bomb."*

New video shows severe overcrowding of men in cages at Texas detention facility during VP Pence's visit Friday. A group of men detained behind chain link fencing shouted to news cameras, "No shower, no shower!"

<https://t.co/safMICriZ2pic.twitter.com/2YkxqgwvtzG> — MSNBC (@MSNBC) 7/13/19

Michael Banks, the agent in charge of the McAllen station Pence visited, said the men held there were allowed to brush their teeth once a day. He said they were given deodorant

after showering, but conceded many of the men had not showered for 10 or 20 days. He also said the longest any man had been there was 32 days.

US President Donald Trump said earlier Friday that he had dispatched Pence to the border to dispel reports of dire conditions at the migrant detention centers.

“They’re crowded because we have a lot of people, but they’re in good shape,” Trump said. He complained about *“phony”* reporting on conditions by The NYT.

Earlier in his tour, Pence visited another detention facility with a series of large white tents where most of the detainees were lying on kindergarten-like mats with thin, tinfoil-like blankets. Many of the families were to be released within 72 hours. Pence told reporters every family he spoke to there said they were being well cared for.

US Vice President Mike Pence speaks at the Christians United for Israel’s annual summit on July 8, 2019, in Washington. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

“While we hear some Democrats in Washington referring to US Customs & Border facilities as ‘concentration camps,’ what we saw today was a facility providing care every American would be proud of,” Pence said.

After visiting the 2nd site, Pence had a more sober assessment. He stressed that he had called for more Department of Homeland Security spending because the situation was overcrowded, including a \$4.6 billion humanitarian aid package Congress passed recently.

The Trump administration has also been under fire over conditions inside a Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas, where children were found in filthy conditions & keeping watch over younger kids amid the overcrowding. 5 immigrant children have died since late last year after being detained by the government.

Central American families fleeing violence, poverty & drought are coming to the US in record numbers this year, peaking in May. Border Patrol made nearly 133,000 detentions. Facilities to detain adults & children quickly filled up, forcing many migrants to languish in unsuitable Border Patrol facilities much longer than 72 hours normally required by law.

Pence tour of migrant center

I deliver the goods. by Jack Engelhard 7/25/19



06:33

Jack Engelhard’s classic international bestselling novel *Indecent Proposal*, became a worldwide hit movie, has been republished to meet readers’ demands. His other major works include *Compulsive: A Novel*; his award-winning post-Holocaust Montreal memoir *Escape from Mount Moriah*, plus *Slot Attendant: A Novel About A Novelist*.

If Republicans were smart, they would keep Mueller testifying every day until Trump crosses the finish line. It was that kind of a morning & afternoon for House Democrats as they kept pestering & schlepping Mueller from one committee to another.

All the while, trying to keep him awake...& waiting, in vain, to give them something, anything, to salvage nearly 3 years of wasted effort. Quite a let-down after so much pre-event hype & hoopla. This was doomsday for the witch-hunt.

Maybe it was the weather. There isn’t much doing in July – during a heat wave. Even politicians have had enough of politics.

Well, for Democrats, Trump is always in season. For Nadler, Schiff & their Democrat-majority committees, there is no time like the present to get the goods on Trump.

Which Mueller failed to provide during Wednesday's snooze-a-thon.

Yes, the Democrats will go on. Trump is all they've got.

Not for lack of trying, on their part. But it was the same script & the same movie we've been watching for some 3 years & the plot is still the same. **GET TRUMP!**

The denouement (pardon my French) is still to be revealed, but the guessing here is ...to misquote Samuel Beckett, "*We can't go on. We will go on.*"

Yes, the Democrats will go on. Trump is all they've got. Take away Trump & they have no life, no reason to live, no excuse to get up in the morning.

Trump is the only reason Adam Schiff gets out of bed.

Where was Spartacus? Cory "*I am Spartacus*" Booker wasn't there to thump his chest because he's a Senator & we missed that sort of action in the House to liven up the place.

Although the showboating did not '*Get Kavanaugh*', either.

Trump appears to be quite safe if Wednesday's performance is any indication....& if it is a preview of what an impeachment gala would look like.

It would not look like Broadway, but as summer stock theater, or a tryout in Scranton, or off-off Broadway in the Village. People show up to give the amateurs a hand. The ratings aren't in yet. In Rome, when the gladiators were dull, they were sent to the lions after the emperor signaled thumbs down. That is how they did their ratings.

Expect relatively big numbers for the Breakfast-with-Nadler show & steep decline for the Lunch-with-Schiff spectacle. America has had enough.

Every network, every channel tuned in for the entire proceedings, journalists hoping, praying for that "*Me Tarzan*" moment. Like the 1950s & the drama that helped finish off Sen. Joseph McCarthy when Attorney Joseph Welch exclaimed, "*Have you no decency?*"

The media ran no commercials, at a cost of millions, so desperate were they waiting on Mueller to deliver a crushing quote against Trump.

There isn't even enough news for a headline – nothing there to stop the presses.

Written, produced & directed by the Democrats...America was witness to a flop.

That'll do to declare Trump the winner.

New York-based bestselling American novelist Jack Engelhard writes regularly for Arutz Sheva. He is author of the international book-to-movie [bestseller](#) "Indecent Proposal." His Holocaust to Montreal memoir "Escape from Mount Moriah" has been [honored](#) from page to screen at CANNES. His Inside Journalism [thriller](#), "The Bathsheba Deadline," is being prepared for the movies. Contemporaries have hailed him "The last Hemingway, a writer without peer, & the conscience of us all." Website: www.jackengelhard.com

I deliver the goods. By Jack Engelhard

PLO blocks West Bank Arabs leaving for better life.

The only media outlet reporting Erekat's incendiary statement was the Chinese newsagency Xinhua. The remaining media's failure to report this news is concerning.



By David Singer, 26/07/19 13:36 | [Share](#) David Singer is an Australian lawyer who is active in Zionist community organizations in that country. He founded the "Jordan is Palestine" Committee in 1979.

Sec. Gen. of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Saeb Erekat, told a political symposium in Jericho that West Bank Arabs would not be allowed to voluntarily leave, virtually holding them captives against their will.

Erekat [stated](#): *"We will not allow resettlement or formation of refugee committees for that aim, while holding on to the settlement of their cause in accordance with international legitimacy resolutions."*

Michael Lynk - the UN Human Rights Council's "Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967" – issued a [statement](#) on 28 June endorsing the right to freedom of movement – enshrined in Article 13 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

[Erekat's outrageous threat was not responding to Lynk's comments - but to leaked reports claiming the US might be seeking resettlement of Palestinian refugees in at least 5 Arab neighboring countries.](#)

If confirmed - 'West Bank' Arabs could well be prepared to voluntarily leave the West Bank in large numbers – especially if offered the opportunity to legally enter other Arab countries & receive financial assistance for rehousing & resettlement there.

President Trump has a massive US \$28.7 Billion possibly available to aid 'West Bank' Arabs who want to emigrate – being the money he wanted to plough into [revitalising the West Bank & Gaza](#) – which both the PLO & Hamas unbelievably rejected.

Given the state of relationships between Israel, the PLO & Hamas – spending that money earmarked for projects within the West Bank & Gaza was a highly questionable exercise that could have seen the destruction of such projects in future conflicts between these 3 long-time enemies.

Helping those desperate to emigrate who have suffered the perverse decisions of the PLO during the last 25 years is a more targeted use of the money – guaranteeing far better outcome for West Bank Arabs & their families.

[2019 Human Rights Watch Report](#) evidences toxic nature of the West Bank:

- The PLO arrested activists who criticized their leaders, security forces, or policies, mistreated & tortured some in their custody.
- The Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine (ICHR), a statutory commission charged with monitoring human rights compliance by the Palestinian authorities, received 205 complaints of torture & ill-treatment by 'West Bank' security forces as of 31 October 2018.
- In the 'West Bank' & East Jerusalem, Israeli security forces fatally shot 27 Palestinians & wounded at least 5,444.
- attacks by Israeli settlers injured 61 Palestinians & damaged property in 147 incidents.
- Palestinians killed 10 Israelis, including 6 civilians & wounded at least 58 in the same period in the West Bank.

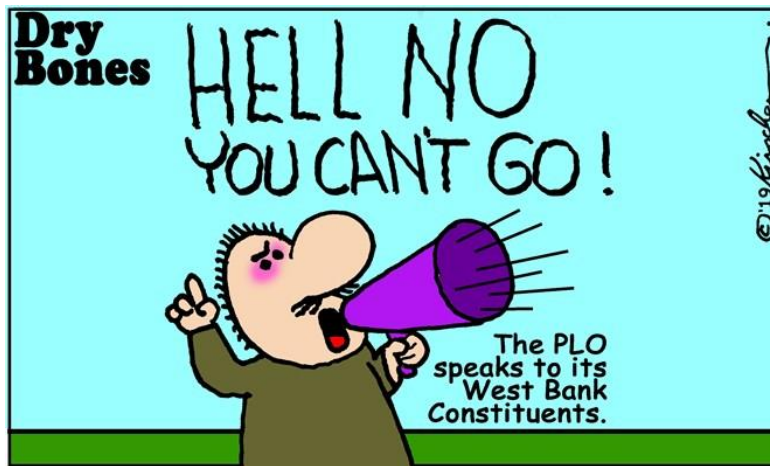
Since the 1993 Oslo Accords - 95% of the 'West Bank' Arab population has been under total PLO administrative control.

Real growth declined to around [2%](#) in 2018 - lower than its average in previous years. The 2018 unemployment rate was [17.6%](#). Youth unemployment between ages 15-24 is [29.8%](#)

The World Bank has [concluded](#) lack of progress towards peace & reconciliation creates an unsustainable economic situation. The PLO has refused Israeli negotiations since April 2014, failed to call elections since 2007.

The only media outlet reporting Erekat's incendiary statement was the Chinese newsagency *Xinhua*. The remaining media's failure to report this news is concerning. The UN Special Rapporteur's failure to condemn Erekat's controversial announcement is despicable.

Hopefully President Trump will pressure PLO reversal & offer a window of opportunity for those to leave who wish to do so. Offering West Bank Arabs a lifeline to a better future elsewhere is long overdue.



[PLO No Leaving!](#)

Author's note: The cartoon — commissioned exclusively for this article — is by Yaakov Kirschen aka "Dry Bones"— one of Israel's foremost political & social commentators — whose cartoons have graced the columns of Israeli & international media publications for decades. His cartoons can be viewed at [Drybonesblog](#)

PLO blocks West Bank Arabs leaving for a better life.

[Yitzhar residents claim: 'Border Police officers attacked us' Border Police officers beat, kicked, civilians walking Shabbat-Friday night in Yitzhar neighborhood, residents say.](#) Arutz Sheva Staff, 11/9/19 29:13pm



Yitzhar Border Police

officers on Friday night violently attacked 2 family men & the parents of children from the Kumi Ori neighborhood in Yitzhar, residents claimed. The incident occurred as the civilians walked past the building in which the officers were located.

According to the residents, the officers first checked to be sure that the residents were not carrying cellular phones & then began beating them with fists & kicking them. **"We were in the middle of our Shabbat (Sabbath) meal & we heard horrifying screams,"** said A., who lives just a few hundred meters away from where the incident occurred. **"We left everything & I ran to the scene to see what had happened."** Dozens of residents from the entire area, including from the town's leadership, arrived at the scene within minutes.

The residents also claimed that Samaria Brigade Commander Colonel Sagiv Dahan arrived at the scene & understood the matter's severity after speaking with the residents.

After Dahan watched the footage taken by the officers & understood the extent of the violence, which was applied without any justification, he decided to remove 4 officers from the scene immediately, successfully calming things down.

On Saturday, dozens of families from Yitzhar held Shabbat prayers at the site as a non-violent protest against the violence & to show support for the families.

Yitzhar's leadership responded: ***"We are sure that the defense system will fully prosecute these violent officers. As we warned previously, the presence of a Border Police base in the heart of the neighborhood as a part of a collective punishment creates harassment & violence by the police officers against mothers, children, & family men, time & again. The base must immediately be removed from the neighborhood."***

At least twice during the past week, Yitzhar residents [threw rocks at Border Police officers](#) traveling [near the entrance to their town.](#)

Former US Amb. to the UN: "Trump will not be impeached"

Nikki Haley Former UN Ambassador, predicted US President Donald Trump will not be impeached. **"You're going to impeach a President for asking for a favor that didn't happen & giving money that wasn't withheld? I don't know what you would impeach."**

Ahead of the Trump peace plan, some hard truths.



by Barry Shaw

To any dispassionate observer of the Middle East, it is crystal clear that a so-called “Two-State Solution” between a once-complaint, democratic, Israel & the violent, rejectionist, two-headed Palestinian hydra is impossible.

Those who say there is no other sensible solution to this intractable problem between Arab & Jew have not been paying attention, or have rejected, numerous sensible alternatives that have been offered by various Israeli sources.

Soon we will witness the long-awaited proposals from the Trump Administration which will be seen as extensions to the “Two-State” failure.

Although most Israelis quietly hope that progress can be made, there is a singular lack of expectation. This has nothing to do with Israeli rejection. On the contrary, history shows us that Israel proposes while Palestinians dismiss peace offers.

As a result, there is today a clear-eyed Israeli awareness that Palestinians are decades away from being pragmatic peacemakers, if at all.

Fault lies with the absolute failure of the international community to address the problem of the Arab rejectionism of Israel on any piece of land, & the communities’ total failure to take any steps that would reform the duplicitous Palestinian leadership into genuine & practical peace partners.

This should have been done as a condition of their massive funding to the corrupt & wasteful administrations both in Ramallah & in Gaza.

No more pressure on Israel to make dangerous concessions to an adversary overtly or covertly determined to do away with Israel, piece by piece if necessary. We went that route in the past. We will not be fooled a second time. Accepting a Palestine means going to bed with Mahmoud Abbas & waking up in the morning with Hamas.

No thanks.

Arab nations could have persuaded the divided heads of a broken Palestinian political system to accept the presence of, & to work with, Israel for the betterment of their own people, but they didn’t. Why didn’t they?

They failed to address the need to convince their own people that Israel will always be a part of the Middle East & accept that reality.

In truth, they couldn’t. The fact is, they are afraid of their own people. & their own people hate Jews. This is perpetuated by the incitement of their religious leaders & political hotheads that rant against Jews, particularly those Jews living in their midst – the Israelis.

This has made Arab rulers impotent, unwilling to go against the will of their people whose very core is filled with a basic anti-Semitic hatred of Jews.

This is the brutal honest truth of the Middle East. It has been that way for over a hundred years, & nothing has been done to put out this fire.

This, & this alone, is why peace is not possible between Israel & the Palestinians.

Barry Shaw, International Public Diplomacy Director, Israel Institute for Strategic Studies.

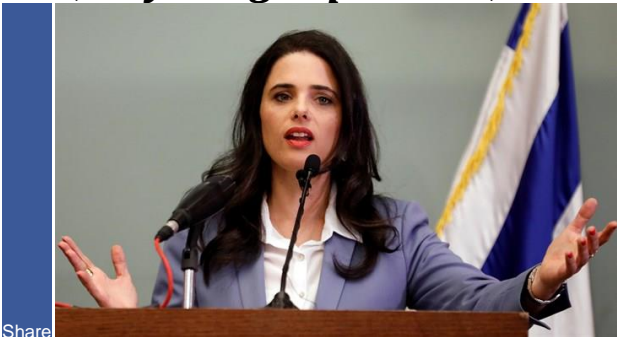
See my book ‘Fighting Hamas. BDS & Anti-Semitism.’

Most Israelis against a Palestinian state A

A survey conducted for the program "Meeting the Press" found that 48% of Israelis are against establishment. However 61% wanted direct peace negotiations with the Palestinian leadership with only 31% saying that they didn't. When asked if they wanted Gantz to succeed in building a government, 54% answered they did with 30% saying they wanted the government to be Gantz, Likud & the haredi parties.

Shaked: No merger between Likud & New Right

'Each party is remaining independent & there are no implications for the future. In politics, anything is possible,' Shaked says.



Arutz Sheva Staff, 11/9/19 29:99 Share

Ayelet Shaked Reuters

New Right leader MK Ayelet Shaked clarified that in the [New Right's agreement](#) with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu there are "no mergers."

"Each party is remaining independent & there are no implications for the future that - as you see - in politics everything is unclear & anything is possible," she explained.

"I reiterate my consistent position - the government I aspire to establish is a right-wing government with Yisrael Beytenu. I'm doing everything I can to make it happen."

On Friday morning Netanyahu & New Right Chairman MK Naftali Bennett met at the Prime Minister's Office. The 2 agreed Likud & the New Right would immediately form a joint faction in the 22nd Knesset (according to the Likud-Israel-Beytenu model in the 19th Knesset) & work together as a joint faction throughout the current Knesset.

Netanyahu offered Bennett the role of Defense Minister-& [Bennett accepted the position](#).

The appointment will be brought for government approval at the upcoming meeting. Bennett agreed that if a solution to the political deadlock is found & a new government is established - such as a broad unity government or a narrow government - another person will be appointed as DM.

Arutz Sheva Staff, 09/11/19 20:09 Share



Rabin's policies can help break Gantz-Netanyahu deadlock

If Gantz adopted Rabin's clear policy negating a Palestinian Arab state in Judea & Samaria, Israel could have a real unity government. by David Singer, 11/8/19 [Share](#)



David Singer is an Australian lawyer active in Zionist community organizations in that country. He founded the "Jordan is Palestine" Committee in 1979.

The prospect of a 3rd election in Israel within 12 months looms large, should Blue & White leader Benny Gantz be unable to form a Government of National Unity in the next 2 weeks.

To break the current deadlock - Gantz needs at least 9 members to defect from the voting bloc of 55 seats led by PM Netanyahu. It is hard to believe it will happen.

Gantz's cause could be considerably advanced were he to publicly endorse the policies pursued by the late PM - Yitzchak Rabin - who was assassinated Nov. 4, 1995.

Rabin made his intentions very clear in his last [speech to the Knesset](#) on Oct. 5, 1995 when presenting the 300 page "*Israeli - Palestinian Interim Agreement on West Bank & the Gaza Strip*" ([Oslo Accords](#)) for approval:

"Members of Knesset: "We are striving for a permanent solution to the unending bloody conflict between us & the Palestinians & the Arab states. In the framework of the permanent solution, we aspire to reach, first & foremost, the State of Israel as a Jewish state, at least 80% of whose citizens will be, & are, Jews.

At the same time, we also promise that the non-Jewish citizens of Israel-Muslim, Christian, Druze & others-will enjoy full personal, religious & civil rights, like any Israeli citizen. Judaism & racism are diametrically opposed.

"We view the permanent solution in the framework of State of Israel which will include most of the area of the Land of Israel as it was under the rule of the British Mandate, & alongside it a Palestinian entity which will be a home to most Palestinian residents living in the Gaza Strip & 'West Bank'.

*"We would like this to be an entity which is less than a state, & which will independently run the lives of the Palestinians under its authority. The borders of the State of Israel, during the permanent solution, will be beyond the lines which existed before the Six Day War. We will **NOT** return to the 4 June 1967 lines-the main changes, not all of them, we envision & want in the permanent solution:"*

A. First & foremost, United Jerusalem, which will include both Ma'ale Adumim & Givat Ze'ev -- as the capital of Israel, under Israeli Sovereignty, while preserving the rights of the members of the other faiths, Christianity & Islam, to freedom of access & freedom of worship in their holy places, according to customs of their faiths.

B. Security border of the State of Israel will be in the Jordan Valley in its broadest meaning.

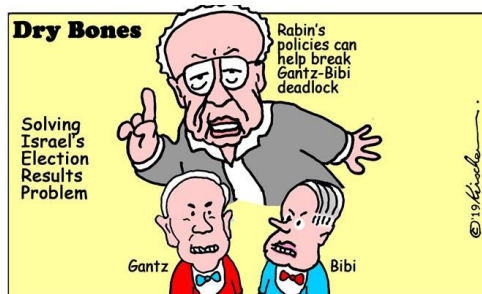
C. Changes will include the addition of Gush Etzion, Efrat, Beitar & other communities, most of which are in the area east of what was the "Green Line," prior to the Six Day War.

D. The establishment of blocs of settlements in Judea & Samaria, like in Gush Katif."

Rabin – then Defense Minister - had [stated](#) on May 27, 1985:

"Palestinians should have a sovereign State which includes most of the Palestinians. It should be Jordan [with a considerable part of the 'West Bank' & Gaza.] East of the Jordan River there's enough room to settle the Palestinian refugees. One tiny State between Israel & Jordan will solve nothing. It will be a time bomb."

Supporting Rabin's policies would stand Gantz in good stead as he seeks to form a Government of National Unity. Perhaps he should consider adopting them.



Dry Bones: 2019 Election deadlock INN:HK Author's note: The cartoon — commissioned exclusively for this article — is by Yaakov Kirschen aka "Dry Bones"—

Netanyahu: "State witness signed under duress" PM in Facebook video slams new state witness against him by Arutz Sheva Staff, 11/9/19 9:30pm [Share](#)



Netanyahu photo by Esti Daziboff

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu responded to the new state witness Nir Hefetz, in the Bezeq-Elovitz investigation (Case 4000).

In a Facebook video, Netanyahu slammed the police, accusing them of *"making Hefetz sign as a state witness under duress & threats."*

"His (Hefetz) testimony is filled with so many contradictions, so many different stories, so many holes that it's impossible to build any kind of case upon it," Netanyahu said. *"I'm surprised that he didn't also admit to the murder of Arlosoroff (unsolved murder of Mapai Zionist leader in 1933 in Tel Aviv)."*

Netanyahu attacked the evidence given by Ilan Yehoshua, CEO of *Walla! News* & his conversations with Shaul Elovitz, *Walla!'s* owner.

"In the recorded conversation, Elovitz said to Yehoshua that he spoke to my private doctor, Dr. Berkovitz, & Dr Berkovitz said that the PM would defend Elovitz to the last. These are lies. The police never talked to Dr Berkovitz to discover if these accusations are true or false. My lawyers spoke to the Dr & he said that the PM never spoke to him about Bezeq or Elovitz"

The video then has Dr Berkovitz on screen saying how he never spoke to Yehoshua about Elovitz & Bezeq, & that he doesn't actually know Elovitz.

The PM ended the video emphasizing these were *"fake investigations"* & pointing out how each state witness is seemingly zigzagging & changing his story.

Netanyahu: "State witness signed under duress"

Jewish Dem. Rep.'s censure of Israel on false info

By Sara Rubenstein COGAT@cogatonlin



Andy Levin, US Dem. Rep. (MI) slams Israel on trip for 'denying water to Palestinians' & praises Palestinian resilience.



11/9/19 Share

Water pipe

Andy Levin, US Democratic Representative for Michigan's 9th congressional district, toured Israel last week but did not have kind things to say about his ancestral homeland following a tour of Judea. Instead, he slammed the Israeli government for denying access to water for Susya, an illegal Arab village south of Hevron, while supplying it to "illegal Israeli outposts."

"Yesterday, I traveled to the southern West Bank, including the [Palestinian village of Susya](#), which the Israeli government has destroyed twice & currently denies access to water," he wrote on Twitter Wednesday. *"Yet we watched the government utility, right before our eyes, lay in pipes right across the village's land to deliver tap water to an illegal Israeli outpost nearby."*

Rep. Andy Levin: *"It was simply incredible. As angry as the situation made me, the resilience of the Palestinian villagers left an even stronger impression."* Israel has demolished illegally constructed buildings in Susya several times.

On Thursday, the Israeli government responded to Levin's inflammatory comments. The Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), a unit in the Israeli Ministry of Defense that engages in coordinating civilian issues between Israel, the IDF, international organizations & the PA, wrote on Twitter: *"We were surprised to read Rep. Andy Levin's tweet. The pipe is part of a major water infrastructure project for the region & will serve all populations in the area, mainly Palestinians. We regret your hosts mislead you & misrepresented the situation."*