



ANGLO ISRAEL



ANGLO ISRAEL ASSOCIATION

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CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

This year our annual dinner in the Savoy is on the seventieth anniversary of a particularly important event in the same hotel.

In 1933, around three hundred guests attended a woman's luncheon, paying £10 each for a very simple meal, in aid of the resettlement of Jewish women and children fleeing from Nazi Germany. Even at this early point, around sixty thousand Jews were being looked after by the League of Nations in Geneva. Among the guests were Margot Asquith and Clementine Churchill.

Violet Bonham Carter said at the luncheon 'I want to make clear my profound conviction that this is not a matter which concerns the Jewish community alone. It concerns all who believe in justice and our common humanity.' As we gather again in the Savoy seven decades later these words still have a powerful resonance.

As chairman of the Anglo Israel Association I am delighted to see the re-opening of talks between Israel and the Palestinian leaderships. It is perfectly obvious that the path of these talks will be exceptionally difficult. Nevertheless, it is important that the effort be made. The Irish peace process was characterised by the dictum that 'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.' But the fact is that the problems in the Middle East are far deeper and have far greater substance. It might therefore be wiser not to pay too much attention to the Irish dictum and to concentrate instead on achieving elements of incremental progress and banking them where-ever it is possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P Bew".

Lord Bew
Chairman of the Executive Committee



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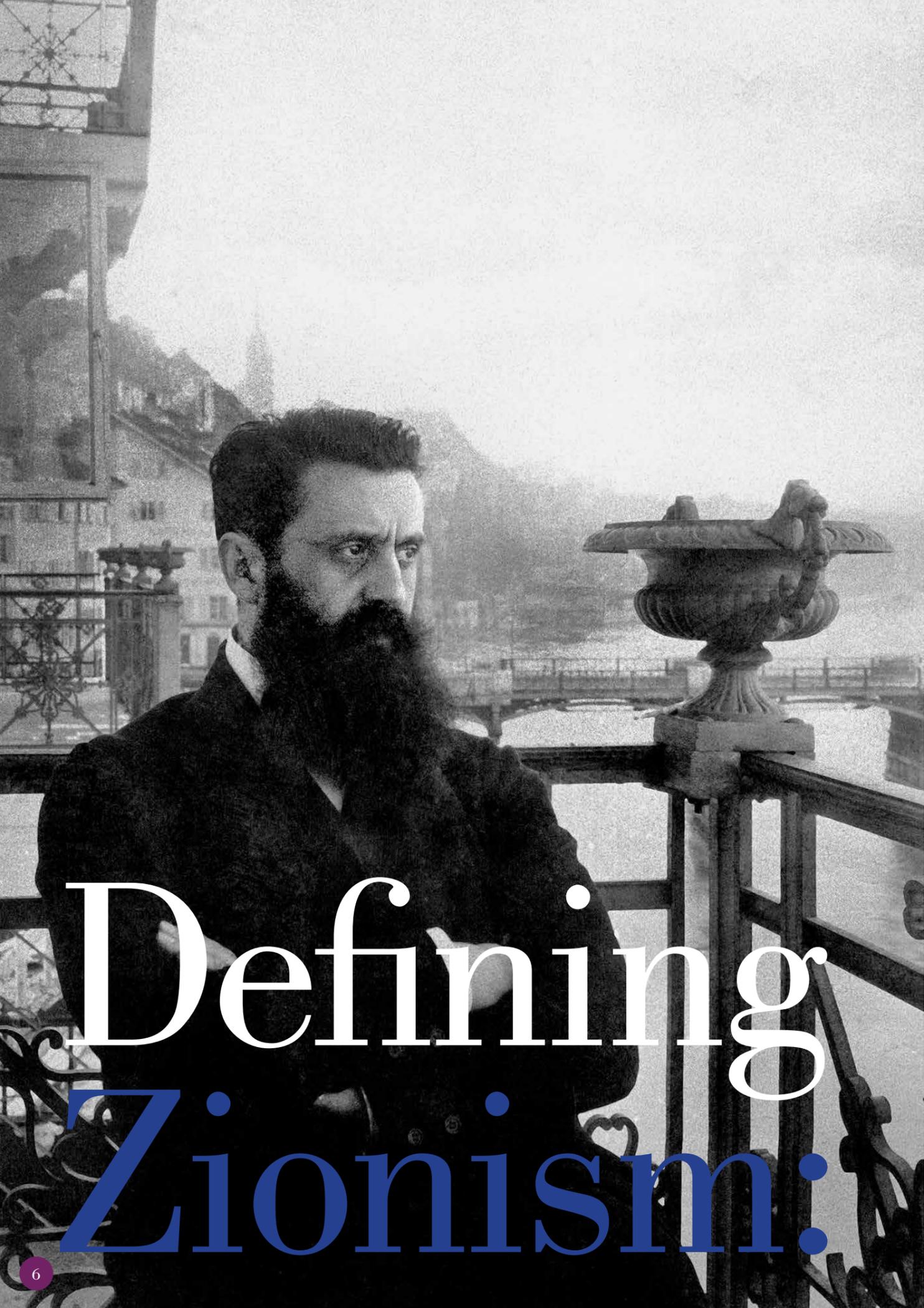
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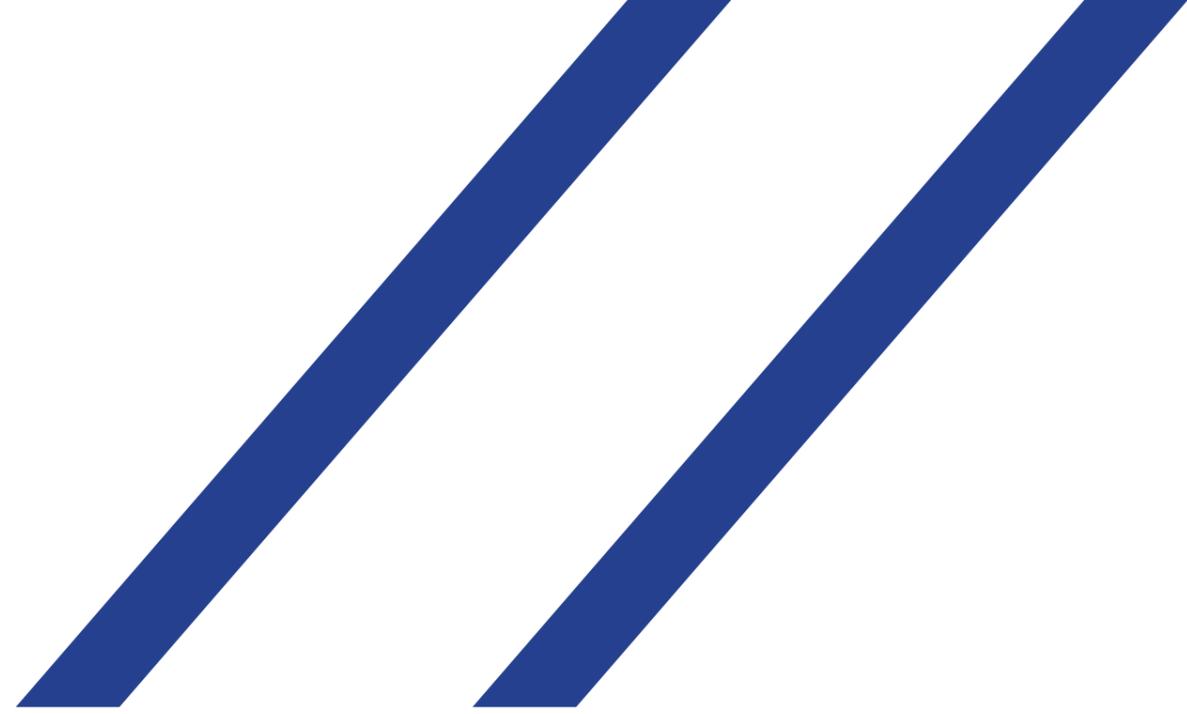
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Defining Zionism:



Defining Zionism: The belief that Israel belongs to the entire Jewish people
Given the ways in which the word 'Zionism' is thrown around both in Israel and outside of it, and the vast permutations it's gone through over the past decades, perhaps it's time we try to define it realistically.

By A.B. Yehoshua

"Zionist" is a concept that's basically simple, clear, easy to define and understand, and there should be no difficulty defending its definition. But over the past 20 to 30 years, this simple concept has turned into one of the most confused and complicated notions of identity, and its overuse has made it impossible to agree on what it means.

The right likes to use it as a type of whipped cream to improve the taste of dubious dishes, while the left treats it with fear, as if it were a mine liable to explode in its hands – which is why it always feels the need to neutralize it with some strange adjective, as in "sane Zionism" or "humane Zionism." In the dispute between the "national camp" and the "peace camp," Zionism is used as an offensive weapon that is batted from one side to the other.

Abroad, critics of Israel use Zionism as a kind of poisonous potion to exacerbate every accusation against the state. Many critics believe that the solution to Israel's future lies in the de-Zionization of its identity. Among Israel's sworn enemies, "Zionist" is a demonic epithet, a term of denunciation that replaces the word "Israeli" or "Jew." Hamas members speak of the captured Zionist soldier, and Hezbollah and Iran speak of the criminal Zionist entity, not about Israel.

So it's about time that we try to define the word "Zionist" realistically. First of all, we must remember that from a historical perspective, the concept emerged only at the end of the 19th century. It's meaningless to try and describe Yehuda Halevi as a Zionist, or any other Jew who immigrated to the Holy Land in centuries past. In the same fashion, we can't use the terms "socialism" or "socialist"

for periods before the middle of the 19th century, and describe Robespierre, for example, as the "socialist" of the French Revolution, which occurred at the end of the 18th century. These concepts only have significance from the time when they emerged in a specific historical context, and tossing them around freely as labels for anything we choose is a clearly anachronistic act.

If so, how would we define who is a Zionist, starting from the emergence of the Zionist movement as inspired by Theodor Herzl and his associates? Here is the definition: A Zionist is a person who desires or supports the establishment of a Jewish state in the Land of Israel, which in the future will become the state of the Jewish people. This is based on what Herzl said: "In Basel I founded the Jewish state."

The key word in this definition is "state," and its natural location is the Land of Israel because of the Jewish people's historical link to it. Thus my grandfather's grandfather, for example, who came to the Land of Israel from Thessaloniki in the mid-19th century, cannot be considered a Zionist. He came to settle in the Land of Israel, not to establish a state here. This is also the rule for the ancestors of Neturei Karta and other Hasidic groups that came to the Land of Israel as far back as the 17th and 18th centuries, and who remain loyal to it. Not only were these Jews not interested in establishing a Jewish state, but they include some who saw – and still see – the State of Israel as an abomination and a desecration of God's name.

A Zionist, therefore, is a Jew who supported the establishment of a Jewish state in the Land of Israel, and not necessarily one who actually settled in the land. Herzl himself and many Zionist leaders never settled in the

land, yet you wouldn't hesitate to call them Zionists. Even today, the members of Zionist federations worldwide are considered Zionists by us and by themselves, even though they don't live in Israel.

Anyone who believes that only a person who lives in Israel can be a Zionist is essentially saying that today, there are no Zionists outside the State of Israel, and that's not the case. And what about those born in the Land of Israel – are they considered Zionists based on their place of birth alone?

A Zionist is a person who wanted or supported the establishment of a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. What kind of state? Well, every Zionist had his own vision and his own plan.

Zionism is not an ideology. If the definition of ideology, according to the Hebrew Encyclopaedia, is as follows – "A cohesive, systematic combination of ideas, insights, principles and imperatives that finds expression in the particular worldview of a sect, a party or a social class" – then Zionism cannot be considered an ideology, but merely a very broad platform for various ideologies that may even contradict one another.

Ever since the State of Israel was founded in 1948, the definition of "Zionist" has been revised, since we don't

need to establish another state. Therefore, its definition is as follows: A Zionist is a person who accepts the principle that the State of Israel doesn't belong solely to its citizens, but to the entire Jewish people. The practical expression of this commitment is the Law of Return.

The state's affairs are indeed managed solely by its citizens – people who have an Israeli identity card, of whom 80 percent are Jews, while 20 percent are Israeli Palestinians and others. But only a person who supports and affirms the Law of Return is a Zionist, and anyone who rejects the Law of Return is not a Zionist.

Nevertheless, Israeli Jews who reject the Law of Return and declare themselves non-Zionists or post-Zionists (whether from the right or the left) are still good citizens who are loyal to the State of Israel, and retain all their civil rights.

From this it emerges that all the big ideological, political, security and social questions over which we do battle day and night have nothing to do with Zionism. They are similar to the questions that many other peoples, past and present, have had to struggle with, and still struggle with.

Moreover, Zionism is not a word that's meant to replace patriotism, pioneering, humaneness or love of one's homeland, concepts that are found in other languages as well. Hebrew is rich enough to endow every position or action with the appropriate word. An Israel Defence Forces officer who serves in the standing army for many years after his compulsory service, for example, is no

greater Zionist than the kiosk owner eking out a livelihood, though we would certainly see him as a greater patriot. A person who volunteers to help needy children is no more a Zionist than a stockbroker, although he may be a greater humanitarian.

To be a Zionist is not a badge of honour, or a medal a person wears on his chest. Medals are connected to actions, not to support of the Law of Return.

Nor is there any connection between the size of the country and Zionism. If the Arabs had accepted the partition plan in 1947, the State of Israel within the partition borders would have been just as Zionist as it is within different borders.

If the State of Israel had conquered and annexed the east bank of the Jordan and repealed the Law of Return, it would have ceased being Zionist even though it would be three or four times the size. The state was Zionist when it controlled the Gaza Strip, and it was just as Zionist after it withdrew from it. Many countries have seen changes in the size of their sovereign territory, but their core identities remained intact.

With regard to the Law of Return, which some see as discriminating against Israel's Palestinian citizens, this is the answer: The Law of Return is essentially the moral condition set by the countries of the world for the establishment of the

State of Israel. The United Nations' partition of Palestine-Eretz Israel in 1947 into a Jewish state and a Palestinian one was on condition that the Jewish state would not just be a state for the 600,000 Jews that lived there at the time, but would instead be a state that could resolve the distress of Jews all over the world, and would enable every Jew in the world to consider it home. Would it be moral for the hundreds of thousands of Jews who immigrated to Israel on the basis of the Law of Return to shut the door they entered through behind them?

Moreover, it's almost certain that there will be a similar law in the Palestinian state that I hope will be established, speedily and in our days. It would behove that state to legislate a law of return that would enable every exiled Palestinian to return to the Palestinian state and obtain asylum and citizenship.

But neither the Israeli Law of Return, nor a similar law in the future Palestinian state, contradict general immigration laws that set specific entry criteria, as is customary in every country of the world.

Liberating the concept of Zionism from all the appendages and addenda that have adhered to it would not only clarify the ideological and political arguments we have among ourselves, and thus prevent these disputes from being mythologized, but it would also force critics abroad to clarify and focus their positions.

[This article first appeared in Haaretz who have given us permission to reproduce it here]

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“A Zionist is a person who accepts the principle that the State of Israel doesn't belong solely to its citizens, but to the entire Jewish people.”

A Syrian war victim arriving at Ziv Medical Center.



INJURED SYRIANS RECEIVE HELP FROM ISRAELI HOSPITALS

'WE TREAT PATIENTS REGARDLESS OF RELIGION, RACE, NATIONALITY AND GIVE THE BEST CARE WE CAN PROVIDE' – DR. OSCAR EMBON, ZIV MEDICAL CENTER, SAFED.

In critical condition with severe shrapnel injuries to their torso and limbs, bullet wounds from head to toe and open fractures — this is how Syrian patients arrive at Israeli hospitals in the north of the country. And they are all treated like any other patient.

"It's our duty as a regional hospital, where we are located along the Lebanese border on one side and the Syrian border on the other side," says Dr. Amram Hadary, director of the trauma unit at Ziv Medical Center in Safed. "We cannot ignore that the Syrian conflict is happening behind our door. We cannot close our eyes, ears and hearts to what is happening there. It's a catastrophe."

World interest was piqued earlier this year when the first seven Syrian civilians crossed the border into Israel to receive medical treatment at Ziv. Although Israel and Syria are officially enemies, since that initial humanitarian gesture in February, different reports cite between 50 to 100 victims of the bloody civil war have been admitted to Israeli hospitals for life-saving surgeries and the numbers keep rising.

"We treat patients regardless of religion, race, nationality, and give the best care we can provide," explains Ziv Medical Center director Dr. Oscar Embon.

Some 30 patients (80 percent of the total) have been treated at Ziv, and the remaining Syrian victims have been cared for by Western Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya, Rambam Medical Center and Poriah Hospital near Tiberias.

"For me, they are human beings in need of treatment. I'm not thinking of them as enemies," says Embon. "I'm glad as a physician that we have the opportunity to exercise humanistic principles. I'm very glad to be able to do what we're taught to do."

The Israeli medical staff has no idea who the Syrian patients are. They could be civilians caught in cross-fire, part of the military or members of the rebel forces.

Hadary says: "We don't know who we're treating, armed or not armed, wearing uniform or not wearing uniform. Because of the critical condition in which many of them arrive, we don't question who they are. It is irrelevant. They are patients and are treated with the best measures we have in the hospital. Everyone gets the same treatment."



Israeli personnel treating a Syrian.

Throughout Israel's history — pockmarked with numerous conflicts — doctors have treated people regardless of their ethnicity, even if their country was at war with Israel. Ziv doctors cared for enemy soldiers and a Syrian pilot as far back as the 1982 Lebanon war, hospital officials said.

"One of our raisons d'être is not only to treat the civilian population here but everyone who needs trauma treatment in the area," says Embon.

Israel's Health Ministry and the Defence Ministry agreed to jointly fund the hospital treatment for the Syrians. That total currently stands at \$830,000. Embon says that although the bills have not been paid since February, "we're not panicking. We know the government will reimburse us."

There are also many local charities which Israeli physicians volunteer to treat patients from adversarial states.

Shortly after the Syrian civil war erupted, the Israeli army set up a field hospital on the border to treat victims. The IDF grants special permission of entry to Israel for the critically injured, and escorts them to and from the hospital.

"Our policy is to help in humanitarian cases, and to that end we are operating a field hospital along the Syrian border," Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee in June. "In cases where there are badly wounded, we transfer them to Israeli hospitals."

The youngest victim of Syrian violence to be transferred to Israel for treatment to date was a nine year old boy. There have also been teenagers, 20-somethings and those without a known age.

The nine-year-old boy arrived in Israel in June accompanied by his father —

marking the first time a non-patient was allowed into Israel since the IDF opened the border to the Syrian victims.

"I'm very happy he came with his father. He is so young," Embon says, noting the father also has a cast on his arm but is not a patient at Ziv. "They were sitting at home and something hit their house. The boy lost his eye and suffered shrapnel wounds all over his body."

All four medical facilities in the north of Israel have Arabic-speaking social workers, trauma specialists and nurses.



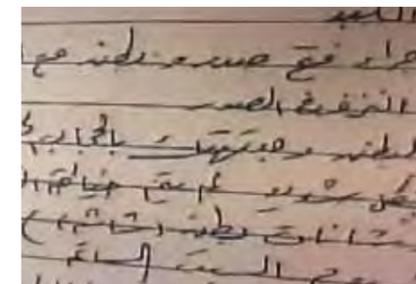
Dr. Oscar Embon, director of Ziv Medical Center.

Hadary notes that while the patients know they are being treated in Israel, their concerns are not political but rather homesickness or whether the food is Hallal certified.

Embon says he always confirms with army personnel that upon discharge the patients will have access to medical aid in the community to which they are returning.

The Syrian patients usually arrive with empty pockets. But in early June, one patient had a surprise for Ziv's staff — a live grenade in his pocket. (The grenade was defused without any damage.) A week later, doctors found a note — written in Arabic — attached to the clothes of a 28-year-old in need of lifesaving surgery.

The polite letter opened with "Hello distinguished surgeon" and went on to detail previous medical care the patient had received in Syria days earlier. The unnamed Syrian physician understood that he could not provide the required treatment and asked his Israeli counterparts to save the life of the 28-year-old patient.



A Syrian doctor's note found attached to a patient. (photo credit: Channel 2 screenshot)

The patient suffered from gunshot wounds to his chest and torso and shrapnel damage to his diaphragm and liver, according to a report by Israeli Channel 10 TV. He arrived in Israel in critical condition and after surgery was upgraded to a stable condition.

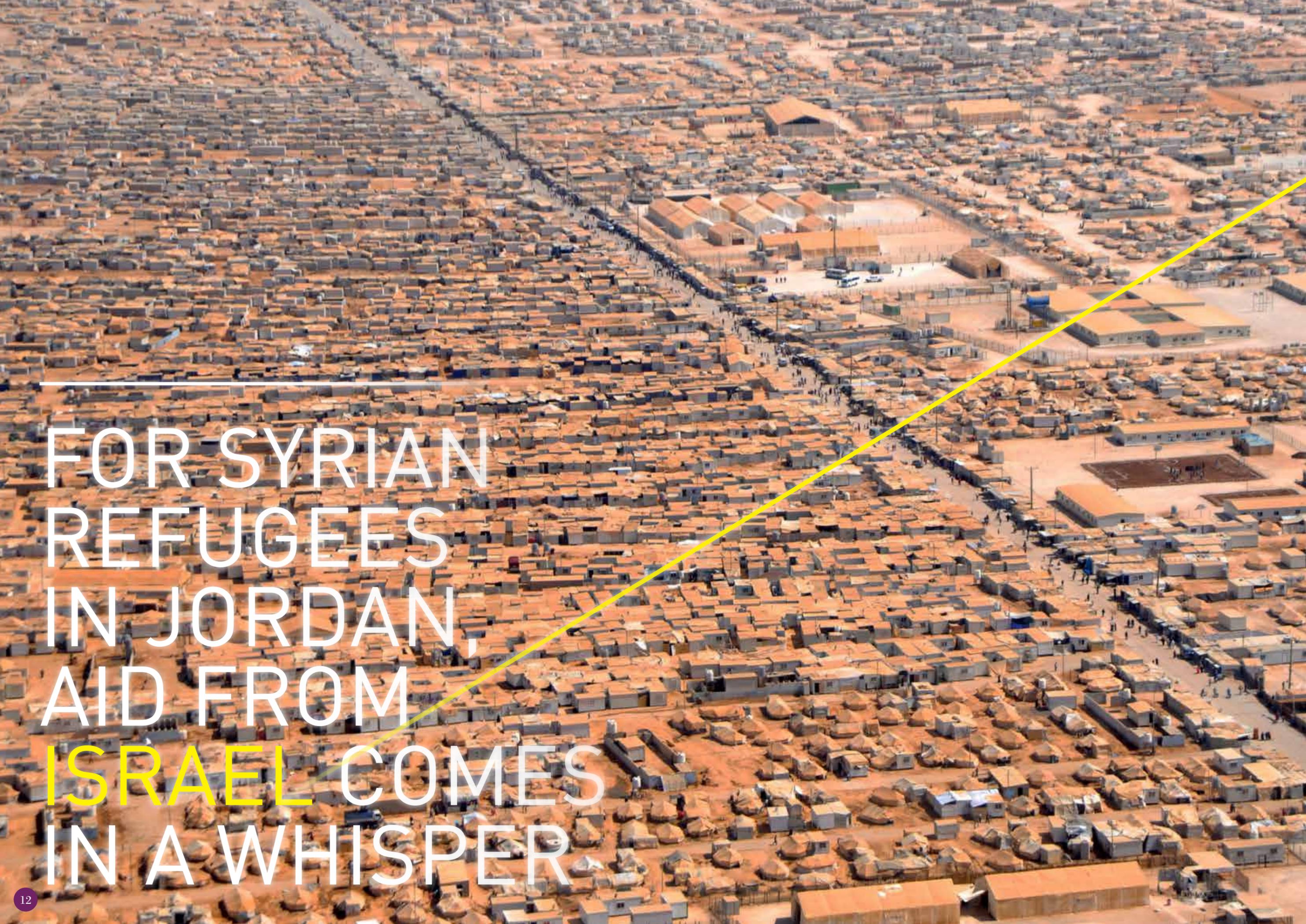
The Syrian doctor explained in his letter what treatment the man had already received and thanked the Israelis in advance, saying he knew they would do everything possible to save the life of the young man. Dr. Amram Hadary, director of the trauma unit at Ziv hospital, commended the Syrian physician on his initial treatment, saying "it seems that the [Syrian] operation saved his life."

"This marked a turning point," says Embon. "This is a change that they're coming after being treated in Syria. The note shows me that they're aware that we're treating the injured and that it's okay to refer patients who need enhanced treatment. The note was like any normal letter between two hospitals."

"The note was very special because one of our problems is we don't have medical data about previous treatment on the other side of the border," says Hadary, director of the trauma unit. "It's important from a professional point of view to have this medical letter. And the bottom line is [the Syrian doctor] was wishing us luck with what we are doing."

Whether the cooperation between the medical communities will influence the political situation remains to be seen.

"We're saving lives, not with expectations for the future. We're doing it because it's our job," says Hadary. "Let's hope for peace and be realistic at the same time."



FOR SYRIAN
REFUGEES
IN JORDAN,
AID FROM
ISRAEL COMES
IN A WHISPER

For Syrian refugees in Jordan, aid from Israel comes in a whisper

Buoyed by donations from Jewish groups around the world, an Israeli agency helps distribute relief one purple bag at a time

BY DEBRA KAMIN



AL-MAFRAQ, Jordan — Sultana is 23 years old and very hungry. She grew up in the suburbs east of Damascus, but when her house was firebombed by an airplane belonging to the Syrian regime; she fled the city in the night along with her husband and their five children.

Together, the group trekked south toward safety across the Jordanian border, adding their numbers to the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have swarmed this remote, impoverished corner of the Hashemite Kingdom while Syrian President Bashar Assad's reign of terror shows no

signs of abating.

Sultana and her family were initially placed in one of the two UN mega-camps in the region, which have swelled into bona fide cities of transients and their tents. Like other refugees, she declined to have her last name used out of security concerns.

In the camp, disease and crime fester amid the more than 200,000 refugees desperately trying to feed themselves and stay alive. Local NGOs say that on most days, 700 to 1,000 more Syrians cross the border and add to the toll.



Syrian women outside the NGO's office after receiving their distribution bags [photo credit: Mickey Alon]

Fearing infection and frustrated with the overcrowding, Sultana and her family took their tents and moved to a smaller outpost, one of a handful of ad hoc mini-camps that have popped up amid the arid plains near the Jordanian town of Al-Mafraq. She may not realize it, but now her food, cooking oil and cleaning supplies come to her thanks to an Israeli aid organization and a network of Jewish donors across the Diaspora, including the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, the AJC, World Jewish Relief and the Pears Foundation.

Late last week, minutes before a sandstorm whipped through the region and rendered Sultana and her family even more invisible than they already are, a van driven by a Jordanian NGO volunteer and carrying a volunteer from IsraAid, an Israeli humanitarian aid agency, pulled

up at the camp. About 125 refugees live here in 25 dirt-spattered tents, cut off from the primary aid organs that pump food and water into the bigger local camps of Zaatari and Mrjeb Al Fhood. One by one, the refugees here lined up and waited to be called by name to the van, where fat purple bags filled with lentils, rice, sugar and other dry goods sat ready for distribution.

The items inside the bags are purchased locally by Jordanian NGOs using funds transferred to them from Israel. They are handed out daily or weekly, in a sporadic schedule that depends entirely on how much donor cash flows into Israel and can then be transferred to the other side.

"We are concerned for their livelihood. That's the first thought," says the director of an international faith-

based humanitarian organization whose Israeli arm has partnered with IsraAid to bring relief to Syrian refugees in Jordan. For her own security, she also asked not to be named. "For us, this has nothing to do with politics at home. It's about how can we, as people in a difficult situation, where there is animosity between governments, how can we – Jewish and Christian, humanitarian workers and people – make a difference? And I'll tell you how: Bag by bag."

The woman is the linchpin in this process, a tough, no-nonsense aid worker who has seen frontline trauma

We are seated in the office of a major Jordanian NGO, sipping hot coffee at the insistence of its director. The NGO asked not to be named, fearing that their association with Israel could cause backlash against family members of Syrian refugees who have yet to make it out.

Here in Jordan, however, the NGO director says he is happy to work with Israelis, and the refugees are simply eager to be fed.

"Believe me, people are hungry and it doesn't matter. They are not asking where the aid comes from," he says. "With the refugees, there is no problem. But the regime



A refugee at the camp near Al-Mafraq carries her goods. [photo credit: Mickey Alon]

across the world and understands that crisis care depends on relationships upon the ground. She makes the drive across the border several times a month, accompanied by several IsraAid volunteers who know the local climate, have nurtured relationships with the heads of Jordanian NGOs, and have no desire to let politics become a stumbling block.

"We don't come as representatives of Netanyahu, or of a party, or of the government. We come because we are people who want to do humanitarian work," says Mickey Alon, a photographer by day who volunteers his time with IsraAid and has travelled with Israeli aid missions to Haiti, South Sudan and Japan.

inside [Syria], they blackmail them if they know they are supported by Israel."

Outside, a line of Syrian women who have left the camps and migrated to the city are waiting patiently for their own purple bags. After we finish our coffee, a few of Ali's employees — all of them also volunteering their time, working without salaries — open the doors. The women come flooding in, each a dark shadow in her black abaya, struggling to drag the packed satchels down the flight of stairs and onto the street. Later, when we bid the NGO director goodbye and walk down to our van, a trail of dried lentils and rice kernels will crunch under our feet.

The bags, of course, are a stopgap. These women need



A refugee at the camp near Al-Mafraq carries her goods. [photo credit: Mickey Alon]



A family in the refugee camp. (photo credit: Mickey Alon)

more than food. One of them, a 41-year-old widow named Asma, pulls me aside and unzips her abaya to show a meter-long, pus-seeping gash across her belly, a reminder of the explosion that killed her husband and sent her fleeing. The NGO director takes her aside and, when the rest of the women have cleared out, promises to find a way to get her to a hospital in Amman.

The Jordanian government, he says, is doing everything it can to help these people. But even the NGOs are being stretched thin. Refugees knock on his door at night. Mothers come begging for meat, and milk for children they birthed inside tents in the camp. The coming winter,

the average Israeli can do. We don't come with big Israeli flags or any political affiliation. We're not looking at this to see if it is good for the Syrian-Israel relationship. We are looking only at the people we are going to work with."

The help that Israel can give these refugees, the IsraAid volunteers and the director of the international aid organization both say, trickles in bag by bag, donation by donation. And if Israel's involvement in Jordan is going to change political perceptions, they add, it's going to happen in the same slow way.

"It's not like we come in here and go, 'We're from Israel!,'" says the director of the IsraAid's partnering organization.



A Syrian boy stands amid the distribution bags, paid for by Jewish donors. (photo credit: Mickey Alon)

which some forecasters have warned will be the harshest to sweep through the Jordanian desert in decades, is now only weeks away. Caravans, blankets and insulation are desperately needed, and the funds just don't add up.

So when IsraAid reached out to the Jordanian NGO in early January, the director was eager to start a partnership.

"We feel like a family," he says now. "They are nice guys, a very good team. We cooperate and we work honestly."

The relationship that has blossomed, says Alon, is a basic human friendship.

"You see a lot of Americans doing humanitarian work all over the world. It's a bit more complicated for Israelis to do it," says Alon. He gestures to the shabby headquarters of the NGO. "It's important for me, first of all as a human being, and this place allows us to do things beyond what

"You keep your mouth shut and you do the work. And maybe they will ask some questions after the fact, because actions speak much louder than words."

BY DEBRA KAMIN

Debra Kamin is an American journalist living in Tel Aviv. She writes on a number of topics, including entertainment, culture, women's issues and city life. Her work has been published in The New York Times, Foreign Policy, The Atlantic, Variety, Haaretz, the San Diego Union-Tribune, and others.

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THE ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE FROM A BEDOUIN POINT OF VIEW!

February 2011. I arrived at the University of Edinburgh to speak about my then newly-published autobiography, *A Shepherd's Journey*. As I began introducing myself to the full room, a group of 30 people (some students, some not), well-prepared with a microphone, signs, and Palestinian flags, began to chant various slogans, including "Free Palestine!" and "Freedom for Egypt!"

I was shocked! Palestine? Egypt? Me? What do I have to do with this?

Here's a fact: I am a Bedouin, Arab, Muslim and proud Israeli citizen.

I was born to a culture in which hospitality and mutual respect have a nearly-sacred value – yet here at Scotland's University of Edinburgh, my freedom of expression to share a cultural story, speak about a book, was suddenly at risk. This was not the hospitality I expected.

There was so much I could tell them – so much that they needed to know – about belonging to Israel's Bedouin minority, about the ways in which those who are both Arab and Muslim live in a Jewish state. I had not gone to Edinburgh to speak about politics, after all, but about my life!

February 2012. I returned to the UK to serve as an Israeli diplomat, as Counselor for Civil Society. It's a vital position, one which is founded on the values that both our democratic countries share, focusing on the creation of new ties between us. True, no one says it's easy to be a diplomat, and I believe that it might be particularly challenging to be an Israeli diplomat. Somehow, here in the UK, it seems that it might be impossible to be a Bedouin Muslim Israeli diplomat. Why?

For those who didn't know, February 25th – March 1st was designated as "Israel apartheid week" in UK campuses. The goal of the organizers was clear: it was to demonize Israel, by comparing it to South Africa's apartheid regime. Their claim is the Palestinian cause.

Unfortunately, their campaign is misleading and serves rhetoric only loosely described as fact.

Let me be clear: Israel has a national conflict with the Palestinians, not a racial one based on colour, nor a religious conflict – it is well-known that three major world religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, coexist on Israeli soil. It is to be hoped that this national conflict will end with an independent Palestinian national state, democratic, and living in peace with Israel. Palestinians are not Israeli citizens.

Remember that 20% of Israel's population is Arab: Muslim, Christian, Druze, as well as other, still-smaller minority groups.

Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, was established to fulfil the dream of the Jewish people. It was the UN, in its 1947 partition plan that declared the establishment of a "Jewish state," not Israel! That plan guaranteed its citizens, under the new declaration of independence, full rights without discrimination based on colour, ethnicity, or religion.

Remember: there are other democracies in the world today in which the majority determines the country's public image, its national anthem, and more. The UK itself (like Australia and Switzerland) has a cross in its flag; and it's Jewish, Muslim and other citizens salute the flag, and sing the anthem, without any complaints against these democratic nations.

Today, as Israel celebrates almost 65 years, Israeli Arab citizens are represented in every level. They are Members of the Knesset (parliament), government ministers, Supreme Court judges, ambassadors, and more. How then, can Israel be an apartheid state if Salem Jubran serves as Supreme Court judge? How can Israel practice apartheid, if Hanin Zoabi, an Israeli Arab woman, was elected to the Knesset? How can Azmi Bishara, an Israeli Arab, run for the highest position of public service, that of Prime Minister? How can Professor Masad Barhoum serve as Director of Nahariya's government hospital, and is it possible that I, a Bedouin and a Muslim, the writer of these lines, could be an Israeli diplomat in London? How would this be possible in an apartheid state?

Many people are unaware that fully 33% of the students at the University of Haifa are Arab. Certainly, an apartheid state would not permit the employment of Professor Wessam Hayek, an internationally-renowned young researcher at Haifa's Technion. There would be no Rana Raslan as Miss Israel. In every sphere of public and private lives, Israeli citizens share equally in our rich democratic tradition.

Despite its positive attributes, it would be equally dishonest to paint Israel as a utopian bastion, because like any nation, Israel has challenges to face. There are issues which are uncomfortable, to say the least, about Israeli Arab citizens, who live in a country which is in a war situation with their "brothers and sisters" – the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

Yes, Israeli Arabs suffer from unemployment, lack of infrastructure, transportation and education. Much of this is related to their integration into Israeli mainstream society, supported by both cultural and ethnic reasons. But their situation is changing and improving for the better.

By no measure can Israel honestly be described as an apartheid state. Not legally, not morally, and not by its government policy and legislation. I belong to the Bedouin community, one of the most misjudged ethnic Israeli communities.

Yes, my country deals with issues of inequality and discrimination. I know that it is not a perfect country. And no, neither I nor my young fellow Israeli-Arab and Jewish countrymen, have the privilege to remark on those problems without attempting to contribute to a solution.

Our moral responsibility is to stand up, join forces, and work together to make the country a better place.

Then what makes us different from other countries in the world? Why would people ban me from speaking at

a university? To those protestors and organizers of the "Israel Apartheid Week" here, I say: there are many other places to expend your efforts. There are homeless people in this country to take care of. Just drive to East London and you'll find the ignorance of immigrants and other neglected communities. Should we launch a campaign "Islington Apartheid Week?"

It is certainly your democratic right to protest, to criticize Israel, and to call for boycotting the settlements. But don't touch Israel itself. There are thousands of Israeli Jews who'd put their lives on the line to see the Palestinian state established and the occupation ended. Sadly, your extreme approach and misinformed campaign against Israel simply damages their efforts.

ISMAIL KHALDI

**Counsellor for Civil Society Affairs
Embassy of Israel London**



How do you view Israel? A rich, vibrant young nation, producing Nobel prize winners and "start up" companies in Hi Tech? Well yes, this is one side, however like many other nations in today's world there is another side to Israel of which many may not be aware.

One in four Israelis - more than 1.6 million people - lives below the poverty line, and that's one in three of Israel's children. Fourteen percent of Israelis aged 20 and over - more than half a million people - have refrained from buying food in the past year due to financial difficulties. Nearly 19 percent of children in Israel go to bed hungry at least one night a week, and some 13 percent of them suffer from malnutrition.

But poverty is not just about food. Unemployment causes a breakdown in the nuclear family. Children drop out of school, and despair, illness, neglect and parental abandonment often follow. The road to criminal and socially dysfunctional behaviour is just around the corner.

There is nothing new here. The modern world is far from perfect.

Today, it is evident that the government simply cannot afford to cater to the needs of an alarmingly growing number of needy families. As a result, NGOs and private organizations have begun to assume the responsibilities



once the domain of the state.

Yad Eliezer has targeted the most basic need of all - food. The largest anti-hunger agency in Israel, it spends over \$20 million each year to bring relief to tens of thousands of Israelis.

Originating in 1980 in the kitchen of the Weisel family of Jerusalem, the organization now encompasses 15 primary economic and social service programs. 10,000 volunteers ensure that overheads are minimal, hence 96 percent of donated funds go directly to needy families.

Every month, families with sick or unemployed parents receive food boxes. For more than 50,000 people subsisting from one day to the next, this is a basic means to ward off total despair. Then, there's baby formula, which is delivered to about 2,000 babies monthly.

The Shabbat Chicken program ensures that families who cannot afford meat throughout the week can at least enjoy the luxury of chicken on this one special day. Special food packages are distributed on holidays - 275 tons of chicken to 11,000 families for Passover and Rosh Hashanah last year alone.



Equally unique is the unprecedented agreement between the organization and Israel's agricultural cooperatives, which resulted in the annual supply of nearly \$1 million worth of excess produce to needy families, rather than its destruction to maintain high food prices. In Tzefat and Tiberias, Yad Eliezer operates state-of-the-art dental clinics, treating a total of 16,000 patients each year, where children are seen for free and adults pay NIS 20 per visit.

Yet Yad Eliezer's philosophy is not that of a soup kitchen. By delivering products directly to the homes of carefully screened families, often using the organization's dedicated fleet of refrigerated trucks, the organization aims to maintain family integration and parental responsibility. An array of programs provide short-term relief to facilitate long-term recovery, such as job training and adolescent mentoring programs - all so that the dependant can begin to see their route towards self-reliance.

Yad Eliezer's Jack Fogel Orphan Fund provides food, financial, medical and psychological assistance to orphans of terror, road accidents, illness and more. Another emergency fund provides spot assistance to families facing a one-time crisis that would otherwise mean eviction, food deprivation, or total financial, medical or psychological collapse.

Yad Eliezer's goal is not only to provide for Israel's needy, but ultimately to break the cycle of poverty by enabling individuals and families to become self-sufficient and independent. By providing training and certification, Yad Eliezer gives people the tools to earn a living that can support a family, thereby giving them a life of dignity.

Employees with a basic degree can earn as much as double the amount that they would have made without the degree. It is heartbreaking to see smart and motivated students held back because they cannot pay tuition.

Since 2004, the Yad Eliezer Job Training Program has provided men and women in Israel with the skills they need to become productive in a trade or profession. A high retention rate of over 90% attests to the careful screening, and to the persevering nature of the participants.

But Yad Eliezer are not there just for emergencies.

Yad Eliezer caters weddings for couples who could not otherwise afford to celebrate their union. Brides receive wedding vouchers to purchase those little items that help transform an otherwise austere household into the foundation for a happy home. And through the Bar Mitzvah Twinning program, children in Israel who cannot even afford a new Tallit (prayer shawl) or Tefillin (phylacteries) are paired with children abroad who help sponsor the entrance of their less fortunate "twin" into adulthood.

Throughout the world, Yad Eliezer volunteers collect food and donations, organize transport, connect their children with less luckier contemporaries, and help create a bond of communality. In Israel, adults, pupils and soldiers, farmers, drivers and community leaders, all join together to distribute to the needy.

In an age where the value of money seems to be decreasing, where the price of food and basic goods is on the increase, and requests for assistance keep growing by the day, Yad Eliezer is putting the needy back on their feet so that they too can once again walk proudly.

For further information on Yad Eliezer please see their website www.yadeliezer.org



Crowe Clark Whitehill's Private Client team wishes the Anglo-Israel Association well for their 64th Annual Dinner.

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A tour with a difference



When I was invited on the AIA 2013 Study Tour to Israel I have to admit my knowledge of the region was as with many people, limited and muddled. Now having returned I can say that my eyes have been opened to some of the complexities of both the religious and political situation in what is a truly amazing land.

It may surprise you that as an Anglican vicar I have never particularly wanted to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The reason for this is simple; over the years I have created images in my mind's eye as to what the events and places were like as recorded in the Bible, and I didn't want to shatter those images by visiting a shrine or church reportedly built on some significant holy site.

However, I have been very interested in seeking to understand the religious and political tensions in that region, and the significance of this tiny piece of land whose area is similar to that of Wales. It is here within this cauldron of chaos I found relative calm on the surface, but know there is much tension and mistrust just bubbling beneath the surface as three of the world's major religions; Judaism, Islam and Christianity seek to somehow coexist.

It has appeared to me that the global violence, hatred, and terrorism carried out in the name of religion appears to somehow find its roots linked to the tensions in the Middle East and particularly the conflict between Israel and Palestine. I remember once hearing the American Bible commentator Jim Wallace say that we can never defeat terrorism with weapons of war. The only solution is to drain the swamp that breeds the mosquitoes of hatred and violence. Just as there are two sides to every argument, there are two sides to every conflict. So when I was given the opportunity to be part of the 2013 study trip where we could hear both sides of the story I jumped at the opportunity.

On the trip we met all kinds of people and I found myself trying to understand the narrative of a people and a land with such a long history of conflict and instability. On the trip we met with some amazing people; Israelis, Arabs, Palestinians, Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

At one point we met with negotiators from the PLO in Ramallah. They shared their pain and their sense of injustice at the settlements the Israelis were continuing to build within the West Bank. We heard of their desire for peace and willingness to accept a two state proposal.

Later we met with a spokesman for the Israeli Prime Minister's Office who told us that they didn't believe that a two state solution negotiated today would last. He talked about the time bomb they were sitting on with the birth-rate in Gaza being the third highest in the World.

He also shared how in the West there was a growing pro-Palestinian, anti-Israeli rhetoric being adopted by the media in Britain. This was something I hadn't noticed myself, but since returning home I can concur at times this may well be true. Indeed, if I am honest as I travelled to Israel I took with me a slightly pro-Palestinian anti-Israeli stance myself.

But something changed my view of this during the trip. As we stood on top of the Golan Heights and looked out over Jordan, Syria and just over a mountain peak was Lebanon suddenly it dawned on me just how precarious the nation of Israel is. Earlier in the week we had been on the border of Egypt and Gaza, and now I could see something of what it must feel like for Israel to be surrounded by Islamic states and regimes. For the first time, I realised why Israel feels the need to respond to any threats with decisive action.

As we travelled and met with various people I found myself asking whether this was a problem that could ever be solved, or whether it was a tension that simply had to be managed. People with far greater understanding than me have tried to find a solution but when there are equal and opposite views it seems to me that a "solution" is very unlikely to be found. But if a solution is not possible, well then this has to be a tension to be managed, which in effect is what is happening today in Israel.

I did however see one particular thing that gave a ray of hope. We visited a factory in the West Bank run by an Israeli settler. In the factory he employed both Israelis and Palestinians and they could clearly work together and I couldn't help wonder if there was ever a possibility that through such entrepreneurial thinking a sense of common purpose may be found. Call me naive, but I cannot help but wonder if this might be the only way forward for lasting peace.

As a result of this trip I can say that my eyes have been opened and my views have changed. I have found myself much more sympathetic towards the vulnerability of Israel but still feeling for the Palestinian people too. As a Christian I believe that all people are precious to God, and for this reason I will pray for God to bring about peace in this Holy Land.

Rev. Richard Poole (St. Andrew's Church, Furnace Green, Crawley)

FREEDOM OF SPEECH ON CAMPUSES - NOT FOR ISRAELIS

By Frank Furedi

A couple of years ago a group of us organised a conference on the 'science of parenting' at our institution, the University of Kent. Two weeks before the opening of the conference, one of my colleagues received a phone call from one of the speakers, who expressed her astonishment that amongst the participants were two Israeli speakers. To be precise, she did not merely express astonishment at our misguided error and insensitivity to her feelings. She immediately issued an ultimatum to us that declared that we either cancel our invitation to the Israeli academics or she would be forced to withdraw from what would be a morally tainted conference. Thankfully, my colleague responded by telling the anti-Israel zealot that we still believed in academic freedom and therefore she should take her censorious moral gesture elsewhere.

What struck me and my colleague as particularly troublesome about this incident was not so much the call for cancelling an invitation issued to colleagues but the causal manner with which the entire case for academic freedom was dismissed as not relevant for Israelis. During the past decade Israel has become an all-purpose target for a variety of disparate and confused causes on British campuses. Given the amount of energy and resources that are invested in promoting hostility to Israel on campuses one would think that there are literally no other global problems facing humanity. It is as if the very word Israel can breath life into an otherwise complacent campus culture. At union meetings, members and activists often switch off and go through the motion of feigning an interest in the proceedings. That is until the predictable motion calling for the boycott of Israel is read out. At that point many members become animated and express strong views about a subject that they know very little about. And since it is okay to condemn and demonize Israel some members feel that this issue provides a safe outlet for expressing their pent-up frustration.

The origins of the contemporary demonization of Israel have little to do with events in the Middle East. It is difficult to argue that Israel today is any worse or better than it was 40 or 50 years ago. Yet until relatively recently the relationship between Israelis and Palestinians was of marginal significance on British campuses. What has changed is the political culture that prevails in British Universities.

One important change has been the growth in the numbers of Muslim students in universities. On many campuses the Islamic Society is likely to be one of the largest groups and they exercise a degree of influence

over campus life. Members of these societies are understandably drawn towards the Palestinian cause and are therefore deeply hostile to Israel. The expression of such sentiments has converged with another important development, which is the transformation of left-wing campus groups from a focus on social justice to that of identity politics. From this perspective Israelis are not simply a people but individuals whose western identity and association with modernity makes them convenient populist targets. One of my young colleagues who teaches media studies in a London-based university was taken aback during a seminar discussion when some of her students insisted that since all the banks are owned by Jews, Israel was responsible for the current global financial crisis. According to this outlook Israel serves as a symbol of malevolence and imperceptibly the old themes of judeophobia merge with the current fantasy of Israel as the singular evil confronting the world.

When I hear the words 'they' and 'those people' my ears prick up. This rhetoric speaks to a sensibility that morally distances 'them' from the rest of humanity.

The unique power ascribed to the American Jewish lobby provides the rationale for the differential treatment accorded to Israel and Israelis. Implicitly and sometime explicitly Israel is charged with the burden of responsibility for a variety of disconnected evils such as forcing the US to invade Iraq, causing the financial crisis or destabilising the Middle East. At a time of moral and intellectual confusion a simplistic story about a powerful force of evil has become internalised by activists in search of a cause.

Academic Freedom

Unfortunately the convergence of Islamic hostility to Israel with western identity politics has occurred in a context where the values associated with free speech and academic freedom are not taken seriously on British campuses.

It is difficult not to feel dispirited about the lack of academic affirmation for free speech on British campuses. Many lecturers fervently believe in the importance of academic freedom for themselves while indifferent to the predicament faced by their colleagues. Others are very selective about whose academic freedom they take seriously. So some academics took strong exception to the Government's demand that we monitor the activities of radical Muslim groups on campuses. They rightly interpreted this as an attempt to curb free speech and close down discussion. But, sadly, their objection was not always inspired by a genuine conviction that freedom of speech is a fundamental principle that must be defended in all circumstances. In too many cases, UK academics have a selective and pragmatic approach to the right of free speech. Some who insist that banning radical Islamic groups from speaking in university campuses represents a violation of academic freedom or the right to free speech also argue that such rights should not be extended to Israelis. Call it inconsistency or double standard but the selective approach towards the freedom of speech speaks to a dishonest culture of hypocrisy that regards freedom as a negotiable commodity.

As an academic I have no problem with colleagues who

are anti-Zionists or anti-Israeli. In a democratic university everyone is entitled to hold views that some regard as erroneous as well as the right to express them. What I find particularly objectionable is the illiberal sentiment that seeks to silence voices with which it disagrees. What these intolerant critics of Israel are saying, in effect, is that the promotion of the cause of Palestine is too important to be constrained by the ethos of democratic debate. From this standpoint, academic freedom is a negotiable commodity; a right that can be denied to those deemed worthy of punishment. In this case Israeli academics are punished for who they are rather than what they have done.

Consistency is not always a virtue, but it is an absolute necessity when it comes to fundamental principles of democratic rights. Academic freedom cannot be exercised selectively without undermining its authority. Punishing colleagues through denying them their rights does not merely affect them, it also undermines the authority of academic freedom and therefore has a negative impact on everyone who works in a university. After the events of the past century everyone should know that curbing the freedom of those with whom we disagree always creates a dangerous precedent.

The best way of countering attacks on free speech on campuses is to promote more speech. Calls for boycott and censorship should be countered with initiatives that provide more opportunities for issues to do with the Middle East to be clarified. That requires that academics take their freedoms more seriously and stand up to be counted. In far too many universities students hear only one side of the argument. They need to hear the classic arguments for tolerance, free speech and academic freedom in order to grasp the corrosive impact on campus life of the Boycott Israel crusade.

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growth through partnership



Britain and Israel are inextricably linked by a profound and intimate history. Common values and shared ideals have developed circumstance and a fledgling relationship into the close bond and firm friendship that we now enjoy. However, beyond the dazzling lights of the political circus, one can also clearly see a close and compelling partnership between Britain and Israel, specifically in business and trade, where both countries recognising their partner's strengths, seek to use it to encourage and enhance their own potential.

In truth, the idea of growth through partnerships is nothing new to the State of Israel. It is something that Israeli industries have long since relied upon. With limited natural resources, Israel quickly turned to the potential of its human resource. Based partly on the diversity of its citizens, Israel sought to cultivate and develop the skills-base and expertise of its people to the fullest. This helped to build up the young country and has since developed into the entrepreneurial spirit, the products of which are highly sought after throughout the world.

One of the most notable partnerships in Israel is that between industry and academia. This partnership ensures that new talent has access to their industry of choice. This

in turn secures a steady influx of new ideas, and indeed new companies, which have become some of the most competitive in the world market. The rewards of this particular alliance have thus far benefited not just the people of Israel but the world over, with Israel having made a number of extraordinary breakthroughs in the fields of economics and chemistry. In the last ten years alone, no less than six Israelis have been awarded the Nobel Prize for achievements in these fields. Israel's government is solidly committed to backing civilian R&D projects to the tune of 4.5% of the country's annual GDP which places Israel as the number one country in the world for R&D as a percentage of GDP.

The government also encourages the country's entrepreneurial spirit by providing start-ups with micro loans (currently averaging \$85,000), repayable upon the company turning a profit. If the company folds then the loan is written off in its entirety. Then add in to the mix the support Israeli companies receive from global and domestic VCs, who pumped in a total of \$1.9 billion to the Israeli start-up scene in 2012. In fact, there is more venture capital investment per capita in Israel than anywhere else in the world. In the first 8 months of 2013 alone, high tech deals involving Israeli companies have totalled \$4.9 billion

so far this year, making 2013 a record year for Israeli high tech exits. Given such enviable returns, and with Israel boasting a robust and resilient economy that was able to weather the 2008 credit-crunch storm, this country's start-up sector would seem to be a wise and potentially lucrative investment.

In a further doff of the cap to Israel's talent for technological innovation, global technology firms such as Google, Microsoft, Apple, Facebook and Intel for example, have all chosen to establish R&D centres in Israel. Given the envious track record for successful innovation, the presence of these multinationals – in addition to the investment from VCs – is hardly surprising, and serves as a clear recognition of Israel's competitive advantage. Indeed, the 2013 World Competitiveness Report (WCR), published by the World Economic Forum, described Israel with the following:

The country's main strengths remain its world-class capacity for innovation (3rd), which rests on highly innovative businesses that benefit from the presence of the world's best research institutions geared toward the needs of the business sector. Israel's excellent innovation capacity, which is supported by the government's public procurement policies, is reflected in the country's high number of patents (4th). Its favourable financial environment, particularly evident in the ease of access to venture capital (3rd), has contributed to making Israel an innovation powerhouse.

Many examples of the innovation to which the WCR refers, continue to play large parts in our everyday lives. It is difficult to imagine life without the USB memory stick, instant messaging, the firewall and the secure data links that enable banking transactions to take place. There are many other similar examples.

On 12 August 2013, the Guardian newspaper featured an article that noted another of Israel's most important partnerships, from which these examples (and many more besides) have developed – the partnership between industry and the Israel Defence Forces. In this article, the newspaper highlighted a number of successful Israeli solutions, each of which has been the brainchild of one (or more) alumnus of the IDF's Unit 8200 – an Israeli Intelligence Corps unit responsible for collecting signal intelligence and code decryption.

Israeli high-tech entrepreneurs, reapplying their army-honed skills and expertise to new challenges, they have almost literally "beaten their swords into ploughshares" and developed a new generation of products an example of which being Waze, the crowd sourced navigational app that was recently bought by Google for approximately \$1 billion.

In the process of establishing itself as a world leader in so many technological spheres and industries, Israel has developed another partnership, one that has helped to export its talents to destinations and markets far beyond its own shores. International trade partnerships are the lifeblood of any country's economy and quite often, in this age of increased globalisation, a bilateral trade partnership with its ensuing economic incentives can contribute to more

profound cultural or political exchanges, which in turn leads to deeper understandings and the creation of more all-encompassing and lasting partnerships between nations.

Israel and the UK have such a partnership. Moreover, in recent years, one of the most striking elements to the Israel-UK partnership is how the bilateral trade figures have increased by staggering amounts. In the ten years leading to 2012, bilateral trade between Israel and UK more than doubled to USD 5.2 billion, (excluding diamonds and services). The latest set of figures released by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics show that 2013 is on course for further increases; in the first half of 2013, exports from Israel to the UK increased by 16.9% on the same period for 2012, and bilateral trade increased by 7.9% over the same period.

As things currently stand, the UK is Israel's fourth largest overall trading partner and their second largest export market. However, this partnership is not just inward facing. As a world leader in many aspects of the global market, the UK is a gateway for Israeli companies to access other European and international markets. In turn, UK businesses are keen to draw on Israeli innovation and utilise new technologies to gain a competitive advantage in the face of constantly changing client expectations. The international collaborations extend to academia with the recently signed memorandum of understanding between the University of Manchester and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology further evidence of the technological and R&D partnership between the two countries.

Both the British and Israeli diplomatic missions have teams dedicated to exploring new ways to strengthen this partnership. They focus on encouraging capital flow in both directions to stimulate the development of innovative ideas and they place a strong emphasis on increasing awareness of Israel-UK technology opportunities among policy makers and business leaders alike.

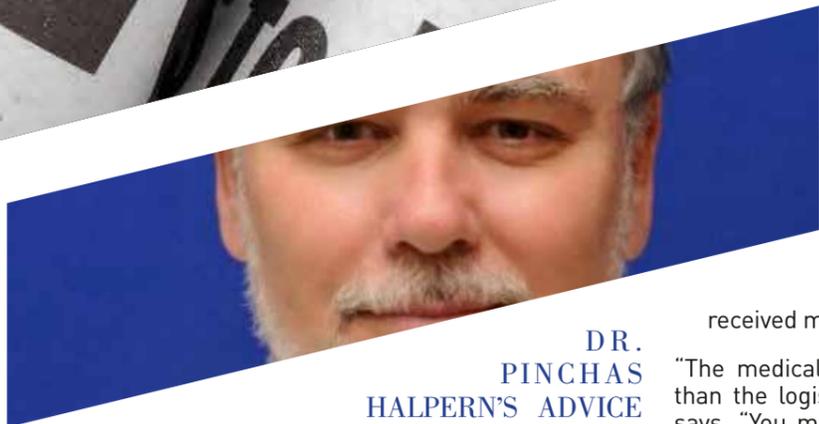
Over the past six years, I have focused our efforts in continuing to develop these partnerships. Working together with the British government, I have joined officials such as the Rt Hon David Willetts MP and Prime Minister David Cameron's senior policy adviser, Rohan Silva, leading business delegations to Israel. Having taken numerous senior executives on these trade missions over the years, we have been able to introduce UK companies to the latest developments in Israeli technologies and ultimately enhancing the Israel-UK trade relationship.

There are countless more examples of this bilateral partnership in action and over the next few years, with even greater interest in new Israeli technologies, the Israel-UK partnership will present both countries with new business opportunities that will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the growth of both economies.



DANIEL SAUNDERS
Chief of Staff, Trade & Economic Affairs
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IN THE PRESS



DR. PINCHAS HALPERN'S ADVICE TO BOSTON HOSPITALS ON MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS WAS ONE OF THE FACTORS IN THEIR SUCCESSFUL HANDLING OF APRIL 15 CASUALTIES.

Dr. Pinchas Halpern: "We are interested in each other's well-being."

Israeli critical care specialist Dr. Pinchas Halpern is used to dealing with terror attacks. It's not a familiarity that most doctors would wish to achieve, but as director of emergency medicine at Tel Aviv's Sourasky Medical Center since 1993, Halpern has had no choice but to become an expert on mass casualties.

It's no surprise, then, that in the wake of the Boston marathon bombings, when three people were killed and another 282 injured, he was one of the first people US doctors treating the severely wounded victims at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center called to discuss the logistics of handling casualties of the horrific attack.

Just one year earlier, Halpern had spent a few weeks at the hospital's emergency department as a visiting professor, sharing his experience with terror attacks, including best practices for mobilizing hospital staff in response to a mass disaster.

Halpern maintains that "Boston has one of the best medical systems – perhaps the best – in the world," But Israeli expertise is considered second to none in organizing hospitals' methods of response to a multiple casualty incident (MCI). And that is what his colleagues called him to talk over.

"We have ongoing discussions about that," he says, "because we are interested in each other's well-being."

Halpern has been training US medical personnel for many years. Several years ago, he was part of a Harvard University and US government-sponsored project that brought Jewish and Arab Israeli physicians and nurses to give two-day training sessions on emergency care and the management of sudden-onset localized events, such as terror attacks, at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General – which also received many of the marathon casualties.

"The medical aspects of managing patients are simpler than the logistics, and this is what we specialize in," he says. "You may have personnel who are good at treating but do not have the knowledge to prepare for and take command of MCI situations."

While Israeli hospitals have had ample opportunity to fine-tune these procedures through years of war and terror attacks, particularly the difficult second intifada years when the nation was hit by a string of bombings – in 2002 alone there were more than 50 suicide bombings – Halpern explains that major trauma generally accounts for a small portion of emergency medicine, perhaps 1.5 percent of the entire patient load.

"We have a very streamlined way of deciding what is an MCI, and emptying the ED [emergency department] for those casualties through very efficient procedures," says Halpern, whose most recent experience with an MCI was a bus bombing near the hospital that wounded about 30 people in November last year.

"We have procedures for calling personnel for small, medium and large events, involving 50 to 200 persons. We have good communication systems and methods for triage and assigning patients to beds. We have a complex list of the sequence of events that have to happen."

Much has been written about Israeli connections to the medical treatment of Boston bombing victims.

The president and emergency department director at Beth Israel Deaconess are both Israeli-born, Israeli-educated physicians. Dr. David Spector, on staff at Tufts Medical Center, where 18 victims were rushed from the horrific scene, was formerly a surgeon at Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center and served in the Air Force's Airborne Rescue and Evacuation Unit.

Halpern and other Israeli doctors have been credited with

helping Boston's medical centers become better prepared for MCIs.

Dr. Paul Biddinger of Mass General's emergency department was quoted as saying that the hospital implemented Halpern's suggestions regarding triage, site security, reassessment and coordination among medical specialists. Other hospitals also used the Israelis' advice to sharpen their disaster response procedures.

"The [hospital administrators] asked for meetings, discussions, lectures and training because they felt they were not optimally prepared, and we have so much experience on the ground," says Halpern, who also led training at hospitals in Seattle, Florida and New York in areas such as identifying, classifying and treating wounds typical in bomb attacks.

"They were smart enough to learn and prepare beforehand," says Halpern. "Fortunately, the [Boston Marathon] event occurred at midday, and close to the concentration of hospitals, which already were in a state of readiness for possible marathon injuries."

PEACE PRIZE FOR ARAB-ISRAEL MEDICAL TEAM.



Eli Beer and Murad Alyan are united by their passion for saving lives. Photo courtesy of United Hatzalah of Israel

Eli Beer and Murad Alyan win a \$10,000 prize for peace for their work leading an Israeli all-volunteer emergency response organization.

Despite what is usually written in the world's press about discord between Jews and Arabs, in Jerusalem there is a different story. The close friendship between Beer, a religious Jew working in real estate, and Alyan, a religious Muslim working as a registered nurse and medical translator, began in 2007 when Alyan approached Beer about extending United Hatzalah's neighborhood-based services

to largely Arab East Jerusalem. He recruited the first 34 volunteers for the unit, and now oversees more than 100.

Both had been involved in voluntary emergency response since the late 1980s and knew that ambulances from Israel's national Magen David Adom often get delayed because of traffic, security checkpoints and unmarked streets in some areas. Having a crew of local volunteers ready to respond by foot, moped or cycle, until further help arrives, has cut initial response time to three minutes at most.

"We've been doing this for over 20 years and that's why we overcome anything that could be a barrier to our relationship. And the same goes for our volunteers, who come from different sectors – haredi [ultra-Orthodox], settlers, secular, Arabs. They all love saving lives and that's what connects us." says Beer

Alyan adds, "People think that peace is only for politicians. We save lives with no political agenda or opinions. This can lead to peace. You can do it anywhere."

In fact, Beer says, a United Hatzalah team is soon travelling to New Delhi to help establish its model there. "We're going to start a process in India of having people of different cultures and religions saving lives together, just like in Israel."

THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTIC FEDERATION CHOOSES JERUSALEM FOR ITS 2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION.



Israel is one of only eight nations in the world to launch an indigenous satellite into space. (Photo: Sivan farag)

The prestigious International Space Conference will be held in Jerusalem in 2015, thanks to a winning bid by the Israel Space Agency. The conference is the world's largest gathering on space and will bring more than 3,000 researchers and scientists to Israel's capital city.

The International Astronautical Federation (IAF) announced Jerusalem as the venue during its congress meeting in Italy. Other hosting bids came from Turkey, Thailand and Mexico.

The largest body in the world in the field of space, the IAF comprises 250 member organizations and aims at advancing space know-how and the development of products by encouraging international cooperation. It hosts an annual event every October in a different country.

In choosing Israel, the federation mentioned the academic space research performed in Israel and the vast government support in hosting the convention.

Israel is one of only eight nations in the world to launch an indigenous satellite into space and the government keeps a chunk of the budget for its space activities in research and development.

"I'm delighted to have our great efforts of bringing the convention to Jerusalem proved successful," said Prof. Daniel Herskovits, Minister of Science and Technology. "Israel belongs to an exclusive club of about 10 countries in the world that have all capabilities in space – producing satellites, launching them and communicating with them. We may be small, but Israel is a power in space research".

Space scientists, ISA officials and industrial leaders will attend the event and learn about the latest innovations and discuss space policies.

"Israel being elected to host the conference comes to show its increased international reorganization as a space power, and would have a tremendous effect on the Israeli space industry," said Prof. Itzhak Ben Israel, head of the Israeli Space Agency.

Every year the International Ilan Ramon Space Conference is held in Herzliya, organized by the Fisher Institute, the Israel Space Agency and the Israel Ministry of Science and Technology. The meeting is a living tribute to Israel's first astronaut, the late colonel Ilan Ramon, who perished with his colleagues on the space shuttle Columbia on February 1st 2003. NASA Administrator Charles Bolden says "This conference commemorates the amazing life of Ilan Ramon by fostering co-operation among nations".

The great success story since that tragedy has been the International Space Station (ISS), a research laboratory that has been visited by astronauts from 15 countries. "The ISS is our toe hold to the rest of the solar system," Bolden said. "It is a tangible symbol of unprecedented international co-operation." The Israel Space Agency announced they are in talks with the International Space Agencies to place an Israeli astronaut on the International Space station in the coming years. This news was welcomed by Bolden who stated that "Israel is one of the anchors of co-operation with NASA, along with several other countries.

Israel's space industry specializes in specific areas, including miniaturisation and communication technologies. Israeli activity in the study of space began in the 1960's with academic research. In 1983, the Israeli Space Agency was established, and five years later, Israel launched its first satellite – Ogeq-1 – a reconnaissance satellite developed and built in Israel. Today, Israel has launched 13 locally made satellites into space.



ISRAELI PROF ARIEH WARSHEL SHARES 2013 NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

Israeli professor Arie Warshel won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, along with Professors Martin Karplus and Michael Levitt "for the development of multiscale models for complex chemical systems".

Warshel is a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Southern California.

He was born in 1940 in Kibbutz Sde Nahum, and after serving in the Israeli Army (where he was a captain), he attended the Technion, where he received his BSc degree in Chemistry in 1966. He earned both MSc and PhD degrees in Chemical Physics (in 1967 and 1969, respectively), at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR SHARES NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

François Englert, 80, a Belgian Holocaust survivor, wins prestigious prize with Peter Higgs



Belgian physicist Francois Englert, left, and British physicist Peter Higgs, right, at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Meyrin near Geneva, Switzerland, on Wednesday, July 4, 2012. (photo credit: AP Photo/Keystone/Martial Trezzini)

Physicists François Englert of Belgium and Peter Higgs of Britain won the 2013 Nobel Prize in physics for their discovery of the Higgs particle.

Englert, 80, is a Sackler Professor by Special Appointment in the School of Physics and Astronomy at Tel Aviv University.

Ambassador Prosor's condolence letter on hearing about the passing of Richard Beeston, Foreign Editor of The Times.

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL TO THE UNITED NATIONS



הנציג הקבוע של ישראל לאומות המאוחדות

20 May 2013

Dear John,

It was with deep sorrow that I heard about the passing of Richard Beeston. On behalf of the State of Israel, allow me to express my sincere condolences to yourself and the entire staff of *The Times*.

I worked with Richard personally during my tenure as Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom. He was not only *rich* in name but also in spirit. He served his post as foreign editor with gravitas, talent, and sensitivity – and became a true role model for journalists and analysts everywhere. His legacy lives on in the lasting contribution that he has made to journalism – and the British public's larger understanding of the world beyond its borders.

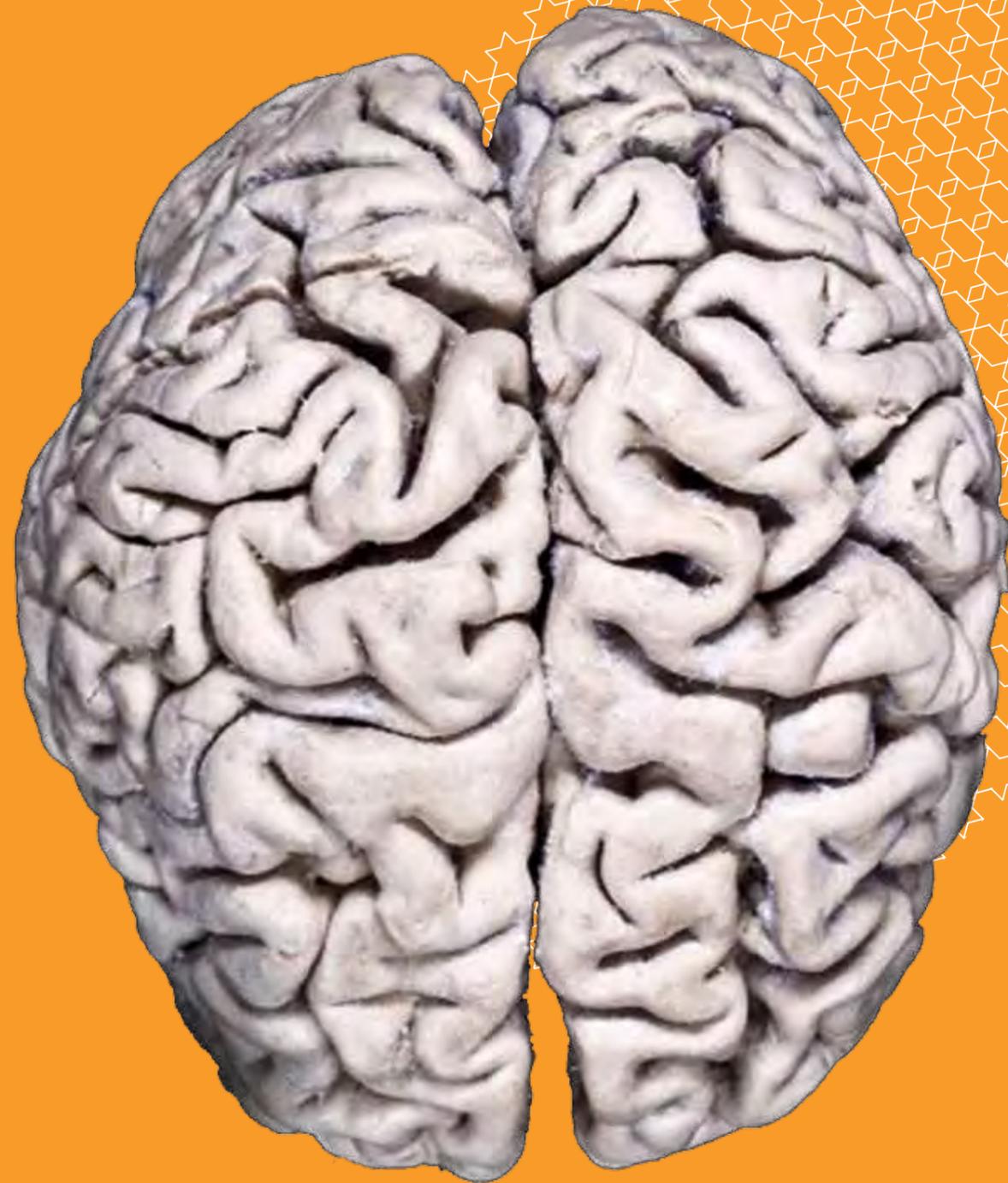
Through his writing and leadership, Richard embodied credibility, responsibility, and care. He possessed a keen insight into the strategic landscape of the global stage – and a good eye for forecasting trends in international relations. Unlike many other British journalists, Richard realized the complexities of the Middle East – and understood the challenges that a democracy like Israel must face in navigating the stormy seas of the region.

Richard's extraordinary humility, dedication, and grace will be sorely missed. May his entire family—both professional and personal—be comforted during this period of mourning.

Yours truly,

Ron Prosor
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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israeli innovations



Hebrew-speaking guide dogs

The Israel Guide Dog Centre for the Blind is the only one place on Earth where guide dogs are trained to respond to Hebrew commands and react appropriately to uniquely Israeli physical environments (like concrete barriers on the sidewalk).



Until former paratrooper Noach Braun and his wife Orna opened the non-profit training centre in 1991, blind Israelis had to travel to the US to get a dog – and they had to be fluent in English. Having a local alternative is much less stressful, because during the three weeks of instruction at the centre's Beit Oved campus south of Tel Aviv, family and friends can visit. Centre personnel help each applicant acquaint the new guide dog with the home and work environments.

A breakthrough in cartilage regeneration



CartiHeal's cartilage regeneration solution could save many patients from joint replacement surgery.

In a groundbreaking advance, a novel Israeli implant provides a scaffold for the body to regenerate true joint-protecting cartilage.

If you get a cut, break a bone or scrape an elbow, your bloodstream brings the injury all the necessary nutrients for healing. But if your cartilage gets damaged, you're out of luck. This flexible soft tissue that cushions joints – especially in the knee – has no blood vessels and therefore little ability to heal itself.

However, a privately held Israeli medical device company is now offering a safe and effective, novel off-the-shelf

cartilage regeneration solution in a global market worth an estimated \$1.6 billion annually.

CartiHeal's trademarked Agili-C can be implanted in a single-step arthroscopic procedure. In clinical studies, it was shown to regenerate true hyaline cartilage (the most abundant type of cartilage in the human body) after six months.

Founder and CEO Nir Altschuler explains that this is a breakthrough in the field – the "Holy Grail" in orthopaedics – because other experimental treatments generate only "hyaline-like" cartilage, which is actually a non-lasting fibrous tissue rather than the real deal.

"Our clinical results, to date, confirm rapid cartilage and bone formation, as clearly visible on MRIs and X-rays," says Altschuler. "Patients are reporting significant improvement in pain level and return to normal function, including sports."

The implant has earned the European Union's CE Mark of approval, and the company is currently running post-marketing clinical studies at leading centres in Europe.

The first patient to receive Agili-C was a 47-year-old Slovenian man, a former athlete whose knee cartilage was damaged due to a volleyball injury six years before the June 2011 surgery. Unable to enjoy sports, he suffered on and off from knee swelling and pain.

Six months after receiving the Agili-C implant, the patient was on the ski slopes. A year from his surgery, he completed a 180K cycling marathon, according to company officials.

"The X-ray and MRI images are promising," says Altschuler. "At six months you can see signs of cartilage formation and at a year it is nearly fully regenerated. The newly formed cartilage is hyaline cartilage, the body's native cartilage, distinguished by its specific type of collagen."

Cardboard bike is a 'game changer' in Africa

A bicycle made almost entirely of cardboard has the potential to change transportation habits from the world's most congested cities to the poorest reaches of Africa, its Israeli inventor says.

Izhar Gafni, 50, is an expert in designing automated mass-production lines. He is an amateur cycling enthusiast who for years toyed with an idea of making a bicycle from cardboard.

He told Reuters during a recent demonstration that after much trial and error, his latest prototype has now proven itself and mass production will begin in a few months.

"I was always fascinated by applying unconventional technologies to materials and I did this on several occasions. But this was the culmination of a few things that came together. I worked for four years to cancel out the

corrugated cardboard's weak structural points," Gafni said.

"Making a cardboard box is easy and it can be very strong and durable, but to make a bicycle was extremely difficult and I had to find the right way to fold the cardboard in several different directions. It took a year and a half, with lots of testing and failure until I got it right."

Once the shape has been formed and cut, the cardboard is treated with a secret concoction made of organic materials to give it its waterproof and fireproof qualities. In the final stage, it is coated with lacquer paint for appearance.

In testing the durability of the treated cardboard, Gafni said he immersed a cross-section in a water tank for several months and it retained all its hardened characteristics.

Once ready for production, the bicycle will include no metal parts, even the brake mechanism and the wheel and pedal bearings will be made of recycled substances, although Gafni said he could not yet reveal those details due to pending patent issues.

Gafni owns several top-of-the-range bicycles which he said are worth thousands of dollars each, but when his own creation reaches mass production, it should cost no more than about \$20 (£12.50) to buy. The cost of materials used is estimated at \$9 per unit.



Israeli inventor Izhar Gafni poses for a photo with his cardboard bicycle in Moshav Ahituv, central Israel. Photo: REUTERS

A ride on the prototype was quite stiff, but generally no different to other ordinary basic bikes.

Nimrod Elmish, Gafni's business partner, said cardboard and other recycled materials could bring a major change in current production norms because grants and rebates would only be given for local production and there would be no financial benefits by making bicycles in cheap labour markets.

"This is a real game changer. It changes ... the way products are manufactured and shipped, it causes factories to be built everywhere instead of moving production to cheaper labour markets, everything that we have known in the production world can change," he said.

Elmish said initial production was set to begin in Israel in months on three bicycle models and a wheelchair and they will be available to purchase within a year.

"In six months we will have completed planning the first production lines for an urban bike which will be assisted by an electric motor, a youth bike which will be a 2/3 size model for children in Africa, a balance bike for youngsters learning to ride, and a wheelchair that a non-profit

organisation wants to build with our technology for Africa," he said.

The bicycles are not only very cheap to make, they are very light and do not need to be adjusted or repaired, the solid tyres that are made of reconstituted rubber from old car tyres will never get a puncture, Elmish said.

Gafni said "We are just at the beginning and from here my vision is to see cardboard replacing metals ... and countries that right now don't have the money, will be able to benefit from so many uses for this material,"

Operations without scars?



Surgeons do not need complex training to learn how to use BioWeld1.

Women giving birth by Caesarean section could be the first to benefit from a revolutionary Israeli invention for closing surgical incisions without stitches or staples. The technique also promises to leave patients less prone to infection and scarring. BioWeld1, a unique trademarked product from Israeli start-up Ion Med, welds surgical incisions using cold plasma.

Plasma is a gas in which a certain proportion of the particles are ionized. It has been shown to offer manifold benefits including tissue welding, control of bleeding, enhancement of tissue repair, disinfection and destruction of cancer cells. However, plasma has enjoyed a limited role in surgery due to the high temperatures it creates and resulting harmful effects on body tissue. Ion Med's scientists found a way to make use of cold plasma as the power behind the BioWeld1.

The procedure takes a few minutes, seals the area completely, leaves minimal scarring or painful stitches, and does not require complex training.

"No one has done this before – and more than that, the platform of cold plasma is a technology that is not available in medicine yet," says Ronen Lam, IonMed's co-founder and vice president for business development. "We will probably be the first."

The company anticipates receiving the CE mark of approval in Europe by the end of the year. After closing its next financial round, Ion Med would then look into beginning trials in Europe and in the United States toward getting approval of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and launching its next cold plasma-based product.

"Tissue reconnection has been done for thousands of years with sutures, and in recent years with staples and glues," says Lam. "It is time for something new in this traditional market, and that's why we decided to start here."

The company's three clinical trials, which have so far focused on closure of Caesarean section incisions, showed BioWeld1 to be excellent for sealing the incision and promoting healing and tissue disinfection, Lam reports.



The product provides a next-generation alternative to staples and stitches.

It also has potential for reducing hospitalization and operating room usage.

"We are focusing on the Caesarean section first, because we found it will be the easiest path to market due to the importance of achieving a superior cosmetic result while reducing time in the operating room," says Lam.

"We are in the midst of strategic discussions right now in order to chart our next application. Areas under consideration include external closure in plastic surgery, treatment of chronic wounds as well as internal applications in abdominal, thoracic and colorectal surgery."

Skycure has it covered!

A hacker sitting just a table away could be hopping onto your device as you check your email, but Israel's Skycure has you covered.



Skycure founders Yair Amit, left, and Adi Sharabani.

The participants at the DevCon conference in Tel Aviv didn't see it coming. They thought they were there to hear a lecture by Yair Amit and Adi Sharabani, co-founders of the Israeli startup Skycure, on the topic of mobile security. The setting was altogether ordinary: conference room, screen, projector, PowerPoint.

And then, one by one, members of the audience discovered that their smart phones and tablets were being hacked in real time – in plain sight. Their screens were suddenly swiping without their control; emails were being written without permission; apps opened and photos changed.

Amit and Sharabani were the benign perpetrators and no data was stolen or deleted. Still, the audience learned an unforgettable lesson about just how vulnerable mobile networks can be.

As horrifying as watching your phone go haywire under some hacker's control can be, the real danger is what lies beyond: the corporate network. And mobile devices are the ideal gateway in.

It once was that employees would be forced to use equipment their company gave them – a BlackBerry or an IBM ThinkPad. But these days, there's a growing trend

dubbed BYOD, "Bring Your Own Device," where employees are increasingly unwilling to part with their personal mobile devices and their bosses are begrudgingly acceding, hooking them up to the company's network.

And that's where trouble begins. Because you know what else is trying to hook up to that network? All manner of viruses, malware, and malicious agents. And they've found the perfect entry point: your phone. The venue? The innocuous coffee shop.

You see, when you connect your mobile device to the WiFi at the local Starbucks, that network may not be as secure or encrypted as the one in the office or even your password-protected system at home. A hacker sitting just a table away could be hopping onto your device as you check your email or browse for last night's sports scores – just like the Skycure duo demonstrated at DevCon. Then, when you plug back in at the office, it's off to the races.

Mobile firewall

"Everyone knows that hackers can alter your data and steal your personality," explains CTO Amit. "But what's less known is that this is a great way to penetrate the corporate network as well."

The answer, according to Amit, is the creation of a "mobile firewall" that does for phones and tablets what the long-established firewalls have for years provided to protect corporations' computer assets.

"Firewall" is an imprecise term, Amit insists. A "hybrid security" system might be more accurate, in that there are components on both the phone and on the company's network to block intruders.

Israel has a well-known reputation around the world as a leader in the computer security space. Israeli powerhouse Checkpoint is still the reigning king of the security titans and was one of Israel's first international software start-ups successes. All that helps, when Skycure knocks on corporate doors.

"Yes, it's challenging to enter big markets like the US and Europe," Amit admits. "But in the field of security, there is recognition that Israel's technology expertise is valuable."

If you're thinking at this point, "I want one of those," you're slightly out of luck. Skycure will be selling its technology to enterprises only. The company is talking with potential clients now, mostly in the financial services area. Pricing might be a one-time fee or a monthly license.

While Skycure has so far mostly flown under the radar, it did receive quite a bit of media attention earlier in 2012 when its founders "exposed" a practice at LinkedIn that was putting users' data at risk. LinkedIn, it seems, was uploading its members' calendar data from their mobile phones to LinkedIn's servers in order to share meeting information and synchronize schedules.

The problem was that LinkedIn was doing it without asking for its millions of mobile app users' permission. The story shot across the blogosphere. "We worked with LinkedIn to improve the way their app behaved," Amit says. Today, users have full control over what gets shared.

While LinkedIn's security mishap was more misunderstanding than malicious, it's all part of the Skycure mission: Keeping the mobile world hacker free and safe for corporate employees to BYOD.

Israeli innovation develops ways to handle global shortage of drinking water.

For many people, a glass of water seems like such a simple thing. But if forecasts are correct that the demand for drinking water will exceed supply by 40 percent within the next two decades, it could become a prized commodity.



Clean drinking water could become a prized commodity in the next two decades.

And while dozens of water technology innovation companies are working to close the supply-demand gap, Israel's Advanced Mem-Tech may have a significant contribution toward turning more H₂O into potable water.

This blue-and-white start-up makes advanced membranes for water treatment. Like a colander in the kitchen, these membranes stop bacteria, microbes and parasites from passing into the water supply.

This process of pumping water through a membrane – a thin film-like polymer sheet with tiny holes in it – is not new. What is innovative is Mem-Tech's "high permeability" product that the company says is far more effective than other filtration membranes used in water treatment systems.

"Because of the polymer of our membrane, you can process more water with less pressure," says VP business development Maura Rosenfeld. "Less energy is needed to pump the water through, fewer membranes are required and there are less capital and operating expenses. Any time the system is smaller, everything can be downscaled."

"The work is done faster with a smaller footprint and lower energy requirement," adds CEO Moshe Kelner.

Mem-Tech's product is a component within water treatment systems. "We're not competing with systems – we're the membrane in the system," explains Rosenfeld.

The Israeli-made membranes are different from others on the market because they are innately hydrophilic – they allow water to pass through much more easily.

Mem-Tech goes global

Global demand for membranes is projected to increase nine percent annually to \$19.3 billion in 2015, according to a report by the Freedonia Group.

Mem-Tech's market strategy is to partner with membrane solution providers that can integrate their product into complete filtration solutions.

"There are endless uses," says Rosenfeld, citing desalination pre-treatment and wastewater treatment as examples.

So while the membranes are made in Israel, the expected client base is everywhere.

"We will go to North America, Europe and Asia," says Kelner. "We're already in a process for talking with mega strategic partners and they have projects all over the world."

Bringing clean water to the world with Whoosh!

In honour of the UN's International Year of Water Cooperation, Israel unveiled at the UN, a unique new filtration system that will finally allow people in Africa and South America to access clean drinking water.



At the height of the event, Ambassador Prozor unveiled the innovative water technology known as "Woosh," developed by the Israeli company Odis.

For over a decade Odis has been providing drinking water systems to UN forces deployed in parts of the world without adequate water infrastructure.

The Woosh will enable Odis to get more water to more of those who need it most. "This machine is the first-of its-kind," explained Prozor. "It can connect to the main water supply of any city – regardless of how toxic it is – and provide purified drinking water to anyone on the street."

Mobileye – the end of driving collisions?

Israel's Mobileye is the global leader in the vehicle safety market with its advanced driver assistance system that helps you avoid a collision.

So you're a safe driver. Thirty years on the road and never had a scratch. You don't need some computer to look out for you on the road.



Think again.

"Why do you need airbags in your car? Because they can save your life in the case of an accident," says Isaac Litman, CEO of Mobileye Products the global leader in advanced driver assistance systems, or ADAS. "This system can warn you of an impending accident so that you can take action in time and avert a collision. You may only use it once in your

driving career – but that’s enough.”

The statistics speak for themselves, says Litman “Now that vehicles fitted with our systems have travelled over a billion miles in the US, we’ve seen a 40-50 percent drop in accidents.”

ADAS is becoming a standard feature of the modern vehicle, and Jerusalem-based Mobileye is leading the field.

“This new technology helps drivers drive better,” says Litman. “It knows how to recognize cars, bikes, motorbikes, pedestrians, an impending accident ... it warns the driver in time. It can even stop the car if the driver doesn’t react quickly enough — and all this at high speeds.”

Minimizing driver error

“There are three main causes of accidents: poor road infrastructure, unsafe vehicles and bad driving,” he explains.

“Both roads and vehicle design have improved significantly in the past three decades. But the human factor has not. The only aspect that hasn’t improved is the driver.”



Mobileye's forward collision monitor feature at work.

Litman points out that according to studies carried out by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute and the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 93% of accidents are caused by driver error. Of those, 80% are caused by a lack of attention by the driver within three seconds of the accident.

“Often it’s because of distractions such as talking on the telephone, eating or smoking while driving,” he notes.

Mobileye inside

Mobileye was founded in 1999 by Ziv Aviram together with Prof. Amnon Shashua, former head of the School of Engineering and computer Science at the Hebrew university of Jerusalem. The company’s challenge: to produce a vision system that can detect all nearby vehicles using only one camera.

“Several large companies had tried to produce peripheral warning systems based on two cameras or more. Mobileye’s advantage is that it’s all done with one camera. This is why we managed to outskirt larger companies to become the market leader,” says Litman.

The company began by developing algorithms and a

processor chip called the EyeQ chip at its Jerusalem R&D center, and after years of testing began to sell the chip and software to leading automotive manufacturers such as BMW, General Motors and Volvo.

Silence is Golden!

Can’t stand the racket? Israeli noise-cancelling technology is going into almost everything from home appliances to airplane seats.



If you’ve ever run the vent on your kitchen range or tried to catch 40 winks in an airplane, you probably wished someone would invent a way to block the noise without the need for headphones.

Israel’s Silentium has done that. The company’s active noise control (ANC) chip produces “anti-noise” — opposing sound waves of the same amplitude as the disturbing noise, which shuts out the din (sans the discomfort of earplugs).

The newest use of this technology is Silentium’s trademarked Quiet Bubble, which captures and cancels out ambient environmental noise, creating a “zone of quiet” around airplane and car passengers.

The applications are nearly infinite, as Silentium executives demonstrated recently at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, where NBC News chose the Israeli tech among the Best of CES 2013.

The chip can be installed by manufacturers of heating-ventilation-air-conditioning equipment, home appliances, medical machinery, data centres, car and airplane seats — “wherever you have noise issues,” says Yoel Naor, chief product officer at the Rehovot-based company.

Quiet in the kitchen

Naor explains that the scientific principle behind Silentium’s ANC technology existed for decades. However, nobody had successfully harnessed it except in headphones and other limited applications.

Silentium’s sophisticated range of solutions comes in two “flavours.”

One option reduces noise at the source, before it spreads to the environment. The new “World’s Quietest Range Hood” just introduced by Faber — the Italian company that invented range hoods and now has a significant share of the market worldwide — is silenced by a Silentium chip.

Ventilation hoods and other gadgets that depend on air flow are difficult to keep quiet because blocking the noise physically also blocks the air and renders the appliance useless. Faber turned to Silentium to find a unique solution for the many brands that use the Faber hood.

The same solution is being used by a maker of diagnostic

equipment that depends on noisy air flow, to reduce the negative health effects of noise pollution for hospital patients and staff. “In the healthcare market, it is well known that noise adds stress,” says Naor.

Quiet on the road and in the air



Silentium’s Quiet Bubble will make driving and flying a quieter experience.

The Quiet Bubble option is for environments such as cars and airplanes, where the noise comes from several sources. Passengers are bombarded with the sounds of the engine and mechanical parts, as well as the wind outside. Ordinarily, noise reduction is achieved by adding heavy acoustic absorbers.

Silentium put its chip technology into a prototype car to show how its Quiet Bubble embedded in the headrests can do the job better, without adding gas-guzzling weight to the vehicle.

Interest is high: In December, the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation approved a major grant for Silentium to work with Wisconsin-based giant Johnson Controls, a global automotive industry leader, to develop ambient ANC for vehicles.

“Our broadband solution has the ability to sense noise from all directions and cancel it,” says Naor, who predicts this automotive advance will be commercialized and on the market within the next few years.

Future iterations of the system will synch with the car’s audio and with passengers’ cell phones, too, so that every passenger could listen to music or conversations without disturbing others.

Ditto airplanes. “We are collaborating with a seat manufacturer for business and first class,” says Naor. “The infotainment system connects with our patented headrest so you can watch the movie and hear messages without bulky, uncomfortable headphones.”

Quiet in the office

Years of preliminary research behind Silentium began in 1999, led by veteran business executive Yossi Barath. New products are constantly in the pipeline; Quiet Bubble was introduced only in the past year.

One of Silentium’s first products, still being sold in Europe, is the ActiveSilencer enclosure for the Intel Modular Server. Office workers can sit right next to the server without



Silentium’s customizable electronic controller kit for sound-proofing data servers.

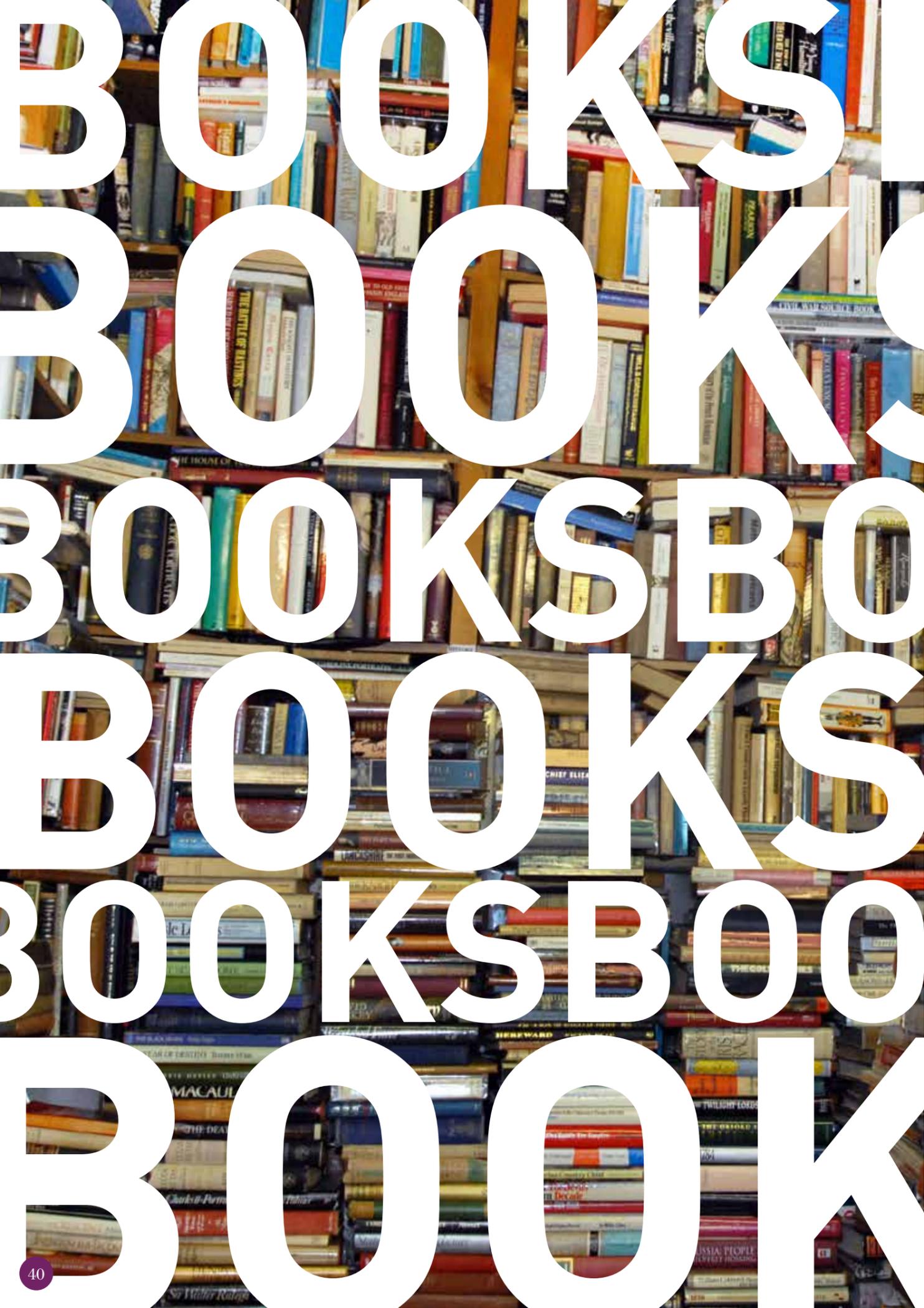
disturbance, saving companies on valuable square footage. A customizable solution, the trademarked S-Cube, comes in a kit for specific server-noise needs.

The company also offers a DIY development kit for engineers looking to develop quiet products, and trains makers of passive acoustic materials to enhance their products with the Silentium chip.

Silentium has so far been funded through private investors and Venture Capital (VCs), and now seeks a \$6 million investment for a major market breakout, says Naor.

The company expects to increase its staff of 20 by another 10 this year, and is actively wooing additional commercial partners. “We cannot have all our eggs in one basket,” as Naor puts it.

Because the technology has so many potential applications, a range of partners is the smart way to go toward making silence golden.



BOOK REVIEW

Shlomo Avineri: Theodor Herzl and the Foundation of the Jewish State. Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

To be published on 12 December 2013.

Theodor Herzl is sometimes regarded as the founder of Zionism. But of course he was not. The German socialist, Moses Hess, and the Russian doctor, Leon Pinsker, who published *Auto-Emancipation* in 1882, have a far better claim to that title, though both are now almost forgotten. What Herzl did was to make Zionism a practical proposition, to give it legitimacy. He established, in Avineri's words, an 'institutional and organisational structure which helped to bring the idea of a Jewish state to the attention of world leaders and international public opinion. It was this process which eventually made possible the establishment of Israel in 1948'. It was Herzl who put the Zionist argument on its legs and made it run.

Shlomo Avineri, Professor of Political Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is one of Israel's leading political thinkers, best known for his writings on Hegel and Marx, and on Zionist ideas. He has also played a part in Israeli politics as Director-General of the Foreign Ministry during the premiership of Yitzhak Rabin in the 1970s. This gave him an insight into politics and negotiation, displayed to good effect in this biography, which is built around two central themes.

The first is that Herzl's conversion to Zionism did not come about, as is sometimes thought, from the experience of the Dreyfus trial, but from the situation of Jews in Vienna following the election of Karl Lueger, like Hitler, a radical anti-semitic, as mayor of Vienna in April 1895 in the first municipal election to be held on a wide franchise. Avineri is not the first to have made this point, but he does emphasise, more than previous biographers, its profound significance for Herzl. Before Lueger, it had seemed that the Jews could achieve genuine emancipation in the multi-national Austro-Hungarian empire, home to the largest number of Jews in the world, except for the Russian empire, under the benevolent protection of the Emperor, Franz Joseph. Anti-

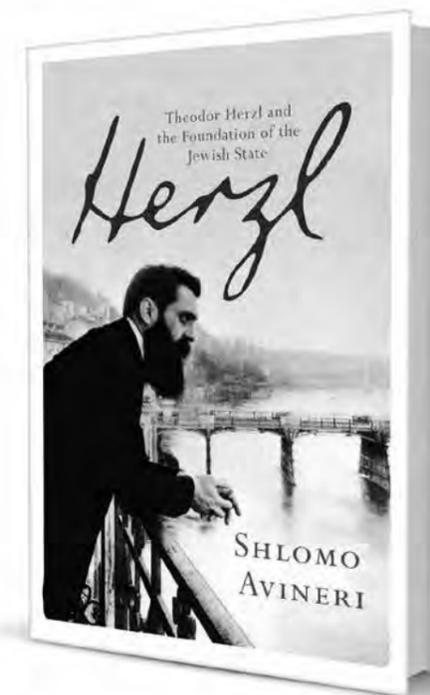
Semitism seemed a relic of the past, in Avineri's words, a 'vestige of medieval Church superstitions.' But Lueger's victory seemed to show that, on the contrary, it was a doctrine of the future, 'anchored in the very fabric of modern society as more and more decisions were handed over to the people'. It was no longer possible to believe that antisemitism would disappear with the advance of democracy. Racial anti-semitism, Avineri comments, 'was from the start an intellectual movement'. It came to be 'a legitimate point of view in educated European society, which was what made it so ominous'. Herzl was to argue that 'The real cause of anti-semitism is the emancipation of the Jews itself'.

The second theme of the book is that Herzl was the first to appreciate that, if Zionism were to remain anything more than the plaything of a few intellectuals and dreamers, it needed a practical framework, an organisation - both mass support and representative institutions. 'The path', Herzl declared, 'is the organisation of the people, and its organ is the Congress'. It was Herzl who summoned the first Zionist Congress, in effect a national assembly of Jews, to Basel in 1897. 'In Basel', he famously said, 'I founded the state of the Jews', a state which was to come into existence just over fifty years later. Interestingly, as Avineri points out, women who contributed the shekel were given full rights to vote and stand for elective office in the Zionist organisation, at a time when no European country had yet granted female suffrage.

Modern-day Israel

is cast in Herzl's image in that, despite blemishes, it is a liberal state, governed by the rule of law, even though, of course, the ancestors of most Israelis came from countries hardly noted for their adherence to these virtues. Herzl stressed, more than many of the Russian Zionists, who, coming from a closed society, had little opportunity to learn constructive politics, the importance of negotiation and compromise, which are essential to any successful parliamentary

The distinguished biography of Theodor Herzl by the renowned professor Shlomo Avineri



The first biography in more than a generation of a man whose dreams have changed the world.

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W&N

democracy. Unlike the leaders of many other nationalist movements, he preached strict adherence to constitutional methods. It would never have occurred to him to advocate violence or terrorism to achieve his aims. He hoped, naively, that a Jewish state could be neutral and manage with no more than a very small professional army. His model was Switzerland not Prussia.

It is sometimes said that Herzl gave insufficient attention to the claims and needs of the Arab population of Palestine. Yet, in his imagined state, although Judaism would be the official religion, there would be full civic and religious equality with guaranteed rights for minorities. When visiting Egypt in 1903, he appreciated that the spread of education would threaten the British Empire, although the British did not seem to realise it. In his book, *The Birth of the Palestine Refugee Problem Revisited*, published in 2004, the Israeli revisionist historian, Benny Morris, quotes from Herzl's diaries, to the effect that 'We must expropriate gently --- We shall try to spirit the penniless population across the border by procuring employment for it in the transit countries, while denying it any employment in our country --- Both the process of expropriation and the removal of the poor must be carried out discreetly and circumspectly'. But this is an early entry and Herzl's view in his later published work is quite different. He in fact insisted on equal rights for Arabs and indeed all minorities in his Jewish state.

Of course, any new biography of Herzl has to take its place in a crowded field. Does Avineri have anything new to add? Much of this biography covers well-trodden ground, and Herzl's thought is better covered in the volume in the 'Jewish Thinkers' series by Steven Beller; although Herzl was not in fact an original thinker. What Avineri brings out is Herzl's political acumen, his appreciation that the success of Zionism depended upon gaining the support of the great powers, so that the Jewish state could, in the words of the first Zionist Congress in 1897, be 'secured by public law'. His negotiations with leaders of the great powers – the Kaiser, the Sultan of Turkey, the King of Italy, the Pope, Russian ministers – were fruitless. Yet, his contacts with British statesman – Foreign Secretary Lord Lansdowne and Colonial Secretary, Joseph Chamberlain – although they appeared at the time equally futile – helped to establish official recognition

for Zionism in Britain, so paving the way for the Balfour Declaration. 'We have,' said Herzl presciently, 'in our relationship with this gigantic nation, acquired recognition as a state-building power.'

Avineri rightly sums up Herzl's work as 'a glorious failure that produced impressive results'. It is Avineri's understanding of the exigencies and difficulties of politics for a mere private individual, without money or official status that makes his book well worth reading. 'One day', Herzl said, 'once the Jewish state comes into existence ... a fair-minded historian will find that it was something after all when an impecunious Jewish journalist... made a flag out of a rag and turned a miserable rabble into a people rallying around that flag'.

But, for Herzl, as for most of the founding fathers, Zionism was not only a matter of external liberation, of freedom from anti-Semitism; it was also a doctrine of internal liberation, of self-determination. Only in a state with a Jewish majority, Herzl believed, would Jews be free to preserve their identities without having to look over their shoulders for fear of causing offence. Herzl, like Chaim Weizmann, disliked Jews who submerged their personalities in order to 'fit in', something that he found demeaning as well as futile. Indeed, Herzl's criticisms of his fellow-Jews were so severe that, if they had been made by a non-Jew, they might well have given rise to accusations of anti-Semitism. For Zionism was in its origins a self-critical movement, far removed from the triumphalism and self-righteousness that too often disfigures modern Israeli politics. Israel still has much to learn from Herzl.

Even so, Israel remains recognisably his creation. In 1946, Herzl's grandson, Stephan Neumann, who had changed his name to Stephen Norman to serve in the British army in World War 2, visited Palestine, then under the British Mandate, to 'see what my grandfather had started'. After his visit, he declared, in words engraved on the walls of the Norman Memorial Garden on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, 'You will be amazed at the Jewish youth in Palestine. They have the look of freedom'. That is the real measure of Herzl's achievement.

Vernon Bogdanor is Professor of Government at the Institute of Contemporary British History, King's College, London. He contributed to the volume by Larry Diamond and Ehud Sprinzak, Israeli Democracy

Under Stress, and is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Israel Democracy Institute.

Arabs and Israelis: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East'

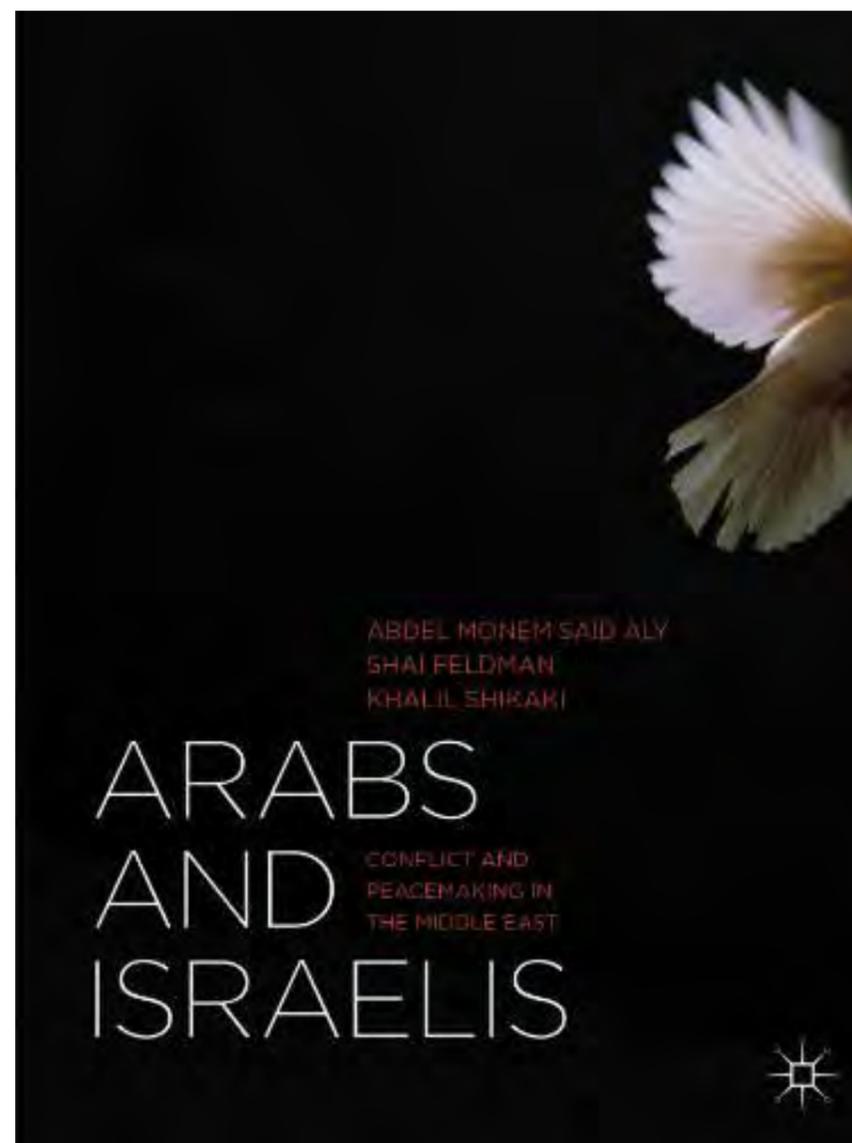
(London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013)

Abdel Monem Said Aly, Shai Feldman, and Khalil Shikaki

The writing and publication of this book comprises the most complex and demanding project ever undertaken by Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle East Studies since its establishment in 2005. It also constitutes one of the most salient expressions of the Center's commitment to pursuing a balanced and dispassionate approach to the study of the contemporary Middle East.

How did all this come about? In late 2004, one of the three co-authors of this book, Prof. Shai Feldman, was asked by the then-President of Brandeis University, Jehuda Reinharz to join Brandeis for the purpose of building a new Crown Center for Middle East Studies. Prof. Feldman made his consent conditional on the university accepting his philosophy regarding this challenging endeavour: namely, that in its research, writing, and other activities the Crown Center would pursue a balanced and dispassionate approach to the Middle East. As this principle was approved, Feldman's next step was to ensure its implementation by asking Abdel Monem Said Aly and Khalil Shikaki, to join him as Senior Research Fellows of the soon-to-be-established Crown Center.

Once all three agreed to join the new Center, they entered into detailed discussions on the possible content of such an association. The talks yielded an agreement to teach a new class, Politics 164a: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East – the first ever on this sensitive subject to be team-taught by an Israeli, a Palestinian and an Egyptian representing a broader Arab perspective. The class was to be unique not only in providing students an analytical framework for analysing developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict but even more so in sensitizing students to the competing



narratives that Israelis, Palestinians and Arabs more broadly have adopted over the years with regard to these developments. As at least two of the team was to be in class every session, students would have an opportunity not only to avail themselves of the texts that elaborate these competing narratives but also to acquire "a feel" for the texture of their stories.

Marcia Riklis, a close friend and supporter of Prof. Feldman and the Center, visited Brandeis in the autumn of 2006 semester when the three authors first team-taught the class. Having witnessed the students' reaction to their approach, she was very complementary but raised a difficult question: Why was exposure to this experience offered to the relatively small number of students attending the class? Was it not imperative that the insights to which the students were exposed be placed at the disposal of a far larger audience by translating the class into a book?

Having some sense of how difficult such an endeavour may be, the team, at first resisted the suggestion, but after some persuasion, began the very long journey that led to the birth of the text book. Since in addition to teaching the class at Brandeis, all three in the team were committed to building and directing their respective research centers, they could not spend more than 6-7 weeks every summer writing the book. Thus its gestation extended that number of years.

During these many summers, the authors attempted to involve a large number of students in the process of conceptualizing, organizing and researching for the book. Indeed, the students' most important contribution was to help the authors ascertain best forms of presentation most understandable to them.

The resulting book provides students with an analytical framework for understanding Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East – a

tool-box that can also be applied to other conflicts and regions.

The Authors:

Abdel Monem Said Aly, Director of the Center for Regional Security Studies in Cairo and is Chairman of Egypt's independent newspaper, Masr Al-Youm.

Shai Feldman, Director of Brandeis University's Crown Center for Middle East Studies and former director of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Khalil Shikaki, Director of the Palestinian Center for Political and Survey Research in Ramallah.

**“A Shepherd’s Journey” by
Ishmael Khaldi**

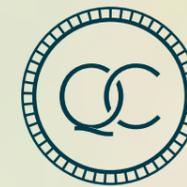
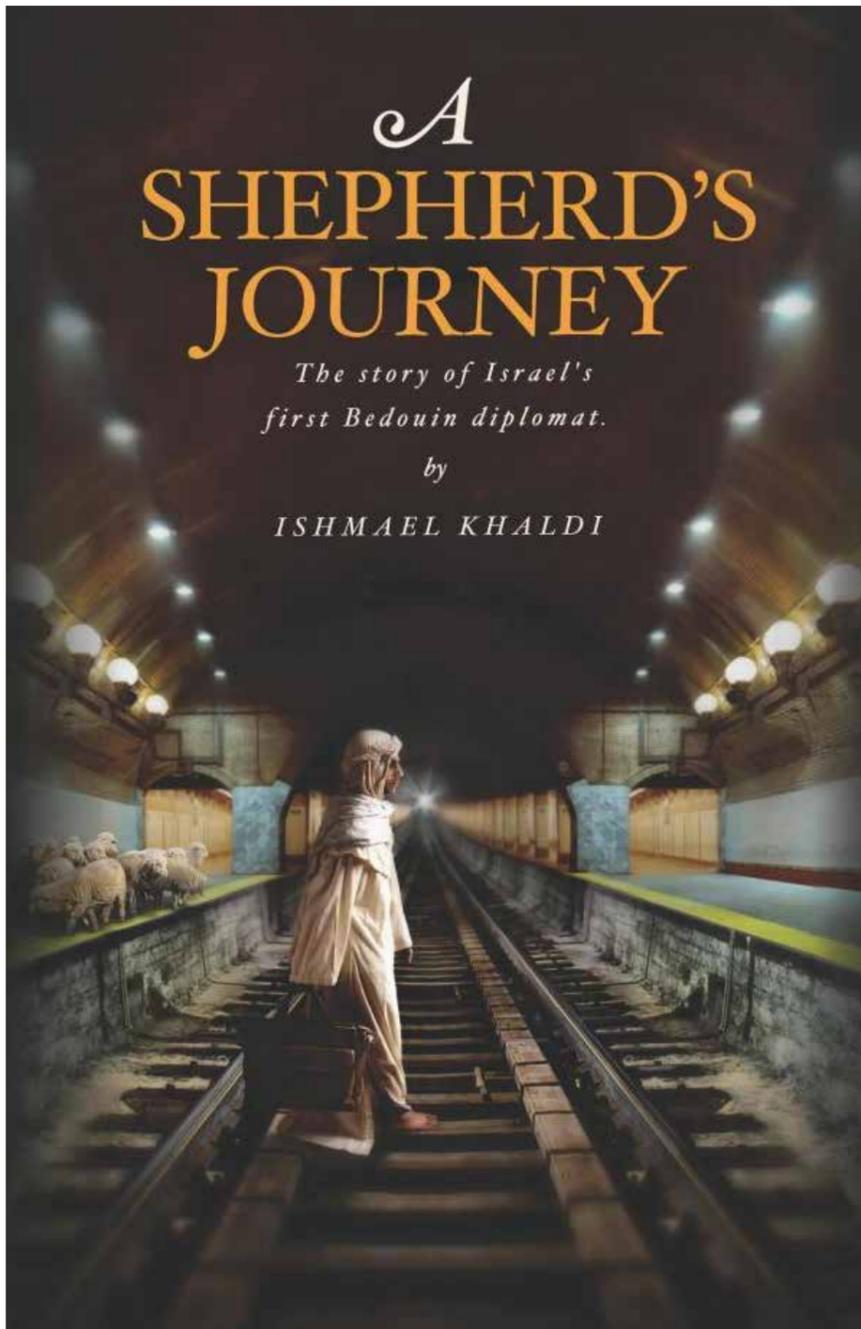
Anyone who doubts that Israel is a diverse and vibrant democracy should read this book. A Shepherd’s Journey is Ishmael Khaldi’s unique story of transformation from his modest village roots to his triumph as Israel’s first Bedouin diplomat and voice of reason in the Middle East. His road to success has not been an easy one.

Ishmael Khaldi, born into a traditional Bedouin family in the Galilee, describes his early days tending goats, his schoolboy “fights”, his terrifying first forays into the mysterious New York subway system, and later, his remarkable friendship with Jews and Muslims, secular and religious, on two continents. In fact, the story of Ishmael’s first exciting foray into the American dream in a wild and not very well prepared trip to New York City – where he winds up being rescued by Hassidim in Boro Park! – is alone worth the purchase of the book.

Ishmael Khaldi’s life has been full of adventure and love, humour and pathos. As a Muslim and a Bedouin, Khaldi passionately defends the Jewish state from its detractors on American campuses, giving the true picture of a young nation struggling to allow its minorities freedom and opportunities unavailable to them in any other Muslim country in the Middle East.

This is a story that will inspire, educate and charm, told with authenticity and passion, as only a Bedouin can tell it.

Available in paperback or can be downloaded to a Kindle. Both formats are available from Amazon.



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A NEW WAY OF LIFE FOR AFRICAN CHILDREN IN ISRAEL

‘A stable, loving environment, food in their stomachs every day and a place they can go to sleep every night knowing they will be safe in the morning.’



Some years ago, while out jogging a mile and a half from the Sinai border, David Palmach, regularly saw traumatized refugees from Eritrea and Sudan dropping to the sand in exhaustion.

The refugees had come overland from home countries torn by strife, and had made a long and dangerous journey to Israel, often by way of Bedouin torture camps in the Sinai desert, and past trigger-happy Egyptian soldiers.

Up until two years ago, on arrival in Israel they were taken to prison-like facilities for lack of suitable alternatives. In 2010, however, Israel’s lawmakers decided to find ways to house and educate the many teenage boys who were among these African refugees and asylum-seekers. Palmach was one of the first to step in.

David Palmach, the director of the Jewish Agency for Israel’s Nitzana Educational Community today runs Tikun Olam, a special boarding school set up for teenage African refugees at Nitzana, an Israeli kibbutz near the Egyptian border. There are 50 African teens at Tikun Olam. Through Israel’s Ministry of Education, the boys – most of them 14 and 15 – receive an allowance for housing, food and education that must be supplemented by the generosity of donors. Since the completion of the 250-kilometer-long barrier along Israel’s southern border earlier this year, the influx of African migrants into the country has come to a standstill. Last year, Israel repatriated hundreds of migrants to newly independent South Sudan. However

in the case of these young boys the Israeli Ministry of Education wanted to give these young boys a chance to have a more normal life and equip them with the tools to do that.”

“David Palmach had the willingness and foresight to help these young men,” says Karen Kellerman, delegation coordinator for the Nitzana Educational Community, which encompasses an immigrant absorption centre, a military prep school and intensive ecology workshops for Israeli schoolchildren.

Tikun Olam is now is at full capacity, having designated 10 of Nitzana’s nicest youth hostel suites to these 50 students. They may remain until they reach legal majority.

“By the time they are 18, no matter where they end up – here in Israel or elsewhere – they will be able to succeed and hopefully have a normal life because up until now, they have had a terrible life,” says Kellerman.



“They’ve seen atrocities at home. Some of them were captured by Bedouins in the Sinai and turned into slaves; some have marks on their bodies to prove what they have been through. We’re trying to offer them a stable, loving environment, and of course food in their stomachs every day and a place they can go to sleep every night knowing they will be safe in the morning. They haven’t had that before.”

After months on the run, many of the boys were not used to rules and routines – up at 7, breakfast, school till 1, curfew.

Twelve of them ultimately went back to the detention centre because they couldn’t adapt to the structure. The school’s staff also came up against huge gaps in the boys’ knowledge of concepts such as democracy.



Tikun Olam Director Yair Amir in his weekly citizenship lesson, tried to simulate a candidates’ debate but his students didn’t grasp the idea of presenting differing platforms. On the eve of the US presidential election, the boys asked him, “If Obama loses, will they shoot him?”

Counsellors are with the group at all times, and the boys meet with social workers weekly or monthly, depending on their situation. For the longest time, even now, the boys were afraid to speak about some of the things that happened to them because they are afraid their tormentors will find them and kill them,” says Kellerman.

Nine of the African boys are academically gifted and attend a regular school in Beersheva. The rest study subjects such as English, Hebrew, computers, math, geography, history and citizenship on the premises. Physical education is a cherished part of their daily schedule, and every week they have an opportunity to work at nearby farms.

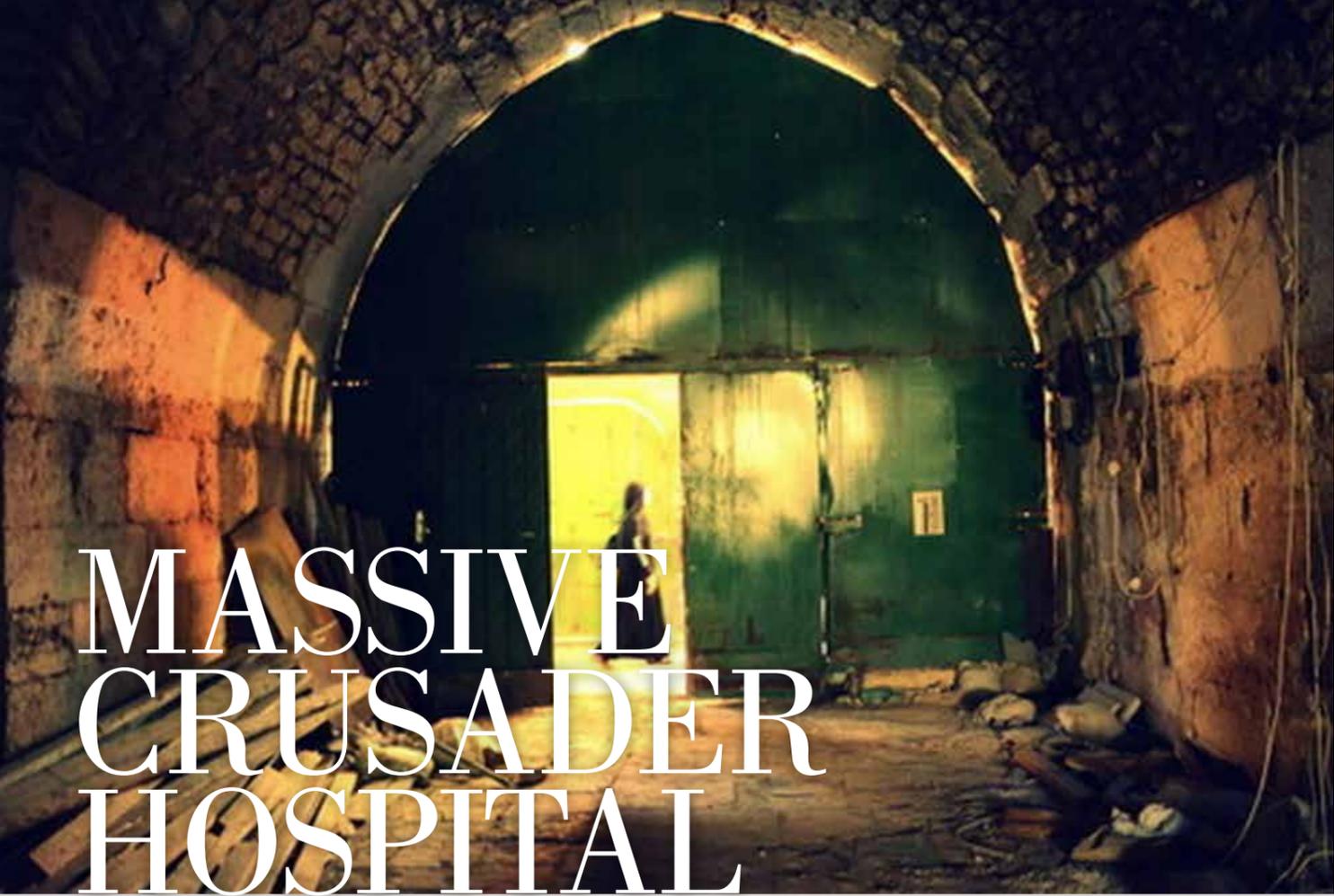
Finances at Tikun Olam are always precarious. “The difference in our boarding school is that our students have no other home to go to, as regular boarding school students do,” says Amir. “We never shut down, and we must have electricity on and food served every day.” Not to mention clothing, shoes and spending money for each child.

The big question is what will happen when the boys turn 18.

“A few scenarios are possible,” says Kellerman. “Some might return to Sudan or Eritrea, if conditions there get better. Israel might grant residency to some so they can work here legally. Or another country could open their doors, such as Canada or Sweden.

“The future is very uncertain. But as long as we have breath in our bodies, we will keep the door open for these 50 boys. Fifty is a drop in the bucket, but we hope if we are a good example to other nations maybe they will also feel a responsibility to take this on,” says Kellerman. “It is too big a problem for Israel alone.”

‘A stable, loving environment, food in their stomachs every day and a place they can go to sleep every night knowing they will be safe in the morning.’



MASSIVE CRUSADER HOSPITAL UNCOVERED IN OLD CITY

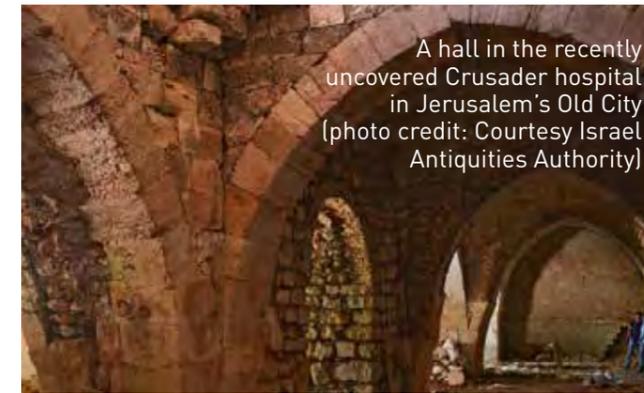
Knights Hospitallers cared for Christian pilgrims at the site; Jewish patients received kosher food

By LAZAR BERMAN

The Israel Antiquities Authority reported that Israeli archaeologists have discovered a huge hospital from the Crusader era in Jerusalem's Old City.

The massive building, in the area of the Christian Quarter known as the Muristan (based on the Persian word for "hospital"), was excavated by the IAA in cooperation with the Grand Bazaar Company of East Jerusalem. The dig was initiated after Grand Bazaar decided to open a restaurant at the site.

Archaeologists have only uncovered a portion of the complex, which covers an estimated 15 dunams (3.7 acres).



A hall in the recently uncovered Crusader hospital in Jerusalem's Old City (photo credit: Courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)

The hospital was built by the Knights Hospitaller, a Christian military order. Also known as the Knights of Saint John, after John the Baptist, the order was founded around 1023 to care for poor and sick Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem. After the Crusaders conquered Jerusalem in 1099, the Hospitallers gained their own Papal Charter, giving them the task of defending the Holy Land in addition to providing for pilgrims.

With ribbed vaults and massive pillars, the building was apparently exquisite. The ceilings stand over six meters (18 feet) high.

"We've learned about the hospital from contemporary historical documents, most of which are written in Latin," said the IAA's Amit Re'em and Renee Forestany, co-directors of the dig, "These mention a sophisticated hospital that is as large and as organized as a modern hospital."

The earliest description of the hospital comes from John of Wurzburg, a German pilgrim who visited Jerusalem around the year 1160. "Over against the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, on the opposite side of the way toward the south, is a beautiful church built in honour of John the Baptist, annexed to which is a hospital, wherein in various rooms is collected together an enormous multitude of sick people," he wrote. "When I was there I learned that the whole number of these sick people amounted to two thousand, of whom sometimes in the course of one day and night more than fifty are carried out dead, while many other fresh ones keep continually arriving."

He also noted the military role the Hospitallers played. "This same house also maintains in its various castles many persons trained to all kinds of military exercises for the defence of the land of the Christians against the invasion of the Saracens."

The hospital was divided into wings according to patients'

ailments and conditions. In an emergency, the building could house up to 2,000 patients.

Contemporary accounts give a sense of the massive dimensions of the hospital. One tells of a staff member who failed to carry out the functions of his job properly. He was forced to walk the length of the building, which took several minutes, while other knights walked behind the man, whipping him. All the patients witnessed this spectacle.

According to other accounts, the knights cared for both men and women from all religions. There are even records of the hospital serving kosher food to Jewish patients.

Despite the grandeur of the building, the knights used the primitive methods that were typical of their time. There is an account of a patient's foot being amputated for a minor infection, a procedure that ended up killing the woman. The knights were able to gain medical knowledge from the local Arab population, which placed a premium on medical expertise.

The building also served as an orphanage. Cowled mothers would leave unwanted children at the door, often a baby from a mother who had given birth to twins but couldn't care for both children. When the male babies reached adulthood, they would join the Hospitallers.

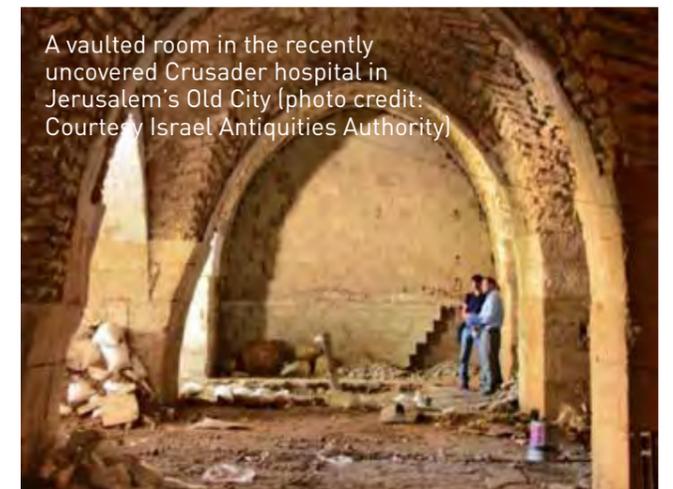
After legendary Kurdish warrior Salah al-Din captured Jerusalem from the Crusaders in 1187, he built a palace near the hospital. He renovated the building, and allowed 10 Christian monks to stay in the hospital to serve the local population.

The structure collapsed in an earthquake in 1457. Some portions of the hospital survived, remaining in use through the Ottoman period. There were rooms that served as a stable, and archaeologists found the remains of horses and camels during the excavation.

Until the year 2000, the building, owned by the Muslim Waqf, housed a crowded fruit and vegetable market. Since then, it has stood empty just off the Arab market on David Street.

According to Monser Shwieki, project manager for the Grand Bazaar Company, the new restaurant will be incorporated into the existing structure, and "patrons will be able to marvel at the magical medieval atmosphere at the site."

He said that the site is due to open to the public this year.



A vaulted room in the recently uncovered Crusader hospital in Jerusalem's Old City (photo credit: Courtesy Israel Antiquities Authority)



Food, Glorious Food

Machane Yehuda,
Israel's largest
and most
ethnically diverse
outdoor market.



If busloads of inhabitants of Tel Aviv and hordes of European backpackers are hiring guides to take them through the shops and stalls of Jerusalem's Machane Yehuda outdoor market, you know something hip must be happening here.

The Shuk, as it's better known, is Israel's latest hot spot for culinary tourism. The mix of exotic produce, spices and juices (tamarind drink, anyone?), Mediterranean fish, readymade delicacies and rare cheeses — many of them sold by descendants of original vendors from a hodgepodge of countries — makes for a colourful sensory experience.

"We found ourselves looking for something with added value to do in Jerusalem," says Reuven Pilo, a former chef who founded More Gastronomy and Tourism with his wife, Mor.

"Many tourist companies bring visitors to museums, archaeological parks, the Kotel [Western Wall] — but they don't bring them to the people of Jerusalem," Mor complains.

"And if you're talking about Jerusalem you're talking about a melting pot of ethnic communities. All those other sites are important, but we think that the business we developed brings you to the real Jerusalem — the people, the food, the customs."

The Pilos teamed up with Michael Weiss of the 'Go Jerusalem' Internet tourism portal to get many of the Shuk's vendors to share their stories online for the first time and to offer a menu of market tours.

"The shop owners love it — it's rebranding the market in a more sophisticated way," Pilo says.

Some of the touring options are focused, for example on wine and cheese or on bakeries, while others begin with a shopping trip led by a professional chef and end with a cooking workshop.



Photo by Nati Shohat/Flash90

Alternatively, you can tour at your own pace with a 99-shekel Shuk Bites ticket, which comes with a map and vouchers for a variety of products — everything from organic Tehina to spicy S'chug, artisanal breads to plant-based remedies concocted by Yemenite medicine man Uzi-Eli.

'Shuk' rhymes with 'cook'

While Jerusalem has plenty of supermarkets, for many shoppers nothing can match the authenticity and diversity of downtown Machane Yehuda, which opened in 1928.

"My father, he's 72 and two times a week he goes on the

bus to the [light rail] with his cart to the market," says Pilo. "He buys the fruits and vegetables on Mondays, the fish and meat on Thursdays. But it's not just the traditionalists. It is beginning to be chic to shop in Machane Yehuda."

It has become much easier to do so in the past five or six years, thanks to merchant leader Eli Mizrahi working with the municipality to invest in improved lighting and walkways, security cameras and all-weather awnings in addition to art installations and musical events.

"The Shuk became a big magnet for those coming to Jerusalem from abroad and from other areas in Israel just to see the market," says Weiss.



Ticket to the self-guided Shuk Bites tour.

This fertile ground for world cuisine sparked the imagination of graphic designer Ruth Yudekovitz, who launched Shuk and Cook tours of Machane Yehuda about five years ago.

"It's more of a treasure hunt than a tour," she explains. After providing a brief history of Machane Yehuda and preparing them for the multilingual atmosphere where Arabs and Jews shop side by side, she divides participants into groups of two or three.

"I give them each a cart, a shopping list, a map and money," Yudekovitz explains — "I give them little challenges on the way, like identifying what game is being played in the corner of the Iraqi [sector of the] shuk." (If you've been there, you'll know the answer is sheshbesh or backgammon.)

With their finds, they create a feast in her specially renovated home kitchen.

"I like to emphasize the idea of the plenty of the land," says Yudekovitz. "I introduce them to things less familiar, like kohlrabi and mangold. Instead of stuffed grape leaves, we might make stuffed mangold leaves with cranberries or red rice. It's a somewhat traditional Middle Eastern menu with a modern slant."



THE SOUND OF A LICK



Ice cream in a cup at Bouza.



In the Galilee, a Muslim and a kibbutznik open a swanky ice cream parlour where the common language is the sound of a lick.



Bouza owners Adam Ziv and Alaa Sawitat.

At the new ice cream parlour in Tarshiha, the common language is the sound of a lick. With a mixed clientele of Muslims, Christians and Jews from Israel and abroad, visitors will hear Hebrew, Arabic, English and a smattering of other languages being spoken between licks. It's an "Only in Israel" story. Where else could a Jew and an Arab open a gelato shop and sell hummus ice cream to the masses?

Apartheid – what apartheid! Adam Ziv and Alaa Sawitat opened Bouza ("ice cream" in Arabic) last July and have attracted a steady stream of clientele curious about this partnership between an Arab Muslim and a Jewish kibbutznik in the Tarshiha shuk (marketplace), which is not usually associated with swanky ice cream stores. What also helps business is that the nearest homemade ice cream shop in the Western Galilee is 16 kilometres away.

But it's the taste that brings customers back, says Ziv.

"We're not just a novelty of being a Muslim-Jewish coexistence ice cream store," Ziv explains "We make ice cream that people like. Since the store opened in July, local residents have been coming in regularly, and Israelis from around the country have travelled to taste one or more of the 24 flavours Bouza has on offer on any given day. Even foreign tourists have started to visit the small city for a taste.

In 1963, the city of Ma'alot-Tarshiha came about through a municipal merger of the Arab town of Tarshiha and the Jewish town of Ma'alot. The artificial Lake Monfort, to the east of the city, as well as an annual international sculpture symposium, had been the two main attractions for tourists to the area.

And then in the last year, fashionable pubs and eateries started to open in the quiet Muslim-Christian side of the town.

For Ziv, the new environment was perfect. The 27-year-old Kibbutz Sasa resident, who belongs to a local band and performs with friends at small bars around the country, had just returned to Israel from a year-long trip around Europe and Africa. During his travels, Ziv apprenticed at gelaterias in Italy and ice cream

shops in the Canary Islands.

Upon his return, Ziv asked long-time family friend Sawitat, a co-owner of one of the Galilee's top bistros, for help finding a place to open a store. Together they chose Sawitat's hometown of Tarshiha – and also joined forces. Ziv is in charge of making the ice cream. Sawitat handles the financial side of the business.



Treats on a Stick

Ziv thought it would be amazing to build a business that is co-run by Jews and Arabs, a place where Jews and Arabs would come. The dream has been realised – the other day they looked outside and saw people from a Jewish village in the Galilee sitting beside a group of Arab youths from Tarshiha. A friend of his looked at him and said, 'So, this is the new Middle East.'



Passion fruit ice cream.

Ziv makes use of his marketplace location. On Saturday mornings he buys fresh ingredients from local farmers. He then employs older Tarshiha women, looking for added income, to help him prepare the fruits for his ice cream.

"Anything with nuts – hazelnuts, pine nuts, pistachio – these are our big sellers," says Ziv. "We try some Middle Eastern mixes like pomegranate and lemongrass or chocolate and spearmint. We're still working on a kanafeh [sweet Palestinian cheese pastry] flavoured ice cream but haven't found the right recipe yet. I don't want to be too pretentious when making new flavours. Our motto is 'simply ice cream' – and that's what we do. We make great ice cream for our customers."

After returning from a professional development trip in Italy, he's working on a cookie flavour and when he heard that the American Ambassador was scheduled to visit the Western galilee, he whipped up a batch of New York cheesecake ice cream, using a homemade strawberry syrup.

At the end of the day, Ziv says he is just trying to satisfy customers and hopes "they'll remember the way back to Bouza."

Preserving THE LESSER KESTREL

A school project to protect the Lesser Kestrel, now in its 16th year, uses live video broadcasts from within nesting boxes built by fifth-graders.

In a quiet corner of rural Israel, a group of schoolchildren is trying to save a globally threatened species. Every winter, the kids prepare nesting boxes for the lesser kestrel, (*Falco naumanni*), a small falcon that is rapidly declining in Europe and the Middle East.

dozens of natural colonies across Israel. Now only a handful of lesser kestrel breeding grounds are left.

The last countrywide survey found only 566 breeding pairs, mostly in greater Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Megiddo, Safed and Alona, where 109 pairs were spotted – and that was 12 years ago. In all likelihood, fewer than 550 lesser kestrel pairs now breed in Israel.

“In the past half century the numbers have dropped drastically, although this decline seems to have evened out in recent years – but not here in Israel,” says Dr. Adiv Gal of Kibbutzim College, who heads the school’s preservation project.

Gal notes that “the children don’t just study the birds – they play an active role by physically building the nesting boxes. This makes them feel part of the effort to save the birds. This year, 13 of the 29 nesting couples are in our boxes.”



Some 29 nesting pairs in Alona are giving birth to the next generation of lesser kestrels.

Then, they wait.

Sometime in February, the males arrive to search out a suitable nesting place. A few weeks later, the females arrive to mate and nest.

“Fewer birds come to breed here every year,” says Shalom Terem, the principal of the Alona Regional School, “But we are doing everything we can to preserve and strengthen their population.”

This includes protecting the kestrels from predators such as feral cats and owls, looking after nestlings and treating injured birds.

The lesser kestrel breeds in the spring and early summer across the Mediterranean region before continuing its migration from southern Africa across central Asia to China. An estimated 2,000 to 3,000 pairs once bred in



A lesser kestrel bringing breakfast for babies in a nesting box the children built with a donated video camera from security company G4S.

Transmitting a passion for birds

Part of the reason for the boxes’ success, says Gal, is a change in local building practices.

“The lesser kestrel does not build a nest of its own; rather it utilizes ‘dimples’ in cliffs or trees. There used to be a time when they would make their nests in the space under roof tiles, but nowadays most houses in Israel are built with concrete walls flush with the roofs, leaving no such gap.”

The lesser kestrel has been part of Gal’s life since 1999. “My doctoral thesis at Hebrew University of Jerusalem was on the lesser kestrels of Alona and the Jerusalem area. I’m fascinated by this bird.”

It seems that Gal’s passion for the subject has rubbed off on his students.

“The program has been ongoing for 16 years and is now



Children in the Alona Regional School have been learning about kestrels for the past 16 years.

a chick hatch and gradually emerge from its egg – and missed an important meeting. It’s gripping to watch the mothers feed the chicks, bringing them mice, in real time.”

Established in the late 1950s, the Alona Regional School in Moshav Amikam serves children from Amikam, Givat Nili and Aviel, plus about 30 children from nearby towns. Twenty-one years ago, the school became part of the Tali network, an educational system in which non-Orthodox schools or classes within schools offer enriched Jewish studies.

“We have room for 310 students and a very long waiting list for places,” says Terem. “The Jewish studies attract parents and children alike – and so does the lesser kestrel preservation project.”

But children that age can be fickle. How do you maintain their interest?

“That’s not a problem,” shrugs Terem. “This is one fascinating subject. It’s also active and outdoors. It takes them away from screens and into the fields. The kids love watching the birds and monitoring their progress in the field.”

“However in the last week of June, the sounds of the birds abruptly stop. Just as the school year ends, they leave us.

The children believe they know it’s time for the summer vacation and fly away.”

stronger than ever,” notes Terem, the school principal.

“Every year a different fifth grade takes it on. The fifth-grade classes devote two study hours a week to the birds and are responsible for maintaining the nesting boxes and gauging the birds’ progress. Our entire first- to sixth-graders are involved in some fashion – when they’re not busy maintaining the school’s petting zoo. The baton is passed from year to year, while the younger kids wait for their chance.”

Terem talks with pride of his school’s unique study track.

“We had 1,300 guests on our Open Day this year, including a delegation from the Palestinian Authority and Jordan. The children themselves – not their teachers or parents – guided the visitors for group tours of the project.”

Ultimately, he says, the aim is to preserve the lesser kestrels and help their numbers grow until they can be removed from the list of globally threatened birds.

Real-time broadcasts

Three years ago, the Israeli security company G4S donated a set of infrared video cameras that broadcast live 24/7 from inside nesting boxes via the Internet.

Children in the Alona Regional School have been learning about kestrels for the past 16 years.

“Every classroom in the school has an Internet connection and large screen,” notes Terem. “A few weeks ago I sat with some of the children transfixed for an hour, watching





THE GHATTAS HAMAM

What is a hamam? Simply put, it's Arabic for what most westerners call a Turkish bath. In turn, a Turkish bath is a simplification of the classical-era baths of Hellas (Greece) and Rome. Hamam is pronounced with a soft "ch" at the beginning, like the Scottish word "loch," but softer.

While classical public baths featured a complex of rooms for cleaning, swimming, exercising, socializing, etc, the hamam focuses on the use of running water and steam, rather than immersion, and drops the physical fitness function. The focus is on cleanliness, which is important for Muslims preparing for prayer. A typical sequence for a bather at a hamam would be:

1. Warm room: this can be a dry or moist heat. Heating is traditionally provided by a hypocaust system (from the Greek hypo = under, caust = fire). Modern hammams can use other heating systems.
2. Hot room: comparable to a Finnish sauna. You're supposed to really work up a sweat here to clear out the pores! Other hot rooms might feature hot stones or tiles to relax on. Cold water is made available for splashing your face or back with.
3. Cool room: a place for deep cleaning and relaxation after sweating. Typically, patrons will socialize here and refreshments will be made available.

To experience a Hamam, a visit to the newly restored Turkish Bazaar and Turkish bath Hamam Ghattas in Acre's Old City is a must and will offer visitors a unique experience.

The newly restored Bazaar is full of boutiques, coffee shops and food stalls which although fascinating can, after a few hours, prove tiring, so relaxation is a key ingredient to an all-round successful trip to Acre. This is where the authentic Turkish bath Hamam Ghattas comes in.

The man behind the project is Amil Ghattas, who was born and raised in Acre's Old City. A colourful and passionate character, Ghattas says that with the opening of the Turkish bath, his dream has come true.

Ghattas, who invested nearly NIS 6 million in the project, says that he wants to offer a luxurious experience in surroundings that are as authentic as possible.

As well as wanting Hamam Ghattas to be successful, he says that the project is also intended to bring more tourists to Acre so they can discover the history and beauty of his hometown as well as learn about the rich cultural heritage.

The luxury Turkish bath, housed in an original Ottoman building, has been painstakingly renovated and restored to its original state. The authentic and original features, alongside the most modern and luxurious equipment, offer an all-round experience.

In 2012 the renovation works were finally completed and the bath was opened to the public. It includes two floors of indulgence with the ground floor housing a large traditional seating area, steam room, massage table as well as separate changing areas, lockers, bathrooms and showers for men and women. The top floor includes a dry sauna, private massage room, warmed seating area, two massage beds and underfloor heating.

The complex can be rented by groups or couples (NIS 250 per person), but reservations need to be made in advance. The full treatment lasts up to three hours and includes various massages, skin treatments as well as refreshments.



The AIA Educational Trusts

For many years now the AIA has prided itself on the success of its educational trusts. We administer two trusts, the Wyndham Deedes Travel Scholarship Trust, named in honour of our founder, which provides scholarships for UK graduates to undertake research in Israel and the Kenneth Lindsay Scholarship Trust commemorating a former Director of the Association which awards scholarships to Israeli students wishing to study in UK universities. Over the years we have assisted many students to pursue their studies in an amazingly wide variety of fields.

Although relatively small, the scholarships are deeply appreciated by our scholars. The scholars are good ambassadors for Israel and use their time not only to study but also to engage in Israel Societies and to inform fellow students about Israel. Neta Luria, a former KL Scholar writes:

'The AIA Kenneth Lindsay scholarships can make a huge difference to someone's life, as the experience of studying abroad will utterly impact one's academic or professional career. But I believe that it changes much more than merely one student's life – it can change their surrounding environment as well.

When I first came to undertake my MPhil studies in Cambridge, I was thinking about how this experience will contribute to me personally, but a year since completing

my course and after two years of living in Britain, I now understand it was not just about my own life. Alongside my studies, I had the privilege and honour to run the Cambridge University Israel Society. Together with other dedicated people, we advocated for Israel when it was brutally defamed by university unions, societies and scholars; created dialogue opportunities for Arab and Israeli students through constructive workshops and meetings; held lectures with British and Israeli academics; and finally created a meeting point and a second home for Israeli students, where they could celebrate Jewish and Israeli holidays and have a relaxed chat in Hebrew.

EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD

– Nelson Mandela

'I believe that the focal point of our society was the fact that many British students have had the opportunity to talk with Israelis,

ask them their questions, and receive a 'first hand' impression of our country and its people. For many, I was told, it was a first and sometimes perception-changing opportunity.'

This year we received the largest number of applicants – 82 but again have only been able to offer 20 scholarships. The Israeli students are mature and often bring with them a spouse and young family. With the cost of living and university fees constantly rising, more funding is urgently needed. Israel's future lies with these young people and we would appeal to our members to consider sponsoring a scholar to help them achieve the highest levels of excellence.

The following graduates have received Kenneth Lindsay Scholarships:

Mr Adam Al Afenish

Mr Al Afenish is from the Bedouin community in Israel and is studying for an MBA in financial economics at Exeter University.

Miss Polina Brangel

Miss Brangel is at Imperial College London for a PhD in the research field of Bio-functionalised Nanoparticles for Bio Sensing completing in 2016.

Mr Lior Erez

Mr Erez is presently in his second year at University College London to read for a PhD in Political Theory.

Mr Yuval Etgar

Mr Etgar is attending the Royal College of Art, for the MA programme in Curating Contemporary Art (CCA).

Mrs Irit Katz Feigis

Mrs Feigis is studying at Cambridge University, for a PhD in Architecture.

Mr Yoni Furas

Mr Furas is studying at St. Antony's College, University of Oxford and Faculty of History for a DPhil in History completing 2014.

Mr Oren Geva

Mr Geva is in his second year of an MPA Dual degree in Public Affairs at the LSE.

Mr Ido Gideon

Mr Gideon starts at the Institute of Education, University of London (IOE), to undertake an MPhil/PhD programme in Education. He is due to complete September 2015.

Mr Nir Goren

Mr Goren is studying for a Master of

Philosophy in Medical Physics and Bio-engineering at UCL completing in September 2016.

Mr Iddo Gruengard

Mr Gruengard is studying at Central Saint Martin's College, University of the Arts, London (UAL) for an MA in Performance, Design and Practice, finishing June 2014.

Inbar Levy

Ms Levy is at University College, Oxford undertaking a DPhil in Law completing in April 2015.

Mr Tomer Marcus

Mr Marcus is a violinist studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for a full time two year Masters programme commencing September 2012.

Ms Yarit Mechany

Ms Mechany is studying at the Royal College of Art for a Master of Arts Degree Course in Design Products, completing June 2013.

Mrs Michal Nachmany

Mrs Nachmany is studying at the LSE for a full time MPhil/PhD in Geography, until October 2015

Miss Maria Novosolov

Miss Novosolov is a research student aiming for a PhD at the Department of Zoology in the Faculty of Life Sciences, under the joint supervision of Dr Shai Meiri at Tel Aviv University and Dr David Orme at Imperial College, London. The scholarship will

help fund her stay in London, working in Dr Orme's laboratory studying the methods and techniques relevant to her research.

Mr Shaul Salomon

Mr Salomon is studying for a PhD from the University of Sheffield in the Department of Automatic Control and Systems Engineering. He is working towards a PhD in the field of optimization from the University of Sheffield (USFS) under the co-supervision of professors from Ort Braude College of Engineering in Israel and USFD.

Mr Oded Steinberg

Studying at Oxford University for

a DPhil in History completing September 2015

Ms Lana Tatour

Ms Tatour is studying at the University of Warwick, for an MPhil/PhD in Politics and International Studies, completing September 2014.

Miss Stav Zalel

Miss Zalel is currently in her first year at Imperial College London studying for a full time BSc course Physics with Theoretical Physics.

Mr Yonatan Zlotogorski

Mr Zlotogorski is studying at the LSE, on a part time basis for an MSc in Global Politics.

We encourage British students to study in Israel to see for themselves what Israel is really like. They come back full of enthusiasm and with a changed perspective. To this end, the AIA award a limited number of Wyndham Deedes scholarships each year. The objective of the award is to enable graduates of British Universities, who are normally

resident in the UK to make an intensive study of some aspect, (sociological, scientific, cultural, economic, etc.) of life in Israel. We do not fund full-time degree courses at Israeli Universities but a short course or activity at an Israeli University is permitted if it forms part of a degree course at a British University.

This year the applications were of a very high calibre and we awarded 3 scholarships:

Yaelle Ester Ben-David has used the scholarship to enable her to pursue a Summer Internship in Israel at the Peres Center for Peace in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. She will be working primarily in the Business and Environment Department which focuses on economic collaboration and co-operation amongst Israelis and Palestinians. The overall aim of fostering a cohesive and prosperous society and thus an environment conducive to a positive and permanent peace. She is a graduate of Edinburgh University and is now currently nearing the end of her first year of a two year Masters programme in International Relations and Economics (specialising in Conflict Management) at the Paul Nitze School of Advanced

International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University – and the Summer Internship forms a relevant and complimentary component of this programme.

Alexander Rodney – is a graduate of Cambridge University and Harvard University with an interest in law and ethics. He has been invited to the chambers of the Hon. Asher Grunis, Chief Justice of Israel to develop his research into questions of transitional justice. Trained in both England and the United States he is hoping to bring rigorous legal and philosophic training to his role of law clerk at the Supreme Court of Israel.

Miss Joanne Reilly is a graduate from the University of Oxford with a double first class degree in Philosophy and Theology and is presently pursuing a Masters Degree at Harvard University. She is going to Jerusalem to participate in an academic field programme on "Co-existence in the Middle East". She hopes to ultimately to work for the British Foreign Office as a diplomat stationed in the Middle East. She feels spending time in Israel would be exceptionally beneficial in helping her move towards this goal. Providing her with real-life experience of interreligious relations in the Middle East.

For those wishing to learn more about these scholarships please visit our website at www.angloisraelassociation.com where application forms can be downloaded.

More and more students are applying to the AIA for scholarships. With more funds we could grant more scholarships and educate some of our future leaders. If you would like to sponsor a Kenneth Lindsay or a Wyndham Deedes scholar, please contact us at:

Info@angloisraelassociation.com or call 020 8458 1284

Israel and the Changing Middle East: Today and Tomorrow

3 November 2013

Held at Exeter College, University of Oxford

By Jonny Paul

Three years ago a prominent Israeli think-tank published a report in which it described Britain as the “Mecca” of delegitimation of all things Israel. The Reut Institute report stated that through a concerted coordinated and ideological campaign, Israel is subject to a “global systemic and systematic assault” on its political and economic model that aims to “precipitate its implosion.”

The campaigning against Israel is prevalent in parts of the mass media, civil society, trade union movement and university campuses and the activists, while a minority, are resourceful and resolute. Their entire *raison d’être* is to demonise and turn Israel into a pariah state and they have been able to vocalise and mainstream their messages to the extent that the level of debate and understanding of the conflict in this country has been severely affected. This has resulted in an intensification of the war of narratives with defence mechanisms on both sides deployed, along with dogmatic slogans and clichés.

With discussion on Israel so convoluted, so supercharged with emotion and continuing to reach lower depths, efforts to bring the debate back to the middle ground, to try and salvage some good honest and decent debate and fair dealings on the subject must of course be welcomed.

At the beginning of November, the Israel and the Changing Middle East conference (IMEC) at the University of Oxford hosted an array of thinkers with the task of diluting the polarised views and polemic synonymous with Israel to help inject some understanding of the constraints, dilemmas and challenges Israel faces and challenge the predetermined and the entrenched. Red lines are being continually crossed, in most instances, it is not about questioning Israeli government policies, which is of course welcomed and completely acceptable, but questions its very right to exist.

Now in its fifth year, the IMEC conference – which is part of a lecture series ‘Israel: Historical, Political and Social Aspects’ established by Dr Anna Sher and Dr Amit Kohn in 2006, under guidance and support of Peter Oppenheimer and Baroness Ruth Deech – is becoming an increasingly coveted platform for academics, business people, political commentators, journalists and students to take a more nuanced approach and look in depth at Israel and wider region.

Significantly the conference is supported by organisations who work towards promoting cooperation and goodwill between Israel in the UK. This shows that there is a serious attempt in this country to promote a better understanding, and more open discussion and dialogue. This includes BIRAX, which was set up in 2008 by the British Council to enhance research and academic cooperation between Britain and Israel in response to the call to boycott Israeli academia and the Anglo-Israel Association.

This year the conference brought together an array of world renowned experts to discuss Israel and the changing Middle East, an area so pertinent and current and crucial for the west to grapple with. The conference covered the issues in depth, delving into the complexities of political reality with contributions stemming from a wide scope of viewpoints and stances on the subject. Exeter College hosted proceedings and with a 120 capacity the hall that brimmed with people clambering to stand at the back making it well over 150 people. Students and faculty heralded from a number of disciplines, as well as political backgrounds, including sciences, humanities and arts. The high numbers attending is significant. They are of course tomorrow’s leaders and decision makers.

The first panel of the day, chaired by Baroness Deech, looked at the role of academia and business in peacemaking. Derek Penlar, Professor of Israel Studies at St Anne’s College, discussed how it is possible to stay neutral when studying Israel as a historical phenomenon. Rory Miller, Professor in Middle East Studies at King’s College London gave a vivid account of efforts by the European Union to establish a science and technology sector in the Palestinian territories as part of efforts to empower its economy and create a fertile ground to get the peace process moving. This sector, he said, has the potential to bring greater employment and prosperity to the Palestinians, and reduce dependency on aid and patronage. Naturally this has widespread implications for peace and stability in the region. Professor Raymond Dwek, head of the Glycobiology Institute at Oxford’s Biochemistry Department, gave a corresponding talk on the state of science and technology in Israel, and particularly the work of the National Institute of Biotechnology at Ben-Gurion University which he set up in order to research technological solutions for the region. The Institute is at the cutting edge of fields like bacterial wastewater treatment and desalination, and has special programmes to attract students and researchers from the Palestinian population and neighbouring Arab states.

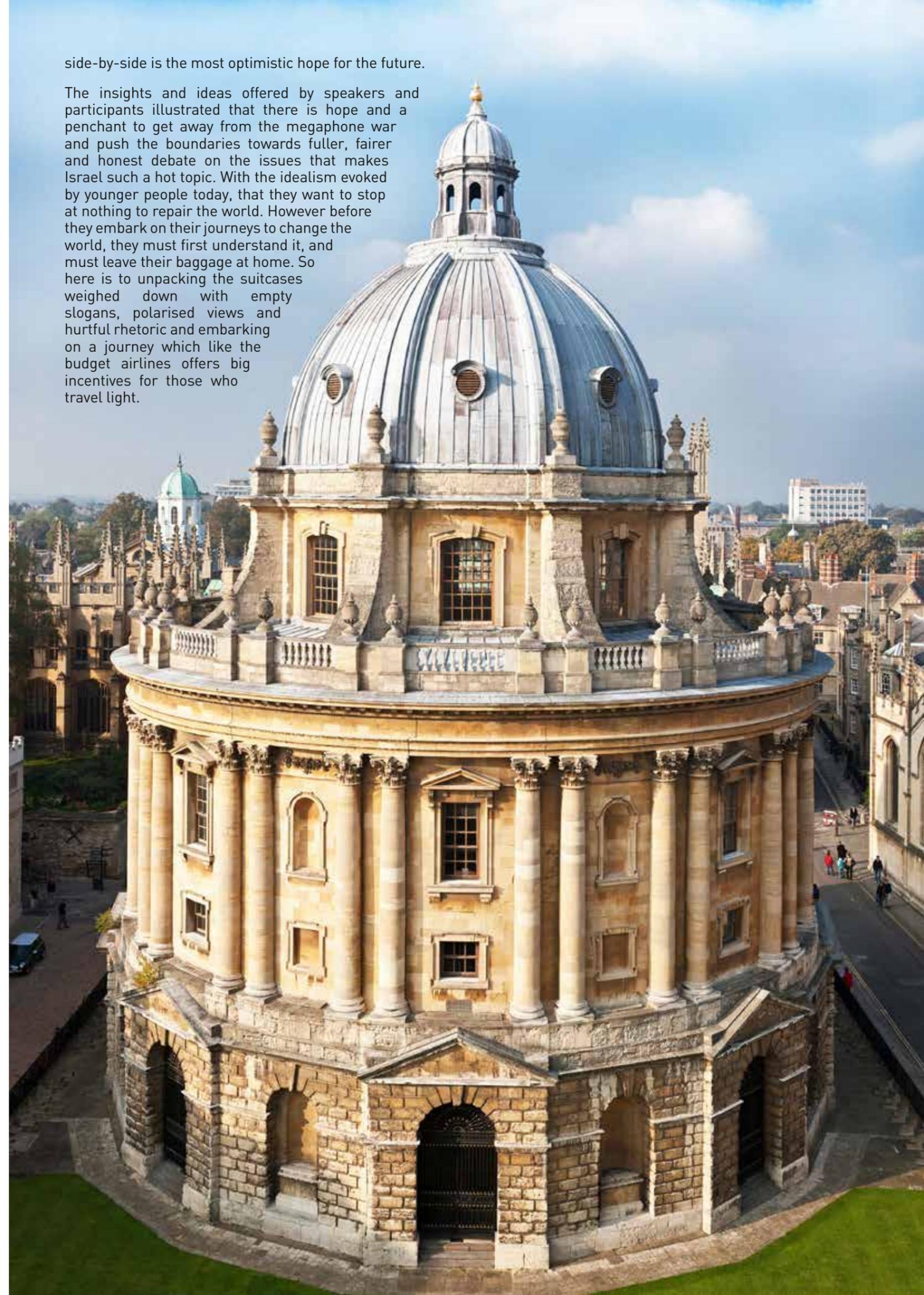
Looking at the implications of recent developments in the Middle East, the second panel, chaired by Ghanem Nuseibeh, turned to the wider region and the impact of the ‘Arab Spring’. Sir Adam Roberts, former president of the British Academy, spoke about civil resistance and power politics. Asher Susser, Professor of Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University, outlined the structural conditions in Arab states, such as the crisis of youth unable to find employment or start a family, that bubbled over leading to widespread protests. He noted that whereas in the 1960s the Israeli establishment had feared the threat of “strong” Arab states but now it is the “weak” Arab states unable to control their territory allowing terrorist groups to thrive.

The third panel, chaired by Peter Oppenheimer, saw Ian Black, Middle East editor at the Guardian, and John Lloyd, contributing editor at the Financial Times, look at the role and responsibility of the media in the conflict. Black said that as a result of the “pack mentality” of the media they have all invested heavily in coverage of Egypt and Syria, but he predicted there would soon be a switch back to Israel as people tire with the civil war in Syria.

In a keynote speech to close the conference Professor Susser looked at what the conflict heralded for tomorrow. Despite the instability in the region, he claimed that now was the time for Israel to take decisive action to end the conflict. He said that the two sides were far apart ideologically, making a permanent solution unfeasible, but believes that an interim arrangement of two states, living

side-by-side is the most optimistic hope for the future.

The insights and ideas offered by speakers and participants illustrated that there is hope and a penchant to get away from the megaphone war and push the boundaries towards fuller, fairer and honest debate on the issues that makes Israel such a hot topic. With the idealism evoked by younger people today, that they want to stop at nothing to repair the world. However before they embark on their journeys to change the world, they must first understand it, and must leave their baggage at home. So here is to unpacking the suitcases weighed down with empty slogans, polarised views and hurtful rhetoric and embarking on a journey which like the budget airlines offers big incentives for those who travel light.



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