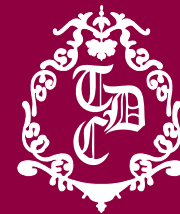


# The Diplomatic Club

SEPTEMBER 2014



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## *Dear friends,*

All things change, and the only constant in the Middle East is a sudden and dramatic change.

The Middle East is a very eventful region, where history is written every day. Here you can witness this by yourself. It could be during, before or after a war – between wars. South – North, North – South, war – truce, truce – war, enemy – friend, friend – enemy... Sometimes, these words become very similar here.

“A la guerre comme à la guerre” and the biggest losers in this instability are the ordinary people, the civilians on both sides. In a fight between a state and non-state players there are no rules, and sometimes responsibilities do not matter.

In his book *How to Achieve World Peace*, Jim Des Rocher claims that: “The ideology of peace and freedom will always win the battles with the evil ideologies, because all the strong minded, good willed people in this world believe in, and will fight for peace and freedom.” Hopefully, these people from across the world will look at the decision-making of Israel and ask themselves whether the country is doing all it can to bring peace and tranquility to its region.

Hamas and ISIS are theocratic fascist cults committed to the obliteration of Israel and, as it looks now, the rest of the world as well. However, they absolutely do not represent all Muslims. Polls suggest that Hamas may very well not represent all of the Palestinians in Gaza. There is a

spectrum of Arab and Muslim opinions, just as there is a spectrum of Jewish opinions.

As one of the most talented diplomats in history of diplomacy, Henry Kissinger said: “It is not a matter of what is true that counts, but a matter of what is perceived to be true.”

Diplomacy, as opposed to war, facilitates (or sometimes hinders) conflict prevention and resolution, before armed conflict begins. Diplomacy is a primary form of politics among nations. Only diplomacy offers various effective instruments of statecraft, not only for the “weak,” but also for the “strong” nations.

For the upcoming Jewish New Year, I would like to wish you peace – peace of mind and peace in general. I wish to all of us that all of our conflicts will be resolved in a diplomatic fashion.

Sincerely,

*Julia Verdel*  
*Editor-in-Chief*







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## BMW X1: CHOOSE YOUR X.

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Motor Vehicle Pollution Level \*\*



\*\*Rating is calculated based Clean Air Regulations ( Disclosure of Air pollution data for motor vehicles in advertising ), 5769-2009

Model: BMX X1 sDrive20i – 184 bhp

Average fuel consumption 100 km *			
Urban	8.8	Inter City	5.3

\*Manufacturer's data, according to laboratory test. (EC) 715/2007\*459/2012W Standard.



## AMBASSADOR LARS FAABORG-ANDERSEN: A VIEW ON THE ISRAELI – PALESTINIAN CONFLICT



*By Eveline Erfolg*

The EU and Israel share a long common history characterized by increasing interdependence and cooperation. Both share the same values of democracy, respect for freedom and the rule of law, and both are committed to an open international economic system based on market principles. Last year, 28 foreign ministers of the EU suggested granting Israel the status of a special privileged partner. The proposal included the expansion of trade and cultural relations, as well as deepening of the political and security dialogue. The proposal is conditional

upon the successful completion of the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

**DC: What is your opinion on the current war between Hamas and Israel?**

**LFA:** I am deeply disturbed by the current violence over the Gaza conflict. The indiscriminate firing of rockets against innocent Israeli civilians is unacceptable and utterly condemnable and Israel is right to act in self-defense. At the same time I am appalled by the death and injury of so many Palestinians including

children. It is imperative that both parties immediately take steps to deescalate the situation and agree to a ceasefire. Beyond that, there is a need to devise a sustainable solution to the problem, which will, among other things, include demilitarization of Gaza and normalization of life there through full opening of the crossings, reconstruction and so forth.

Let me be 100% clear: the EU considers Hamas a terrorist organization, we've put them on our terror list, and they will remain on that list until they give up terrorism as an instrument to achieve political gains.

So we have not welcomed anything with Hamas. What we welcomed was the idea of reconciling the Palestinian people in Gaza with the Palestinian people in the West Bank, which we think is the only long term solution to the issue of the two-state solution as well. Unless Gaza is part of the equation, what are we talking about? A three-state solution? This is also a question of ensuring that Israel has a strong, united and credible partner that can really deliver a peace agreement, once the modalities are agreed upon.

**DC:** The EU has had a political impact on the Middle East Peace process through its bilateral cooperation with Israel and Palestine in 1990s. Does the EU have direct political input and impact on the Middle East Peace process today?

**LFA:** Yes, I think so. It has often been claimed that the EU is a payer, but not a player, and that in the Middle East we have a kind of division between the EU and the US, where the US is close to Israel and the EU is close to the Palestinians. I don't think that either of those assertions is correct, particularly not in recent years as the EU has developed a very close relationship with Israel, as well as with Palestine.

As you know, already back in the Venice Declaration in 1980, the EU was the first entity that proposed a two-state solution after 1967. We have been working ever since on defining the parameters for what we think a two-state solution should look like. Those parameters were to a large extent also the point of departure for the recent nine month cycle of negotiations. Over and above that, we are the main funder of the PA, which obviously gives us a key role, because it is essential to the Palestinians that

“The EU considers Hamas a terrorist organization, we've put them on our terror list, and they will remain on that list until they give up terrorism as an instrument to achieve political gains”

this money keeps flowing. Also, frankly, from Israel's viewpoint as well, because if that money were not forthcoming, it would have to come from somewhere else, including from Israel. I think we have a strong dialogue with both parties, and we are trying to provide our advice regarding the best way to move forward with the aim of achieving a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Sometimes Israel does not necessarily appreciate particular proposals made by the EU, but we feel it is an important part of being a good friend and a close partner to somebody, that you're also able to tell them when they do things that are not necessarily in their best interests.

**DC:** Can you give an example of a proposal made by the EU?

**LFA:** It's well known, for example, that the EU finds the expansion of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories to be a very problematic development. First of all, because the settlements are illegal under international law as we see it, but also because they make a two-state solution more difficult. They are carving the West Bank up into a patchwork of isolated islands that makes it difficult to create a contiguous state. Secondly, they

drain the trust out of the negotiations, because they make the Palestinians doubt whether Israel is negotiating in good faith. As the negotiations are on-going, Israel keeps building settlements on land that is actually the subject of negotiations and the drawing of final borders.

Other issues where we have given Israel advice which it does not always follow include the spike in Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes, both in East Jerusalem, but also in the so-called Area C. This is something that we are also quite critical of. In general, we want to see a stabilization of the situation on the ground and therefore anything that works contrary to that is something we advise Israel not to do. Equally, we are also advising the Palestinians not to do some of the things they do, including engaging in hateful incitement campaigns against Israel, we condemn any rocket attacks that come out of Gaza, indiscriminate attacks against civilians. We oppose and condemn any kind of violence.

**DC:** At the beginning of the 21st century, when Denmark held the presidency of the EU, you served as the Foreign Ministry's Head of Department for the Middle East and Latin American Affairs, in Copenhagen, and were a co-author of the Quartet's "Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis." More than 10 years after this document was adopted by the UN Security Council, do you still hold its positions?

**LFA:** The Road Map is part of the body of agreements that make-up the Middle East peace process. Of course, I still support it. When it was issued in 2003 there was a five-year time frame, in which there are stages that have obviously lapsed, so it's not





something you can be guided by in your daily work. On the other hand, it did introduce an important approach that was the idea of parallel and reciprocal steps between the parties in order to achieve a sufficient level of confidence, and also to stabilize developments on the ground. That was a bigger challenge when the Road Map was prepared, because it happened during the Second Intifada when there was a very high level of violence. It was focused on establishing security cooperation between the Israeli and the Palestinian security authorities, which was actually accomplished during those years. In addition, there were a lot of other elements, including a ban on establishing settlement outposts and other things as well, which were not as successful in implementation. I

believe that many elements in the Road Map are still very relevant and some of them remain unfulfilled, and I think that they should certainly be fulfilled.

The concept behind the Road Map, the idea of proceeding to a phase of the declaration of the Palestinian State with provisional borders, is a concept that is perhaps not as appealing as it was at that time. I think that the Palestinian side feels that this has been tried and they are currently very much against any kind of the so-called interim solutions. In that sense, I think that maybe there is less enthusiasm for that particular element of the Road Map. However, I think that the general objectives of the Road Map, including the third phase where final negotiations on the parameters for establishing the Palestinian State should take place, remain unfulfilled,

but nevertheless more sorely needed now than ever before.

**DC:** **Negotiations with the Palestinian Authority have failed. As reaction to this, 29 members of the EU Parliament called for an action to boycott Israel over its settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories. Your comments, please.**

**LFA:** We have a critical policy that is against the building of settlements. We have taken several practical steps on the subject. For example, in 2004 and 2005 we introduced a system where products that are coming from settlements are welcome on the European market, but since we don't consider them part of Israel, they don't get into the internal market at preferential customs rates, as

opposed to the goods that are coming from Israel. We have an agreement with Israel that all products, with the exception of some agricultural products, are coming to the European internal market without Israel having to pay any duties, which is a huge advantage. According to the figures we have, there are €250-300 million euro worth of settlement products per year, and this is a small fraction of the €30 billion trade that the EU has with Israel

It's true that in Europe there is a growing skepticism about products coming from settlements. There are certain consumers – private consumers and consumer groups – that have started boycotting them. It has nothing to do with the EU, the European Union is on record and this is important to underline, that we are against Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign, we are against the isolation of Israel and we don't support that. On the other hand, we live in a free society where people can have their own opinions and we have no way to control this and no wish to do so either.

In addition, we have implemented the Guidelines that state that European taxpayers' money cannot be spent in settlements, or in entities that are operating or located in settlements. This was implemented with the Horizon 2020 science and research program. Again, the effect, the real effect, is almost nil, because there never were any applications from settlements to participate in these programs, with the exception of one: Ahava Dead Sea products.

The latest thing is that a number of member-states, which are in charge of advising their companies and citizens as to where it's dangerous to travel or to do business, have published a statement discouraging or warning private companies from investing and doing business in settlements,

“*There is no boycott; we are just not extending the same privileges to the settlements, as we extend to Israel, in accordance with an internationally recognized policy*”

due to the reputational costs that could be involved. Moreover, there are some legal uncertainties that pertain to settlements because they are in a disputed area. Some countries have also initiated labeling requirements that say that products made in settlements cannot be labeled as 'Made in Israel' because there are legal requirements about not willfully misleading consumers.

There is no boycott; we are just not extending the same privileges to the settlements, as we extend to Israel, in accordance with an internationally recognized policy. It is something that is targeted at settlements and not Israeli business in general, and this is something we are underlining. Of course, there are companies that are saying 'This is getting to complicated to find out who in Israel is engaged, be it banks, be it engineering companies and so on, too complicated for us to distinguish who are engaged in settlements,' so they choose to cut their relations altogether. This has happened with some pension funds, engineering companies, some Dutch and Scandinavian companies, but these are private decisions, taken presumably on a business basis. This is something we can do nothing about, but it is not something we are encouraging.

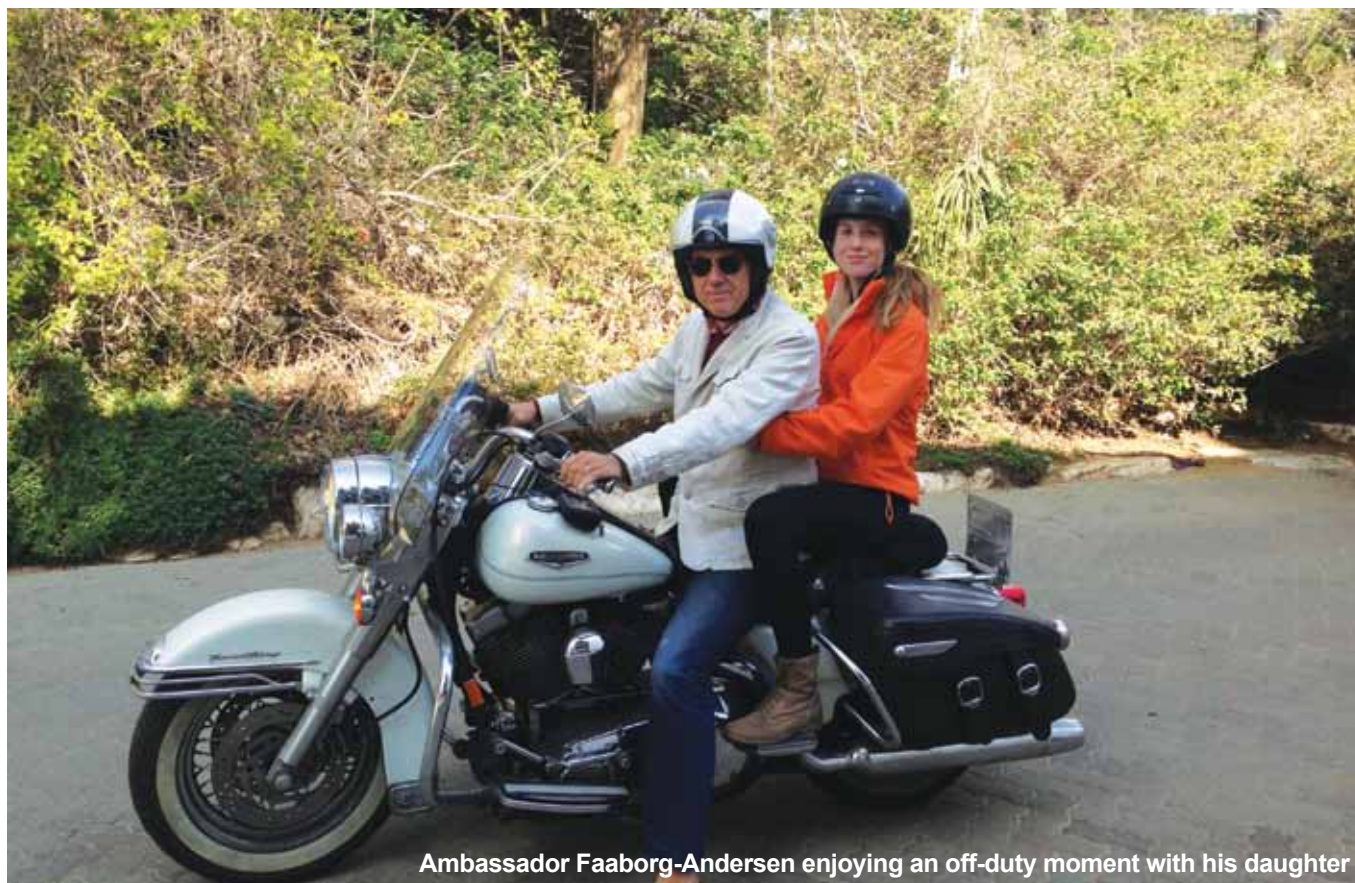
**DC:** What do you think about the future of EU-Ukraine relations?

**LFA:** Well, this month an association, and a deep and comprehensive trade agreement will be signed between the EU and Ukraine, plus a whole lot of macro-economic assistance to try and help stabilize the country and also bring it closer to the EU, in terms of values, respect for minorities, and so on. That process is on-going, and the next big point will be the signing of that agreement in the month of July. That is the good part of the story.

What has been going on in Ukraine is of great concern to the EU. This is perhaps the biggest potential change in the region since the fall of the Berlin Wall. We have a number of member states that are bordering this area and are adamant, as is the EU itself that we will not accept that Russia has a right to intervene in those border countries, where they perceive a threat to Russian minorities, like the illegal annexation of Crimea. We find the referendum and everything that went on there to be contrary to international law.

We also have the question of eastern Ukraine and I think what we have managed to impress on the Russians, and also on the government of Ukraine, is that they have to sit down and negotiate on these issues. I don't know what the solution will be, maybe it will be a greater degree of regional autonomy, but the important thing is that any solution needs to be negotiated, and not under threat of military action. This is why we have insisted that Russian troops be pulled out of the border area. We also impress on the Ukrainian government the need to secure the rights of minorities, including in eastern Ukraine. It's quite clear that there is a sort of bifurcation in Ukraine, economically and in their attitudes towards Europe. We are not denying that there was a real division





Ambassador Faaborg-Andersen enjoying an off-duty moment with his daughter

within Ukraine on this question. What we are saying is that this should not be settled by military force and outside intervention. It should be settled by the Ukrainians themselves. Now they have elected with a substantial majority a new government and we need to deal with that government that seems, at least at this time, to be quite pro-European.

**DC:** Please, tell us about yourself.

**LFA:** I joined the Danish Foreign Ministry in 1984. In the 1990s I served as Deputy Head of Mission of the Danish embassy in Pretoria, South Africa and as Deputy Head of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Asian affairs. From 2000 to 2003 I headed the ministry's Middle East department. Between 2003–2008 I served as Denmark's deputy

permanent representative to the UN in New York and from 2008 to 2013, I was Ambassador at the Danish permanent representation to the EU Council's Political and Security Committee. In 2013 I was appointed ambassador to Israel for the EU.

I'm married and I have a daughter, who had the good fortune of being able to spend a great year in Israel. Basically I want to say that I'm very pleased with my assignment here. It is something that I've been wishing for. I've been dealing with the Mid East for over 15 years, yet I've never had the chance to live here for an extended period of time, except for a short time in the 1970s at a kibbutz in the north.

**DC:** A lot has changed here since then. Do you think it's for the better?

**LFA:** Most of it for the better and I think it really is quite amazing and I have great admiration for what Israel has achieved during those years. I'm working every day to strengthen the understanding and cooperation between Israel and Europe. I think that there is a lot of fertile ground for that. We have our disagreements, but what many people tend to forget, sometimes because it is taken almost as a given, is the very close-knit web of relations we have, in everything relating to trade, travel, science and technology, which are bonding us together and should serve as a backbone when we have issues on which we disagree. I consider it a great privilege to be able to work here. ●



## The Legal Status of the Arab Community Conference schedule:

9:30-10:00	<b>Reception and Registration</b>	15:00-17:00	<b>2 Simultaneous Panels</b>
10:00-10:30	<p><b>Greeting and opening remarks:</b> Mr. Lars Faaborg – Andersen, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Israel Adv. Ahmad Ghazawi, Mossawa Center</p> <p><b>Board Member</b> Mr. Ali Salam, Mayor of Nazareth Mr. Mazen Ghanaim, Mayor of Sakhnin and the chair of The National Committee for the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel</p>		<p><b>“Legal tools for facing hate crimes, discrimination, harassment in the work place and restriction on political Rights”.</b> <b>Mediator:</b> Adv. Nidal Othman, Director of the Coalition against Racism and Advocate at the Mossawa Center</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mr. Masoud Ghanaim, MK in Ra’am-Ta’al Party Adv. Orna Lin, Specialist in Labor law Adv. Eitay Mack, Specialist in Human Rights Studies and representative of hate crime victims Adv. Sawsan Zaher, Director of Adalah’s Social, Economic and Education Rights Unit Adv. Awnee Bana, Head of the Arab Minority Rights department at ACRI Adv. Ruth Carmi, Advocate in the Legal and Public Policy department of IRAC and CAR Adv. Ghadeer Nicola, Director of “Kav LaOved”- the Workers Hotline in Nazareth Adv. Hossin Manaa, volunteer representative for arrested political activists “The Arab Community: Poverty, boycott and economic potential”. Mediator: Ms. Muna Omari, Journalist</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mr. Basel Ghattas ,MK in Balad Party Prof. Aziz Heidar, Lecturer of Sociology at David Yellin College and Research Fellow at the Truman Institute, Hebrew University Adv. Rawyah Handaklow- Kayan Feminist Organization Ms. Khawla Rihani- Director of Economic Empowerment for Women Organization Ms. Huda Abu Obaid, Director of “Yasmeen El-Naqab”, organization for women’s and family health. Mr. Amir Fakhoury, Researcher of Political and Social Sciences at University of Haifa Mr. Mtannes Shihadeh, Research Coordinator at the Mada el Carmel Center Adv. Reda Jabber, “Aman Center” – The Arab Center for a Safe Society Mr. Eyad Snunu, Economist at the Mossawa Center</p>
10:30-12:30	<p><b>First Session:</b> <b>“The legal status of the Arab community: in light of the Increase in hate crimes and the war on Gaza”.</b> <b>Mediator:</b> Mr. Zoher Bahalul, Journalist, El Shams Radio</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mr. Mohammad Barakeh, MK and head of Hadash Party Mr. Sheikh Ibrahim Sarsour, MK for Ra’am-Ta’al Party Dr. Jamal Zahalka MK and head of Balad Party Prof. Asaad Ghanem, Lecturer of Political Science at the University of Haifa Dr. Hala Khoury- Bisharat, Lecturer of Law at Carmel Academic College and Tel Aviv University Mr. Jafar Farah, Director of the Mossawa Center</p>		
12:30-14:30	<p><b>Second Session</b> <b>“Restrictions on freedom of expression: legal and political aspects”.</b> Mediator: Advocate Sameh Iraqi, Director of Legal and Socio-Economic Unit at the Mossawa Center</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Dr. Ahmed Tibi, MK and head of Ta’al Party Dr. Hana Sweid, MK for Hadash Party Mr. Gideon Levy, Political writer and journalist at Haaretz Adv. Avigdor Feldman, Specialist in criminal law Prof. Amal Jamal, Lecturer at the Political Science Department at Tel Aviv University and Director of I’lam Media Center Dr. Ilan Saban, Lecturer at the Faculty of Law at the University of Haifa</p>		
14:30-15:00	<b>Light Lunch</b>		

This Project is supported by :





## HIS EXCELLENCY JOSÉ JOÃO MANUEL— THE FIRST AMBASSADOR OF ANGOLA TO ISRAEL

**DC:** Peace has become a reality in Angola since 2002, when the civil war that lasted 27 years ended. What is the main focus of Angola today?

**JJM:** First of all, allow me to thank you for your kindness to let us share with you, and through you to share also with your readers, some information about my country, the Republic of Angola. Thank you Diplomatic Magazine.

Regarding the question, as you can imagine a 27-year civil war left the country in a deeply difficult situation in practically all sectors, severely affecting the economy. With the achievement of peace in 2002, the Angolan government quickly focused its efforts on two lines of action. First, it directed its efforts in creating the conditions for an effective transition and stabilization of democratic mechanisms, and

implementation of the national reconciliation process. Second, it focused both the available human and financial resources, initiating a huge process that is still ongoing, towards national reconstruction of infrastructure destroyed by the war. In other words – to implement an ambitious development program.

In short, nowadays the Angolan government is working hard on maintaining peace and strengthening the democracy, as well as the processes of reconstruction and development of infrastructures, while devoting more resources to improve the social conditions of citizens following the slogan: ‘Growing More and Distributing Better.’

**DC:** With a population of approximately 18 million people, Angola has been blessed by an abundance of natural resources: oil in the sea, fishing on the coasts, fertile land and mineral reserves. How is Angola utilizing these treasures?

**JJM** In May 2014, Angola held its first major general census of population and housing. Only after the results disclosed we will know exactly how many we are, but certainly the current population of Angola is around 20 million. On the other hand, the geographical size of Angola is 1,246,700 km<sup>2</sup>, which is something like 60 times bigger than Israel. All revenues that the country gets from our natural resources are being channeled to the programs of reconstruction and development and training of human resources. The education and health sectors are the major beneficiaries. By the way, I would like to emphasize that health and education are free in Angola.

By its geographical size and number of population, it is easily understandable that in Angola there is

a great demand for financial resources for the construction of thousands of kilometers of roads, bridges, hospitals, schools and homes. To have an idea, with the achievement of peace, the government decided, as one its priority, the rehabilitation of the Benguela railway that is a railway line that connects the Atlantic coast of Angola to the east border with the neighboring countries of Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. The length of the railway is more than 3000 kilometers. For your information, Angola is the second largest oil producer in Africa with 1 million 800 thousand barrels per day and the forecast is to reach 2 million barrels per day in 2015. In the diamond sector, Angola is among the five largest diamond producers in the world by the value, and among the ten largest producers in quantity, and in 2012 registered a production of 8 million carats, which provided an income of \$1.17 billion.

**DC:** In 2007 the International Monetary Fund predicted that Angola will reach 31.4% annual growth of its GDP, placing the country in the position of the fastest growing economy in the world. Did this prediction come true?

**JJM:** That prediction was not achieved in the numbers that you mentioned because, as you know, in 2008, the world began to face an economic and financial crisis. Angola, being part of this global village, logically saw the level of growth of its economy reduced. Still, Angola continues to be among the first on the list of the countries with growing economies. In 2007, Angola's economy grew 23.3%, in 2008 the growth was 13.80%, in 2012 – 5.2%, in 2013 – 5.1%, and the forecast for 2014 is 7.9%. Earlier this year the gross international reserves

*“Nowadays the Angolan government is working hard on maintaining peace and strengthening the democracy, as well as the processes of reconstruction and development of infrastructures”*

of Angola were \$33.20 billion. To counter the strong dependence on the oil sector, the Angolan government has set priorities for non-oil economy, giving a greater role to the mining, real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, etc.

**DC:** Are there any private foreign investments?

**JJM:** Angola is a country in peace and with various business opportunities. The Angolan market remains open to all foreign investors wishing to participate in the development programs of the country, mainly in the construction of infrastructure, because the law promotes private investments in the Angolan market, opening it to businessmen from other countries with money to invest, protects the investment and allows the repatriation of profits. Thank God we are experiencing an increasingly growing presence of foreign businessmen in the country, among them also Israeli citizens and businesses. According to the institution that regulates private investment, in 2013 investment projects reached the amount of \$ 7.3billion.

**DC:** What is the nature of Angola-Israel relations?

The relations with Israel are very good. The economic and financial sectors have been key to the current

level of relations. The training of Angolans technicians in Israel and the presence of Israeli experts in Angola with know-how in the sectors of agriculture, telecommunications, trade, water, etc. is already considerable. As an example of the good relations, allow me to say that currently we are registering a monthly average of 100 Israelis requesting visa and traveling to Angola. Also, recently there has been an enhancement of cooperation in the cultural field with very satisfactory results.

**DC:** You are one of the longest-serving ambassadors in Israel; you've witnessed many changes here. What do you think of Israel?

**JJM:** Angola and Israel established diplomatic relations in 1992. Angola opened its Embassy in Tel Aviv in 2000 and since January 2001 I am serving, with pleasure, as Ambassador of Angola to Israel. In fact, from 2001 till today, Israel has undergone several political moments that I was lucky enough to witness. I consider Israel an economically active and politically vibrant democratic country.

**DC:** What is your opinion on the Israeli-Palestinian situation?

**JJM:** I personally understand that the situation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is very complicated and difficult to solve. Therefore, both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities will have to be very courageous because they have to make decisions that will not be pleasant to many of their citizens, but that may be the key to solving the problem. It will take both parties to engage seriously in a very continuous and constructive dialogue until they gain the trust of one another. When this time comes, they will also reach peace. In this respect, Angola joins the stance of the international community, led by the UN, which advocates that





dialogue is the only way of resolving the conflict following the formula two people – two states living side-by-side peacefully.

**DC:** Please, tell us about yourself, your career and your family.

**JJM:** I arrived in Israel in 2001 as the first Ambassador of my country, to open the Embassy, in a complicated time, because of the ongoing Second Intifada and there were bombs going off in various cities of Israel, including Tel Aviv. Interestingly, I came from a country which also lived through a devastating war and had just arrived in another completely different one, also living through a conflict. For this reason the conflict situation here did not affect me much, and despite all this I adapted quickly and started to develop my work, while trying to understand Israeli society, its dynamics of politics and diplomacy. I like to be here because, if on the one hand, I find myself constantly

“*I consider Israel an economically active and politically vibrant democratic country*”

active due to the local dynamics, on the other, in addition to having made many friends, I have had the opportunity to visit, when I want, important historical sites of the Holy Land. The fact that I came to Israel, changed completely the family situation – wife and 5 kids – because in Angola for reasons of war, I was absent. That situation wouldn't let me follow closely the education and development of my children. Coming to Israel allowed me to finally reunite the family and share daily with my wife the challenges of education and raising of our children and be with them a little bit more.

Today, after 13 years in Israel, we can say that we are living a great experience. When we arrived here,

my eldest son was 16 years old and the youngest 4. Virtually all grew up here and today they see Israel as their second native land, because it was here that they began to discover the good things that life offers them. Actually, all their friends are here and all what they have learned directly or indirectly is connected with Israel. At the time of departure it will resonate arguably in their lives. My wife and I also made a lot of friends and met many wonderful people. So for all that Israel represents for us as Christians, Israel is surely a country that we will always have the pleasure of returning to and visiting our many friends and enjoying the beauty of the sacred places of the Holy Land. ●

Rachel Witzman  
**BLACK MAGIC WOMAN**

Photo origin: Eritrea  
Mixed media on canvas





## ISRAEL WELCOMES NEW AMBASSADORS



### H.E. Ambassador Vivian Bercovici of Canada

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird issued the following statement announcing the appointment of Vivian Bercovici as Canada's new ambassador to the State of Israel:

"Canada and Israel share a strong and multi-faceted relationship based on shared values, common interests and strong political, economic, cultural and social ties."

"Having lived in Israel and written extensively on the region, Ms. Bercovici has an excellent understanding of the challenges facing the country and deep insight into the opportunities provided by the strong links between our two countries."

Having studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem from 1981 to 1982 and written a monthly column for the Toronto Star on Israel and issues in the Middle East since January 2013, Vivian Bercovici has maintained a strong interest in and knowledge of Israel. She holds a BA (with honors) in English and Political Science from York University, a Diploma in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a degree in Law from the University of Toronto. From 1990 to 1995, Ms. Bercovici practiced law at Paterson MacDougall, focusing on media defense work. From 1995 to 1997, she was a policy adviser to Ontario's minister of finance. She joined the Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company as a legal executive in 1998 and was promoted shortly afterwards to vice-president, general counsel and corporate secretary, a position she held until 2006. From 2007 to 2013, she was a partner with Heenan Blaikie LLP.

Recently, Ms. Bercovici was a partner at Dickinson Wright LLP. She practiced in the areas of regulatory insurance, risk management, corporate governance, privacy, Aboriginal and First Nations law, public policy and legislative advice.

Ms. Bercovici has been a member of the boards of CBC/Radio-Canada and the Canadian Journalism Foundation. In addition, she has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto in the Faculty of Law.



### H.E. Ambassador Pajo Avirovikj of Macedonia

This is the second time that Ambassador Pajo Avirovikj was appointed to Israel.

Previously, in May 2011 he was appointed Permanent Representative of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations. Until that appointment, Mr. Avirovikj was his country's Ambassador to Israel from September 2009, prior to which he served as Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy from June 2008. From May to June 2008, he was Head of the Embassy's Liaison Office.

Between June 2006 and May 2008, Mr. Avirovikj held the position of State Counselor and Director for Public Diplomacy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having served as Head of Sector for Bilateral Relations with European Countries from January to May 2006. He was Deputy Head of Sector for the coordination of the Minister's Cabinet Affairs between May 2005 and January 2006.

In addition to serving as Minister Counselor at his country's Embassy in Paris from February 2001 to April 2005, Mr. Avirovikj was Director of the Department for European Countries between 1998 and 2001, and Head of the Division for Western Europe from 1997 to 1998.

An award-winning author and journalist, Mr. Avirovikj studied at the École Nationale d'Administration in Paris, France, and holds a master's degree in Oriental Philology from the University of Belgrade in Serbia, having earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## ISRAEL WELCOMES NEW AMBASSADORS



**H.E. Ambassador Tamara Mugoša of Montenegro**

Montenegro appointed Tamara Mugoša as its first ambassador to Israel. She will represent Montenegro on a non-resident basis with a seat in Podgorica.

The former President Peres noted that the two countries' relations are very good, with a pronounced potential for their further improvement, and he especially emphasized the need for the two countries to cooperate in the area of research.

Ms. Mugoša agreed that the two countries have excellent possibilities for further development of relations. She spoke about the further activities and perspective for cooperation, especially in the areas of agriculture and tourism, and highlighted the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, in which both countries participate and which opens room for joint projects in the area of science and innovation.

Ms. Mugoša also underlined that Montenegro values greatly Mr Peres' efforts to reach a lasting peace between Israel and the PA through negotiation and building of trust. She voiced Montenegro's readiness to support the actions of the Peres Peace Centre, where the former President will resume his activities, by implementing activities that could provide incentive for an improvement in the Israeli-Arab dialogue.

Looking back at Montenegro's efforts in cherishing and developing harmonious multi-ethnic and religious relations, she noted that the Jewish community in Montenegro is playing an important role in that respect.

Between 2007 and 2010, Ms. Mugoša held the position of First Counselor in the Embassy of Montenegro to the Holy See and to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Prior to that she served as Advisor to the Mayor of the capital city of Podgorica.

She holds a B.A. in Law (with honors) from the Podgorica Law School.



**H.E. Ambassador Richard Laus Angualia of Uganda**

Uganda appointed Mr. Richard Laus Angualia as its ambassador to Israel.

He will represent Uganda on a non-resident basis, with a seat in Cairo.

As the new Ambassador presented his Letters of Credence to former President Peres, he thanked him and said: "Uganda and Israel have enjoyed very good relations for many years, and we expect to strengthen them in the coming years. We thank you, Mr. President, for your important role in these relations. I wish to congratulate you for the democratic elections for the presidency, which brought great honor to the State of Israel, and it is a privilege for me to have experienced the election process".

President Peres welcomed Mr. Angualia and the other Ambassadors, and stressed that the State of Israel will help them broaden the mutual cooperation as much as possible, and said: "This house is open for you – please feel at home. You will discover that the State of Israel and its citizens appreciate you very much. Our relations are very good, and it is important for us to keep them as such and strengthen them. We will help you and stand by you in everything you need."

In 2012 Mr. Angualia was appointed as ambassador of Uganda to Egypt; prior to that he served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala. Mr. Angualia is also a former assistant commissioner in the ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in Uganda. He studied at the Makerere University of Kampala, Uganda.



# CELEBRATION OF MOLDOVA IN ISRAEL

On August 27, 1991 the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova adopted the Declaration of Independence. Moldova became a sovereign state

Proclaiming its independence in 1991 was just one step in a long and difficult journey. Only in 2009 the Republic of Moldova became able to embrace and promote EU accession ambitions. Having signed free trade and association agreements with the EU, Moldova is now viewed as the success story of the Eastern Partnership. The courage and consistency with which both its politicians and the public implemented painful reforms, entitle Moldova to hope that the independence proclaimed 23 years

ago will soon be reinforced by the prosperity and the rule of law entailed by the European integration.

The Embassy of the Republic of Moldova noted this remarkable day on the evening of August 24th in the Einav cultural center in Tel Aviv.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Lieberman, Minister of Tourism Uzi Landau, Minister of Immigration and Absorption Sofa Landver, MK Boaz Toporovsky ('Yesh Atid' Party), Director General of the Knesset Ronen Plot, Deputy Mayor of Ashkelon Alex Sultanowitz, Deputy Mayor of Migdal HaEmek Sergey Oklander, Honorary Consuls Simo Tubul and Shmuel Roitman, the writer Efraim Bauch, the artist Vladimir

Bulba, as well as representatives of the Soldiers-Veterans Union.

The ceremony was also attended by ambassadors and diplomats from Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Romania, Nepal, Slovenia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, and other countries, as well as by Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem and the archimandrite Timotei Aioanei.

The Ambassador of Moldova to Israel, Anatol Vangheli, began his greetings with words of support for Israel in these hectic times: "I am delighted to see so many guests at this celebration on the occasion that is so important for my country. We are together, despite the tense situation in Israel. In this regard, the Republic of Moldova expresses its full support of the State



of Israel and its people, with the hope of a peaceful future. “

A support of a friendly country is always pleasing, but what particularly struck the audience was that the ambassador welcomed the guests in Hebrew. Afterwards, Mr. Vangheli recalled the difficult path of Moldova since the establishment of independence, which culminated in a successful integration into the international community. He emphasized that Moldova’s achievements would not have been possible without the close cooperation with the international community, and without a stable support from a number of countries, among which is: “Israel – our friend and reliable partner”.

The Moldovan Ambassador expressed thanks to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Avigdor Lieberman, who is a native of Moldova, for his significant support and assistance in

strengthening the friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Vangheli also thanked the representatives of the Association of Moldovan Immigrants in Israel “Izvoraş.”

In the following speech, the Minister of Tourism, Uzi Landau said that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Republic of Moldova in 1992, the two countries have good and friendly relations based on reciprocity and trust, which should be continued and strengthened. Moreover, the existing potential for cooperation can foster closer relations between these countries.

The Minister of Immigration and Absorption, Sofa Landver, noted that there are 80,000 immigrants from Moldova living in Israel. She also stressed that an important factor in the development of relations between Moldova and Israel are citizens of

both countries, strengthening bilateral relations.

Two years ago, Moldova abolished visa requirements for Israeli citizens. The entry without a visa to Israel should’ve been resolved for the citizens of Moldova this year. However, due to the hostile situation the decision on the matter was postponed. Nevertheless, the number of tourists from Moldova during the Operation Protective Edge was one of the highest.

At the end of the official part of the evening, the ambassador of Moldova raised the following toast: “Let me raise a glass of wine for the strengthening of our friendship, effective cooperation and mutual support that will reinforce our independence and sovereignty, and promote peace, stability and prosperity of Moldova and Israel!” ●





# JEWES AND THE WEST



by Leonid Radzikhovskiy

Most of the European TV channels show the war of Palestinian terrorists against Israel in an outrageously rude, false and cowardly fashion. It looks like an exact copy of the Soviet “anti-Zionist” propaganda of the 1970s. Yes, as it was in the USSR, so it is in Europe, “anti-Zionism” is a transparent pseudonym of straightforward anti-Semitism.

Incidentally, among the many Soviet-era illusions that we should abandon, is the illusion of “an enlightened Europeans” that the “wild Russia” will never be able to reach, at least in terms of the most vulgar anti-Semitism, including state anti-Semitism (we should leave the tales of the independence of the media for morons). So, in terms of prejudice against Jews, the Europeans can really enlighten today’s Russia, and that much is true. A “politically correct” anti-Semitism, “Jew-hatred in the name of humanity” – these are the latest discoveries of the “acute Gallic sense,” and “gloomy Germanic genius.” Russia, as always, is lagging behind the advanced Europe. However, Russia, as always, will learn, sooner or later – there is no doubt about that.

One thing is not clear though – so what? What is the conclusion? We need to try to dampen the emotions

and understand for ourselves some obvious, in my opinion, things.

Firstly – there is no “Palestinian problem”, i.e., the problem of “how to build Palestine.” It’s just a lie to cover up a completely different problem – “how to destroy Israel.” Why do I think so? Because, when Jordan, according to official figures, destroyed, crushed and shot, with tanks, no less than 100,000 (one hundred thousand!) “Palestinian brothers,” no one in the Arab world was crying out loud and making petitions to the UN on the account of this event. Moreover, there were no Palestinian shahids avenging fellow Jordanians. None of the European humanists said anything as well. Hence, no one cares about the fate of the Palestinians, nor in the Arab world, neither in Europe, and most ironically – neither in Palestine itself.

Another example: Arab mothers, hysterically sobbing into camera, are known to all (the same mothers are celebrating and hugging, marking the death of their shahid-children; the same mothers are also selling their children by sending them to die for the well-known payment of 10 to 20 thousand dollars).

But here’s a curious thing: one of the TV channels recently showed the exchange of bodies during the Iran-Iraq war. And Arab mothers

“No one cares about the fate of the Palestinians, nor in the Arab world, neither in Europe, and most ironically – neither in Palestine itself”

receiving the bodies did not even think of crying. They had quite a “businesslike” attitude to the whole proceeding. And the world acted like nothing happened as well. No one issued any cries when about 1,000,000 (one million!!!) died in this war. It is like these people and this war never happened.

So, when Arabs kill Arabs, the Euro-Arab PR agencies yawn in silence. It is unprofitable and uninteresting. The world media comes to life only when it comes to Jews. In these cases, the rich Arab countries generously pay for terror and PR against Israel, but they do not care a hill of beans about the employment of Palestinian refugees in their own countries, and they care even less about Palestinians living in Palestine.

The conclusion is obvious. No one cares at all about Palestine, but cares deeply about Israel. There is no Palestinian problem, there is a Jewish problem.

Secondly – what is the essence of the Jewish problem? High oil prices are profitable for Arabs. For this purpose, blood must flow near the oil. A constant stirring up of tension in Israel is a very profitable business, considering the fact that the costs of shahids and “independent European humanists” are, generally speaking, quite insignificant. Especially in comparison to profits from continuously rising oil prices. The rate of profit in this business is hundreds of percent. But it’s not only that. The economically powerful Arabs wish to feel politically influential as well. The destruction of Israel is the perfect way of self-assertion: the annihilation of Israel would be a real earthquake in world politics, given that Israel has no real defenders in the world! And, it is not Israel in itself. By itself, to “big” Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia or Iran, Israel is almost as uninteresting as Palestine. However, it is vital for them to crush Israel as a bastion of foreign, Western culture. Because it is in Israel that East and West meet. It is in Israel that the East is trying to defeat the West. Israel is just a symbol, a touchstone, the first step on the road to world domination. Such is the fate of Jews in history – they have been, they are and they shall remain in the center of global world conflicts. Nothing to be done about it,



they are the “chosen people”!

So now the Jews are again in the center of the collision between the Muslim and Christian civilizations. Moreover, Muslims hate Jews openly, while Christians, as they are taught to be, are hypocritical and do it in secret (as they are crying oh-so-loudly “love thy neighbor!”)

The situation is beginning to resemble the 1930s, when Europe and the United States partly feared Hitler, partly admired him. In any case, his anti-Semitic policies did not cause the slightest irritation (not to mention a stronger reaction) in Europe. Even more so, the Europeans could not imagine that the bell that was tolling



for the Jews might be tolling for them as well. They heard these bells alright, but not even in 1939, when a false “Phony War” was declared on Hitler. That happened only in 1940, when “la belle France” fell in an unprecedented and disgraceful defeat, collapsing under the German onslaught like a deck of cards.

The lesson is: the Jewish problem does not exist in and of itself. It is part of the context of the Arab-European problem; a part of the problem of a Muslim-Christian clash, in which the Jews play the role of a fuse, of the “white vanguard,” committed, of course, to the “white nations.”

Thirdly – what is the meaning and where is the sweetness of this betrayal for the Europeans? There are, of course, a lot of factors: the usual Christian anti-Semitism and the “revenge for the Holocaust” (it is unpleasant to constantly be reminded of one’s own guilt!). There is also the naïve “left” mentality, the natural sympathy an “intellectual” feels for murderers, and not the murdered,

“ *There are a million Palestinians living in peace in Israel as Israeli citizens, but the first Jew that will try to live in the Palestinian Authority will be torn to shreds* ”

for the robbers, and not the robbed – something that became a profession for independent Western intellectuals (among which, by the way, many Jews are traditionally present). By the way, nowadays, these Jews are in an interesting position: as true “lefties,” they are obliged to protect the Palestinians. And as Jews... Well, let’s see how they will act “as Jews.” But the main thing, of course, is not these emotions. Everything is much simpler. Arabs pay the selfless Western media. Arabs control the oil needed in Europe. Between 5% to 10% of Europe’s population is Muslim; during elections it represents

a gigantic force. Jewish voters are less than 1%, and the vaunted Jewish bankers have less money than the Arab sheikhs. And it is impossible to understand who these Jews vote for (very similar to Russian-Jewish oligarchs, most of whom do not rush to announce that they are Jews, and in no hurry to defend Israel).

And the most important thing: as in the 1930s, when Europe did not want to consider the unthinkable – that Hitler was not against the Jews and communists, but against the Europeans themselves; that he intended to devour them. Thus it is today: Europeans do not want to believe that the Muslims are against them. When someone mentions a “war of civilizations” – it is treated as meaningless chatter that no one seriously believes. Arabs want only the liberation of the occupied lands, a creation of their own state. And if it isn’t so, they wish... well... let’s say, they wish to destroy Israel.

However, first of all, it’s unrealistic, secondly, Israel deserves it, and thirdly, what does Europe care?! Why should Europe interfere? One Israel more, one Israel less – Europe has no claims towards Muslims, and they, respectively, don’t have claims to it.

September 11 was the moment of truth. The sayings that “after September 11, the world has changed” are just a mocking lie. The world remained absolutely unchanged – it was just two towers less. Absolutely nothing has changed in the minds of the people, except that the fear of Muslims has become bigger (and thus more irritation toward Israel).

All the pathetic chatter about “international terrorism” is a direct mockery. What is this international terrorism, who is its leader? “Captain Nemo” Osama Bin Laden in person? And that’s all? No one dares to say

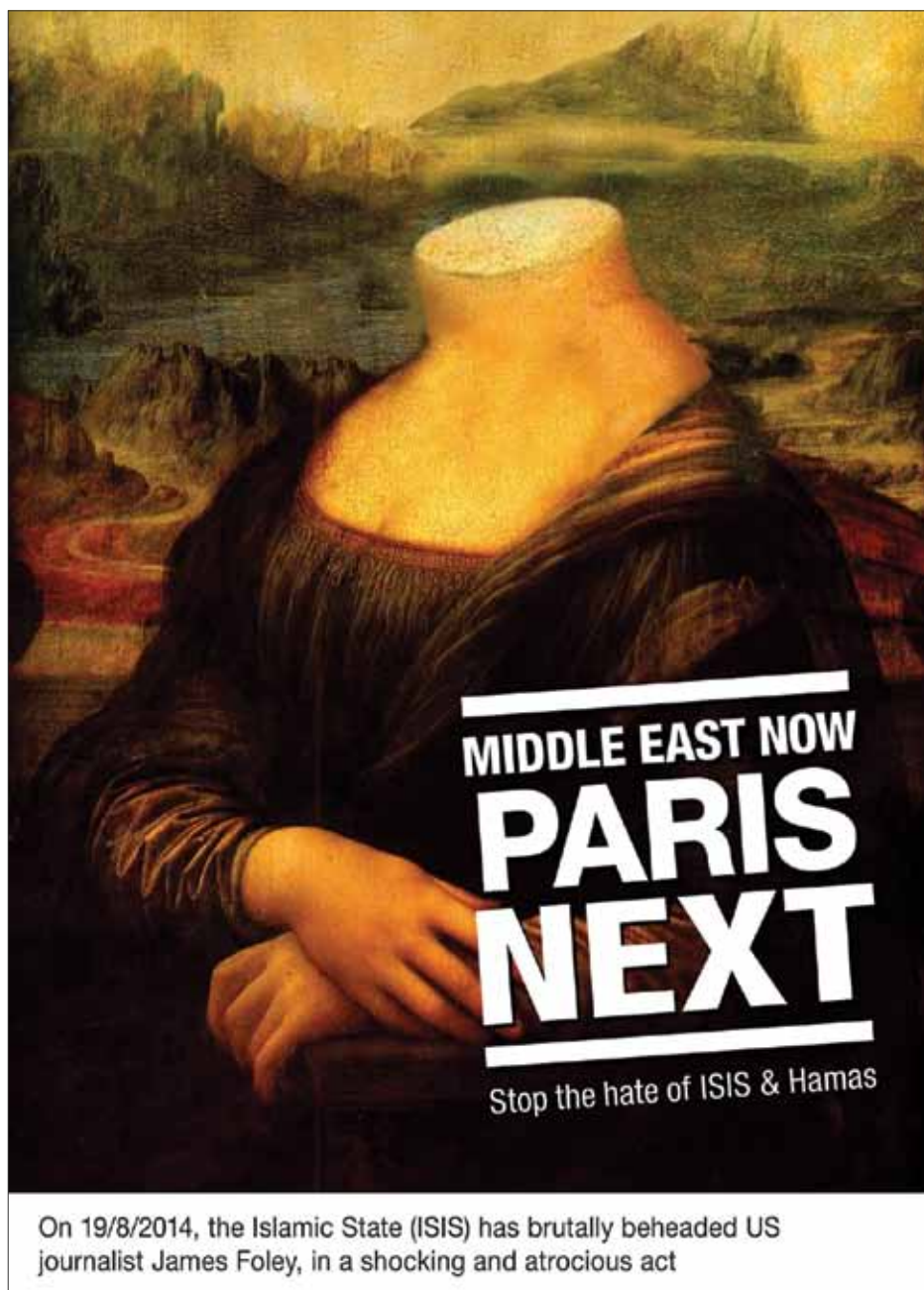


“ Silence leads to  
Holocaust! Do not run and  
do not be silent! ”

that 2 times 2 equals 4 and that the obvious nesting place of the world's shahids is in Palestine. No one dares to admit that as long as the Palestinian terrorism is not stamped out, the shahidi movement will only expand.

Something would have changed after September 11, if Europeans had concluded that they will no longer patronize the terrorists and will help Israel to fight the common enemy, or at least – not interfere in Israel's battle. The West has made the exactly opposite conclusion – it hopes to pay off the terrorists with Israel, and it hopes to sign a secret “Munich Agreement,” a “Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact” at Israel's expense. Well, we all are faithful to our genes. Europe, as in the 1930s, is cravenly wheedling before the aggressors and chocking on its ill-disguised anti-Semitism. The Jews are serving as the “world's scapegoats” as for the past 2000 years, and the Nazis...well, the Nazis will remain Nazis, brown or some other color.

A fatal picture? Not at all. The Jews are not those poor civilians marched to slaughter with carts to Babi Yar. In addition, the position of the United States is still a little bit different from the Euro-abomination. And today's Nazis are missing a trifle – common interests, so they are fighting each other, like jackals. There is no prey for them yet, but they're already squabbling. As for the goal – contrition of the West – is not so clearly felt by all in the Muslim world. Rather, they are groping towards this goal, guided by the smell of fear, which is abundantly exuded from Europe. The Arabs just follow the



hunting instinct after the frightfully mincing West.

There is no conscious struggle for world domination yet, but Europe provokes it with its callousness and weakness. In general, at present, there is still a chance to avoid a second Holocaust (again, not only national Holocaust, but also worldwide).

However, these chances were present in the 1930s as well.

In conclusion, dear readers, let's ask ourselves: “what have I done for my people and for all progressive mankind in general?” I think that the honest answer is as follows: we will try to help as much as we can. For example, I, as a journalist, will try,



On 19/8/2014, the Islamic State (ISIS) has brutally beheaded US journalist James Foley, in a shocking and atrocious act

where and when I can, to say what I think about the terror Israel faces (although this topic is always difficult to push). I will try to show this hated-by-all truth in the media. But we can do more than that. We can look at the situation from the outside, and our moral duty, with full sympathy for Israel, is to look at the situation

with eyes fully open. We should see not only the courage of the Israelis, but also the big mistakes of the government. And if we see that – we should talk about it, we should help with our unsolicited advice (maybe someone will read it?).

There is only one piece of advice. It is a shame that the Arabs beat the Jews

“ *When Arabs kill other Arabs, the Euro-Arab PR agencies yawn in silence. It is unprofitable and uninteresting. The world media comes to life only when it comes to Jews* ”

in an intellectual collision! It is good that Jews are more courageous in battle than the Arabs (who prevented the Palestinians from creating an army? They didn't do that. They hire psychos to explode – yes, but to create an army – no.) It is bad that the Arabs were more cunning than Jews, because they beat them in a purely Jewish business – PR. Moreover, in addition to all the above-mentioned circumstances, there is one more, and an important one too: Arabs deal more with PR and do it in a more successful way than Israel. This partly helps them to gain the sympathy of the Christian world. Yes, this world is willing to listen to Arabs, and does not want to listen to the Jews. But what can we do about it? There is no other Europe for us to appeal to. So, we should try and persuade this one. Our strength is our presence in Europe, where our fate is now being determined!

Do not give dry facts about Israeli victims – the world is not able to appreciate the restraint, the stamina and the dignity of the Jews. We should appeal to the emotions of stupid western middlebrows using the same primitive pictures, which the Arabs show. We must spare no money and effort to erupt into the Western media, force it to show these pictures on the air. We must clearly explain that this is not about the “occupation”, and not about the effort to keep someone

else's sand and stones, but it is about the fact that retreat ensures only one thing – another, more deadly war.

We should emphasize simple propaganda thesis: there are a million Palestinians living in peace in Israel as Israeli citizens (and they are not joining the shahids!). But, the first Jew that will try to live in the Palestinian Authority will be torn to shreds. And someone is trying to present us as equals?!

This is just one example. This should be the way – millimeter by millimeter, while forgetting about the natural disgust, try to overcome kilometers of blatant lies and demagoguery of the Europeans.

The Jews are in a rare position – they don't have to lie. They (unlike the Arabs) can speak the truth. Yet, they are silent. What is it – Jewish arrogance? Or perhaps impatience, or the inability to break through the blockade of propaganda? In any case, it is weakness, and it is intolerable during a time of war. Heck, there is a psychological warfare going on against Israel, one front – in Jerusalem, but the other one is in Europe and everywhere in the West! And now, this second front is more important!

Yet, Israel has neglected the second front. Neglected – thus surrendered. Israel must force the Christian West to become its ally. The Jews should not run away from Europe to Israel, something that all Christians and Muslims wish for, in order for it to be easier to defeat them. The Jews should raise their voice at the places they live at!

We must look for ways to reconcile even with such an anti-Semitic, by definition, organization, as the Christian church. It has also changed over the years, at least in part, when Rome removed the blame for “the crucifixion of Christ” from the Jews.



A propaganda war is as almost as dirty as a real war. And in the current situation it is no less important. Israel, and those of you who live in the Christian world, must finally take action on this front. Silence leads to Holocaust! Do not run and do not be silent!

These are a few obvious observations that came into my head. I wish that they will be heard in Israel and in Europe, in Australia and America, and even in the nest of anti-Semitism – in my home country – Russia. ●



# GAZA IS CALLING...

## PHONE INTERVIEW WITH IRINA HELLES – A RESIDENT OF GAZA



by Victoria Martynova

The connection got broken several times, and immediately after dialing the digits 059, a series of short beeps sounded. The very idea of calling Gaza these days, when a military operation is still going on, seemed hopeless. Eventually the call got through and I heard the sounds of prayer issuing from a minaret, but then the call was disconnected again. So the mobile connection is still operating in Gaza, and the subscriber was still using mobile services. I just had to be patient and try again and again, but then my phone suddenly rang itself.

“Hello, was that you calling me now?” a soft and very sad female voice sobbed through tears on the other end of the line. “It’s me, Irina from Gaza. We have a humanitarian ceasefire now, so my husband and I were able to hear your call.”

As it turned out, Irina did not realize that I’m calling from Israel, and asked: “Where are you from?” When she heard my answer: “From Tel Aviv,” she sighed sadly, but did not hang up the phone.

A few words about my interlocutor: Irina Helles is one of more than 400 Russian women who married Palestinians residing in the Gaza Strip. She is a family physician and has been living in Gaza for more than 14 years. She studied at the Medical Institute of Izhevsk, where she and her future husband, Ahmed, met and fell in love. After their graduation, they moved

to Gaza. He is a family physician as well. The couple works as doctors and they have three children. They are considered a successful and a modern family.

“*The problem is that no one can reach an agreement with Hamas, neither Jews nor Arabs*”

**Where are you now, Irina? Did you really stay in your house and never try to leave?**

Of course we left! Our house is located in the east of Gaza; it was in the area of heavy bombing. That area and parts of northern Gaza were bombed from the air, so we ran to friends in the western part of the city, and we are staying with them for the time being. We would be very happy to rent an apartment in a part of town that doesn’t get shot at, but these days it is almost impossible, because such apartments are in great demand, many wish for such places, but no one rents them out.

**Is the rent for such an apartment expensive?**

We are both doctors, and we can afford it. A week, week and a half rent is about \$200. Residents from the middle class are able to pay for such housing, but it is sorely lacking. And there is no time to look for an

apartment under fire. So, thank God, we rejoice that we have somewhere to hide.

**We heard that when Israel warned Gaza’s residents about an upcoming aerial bombing, Hamas urged them not to respond and not to leave their homes, because it wished for as many bombing victims as possible. Did the locals really disobey Hamas?**

When the Israeli operation in Gaza began, people rushed out of their homes and ran as far as they could. A sea of people! We just grabbed the children and left as we were, with nothing. We left by foot, we did not run or drive away. We did not have the time to gather our things, no luggage, not even bags. No possessions at all. It was terrifying to see all those people running away.

**Well, we also run into bomb shelters in our underwear or wrapped in a bed sheet, so we’re in the same boat here. But tell me, why didn’t you leave? To Russia, for example? You obviously had an opportunity to do it, didn’t you?**

I’ll tell you plainly, the ones who left were preparing for this for a long time. They were only waiting for the moment when the border opened (The Erez Crossing – V.M.). They prepared the money and the luggage in advance. We, on the other hand, were not planning to go anywhere. First, there is nowhere for us to run – after my mother had a stroke, I

moved her from Vorkuta to Gaza, and she lived with us until she passed away. And secondly, there is another very important reason: for the past two months we have not been paid our salary – neither my husband nor me. So all the cash that we had were spent on food and living. Therefore, we have no one to run to and nothing to take with us. We just stayed here.

**We had publications about Hamas closing all banks and ATMs, thus creating pressure on the local civilians and demonstrating its authority over Gaza. What is happening with that? Was that financial problem solved?**

Only during the humanitarian truce last Thursday, they announced that

“Everyone remembers how in 2007, after taking power in Gaza, Hamas brutally dealt with all those who were opposing it. They killed without hesitation”

now and which is not under the attack of the Israeli Air Force. Here, the shops are open almost all day. Where do the products come from? I do not know. Some are from the old stocks, but there are, apparently, new deliveries as well. Anyway, I cannot say that we are without food. There



Photographer: Sándor Pamuk, Hungary

from 10 am to 3 pm we will be able to get money. So my husband ran to the bank and after a long queue we finally got some cash.

**What about the food? In the materials published in the Western press, it is said that the shops in Gaza are closed, it is impossible to buy anything and the most basic foods are constantly lacking.**

That's not true. We have all the necessary products, including fresh products, even fresh meat. I'm talking about the area where we are staying

are no hungry people. The problem is that you cannot stick your nose out of the house. We are afraid.

**Are you working?**

No, our clinic is closed now due to the current situation, although, of course, there are a lot of patients. My husband tried to go to work on Saturday, to see the patients, but he failed to reach the clinic, the traffic was completely blocked off. One can only imagine what will happen when we get back to work. So many sick people! When we came here from Russia, there was

even an employment service; I had to wait for about four years to get a job. But today the situation is different; there are not enough doctors at all. The ones who could – moved to quieter places.

**What is the salary of a doctor in Gaza?**

I'm getting about \$900-\$1000 dollars per month. In Gaza's terms it is a very decent salary. Therefore, my husband and I can afford to purchase expensive items.

**Where do you get paid from?**

The salary is being transferred from Ramallah directly into our bank account. We know that the salaries of teachers and doctors are paid by the Palestinian Authority and not Hamas.

**Is there a difference in pay between men and women?**

No, my husband and I get equal pay and, as I said, we are considered highly paid specialists. However, Hamas defines our lives in a very rigid way, for example, right now because of the doctors' shortage, we are forced to work six days a week, without adding even one shekel to our salary. Previously, we had a weekend off on Friday and Saturday, now there's only Friday. This is by the order of the authorities, and no one resists. There are still not enough doctors in Gaza, so the service is extremely hard – we have to take up to 70-100 patients per day.

**What are your children doing these days?**

I have two girls of school age, and a boy in kindergarten. They sit at home with us, playing with a mobile phone and a tablet.

**How do people of your social status, that is, Palestinian intellectuals, treat Hamas?**

Everyone hates Hamas and everyone is afraid of it. It brought a tough order with it. Everyone remembers

how in 2007, after taking power in Gaza, Hamas brutally dealt with all those who were opposing it. They killed without hesitation. My husband belongs to the Helles family. It is a very well-known and respected family, who always supported Abu Mazen. During the coup, all of my husband's relatives supported the Fatah. In the battles with Hamas, 18 people from the family were killed, and 40 – injured. My husband was jailed, but he told them that he is a citizen of Russia, and he was released without any proceedings. They decided that they better not to get involved with a Russian citizen. So we also have personal motives in relation to Hamas. But, something else is more important now – Hamas uses people as cover.

**And people know about this?**

“Everyone hates Hamas and everyone is afraid of it. It brought a tough order with it. Hamas uses people as cover”

Yes, everyone knows about it, but nobody can do anything. Hamas does not ask the locals where to place the missiles. They make a decision, and missiles are placed anywhere, even in homes, or at hospitals. Resistance is impossible.

**The international community is trying to restore the power of Palestinian Authority in Gaza, specifically – of Mahmoud Abbas. How do residents of Gaza feel about such information?**

We do not believe that Abbas can

actually take the power into his own hands. He is weak. Despite the fact that the current situation does not favor Hamas, we do not place big hope in Abu Mazen. Though many people are very tired and would like to see this nightmare finally end.

**How about the Egyptian mediators in Gaza?**

The problem is that no one can reach an agreement with Hamas, neither Jews nor Arabs.

At this point, there was a lot of static interference with the phone call. “I’m very sorry Vika,” said Irina, “the humanitarian pause will be over soon, and the connection will be disconnected. And I still have a few more phone calls to make. All the best!” ●

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Active Hours: during the week and Week ends: 10:00-24:00 ● [www.icepeaks.co.il](http://www.icepeaks.co.il)



# PALESTINIANS AROUND THE WORLD MOURN THE LOSS OF POET AND ACTIVIST SAMIH AL-QASIM



On August 19th 2014, one of the prominent Palestinian poets and a major figure in the Arab world, Samih al-Qasim, lost his battle with cancer at the age of 75. His death is a major loss to the world of Arabic literature and poetry.

Samih Al-Qasim was well known for his resistance poetry, in which he defended the rights and identity of the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel. He was born in 1939, in the city of az-Zarqa in northern Jordan, to a Druze family from the Galilee region. Al-Qasim's family chose to remain in their home in 1948 and he said that some of his earliest

memories were of the events during the Nakba (the displacement of 700,000 Palestinians). He was one of the first in the Druze community to refuse to serve in the Israeli army, an action that his son also took.

Al-Qasim went to high school in Nazareth and later worked as a journalist in Haifa running the Arabesque Press and the Folk Arts Centre as well as being the editor of the Arabic language newspaper 'Kul al-Arab'.

Al-Qasim claimed that the pan-Arab ideology of Nasserism impressed him during the nationalist post-1948 era. He has been jailed

several times for his political activities that have involved advocacy for Palestinian rights and dissent against government policies. He joined the Israeli Communist party Hadash in 1967 and was detained along with other members of the party at the outbreak of the Six-Day War.

His first book was published when he was just eighteen, and over the decades he has produced a body of work that is as varied and innovative as it is large. Al-Qasim's poetry was influenced by two primary periods of his life: before and after the Six-Day War. He has published several volumes and collections of poetry.

“I would have liked to tell you  
The story of a nightingale that died.  
I would have liked to tell you  
The story...

Had they not slit my lips.”

During his life he faced imprisonment, house arrest, censorship of his works and harassment from the Shin Bet (Israeli secret service). One of his most famous poems “Slit Lips” is an example of the censorship and pressure Al-Qasim felt as a Palestinian writer in Israel. ●

# EURO-ASIA LTD. INAUGURATES ROLEX BOUTIQUE IN JERUSALEM

**E**uro-Asia Ltd, one of Israel's foremost watch retailers, and Rolex announced today the inauguration of a new boutique in Jerusalem devoted exclusively to the Rolex brand. Previously a multi-brand store, the shop has been transformed into an official Rolex Boutique. The store's new premises are located in

the neighbourhood of Mamilla, in the heart of Jerusalem, at the point where the Old City and modern Jerusalem meet. A local, national and international centre of attraction, this ideal setting is a tribute to the timelessness and perfection of the leading Swiss watch brand.

"We are delighted to celebrate the

inauguration of the new Rolex Boutique in Jerusalem. This is a great occasion for Euro-Asia and marks our loyalty to the values of the Rolex brand," said Danny Peiser, president of Euro-Asia Ltd. "We are very proud to be expanding the Rolex presence and to have represented the brand for nearly 40 years, upholding the finest standards of quality and service."

The venture continues an enduring relationship of nearly four decades between the retailer and the Swiss watchmaker, celebrating their shared passion for precision, reliability, performance and the highest standards of service. Euro-Asia provides a first-class experience coupled with quality servicing at both its Tel Aviv and Jerusalem boutique locations, as well as via its branch shops in Eilat and Raanana, and its network of partner stores throughout Israel.



### Entering the World Of Rolex

The 24-square-metre boutique on Alrov Mamilla offers an intimate staging to discover an impressive selection of Rolex wristwatches, particularly the self-winding, mechanical Oyster Perpetual models, which form the pillar of a collection of legendary timepieces that combine tradition, prestige and technology with precision, peerless reliability and style suited to every occasion.

Upon entering the boutique, the visitor is enveloped in an atmosphere inspired by water and the sea, evoking the essence of Rolex, known worldwide as the inventor, in 1926, of the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch. A wall of illuminated, laser-etched Aqua glass draws the eye with its gently undulating wave motif, and a specially designed salesroom provides a bespoke service to clientele seeking a highend shopping experience. The gold-effect Rolex crown, iconic symbol of the brand, decorates the entrance, the walls, the display cases and the front-door handle.

The new location is clad in elegant materials with refined furnishings – polished walnut wood cabinets, bronze detailing, floors in Crema Marfil marble from Andalusia and cream-coloured leather tabletops and panelling – setting the scene for a customer experience that is as luxurious as the watches on display.

#### About Euro -Asia Ltd.

Euro-Asia Ltd traces its origins to Bolivia, where it was founded in 1947 by the Peiser family who had fled Germany in 1939 on the eve of World War II. Before that, Fritz Peiser, the family's patriarch, sent his 14-year-old son Horst to Bolivia to stay with a Jewish-German immigrant who was a watchmaker and optician.



The father and son eventually opened their own watch repair shop that gradually grew into a company handling imports of watches from Germany and Switzerland. Horst Peiser emigrated to Israel in 1971 and established Euro-Asia the following year. In 1975, Rolex granted the retailer the exclusive right to import and distribute the brand in Israel and, shortly afterwards, the Rolex after-sales service workshop was opened. Since 2000, Danny Peiser, Horst's son, has run the company, marking three generations of the Peiser family who have contributed to Euro-Asia's growth and success.

#### About Rolex

Leading brand of the Swiss watch industry, Rolex, headquartered in Geneva, enjoys an unrivalled reputation for quality and expertise the world over. Its Oyster watches, all certified as chronometers for their precision, are symbols of excellence, performance and prestige. Pioneer in the development of the wristwatch as early as 1905, the brand is at the origin of numerous major watchmaking

innovations, such as the Oyster, the first waterproof wristwatch, launched in 1926, and the Perpetual rotor self-winding mechanism, introduced in 1931. Rolex has registered over 400 patents in the course of its history. A truly integrated manufacturing company, Rolex designs, develops and produces in-house all the essential components of its watches, from the casting of the gold alloys to the machining, crafting, assembly and finishing of the movement, case, dial and bracelet. Rolex is also actively involved in supporting the arts, sports, the spirit of enterprise, and the environment through a broad palette of sponsoring activities as well as philanthropic programmes. ●

#### Official websites:

[www.rolex.com](http://www.rolex.com)

[www.euro-asia.co.il](http://www.euro-asia.co.il)

For further information and for visuals of the boutique, please contact:  
Eyal Zamir

[eyal@eurasia.co.il](mailto:eyal@eurasia.co.il)

Tel: +972-(0)3-6857520





# ICE PEAKS

## FREEZING FUN IN HOT SUMMER DAYS

**F**rozen lakes on which one can skate and blades attached to soles of shoes are a distant dream in the Israeli reality. The local summer is hot and humid. The joggers are dripping with sweat, and the cyclists wake up at unreasonable hours in order to finish their ride before the danger of dehydration becomes real. The solution for those who wish to continue their sporting activities during the summer is ice skating, and it is possible at the 'Ice Peaks' ice skating rink, located at the entrance to the city of Holon, in Peres Park.

'Ice Peaks' is a professional ice arena that offers its visitors a half-Olympic size sheet of real ice. Those who wish to skate with professional guidance are invited to attend the figure skating or ice hockey classes with instructors and coaches certified by the Israeli Sport Authority.

The classes take place in the afternoon and evening, and are held in small groups, made up according to age:

children of 5 years and up, teens and adults. In addition, it is possible to create specific training groups or take private lessons.

During the day, the rink serves the local hockey teams and professional figure skating athletes. In the afternoon and evening it is open to the public for fun and entertainment. On weekends and school holidays



the ice rink is open from the early morning until late at night.

For parents, it is an excellent option for a recreational activity for the entire family. For those who have little or no experience in ice skating – trial lessons are available.

Alex Zeidner, coach, international judge and director of the 'Ice Peaks' Holon ice hall, recommends ice skating for many reasons, including:

**Climate:** the temperature of the ice is around 18-20 degrees Celsius, ensuring a pleasant cool break during the hot and humid Israeli summer.

**Diet:** 45 minutes of ice skating will burn the same amount of calories as running or walking fast.

**Balance:** ice skating contributes to the development and improvement of coordination, stability and balance.

**Aerobics:** ice skating improves cardiovascular endurance along with strength and speed training.

**Games:** besides skating for fun, there are many ice skating sports. Ice hockey, which is a social game, improves strength, speed and social skills, and is also recommended for children with hyperactivity and a tendency to aggression.

**Creativity:** in addition to the above mentioned advantages, figure skating is also good for the development of movement and creativity.

The Holon ice rink also has the best selection of sporting equipment and clothing in Israel, intended for ice skating and hockey. The store offers a variety of skates for figure skating and hockey, helmets, face and neck protectors, gloves, protective pads, hockey sticks and pucks. ●

1 Mifratz Shlomo st., Peres Park, Holon, phone 03-5323008

Opening hours: Sun-Thu 15:00-20:00, Fri-Sat, holidays and vacations 09:00-24:00



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# Diplomatic Sunday on ICE PEAKS

מבטוח



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# LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN ISRAEL?

**L**egalization of marijuana is a misnomer. Rather, the decriminalizing of marijuana may be more accurate. Generally, it's not legal anywhere. Despite the fact that legalization is a very liberal policy, it does not end the ban completely: it redefines and regulates marijuana in a manner that allows recreational use by adults (similar to laws regulating the use of alcohol in most countries) or the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. Medicinal use of marijuana can pave the way for the easing of regulations concerning recreational use. It removes the traditional stigma associated with marijuana due to the fact that in many societies, it has been considered an illegal drug. In most places that have decriminalized marijuana use for either recreational or medicinal uses, there still remain criminal penalties for people who

“Severe pain, cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, severe nausea, seizures and muscle spasms are some of the more common ailments where marijuana has been found effective by patients and health care providers”

don't follow whatever new laws are put in place.

The legalization of marijuana (for either recreational or medical use) is revisited or at least reflected on internationally each time laws are liberalized in one country. Lawmakers and citizens elsewhere reassess whether the laws in their own country are “just,” and whether existing policies are delivering the results intended. There are profits to be made by taxing marijuana for either recreational or medicinal use. The

costs associated with incarcerating convicted users and dealers can also potentially fall, freeing tax revenues for other purposes. However, lawmakers must consider whether decriminalizing marijuana use will lead to more serious drug abuse or create a decrease in worker productivity. In Israel, a country with notable security issues, there is a concern that increased accessibility to marijuana could lead to lower military preparedness, yet it could also allow some of the people to serve; people who may have previously been prevented by ailments that marijuana successfully treats.

Recent passage of legislation in the states of Washington (with a population close to Israel's of 7 million) and Colorado (about 5 million) in the USA regulates the recreational use of marijuana. It has provided recent examples of what the transition might look like for others considering such policies. California (the 7th largest economy in the world with an estimated population of 38 million) and 21 other US states have been implementing the medical use of marijuana.

On a national level, the federal government in the United States has been caught in a bit of a quandary. Individual states have enacted policies that conflict with each other and with national policies. Furthermore, these new laws have undermined the resolve

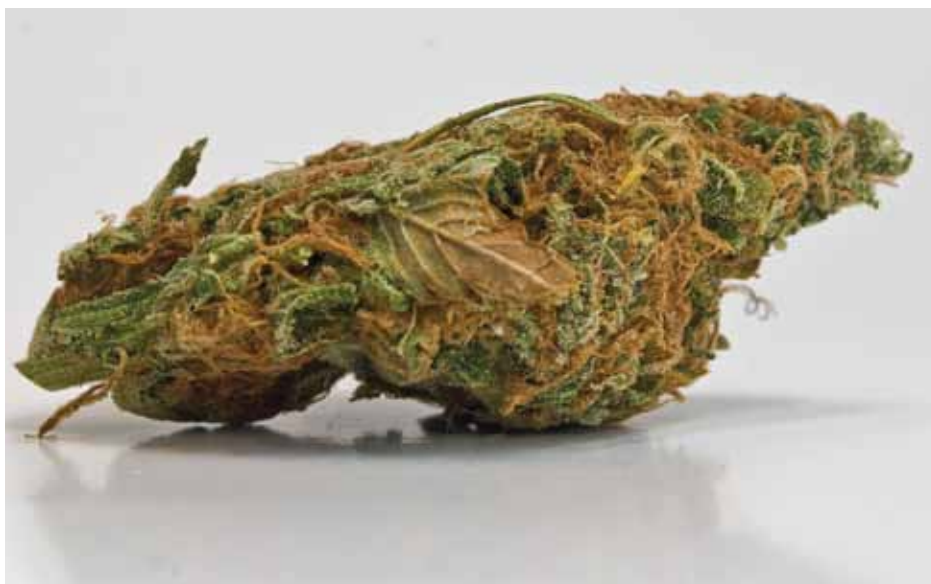


that other countries may have had for what has generally been perceived as a mostly US-led international war on drugs. Many countries had enacted tougher policies on marijuana and other “illicit” drugs as a way of appeasing American sentiments and policies, often as part of foreign aid agreements. Meanwhile, the Netherlands continues to provide a baseline example, for better or worse, depending how data is interpreted, of how recreational use of marijuana can be regulated in a Western country. Israel and other nations have to weigh for themselves the costs and benefits of their current or potentially new policies.

Marijuana, hashish, opiates, cocaine, and similar products all continue to be illegal drugs for recreational use in Israel. In many ways, the laws in Israel may not differentiate between these drugs. However, the medical use of marijuana and hashish is not punishable under law if approved by a person or body appointed by the Ministry of Health. In fact, Israel has been one of the leaders for research involving marijuana for a wide range of medical ailments.

Although, legislative and popular demand for recreational use of marijuana in Israel has seemingly gathered little momentum this far, research concerning the practical applications of marijuana treating a wide range of ailments has gone on in Israel for decades, dating back to when the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinol, better known by its abbreviation, THC, was first synthesized in Israel in the 1960’s at the Weizmann Institute of Science by Prof. Raphael Mechoulam and his associate Yechiel Gaoni. Research has continued at Israeli universities to isolate other active ingredients in marijuana and their benefits, and farms in Israel have been cultivating strains with varying

“There are profits to be made by taxing marijuana for either recreational or medicinal use. The costs associated with incarcerating convicted users and dealers can also potentially fall, freeing tax revenues for other purposes”



potencies in order to better prescribe “what pot is best for what patient.”

Since 2009 when a locally produced documentary on medicinal marijuana use aired on television, the amount of patients being prescribed marijuana in Israel has grown dramatically from a few hundred to about 14,000. Yet these numbers lag significantly behind rates in US states where medical marijuana use is legal. In Colorado, for instance, with a smaller population than Israel, over 115,000 patients had been registered with that state’s patient registry before this year’s passage of legal recreational use. Time will tell if those numbers drop as

many might turn to “self-medicating” and avoid the bureaucracy, as the recreational plant becomes more readily available with less wait and red tape.

Rates in Israel are predicted to climb though, as more doctors become comfortable prescribing marijuana and more potential patients, who may have never considered marijuana, become more comfortable asking for it. Approval by health care providers has been reported as quite slow, possibly to discourage

people applying for marijuana for recreational use under the guise of medicinal use, and only about 20 Israeli doctors are currently prescribing marijuana.

In Israel, medical marijuana has been used to treat a wide range of issues and some seem more universally accepted as effective applications. Severe pain, cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, severe nausea, seizures and muscle spasms are some of the more common ailments where marijuana has been found effective by patients and health care providers. It is important to note, that marijuana is only a treatment and not a cure



“Even children undergoing chemotherapy in Israel have benefited from candy and cookies laced with marijuana, because weight loss due to a loss of appetite is a serious concern”

for these ailments; it only relieves symptoms or effects of an ailment. Whether taken in pills, cookies, oil or cigarettes, the relief marijuana provides of often agonizing and debilitating symptoms can seem like a miracle elixir, when nothing else has provided relief.

Ailments like muscle spasms, severe pain, nausea and loss of appetite

might not be the easiest symptoms to verify the veracity of, yet there is also a strain of marijuana, Avideckel, that has high counts of CBD, cannabidiol, another active ingredient that is noted for its anti-inflammatory properties that could be prescribed more readily without fear that patients were faking symptoms in order to get high.

Even children undergoing chemotherapy in Israel have benefited from candy and cookies laced with marijuana, because weight loss due to a loss of appetite is a serious concern. Elderly patients, whose mobility had them restricted to wheel chairs, can now participate in physical activities including exercise classes. Victims of seizures and tremors, who might suffer life threatening or humiliating seizures and tremors – sometimes hundreds in a day – have seen

such attacks lessened to just a few. These are just a few examples of how people, whose ailments caused seemingly insurmountable obstacles to leading productive lives, have had new opportunities opened to them through the use of medicinal marijuana.

It is slightly ironic that while Israel has been leading the way for half a century on the medicinal uses of marijuana, it's just starting to catch up on its implementation for its own citizens. While pro-Israel activists herald the successes Israel has achieved as a “Start-up Nation” in fields such as high-tech, bio-tech, military tech, agricultural technology and a host of other scientific advances, few have bragged about how Israel has been on the vanguard of researching marijuana's uses as a medicine.

When Israel's leaders can trumpet its researchers' successes in the field of medicinal marijuana, then Israeli citizens will more likely benefit from the research in greater numbers like other medicinal users have overseas. Potentially, Israel in the future won't only be attracting patients for “medical tourism” but marijuana related treatments as well. Possibly, the only obstacle is the stigma marijuana carries from its past. The stigma should disappear over time, as more doctors and patients witness successful treatment regimens. In a small country like Israel, 14,000 success stories can have a tremendous impact. It seems that it is only a matter of time before policy makers are as comfortable with the concept of marijuana treatments as people that are treated with it. ●

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## TONY BENNETT: "I LEFT MY HEART IN TEL AVIV" SEPTEMBER 14, 2014



The legendary American singer, Tony Bennett, is heading to Tel Aviv for a concert in September 2014. Bennett, whose career spans over 60 years, is one of the most well recognized musicians in history, having won 17 Grammy Awards and two Emmy Awards, while selling over 50 million records worldwide. Among Bennett's most iconic

songs are "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," "Body and Soul," and "Rags to Riches." Tony Bennett will perform at Tel Aviv's Bronfman Auditorium on September 14, 2014.

## LIZA MINNELLI IN TEL AVIV NOVEMBER 2014

Liza Minnelli, the legendary actress, singer and performer is expected to give a concert in Tel Aviv, Israel, in November 2014 as part of her

European Tour. Liza Minnelli's long and impressive career spans over 60 years, and has seen her be involved in some of the most iconic films, performances and soundtracks in history, most famously for her film role as floundering nightclub singer Sally Bowles in the 1972 musical "Cabaret," and

was awarded an Academy Award for best actress. The film won a total of eight awards. Last performing in Israel in 2011, Liza Minnelli is expected to return to Tel Aviv for a concert in November 2014 at either the Tel Aviv Cultural Hall or Nokia Arena.



## KYLIE MINOGUE IN TEL AVIV NOVEMBER 2014

Kylie Minogue is expected to perform in a concert in Tel Aviv in November 2014, in what will be her first concert in Israel. Minogue is one of the biggest names in pop music over the past twenty years, with countless hit singles in the UK and Europe, including the iconic "Can't Get You Out of My Head", selling over 70 million records during her career. She has been awarded multiple ARIA and Brit Awards and a Grammy Award. Minogue will likely give at least one show at Tel Aviv's Nokia Arena.

## BOOM BOX FESTIVAL IN HADERA SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2014

A unique sunset to sunrise festival will happen in September 2014 in Hadera, about 30 km north of Tel Aviv. The festival will take place at the Hadera River Park, next to the beach in the city, and the line-up will include many of Israel's most exciting artists including Ester Rada, Balkan Beat Box, Beri Sakharov, Hadag Nahash, Mercedes Bend, Boom Pam, Mosh Ben Ari, Avraham Tal, Kutiman Orchestra, and Karolina. The Boom Box Festival will take place from sunset on September 23, 2014, until sunrise the next morning.



## LADY GAGA IN TEL AVIV SEPTEMBER 13, 2014



The musical sensation Lady Gaga is coming to perform in Israel in September 2014. Lady Gaga, whose hit singles include “Born This Way,” “Judas,” and “The Edge of Glory”

is expected to give one concert in Tel Aviv as part of the world tour for her new album ARTPOP. This will be the second visit to Israel for Lady Gaga, who last performed before her fans here in 2009. Lady Gaga’s Tel Aviv concert will take place on September 13, 2014 at Park Hayarkon.

## RICHARD CLAYDERMAN IN ISRAEL SEPTEMBER 11-14, 2014

Legendary pianist Richard Clayderman will be performing in Israel in September 2014. Clayderman has given many concerts in Israel, most recently two years ago. The French musician, whose career has spanned over four decades, includes record sales of over 100 million albums in 57 different countries, with 290 gold and 90 platinum discs. His greatest hits include “Ballade pour Adeline”, “Don’t Cry for Me Argentina”, as well as themes from West Side Story, Love Story and Schindler’s List, all of which will feature in his concerts in Israel.



Richard Clayderman will perform in Tel Aviv at the Performing Arts Center on September 11, 2014, in Beer Sheva on September 12, in Haifa on September 13, and in Jerusalem on September 14.

## INTERNATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL OCTOBER 13-15, 2014



An international hot air balloon festival will take place in Israel during October 2014, at two locations in the country – at Park Maayan Harod near Mount Gilboa in the Galilee, and at Park Eshkol, in the northern Negev. The festivals bring hot air balloons to Israel from around the world and offer fun and family friendly activities in some of the most picturesque parts of Israel.

Mount Gilboa is one of the most beautiful spots in Israel, overlooking the flat plains of the Jezreel Valley in the Lower Galilee where this festival will take place. This unique setting, a landscape of beautiful fields and reservoirs, amid a striking mountainous backdrop, makes the Gilboa International Balloon Festival something really special.

The festival will bring hot air balloons and their pilots from around the world, as well as the Galilee region (where hot air balloon rides are a popular activity.) The festival will be family friendly with food stands, shows, and concerts by Israeli singers.

The Gilboa section of the balloon festival will take place on October 13, 2014 starting at 10:00 and ending in the late afternoon on October 14 in Ma’ayan Harod National Park. There will be camping with more displays on the second day, before the balloons leave in the afternoon of October 14.

On the evening of October 14 and the morning of October 15, the balloons which were at Gilboa earlier in the day, will arrive at Park Eshkol in the northern Negev region (about 1 hour from Tel Aviv). The balloons will arrive the evening of October 14, and there will be a ‘glowing’ spectacular as the sun sets over the beautiful landscape. The following morning, from 5am, the balloons will take off at dawn in what will be a spectacular sight over the northern Negev desert landscape.

## JERUSALEM SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 9-12, 2014



The Jerusalem Sacred Music Festival is a four day music extravaganza set to take place in September 2014 across Jerusalem. This is a world-class music festival in the heart of the holiest city on earth! In this unique setting, diverse artists from a huge array of different traditions from across the globe, will come together to show and explore what makes ‘sacred’ music so special!

For millennia, words, prayers, prophecies and expressions of longing have been directed toward Jerusalem every day, by millions of people of different faiths, backgrounds, and beliefs. The Jerusalem Sacred Music Festival joins this tradition and seeks to broaden it. For 4 days, musicians and artists from an array of backgrounds from across the globe, and across the musical spectrum, will come together to rejoice in this concept of “sanctity” and bring to it new relevance. The

festival will feature 19 events that will take place from September 9-12, 2014.

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www.abraxas.co.il
- **The Barby** – 52 Kibbutz Galuyot st. 03-5188123  
www.barby.co.il
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www.cafebialik.co.il
- **Gagarin** – 46 Derech Salame, 054-9079838
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www.rothschild12.co.il
- **Shablul Jazz** – Port of Tel Aviv, Hangar 13,  
03-5461891  
www.shabluljazz.com
- **Shapagat** – 43 Nahalat Binyamin, 03-5601758  
www.facebook.com/shpagatlv
- **Tmuna Theatre** – 8 Soncino st. 03-5611211  
www.tmu-na.org.il/
- **Tsuzamen** – 25 Lilienblum st. 050-8648758  
tsuzamenbar.com

- **The Zone (Ha Ezor)** – 13 HaRechev st.  
054-4467240

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- **Avram Bar** – 97 Yaffo st. 077-4450701  
www.avrambar.co.il
- **Beit Avi Chai** – 44 King George st. 02-621-5300  
www.bac.org.il
- **Gerard Behar Center** – 11 Bezalel st. 02-6251139  
gerard-behar.jerusalem.muni.il
- **Yellow Submarine** – 13 Harechavim st., Talpiyot  
Industrial Area, 02-6794040  
www.yellowsubmarine.org.il

### HAIFA

- **The Beat** – 124 Sderot HaNassi Blvd. 04-8107107  
www.facebook.com/beat.co.il
- **Syncopa – Bar** – 5 Kiat st. (corner of Natanzon),  
053-8094542  
www.2eat.co.il/syncopa

### NETANYA

- **Doug 'N Tony** – 4 Aleph HaTzoran, Industrial Area  
North Poleg, 054-7486464  
www.facebook.com/doug.and.tony

### BEER SHEVA

- **Ashan Hazman** – 17/2 Anilevich st. 077-7644218  
www.ashanhazman.co.il

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\*Price applies to the AVG C180. Payment does not include licensing fees nor anti-theft system. Picture for illustration only. E&OE

Emissions from Motor Vehicles\*\*



\*Manufacturer's data in accordance with laboratory tests European directive EC715/2007  
\*\*The emission level is calculated according to the Clean Air Regulations (Disclosure of Air Pollution from Motorized Vehicles in Advertisements), 2009

Emissions Level	Fuel consumption in liters per 100 km*			Model	
4	4.6-5.0	Extra Urban	6.8-7.4	Urban	C180
4	4.4-4.7	Extra Urban	6.8-7.2	Urban	C200
4	4.4-4.7	Extra Urban	6.8-7.2	Urban	C250