

THE JEWISH STANDARD

JUNE, 2011



(Cover story on page 2)

Israel and the Palestinian's Statehood Resolution

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EDITOR 1937-2000

Cover Story

Nefesh B'Nefesh held a unique Yom Haatzmaut party in Jerusalem recently in honor of the 250 new Israeli babies born this past year to NBN Olim, who celebrated their first Yom Haatzmaut. Since its founding in 2002, over 2,100 'sabra' babies have been born to the 27,000 North American and British Olim that Nefesh B'Nefesh has assisted with their Aliyah, together with the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption. "There is no greater satisfaction than to see Israeli babies born to Olim who we helped make Aliyah," said Erez Halfon, Vice Chairman of Nefesh B'Nefesh. "This year Nefesh B'Nefesh expects to bring over 4,800 Olim from the United States, Canada and the UK and we look forward to celebrating Yom Haatzmaut next year with even more new 'sabra' babies."
Photos Sasson Tiram

ANITA SURMAN
Editor
General News Section

The recent Hamas-Fatah reconciliation pact, assuming it ends Palestinian disunity, has not made war in the Middle East inevitable. But it *has* dealt a blow to an already moribund peace process. President Shimon Peres may not rule out talks with Hamas. A group within the Foreign Ministry itself argues that "Palestinian unity is an opportunity, not a threat". The left-leaning *Ha'aretz* newspaper writes that it is in the country's best interests to "recognize" the new Palestinian unity government. But for now Benjamin Netanyahu reflects the view of most Israelis and, we might add, Jews in the Diaspora, when he tells anyone willing to listen that there is no possibility of a return to the negotiating table when half of the Palestinian power structure still believes that Israel is sitting on sacred Islamic soil.

The problem for Israel, however, goes far beyond the immediate impact of Abbas choosing the "wrong" negotiating partner. The Palestinians will soon be heading to the United Nations seeking to become part of the comity of the world's nations. Israel seems have pinned its hopes entirely on a US veto of the statehood resolution.

The Palestinians, however, ever determined to express their national will, may have found a way around a Security Council veto. Adopted in November 1950, "Uniting for Peace" Resolution 377 states that if the five permanent members of the Security Council are deadlocked, making it impossible for the Council to exercise its "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security", the General Assembly can issue its own "appropriate recommendations" to resolve the dispute. That is precisely what the GA did in 1981 when South Africa prevented Namibian independence. While the GA's authority under Resolution 377 is not binding, Israel's most recent ambassador to the United Nations, Gabriela Shalev, warns that "those who believe that the UN General Assembly's deliberations are of a solely declarative importance are mistaken". Boycotts and sanctions, along with military aid to the now recognized Palestinian state, are just a few of the diplomatic problems Israel could face.

If Israel is to prevent what Defence Minister Ehud Barak has called a "diplomatic tsunami", the government of Benjamin Netanyahu must change its strategy. Israel may have all the legal argu-

ments on its side. The declaration of a Palestinian state is, of course, a clear and obvious violation of the Oslo Agreements. But that will have little bearing on the decision of the Security Council and/or the General Assembly whose members will look to statements made by the IMF and the World Bank as they prepare to cast their votes. Preaching to the converted at AIPAC, or even in the US Congress, does nothing to sway the minds of Israel's critics.

Benjamin Netanyahu cannot just keep telling world leaders that Israel won't negotiate with an entity that includes a terrorist faction. The leaders of Germany and France may acknowledge that a group that protested the elimination of Osama Bin Laden poses a real threat to Mid-East stability. But neither that, nor the fact that Abbas has shown absolutely no flexibility, is preventing many nations from voicing initial approval for what they see as the solution to the unhealed wounds of the Palestinian people.

We believe Netanyahu would be wise to drop his demand that Abbas choose between Israel and Hamas. The prime minister knows full well that contact between Israelis and Palestinians will continue on a variety of levels - economic, medical and even cultural. Security coordination between the IDF, Shin Bet and the Palestinians will remain in place. Indeed, during the recent Nakba uprising, the calmest border was the West Bank due in no small part, says IDF spokesman Capt. Arya Shalimar, to the cooperation of "our Palestinian partners." The Prime Minister's case would be strengthened further if he silenced those Ministers in his cabinet who see the Fatah-Hamas pact as an excuse for Israel to annex every single outpost on the West Bank.

Benjamin Netanyahu will have to convince seven members of the Security Council that he is willing to put the core issues on the table. He will need to propose diplomatic initiatives that remove lingering doubts that Israel must be curbed of its "unlimited greedy aspirations". He must tell the world, as Kadima leader Tzipi Livni told AIPAC, that "Israel is strong enough to make decisions." If he does not present "new ideas and formulations", a Palestinian state within the 1949 armistice lines could become a reality. Massive support for UNGA Resolution 194 on the "right of return for refugees" would surely follow. So, too, will Israel's growing isolation.

THE WORLD IN REVIEW

NEWS OF THE RECENT PAST IS REVIEWED

By NOAH FREEDMAN

U.S. Economy and the Holocaust

It seems a bit of a stretch but Republican Congresswoman Michele Bachman, a possible presidential candidate, told a group of New Hampshire Republicans that current American fiscal policy will cause future generations to ask what their elders did to counter it, just as her generation asked their parents what they did to "stop" the Holocaust.

Bachman told her audience that she was horrified as a child when she learned about the tragedy of the Holocaust and kept wondering if her mother had done anything to prevent it. And she was appalled that so many millions of Americans claimed they were unaware until after the war that European Jews were being slaughtered.

"I tell you the story", Bachmann continued, "because I think in our day and time, there is no analogy to that horrific action. But

only to say, we are seeing eclipsed in front of our eyes a similar death and a similar taking away. It is this disenfranchisement that I think we have to answer to."

Bachman has also made clear that her support for Israel is unconditional. "I am convinced in my heart," she is on record as saying, "that if the United States fails to stand with Israel, that is the end of the United States".

Madoff's Family Did Not Know - Author

Diana B. Henriques, a *New York Times* business reporter, maintains in her recently released book, *The Wizard of Lies: Bernard Madoff and the Death of Trust*, that the convicted fraudster's family had no knowledge of the ponzi scheme Madoff was operating.

Henriques, who was given the first behind bars interview with Madoff, has concluded that the media were wrong to imply that

wife Ruth and sons Mark and Andrew were also involved in the scheme. Henriques pointed to son

Mark's suicide and to the fact that both hired the same criminal lawyer as (Please turn to page 24)

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"Osama Bin Laden" - A Rotten Tooth Removed from the World's Mouth



Al-Watan (Saudi Arabia), May 3, 2011

THE ARAB PRESS REACTS TO THE KILLING of Osama Bin-Laden. All cartoons courtesy of Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) Translations by N. Samni. See also pages 21 and 24.

IN NAME ONLY

IN EAST JERUSALEM ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS DENY EACH OTHER'S EXISTENCE

By DAVID E. MILLER, MEDIA LINE

Sheikh Raed Salah stood up, wiping his hands from the earth that stuck to them after planting an olive sapling in the backyard of the Al-Kurd family in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah. Head of the Northern branch of the Islamic

Movement in Israel, Salah had come to the neighborhood to show solidarity with the Al-Kurds, who have been forced to share their home with a group of eight Israeli Jews.

Normally outspoken and combative, Salah mumbled a few words and quickly left. But an aide articulated his boss' message. "Your heroism has inspired us all and has shown the world what the Palestinians are facing," he told a local woman who had come to attend the planting ceremony. A young child lifted her hands to show the victory sign, holding up a small sapling.

Salah isn't the only one making a political pilgrimage to the compound of homes, a few minutes' walk

from the walls of the Old City. The British author Ian McEwan stopped by in February when he was in town to accept an Israeli literary prize. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter came to support the Palestinians last October together with the former president of Ireland, Mary Robinson. Every week, hundreds of Israelis and foreigners protest there against the Jewish presence.

The neighborhood – known as Sheikh Jarrah to Palestinians and Shimon Hatsadik to Israelis – is one of several battlegrounds dotting the eastern part of Jerusalem where Israelis are gaining control of properties through real estate

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ANGST AND BARBECUES

ISRAEL MARKED INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH PRIDE AND APPREHENSION

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, MEDIA LINE**

Israel kicked off its 63rd Independence Day celebrations, as security forces beefed up their presence throughout the country and Israelis paused to ponder between efforts to delegitimize the state's existence and what meat to put on the barbecue.

Caught in a double bind as a paranoid people with real enemies, Israelis still feel frustrated that their state is held by its foes as an ephemeral entity that the world refuses to recognize and hopes will disappear as a failed experiment of Zionist colonialization.

Still Israeli President Shimon Peres said that even

after 63 years, Israel was hopeful the "winds of change sweeping our region will herald new opportunities of peace, security and prosperity for all."

"We are determined, together with our supporters everywhere, to fight Anti-Semitism and delegitimization," Peres said in his Independence Day statement.

Anti-Israel movement by a host of non-government organizations (NGOs) have been waging a successful public relations battle in the West that have raised greater doubts about Israel's legitimate standing in the world than ever

before.

"I'm not so sure the average Israelis in the street gives a damn about this, but I do think that most Israelis don't dismiss this and do care what is being said abroad about them," Yigal Palmor, spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, told The Media Line.

Still, Palmor maintained that the anti-Israel campaigns weren't mainstream and popular mostly in pockets, such as academia. "It is not expanding like an oil stain in say the Gulf of Mexico, but it is still ugly," Palmor said.

A recent BBC poll

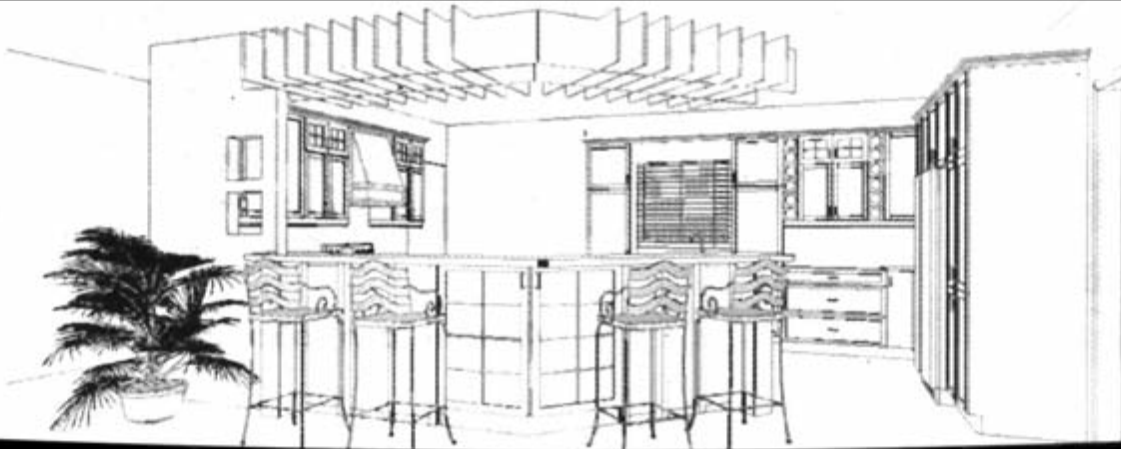
put Israel along with Iran, North Korea and Pakistan as the most despised nations on earth. Israeli leaders and security officers refrain from traveling abroad at the risk of being arrested for alleged war crimes. Rock stars such as Elvis Costello, have been pressured to cancel performances in Israel. Boycotts have also put a dent in exports.

"There is a process of delegitimizing Israel. It is a form of political warfare, and it's a serious threat," said Gerald Steinberg, who teaches international relations at Bar Ilan University.

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FORCED TO BE SILENT

WHEN JOURNALISTS ARE FORCED TO KEEP
NEWS TO THEMSELVES

By **MIKE FEGELMAN**

Mike Fegelman is the Executive Director of HonestReporting Canada (www.HonestReporting.ca), a non-profit organization that ensures fair and accurate Canadian news coverage of Israel and the Middle East - The Editor

When reporting in the closed societies of the broader Middle East, journalists are being vigilantly watched, harassed, and abused by authoritarian regimes, secret police, and media manipulators who work for terror proxies.

Their work and their safety are always at risk. Constantly intimidated and censored from reporting the truth, reporters languish in prisons or are murdered to silence a story and to remove a vital witness to important events.

In 2003, then CNN news executive, Eason Jordan, revealed that CNN knew about scores of atrocities that Saddam Hussein's regime had perpetrated but that "could not be reported because doing so would have jeopardized the lives of Iraqis, particularly on our (CNN's) Baghdad staff."

As a result of state-sanctioned violence and threats against journalists by ruthless thugs, present-day media often times repress a narrative for fear of persecution, detention, or death. When the media ignore the growing intimidation of their own colleagues and don't report it to the public, that silence becomes complicity.

According to the 2010 Press Freedom Index produced by Reporters Without Borders, out of 178 countries ranked, the following Mideast, Arab, and

North African nations saw journalists face what it described as "very serious" and "difficult" situations with Iran ranked as the 175th worst offender, Syria 173, Libya 160, Saudi Arabia 157, Palestinian territories 150, Afghanistan 147, Bahrain 144, Iraq 130, Egypt 127, Qatar 121, and Jordan at 120.

In Libya, under Moammar Gaddafi's ruthless thumb, Western and Arab journalists are regularly imprisoned. Sky News reporters were intentionally shot at, and *Washington Post* journalists describe working under conditions of "luxury imprisonment." Other media professionals are used as human shields and are subjected to mock executions by pro-Gaddafi soldiers. This regime, along with other Arab autocratic countries, has also for decades reportedly bribed Arab journalists from documenting the lack of human rights in their own respective countries.

In Gaza and the West Bank, Palestinian Authority and Hamas goons systematically intimidate and abuse Palestinian and Western journalists, confiscating and destroying their equipment. Gaza's Hamas "cops" are reviled for using beatings and stun guns on female journalists. Hamas continued this trend of intimidation recently by

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OBAMA, LIBYA AND THE HOLOCAUST

OBAMA OFFERS A CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY

BY RAFAEL MEDOFF

The author of the following article is the director of the Davis S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. His most recent book, co-authored with David Golinkin, is The Student Struggle Against the Holocaust. - The Editor

President Barack Obama and his supporters have defended U.S. military action in Libya by invoking America's failure to respond to mass murder in Rwanda, Bosnia, and even the Holocaust. Do those experiences indeed offer useful lessons for the current crisis?

In his national address on March 28, the president pointed out that "when people were being brutalized in Bosnia in the 1990s, it took the international community more than a year to intervene with air power to protect civilians." White House Mideast adviser Dennis Ross reportedly said at a briefing for foreign policy experts on March 23 that there was a danger in Libya of a "Srebrenica on steroids" - referring to the 1995 massacre of 8,000 Bosnian Muslims by Serb militiamen.

National Security Council official Samantha Power, who reportedly played a major role in the U.S. decision to intervene in Libya, has described her unsuccessful attempt (as a young journalist) to alert the world about the imminent attack on Srebrenica

as one of the formative events in her life.

Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen cited the Evian conference, in 1938, at which the United States and other countries refused to open their doors to Jews fleeing Nazi Germany. "Lives were clearly at stake [in Libya] and something had to be done," Cohen wrote. "The world could not simply shove its hands in its pockets and stand by as some madman had his way with people in his grip - in spirit, a reprise of the Evian conference."

"We learned a lot in the 1990s," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said in her comments on the Libya action, referring to the importance of not repeating the world's slow response to the killings in Bosnia and Rwanda.

The people of Libya undoubtedly appreciate that they are the beneficiaries of the current administration's effort to learn from America's past mistakes. Of course, the people of Bahrain or Syria may be wondering what disqualifies them from U.S. military support. Secretary Clinton's

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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

LOVE ON EL AL:
Two years ago, Naftali Lubin and Nina Samstein met on an EL AL aircraft when they were both travelling as part of a Hillel volunteer program called "Alternative Break in Israel." After falling in love in Israel, and continuing their relationship at home, Naftali decided to pop the question. Since EL AL was the unofficial matchmaker that brought this couple together, Naftali wanted the airline to be a part of their engagement. EL AL and Hillel were thrilled to be part of this special moment.

After some thought-provoking, covert activities with EL AL, the plan to surprise Nina was finalized. Naftali would propose in the EL AL First Class Lounge at JFK Airport where a bottle of champagne, a "Mazal Tov" cake, hors d'oeuvres and balloons were ready and waiting for the couple. The wedding is planned for later this year and a honeymoon in Israel could be another "dream come true." More information can also be found on EL AL's blog, Skywords with EL AL, as well as on Facebook (EL AL Israel Airlines USA) and Twitter (@ELALUSA)

BUSY MASADA:
According to a recently-published report by Dun & Bradstreet Israel, the ancient Roman ruins on Mount Masada climbed above Jerusalem's Biblical Zoo to become Israel's most visited pay-to-enter tourist site in 2010 with 762,992 visitors, Masada's revenue

rose 26% to NIS 34 million in 2010 from NIS 25.7 million in 2009. 718,902 people visited the Biblical Zoo.

Masada, with the excavated remains of a fortress built by King Herod, is situated atop an isolated rock cliff at the western end of the Judean Desert, overlooking the Dead Sea. On the east the rock falls in a sheer drop of about 450 meters to the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, is one of the 28 finalists in the New 7 Wonders of Nature online competition (www.votedead-sea.com). In June 2011, Masada will serve as the backdrop to five desert performances of Verdi's Aida by the Israel Opera, as well

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as Verdi's Requiem performed by the orchestra of the Arena di Verona, as part of the Masada, Dead Sea and Jerusalem Opera Festival. The third most visited pay-to-enter tourist site was the Caesarea

Antiquities National Park, with 698,808 visitors. The Hermon National Park (Banias), one of the sources of the Jordan River, rose from ninth place in 2009 to fourth place in 2010 with
(Please turn to page 22)



A NEW DOCUMENTARY FEATURES RARE Sandy Koufax Interview, with Recollections from Ron Howard, Larry King, Bob Feller, Bud Selig, Marvin Miller, Al Rosen, and Hank Greenberg and is narrated by Dustin Hoffman. Baseball is seen as the quintessentially American sport with good reason. Emerging by the mid-19th century as the nation's most popular game, baseball provided each new wave of immigrants with an avenue into American culture. *JEWS AND BASEBALL: AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY*, tracing the impact of Jewish players on America's national pastime and the game's impact on them, made its debut on DVD and digital platforms on April 19, on the heels of a successful festival and theatrical run encompassing more than 100 screenings, and its public television premiere in March. From the first – Lipman Pike – and on through Moe Berg, Hank Greenberg, Al Rosen, Sandy Koufax, Shawn Green and Kevin Youkilis, *JEWS AND BASEBALL* records the contributions of Jewish players and the recollections of Jewish fans, spanning the history of the game.

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NOT A SURPRISE

AN INTERVIEW WITH GAMAL HELAL

AS TOLD TO ASHARQ AL-AWSAT

Gamal Helal is a former adviser to U.S. Presidents for Middle East affairs. - The Editor

Gamal Helal, who has spent two decades advising US presidents on the Middle East, told reporters at Asharq Al-Awsat that president Obama's statement concerning the pre-1967 borders being the basis of negotiations is not in practice a surprise to the Palestinian side.

This is because since the start of the peace process, the Arab stance toward negotiations - including the Egyptian -Israeli and the Jordanian -Israeli negotiations - always started and ended on the consideration that the 1967 borders are the basis of negotiations. However, the surprise is that Obama has considered this principle from now on to be the basis of US policy in the issue of the Middle East peace process.

In an exclusive interview with Asharq Al-Awsat Helal said that President Barack Obama's statement is the first time that the United States has adopted an interpretation of the UN Resolution 242, which is considered the "cornerstone" in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. This resolution was issued in English and French; the English text stipulates the return of "territories" occupied in 1967, while the French text stipulates the return of "the territories" occupied in 1967. The Arab side always demanded the return of all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, as it happened in the cases of

Egypt and Jordan, while the Israeli side says that it is prepared to return occupied territories, but not "all the territories." Helal adds: "Actually and practically, what Obama has said about the 1967 being the basis of the negotiations is completely different from the Arab and Palestinian stance, which says that the 1967 borders is what should be the conclusion of the negotiations."

The former adviser to US presidents, who participated in all the peace talks since 1993, explains: "The US stance in all the past years has been to agree to the solutions agreed by (Please turn to page 23)

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IN NAME ONLY*(Continued from page 4)*

deals and court suits; setting up home in areas once exclusively Palestinian.

But more than the other flashpoints, Sheikh Jarrah/Shimon Hatsadik captures the city's complicated past as much as its tense present. Its veteran Palestinian residents and its newer Israeli ones occupy different rooms in the same house and bump up against each other more

closely than anywhere else in the city. The neighborhood was once inhabited by Jews who were forced to leave, but its Palestinian residents are refugees themselves from what is now Israel.

The Jews came back in August 2009 after the Israeli Supreme Court ended a 40-year legal dispute by ruling in favor of
(Please turn to following page)

SANTA MONICA HOPS ON BANDWAGON

First it was San Francisco announcing that a bill to ban male circumcision had gotten the required number of signatures to make it on to the November 2011 ballot. Now the group MGM, which stands for male genital mutilation, has launched a similar campaign in Santa Monica.

Circumcision of male infants is a religious requirement in Judaism and many experts say that

a ban would be a violation of the 1st Amendment prohibition against government interference with an individual's religious practices.

Should the bill pass in San Francisco, and not be found in violation of the 1st Amendment, circumcision would be prohibited among males under the age of 18. Conceivably Jewish parents could be fined up to \$1000 or be sentenced to one year in prison.

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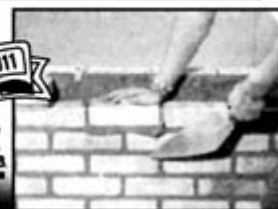
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Jewish ownership. Four Palestinian families were evicted from homes they had lived in for over five decades and Jewish families moved in. Nahalat Shimon International, a Jewish organization that bought the land from its original owners – the Jewish Sephardic community, which had acquired the land in the late 19th century – gave the young Jewish families the right to take over the homes.

The Ghawi and Hanoun families didn't give up. They set up a tent across the street from their former homes and camped out for six months. The Jerusalem municipality confiscated the Ghawi family tent 17 times, fining the family 430 shekels (\$125) each time for erecting an illegal structure.

The dispute over the homes isn't a simple property dispute, even if the court related to it that way. Jerusalem's eastern half was taken by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed by it shortly thereafter. In the decades following, Israel was content to solidify its control over the city by establishing neighborhoods on empty land at the city's outer edges.

But in the last decade, right-wing Israelis – often financed and encouraged by American Jews – have sought to reclaim neighborhoods inhabited by Palestinians in and around the city's historic core. Sheikh Jaarah/Shimon Hatsadik is one. Others include Silwan, the Muslim Quarter and the Mount of Olives.

The settlement drive has prompted strong Palestinian opposition and – because Israel's control of the city is not accepted by the international community – foreign concerns as well. When Israel's Supreme

Court upheld the claim of Jewish ownership, international condemnation ensued, calling the eviction of Palestinians "appalling" (UK) and "totally unacceptable" (UN).

And as much as the compound is a dispute over property and politics, it also represents a deeper conflict over history and historical rights. Sheikh Jarrah is a rashomon in which three narratives collide – that of the Palestinians, of the Jewish settlers and of the Sheikh Jarrah Solidarity Movement, comprised mostly

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of left-of-center Israelis.

The Al-Kurds are one of 28 Palestinian refugee families from Haifa and Sarafand, inside Israel's pre-1967 borders, who were settled by the Jordanian government and the United Nations Relief

and Works Agency (UNRWA) on a 70-acre plot after the 1948 war that led to the creation of Israel. In exchange for the houses constructed on the plot, the families renounced some of their entitlements as recognized refugees.

"The Jews destroyed our home," Rifqa Al-Kurd, 90, tells The Media Line. "I have lived in this home for 56 years and am a refugee from Haifa. No Jews lived here at the time."

As Palestinians see it, Jerusalem is a Palestinian Arab city that is gradually being taken over by Israel – first by conquest and now home by home through any means at its disposal – in order to "Judaize" it. Nabil Al-Kurd, Rifqa's 67-year-old son says the Palestinian families refuse to recognize the validity of Jewish claims over the land they inhabit.

"We have the power of justice whereas they only have the power of Netanyahu, the army and the Shin Bet," Nabil Al-Kurd says, referring to Israel's prime minister and its secret service. "The Jews don't treat us democratically – Israel doesn't want any Palestinian inside Jerusalem," he tells The Media Line.

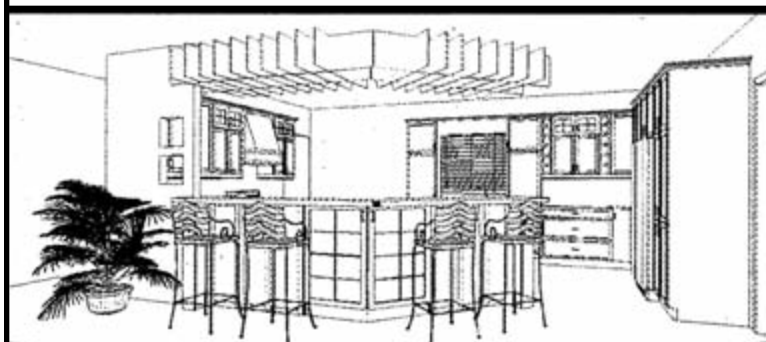
Graffiti adorns the entrance to the Al-Kurd annex, built illegally by the family in 1999 and now inhabited by eight young ultra-orthodox Jews. Stars of David are spray painted around the door, some covering Hebrew graffiti written in pen reading "Jewish terrorists."

"Do you see that lemon tree over there?" Nabil asks, pointing to a newly planted tree in his front yard. Referring to a Jewish inhabitant of the house, he says, "That dog inside broke it with his hands."

"My father used to work with Jews in Haifa. We (Please turn to following page)

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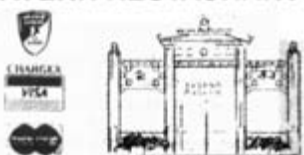
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have nothing against Jews," he stresses.

Yehonatan Yossef, a spokesman for the Jewish residents of the neighborhood, says the return of Jews to the area is an act of historic justice.

"The Oslo peace accords were very hurtful to me," Yossef tells The Media Line, explaining why he began to volunteer with right-wing member of the

Knesset Benny Elon in 1997, when an ancient Jewish synagogue was reclaimed and settled, the first Jewish presence in the neighborhood.

The Jewish name for the neighborhood, Shimon Hatsadik (Simon the Just), memorializes a Second Temple-period Jewish sage believed to be buried in the compound. It recalls the Jews' ancient connection to



FOUR STARS OF THE FOX TV DRAMA HOUSE arrived in Israel recently on a tour designed to show off the best of Israel. The four actors - Lisa Edelstein, Amber Tamblyn, Omar Epps and Jesse Spencer - are now sharing their experiences in media interviews. The four actors celebrated Independence Day in Tel Aviv, then visited the Galilee, the Dead Sea and Masada and completed their tour in Jerusalem. The visit is sponsored by America's Voices for Israel, a joint project of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Israel Ministry of Tourism, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EL AL Israel Airlines. "Our goal is to bring a stream of high-profile celebrities and opinion makers to Israel in the coming months and years," says Oded Grofman, Consul for Tourism, Israel Government Tourist Office - Canada, "so that they will return home and spread the word not only about what Israel represents but also about its appeal for travelers." Pictured above, left to right, are House cast members Jesse Spencer, Amber Tamblyn, Omar Epps and Executive Producer David Shore.

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the city as well as their more recent presence in the area starting in 19th century.

"The Palestinian Authority undertook every effort to uproot all Jewish remnants from east Jerusalem," Yossef tells The Media Line. "Their agenda is based on a lie. They have no historic connection to the city, or at least none that precedes the Jewish connection. History is not on their side, it's on ours."

Yossef says 21 Jewish families and nine single men live in the neighborhood. He adds that there is a waiting list of 70 Jewish families yearning to inhabit the neighborhood homes. In contrast to the Al-Kurds' neighbors, most of the families belong to the modern orthodox community and have served in the Israeli army.

Yossef insists that if there is any violence in the neighborhood, it is instigated by the Palestinian residents, or leftist Jewish provocateurs.

"I have debriefed the guys not to raise an arm or throw a stone. This has never happened and will never happen. Cases of violence come from the outside, from visitors who weren't debriefed and were duped by provocations of B'tselem," he says, referring to an Israeli human rights organization.

Hillel Ben-Sasson, a 32-year-old doctoral student in philosophy at The Hebrew University, is the spokesman for the Sheikh Jarrah Solidarity movement, a group of mostly Jewish protesters who have been demonstrating near the homes every Friday afternoon ever since the eviction in August 2009.

For Ben-Sasson, the struggle isn't between Palestinians and Israel or between Jews and Muslims. It is over the character of Israeli society and its demo-

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cratic values. Set in those terms, it is very clear to him who the "good guys" are. The Palestinians are fighting for their legitimate rights. His fellows Israelis are violating them.

"Something happened here that awoke the sleepy Jerusalem left," Ben-Sasson tells The Media Line. "A combination of the terrible injustice suffered by Palestinians and the brutal arrest of our activists by the Israeli police created an entirely new phenomenon here in Jerusalem."

Ben-Sasson says his organization has carried out round-the-clock sit-ins with Palestinian neighborhood residents for over a year. As a result, he says, the neighborhood – which had started becoming Jewish – has now reclaimed its Palestinian character.

"Our tactic is non-violent struggle and our strategy is ending the regime of privileges in Israel," Ben-Sasson says. "The Zionist revolution has succeeded and now we need to create a completely egalitarian democratic society, not a closed Jewish ethnic community."

His movement has recently expanded its activity to protest Israeli land confiscation in other parts of the country. On Land Day, which is marked every March 30 by Israeli Arabs to highlight their claims to equal rights to land, they demonstrated alongside the Arab residents of Lod, a mixed Jewish and Arab city near Tel Aviv.

"The youngsters there were shouting 'with blood and spirit we will redeem you, O Palestine!' but I know they will settle for simple equality as Israelis," Ben-Sasson says.

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ANGST AND BARBECUES

(Continued from page 5)

Israel is unique. There is no other country in the world whose right to exist, particularly after 63 years, is still being opposed in the international arena.

He said that since the United Nations voted on the partition of Palestine in 1947 into separate Arab and Jewish states, the dominant strategy by Israel's enemies was to "roll back Jewish sovereignty."

"Sixty three years is not a long time in Middle East history, but these images of Israel as a Crusader-like state, a temporary Zionist project is still a dominant image. If one tactic doesn't work they try another. They tried conventional war. It didn't work. They tried terrorism. It didn't work. This is an outgrowth of that problem"



RABBI DANIEL Friedman of Beth Israel Synagogue in Edmonton, discusses the rituals of Shabbat to a gathering in City Hall. As part of the City's ongoing Celebrating our Faiths program, which informs and celebrates Edmonton's many faiths, a display celebrating Judaism and Shabbat was open to the public throughout the month of May.

said Steinberg, who is also the chairman of NGO Monitor, an Israeli organization that seeks to expose a perceived anti-Israeli bias in non-governmental organizations.

"There's no cost for being anti-Zionist and it has been in some ways a very lucrative business," he said, adding that over 100 million euros (\$143 million) is spent annually on cam-

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ANGST AND BARBECUES

(Continued from preceding page)

paings to delegitimize Israel. Steinberg said the Israeli establishment has modified its approach to the delegitimization campaign and is mostly taking it very seriously, sometimes soliciting professionals to help counter the anti-Israeli messages.

As the nation bowed its head on Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars, when it remembers the 22,867 who died defending the state, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) estimated that Israel's population had grown more than tenfold from 806,000 in 1948 to 7,746,000 today.

Seven out of 10 Israelis were born in the Jewish state. Some 75% of the population is Jewish with their number slightly below the symbolic six million mark (5,837,000) while 20.5% were Arabs and another 4.2% listed as non-Jewish immigrants and their children, according to the CBS.

It said some 24,500 people immigrated to Israel, including some 6,500 returning Israelis, but about half that number left the country since last Independence Day.

Israelis mark the day according to the Jewish calendar, which this year placed the holiday on May 10. Palestinians mark the occasion on May 15, when they commemorate the Nakba, or "catastrophe" of the creation of Israel, which sparked the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. The army has imposed a closure on Palestinians entering from the West Bank as a precautionary measure. And the West Bank remained calm.

Remembrance Day began on a Sunday night and ushered in 24 hours of mourning. Across the country a two-minute siren wailed at 11:00 a.m. bring-

ing traffic to a halt as people stood in silent tribute to the fallen. Places of entertainment, restaurants and cafes were closed until the Monday evening, when gala Independence Day celebrations begin with gatherings in the streets of major cities

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Blues musician Eli Marcus, busy preparing his apartment in Tel Aviv for his annual reunion of former army buddies, considered the bashing he believes Israel receives in international forums and in world media.

"Israelis want to be liked and appreciated, but unfortunately the propaganda has been much more effective, not in persuading the Europeans or Americans, but in confusing them with disinformation," Marcus said.

He noted that Israeli innovation has not only left its mark in high technology but also in the arts and music.

"We have grown a lot in that respect. We have

more and more Israeli musicians who are making it very big overseas as either leading or accompanying artists, and it doesn't seem to bother people that they are Israelis," Marcus said.

Palmer, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, noted that fretting about fitting in was part of the Israeli character.

"The Israelis and later the Jewish people have always been a very small people in a region where they were surrounded by much bigger powers. And being pushed and finally being exiled twice and then while in exile as a small minority tolerated at best and persecuted at worst, it makes one really want and crave for other people to like them," Palmer said.

FORCED TO BE SILENT

(Continued from page 6)

telling a Gaza journalist they would kill her and her son if she reported on the national unity protests. Not to be outdone, in 2007, Al-Qaeda linked terrorists kidnapped BBC reporter Alan Johnston, holding him hostage for 114 days.

In Bahrain, reporters live under harrowing situations as their phones and emails are closely monitored. Meanwhile, three editors of *Al-Wasat*, Bahrain's main opposition newspaper, will go on trial, facing charges of "publishing fabricated news," "harming public safety" and "damaging national interests."

In Syria, the top editor of the official Syrian newspaper, *Tishrin*, was fired for questioning official Syrian accounts about recent demonstrations that saw non-military gunmen open fire on protestors. Two Lebanese Reuters journalists were also recently detained and released by Syrian authorities.

In Egypt, security forces captured and then released *Globe and Mail* reporters Patrick Martin and Sonia Verma, CNN correspondent Anderson Cooper was punched by unknown assailants, and CBS News correspondent Lara Logan was brutally

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FORCED TO BE SILENT

(Continued from preceding page)

raped and assaulted by Egyptian protestors. Egyptian authorities have also throttled and shut down internet access to suppress dissent and free speech. Recently, an Egyptian blogger was sentenced to three years in jail for publishing a blog post critical of the government and army.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah minders manipulate the media by creating heavily orchestrated P.R. events where scenes are staged for foreign media to report on. Journalists are taken on Hezbollah-guided tours where their interview subjects are strictly managed and screened. Hezbollah handlers intimidate reporters saying "we know who you are, we read everything you write, and we know where you live."

And last but not least, Iran, described as the "world's worst jailer of the press" alongside China and Turkey, imprisoned 34 journalists in 2010 alone. Let's not forget about Zahra Kazemi, the Canadian-Iranian photojournalist who in 2003 was arrested while taking photographs outside Iran's notorious Evin prison. Kazemi died two days following her detention after being tortured and raped by her captors. Then there's the case of Maziar Bahari, a Canadian-Iranian journalist at *Newsweek* magazine, who was held in a Tehran jail for 118 days in 2009 for filming scenes of Iran's militia shooting at protestors. Iran also sentenced Hossein Derakhshan, the Iranian-Canadian "blogfather" of Tehran, to 19½ years in prison for writing dissenting opinions about the Iranian government and for training others to blog and podcast. Derakhshan was temporarily released on bail this past December.

And now with the "Arab Spring" upon us, those that seek to hide the truth about the lack of fun-

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damental human rights in their own borders, target the vey media who are tasked with covering the plight of the voiceless. Through the systematic use and abuse of "emergency rule" to suppress dissent, the plight of the proletariat has gone out of sight and out of mind. On May 1 – 3 we marked World Press

Freedom Day, an event that seeks to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and to remind governments, specifically in the broader Middle East, the Arab world, and North Africa, of their duty to respect and protect the journalists, and not to target and intimidate the media.

OBAMA, LIBYA AND THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from page 7)

explanation on "Face the Nation" that Syrian dictator Bashar Assad, unlike Moammar Qadaffi, is "a reformer," probably will not impress many of Assad's victims. Chinese dissidents, for their part, have been questioning Mrs. Clinton's judgement ever since her assertion, during her February 2009 visit to China, that human rights issues "can't interfere with

the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis, and the security crisis" that she was discussing with Beijing's leaders.

Still, there can be no denying the fact that America's action in Libya constitutes a significant change from the policies of some previous presidents. It was not so long ago, after all, that another secretary of state was telling the president that "if they put Jews into gas chambers in the Soviet Union, it is not an American concern." And Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was president during the years when Jews from the (Nazi-occupied) Soviet Union were indeed put into gas chambers, likewise thought it was not an American concern.

Today, by contrast, America's president has declared that this country
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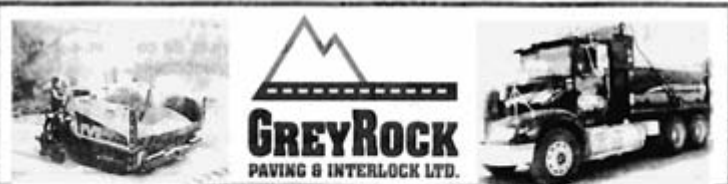
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OBAMA, LIBYA AND THE HOLOCAUST

(Continued from preceding page)

has "responsibilities to our fellow human beings." That "preventing genocide" is "important to us" and one of our "core principles." That "some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries [but] the United States of America is different."

The people of Libya are not comparable to the Jews of Europe during the Holocaust. Neither are the people of Syria or Bahrain.

There is no danger of genocide in those countries. On the other hand, based on the historical record in that part of the world, we know the possibility of a dictator massacring thousands of his own citizens is very real. And the fact that America's current leaders recognize a role for historical lessons in shaping policy decisions is certainly a welcome change from the attitudes of some of their predecessors.

TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 9)

663,000 visitors.

Visitors to the Ramat Gan Safari Park fell sharply, pushing it down from the second most-visited site to the fifth. The Ein Gedi Nature Reserve was in sixth place, with 468,562 visitors in 2010, 12% more than in 2009. It was followed by the Hamat Gader hot springs in the Yarmouk River valley, the Underwater Observatory in Eilat, the Qumran Caves by the Dead Sea, and the Yamit 2000 Water Park in Holon.

The most visited free-to-enter sites in Israel in 2010 include the Western Wall (77%), the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem (73%), the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (61%), the Via Dolorosa (60%) and the Mount of Olives (55%). Jerusalem is the city most visited by incoming tourists in Israel, (76% of all tourists). Tel Aviv-Jaffa holds second place with 54% of all tourists having visited and in third place, the Dead Sea area with 49%. Tiberias holds fourth place with 42% of all tourists followed by Nazareth with 39%.

JERUSALEM
ONLINE: In a recent development, the Jerusalem Municipality, the Jerusalem Development Authority Tourism Department, the

Jerusalem Hotels Association and the Israel Ministry of Tourism have launched a comprehensive website showcasing the many cultural and tourist options offered in Jerusalem. (www.jerusalem-culture.com). Available in English, Russian, German and Italian, the website provides updated information on cultural events and festivals, as well as useful information on Jerusalem's many tourist sites, religious, historical and cultural, as well

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NOT A SURPRISE

(Continued from page 10)

the sides through the negotiations without the United States stipulating anything so that this stipulation would not be an obstacle at the negotiations."

He added that: "This new thesis, which President Obama presented in his speech, supports the Arab viewpoint, and is a basic hindrance for the Israeli side, which links the size of Israel before 1967 to the ability to defend it, as the Israelis say that if Israel is of small area, it will be difficult to defend it."

Helal doubts the possibility of resuming the peace talks between the Israeli and Palestinian sides at the current time. He says: "I don't believe that the circumstances are suitable for conducting any negotiations, because the climate in the Arab region does not allow this. The absence of governments on the Arab side who are

prepared to put their weight behind the peace process makes it more difficult to find regional support for the peace efforts. The climate in the Arab countries in general is hostile to the United States and Israel. I believe that the mistake is not in what President Obama has said, but it is in its timing, because had he adopted this stance immediately when he assumed the presidency, this would have been better than his insistence of halting the settlement activities. This is because halting the settlement activities during a transitional period in which peace has not yet been achieved is something that no Israeli prime minister has agreed to as a result of the domestic pressure. Moreover, this has not been a demand or a condition stipulated by the Palestinian side, even during the period of signing the Oslo Accord."

Helal stresses that the loser in this battle will not be Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but the loser will be the US President. This is because of many reasons, the first of which is that the US Congress is not in the hands of the Democrats, but it is in the hands of the Republican Party, which is prepared to understand the Israeli situation, and to support the Israeli prime minister. The second reason is that, so far, there is no Arab country that is prepared to support the United States publicly, and engage as a fundamental partner in pushing forward the peace process.

The third reason is that the peace process has
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NOT A SURPRISE

(Continued from preceding page)
stopped for more than a year, and hence there is nothing to which the negotiators can return. The fourth reason is that the Palestinian national unity between Hamas and Fatah will be exploited by Netanyahu to promote the concept of the hostility of the Palestinians to the State of Israel, especially as Hamas is classified according to the US law as a terrorist organization.

With regard to the Palestinians' intention to get a resolution to establish the Palestinian State through the UN General Assembly in September 2011, Helal says: "There is a difference between the UN Security Council resolutions, and those of the UN General Assembly, as the resolutions of the latter are semi-honorary, and are not binding to any side. The United States' acceptance or rejection of this resolution will depend on the language of the draft resolution presented for voting, i.e. if the Palestinian demand at the UN General Assembly is compatible in all its articles with the stances and policies of the United States (especially after Obama's announcement specifying the pre-1967 borders as a basis for the negotiations) this will make it difficult for the United States to reject such a resolution. Nevertheless, generally speaking, a vote in the UN General Assembly in favor of the Palestinians will not lead to the establishment of the State of Palestine."

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

their father to represent them. Had they been involved they would have hired separate lawyers to insure protection in case the other brother confessed as part of a plea bargain.

Henriques visited Madoff twice, seeing a different person each time. On her first visit she says that Madoff seemed in control and "in a state of denial" that he had inflicted so much pain on people. But on the second visit, following Mark's suicide, she saw a changed man. "He was barely recognizable", she said.

Madoff is apparently in the process of reading Henriques' book. But he has already expressed his disappointment. "He felt", said the author, "that it was highly sensationalized."

Wiesenthal Center Honours Tom Cruise

The Wiesenthal Center recently presented its Humanitarian Award to actor/producer Tom Cruise for his longtime

support of the center's Museum of Tolerance.

Accepting the award Cruise told the audience that "our challenge is to make sure that we do all in our power to see to it that there will be no more Auschwitz-Birkenau, no more Rwandas, no more Darfurs on our planet."

The Wiesenthal Center also presented Medals of Valor to Luis Alberto Urzua, the foreman of the 33 trapped Chilean minors, and Gyongyi Mago, a Catholic schoolteacher in Hungary determined to keep the memory of the Holocaust at the forefront of education in his country despite the opposition of the growing far right movement. The final award was presented to Peter Bergson, who had the courage to tell a reluctant Roosevelt Administration and an

sometimes apathetic Jewish establishment that the rescue of Europe Jews should be a priority,

Joplin's Jews Feel Tornado's Wrath

The recent tornado that caused so much de-

vastation in Joplin, Missouri did not spare the city's tiny Jewish community. At least two Jewish brothers are missing and the remaining fifteen or twenty Jews are in desperate need of food and clothing.

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WORLD IN REVIEW

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Rabbi Yehuda Weg, who is the Tulsa based director of Chabad-Lubavitch of Oklahoma, confirmed that the two brothers are active members of the Jewish community. Weg, himself, drives twice a month to Joplin to supervise kosher production lines at several food manufacturers and to meet with local Jews.

Omer Mani, an Israeli expatriate who operates a kiosk at a local mall, says that the mall withstood the winds. When he returned home, however, he found enormous damage. "Everything is destroyed", said a shaken Mani. "I lost everything".

And yet Mani did find one small miracle. He discovered that his tefillin, a Hebrew prayer book and a bound copy of the five books of the Torah survived.

Strauss-Kahn Chooses the Best

He's defended rappers Sean "Diddy" Combs and Jay-Z. He stood by the late Michael Jackson. Even members of the Mafia have been his clients. And now another "celebrity" in trouble has hired the renowned Orthodox lawyer Benjamin Brafman. Former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn is Brafman's latest high profile challenge.

Brafman will not make the prosecution's life easy. The son of Holocaust survivors, he is known for being charismatic and persuasive. "He is", says a colleague, "something of a star himself, a guy with a real Hollywood style - and a background in performance". Indeed, Brafman honed his courtroom skills during a brief career as a stand-up comedian.

Brafman acknowledges that his cases often pose immense challenges. "The baggage that comes

with a remarkable track record", he says, "is that people feel that you can pull off an acquittal despite what seems overwhelming evidence. But you can't do it every time."

Russia Acknowledges Lenin's Jewish Roots

Russia's State History Museum has put on public display documents confirming rumours that Vladimir Lenin had Jewish ancestors. Among the documents is a letter written by Lenin's sister, Anna Ulyanova, claiming that their material grandfather was a Jew from the Ukraine who converted to Christianity to escape persecution.

During Lenin's rule

there was a brief period in which Jewish culture was promoted. But that ended after his death in 1924 and the rise of Joseph Stalin. Ulyanova wrote to Stalin after Lenin's death to inform him that her brother "had always thought of Jews very highly" and that she was sorry his origin was not known during his lifetime.

But if Ulyanova was hoping that her letter would help combat the virulent anti-Semitism now spreading under Stalin's rule she was very much disappointed. Stalin instructed her to "keep absolute silence" about Lenin's background.

The 1932 letter was discovered in the early 1990s but was kept secret pending proof of its authenticity.



AS PART OF ONGOING COOPERATION BETWEEN Thai research centers and Rambam Health Care Campus in Israel, Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand and her royal entourage visited the medical center. While at Rambam, Prof. Dr. Her Royal Highness Princess Chulabhorn Mahido signed a formal memorandum of understanding, paving the way for future joint efforts. The princess, who bears the scientific title Doctor of Biochemistry, was accompanied by her royal entourage and by representatives of the Thai embassy in Israel, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Haifa. This marks the sixth visit to Israel of the princess, the youngest daughter of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand. This current visit is being held as part of scientific cooperation between Thai and Israeli research organizations. Within this initiative, Rambam is conducting cancer research with Thailand's prestigious Chulabhorn Research Center.

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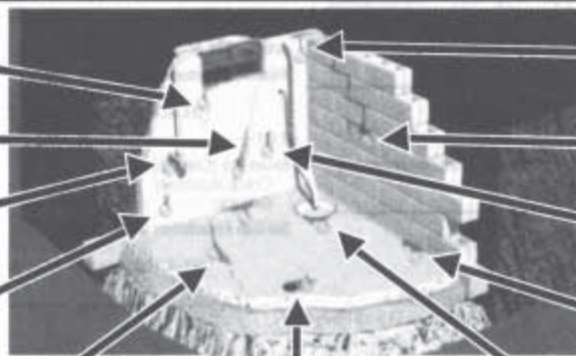
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