

# Levitt Letter

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." — ROMANS 10:1



If you're curious about how Israel can prosper in troubled times, read this lead story. —Jeff

## Why Israel's Economy Is Thriving



By Dan Senor (L) and Saul Singer (R)  
www.CNN.com

At a time of great economic uncertainty, when America's unemployment rate has crossed the 10 percent threshold, Israel has stood out among advanced economies as a place where the crisis hit softer, and may have passed quicker, than almost anywhere else. Israel's economic growth has not been based on easy credit or a real estate boom, but on the technology-driven productivity gains that economists believe is the key to sustained economic growth. *continued p.2*

*Israeli Solar Energy Technology Leads Clean Energy Revolution*



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## "The Muslim World Needs Reform"

By Aymenn Jawad Al-Tamimi  
www.MEforum.org



Wafa Sultan

**Wafa Sultan** is a Syrian-born psychiatrist who immigrated to the U.S. in 1989. She is most well-known for appearing on Al-Jazeera in 2006 in a debate with Sheik Ibrahim Al-Khouli, when she delivered a memorable attack on Islam (which has since caused her to live in hiding). She just released a new book, *A God Who Hates*. In October, Dr. Sultan addressed the Middle East Forum via conference call.

Islam is intrinsically destructive—that is Dr. Sultan's message. She began by discussing how she came to this conclusion, which is the story of her largely autobiographical book.

*continued p.3*

The reason is not a mystery. In 1987, MIT economist Robert Solow received the Nobel Prize for his work demonstrating that productivity increases are the basis for durable growth, and the main source of increased productivity is innovation, especially in technology. The question has become, as a *BusinessWeek* cover recently put it, "Can America invent its way back?"

If innovation is the key, where does it come from? The best place to look for a model is the country that has produced the most concentrated combination of innovation and entrepreneurship in the world: Israel.

The reason for this is not that Israel has particularly smart people. Students from Singapore outperform in math and science, according to international rankings. But Singapore—and other countries with impressive economies like Korea, Japan, and Finland—don't produce an ecosystem of tech start-ups.



What makes a start-up culture? The Israeli military, surprisingly, is a big part of this, not so much because of its own research and development, but rather as a result of the training that most Israelis must go through. The military matures young people faster than the American undergraduate college experience, teaches them about teamwork, serving something beyond themselves, and how to improvise and complete missions with inadequate resources and imperfect information.

The tendency to tinker, question, and

improvise that often begins in the military leads to a particular Israeli specialty: technological "mashups."



360° Robotic Surveillance Camera

Israel leads the world in medical device patents, partly because when Israelis discover a technology, they can't help considering applications to solve unrelated problems: e.g., miniaturizing sensing systems in the nose cone of a fighter jet to serve a medical purpose.

Another major ingredient of Israel's start-up culture is openness to new immigrants—who are natural risk takers—and government policies to assimilate them. Two out of every three Israelis are newcomers or the children of immigrants.

For the global economy to recover and thrive, it is not enough for individual companies to cultivate innovation.

What is needed is for countries to build a comprehensive culture of innovation that welcomes risk-takers from all over the world; encourages young people to improvise, to be mission oriented, question established business models, and institute sensible regulations and monetary policies that do not create perverse "easy money" proxies for growth.

While Israel has much to learn from the world, other countries need to look at how Israel has produced the world's most innovative start-up economy. ★



**In her view, the Muslim world needs reform in three areas:** Muslim nations must 1) grant their citizens the right to practice any—or no—faith; 2) they must reform school curricula, which currently teach intolerance and hatred for non-Muslims; 3) they must grant equal rights to women and eliminate the oppression Muslim women currently experience. Dr. Sultan stressed this last point, saying the West has long ignored the plight of Muslim women, which is why her book spends extra time addressing the problems women face in the Muslim world. Her recommendation is for the West to cease apologizing for Islam and instead confront Islamic teachings directly and “put pressure” on Muslims to “come up with honest answers.”

**Asked whether rejecting sharia is tantamount to rejecting Islam itself, Dr. Sultan answered in the affirmative:**

to be a Muslim, one must accept the laws of Islam as laid out in the Koran and the words and deeds of Mohammed (the Hadith). Thus, while she accepts that there are “moderate Muslims,” she insists that Islam itself is not and cannot be moderate. Still, she hopes that those who are trying to reform Islam will one day prove her wrong.



**In response to a question on whether putting pressure on the Muslim world, as Dr. Sultan recommends, could provoke a backlash,** she said that there would indeed probably be an initial backlash and perhaps an increase in violence. Regardless, Muslims will sooner or later have to confront the reality of Islam’s “cruel” and “backward” teachings.

**Finally, asked about what Americans can do to make people aware of the threat,** Dr. Sultan urged for pressure to be put on the U.S. government to confront Islam without politically correct restraints. She concluded by asserting her dream—that one day her native Syria will be as free as the United States.



## Prize At Koran Reciting Competition: AK-47

By Duncan Miriri, Reuters



The winner of a Koran recital contest and general knowledge competition organized by Islamist militant group al-Shabaab in Somalia was rewarded with an AK-47, two hand grenades, an anti-tank mine, and a computer.

The monthlong competition—which was won by a 17-year-old—was held in southern Somalia and hosted by the rebel group with ties to al-Qaeda.

The runner-up in the contest was a 22-year-old, who received a prize of an AK-47 and ammunition. The contest, planned for 10-25 years olds, was capped off at a ceremony where rebel leaders urged parents to allow their children to learn how to handle weapons so that they may fight against the enemy.

The extremist group al-Shabaab, an ally of al-Qaeda, controls most of southern and central Somalia. The group is now engaged in a conflict against the UN-backed government of President Sheik Sharif Ahmed.



# He Saved 100 Orphans From The Nazis

By Malky Weinstock, [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com)

When World War II broke out, European Jews scrambled for safety, desperately seeking a haven from the madness that was Adolf Hitler. In the midst of this struggle for survival, Reb Yona Tiefenbrunner abandoned his chances for refuge in order to save hundreds of Jewish orphans from the Nazi murder machine.

In 1942, the Jewish Orphanage of Brussels was created by Belgium's Nazi Occupational Government as a temporary front to their diabolical plans of Jewish liquidation, and Yona Tiefenbrunner, a young man not yet 30 years old, agreed to head the orphanage. Overnight, he became a father to hundreds of traumatized orphans.

**The children referred to him simply as “Monsieur,” but they knew he would risk his life to save them. Time and again, they witnessed Yona leave no stone unturned when it came to trying to save even one person.**

Despite the ever-present danger of deportation and the watchful eyes of the Gestapo, Yona managed to infuse his orphanage with Torah, love, and tranquility. There were Bar Mitzvahs for his boys, Sabbaths, holy day observances, and just plain kids fun too.

When the war ended and others tried to put the past behind them, Reb Yona—with his wife, Ruth, and their own three young daughters—continued to nurture the orphaned children as his own, rebuilding their shattered spirits and giving them a chance at life.

For 15 more years, Yona valiantly stayed as father to his orphans until the last child had grown and married. Sadly, Yona Tiefenbrunner, a gem of infinite compassion and self-sacrifice,

lived only 48 years, passing away unheralded shortly after his orphanage closed in 1960. He left his own three biological daughters, not yet married, orphaned.

*Yona and Ruth Tiefenbrunner walking with two orphan children, circa 1947*



Today, Yona's “children” live all over the world, with children and grandchildren of their own. But the passing of years hasn't diminished the deep love and gratitude that they feel to their “Monsieur.”

Sarah from New York, today the matriarch of a prominent family, credits Yona not only for saving her life, but for her Judaism. She arrived at Yona's home in 1943, a petrified little girl. Her parents, who lived in Antwerp, had hidden her with their housekeeper in return for payment. When her parents were deported, the payment stopped coming and the housekeeper no longer wanted to care for her. She led Sarah to a nondescript house, knocked, and asked to see the director. “See this child?” she demanded of Yona Tiefenbrunner, “She's Jewish! Take her off my hands now, or I will drop her off at the Gestapo!”

Yona did take her in, weaving her into his happy family and miraculous island of refuge, raising her as a true Jewish daughter until he walked her down the aisle over a decade later. “We were very happy children!” Sarah recounted. “Only after we had grown up and moved on into real life did we sense that we were orphans—that we had no other family.” ★

## Fighting The Lies Harder Than Fighting The War

By Mona Charen (right)  
JewishWorldReview.com



The war over the war in Gaza is heating up. Lawyers in Britain, the Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, and Norway are drawing up criminal indictments against IDF officers who participated in the Gaza operation.

Israel's enemies certainly seek to terrorize and demoralize Israel. But the more important campaign—which is gaining traction—is to brand Israel's self-defense as a war crime.

Consider the assessment of Col. Richard Kemp, former commander of British forces in Afghanistan, and a veteran of the Gulf War and the conflicts in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, and Macedonia. "During Operation Cast Lead, the IDF did more to safeguard the rights of civilians in a combat zone than any other army in the history of warfare. Israel did so while facing an enemy that deliberately positioned its military capability behind the human shield of the civilian population."

Israel dropped 2 million leaflets in advance of army movements. Twenty-four hours before the IDF moved on a suspected terrorist site, the army phoned civilians to warn them to evacuate. There were 100,000 calls. And five minutes before an operation began, the IDF sent out text messages. The calls and messages contained not just warnings, but instructions on which roads were safe to take and which schools or other buildings could be used for shelter. In the midst of the conflict, hundreds of trucks brought food, water, and medical supplies to Gaza. In Gaza City, to avoid civilian casualties, IDF infantrymen went house to house, encountering booby traps along the way and fending off seven attempted kidnappings.

Hamas was so confident that Israel would not knowingly shoot at civilians that they hid behind human shields throughout the short war. It was common, when word came of an impending attack, for Hamas to send children out to play in the streets at that moment. There is video of a terrorist with a rocket launcher slung over his shoulder grabbing a 10-year-old boy by the collar and dragging him across the street to deter Israeli snipers. And it worked. Israel has similar video (from Reuters, actually) showing UN ambulances ferrying armed men.

There are scores of other examples—Hamas firing from mosques, schools, private homes, and hospitals. The very fact that Hamas used human shields betrays their admission that Israel abides by ethical standards in war fighting. They took advantage of Israel's moral qualms about harming non-combatants. Now they accuse Israel of the crimes they themselves committed—deliberately targeting civilians by raining down 12,000 missiles on southern Israel since the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.



**Israeli soldiers I talked to say they will not shoot a civilian for his sake, but also for the sake of their souls.** The more intolerable injustice is the world's embrace of the lies and calumnies now peddled by the same people who sent those kids into the streets in a war zone.



## Mohammed: "The Muslims will kill the Jews. Be patient"

By Aaron Klein, [www.WND.com](http://www.WND.com)

Trees, animals, and non-Jewish athletes despise Jews, declared an Egyptian cleric on his country's television network.

"People hate (Jews). They don't like them. We are not talking only about people. [The same goes] even for trees and animals," stated Egyptian cleric Amin Al-Ansari on a program that aired recently on Egypt's Al-Rahma satellite network. The program was translated from Arabic by the Middle East Media Research Institute.

"You know, there is rather peculiar footage, in which an Arab man who has a camel loves it and kisses it, and the camel kisses him back. Along comes a Jew and wants to kiss the camel, just like the Arab. What do you think the camel did? Let's watch," Al-Ansari said. The network then cut to what appeared to be staged footage of a man dressed in Arab garb kissing a camel while another man wearing a white *yarmulke* attempts to kiss the camel, prompting the animal to try to bite the purported Jew. "Animals can sense things," explained Al-Ansari.

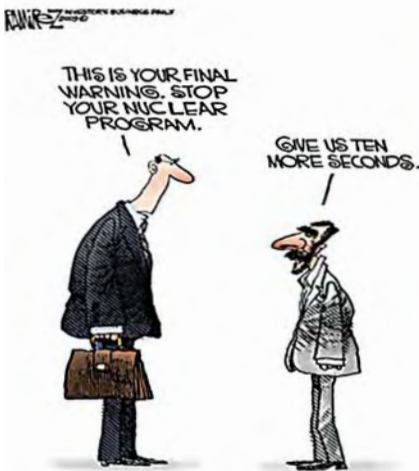
He continued, "Allah has filled people's

hearts with loathing for these [Jews]. Let's take a look at the field of sports. Let's see how the Jews are hated in the field of sports. They are abhorred. Let's take a look." The Al-Rahma program cuts to footage of an English league soccer game showing a Chelsea player kicking the Israeli soccer player Yossi Benayoun, who plays for Liverpool. "Look at this Jew being kicked. People hate them. They don't like them," explained Al-Ansari, laughing.

**"The proof is that the Prophet Mohammed said that when Judgment Day draws near, the final war between the Muslims and the Jews will take place. The Prophet said that the Muslims would kill the Jews. 'Judgment Day will not come before the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them,'" declared Al-Ansari.**

He cited from a *hadith* (a collection of the sayings of Mohammed): "The Muslims will kill the Jews. Be patient. All the trees and all the stones will say: 'Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him'—except for the Gharqad tree. Only one kind of tree will not call [the Muslims]. It is the Gharqad [Boxthorn] tree."

Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. The Egyptian news media, including government-run newspapers and television networks, routinely feature anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda. ★



[www.10postcards.com/cartoons](http://www.10postcards.com/cartoons)

# Iran Tested Advanced Nuclear Warhead Design

By Julian Borger, [www.Guardian.co.uk](http://www.Guardian.co.uk)

The UN's nuclear watchdog has asked Iran to explain evidence suggesting that Iranian scientists have experimented with an advanced nuclear warhead design.

The very existence of the technology, known as a "two-point implosion" device, is officially secret in both the U.S. and Britain, but according to previously unpublished documentation in a dossier compiled by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iranian scientists may have tested high-explosive components of the design. The development was described by nuclear experts as "breathtaking" and has added urgency to the effort to find a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis.

A U.S. national intelligence estimate two years ago said that Iran had explored nuclear warhead design for several years but had probably stopped in 2003. British, French, and German officials have said they believe weaponization continued after that date and may be continuing still.



*An Iranian long-range Shahab-3 missile being fired at an unspecified location. Photo: Press TV/AFP/Getty Images*

## Striking Iranian Nuclear Facilities Not A Bluff

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

Israel is not bluffing when it warns that all options are still on the table and that it may strike Iranian nuclear facilities, **Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon** said recently. "The one who's bluffing is Iran, by trying to play with cards they don't have."

The deputy minister's statement came a day after *The Guardian* reported that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has demanded that Iran explain evidence that it has experimented with advanced nuclear warhead technology. [See preceding story.]



*Photo: AP*

"All the bravado that we see and the testing and the very dangerous and harsh rhetoric is hiding a lot of weaknesses," Ayalon explained. He went on to accuse Iran of using stalling tactics and "buying time" instead of responding to the UN-brokered nuclear fuel deal.

Previously, Iran had asked to modify the West's proposal for Russia and France to turn the Islamic republic's uranium stockpile into nuclear fuel. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, however, urged Tehran to fully accept the offer, as it would not be changed. ★

On our last trip to Israel, our producer Ken Berg lined up a number of interviews that were so impressive, I want to give you a taste so you can look for them on *Zola Levitt Presents*.

## DeSeifering Our World

By Dr. Jeffrey Seif



First, Ken arranged for us to film at Mitzpe Yericho (see article on page 9). Orthodox Jews there just broke ground to build a scale model of the sacrificial altar in order to train Jewish priests on the proper way to officiate sacrifices when the Temple is rebuilt. Ken lined up an interview with the project's head rabbi!

We got it. Ken is editing it. You'll be seeing this prophecy-related story soon.

Then I interviewed Israel's recent ambassador to the United Nations and current deputy foreign minister, Daniel Ayalon, in a highly secured government building. I was star-struck! He was informative and gracious during the interview, and actually offered to meet again. It's not everyday I decline such an offer from a UN ambassador/Deputy Foreign Minister, but I didn't have time this trip. Ken had other plans.

Our next interview came about because **Rosemary Schindler**—yes, she is Oskar Schindler's niece by marriage—told Ken there was someone we needed to meet and film. Rosemary's offer was one we couldn't refuse.



When I started visiting Palestinian Authority-controlled Bethlehem last year, I was a bit ambivalent. Though I'm more comfortable visiting the predominately Arab Muslim city now, I was not prepared for what Ken got me into on this trip.

Rosemary led us to a Christian pastor to the Arabs named Naim Khoury. His Bethlehem church was firebombed

fourteen times by terrorists, his brother was stabbed to death in East Jerusalem some years back, and not long after, he himself was shot by a belligerent lurking in the shadows, trying to kill him as he went to his church property. Did Pastor Khoury invoke Muslim ire because he believes in Jesus? No. But, as a Bible reader, he became more kindly disposed toward Jewish people than pleased his Muslim neighbors. They took issue with that. It's that simple.

Ken and I were anxious to get Rev. Khoury and the others on film, because *we want you to see, hear, and feel what's happening in Israel right now*. Donations help us get that story out—I hope you don't mind a little nudging from me.

I might add that we later took our tour group to hear Rev. Khoury in person. We take tourists to many places that others don't go—in part, because they don't know to go. After filming in Israel for thirty-plus years, and touring there well over a hundred times, we've gained hands-on knowledge of the place and its people that distinguishes a Zola Levitt tour from most other operators, however well-intended.

If you want to look into having the experience of a lifetime, call us at 214-696-9760. Though I can't promise you prime ministers or UN ambassadors, I can promise that you'll have an experience to remember. If it's time for one, it's time for you to dial that number.

## Turkey: An Ally No More

By Daniel Pipes (R)  
*The Jerusalem Post*

The foreign ministers of Turkey and Syria met in Aleppo in October 2009. “There is no doubt he is our friend,” Turkey’s prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, says of Iran’s president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, even as he accuses Israel’s foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, of threatening to use nuclear weapons against Gaza. These outrageous assertions point to the profound change of orientation by Turkey’s government. A recent event reveals the extent of that change.

In October, the Turkish military—a long-time bastion of secularism and advocate of cooperation with Israel—abruptly asked Israeli forces not to participate in the annual “Anatolian Eagle” air force exercise.



Erdogan cited “diplomatic sensitivities” for the cancellation and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu spoke of “sensitivity on Gaza, East Jerusalem, and Al-Aqsa mosque.” This “sudden and unexpected” shift shook to the core Israel’s alignment with Turkey, in place since 1996. Jerusalem immediately responded by reviewing Israel’s practice of supplying Turkey with advanced weapons, such as the recent \$140 million sale to the Turkish Air Force of targeting pods.

Barry Rubin of the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya argues that “The Israel-Turkey alliance is over,” and concludes that Turkey’s armed forces no longer guard the secular republic and can no longer intervene when the government becomes too Islamist.



## Preparing For Service In The Rebuilt Temple

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

Jews in the town of Mitzpe Yericho are taking practical steps to prepare for the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem, by preparing descendants of Cohanim (priests) and Levites for service. At the Mitzpe Yericho school, Temple priest hopefuls learn exactly how to conduct the daily Temple service and offer the required sacrifices.

“Today is really a historical event for the Jewish people,” organizer Levi Chazan said as another part of the school was completed. “It is the beginning of the work for the Third Temple.”

The school will include an exact replica of the Temple. The latest addition to the replica was the area in which priests offered wine and water libations. The water offering was traditionally given on the Sukkot holiday, which was celebrated last October.

Festivities accompanied the completion of another step in the school’s construction. Among those present was Baruch Marzel, long-time Land of Israel activist and parliamentary aide to MK Michael Ben-Ari. The timing of the work on the school is particularly appropriate due to recent Muslim riots against Jewish visits to the Temple Mount, Marzel said.



*We filmed here recently, and we’ll be bringing the story to you, finances permitting. Stay tuned. This is prophetically significant. —Jeff*

# Russia Boosts Financial Ties With The Arab World

**Russia has formed a strategic plan for strengthening its relations with the Arab world, particularly in the economic field. The person behind this initiative, which will also include the launching of an Arab satellite from Russian soil with the help of Russian experts, is Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.**

London-based Arabic-language *al-Sharq al-Awsat* newspaper reported recently that the Russian plan seeks to expand Moscow's ties with Arab countries, especially those who do not have traditional relations with Russia, like Syria and Algeria. Today, the volume of trade between Russia and the Arab world is estimated at \$10 billion, but the Russians seek to double this sum, and even triple it, in the coming years.

According to the report, the Russians are not only interested in expanding the trade, but are also seeking to increase the bilateral investments, boosting cooperation in both the banking and technological fields, including launching the satellite on a Russian missile.

The Russian aspirations are accompanied by a considerable PR effort. The Russians have decided to redistribute the *Moscow News* newspaper in Arabic after a 10-year break. The newspaper's first edition is being distributed in some 150,000 copies across the Arab world, using the extensive Russian mechanism in Arab countries. Putin himself offered his greetings to the Arab readers on the newspaper's front page, praising the need to boost Russia's economic cooperation with the Arab world.

Earlier this year, St. Petersburg hosted a conference that was attended by senior representatives from the Arab world to discuss possibilities for increasing the economic cooperation between the sides. Putin's deputy, Igor

By Doron Peskin  
www.YNetNews.com



Shuvalov & Putin

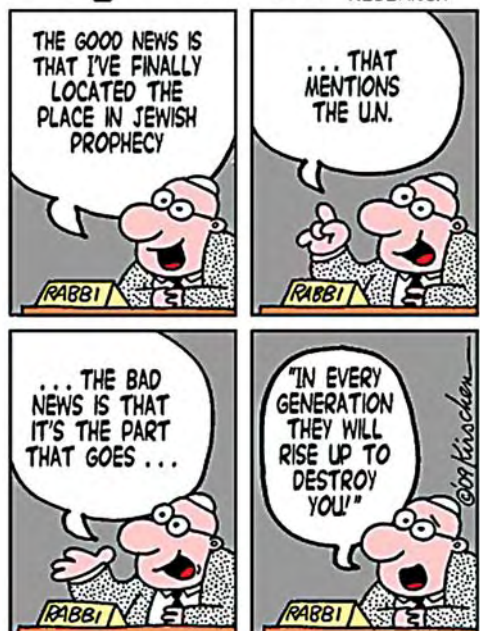
Shuvalov, said during the conference, "The investment in the Arab world and Arab investments in Russia are very important to us, and we will work to have them realized." Shuvalov also noted that Russian banks were holding talks with banks from Arab countries on ways to increase the cooperation.

Qatar's finance minister, who took part in the discussions, stated that his country was interested in joint initiatives with Russia in the energy field. In 2008, Russian energy company Gazprom decided to establish a "troika" with Qatar and Iran in order to strengthen the cooperation in the gas industry. These three countries control much of the global production of natural gas.



This might be a good time to acquire Zola Levitt's book *Coming: The End! Russia & Israel in Prophecy*, offered on page 18, or CD on page 19. —Jeff

## Dry Bones THE RABBI'S RESEARCH



DryBonesBlog.com

## Illustrating A Tragic Point

I'm put in mind of a joke one of our tour guides sent us from Jerusalem. It seemed that a Jewish fellow opened a Jewish delicatessen and placed a sign in the window saying, "No Arabs allowed." But on the second day, an Arab in full dress came in and ordered a sandwich. The boss wanted to avoid problems, so he simply told the waiter to double the price, thinking the fellow would get the idea. The next day, the customer was back ordering a full lunch. This time, the owner tripled the price. The Arab paid without protest and left a generous tip. He also made a reservation for ten of his friends for supper that evening.

The exasperated owner told the waiter, "All right, serve them, but this time, multiply the check by ten. There must be a way to get through to these people." The Arabs showed up that evening and had a dinner which cost them hundreds of dollars, but again they paid cheerfully and left a good tip.

The next day, the owner placed a new

sign in the window:  
"NO JEWS ALLOWED."

Now, that's meant to be funny, and I suppose it is, but it actually illustrates a rather tragic point. At a certain level of profit, folks have a way of turning even against their own people, and I'm beginning to have a hunch that there are some in Israel who are doing just that.

The Israeli government accepts aid packages and so forth from Washington, then turns around and betrays its own settlers, telling them to get off the West Bank so the Palestinians can have the land. What on earth would we have said if people had told us we shouldn't have folks settling land west of, say, the thirteen colonies?

Is it possible that the U.S. is buying off an Israeli government, which they certainly helped to elect, and that the Israeli government is almost saying, "No Jews allowed"? The prospect scares me, but there may be some truth to it. ★



# Lions Of Jerusalem



Last October I had the privilege to conduct over a dozen interviews in Israel for *Zola Levitt Presents*. Among the interesting and knowledgeable people I spoke with, I particularly enjoyed my time with anointed Messianic recording artist Paul Wilbur, noted Israeli author and international speaker Lance Lambert, Barry and Batya Segal, and several other Israeli Believers.

**Paul Wilbur described what had happened the previous Friday evening at Ein Gedi on the shores of the Dead Sea** (See Dec. '09 *Levitt Letter*, p.15). He was there with a large audio and film crew from Integrity Music, preparing to record his fourth worship music CD in Israel. Just ten minutes before the concert was set to begin, the electricity to the sound and recording systems suddenly shut down. Watching frantic scrambling on the stage, the assembled crowd of 4,000 Christian visitors from around the world started to pray, as did Paul and his crew.

An Israeli man with typical *chutzpah* and a tool kit offered to look into the problem. Paul said the man cleverly “hot wired” around the electrical fault, and the power came back on just a few minutes before show time! Yet another miracle had occurred in the Promised Land, to the great delight of the assembled throng.

**My interviews included several well-known Israeli archaeologists and journalists.** Long-time *Jerusalem Post* editor and columnist Saul Singer described a new book he has just co-authored called *Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*. It

details the many wonderful Israeli scientific, medical, and technological discoveries, breakthroughs, and innovations that have blessed the entire world. He said people everywhere need to read something other than the usual negative hash about Israel featured on international media reports. I wholeheartedly agree (See page 1 story).

**But my interviews with a couple of Israeli heroes from the 1967 Six-Day War moved me the most.** One man, Shimon Kahaner, known to the Israeli public by his popular nickname *Katcha*, was the deputy commander of Israeli paratroop forces that stormed into the walled Old City via the eastern Lion's Gate. When they moved up to the Temple Mount and Western Wall, they restored Jewish control to the most sacred ground on Earth for the first time in nearly 2,000 years.



As I was interviewing Katcha inside the Lion's Gate, some passing “Palestinians” heard me refer to the Temple Mount. One of them proclaimed that it should instead be called Dome of the Rock, referring to the Muslim mosque that dominates the holy site today. Plainclothes Israeli policemen sitting in a nearby car helped ensure that the comment did not morph into a confrontation. Of course, the site has been known far and wide as the Temple Mount ever since King Solomon built the original Jewish House of Worship (Temple) there nearly 3,000 years ago—some 16 centuries before Islam first appeared on the world stage. ★

## NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



# Ft. Hood Shouldn't Have Been A Surprise

By David Horowitz, [NewsRealBlog.com](http://NewsRealBlog.com)

A Muslim fanatic with an Internet site praising Islamic suicide bombers as defenders of their comrades is a Major in the U.S. Army with access to military intelligence and lethal weaponry. And it's not as though the army didn't know that he was a Muslim fanatic and supporter of the Islamic jihad against the West. He was under investigation for six months because of his anti-American, jihadist rantings. He did not want to be deployed. He wanted to be discharged.

But despite his identification with America's enemies, the army kept him in its officer corps. How in God's name was this possible? But it was. And so, after calling America the "aggressor" in Afghanistan and Iraq, this Muslim jihadist traitor army officer picks up his semi-automatic weapons and heads for the center at Ft. Hood where soldiers are being deployed to fight the jihadists in Afghanistan to conduct his massacre. Yet Fox News says "Investigators search for a motive in the Ft. Hood killings." Is everybody out of their mind?

The Fort Hood massacre was a preventable atrocity—and atrocities are apparently necessary for Americans to wake up to the threat that confronts us. We have a vast internal threat in this country in the form of radical Islam—whose Muslim Brotherhood network extends through our universities, our government, and our military. It is "politically incorrect" to recognize this fact. You can be barred—as I have been—from speaking at universities for even talking about it. Major Hasan had semi-automatic weapons. But they weren't nuclear. That possibility is just around the corner unless we undergo a sea change in our attitudes and marshal the intelligence and the courage to recognize the threat.



## Perceptions of Jews By Renowned Gentiles

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

"The Jew is that sacred being who has brought down from heaven the everlasting fire, and has illumined with it the entire world. He is the religious source, spring, and fountain out of which all the rest of the peoples have drawn their beliefs and their religions. The Jew is the pioneer of liberty. The Jew is the pioneer of civilization. The Jew is the emblem of eternity."

—LEO TOLSTOY, 1828-1910



# Islamist Perfidy and Western Naivety

By Raymond Ibrahim, PajamasMedia.com

David J. Rusin of Islamist Watch shows how the word "*jihad*" continues to be euphemized in the West. Despite Islamic law's unequivocal portrayal of it as a military endeavor to empower Islam, *jihad* is still being peddled as "nothing more than a student laboring to pass algebra." Rusin concludes by observing: "Why Islamists peddle such specious definitions should be clear. More baffling and disturbing is why they gain traction among so many Westerners."

Indeed, therein lies the irony: Islamist perfidy is only to be expected; Western naivety, on the other hand, which, if anything, should have begun to dissipate in our post-9/11 world, has burgeoned to the point of nearly making the former unnecessary. For while there is no doubt that Islamists distort the meaning of *jihad*, increasingly, even when the true meaning is in plain sight, Western leaders and media fail to discern it. In other words, blindness regarding *jihad* has become so deep-seated in the West that Islamists need no longer actively dissemble.

*"jihad"*

Here is a recent, comical example: On September 11, 2009, NPR ran a story called "For NYC Muslims, a New Kind of Police Attention," which tells of how "the NYPD hosts an annual Ramadan program, during which the police get to know members of the Muslim community and Muslims are free to speak their minds." Lest the theme of this story elude you, words such as "outreach," "diversity," and "building bridges" predominate.

**Here's the problem:** In the audio version of this report, the NPR narrator says that "there was not an empty seat to be had at the NYPD's auditorium at One Police Plaza. NYPD brass, Muslim clerics,

and community members all stood and listened to the cadences of the call to prayer from the NYPD's imam," **Khalid Latif** (shown below). While this is being said, you can hear part of the imam's Arabic recitation from the Koran in the background.



NYPD's imam, Khalid Latif

The narrator's enthusiastic talk of NYPD brass standing to hear the "cadences of the call" makes it difficult to discern exactly which verse is being recited. Only the last few words—*qawm al-kaffirin*, "nation of infidels"—are crystal clear, raising red flags. Thanks to my trusty Arabic-Koranic concordance, I have placed this phrase as part of Koran 2:286, which supplicates Allah "to make us [Muslims] victorious over the nation of infidels." Bear in mind that, from an Islamist point of view, the United States is a "nation of infidels."

**And there it is:** If American-Muslim leaders can publicly pray for the subjugation of non-Muslims (in the middle of an NYPD auditorium, no less), it is clear that the ultimate threat comes more from Western carelessness and indifference—in a word, naivety—than it does from active Islamist machinations. In short, Islamists peddling misleading interpretations for the word "*jihad*" is but the very tip of the iceberg. ★

*Raymond Ibrahim is the associate director of the Middle East Forum.*

## New 'Genius Program' Launched In Israel

By Tamar Trabelsi-Hadad, YNetNews.com

Fifteen high school students are currently undergoing strict training in a program designed to groom Israel's first "team of geniuses."

The tenth and eleventh graders were chosen by the Education Ministry to participate in the program in which a highly respected scientist personally trains them to become future leaders in many of the scientific fields. Each member of the team possesses an IQ of 155 or higher, and the ministry hopes they will go on to become Nobel Prize laureates.

Israeli schools of all grades are currently said to contain around 12,000 students described by the Education Ministry as "gifted," and around 10-15 in every graduating class are thought to possess an IQ higher than 155. The program is aimed at guaranteeing that their mental prowess be properly developed.



The program was designed by the president of the Weizmann Institute, **Daniel Zajfman**. In order to find the students suitable for it, teachers were asked to recommend pupils they thought performed

extraordinarily in class. The selected students are assigned to a world-renowned scientist who commits to training them, and arrive for training at the institute in which he or she is employed for one day every two weeks. The scientists involve the teens in their work and train them in their field. Three times a year, the team is brought together for a cooperative session.

Shlomit Rachmel, who heads the Education Ministry's Department for Gifted Children, says the trainers were chosen discriminately. "These are researchers located at the forefront of science and are good role models for the students," she said.

Ehud Duchovny of the Weizmann Institute is currently training an eleventh grader in particle physics, and helping him to achieve a degree in mathematics. "This is a very ambitious student with a high potential," Duchovny says.

He plans to incorporate the teen in his work on the largest particle accelerator in the world, located near Geneva. Last year, it hosted an international experiment on the Big Bang. "The student will actively take part in an experiment I am conducting," Duchovny says. "It even stands to reason that he will travel with me to Geneva to present the outcomes of the experiment. He is very excited." ★





## The Grace of Torah

By John J. Parsons

טוֹב וְיָשָׁר יְהוָה עַל-כֵּן יוֹרָה חַטָּאִים בְּדֶרֶךְ

*Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. (Psalm 25:8)*

טוֹב	וְיָשָׁר	יְהוָה	עַל-	כֵּן	יֹרָה	חַטָּאִים	בְּ	דֶרֶךְ
(1)	(2)(3)(4)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)(2)	(1)(2)(3)	(1)(2)	(3)
tov	ve-ya-shar	Adonai	al ken	yo-reh	chat-ta'im	ba-da-rekh		
good	and upright (is)	the LORD	therefore	He will teach	sinner	in the way		

It's been rightly said that God doesn't have any grandchildren in Heaven, only children: He is not your "heavenly grandfather" but your heavenly Father. And just as a good father disciplines his children for their own good, so does your Father in Heaven (Prov. 3:11, Heb. 12:5-7). The discipline of God leads you to do *teshuvah* for your ultimate good (Rom. 2:4). As C.S. Lewis once remarked, God doesn't love you *because* you are good, but He will make you good *because* He loves you.

The word *derekh*, often translated as "way," metaphorically refers to the journey, manner, or course of your life. Because God is *tov v'yashar* (good and upright), he teaches his children to be *yesharim*, i.e., those who walk uprightly. Indeed, the way of the LORD (*derekh Adonai*) is to do acts of love (*tzedakah*) and justice (Gen. 18:19). This is the "straight way" (*derekh ha-yashar*), the narrow path that leads to life (Matt. 7:14).

Note that the verb used in this verse (*yoreh*) comes from the same root used in the word Torah (*arah*). Because the LORD is good and upright, He gives us *Torah* for our lives. God educates us for eternity by imparting to us moral and spiritual truth. As King David taught, "Happy is the man who delights in the Torah of the LORD and meditates upon it day and night" (Psalm 1:2).

Surely followers of Jesus should likewise love and study the Torah. After all, Jesus was the Angel of the LORD who spoke at Sinai when the Torah was given to Israel (Exod. 3:2, Deut. 4:12), and He is the same "yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). During His earthly ministry, Jesus studied Torah and clearly taught us to keep the ways of the LORD (Luke 4:16, Matt. 7:12). He repeatedly affirmed the central teaching of the Torah—the *Shema*—putting the duty to love God above all else (Deut. 6:4-6; Mark 12:29). Indeed, the "New Covenant" itself promises that the Torah would be written "upon our hearts" (Jer. 31:31-33, cp. Matt. 26:28) and is inscrutable apart from it—just as Jesus himself clearly taught (Luke 24:27).

***Jesus is called derekh ha-chayim, the way of life (John 14:6). He is the Wonder of the Torah, its living expression and goal. May it please the LORD to "uncover our eyes so that we will might behold wonders from His Torah" (Psalm 119:18).***



## The Holy Days of Our Lord

Eleven 30-minute television programs on three DVDs.

On location in Israel, we created this 11-program presentation of the holidays our Lord celebrated. Given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, these celebrations provide one of the most fascinating studies of biblical types and shadows. Few churches or seminaries teach this important and fascinating subject. *See page 18 to order.*

**Overview.** From the Mount of Olives, Zola gives a summary of the festivals that the Lord established for the Chosen People in Leviticus 23. Dan Hendrickson, an Orthodox Jew of Jerusalem, explains how observant Jews view each of the feasts.

**Passover.** In front of a bloodstained doorway, Zola gives us a look at the original Exodus and our own deliverance from the wilderness of a sinful life. He explains each element of the traditional Seder as it relates to Christ's fulfillment and the Lord's redemptive plan.

**Unleavened Bread.** Zola explains how this festival annually reminds the Chosen People that they did not have time to let the bread rise when the Lord delivered them out of Egypt, and how the Messiah is represented in the unique *matzo* itself. We visit a factory outside Jerusalem to find out how *matzo* is made.

**First Fruits.** In this feast, "wave offerings"—two loaves of bread, representing the Church and the Chosen—are presented to the Lord for the new harvest season. The editor of the magazine *Eretz* (The Land) shares insights into the ancient similarities between modern Judaism and the present-day Church.

**Pentecost.** Zola explains that when Christ told His disciples to wait for the coming power of the Lord, the Jews were anticipating the celebration of Shavuot.

**Trumpets.** Zola teaches about Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. A day of celebration and merriment, it is also a time when the seriousness of sin begins to weigh on the hearts of the Jewish people. We see how the ceremonial horns—*shofars*—are made. *Left Behind* author Tim LaHaye gives insights about what will happen when the last trumpet sounds.

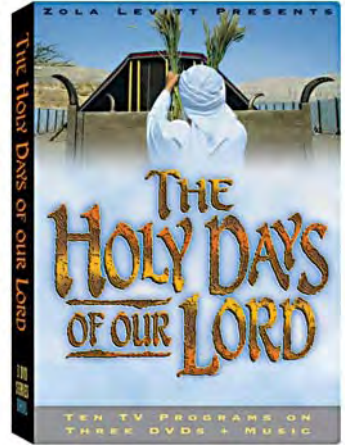
**Day of Atonement.** From the Mount of Olives, Zola speaks about Yom Kippur. Once a year, the priest entered into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies and made a sacrifice for sins of the entire nation. In Timna Park, near Eilat, we see a replica of the Tabernacle.

**Tabernacles.** Standing next to a *sukkah*, Zola informs us that the mood in Israel changes from a solemn occasion of judgment to one of celebration and merriment. U.S. immigrant Chuck King reveals the plans for the celebration that the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem holds yearly at Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found.

**Purim/Hanukkah.** From the giant Menorah by the Israeli Parliament, Zola recalls the Book of Esther as well as New Testament references to the Festival of Lights, rededicating the Temple. We hear the testimony of a native-born Israeli whose life dramatically changed when he found his Messiah.

**Sabbath.** Standing by a stream in the desert, Zola reads from Exodus and teaches about the day of rest. He draws a contrast between this commandment and where Christians find their "rest." Rabbi Henri Noach explains why this one day most distinguishes the Jewish people.

**Music.** This conclusion to the series features all the music heard in the other ten programs. We see dramatic recreations of each feast, Zola's performance on location in Israel, and view the scenic beauty of the Holy Land.



# MATERIALS LIST, SPECIAL OFFERS & ORDER FORM

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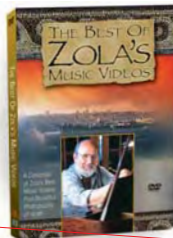


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**FEATURE Items SEE P. 17 10 & 27**

Qty Total	Videos	Price
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—	The Rabbi From Tarsus (3-DVD)	\$69
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—	Sons of Israel (9 prog) (3-VHS)	\$59
—	(3-DVD)	\$59
—	The Stones Cry Out (12 prog) (3-DVD)	\$69
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—	(2-DVD)	\$39
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—	(12 prog) (3-DVD)	\$69
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—	The Warrior King (2-DVD)	\$49
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**Studies, Etc.**

**FEATURE  
Items SEE PP. 10, 27, 36**

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___	in Prophecy CD	\$7	___
___	Discovering Our Jewish Roots (9 CDs)	\$39	___
___	Encounters with UFOs CD	\$7	___
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___	How Can a Gentile Be Saved? CD	\$7/TP \$4	___
___	Jesus the Jew's Jew CD	\$7	___
___	The Miracle of Passover CD	\$7/TP \$4	___
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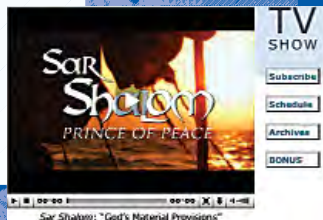
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# ZLM Bulletin Board

## Find **Zola Levitt Presents**

Now it's easier than ever to locate our television program's broadcast times in your area. You simply enter your city and state or just your ZIP Code into the "Station Search" box at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com). Once you click on the "TV Show" tab at our home page, scroll down beneath the "Episode Airing Schedule" box. You might try searching both ways; e.g., "Dallas, Texas" and "75231."

Beneath this search feature, you'll find our complete airing schedule. You are welcome to a free hardcopy by mail as well. Page 33 in this *Levitt Letter* displays our national television networks, but there's much, much more to how far and wide we broadcast.



## Join the King David Club

Help us bring in the Kingdom!! If you donate \$10,000, you will receive the following with our grateful thanks:

- One each of all of our teaching materials (more than \$2,400 worth), not just for your library, but also to share.
- One \$500 discount on each of up to four (4) of our tours to Israel.
- A one-on-one telephone conference with Jeff to discuss this ministry's goals, plans, and visions.



## Pamphlet of the Month:

All women need to take control of their long-range financial and estate plans. The free pamphlet ***Questions & Answers About Estate Planning for Women*** answers eight core questions. Here are some of its tips: Even a married woman needs a separate plan, of which joint ownership can play a part. Spouses should have separate plans that complement each other. When marital status changes, it's wise to review the will, life insurance beneficiaries, and retirement plans. To receive this pamphlet at no charge, email us at [staff@levitt.com](mailto:staff@levitt.com) or write to our P.O. Box.



## Take Our Viewer Survey

You can help this ministry improve in many ways by clicking on the "Survey" icon at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com) beneath the heading "Worth Considering."

Or access it directly at:

<http://zlm2009.questionpro.com>.

All the questions are optional, so it's okay to skip any that don't pertain to your interests. You'll have opportunities to indicate which types of our programs you prefer as well as your favorite *Levitt Letter* features. It's the same survey that we mailed a couple of months ago, so if you've already responded, feel free to spend your time enjoying new or favorite aspects of our website. Thanks!

## "Come Home!"

**Zola's  
Tours to  
Israel:**



**See page  
36 for details**





# On “Casting Bread”

a note  
from mark

“A mean person should be in charge of the company checkbook.” Such was the advice thirty years ago from one of my business administration professors at UT Austin. Twenty-one years of signing checks for this ministry hasn’t made me any nicer, but I have become keener about avoiding penny wisdom and pound foolishness.

Some of this ministry’s most stalwart assets are its relationships with four national television networks, a hundred-plus independent full-power stations, and a dozen satellite/international and DirecTV outlets. We maintain this incredible collection by a) always paying our bills on time and b) furnishing high-caliber programming with minimal reruns.



To conserve funds in 2008, I reduced this ministry’s television production budget. We had produced many programs in 2007, and the sinking economy cued me to soft peddle a bit. This year, by contrast, I had to dip into our seed money, so to speak, to amp up our production. You viewers deserve fresh programs, and our broadcasters tacitly insist upon them by saying “bye-bye” (official industry nomenclature) to those whose content doesn’t cut the mustard.

Red ink scares me about as little as blood bothers a Marine. It’s just a part of life, and if you can’t take the heat, then the kitchen is no place for you. My articles have mentioned “economies of scale” before. Of course it costs less *per newsletter* to mail to 50,000 households than to 40,000. (Note: We have 1,700 prisoners on our mailing list!) The same principle applies to broadcast television.

Once the programs are produced, why be squeamish when it’s time to buy airtime to deliver the Bible teaching? The first part of Ecclesiastes 11:1 says to “**Cast thy bread upon the waters.**” The second part does not stipulate “**but only if you’ll still have plenty of bread left over afterwards.**” 2 Corinthians 9:6 advises, “**He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.**”

This has been a year of sowing bountifully. We have moderately dipped into reserves that have accumulated over the years. We also have managed to reduce expenses despite having no extravagances to begin with. For example, we gave away our station wagon to one ministry that fights homelessness and loaned our truck and travel trailer to an organization that instructs churches across America on how to join forces in meeting their communities’ needs for food, clothing, etc. Less overhead for us and better use of God’s resources.

You may recall my article in the November 2009 *Levitt Letter*, “A Star is Just a Star” (p. 21). I observed that Charity Navigator still gives our ministry its top rating of four stars on “efficiency” but one star less for “capacity.” Having to choose between beefing up our financial statements or casting bread, I opted, on your behalf, to fish for men rather than shoot for the stars. ★





# Letters to ZIM

## Comments from [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)

**From M.R.:** Thank you for the ministry you do so well. I was raised Catholic and became a born-again Christian 4 years ago. I thirst for more knowledge and get a lot of your videos and information at [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com).

**From L.I.:** What a blessing to go with you to the Holy City! I am watching all of your archived programs at [www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv) to get ready for the trip! God bless this ministry!

## Thanks from Japan

Shalom to you Jeff, and everybody there in our Loving Lord of Israel,

Thank you so much for sending the October edition of the *Levitt Letter* all the way to Japan! I really enjoy each edition, but I would like you to use the money (postage) for other things for the Glory of God, simply because I can enjoy the *Levitt Letters* online! But I really appreciate the September edition you sent me, which included (on p. 25) my letter (Shalom from Japan) to your ministry for His Glory!

May the Lord Jesus bless you even more richly through spreading His Good News of Love and Mercy and His Jewish Truth which many “Christians” do not accept, but is True forever!

—M.T.

Dear M.T.—

*Levitt Letter* subscribers who read our news magazines online can enroll to receive free notifications whenever we post new editions. Click on “Newsletter” at the top of [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com) and then on “e-mail subscribe” right under it and fill in your address. You’ll be ahead of the game by reading our news significantly before the postman delivers the hard copies via bulk mail.

—Mark

## American Atrocities



## Re: Music

Dear Jeff,

I was sorry I missed the program with **Paul Wilbur**. I am a big fan of his music and have several of his CDs. I believe his music is Spirit-led and Spirit-filled. No, I am not Jewish, but I am a Christian who Loves Israel and the Jewish people. I know the roots of my faith are Jewish as Yeshua was a Jew (he never became a Christian).

I also really enjoy the music of Ted Pearce. While he is not Jewish, his music seems Messianic and also Spirit-led and -filled. I also listen to a lot of contemporary Christian music. I believe that when God is praised and lifted up in our music, He is pleased. It doesn't matter if it is southern gospel, gospel, contemporary, or Messianic. If we are worshipping God, He is pleased.

I really enjoy reading the *Levitt Letter* and I share it with many of my co-workers. Keep up the good work. It is so refreshing to read the truth in print. Bless you and all your staff for all you do. —K.P. (TX)

P.S. I think Zola would be very pleased with what you are doing.



Dear K.P.—

No need to regret missing *Zola Levitt Presents* on television. You can simply “tune in” to our television program on the Internet at [www.levitt.tv](http://www.levitt.tv). Or go to [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com) and click on the “TV Show” tab toward the top left. Entering “Paul Wilbur” in the search field toward the top right will list our ministry’s archive of Paul Wilbur’s appearances.

—Mark

## Widow's Mite

Dear ZLM,

I've given a very small donation for many years from my bank account. And I constantly pray that many others will also give even a small amount. I am giving the widow's mite, so to speak. I was widowed at age 32. My husband died at age 34, after the birth of our 5th child. I'm 77 now and, dear God, I still miss him.

I love to get the newsletters from you—they are a blessing to me. I really feel great about Jeff now, but initially I felt no one could take Zola's place. And I so need to hear Mark's news.

You offer much to your readers and such intelligence! There is richness in teaching us about Israel and truth in news—which we seldom hear in today's world. Our Lord is truly glorified through your ministry and all your honest news. I pray always for you all and trust the Lord to bless you and guide you through all. You have the wisdom of the Lord in choosing what we read. —A.A.

## Dry Bones NEW PROBLEM FOR ISRAEL



DryBonesBlog.com

## “Sar Shalom”

Dear Mr. Seif,

By God's grace, I am a regular watcher, but must write because *Sar Shalom* (Prince of Peace) is excellent. And I have sent around Ted Pearce's *Psalm 23* to many people. This teaching is joining my favorites, *In the Footsteps of the Rabbi from Tarsus* and *She Shall Be Called Woman*. Looking forward to remainder of the series. Am also one of your Twitter followers. ([www.twitter.com/zolalevitt](http://www.twitter.com/zolalevitt)) Keep up the excellent work. Grace and Peace, —S.R.



## A Jewish Believer

Hello Jeff,

I appreciate seeing Jesus speaking Hebrew and looking like a real Jew in *Sar Shalom*. This is very important to me as a Jewish Believer. Yes, He belongs to the world, but He is also uniquely ours. After our denying Him as a nation for so long, it's time we repurchased Him and told the world about our Messiah without shame. I find it helpful seeing you do this, and it helps me get His Jewishness more firmly into my soul. Thanks, Jeff —J.

## Wow, About the Newsletter...

Dear Jeff,

Wow! Before receiving the *Levitt Letter*, I never expected that there would be so many people against this ministry! Every issue includes people who vehemently attack you with everything from corrupt ideological thinking to just plain anti-Semitism. I would just like to thank everyone who works at Zola Levitt Ministries for looking past these attacks, and succeeding in your ministry. I thank God for your ministry. —M.W.

## Blown Away

Shalom,

I must say to all who are involved in this ministry... "I AM BLOWN AWAY!!!"

I want to thank you with all my heart for the incredible job you are doing. When I watch your program, I see Yeshua through Jeff. I especially love that you guys actually go on location. You make doctrinal concerns seem real and approachable. I am eager to learn more about Jewish traditions and practices that can clarify my hazy Christian understanding.

In a world where religion has become a disappointment, it is a refreshing blessing to have you here. My fiancée and I have watched and listened to your programs online every night for the last 5 days, creating a peace in my home like never before. I cannot say thank you enough—seriously! —J.I. (FL) ★



## Comparing Islamic Anti-Semitism To Nazi Germany At Its Worst

By Robert S. Wistrich, [www.Haaretz.com](http://www.Haaretz.com)

On November 9, 1938, a nationwide anti-Jewish pogrom occurred during peacetime across the Third Reich. The pretext for this violence against German Jews was the shooting in Paris two days earlier of German diplomat, Ernst vom Rath, by Herschel Grynszpan, a 17-year-old Polish-Jewish refugee.

The state-organized pogrom, instigated by Hitler and Joseph Goebbels, resulted in burning or damaging more than a thousand synagogues; ransacking about 7,500 businesses, murdering at least 91 Jews, and deporting another 30,000 Jewish males to concentration camps in Dachau, Buchenwald, and Sachsenhausen. This murderous onslaught against German Jewry, described as the “Night of Broken Glass” (*Kristallnacht*), was a major turning point on the road to the Final Solution of the so-called Jewish Question.



It signified that the Nazi regime would no longer be deterred by Western public opinion in its “war against the Jews.” The economic expropriation of German Jewry, its complete social ostracism and public humiliation swiftly followed. Jews were banned from public transport, from concerts, theaters, cinemas, commercial centers, beaches, or using public benches. Two weeks after “Crystal Night,” the SS journal, *Das Schwarze Korps*, chillingly prophesied the final end of German Jewry through “fire and sword” and its imminent complete annihilation.

Today, the specter of such apocalyptic anti-Semitism has returned to haunt Europe and other continents, while often assuming radically new forms. In the Middle East, it has taken on a particularly dangerous and potentially genocidal aura of hatred, closely linked to the “mission” of holy war or *jihad* against the West and the Jews.

Islamist anti-Semitism is thoroughly soaked in many of the most inflammatory themes that initially made possible the atrocities of

Crystal Night and its horrific aftermath during the Holocaust. For example: the pervasive theme of a Jewish conspiracy for world domination, and the vile stereotype of the Jews as a treacherous, rapacious, and bloodthirsty people engaged in a ceaseless plotting to undermine the world of Islam.

To these, one must add such more up-to-date libels like Holocaust denial, which is increasingly pervasive in the Arab world. Equally fashionable (and increasingly popular in Europe) is the slanderous identification of Israel with Nazism or the “ethnic cleansing” of the Palestinians. This modernized version of inverted anti-Semitism, that sails under the mask of “anti-Zionism” and anti-Americanism, is today a global phenomenon, but it has special resonance in the Middle East as a result of the unresolved “Palestinian question.”

The scale and extremism of the literature and commentary available in Arab and Muslim newspapers, journals, on Islamist websites, on the Middle Eastern radio and TV news, and in films and educational materials is comparable only to that of Nazi Germany at its worst.

Yet the Western world turns a blind eye to the genocidal consequences of such a culture of hatred, much as it did 70 years ago. My own extensive research has, unfortunately, convinced me that the Holocaust did not truly succeed in neutralizing the scourge of anti-Semitism. ★

*Prof. Robert S. Wistrich is the director of The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.*



## Bedouin Town Plans To Expel Illegal Arabs: "They are a Nuisance"

By Gil Ronen, [www.IsraelNN.com](http://www.IsraelNN.com)

The Bedouin town of Rahat in the Negev is suffering from a wave of Arabs who illegally entered Israel from areas of Judea and Samaria that are under Arab control, and from Gaza. They have rented homes and stores and are primarily employed at trade and construction work. According to Arutz Sheva's Hebrew service, their reputation as a cheap work force tempted the local Arabs to let them into the town.

The locals say, however, that the illegal migrants' presence has become a nuisance and is causing a spike in crime, including arms dealing and drug trade. There are about 2,000 illegal Arabs in Rahat, according to police estimates. Rahat elders and leaders are concerned that their very presence could damage the fabric of the Bedouin family unit.

**Rahat mayor Faez Abu-Sahiban (of the Islamic Movement) recently announced a "total war" against the illegals.** "I have received reports from hundreds of young men and women complaining of harassment of the young women by the illegals," he said. "This behavior contradicts our religion and tradition. We will not let those who want to trample our values stay in our town." Abu-Sahiban announced that he intends to use a "heavy hand" together with the police to kick out the migrants. Anyone who cooperates with them would be an accomplice to a crime, he warned.

[IsraelNN.com note: The very same complaints that the Bedouins have against the illegal Arabs are often made by Jews against Bedouins and other Arab citizens of Israel, but calls to expel the Arabs from Jewish towns are condemned by Arab spokesmen and certain political groups as "racism" and "incitement to violence."]

## Denmark Pays Immigrants To Go Home

By Allan Hall, [www.DailyMail.co.uk](http://www.DailyMail.co.uk)



Denmark is boosting cash incentives to entice immigrants to return to their homelands if they can't or won't assimilate into society.

The offer is close to \$20,000 for every person who takes up the offer to leave. The financial carrot is ten times more than previously offered under the 1997 law. "We thought it was important to substantially increase this aid so that immigrants who want to return home because they are not able to adapt to Danish society have a strong financial basis to start a new life," said a foreign affairs spokesman.

Critics are shocked by the news, and fear it sends the message "that foreigners are not welcome in Denmark." Since 1997, around 2,524 immigrants have voluntarily repatriated to their home countries, according to Denmark's refugee, immigrant, and integration ministry. Most of them were from the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Somalia, and Turkey. Immigrants account for about 7.3 per cent of Denmark's population of 5.5 million.



### THE ARGYLE SWEATER

By Scott Hilburn



## Presbyterians Promote Anti-Israel Incitement

By Dexter Van Zile, [www.CAMERA.org](http://www.CAMERA.org)  
(Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America)

The Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA), is promoting anti-Israel incitement from a number of different sources, including Al Manar, a Hezbollah-controlled television station that was designated as a “Global Terrorist Entity” by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 2006. The Israel/Palestine Mission Network (IPMN) was established by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2004.

In addition to mainstreaming radical Hezbollah’s Al Manar to Presbyterians and to the general public, the IPMN is also promoting false allegations about Israel tunneling beneath the Temple Mount—allegations which in the past have incited violence. The IPMN is also relaying a false report of Palestinians attacking right-wing Jews who entered the Temple Mount to pray the day before Yom Kippur. In fact, Palestinians attacked non-Jewish French tourists.

IPMN promoted the articles in a blog that reports on the alleged “decline of sovereignty by Palestinian Muslims

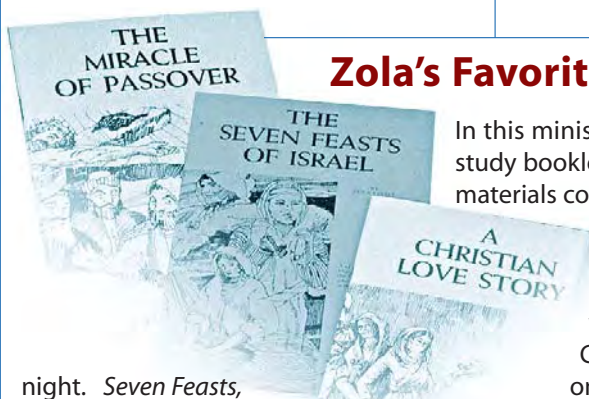
over the Haram al-Sharif Mosque on the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem.” The entry depicts the presence of Israeli Jews in Jerusalem as an alien intrusion that results in the “culture of Palestine slowly being displaced by immigrants from Europe and the US.”

Even more shocking is the IPMN’s decision to promote articles published by Al Manar, which is controlled by Hezbollah. Al Manar also provides support to other designated Palestinian terrorist organizations, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, notably transferring tens of thousands of dollars for a PIJ-controlled charity. PIJ is listed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist and a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the U.S. government, and is also named on the European Union’s list of terrorist entities. ★

### Wisdom Of The Jewish Oracle

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

*If there is no self,  
whose arthritis is this?*



## Zola's Favorite Three

In this ministry’s thirty-one-year history, three study booklets have outsold all of our other materials combined: *A Christian Love Story*, *The*

*Seven Feasts of Israel*, and *The Miracle of Passover*. *Love Story* parallels the first-century Jewish wedding customs with the return of Christ, who will come like a thief in the

night. *Seven Feasts*, studies, magnificently portrays the career of our Lord from His crucifixion to His dedication of the Kingdom to come. *Passover* demonstrates how dramatically this traditional celebration, thirty-five centuries old, typifies Christ—even in Jewish homes that don’t realize that the Messiah for whom they wait has already come. **Please order these inexpensive booklets—and audiocassettes and teaching CDs and DVDs—from pages 18 and 19.**

# Water And Jerusalem



Michael Bramnik

**Having conducted a “new analysis of historical documents and detailed geological maps,” Michael Bramnik of Northern Illinois University lectured at 2009’s annual meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Portland, Oregon. In a speech on “Bedrock of a Holy City: The Historical Importance of Jerusalem’s Geology,” Bramnik said that the city’s geology was crucial in transforming it into the religiously important city that it is and the foundation stone of Judaism.**

In 1,000 BC, the Jebusite city’s water system proved to be its undoing, said the researcher. “The spring of Gihon sat just outside the city walls, a vital resource in the otherwise parched region. But King David, intent on taking the city, sent an elite group of his soldiers into a karst limestone tunnel that fed the spring. His men climbed up through a cave system hollowed out by flowing water, infiltrated beneath the city walls and attacked from the inside. David made the city the capital of his new kingdom, and Israel was born.”

Karst landforms are characterized by weathering caused by the breakdown of soluble bedrock due to physical, chemical, or biological processes.

Limestone areas are weathered when rainwater, which contains a weak carbonic acid, reacts with limestone, causing the mineral to be eroded. The resulting pattern is called karst scenery. Rock openings expand, and an underground drainage system begins to develop, allowing more water to pass through the area and accelerating the formation of underground karst features.

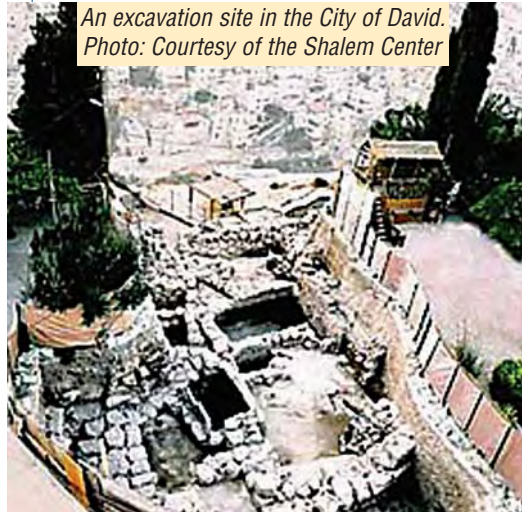
King Hezekiah, one of David’s successors, watched as the Assyrians, a group of warriors stronger than the Jews, toppled city after city in the

By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich  
[www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)

region. Fearing that they’d soon come for Jerusalem, he also took advantage of the limestone bedrock and dug a 1,800-foot-long tunnel that rerouted the spring’s water inside the city’s fortified walls and can still be seen and visited today.

The Assyrians laid siege to the city in 701 BC but failed to conquer it. Jerusalem was the only city in history to successfully fend them off, said the geologist.

In an arid region rife with conflict, water security is as important today as it was during biblical times, Bramnik concluded. “I think Jerusalem’s geology and the geology of Israel are still significant to life in the region, perhaps even reaching into the political arena.” ★



An excavation site in the City of David.  
Photo: Courtesy of the Shalem Center



Karst tunnel

## Treating Cancer With Electricity

By Aryeh Dean Cohen, [www.JPost.com](http://www.JPost.com)

While more than 60% in industrialized nations get treatment for cancer, a high percentage of patients in developing countries, even those with potentially curable cancer, receive inadequate or no therapy. In addition, in places where treatment is available, it is often difficult, expensive and often just doesn't happen. So says Prof. Boris Rubinsky by way of introduction to one of his center's most important achievements—finding a way to destroy cancerous tumors in individuals in remote locations, using what looks a lot like a pair of knitting needles.

In early 2000, Rubinsky's practice of destroying tumors by freezing led him to non-thermal, irreversible electroporation—"certain sequences of electrical fields that produce nanoscale pores in the cell membrane which then do not close anymore and lead to cell death," offering a new modality for destroying any kinds of cells, including cancerous ones, and a "new minimally invasive surgery that could be used in disadvantaged parts of the world," he explains.

"All you need are two needles with electrodes which you insert around the tumor in the body. Pulses passed between the needles are only a microsecond to a millisecond long, and if you design them correctly, this cancerous tissue is killed in such a way that just the cell membrane dies. Then you take the needles out... and the immune system removes the destroyed cells."

All one really needs to run the system is a car battery, says Rubinsky, "to allow us to treat cancer in places where otherwise it would not have been able to be treated." Sloan-Kettering in New York is among 20 or more world cancer treatment centers working with this system. "This system is being tried out all over the world for lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, brain cancer—the kinds of cancer that were not treated in the past anywhere else." ★



Prof. Boris Rubinsky

## 2 New Ways To Produce Electricity

By Hillel Fendel, [www.IsraelINN.com](http://www.IsraelINN.com)

Two new Israeli methods for the production of electricity are on the table: Car-travel on highways, and a micro-turbine home system.

A group of investors succeeded recently in producing electricity from the travel of cars along a highway. The experiment was carried out on Route 4, between Haifa and Tel Aviv, and has already elicited great interest in the Israeli and international scientific communities. The investors have begun talks to install their technology on various highways throughout Israel. Prof. Chaim Abramovitch, chairman of the new company, told Army Radio that his system could provide the electricity needs of thousands of homes each year.

In addition, scientists from Ariel University in Samaria and a Russian research center in St. Petersburg have developed an environmentally-friendly home system that produces heat and electricity. The system is based on a ceramic gas micro-turbine. Israel's Chief Scientist has dedicated a half-million dollars towards the project, which will be built and marketed under the auspices of the LN Innovative Technologies Center in Haifa. Metal turbines are limited in the amount of heat and electricity they can produce by the temperatures they can attain. The new turbine, fashioned out of ceramics and with a unique spiral canal structure inside the rotor, can reach higher temperatures than the metal one. The turbine can be attached to a home's existing gas and electric infrastructures, producing a free unit of electricity for every three units of heat. This enables the homeowner to receive both electricity and heat for the price of just the heat. ★



## Israel Dedicates Monument To 9/11 Victims

*Israel Today*

Israel recently dedicated an impressive monument to the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

At nearly 30-feet tall, the huge sculpture and the expansive courtyard in which it is placed form a very visible commemoration of that dreadful day.

The sculpture itself, designed by artist **Eliezer Weishoff**, is of a waving American flag that transforms into a memorial flame.

The base of the sculpture is actually a piece of the ruins of the World Trade Center, donated toward the Jerusalem memorial by the New York City municipality.

While the Jerusalem memorial is by no means the first 9/11 memorial set up in Israel, it is one of the only memorials outside the U.S. that includes the names of all 2,973 victims of the attacks.



## Somali Christian Refuses Veil—Is Killed

By Simba Tian  
[www.CompassDirect.org](http://www.CompassDirect.org)



Three masked members of a militant Islamist group in Somalia recently shot and killed a Somali Christian who declined to wear a veil as prescribed by Muslim custom, according to a Christian source in Somalia.

Members of the comparatively “moderate” Suna Waljameca group killed **Amina Muse Ali**, 45, in October in her home in Somalia’s autonomous Puntland region. Ali had told Christian leaders that she had received several threats from members of Suna Waljameca for not wearing a veil, symbolic of adherence to Islam. She said members of the group had long monitored her movements because they suspected she was a Christian.

Ali had come from Kismayo in 2007 at the invitation of a close friend when the Islamic extremist group al Shabaab invaded Kismayo, the source said. In 1997, Ali, an orphan and unmarried, joined the Somali Christian Brothers’ Organization, a movement commonly known as the Somali Community-Based Organization. As such, she had been an active member of the underground church in the Lower Juba region. Muslim extremists have targeted the movement, killing some of its leaders after finding them in possession of Bibles.

In August, al Shabaab extremists seeking evidence that a Somali man had converted from Islam to Christianity shot him dead near the Somali border with Kenya. In February, al Shabaab militants beheaded two young boys in Somalia because their Christian father refused to divulge information about a church leader.

## Saudi Father Weds His 10-Year-Old Daughter To Octogenarian

The Middle East Media Research Institute  
[www.MEMRI.org](http://www.MEMRI.org)

Articles have recently appeared in the Saudi press discussing the phenomenon of child marriage, which has been practiced in Muslim societies since the dawn of Islam. In Saudi Arabia, which implements *sharia* law, child bride marriages are legal, since according to Muslim tradition, the Prophet Mohammed married his wife 'Aisha when she was only six years old.

In August 2009, the Saudi daily 'Okaz reported that a 10-year-old girl had been hiding for 10 days in her aunt's house after her father married her off to a man of 80. In response to this report, a Saudi columnist contended that child bride marriages were incompatible with Islamic values and that they violated the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Saudi Arabia is a signatory.



'Okaz reported that after the father of the 10-year-old girl had removed her from her aunt's home and returned her to the husband, the husband stated that he was not yet 80, accused the girl's aunt of interfering in his private life, and claimed that according to *sharia* law his marriage is legal as long as the girl's father consented to it. He explained that the girl's father had first offered him his older daughter, but when she refused, the father had suggested the younger one, and he had agreed, since when the girl was shown to him, he couldn't see anything to prevent their getting married.



Ad poster from the anti-minaret campaign

## An Extraordinary Vote in Switzerland

[www.ActForAmerica.org](http://www.ActForAmerica.org)

One of the most tolerant countries in the world voted last November for a constitutional amendment to ban the construction of minaret towers on mosques.

Couple this surprise vote with the public statements opposing the *burqa* by Sarkozy in France and the growing strength of Geert Wilders's political party in the Netherlands, and it would appear Western Europe is indeed waking up to the threat of radical, political Islam.

More and more Europeans are realizing that, in order to protect diversity, political Islam and creeping *sharia* must be stopped. They are realizing that "diversity" is a casualty in any society that embraces or tolerates political Islam and *sharia* law. For what could be more antithetical to diversity than a supremacist political ideology bent on imposing its will, its god, and its law on all "infidels" through any means necessary?

The country's four standing minarets, which won't be affected by the ban, do not traditionally broadcast the call to prayer outside their own buildings.

Hopefully we're looking at the start of a trend. We'll see. —Jeff ★

# Dissident Watch: Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury

By Richard L. Benkin  
*Middle East Quarterly*  
[www.MEforum.org](http://www.MEforum.org)



**Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury's** (above) struggle in Bangladesh has played out dramatically: his 2003 arrest; his 2005 release; middle-of-the-night battles to prevent his re-incarceration; accolades for his stance as a "Muslim Zionist;" and resolutions from the U.S. Congress and others in 2006 and 2007. Things have now settled into a Kafkaesque routine without visible end, one where the process is the punishment.

Already unpopular with Bangladeshi Islamists, whose *madrasas* (Islamic schools) he exposed as centers for radicalization, Choudhury infuriated them in 2003 by breaking his country's clampdown on positive news about Israel and Jews. As he made to board a plane for Israel, the authorities moved against him, seizing him and placing him in solitary confinement.

His interrogators daily demanded he confess to being a Mossad agent. For seventeen months, they denied him adequate food, medical care, and sanitary conditions. Crowds pressured his family to denounce him. They beat his brother, who complained to the police.

After his 2005 release, Choudhury continued to publish, despite periodic attacks. He has said, "If I went through this and stopped now, it would be worth nothing." In 2008, he was abducted by Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion, whose captives often "disappear," but pressure from supporters forced his release within hours.

Last year, operatives of Bangladesh's ruling party beat him and sequestered his newspaper office. Police never

ordered Choudhury's attackers to quit the premises, and as of this writing, still refuse to prosecute them though they carried out their crimes openly and with police knowledge.

Choudhury faces capital charges of "sedition, treason, and blasphemy" despite government admissions that they maintain these only to appease their Islamists. The 2009 elections and a new government changed nothing. May 2009 marked Choudhury's fifty-second court appearance in forty-nine months. The authorities forced him to wait outside the courtroom for hours, only to be told that his case was continued because the government's sole witness did not show. Such prosecution drains his economic and emotional resources even as the possibility of incarceration or execution looms.



Choudhury's supporters in and out of the U.S. Congress have blocked trade legislation benefiting Bangladesh, threatened its appropriations, and passed a resolution urging Bangladesh to drop the charges and end Choudhury's harassment. "We've done everything except send in the Marines," said one U.S. official.

Despite being the world's seventh most populous country, Bangladesh has never been a high U.S. priority. But Bangladesh, breeding ground for Islamist terrorists, has strategic importance, and Choudhury's case has implications that go beyond justice for one individual. ★

*Richard L. Benkin is an independent human rights activist.*

**From a 1948 cartoon that warns about signing our freedom over to any "ism" that promises instant prosperity:**

<http://nationaljuggernaut.blogspot.com/2009/09/this-cartoon-seemed-far-fetched-in-1948.html>

"When anybody preaches disunity, tries to pit one of us against the other through class warfare, race hatred, or religious intolerance, you know that person seeks to rob us of our freedom and destroy our very lives. And we know what to do about it. Working together to produce an ever-greater abundance of material and spiritual values for all—that is the secret of American prosperity."

"They who can give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." —*Benjamin Franklin, 1775* ★



## Zola Levitt Presents TV Airing Schedule

### ION (PAX) Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	9:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	8:30 am Thurs	9:30 am Thurs

**DirectTV East-Channel 305   DirectTV West-Channel 347   Dish East-Ch.216   Dish West-Ch.217**

### ABC-FAM Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	10 pm Sun or 1 am Mon	11 pm Sun or 2 am Mon	12 am Mon	1 am Mon

**DirectTV-Channel 311   Dish-Channel 180**

### INSP Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3:30 am Wed 5:30 pm	4:30 am Wed 6:30 pm	5:30 am Wed 7:30 pm	6:30 am Wed 8:30 pm

### Daystar Airing Day & Time by Zone

Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day	3 pm Fri 2 pm Wed	4 pm Fri 3 pm Wed	5 pm Fri 4 pm Wed	6 pm Fri 5 pm Wed

**DirectTV-Channel 369   Dish-Channel 263**

**TCT pm DirectTV Channel 377 – Saturdays  
3:30pm ET   [www.tct.tv](http://www.tct.tv)**

**CTN on DirectTV Channel 376 – Tuesdays  
8pm ET   [www.ctnonline.com](http://www.ctnonline.com)**

**Our entire TV Airing Schedule is posted at  
[www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com).**



# Arab States' Crimes Against Palestinians

By Judith Miller and David Samuels  
www.NYdailynews.com

For decades, Arab governments have justified their decision to maintain millions of stateless Palestinians as refugees in squalid camps as a way of pressuring Israel. The refugee problem will be solved, they say, when Israel agrees to let the Palestinians have their own state. Yet after years spent in terrible conditions, not a single Palestinian refugee has been returned to Israel, and a few aging *apparatchiks* have made it back to the West Bank or Gaza. Instead, failed peace plans and shifting political winds have resulted in a second Palestinian *nakba* (catastrophe)—this one at the hands of the Arab governments.

This marginalization has resulted in a new and frightening turn toward the radical Pan-Islamic ideology of al-Qaeda in refugee camps like Ain al-Hilweh, where more than 70,000 Palestinians live outside the legal framework of the state. One of the 9/11 hijackers dedicated a poem to



Baqaa, Jordan refugee camp

Ain al-Hilweh's most prominent jihadist in his videotaped will, and dozens of Palestinian fighters from the camp joined al-Qaeda in Iraq. Even in Jordan, the only Arab nation that has integrated large numbers of refugees as full-fledged citizens, insecurity is growing. Speaking to the Arabic-language newspaper *Al Hayat*, Jordanian Interior Minister Nayef al-Kadi recently suggested that some Palestinians might be stripped of their citizenship to counter a supposed Israeli plan to turn Jordan into Palestine.

The refusal of most Arab governments to grant basic legal rights to Palestinian residents who are born in and die in their countries, combined with periodic mass expulsions of entire Palestinian communities, eerily parallels the treatment of Jews in medieval Europe.

Judith Miller is an adjunct fellow at the Manhattan Institute. David Samuels is a contributing editor at *Harper's* and a contributor to *The Atlantic* and *The New Yorker*.

## Violence Against Students Of Christian Theology

By Mathias Hariyadi, www.AsiaNews.it

Police in Jakarta, Indonesia have driven the students of Christian Theological Institute Arastamar (STT Setia) from the land of the former town hall in West Jakarta. The students were holding their lessons there after they were forcibly removed (in July 2008) from their campus in Kampung Makassar, east of the capital. After three days of clashes and protests by Christians for their umpteenth banishment, a group of students and some teachers were indicted on charges of resisting a public officer. Five students were arrested, pending trial. The police chased the students of Setia from the temporary seat set up in the former town hall in West Jakarta. In the July 2008 incident, a Muslim mob attacked their school, forcing the students to flee the building wanted by a construction company.



## Feds Act To Seize Skyscraper, Mosques Whose Owners Help Illegally Funnel Money To Iran

By Adam Goldman, *The Associated Press*

Federal prosecutors in New York recently took steps to seize four U.S. mosques and a Fifth Avenue skyscraper owned by a nonprofit Muslim organization long suspected of being secretly controlled by the Iranian government.

In what could prove to be one of the biggest counterterrorism seizures in U.S. history, prosecutors filed a civil complaint in federal court seeking the forfeiture of more than \$500 million in assets of the Alavi Foundation and an alleged front company. The assets include Islamic centers in New York City, Maryland, California, and Houston; more than 100 acres in Virginia, and a 36-story office tower in New York. Confiscating the properties would be a sharp blow against Iran, which has been accused by the U.S. government of bankrolling terrorism and seeking a nuclear bomb.

It is extremely rare for U.S. law enforcement authorities to seize a house of worship, a step fraught with questions about the First Amendment right to freedom of religion. The action against the Shiite Muslim mosques is sure to inflame relations between the U.S. government and American

Muslims, many of whom fear a backlash after the Fort Hood shooting rampage, blamed on a Muslim American soldier.

There were no raids as part of the forfeiture action. The government is simply required to post notices of the civil complaint on the property. The mosques and the skyscraper will remain open while the forfeiture case works its way through court in what could be a long process. As prosecutors outlined their allegations, the Islamic centers and the schools carried on with normal activity. What will happen to them if the government ultimately prevails is unclear. But the government typically sells properties it has seized through forfeiture, and the proceeds are sometimes distributed to crime victims.

Prosecutors said the Alavi Foundation, through a front company known as Assa Corp., illegally funneled millions in rental income back to Iran's state-owned Bank Melli. Bank Melli has been accused by a U.S. Treasury official of providing support for Iran's nuclear program. It is illegal in the United States to do business with the bank.

The U.S. has long suspected that the foundation was an arm of the Iranian government; a 97-page complaint details involvement in foundation business by several top Iranian officials, including the deputy prime minister and ambassadors to the United Nations. ★





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