

## Zola's Yahrtzeit: His Second Funeral

By Moishe Rosen, Founder of Jews For Jesus

The Jewish people have many customs related to mourning: Jews are to be buried within 24 hours of death, in a simple coffin made from the cheapest, simplest wood, using no nails. No embalming. In such a short time, magnificent eulogies are not possible.

After the funeral, everyone goes to the home of the decedent where the family is expected to provide a meal for everyone who attended the funeral. This seems cruel: How can they, in their mourning, plan a menu? How can they see what they are doing through their tears? The rabbis explain that this gets the survivors into the mode of life and living, and tires them. Hard work is an antidote to pain.

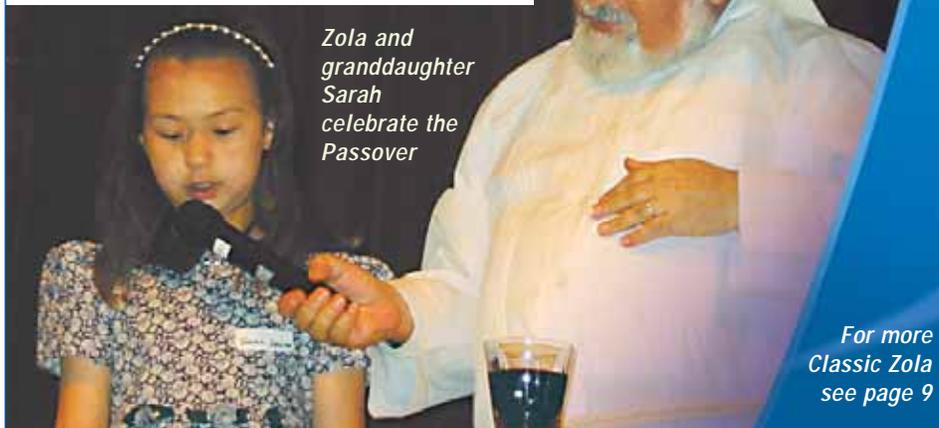


Moishe Rosen

A year after the death, we have what is called in Yiddish, the *yahrtzeit*, which is like a second funeral. At this time the memorial stone is set. It is during *yahrtzeit* that we contemplate the life of the person who has passed and pray the Psalms. It's also a time to think about what the person meant to us.

A full year has passed since Zola died on April 19, 2006, and I've thought about him frequently. I learned a lot from Zola. He enjoyed good food and wasn't ashamed to admit it—we both shared a passion for Japanese sushi and sashimi.

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Zola and granddaughter Sarah celebrate the Passover

For more Classic Zola see page 9

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## Jesus Tomb Film: Empty on Delivery

By Will King, [www.imagesofisrael.com](http://www.imagesofisrael.com)



Will King

After having been to the site of the alleged "Jesus tomb" in the east Talpiot neighborhood of Jerusalem, I failed to see what all the hype was about. After watching the documentary by James Cameron and Simcha Jacobovici, I still fail to see why this has caused such a stir around the world.

It is such a non-event here in Israel that just to find the tomb I had to make three phone calls, consult a map, and ask two people on the street for directions. The person in Israel who probably most regrets the new film is the archaeologist who supervised work on the site, Professor Amos Kloner. Because he so vigorously disagrees with the speculations presented in the film, his phone has undoubtedly rung nonstop from reporters around the world looking to quote him.

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Zola liked the cinema and frequently gave me better reviews than Roger Ebert. Physically, we were a study in contrasts: Zola was 5' 6", I'm 6' 1" —and I confess that neither of us was thin; but I weighed visibly more. We would go to a great restaurant and between the time the food was ordered and the waiter brought it, Zola would give me a lecture on how I needed to go on a diet.

*"A man who knew how to die!"*

But it wasn't his chiding that was instructive: The biggest lesson Zola taught was as a man who knew how to die!

We would talk once a week or so. In one conversation he started out by asking, "How're you doing?"

I gave him my news and asked back, "And you?"

He replied, "I'm dying."

The words shocked me. I was the one who was supposed to go first. I was the one who had serious problems with diabetes, with congestive heart failure, with...well, I won't give you a list. But it's long, and Zola had just undergone a successful bypass operation. Still, I could tell that he wasn't joking.

We didn't spend that whole conversation talking about his dying. He told me why he was sure—the cancer from his lungs had metastasized throughout his body—and that he didn't know if he had months or weeks. Other than that, I think we talked about films and a message that I was preparing.

**The idea of dying didn't make Zola self-centered.**

It wasn't to be months; it was just weeks. I saw Zola pitch in instead of resting; he threw himself into the task of ensuring the future of Zola Levitt Ministries. This is the time when even the best of Christians often allow themselves some self-pity. If there was any in Zola, I never saw it.

Zola always had a joke and seemed concerned to assure me that he didn't feel any pain, and to talk about living things. When it came to courage, Zola was a giant.

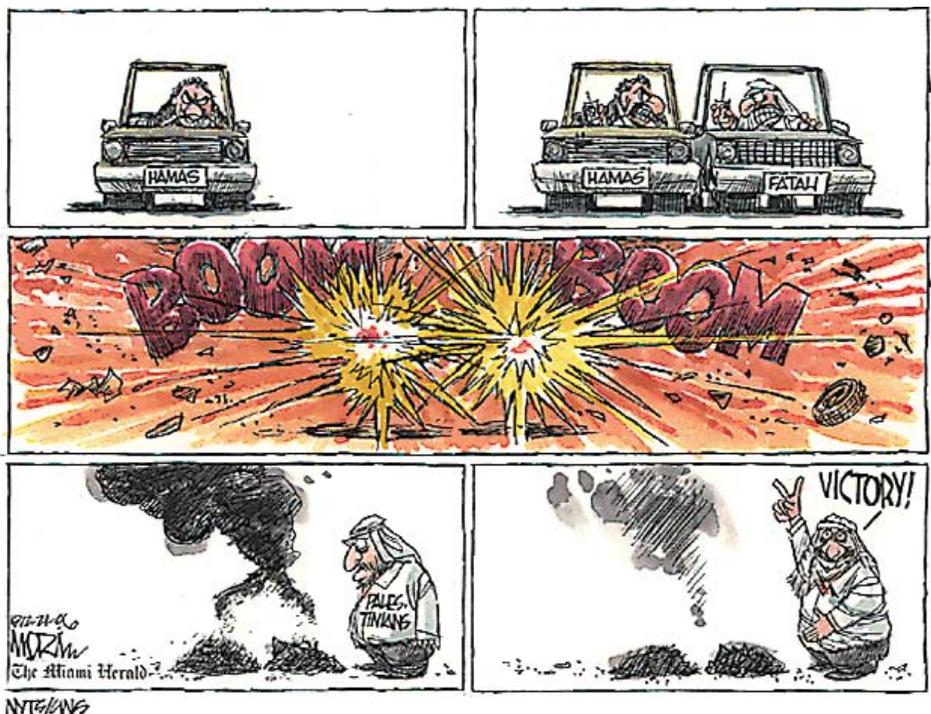
My pain increased, leading me to conclude that it must be the gall-

bladder the doctor had advised me ten years earlier to have removed. So, I made arrangements. Guess what? Cancer! That's right. When two serious-faced doctors came in speaking in monotones, I heard how it had metastasized into my bones and lymph glands. I knew my time was up. But when it comes to the sport of conclusion jumping, I could be an Olympic champion. For the better part of two days, I lived with the knowledge that I would be going soon.

Zola with his courage was my example, and I found the same source of rightness, calm, and peace that he had. Actually, when I found out that my cancer could be treated and that the treatment was usually effective, I was almost disappointed.

I've known godly pastors, and I've seen some of them on their way to death. I think of Warren Conrad, my pastor and the Jews for Jesus chaplain. His pancreatic cancer was a very painful death. Yet, he carried a smile and a joke. Or Les Flynn, my pastor in Nanuet: He looked on the Grim Reaper as a friend, an usher to take him to a better place.

I don't know how long I've got—it might be years; I doubt it will be decades. But I pray that I might be like Zola, an example to my children and friends of how to die in Christ. Come to think of it, until now, dying hasn't been the hard part for me. Living for Christ is; and it was hard for Zola. But if, indeed, we live for Christ, then our dying will be easier. I hope that Zola's will be an example for you, too. ★



# The Holocaust: ? or !

By Patrick Cox, Contributing Editor



Patrick Cox

I asked myself why there seemed to be a kind of amnesia regarding Hitler's "final solution" during much of the late twentieth century. In those days, the dictum "never forget" seemed a futile decree as most Europeans behaved as if it never had happened.

In retrospect, I think that the world's silence only cloaked the ongoing and overwhelming impact of the *Shoah*, to use the Hebrew word generally translated as "catastrophe." The dearth of open discussion didn't mean that the Holocaust had faded from memory. On the contrary, I think that the peril Israel was suffering acted to remind the world that, in the center of a continent that had long considered itself the epitome of modern civilization, a historically unprecedented savagery was perpetrated by educated, prosperous Europeans on a largely unresisting minority population.

For many in the West, this evidence that the Enlightenment, with the comfortable peace and safety that most of us enjoy, could dissipate is unthinkable. For those who are of the nations and nationalities that participated in or acquiesced to the genocide, there seems to be an especially enduring and profound psychological distress.

Let's be clear, the evidence of the Holocaust is definitive, overwhelming, and continues to mount even today. Classical tactics for avoiding the truth include denial and an attempt to dehumanize Jews, this time by attributing to them the same characteristics as the Nazis who persecuted them. This phenomenon explains much, if not most, of Europe's anti-Israel and anti-Jewish bias.

Take, for example, the recent accusation by former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre that the "Jewish lobby" victimized a French official who assisted in the deportation of Jews to the Nazis—simply by pointing out his role in the Holocaust.

Worse, in March an important group of 27 members of the German Bishops' Conference paid a historic visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem. One might think that viewing artifacts of the German murder of millions of Jews would inspire in them a little introspection and humility. And statements made in Jerusalem after leaving the museum might have convinced you that this was the case.

Within hours, however, as these same Christian leaders crossed into the Palestinian-controlled area, the truth came out. Bishop Gregor Maria Franz Hanke stated for the German and Palestinian press, "This morning we saw pictures of the Warsaw ghetto at Yad Vashem and this evening we are going to the Ramallah ghetto."

The Ramallah ghetto, by the way, has been wracked in recent months by vicious interparty warfare between Hamas and Fatah, who attack one another's leadership and children, seeking political control. Hundreds have died with almost no word from the international press, I guess because Jews aren't involved. In case you've forgotten, Palestinians elected the Hamas party, with its open commitment to rejecting a two-state solution and destroying Israel, to head their government. The opposition Fatah says in English press releases that it is willing to recognize Israel's right to exist, but the Israeli military recently captured terrorists operating from the party's headquarters and planning attacks on Jewish civilians.

The Archbishop of Cologne, Cardinal Joachim Meisner, told reporters while crossing a checkpoint into East Jerusalem, "This is something that is done to animals, not people." Meisner compared the security fence to the Berlin Wall—marveling that he would see such a thing again in his lifetime.

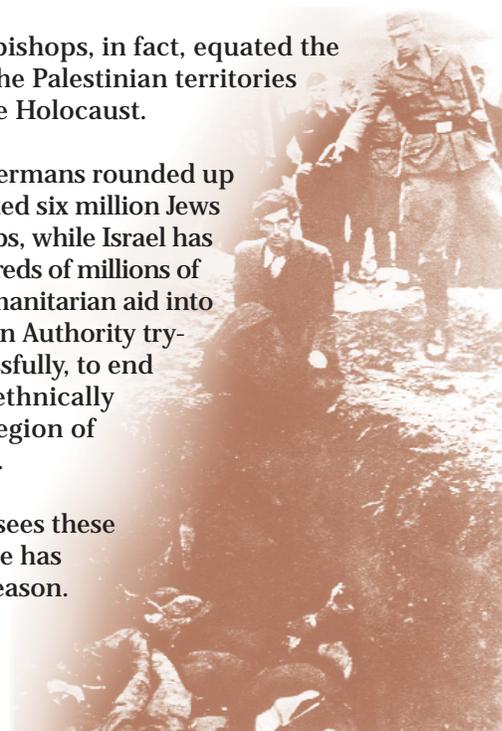
The fence he equated to the Berlin Wall, by the way, keeps no one from leaving Israel, as was the purpose of the wall separating East Berlin from the West, and has dramatically reduced the number of terrorist attacks on Israelis.

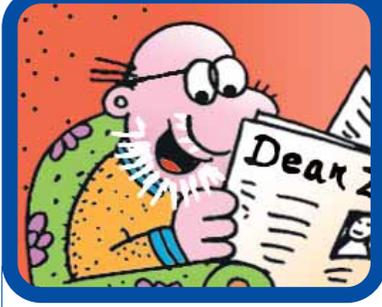
**"Classical tactics for avoiding the truth..."**

Many of the bishops, in fact, equated the situation in the Palestinian territories directly to the Holocaust.

Think of it: Germans rounded up and transported six million Jews to death camps, while Israel has poured hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid into the Palestinian Authority trying, unsuccessfully, to end the effort to ethnically cleanse the region of Jewish blood.

Anyone who sees these as comparable has abandoned reason.





# Letters to ZIM

## Thanks for Letting Us Help

Dear Staff,  
Thank you for allowing my husband and me the privilege of being a part of the great work that you are doing for the Kingdom of God. We LOVE the *Levitt Letter*, the Personal Letter, and online broadcasting of the TV shows, as we don't have cable. May the Lord continue to bless you as you follow His leading, extending the compassion of the Lord Yeshua to the Jew first and then to the gentile.

M.S.

## Bible More Understandable Than Koran

Dear Sandra Levitt,

I'm one of Zola's fans — an Arab Muslim who was born and raised in the United States. I would like to learn more about Messianic Judaism. Your program put it in my heart to look into converting because I think that the Holy Book is much more understandable than the Koran, plus it has interesting facts about the End Times.

H.K.

H. K. –  
If you'd send a note letting us know what city you live in, we could direct you to a congregation nearby.  
—Jeffrey Seif

## Who needs that "Jesus died on the cross" kind of thing?

Dear Jeff,

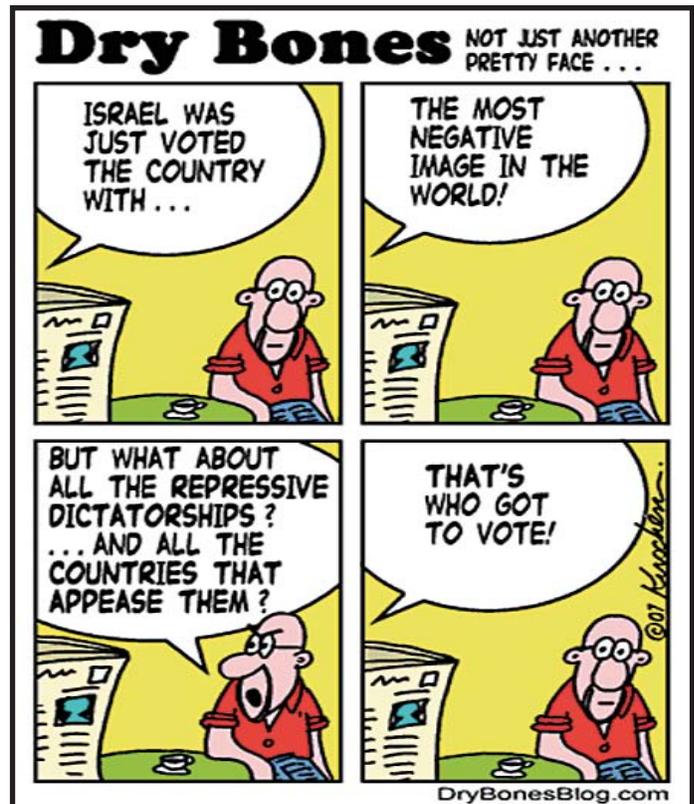
I was amazed when I watched one of your broadcasts on TV the other night: all I hear from other religious persons on TV is the same old stuff—the same old Jesus-died-on-the-cross-for-our-sins kind of thing. I loved your program. I am honestly not a Christian, Jew, or Muslim; but I am a man of God, man of truth. I come from a Native American background and I would like to share my people's beliefs. Long ago there was a

prophecy about an evil force that would engulf Turtle Island, which we now know as America. This force was called the White-Eyed Monster. It was prophesied that he would engulf the land, destroy the native people, and take their land. But, there would be a time when the pale horse would come and, with

the children of the White-Eyed Monster, the new world would begin after many horrible things transpired—the Battle of Armageddon you would call it. I share this with you because my people believe the same as you do. May the Creator bless and protect you.

Shalom, — I.

Glad you wrote, I. Keep doing so, please. That "Jesus-died-on-the-cross-for-our-sins kind of thing," as you put it, doesn't impress you as much as the possible connection between a well-attested Native American prophecy and the battle of Armageddon. OK, I can live with that. Are you aware that the Christian organization Promise Keepers has been laboring to build bridges to Native Americans, given American Christians' need to extend sincere apologies for much of what we have done wrong toward American Indians? Perhaps if you saw us asking forgiveness for our sins you'd be a bit more inclined to appreciate that Jesus is our model for doing so. Thus impressed, you might even find value in that yourself. Who knows? Keep writing in any case. —Jeffrey Seif



## Your Videos Take Me to Israel

Greetings!

Though I am disabled and my wife and I make do with the Lord's help, your invitations to Israel are overwhelming my heart. I never had such strong feelings before about this. I know we'll live there in the Kingdom, but when I see those commercials, man, I just get excited. In your program, to see where most of the Biblical stories unfolded makes me feel like it's very real, very near. I wanted you all to know I love the messages and especially the photography! Thanks for getting me to Israel via your videos.

Maranatha!  
L. and D. J.

Dear L. and D.J. –

In response to a dread disease some years ago, I lost the use of my legs and arms and was left in a wheelchair. By God's grace I was able to get the better of the infirmity. With the experience behind me, I have tried to be more sensitive to those shackled by infirmities, and think I am, given my own dread experience. As a cop, for example, though I pretty much always gave "verbal warnings" to speeders (in part because I drive pretty fast myself), I never recall giving a "warning" to someone parked in a handicapped zone. That aside, it seems that you now find yourself in a spot where your body prevents you from going where your heart and mind wish to take you. Might I suggest that videos are the best that we can offer to help you. While granting that they are no substitute for breathing the air and standing on the ground in Israel, we think that our topnotch cameras and microphones are a good second best. While granting that one can show greater support for the Holy Land by going there in person than by staying Stateside, I trust that you'll still benefit greatly from other venues that afford you the opportunity to more comfortably experience Israel.

—Jeffrey Seif

### "Jesus' Lost Tomb" —if true, Christianity is shot down.

Dear Mrs. Levitt and Dr. Seif, I certainly hope you two will air a conversation regarding this film very soon. If this evidence as

presented is true, then Christianity as we know it is shot down. I believe firmly that there are valid arguments to oppose the gross speculations in the film. I'm afraid that many people who do not know the Scriptures, or who are not firm in their history, or perhaps insecure in their faith might be deceived and actually believe the show's conclusions. I did find the show very compelling, but the conclusions cannot stand as fact if Christianity is true.

Kind Regards in Christ,  
Dr. J. M. E., Jr.

Hi Dr. E. – "Our Man in Jerusalem" (Will King) addresses the issue on page 1, as do a few others. Trust you'll glean benefit from their comments. — Jeffrey Seif

## Go get 'em for our Lord!

Dear Jeff,

Got your newsletter regarding Zola Levitt Ministries going into Europe. If Jesus put that on your heart to take ZLM there, then you must go. Zola did what God asked him to do without apologizing for it, and it's nice to see you continue that kind of obedience. This thought just came to me: what better place to minister to the Jews than in the backyard of the future antiChrist. You will continue to receive my financial and prayer support. Go get 'em for our Lord!!

D. S.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



My thoughts too, D.S. We're not changing our focus—on Israel particularly—but simply adding a dimension to the ministry to keep the world abreast of “cutting edge,” prophecy-related events and issues.  
—Jeffrey Seif

## Show, Don't Tell

Dear Mr. Levitt,

In your *Levitt Letter* of February 2007 on page 9, you take a verse from the Koran and make it sound to your readers as if the Koran encourages Muslims to wage war on all of society who are not Muslims.

I suggest you read the verses before and after: You'll find the Koran advocates the use of force only in self-defense in the widest sense possible, such as freeing the oppressed and establishing the freedom of worship.

The Koran calls for dialogue between all religions, cultures, etc. in order to understand one another and become friends. One has to wonder if the critics of the Koran have ever even picked up a Koran.

In Christ's love I write as a clergyman in a mainline church,  
Rev. R.E.S.

Dear Reverend R.E.S. –

I am writing my response as a graduate of a mainline seminary, at Southern Methodist University. I don't come from the “fringes.” Much as you asked me to read the Koran and consider that Islam is basically a “peace-loving” and non-aggressive religion, I must ask you to read history and note that there is a chasm between the movement's loving rhetoric and warring reality. If you look at history, you'll learn that Islam came to power by the sword and dominates by the sword; that people beneath its sway are held in locked, totalitarian regimes with limited or non-existent human rights; and that non-believers do not fare well. Your well-intended reaction reminds me of the clergy in Europe who opted not to believe the Holocaust was happening. Decent people just couldn't believe that others could be so cruel. People are that way. I know you mean well, but I don't believe you serve the world well by living in your non-reality.  
—Jeffrey Seif

Dear Zola Levitt Ministries,

I want you to know how much I love you. All the information you've sent me here in prison has been very

helpful to my growing up in the Lord. I'll be released next month, so please remove me from your mailing list for now.

Love, — A. F.

Congrats on your exit, A.F. As I see things, at one level we're all sentenced sinners. Not all of us officially got caught, however. I am glad the Lord gets a hold of us, forgives us, and gives us a new life with Him—full of multiple graces. Have a great life now, on the other side of crime! —Jeffrey Seif

## Your Response Made Me Curious

Dear Dr. Seif,

I was very impressed with the article “Can't Believe in Jesus and Still Be a Jew?” and the manner in which you responded to “I.B. Angry” in the February 2007 issue I stumbled across here at the prison. I'm not Jewish or Christian, but you piqued my interest and made me curious about Christianity. I would like to learn more about Jews and Christians and start receiving the *Levitt Letter* regularly. If possible, please add me to your mailing list.

Thank you,  
C. A. S.

Dear C. A. S. –

It certainly IS possible to add you to our mailing list, free of charge. Please consider it done. You are in good company, so to speak, with hundreds of inmates who, by reading their monthly *Levitt Letter*, know more than the average pastor about what is happening in Israel and prophecy fulfillment in general.

Do us a favor. When you are done with your *Levitt Letters*, would you kindly share them with fellow prisoners? Doing so may keep them from stumbling!

—Mark

Good hearing from you, C.A.S. You say you aren't a Christian or a Jew; so, what are you? Do let me know, so we can get a little dialogue going. Is there a chaplain in the prison to help you with questions related to Judeo-Christian interests and issues?

—Jeffrey Seif

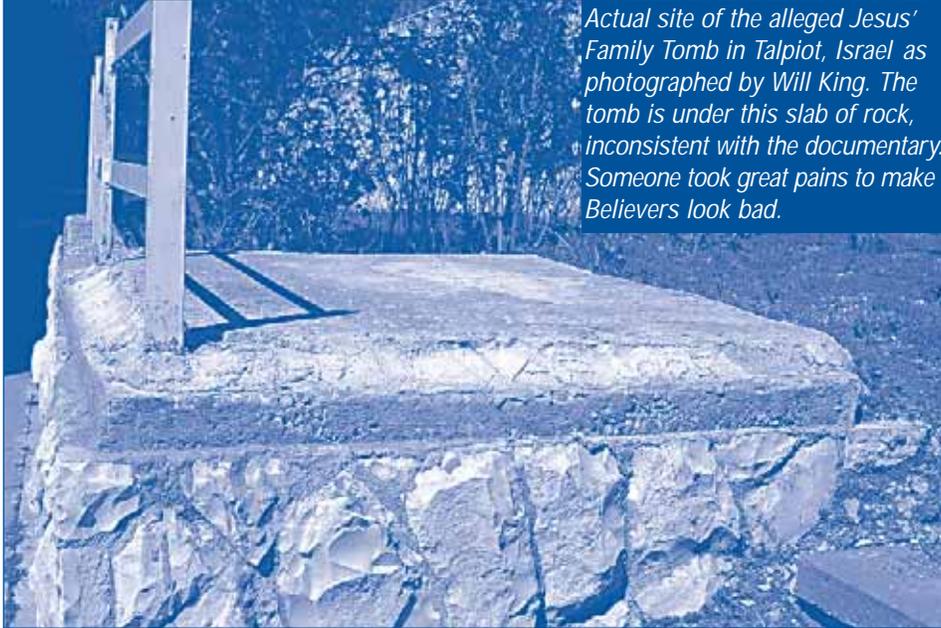
*There is still time to sign up for the June Discovery Tour, June 5-15, see details on page 12.*



To read or download past *Levitt Letters* visit [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com)



The film claims that a burial cave from the first century A.D. found in Jerusalem holds the remains of Jesus and his family, including his son Judah. Archaeologists in 1980 removed ten ossuaries from the cave, most with inscriptions on them, including “Yeshua son of Joseph,” “Maria,” and “Judah son of Yeshua,” but Cameron and Jacobovici are the first to claim that these are the remains of Jesus of Nazareth.



Actual site of the alleged Jesus' Family Tomb in Talpiot, Israel as photographed by Will King. The tomb is under this slab of rock, inconsistent with the documentary. Someone took great pains to make Believers look bad.

The film itself was done very well, integrating photos from the time of the tomb's discovery, firsthand accounts, and expert opinions. However, it reminded me of a sleazy lawyer trying to win a big important case with only circumstantial evidence. It was as if the filmmakers hoped to present enough circumstantial evidence and enough experts commenting on it that they could raise reasonable doubt within at least one person watching, thereby winning their case.

However, this is no ordinary case, as Cameron and Jacobovici seek to disprove Christianity through their findings. While this may not have been their goal at the outset, it certainly would be the result if their film were true. They knew this, and they knew that a controversy could mean big bucks for them.

For Christians who believe strongly in Jesus Christ as Savior and Messiah—that He died and rose again for the forgiveness of sin—this film poses no threat whatsoever as no proof is actually offered, only conjecture and suppositions. Those who wish to see Christianity smeared in the public eye, however, will see this film as “a work of serious scholarship,” no matter that the scholarly community doesn't. ★

## Missing Information in the Tomb

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

Jodi Magness, the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, makes this interesting point in an article for the



Magness

*Biblical Archaeology Society.* She states in the piece that the archaeological evidence indicates that the tomb cannot be that of Jesus of Nazareth and His family.

Being a Jew in the time of Jesus was not just a religious designation, as it is today. Instead, Jews in the time of Jesus were Judeans—that is, people from the district of Judea, the area around Jerusalem. Judeans worshiped the national god of Judea (the God of Israel) and lived according to His laws.

L. Y. Rahmani, an Israeli archaeologist who compiled a catalogue of all of the ossuaries in the collections of the state of

Israel, observed: “In Jerusalem's tombs, the deceased's place of origin was noted when someone from outside Jerusalem was interred in a local tomb.”

On ossuaries in rock-cut tombs that belonged to Judean families, it was customary to indicate the ancestry or lineage of the deceased by naming the father, as, for example, Judah son of John (Yohanan); or Martha daughter of Hananya. But in rock-cut tombs owned by non-Judean families (or which contained the remains of relatives from outside Judea), it was customary to indicate the deceased's place of origin, as, for example, Simon of Ptolemais; or Papias the Bethshanite (of Beth Shean). Our historical and literary sources (such as the Gospels, Flavius Josephus, etc.) often make the same distinctions between Judeans and non-Judeans (for example, Galileans, Saul of Tarsus, Simon of Cyrene, and so on). If the Talpiot tomb is indeed the tomb of Jesus and his family, we would expect at least some of the ossuary inscriptions to reflect their Galilean origins, by reading, for example, Jesus [son of Joseph] of Nazareth (or Jesus the Nazarene), Mary of Magdala, and so on.

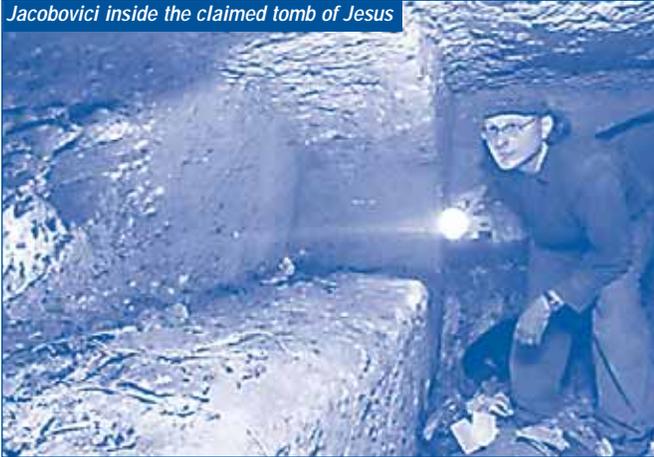
However, the inscriptions provide no indication that this is the tomb of a Galilean family and instead point to a Judean family. ★

## Archaeologist Refutes "Jesus' Tomb" Claims

By Roi Mandel, [www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com)

About the documentary in which producer James Cameron and his director, Simcha Jacobovici, claim that Jesus wasn't resurrected, Professor Amos Kloner, the Israeli archaeologist who actually discovered the ancient burial caves 27 years ago, says, "I refute all their claims.... With all due respect, they are not archaeologists." ★

Jacobovici inside the claimed tomb of Jesus



## Why Do Christians Care About the "Jesus' Tomb" Film?

By John Willis, [www.str.org](http://www.str.org)

Please forgive us, if a few of us Christians use this opportunity to practice our apologetic swings. It's not forcing our religion on someone if we're just responding to an attack that is all over the net and on the nightly news, is it?

Further, I think this is a great contrast to the widespread Muslim reaction to the not-so-long-ago critiques of Mohammed in cartoons. How do Christians react when challenged? Compare and Contrast, my friend. If Christianity is ultimately about the truth, which I believe it is, then this is exactly the reaction one would expect. If Christianity isn't about the truth, but rather a personal faith, or a forced conversion, then we would expect other reactions than the one we find by groups like Stand To Reason [who refute the claims point by point].

**Here are a few refutations found at [www.earnedmedia.org](http://www.earnedmedia.org):**

The earliest followers of Jesus never called him "Jesus, son of Joseph."

It is highly unlikely that Joseph, who died earlier in Galilee, was buried in Jerusalem, since the historical record connects him only to Nazareth or Bethlehem.

The Talpiot tomb and ossuaries are such that they would have belonged to a rich family, which does not match the historical record for Jesus.

Fourth-century church historian Eusebius makes quite clear that the body of James, the brother of Jesus, was buried alone near the Temple Mount and that his tomb was visited in the early centuries, making it very unlikely that the Talpiot tomb was Jesus' "family tomb."

The two Mary ossuaries do not mention anyone from Migdal, but simply have the name Mary, one of the most common of all ancient Jewish female names. ★



Outside entrance to the family tomb

## FORGIVENESS

### Christianity offers:

"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also [do] ye."

Colossians 3:13

### Islam offers:

"...there is The Law of Equality. If then any one transgresses the prohibition against you, transgress ye likewise against him. But fear God, and know that God is with those who restrain themselves." (Koran Sura 2:194) In other words, if you take revenge, you will not be blamed. Repaying evil with an equal evil is allowed.

# A Letter to Dan and Mike

By Zola Levitt, from August 1999



Zola Levitt

When I say that it is very difficult for peace to be made between Israel and the Arabs in the land, I am sometimes scorned. Those, like my Jewish and gentile friends Dan and Mike, who are informed strictly by American media, feel that the Israelis are being intractable and stubborn. Their solution is a simple one: give half the land to the Arabs, and that will satisfy them and peace will ensue forever after. Only, it won't work.

The reason I had to explain something so elementary is that my friends are misinformed by the Israel-bashing media. In any case, I thought I would present to them this open letter.

Let us imagine, Dan and Mike and all others who are interested, that we have become "Nation Makers." Let us suppose, for the moment, that we have the right to choose just what people will become a new nation. This is a grave responsibility, and we should take it very seriously.

Our first consideration will be the politics of the people who want to form a nation. Having only just finished hostilities in Kosovo and looking forward to years of difficulty there, we realize the last thing we should do is prop up a new dictator. Slobodan Milosevic has brought more agony to far more people than any one man should ever do. Closer to home, we have watched Fidel Castro create a nation of paupers and utterly ruin what could be a delightful Caribbean island. I would submit that Yasser Arafat is the same quantity—not truthful, running a corrupt government, and to all evidences, still a terrorist at heart. And so, politically, the proposed Palestine would be very problematic.

Our second consideration would be economics. Are the people who are proposing to be a new nation a success in this important area? Actually, the new Palestine would have very little to sell or to trade. It produces almost nothing. Its universities and brainpower seem given over to righteous indignation and constant protest, as in Iran. The economy, such as it is, would remain utterly dependent on Israel, which is considered their worst enemy. And so, economically, the proposed new nation would probably fail.

Third, we must consider something that could be called a "hostility quotient." Would the new nation fit into a peaceful world? Here the grades would also be very low. While only a small percentage of Arabs

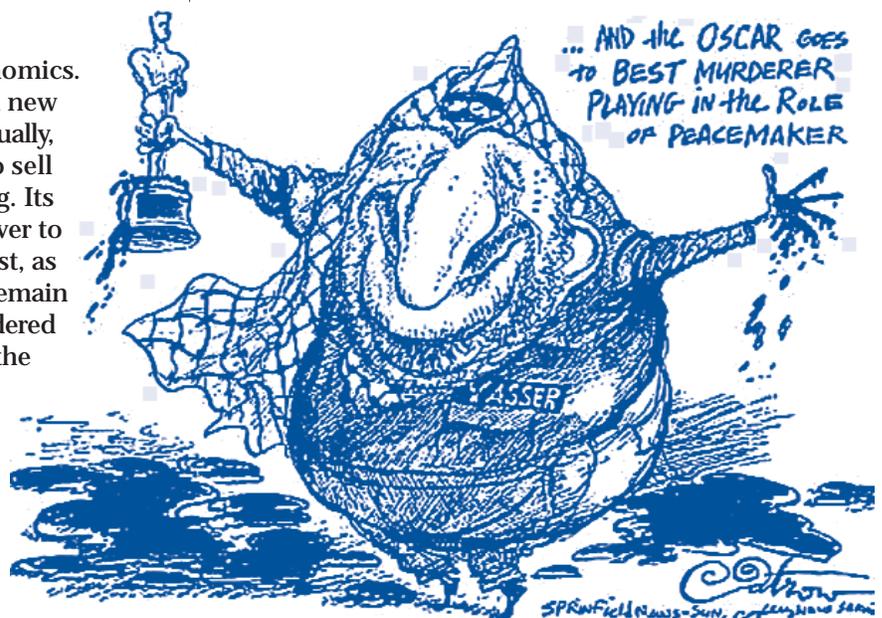
are terrorists, that's all it takes for total chaos. There are only a few peoples in the world who bomb utterly innocent civilians, but the Palestinians are among them. They still utilize terror as a technique of negotiation. In this crucial area, their score would be awful.

Fourth, we must consider the religious position of the citizens. Would they be compatible with other nations or be bent on conquering them? In a largely Christian world, would they tend to conduct amiable and courteous relations with Christianity in general? Are they friendly with the other religions? In reality, Muslims are barely compatible with other Muslims, and openly critical and hostile with all other religions. This failing would be a serious consideration in creating a new nation.

And finally, we need to consider the potential new nation's alliances in the secular, everyday world. Would the new nation conduct friendly relations with most of the UN? Does it have much in common with the major powers, the U.S., Europe, or China?

Here again, our proposed new Palestine would have some difficulties passing muster. It has mostly rogue nations for friends, including Iran, Iraq, Syria, and the like. It has no real relationships with the powers mentioned above.

And so, Dan, Mike, and others, it seems like we would accomplish not peace, but potentially much more conflict by creating this ill-equipped new nation. Believe me when I tell you that I am like every Israeli and every other supporter of that brave democracy in wanting peace in the land, but each person should ask himself, "Does Arafat really want peace with Israel, or does he simply want the land for himself?" Purposely manufacturing a politically, economically, and spiritually disadvantaged dictatorship is not the way to achieve peace anywhere. ★



For some time now, I have observed news footage of Muslims indiscriminately murdering innocent, unsuspecting, and unarmed civilians. As if that's not bad enough, I have seen footage of members of the "religion of peace" killing their own.

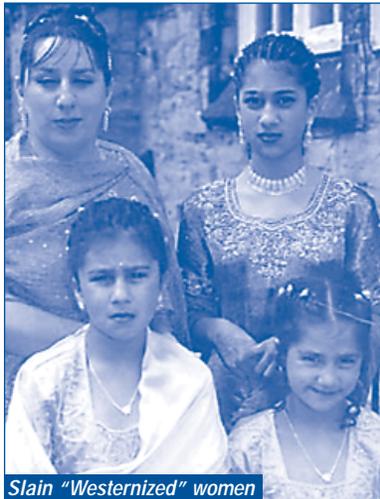
When on the offensive, Muslim warriors attack non-combatants; when on the defensive, they hide behind women and children—"human shields." Never mind their justifications for the atrocities they claim must be perpetuated against Christians and Jews. What's the reasoned accounting for atrocities committed against their own? I am not talking about the thousands of Muslims slaughtered by rival factions of Muslims (Sunnis, Shiites, etc.)—murders that are way in excess of anything an Israeli is ever accused of; I am referring to the way tribal members of the "religion of peace" slaughter their own women and daughters, like savage animals!

*"They actually murder their own people."*

Were the world's lions, tigers, and bears able to read this, I am certain they would take offense at the comparison, but politically incorrect as it is to say, these people are actually worse than animals!

Reuters reported how a beast named Mohammad Sarwar shot a Pakistani government minister to death. Why? A police report stated that Sarwar "considers it contrary to the teachings of Allah for a woman to become a [government] minister." Vexed that his family was becoming too "westernized," another animal, Mohammed Riaz

(49), sprayed gasoline around his home and burned to death his sleeping wife Caneze (39), and daughters Hannah (3), Alisha (10), Sophia (13), and Sayrah (16). A fanatic relative recently murdered Hamda Abu-Ghanem, the eighth woman in her extended family murdered in an "honor killing." Apparently, women may be killed by males if the males feel dishonored when the women step outside the males' control. And speaking of control, is it for this reason that when Khomeini took power in Iran, the age for brides was lowered to nine?



Slain "Westernized" women

Does Islam condemn or condone such activity? Those who perpetrate such action claim the Koran as their justifying source and, according to an exposé written by

Ms. Ayaan Hirsi Ali (author of *Tales of the Arabian Knights* and *Infidel*) the religion is the source. Recently, thirty-two Iranian women were arrested outside a courthouse in Tehran for protesting discrimination against women. The list goes on and on.

Sickened as I am by accounts of Muslim women being bludgeoned and bloodied by the men in their lives operating under the guise of religious virtue and sanction, and disturbed that, to a lesser degree, this happens in Judeo-Christian culture, though outside the church's and synagogue's sanction, I am anxious to look at biblical literature's approach to woman-hood and explore what the Bible says are men's obligations toward women. I plan to broadcast my findings coast to coast in America and around the world.

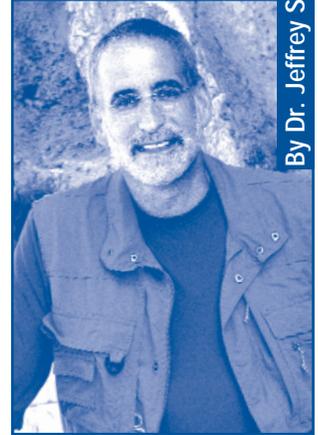
As you read this, I am in Germany filming *Lights Out for Christian Europe*, a series dealing with Europe's abandonment of Judeo-Christian virtues and values. While there, I will note how the problem is compounding with the unbridled rise of Islam, coupled with the resurgence of anti-Semitism.

It's a nasty and busy world, is it not? We've been busy trying to reach out to it! Our latest teaching series, *The Gospel According to Isaiah and Daniel and the Last Days' Battle for Planet Earth*, received good responses, as did my book, *The Iranian Menace in Jewish History and Prophecy*. My new book, *Guns & Moses*, is now available. We're reaching out to all in the hope of reaching some! We now broadcast across America, as well as throughout Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

We also visit churches. Thank you to those who have suggested to your pastors that your church might benefit from a visit by me. I know busy ministers are more apt to respond when well-placed parishioners note a worthy ministry and prompt them to extend an invitation. I always tell non-clergy, "If you want us there, you get us there!" But whether or not I come to you in person, thanks for receiving me via television, and for letting our *Levitt Letter* contribute to your understanding of the Word you read and the world you live in.

Your messenger,

# DeSeifering Our World



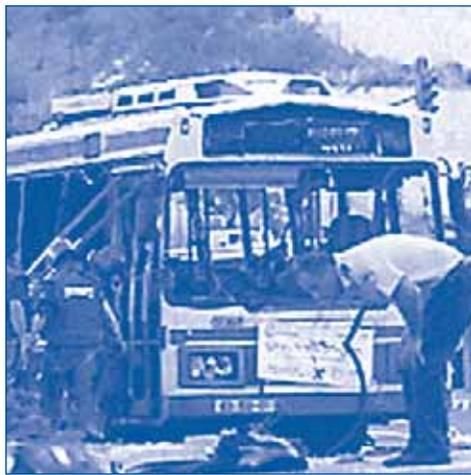
By Dr. Jeffrey Seif

# Life Insurance for Terrorists

By Christoph Schult, Britta Sandberg and Ansgar Mertin,  
www.spiegel.de/international

An important bank in the Arab world offers accounts paying a type of life insurance to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers. But now it could soon face a lawsuit from American lawyers representing the victims.

Palestinian suicide bomber Bassam Takturi killed seven people when he blew himself up on a Jerusalem



bus on May 18, 2003. His family then received \$200 a month for over a year, after opening an Arab Bank account.

The Arab Bank is one of the largest and most important financial

institutions in the Arab world. The Jordan-based private bank, of which 40 percent is still held by the founding Shoman family, is active in 28 countries. The Jordanian monarchy even awarded Abd al Hamid Shoman a medal for his achievements and services to the country.

But the bank has long been suspected of directing money used to finance terrorism in the Palestinian-occupied territories. And accounts at its Palestinian branches are also supposedly used to pay a type of life insurance to the families of youthful suicide bombers, who blow themselves up with the aim of killing as many Israelis as possible. The blood money paid for a son-turned-murderer is 20,000 Saudi riyal—roughly \$5,000. The funds take a circuitous route to the accounts of those families that prove the death of their son by showing a death certificate at the Arab Bank branch in the Palestinian-occupied territories. Then monthly deposits are made just like in Takturi's case.

Suicide bombers with foresight can take care of all the necessary paperwork before they blow themselves to smithereens. A so-called "martyr kit" includes everything from a death certificate from the Palestinian Authority to an account card at the Arab Bank.

The attack carried out by the student Bassam Takturi was one of the worst at the time. He had several kilograms of explosives strapped around his waist and the power of the blast was so strong that the bus was catapulted from the street. Seven people died and 20 were injured.



Takturi

Victims are suing the Arab Bank on the basis of a 1996 anti-terrorism law making it illegal to support terrorists financially. "In our suit we accuse the Arab Bank of supporting the funding of extremist Palestinian groups," says Gary Osen, a New Jersey lawyer. "Our goal is to make it much more difficult for them to access the money."

His law office represents 200 U.S. clients who lost relatives in Israel in terrorist attacks. The law firm of U.S. star attorney Ron Motley, who led a class-action lawsuit for the families of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, is representing another 700 people seeking compensation. The lawyers are optimistic they can at least reduce the flow of money coming predominately from Saudi Arabia via Arab Bank accounts into the Palestinian-occupied territories.

According to the lawsuit complaint, the blood money was often collected in Saudi Arabia and then sent via the Arab Bank's New York branch in U.S. dollars to either the Gaza Strip or the West Bank. Much financial support is thought to come from the Saudi Committee for the Al-Quds Intifada, a charity headed by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef. But a spokesman for the group in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, denies supporting the families of suicide bombers, claiming the committee only works with official Palestinian organizations and ministries.

In February 2002, the Committee placed an ad in *Al Hayat Al Jadeeda* asking families of "martyrs" to go to the Arab Bank in order "to receive the tenth payment, totaling \$5,316 for each family, donated by the Saudi Committee." The generous donors ended up giving \$1,594,980 to some 300 families in the Palestinian-occupied territories via the Arab Bank.

The Arab Bank had its New York branch on Madison Avenue essentially shut down by the U.S. banking authorities for not having sufficient internal controls on money transfers. In 2005, a unit of the U.S. Treasury Department also slapped a \$24 million fine on the bank, which can no longer carry out dollar-denominated transactions and international transfers.



I am in Israel this spring, always the most gorgeous time of year. This is the Israel David wrote of in Psalm 23. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures.” It looks like the Lord has taken a paintbrush to everything: the hills and mountains are lush green, and flowers are blooming in a rich array of colors.

I went on a press tour to the south of Jerusalem toward Gaza, or Aza, to get a firsthand look after the “disengagement.” This is an area where our tours don’t visit, and I was happy to be with “Our Man in Jerusalem” (my son, Will) and 18 other journalists from around the world. The trip was sponsored by the Media Central, a group that helps foreign journalists understand Israel. We stopped first at Kfar Aza to meet with an Israeli military spokesman who spoke of security along the Aza border. Kfar Aza is an area with about 10,000 people living in 14 *kibbutzim*, 12 *moshavs*, and 2 cities. Here is a new visual: Israel’s 9,000 sq. miles would fit between Los Angeles and San Francisco. I usually say it is the size of New Jersey, or that it fits 10 times in the Texas panhandle. I learned that border terrorists use old people, the retarded, children, and even animals to attack the soldiers. In one tactic they send sheep loaded with explosives to the border security fence and then blow up the sheep, injuring the soldiers. Israeli soldiers are not “trigger-happy.” They are trained to use violence only as a last resort, so they bear the brunt of terrorism. What kind of savages use innocent animals — or children! — to hurt others? It is very clear that Israel is not fighting army to army, but against terrorists. These are facts not told by many in the news media.

Our next stop was the police station at Sderot—the same one Jeff visited in our series on Daniel—and I saw the rockets that have landed there. They average seven rockets per week. How do Israelis live with this terror and not retaliate? We talked to the chief of the bomb squad and learned that rockets can be identified by their colors: green is Hamas, red is Fatah, and black is Islamic Jihad. Let me remind you, these rockets have been fired consistently since the “ceasefire.”

A resident of Sderot named Hava is very nervous from living in an area of active terrorism—and also very adamant about staying. She says it is Israel’s land and no terrorist is going to make them leave. Her heroism

# Shalom From Sandra



is impressive. She shows us her son’s elementary school, protected with extra cement barriers and special windows. I say a silent prayer for her and her family.

The area from Karem Shalom to Ashkelon (now called Otef Aza, meaning “hugging” or “surrounding” Aza) was part of the “disengagement.” There, a retired brigadier general tells us that war will come again. I am saddened to hear this, but I take heart in the Bible and know that Israel is God’s land and there will be peace—when He returns.

This is my report from Israel: the truth of what is happening. As I have said, I love Israel in the spring—and the summer, fall, and winter. I encourage you to come to Israel, to see your home. Our **Discovery Tour**, which tours the Holy Land from June 5–15, includes a one-day archaeological dig. Our **Fall Tour** offers four options:

- Deluxe** (Israel only)  
Oct. 21–31
- Grand Petra** (Israel with a Petra extension)  
Oct. 21–Nov. 4
- Grand Athens** (Greek Isles Cruise and Israel)  
Oct. 16–31
- Ultra Grand** (Greece, Israel and Petra)  
Oct. 16–Nov. 4

For a tour brochure, please call Tony at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or 1-800-WONDERS (966-3377), anytime. Our fall tour will coincide with the changing of the seasons. Come and be part of Israel. Jeff and I will be glad to show you around.

And, of course, please pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Blessings, 

Sandra is back in Israel this June.  
Check out her blog at  
[www.levitt.com/israelblog/](http://www.levitt.com/israelblog/)

# Speak Up for Muslim Women

www.dallasnews.com

In the best-selling *Infernal*, Ayaan Hirsi Ali gives a graphic account of how she rejected her religion. Here are some excerpts.

The film Theo and I made, *Submission, Part 1*, is first and foremost about the relation of the individual with Allah.

In Islam, unlike in Christianity and Judaism, the relationship of the individual to God is one of total submission, slave to master. As Islam is conceived, any kind of disagreement with Allah is insolence because it assumes equality with him.

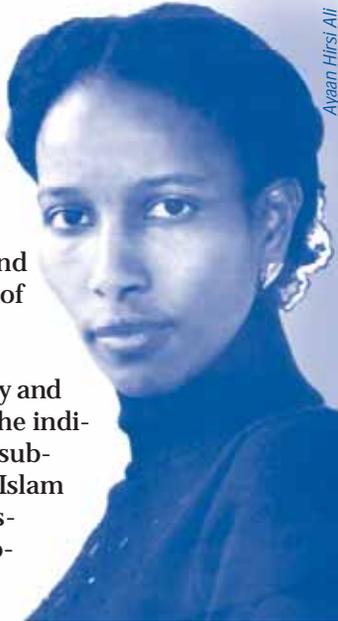
I felt that liberation of Muslim women must be preceded by liberation of the mind from this rigid, dogmatic obedience to Allah's dictates. Allah is constantly referred to in the Koran as "the most compassionate, the most merciful." He also says several times that he has given us a will of our own. In that case, I wonder, why would he mind a little debate?

When I sat down to write the script, I pictured a woman standing in the center of a room. In the four corners of the room, four women depict restrictive verses from the Koran. The woman in the middle of the room is veiled, but her veil is transparent at the front, opaque at the back. The transparency is necessary because it challenges Allah to look at what he created: the body of woman.

On her torso is written the opening verse of the Koran, the *Sura Fatiha*, and she observes the rules of prayer: Her head is lowered and her gaze is fixed on the front of the mat where she will place her forehead when she bows to express total obedience. But after she recites the *Sura Fatiha*, she does something unusual: She raises her head.

The camera pans to the first woman, who tells Allah that she has obeyed all his injunctions, but she now lies in a corner, bleeding. She has fallen in love, and for that she has been flogged. She ends, very simply, with the sentence, "I may no longer submit."

Another of the women is repelled by the odor of her husband. She has been forced to marry him and now is forced to submit to him sexually, for the Koran says,



Ayaan Hirsi Ali

"When your wives have purified themselves, ye may approach them in any manner, time or place."

The third woman is beaten by her husband at least once a week: "As to those women on whose part you fear disloyalty and ill conduct, admonish them, scourge them and banish them to beds apart."

The fourth is a young girl who lives cloistered in her own home. She has been raped by her uncle, and now she is pregnant; she will be punished for having sex outside marriage.

I called the film *Submission, Part 1*, because I saw this as the first in a series that would tackle the master-slave relationship of Allah and the individual. My message was that the Koran is an act of man, not of God. We should be free to interpret it; we should be permitted to apply it to the modern era in a different way, instead of performing painful contortions to try to recreate the circumstances of a horrible distant past.

I finished the script at the end of July 2004. We shot it on July 26. We did discuss the danger of making a film with this message. By this time, I had been protected by bodyguards for more than two years.

I warned Theo; I wanted him to keep his name off the project. But Theo called himself the village idiot. He said, "Nobody shoots the village idiot." He believed that I was the one who would be attacked and nobody would bother with him.



Theo van Gogh

*Submission* aired on a Dutch TV program on August 29, 2004, and there was no huge reaction. The weeks went by, and nothing noteworthy happened, to Theo or to me. He told me: "Ayaan, you have no idea. I've been

threatened for 15 years. Everyone has threatened me: the Jews, the Christians, the Social Democrats, the Muslims—they've done it the most—and nothing has ever happened to me. Nothing is going to happen."

*On the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2004, Ms. Hirsi Ali was in her Parliament office when a friend called to tell her that Theo van Gogh had been attacked. In fact, he had been killed and a fatwa letter stabbed into his chest.*

So it was a Muslim, and this had happened because of *Submission*. If we hadn't made *Submission*, Theo would still be alive.

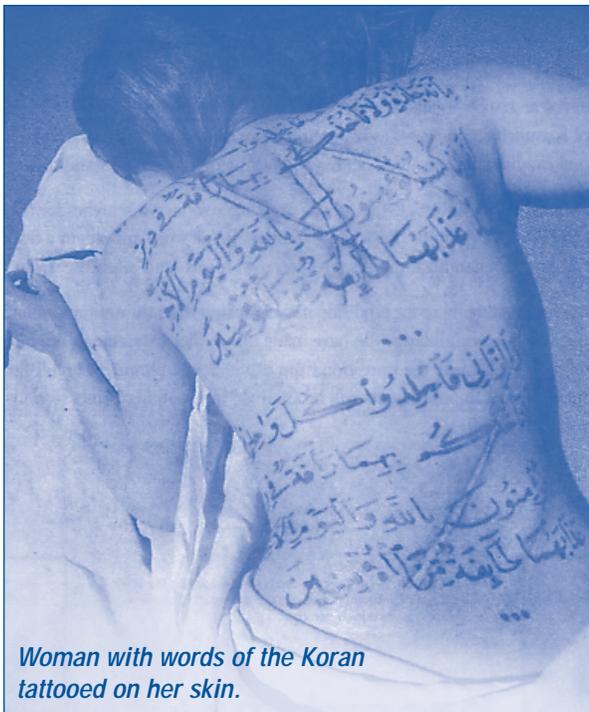
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*In July 2005, Muhammad Bouyeri, a 26-year-old citizen of both Holland and Morocco, was tried and convicted of Mr. van Gogh's murder; he is now serving a life sentence without parole. Ms. Hirsi Ali left the Parliament in 2006. She now lives in the United States and works as a fellow for the American Enterprise Institute.*

People are always asking me what it's like to live with death threats. It's like being diagnosed with a chronic disease. It may flare up and kill you, but it may not. Even with death threats, I feel privileged to be alive and free.

My central motivating concern is that women in Islam are oppressed. *Submission, Part 1* was about defiance — about Muslim women who shift from total submission to Allah to a dialogue with their deity. They pray, but instead of casting down their eyes, these women look up, at Allah, with the words of the Koran tattooed on their skin. They tell him honestly that if submission to him brings them so much misery, and he remains silent, they may stop submitting. These women stand for hundreds of thousands of Muslim women around the world.

Theo and I knew *Submission* was a dangerous film to make. But Theo was a valiant man — he was a warrior, however unlikely that might seem. He was also very Dutch, and no nation in the world is more deeply attached to freedom of expression than the Dutch. The suggestion that he remove his name from the film's credits for security reasons made Theo angry. He told me once, "If I can't put my name on my own film, in Holland, then Holland isn't Holland anymore, and I am not me." ★



*Woman with words of the Koran tattooed on her skin.*

## "Islam Abandoned Me"

By Ron Ross, [www.BridgesForPeace.com](http://www.BridgesForPeace.com)



Nonie Darwish

Egyptian activist Nonie Darwish told Al Arabiya TV "the spread of hatred and the calls for violence in the mosques in the U.S. made me go to church instead of mosques, in search of love."

She said, "I was shocked when I entered a mosque in the U.S. because of the presence of extremists in them... I didn't abandon Islam; it abandoned me.

"The problem now lies in the fact that minorities in the Arab world are treated badly, while here in the USA — since the first day I came here — I was treated like any other person. The wide protests against the cartoons, which were offensive to the prophet, were not appropriate... It is true that the publications of these caricatures lacked respect... but when such pictures of the Christ are published, the Christians here are sad, but do not protest like that. This shows there is something wrong with Islam."

*"There is something wrong with Islam."*

### Prayer Focus

Pray that more brave people will speak out and show the simple contrast between love and the hate which causes such pain and anguish in the lives of so many.

*"He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes" (1 John 2:10-11).*

## 32 Iranian Women Arrested For Protesting Discrimination

[news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk)

Iranian police arrested 32 women who participated in a demonstration protesting discrimination against women outside a Tehran courthouse. The rally was in support of five defendants on trial for holding a similar demonstration last June. Charges against the five are considered serious: endangering state security and propaganda against the state.



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Astra 1H Frequency 12,148 H  
Eutelsat W2 Frequency 16,293 H  
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## www.levitt.com Breaking Records

Our website's traffic has grown by more than 38% from last year. We were astounded to learn it gets 3.5 million hits per month! Its ever-growing library of free, on-demand videos is part of the reason. Plus, our Discussion Board, which fosters fellowship with postings of articles and comments, has grown by leaps and bounds. No wonder we had to upgrade both the speed and capacity of [www.levitt.com](http://www.levitt.com). We're in the midst of remodeling the website, so please brace yourself for its pending facelift.

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It bolsters the Israelis' spirit to see tourists from America, the Holy Land's best ally. Our tour groups' presence there expresses authentic love, particularly because we use Jewish guides, drivers, hotels, and restaurants. You can be an ambassador to Israel by making a pilgrimage with Jeff and Sandra. Our October tour offers four options:

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For a tour brochure, please call Tony at (214) 696-9760 during office hours or 1-800-WONDERS (966-3377) anytime.



## Our Ministry's Church Speakers

Let us bring to your church the prophetic relevance of today's news, the seven feasts of Israel, and all that Zola taught us to teach others. Dr. Tom McCall co-authored eight books with Zola. Dr. Jeff Seif co-created with Zola our correspondence course, *The Institute of Jewish-Christian Studies*. Dr. Todd Baker founded our ministry's department of missions to Israel, which is sponsored by our To the Jew First Fund. In addition, Zola's widow, Sandra, after traveling at Zola's side for many years, teaches all the same lessons he did and is a remarkable public speaker. Please contact Scott in our office at [sphillips@levitt.com](mailto:sphillips@levitt.com) or (214) 696-8844 for information on having any of our speakers visit your church.



**Israel... the Truth.**  
[www.levitt.com/speakers.html](http://www.levitt.com/speakers.html)

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We welcome contributions of time-shares, cars, stock, land and fine jewelry. When required, we are happy to furnish an appraisal to go with the IRS Form 8283. Also, if you would like us to market your valuables on eBay, then once they sell, we will pay you 30% of the net proceeds. On top of that, we will send you a receipt for contributing the other 70% to our work for the Lord. Please send items that are worth at least \$500. We auction them without reserve, which means we sometimes receive only salvage prices. Please direct your questions to Scott at (214) 696-8844 or [sphillips@levitt.com](mailto:sphillips@levitt.com).



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# Abraham, Moses, Jesus— Prophets of Islam?

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



Aaron Klein

The Jewish Temples never existed, the Western Wall really was a tying post for Mohammed's horse, the Al Aqsa Mosque was built by angels, and Abraham, Moses, and Jesus were prophets for Islam.

All this according to Sheikh Taysir Tamimi, chief Palestinian Justice and one of the most influential Muslim leaders in Israel. Tamimi is considered the second most important Palestinian cleric after Muhammad Hussein, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem.

In an exclusive interview, Tamimi, who preaches regularly from the Al Aqsa Mosque, claimed Jews have no historical connection to Jerusalem or Israel and that the Jewish Temples never existed.

"Israel started since 1967 making archaeological digs to show Jewish signs to prove the relationship between Judaism and the city and they found nothing. There is no Jewish connection to Israel before the Jews invaded in the 1880s," said Tamimi.

The Palestinian cleric denied the validity of dozens of digs verified by experts worldwide revealing Jewish artifacts from the First and Second Temples throughout Jerusalem, including on the Temple Mount itself; excavations revealing Jewish homes and a synagogue in a site in Jerusalem called the City of David; or even the recent discovery of a Second Temple Jewish city in the vicinity of Jerusalem.

He said descriptions of the Jewish Temples in the Hebrew Tanach, in the Talmud, and in Byzantine and Roman writings from the Temple periods were forged, and that the Torah was falsified to claim biblical patriarchs and matriarchs were Jewish when indeed they were prophets for Islam.

"Your Torah was falsified. The text as given to the Muslim prophet Moses never mentions Jerusalem. Maybe Jerusalem was mentioned in the rest of the Torah, which was falsified by the Jews."

Asked about the Western Wall, Tamimi

said the structure was a tying post for Mohammed's horse and that it is part of the Al Aqsa Mosque, even though the Wall predates the mosque by over 1,000 years.

The Al Aqsa Mosque was constructed in about 709 to serve as a shrine near another shrine, the Dome of the Rock, which was built by an Islamic caliph. Al Aqsa was meant to mark what Muslims came to believe was the place at which Mohammed, the founder of Islam, ascended to heaven to receive revelations from Allah.

Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Koran. Islamic tradition states Mohammed took a journey in a single night on a horse from "a sacred mosque"—believed to be in Mecca in southern Saudi Arabia—to "the farthest mosque" and from a rock there ascended to heaven. The farthest mosque later became associated with Jerusalem.

The First Jewish Temple was built by King Solomon in the 10th century B.C. It was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The Second Temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C. after Jerusalem was freed from Babylonian captivity. That Temple was destroyed by the Roman Empire in 70 A.D. Each Temple stood for centuries.

Tamimi went on to claim the Al Aqsa Mosque, which has sprung multiple leaks and has had to be repainted several times, was built by angels.

"Al Aqsa was build by the angels forty years after the building of Al-Haram in Mecca. This we have no doubt is true," he told. ★



# Woman to Woman

May 15-21, 2007



**God has always used women.** He used Esther to save her people from annihilation. He used Jael to fell a great enemy. He used Deborah to judge the nation and to lead it in time of war. He used Rahab to save Israel's spies. He used Lydia and other women to help support the ministry of the early Church. He chose women to be the bearers of life.

**On May 15-21, 2007,** women from many nations will gather in Jerusalem to learn how they can be used of God in this day to remove the barriers between Christian and Jewish women. Christian women will meet with their Jewish counterparts, learn their concerns, and feel their hearts' cry. This "Woman to Woman" conference will combine opportunities to hear from Israeli women of influence with visits to centers assisting the poor, elderly, and children. A banquet will feature "Corrie Remembers," a one-woman dramatization of Corrie Ten Boom, whose family saved Jews during the Holocaust.

The four-day Bridges for Peace (BFP) conference is combined with a two-day seminar sponsored by the Christian Allies Caucus (CAC) Women's Council of

Israel's Parliament. Laura Bush is their invited keynote speaker. The CAC event focuses on the importance of Jewish and Christian women standing together united for God and against evil actions and influences that threaten to destroy our treasured Judeo-Christian ethics.

Just as God has always used women, He is calling to women today to speak up, stand up, and let their lives make a difference in this world for Him.

"The Lord gives the command; the women who proclaim the good tidings are a great host" (Psalm 68:11).

Join women from around the world in Jerusalem for this extraordinary event.

Contact your BFP National Office for details and tour options.

**Bridges for Peace, PMB 33145, 5103 S. Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74145-7627. 800-566-1998.**

Hurry...space is limited.

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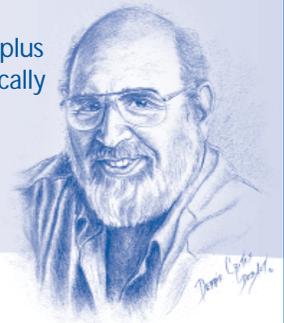
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## Zola's Monthly Gift Program

## Leaning Upon God's Love

By John J. Parsons



Happy Anniversary!  
This issue marks  
eight years of John's  
Hebrew Lessons.

כִּי־אַתָּה אֲדֹנָי טוֹב וְסָלַח וְרַב־חֶסֶד לְכֹל־קוֹרְאֶיךָ:

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy  
unto all them that call upon thee. – Psalm 86:5

לְ	כֹל־	קוֹרְ	אֵיךְ	וְ	רַב־	חֶסֶד	וְ	סָלַח	טוֹב	אֲדֹנָי	כִּי־	אַתָּה		
(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(1)
le-khol	ko-rey	kyu			ve-rav	chesed		v'-sa-lach	tov	A-do-nai		ki-at-tah		
to all who call upon you				and abounding in steadfast love			and forgiving		good	Lord (are)	For you			

### Adonai Tov v'Salach

With all of the evil in the world, how can we be sure that God is good? The skeptical mind reasons that if God were entirely good and all-powerful, then He would surely make all of His creatures happy. However, since we all experience pain and suffering, His goodness may be rightly questioned.

Of course this way of thinking is too simplistic, since it assumes that human happiness (usually understood as pleasure) is the goal of life, whereas the Scriptures make clear that a relationship with a holy God is its true end. God's role is not therefore to make us all "happy," but rather to make us fit for relationship with Him, and He often allows suffering in our lives to teach us the truth about our condition. The goodness of God does not in any way imply that He must create well-pleased creatures who are oblivious of their relationship with the truth.

Ironically, many who impugn the goodness of God often don't want anything to do with the responsibility to be morally good *themselves*. For the skeptic, goodness is fobbed off as God's responsibility to please man, rather than man's responsibility to please God. The voice of conscience that reveals the "categorical imperative" to always do what we (intuitively) know is right must therefore be suppressed, and the self becomes divided, at war within, and fragmented. If we do not realize this, it is because we are asleep or morally deadened; however, the moment we awaken and become alive, life itself becomes *tragic*. As the Apostle Paul said, "I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died" (Rom. 7:9).

The goodness of God, then, poses a problem for sinful people, since it reveals their alienation from the truth and implies that God is inaccessible to them on account of His perfect righteousness and holiness. The morally perfect Lord cannot tolerate the presence of injustice or evil of any kind, and therefore those who violate His perfect moral standards must be subject to the verdict of truth from Him.

But can God forgive sin and restore the sinner from this state of exile?

The Hebrew word translated "forgive" is *salach*, which (like the verb

*bara*, to create) is used exclusively of God. Since God is the giver of life, sins committed against others are regarded as offenses against God Himself. As we do unto others, we do unto the Lord. Therefore it is God's prerogative to forgive, since ultimately He is the offended party.

In the Torah, God instituted the sacrificial system as a means of reconciliation with Him for human sinfulness. The Torah of Moses taught that when a person sinned against the Lord, he or she was under sentence of death. Satan, the accuser, would come before God and make a case for the person's *neshamah* (soul). To appease the required judgment, however, God mercifully accepted the death of a sacrificial victim in place of the sinner.

The guilty person would come before the Lord (at the *mishkan* or Tabernacle), lean his hands upon the head of the sacrificial animal (*semichah*), and then say *viduy* (confession): "I deserve to die instead of this blameless animal, but You mercifully accept the death of this innocent one in my stead." When God saw the shed blood or ascending smoke of the sacrifice, he would forgive the sinner based on his faith and *teshuvah* (repentance).



Of course, the Levitical system of animal sacrifices, including the elaborate Yom Kippur ritual, was only temporarily efficacious, being subject to the frailty of human flesh. But God, in His infinite love and grace, bypassed the weakness of human flesh by taking its place as the perfect sacrificial victim for our sins (Rom. 8:3-4). The death of Jesus is the means of securing our eternal reconciliation with God by providing an infinitely worthy restitution to an infinitely just and holy God. The good news is that justice and mercy have kissed (Psalm 85:10), and because of Jesus' sacrifice we can now call upon the Lord who *is rav chesed* (abounding in steadfast love) toward us.

Have you personally made *semichah* by leaning your hands on Jesus as your perfect sacrifice for sin? Have you made *viduy* (confession) of your sin and expressed your need for deliverance through Him? God is indeed good and ready to forgive, and His love abounds toward all those who call upon His Name for salvation. ★

Dear Staff,

## “Crossed the Line”

I think you have crossed the line in your [April '07] newsletter with your caption on page 4: “The God of Love vs. Allah, the God of Hate.” I don't think Zola would approve. How is this ever going to promote better relations between Christians, Jews and Muslims? Why would any Muslim be interested in converting after seeing something like this? Do I believe in the Koran? No! Do I believe in Allah? No! Do I think radical Muslims are violent and have a death wish? Yes! Do I think all Muslims hate Christians and Jews? No! The Prophet Mohammed was anti-Semitic, but so was Martin Luther.

So does that make all Muslims and Christians hateful people? No! I think this ministry should apologize to its readers. If you continue to promote what I perceive as prejudice toward non-Christians, then I will no longer support this ministry. I care about Israel and the Jewish people, that is why I started supporting this ministry. Please don't force me to do something I don't want to do—stop sending money.

Respectfully,  
S. N.

Dear S. N. –

Thank you for writing. After reading your stinging rebuke and after noting your threat to cease to continue supporting our ministry financially, I went back and reviewed the picture and caption that invoked your ire.

Therein, I saw a picture of an American soldier comforting a crying baby after her entire family was mercilessly slaughtered by Islamic terrorists. The child was shot in the head, but survived and is now being assisted by an American G. I. going “above and beyond the call of duty” on the child's behalf. To this picture and story, which itself contrasted mercilessness and mercy, we placed a caption underscoring the belief that our Judeo-Christian way of being is superior to that of Mohammed's. To this you took issue, and to this I will now respond.

Did we “cross the line,” as you say? Possibly. There



**The God of Love vs. Allah, the God of Hate**

*Judge for yourself which religion yields the better product.*  
Air Force Chief Master Sgt. John Gebhardt, of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group at Balad, Iraq, cradles a young girl as they both sleep in the hospital. The girl's entire family was murdered by insurgents; the killers shot her in the head as well. The toddler received treatment at the U.S. military hospital in Balad, but cries and moans often. According to nurses at the facility, Gebhardt is the only one who can calm the child down, so he has spent the last several nights holding her while they both sleep in a chair.

is always a risk. We take that chance, however, because we have dared to “go to the line” in the first place. Be assured that if and when I discover examples of Islamic religious leaders criticizing this merciless activity, itself perpetrated under the guise of their religious virtue, I will be glad to publish their responses. It seems to me, though, that their silence is as golden as the top of the Dome of the Rock, where many go to pray. Oops! Here, I did it again: I suppose you'd say I am hindering “better relations between Christians, Jews, and Muslims” by daring to speak so frankly.

Would Zola be upset with me and “not approve” as you say? Personally, I think he'd say that I am a bit more moderate than he, by nature, and that I am perhaps a bit “too nice for his liking.” I think he'd say that he is being patient with me, hoping that I “toughen up!” a bit. But who knows? You can't second-guess him S. N., and you can't say what drives me with any certainty. You can only speak for yourself and say, “Goodness. I think this guy is pressing it a bit too much for my tastes...”

Frankly S. N., our ministry needs all the friends and financial supporters we can get—really we do. More important to me than pleasing you in the hope of keeping you, however, is my being able to look at myself in the mirror and be pleased with what I see and with what I think God sees. I will not go out of my way to offend you or anyone—I promise; I will not live in fear of you or anyone, either—another promise.

I will continue to publish cartoons and to promote literature and visual media that call attention to the indiscriminate slaughter of the elderly, the murder of the innocent, the abuse and molestation of women, and the abandonment of children—all in the name of religion. In conjunction with so doing, we will continue to promote the Gospel and will exhort all to repent of sins, live justly, and thus heed the call to the Kingdom.

Unlike Islam, a system bent on bringing the world under its control by the dint of its dogged determination, Judeo-Christian ethics require that dissent be accepted—what we call “free speech.” It was gutsy of you to write as you did and freely advocate for your position so boldly. I respect you for it, despite the fact that I will not be moved by your appeal. I hope you'll continue to watch and continue to write. I hope you'll continue to support us, too.

On my end, know that I appreciate your boldness and sincerity irrespective of whether you are able to come to terms with mine. — Jeffrey Seif ★



## Café Europe for Holocaust Survivors

[web.israelinsider.com](http://web.israelinsider.com)

The city of Ramat Hasharon is soon to honor its 500 Holocaust survivors by opening a coffee shop that will serve as a time tunnel to pre-war Europe, with that era's design, food, and music.



This idea for Café Europe came after Holocaust survivors asked to have a place to meet. The café will provide a place for the survivors to experience their common culture, remember their shared pre-war memories, and discuss what's happened since.

The café will operate once a week in one location and once a month at a second location.

The café will enable the survivors to be with people who will not pass judgment on them for what happened. "People think that something was wrong with us, that we went like sheep to the slaughter," a survivor said.

Ramat Hasharon Mayor Yitzhak Rochberger thinks this is the least the municipality could do for the inhabitants of the town. "We care about the survivors. We regard them as an integral part of the Ramat Hasharon community. Activities of this type are meant to empower our senior citizens who came here with that specific background and to strengthen their feeling of belonging to this community."

## Israeli Armor May Be Used in Baghdad

By Yaakov Katz, *The Jerusalem Post*

A new type of armor made by Israel Military Industries (IMI) can help the U.S. military diminish the threat of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to IMI.

The specially designed Steel Wall armor, developed at IMI's branch near Ramat Hasharon, significantly improves a vehicle's ability to survive an IED attack, IMI sources said. The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) have faced the threat of IED attacks in the Gaza Strip and during last summer's war in Lebanon. IED attacks are

used by insurgents in Iraq and have killed thousands of civilians and soldiers.

Development of Steel Wall was recently completed. It is made out of composite lightweight materials that can be fitted on the sides and underside of an armored military vehicle. The armor absorbs the energy from the blast of an IED and prevents it from penetrating the vehicle.

"This was developed to meet Israeli and American needs," one IMI source said.

Rafael Armament Development Authority, Ltd. recently announced that it had won a \$37 million contract to supply 60 Golan multi-purpose modular armored vehicles to the U.S. Marines for use in Iraq.



## 75% of Palestinians Believe Israel Should Not Exist

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

A new poll carried out by Near East Consulting (NEC) during February 12-15, 2007, has found that three-quarters of Palestinian Arabs do not think that Israel has a right to exist. The NEC poll also found that 70% of Palestinian Arabs support a one-state solution in which Jews would be a minority, not a two-state solution with a Palestinian Arab state living peacefully alongside Israel, as many claim Palestinian Arabs actually want.

Additionally, an overwhelming majority (94%) of Palestinian Arabs support the recent Fatah-Hamas power sharing agreement signed in Mecca, which does not call for a renunciation of terrorism, recognizing Israel, or implementing the prior signed Israel-Palestinian agreements.

Zionist Organization of America National President Morton A. Klein said, "This poll is the latest in a long series of polls dating back to 1994 showing a similar consensus by Palestinian Arabs against Israel's existence. This simply indicates that Palestinian Arabs are quite prepared to sign agreements with, and wrest major concessions from, Israel without actually intending to accept and live in peace with Israel afterwards."

A Palestinian Media Watch report on the most recent textbooks written by the Palestinian Curriculum Development Center for grade 12 students reveals that these encourage students to see Israel, the U.S., and the West as enemies, and portray the PA's territorial disputes with Israel as an existential religious conflict for Islam.

According to the report, the new books create for students an image, both textual and visual, of a world without Israel. They reject Israel's right to exist, while describing its founding as a "catastrophe that is unprecedented in history." According to the report, the books encourage students to see themselves as victims of Israel's existence, and actively prevent these young people from seeing Israel as a neighbor to live beside in peace.

The conflict with Israel is presented as a religious one to defend Islamic land, and leaves no latitude or religious option for students to have positive—or even neutral—attitudes towards Israel. The director of the curriculum committee, Dr. Naim Abu Al-Humos, is a long-time member of the Fatah party and was appointed PA Minister of Higher Education in 2002, under Yasser Arafat and continued after PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas's election.

### NYC Businessman Accused of Trying to Help Fund Terror

By Larry Neumeister, Associated Press

*Oh My! A respected moderate Muslim American businessman caught financing terror. How many others are hiding under the "moderate Muslim" label? When are we going to realize that Muslims in our country who support terrorism don't necessarily strap bombs on their bodies and scream "Allah Akbar"? Here is a reality check.*

—Brigitte Gabriel, [www.danielpipes.org](http://www.danielpipes.org)

Terrorism charges brought against the administrator of a loan investment program allege that he secretly tried to send \$152,000 to buy equipment such as night vision goggles for a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan.

Abdul Tawala Ibn Ali Alishtari, 53, of Ardsley, New York, was charged in an indictment in U.S. District Court with financing terrorism and material support of terrorism.

Alishtari, also known as Michael Mixon, was also charged with laundering money from a bank account in New York to a bank account in Montreal, Canada. He believed the money was to be used to provide material support to

terrorists in Pakistan and Afghanistan, prosecutors said.

The indictment also charged him with wire fraud conspiracy and wire fraud. It said he devised a scheme to administer and promote a fraudulent loan investment program known as "Flat Electronic Data Interchange" through which he and others fraudulently obtained millions of dollars from investors by promising high guaranteed rates of return.

Aref



Hossain



Masjid As-Salam Mosque



### Mosque Leaders Sentenced in Terror Sting

By Michael Hill, Associated Press

Two leaders of an Albany, New York mosque who were snared in an FBI sting involving a fictional terror strike were sentenced to 15 years in federal prison.

The former imam, Yassin Aref, professed innocence before his sentencing and criticized the government's treatment of Muslims. "I never had any intention to harm anyone in this country," said Aref, a 36-year-old Kurdish refugee. "And I don't know why I'm guilty."

Pizzeria owner Mohammed Hossain, a founder of the Masjid As-Salam mosque, said in a voice choked with emotion that he knew nothing about bombs and terrorism. "I do not know why it was me who was chosen. I was not a criminal," he said. "I was not even thinking of committing a crime."

The two were convicted in October for their roles in a money-laundering scheme involving an FBI informant who posed as an illegal arms dealer. The informant asked Hossain to launder \$50,000 from the sale of a shoulder-fired missile from China that would be used to kill a Pakistani diplomat in New York City, authorities said.

The informant said he needed to conceal the source of the income and asked Hossain to take the money and return it through a series of \$2,000 checks, according to court documents. Authorities said Hossain agreed to issue checks from his businesses and planned to keep \$5,000 for laundering the money. Aref, spiritual leader of Hossain's mosque, acted as a witness to the transactions.

Though the assassination plot was fictional, prosecutors in 2004 accused the pair of supporting terrorism. ★

# Saudis Build 550-Mile Fence to Shut Out Iraq

By Harry de Quetteville, [www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)

Security in Iraq has collapsed so dramatically that Saudi Arabia has ordered the construction of a 550-mile high-tech fence to seal off its troubled northern neighbor.

The huge project to build the barrier, which will be equipped with ultraviolet night-vision cameras, buried sensor cables, and thousands of miles of barbed wire, will snake across the vast and remote desert frontier between the countries.

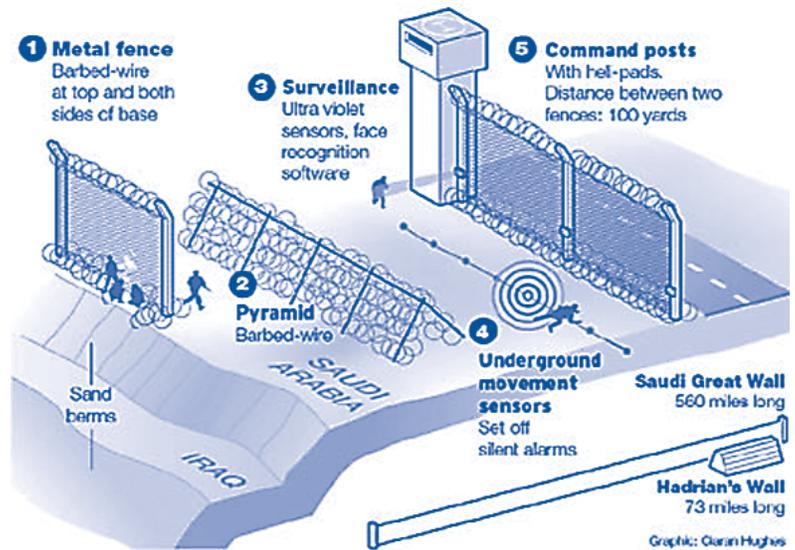
“The feeling in Saudi is that Iraq is way out of control with no possibility of stability. The urgency now is to get that border sealed: physically sealed,” said Nawaf Obaid, the director of the Saudi National Security Assessment Project, an institute that advises the government on security affairs. For Saudi Arabia, whose nationals have been accused of playing a key role as foreign fighters in the Iraq insurgency, the deterioration in its northern neighbor is a security nightmare.

Saudi officials are worried about so-called “blowback,” in which Saudi insurgents in Iraq bring jihad back to the streets of Riyadh and Jeddah. But they are mostly concerned that an Iraqi civil war will send a wave of refugees south, unsettling the kingdom’s Shia minority in its oil-producing east.

Outwardly the fence will appear mundane, with two metal barriers running 100 yards apart, lined with barbed wire at the base and top. On the Iraqi side, alarms will notify patrols if an intruder attempts to scale or cut through the fence. Between the two fences will be yet more barbed wire, piled in a tall pyramid.

But its effectiveness will rely on its more sophisticated or hidden countermeasures. Under the baking sand will be buried sensor cables relaying a silent alarm to monitoring posts at regular intervals along the border. At the posts, face-recognition software will process pictures relayed from cameras, which will also be able to operate at night.

“The costs are not going to be about just building the fence but equipping it too,” said Mr. Obaid. “It’s being done in true Saudi style — state-of-the-art equipment and no expense spared.”



## Good Neighbors

By Gwynne Dyer, [www.gwynnedyer.net](http://www.gwynnedyer.net)

If good fences make good neighbors, then the world is experiencing an unprecedented outbreak of neighborliness.

The latest country to start building a wall—a “security fence”—is **Thailand**, to stop terrorists from crossing into Thailand’s restive Muslim-majority southern provinces from northern Malaysia.

**India’s** 3,000-km. barrier along its border with Pakistan is largely complete, and India is now building a 3,300-km. barrier to halt illegal immigration from Bangladesh.

**China** is now building a fence along its frontier with North Korea as a precautionary measure to stop an immense wave of refugees if the regime in Pyongyang collapses.

**Pakistan** is building a 1,500-mile fence with Afghanistan, **Uzbekistan** has built a fence along its border with Tajikistan, the **United Arab Emirates** is erecting a barrier along its frontier with Oman, and **Kuwait** is upgrading its existing 215-km. wall along the Iraqi frontier.

**Saudi Arabia** has been quietly pursuing an \$8.5 billion project to fence off its porous border with Yemen, but the highest priority now is to get a high-tech barrier built along the 550-mile border with Iraq.

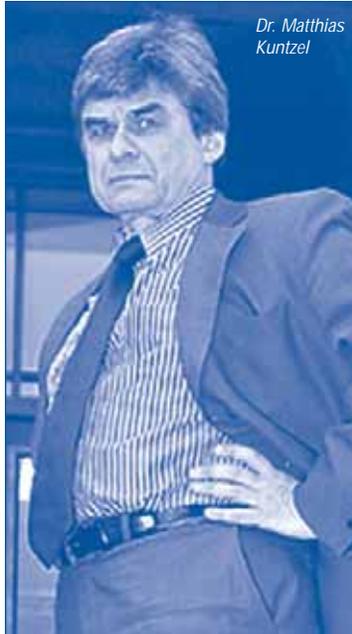
In our “Alice in Wonderland” world, Israel seems the only nation condemned for building a security fence to protect its citizens. — Editor



# Ban on Lecturer Who Links Nazis and Islam

By Chris Brooke, [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk)

A university has been accused of censorship after canceling a lecture on “Islamic anti-Semitism” by a leading German academic.



Dr. Matthias Kuntzel

Dr. Matthias Kuntzel, a political scientist who has spoken around the world on Islamic fundamentalism, arrived at Leeds University to be told his lecture had been cancelled at short notice on security grounds. Protest emails had allegedly been sent by Muslims about the event, which was due to discuss links between the Nazis and Islamic extremists. The university has insisted the cancellation was due to health and safety fears rather than concerns about a Muslim backlash.

But the controversial Dr. Kuntzel, who was allowed to hold two private seminars at the university, criticized the cancellation of his lecture entitled “Hitler’s Legacy: Islamic Anti-Semitism in the Middle East.”

Dr. Kuntzel said the decision to cancel was made the day after “stupid” emails were sent to the authorities.

“I was told it was for security reasons—that they cannot shelter my person. But I don’t feel in any way threatened,” he said. “I know this is sometimes a controversial topic, but I am accustomed to that and I have the ability to calm people down. It is not a problem for me at all. My impression was that they wanted to avoid the issue to keep the situation calm. My feeling is that this is a kind of censorship.

“I value the integrity of academic debate and I feel that it really is in danger here. This is a very important subject and if you cannot address it on university property, then what is a university for?”

A statement by Dr. Annette Seidel Arpac and Morten Hunke, both members of the German Department, said: “The sudden cancellation is a sell-out of academic freedom, especially freedom of speech.”

But university secretary Roger Gair said, “The cancellation has nothing to do with academic freedom, freedom of speech, anti-Semitism or Islamophobia, and those claiming that is the case are making mischief. Nor is the university bowing to protests or threats.

“The lecture has been cancelled on safety grounds alone. It came to our attention less than 36 hours before it was due to take place and the university was not given sufficient notice to ensure safety and public order. Contrary to our rules and protocols, no assessment of risk to people or property was carried out, and no stewarding arrangements were in place.

“We value academic freedom and remain committed to promoting and positively encouraging free debate, inquiry and, indeed, protest. Where meetings are potentially controversial, we have a duty to protect the safety of participants in the event, and to ensure that public order is maintained.”

What does it take to enhance security for an event? Being a police officer who has worked a few special events, and knowing that hiring a few “police extras” for an event is really no big deal, I am inclined to see the administration’s response as nothing but a hollow excuse. Though the reason for canceling the event may never be fully known except to the people who opted to do so, with others I opine that they just didn’t want to bother having to deal with a politically incorrect event, one that lent credence to Jews and was critical of Islam. Shame on them!

—Jeffrey Seif ★



# Europe's Iran Problem

By Daniel Johnson, *The Weekly Standard*

The leaders of Europe can no longer pretend that they don't know what Iran is up to. A leaked internal document prepared for the European Union's foreign ministers warns that it is probably too late to prevent the Iranian government from acquiring nuclear weapons and admits that efforts to impede the Iranian nuclear program have failed. "In practice...the Iranians have pursued their program at their own pace, the limiting factor being technical difficulties rather than resolutions by the U.N. or the International Atomic Energy Agency."

Years of diplomacy have made virtually no difference. The regime in Tehran is determined to become a nuclear power — **the first nuclear power with a yearning for martyrdom.**

Europe's reaction? Nil. By tacit agreement, it has been left to Israel and the United States to hint at possible military action to destroy the nuclear facilities that European companies have helped to create. Europe has done little to isolate Iran or put pressure on its leaders and its people. Germany and other European Union states head the list of trading partners with Iran. As was the case with Iraq, the fact that so many Europeans are making so much money out of an evil regime has contributed to Europe's political paralysis.

Yet Europe has an overwhelming interest in preventing the emergence of an Islamist bomb. European territory would be directly threatened by a nuclear-armed Iran, equipped with long-range missiles. Nuclear blackmail is far more likely to be used against European states than against the United States, and European states are judged by Tehran to be far less likely to retaliate than Israel.

For these and many other practical reasons, Europe should be reacting far more vigorously than it is to the Iranian provocation. But there is an even more important reason Europe should be forcing the issue rather than appeasing the mullahs.

The moral case for stopping President Ahmadinejad and Supreme Leader Khamenei in their tracks is that both have vowed to annihilate Israel.

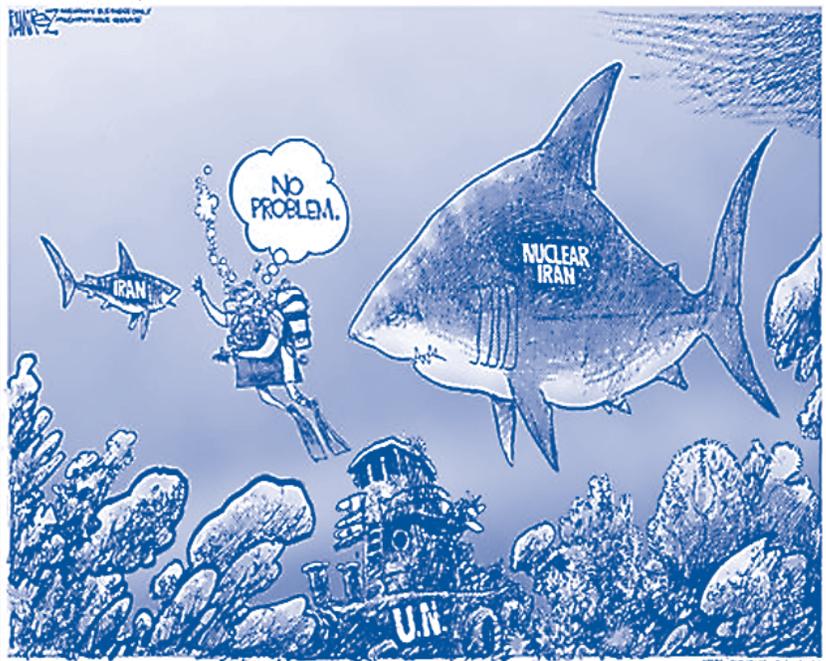
Why, the political establishment of Europe implicitly asks, should we lift a finger for Israel? Well, Israel is Europe's orphaned offspring. Europe — specifically Britain — con-

ceived the Jewish National Homeland in Palestine with the Balfour Declaration in 1917. Europe — specifically Germany, but with help from collaborators in almost every nation on the Continent — drove hundreds of thousands of Jews to emigrate, and then murdered six million who could not escape. Europe — specifically the E.U. — gave the Holocaust a unique status in defining the values that Europe's institutions enshrine. Children are taught that the commemoration of the Holocaust is not only a moral imperative, but constitutive of European civilization.

Now the threat of a second Holocaust is staring Europe in the face. Why is the E.U., which makes so much of its humanitarian credentials, which sees itself as a creature of the Enlightenment, so seemingly indifferent? The answer, I fear, lies in the process that has deprived Israel of legitimacy and branded Zionism as a relic of European imperialism: Europe's vast superstructure of collective atonement for the Holocaust has been hollowed out from within. The calumny that Israel — the most liberal and egalitarian country in the Middle East — is an "apartheid state" has hardened into a conviction. The mud has stuck.

Yet if Israel is attacked and — God forbid — destroyed by Iranian nuclear bombs, then European civilization will have perished, too. The destruction of Israel would signal the demise of the Judeo-Christian morality that ennobled Greco-Roman culture to create the only Europe that was ever worth preserving. I for one could not live in a society that could even contemplate such a second *Shoah*. I would turn my back on such a Europe and shake the dust from my feet, never to return.

[Mark 6:11 — Editor] ★



# Following the Christian Money Trail

By Yaakov Lappin, [www.ynetnews.com](http://www.ynetnews.com)



In early 2007, the US-based International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) said it donated some \$37 million in aid to Israel and the Jewish people in 2006.

The IFCJ channels millions of dollars to Israel every year, the sum total of donations by Evangelical Christians who believe that the return of the Jewish people to Israel signals the coming of “the last days,” fulfilling a prophecy they say will hasten the “second coming” of Jesus Christ.

IFCJ founder and president, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, speaking by phone from his Chicago headquarters, emphasized that the “money is not given directly to any place, but rather, the IFCJ works with the programs, and with institutions such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Absorption, Ministry of Interior.”

“But we don’t give them money. We give it to charity,” Eckstein said. “Everything is done through charity.”

The IFCJ founder also complained over the lack of awareness of IFCJ funds. “Sometimes it’s a desire on the part of a group or nation to have its own identity. It’s not necessarily because the source is Christian,” he added.

Most of the time, Eckstein said, organizations were shy to admit to receiving Christian aid due to “their own desire to promote themselves.”

In the Evangelical world, Rabbi Eckstein also faces problems. A glance at the Evangelical Ministry Watch website shows that he has come under criticism by Evangelicals for attempting to stop mission attempts by Evangelicals among Jews.

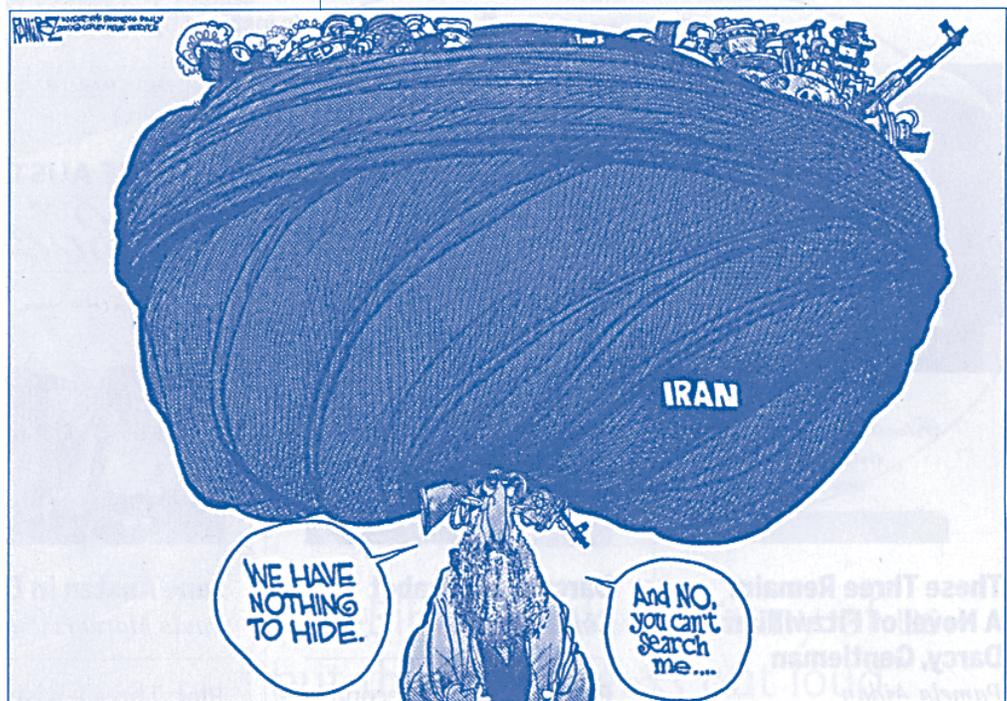
“There is...an abiding and seemingly irreducible tension that marks IFCJ’s mission,” Ministry Watch said. “That tension is accounted for by

two factors: Evangelical Christianity’s non-negotiable belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Jewish Messiah and only Savior of the world, who must be proclaimed and defended as such by his followers... (and) the unequivocal rejection of Jesus as Messiah and Savior by Judaism and Jewish people in general, and by Rabbi Eckstein in particular.

“What makes this issue relevant to IFCJ’s mission is Rabbi Eckstein’s public censures of evangelistic activity among Jewish people. This has led some conservative Christians to believe that association with Eckstein compromises the Gospel,” the website said.

“Eckstein has gone so far as to say that efforts at evangelizing the Jews are based upon ‘anti-Semitic prejudices and tantamount to spiritual genocide,’ and that such efforts stem from either pure arrogance or a deep ignorance,” it continued.

Personally, I am pleased that Rabbi Eckstein is assisting Jews get to Israel. Evangelical Christians who donate to his work, however, do well to note that his organization is seemingly not Evangelical-friendly. He is *not* a Believer in Jesus, and I have heard that he is not particularly helpful to those of us who are and who advocate for the Gospel’s advancement amongst Jewish people. At the risk of sounding somewhat self-serving, let me say that I would rather individuals contribute toward various Messianic-Jewish works. By the way, Moishe Rosen, the Founder of Jews for Jesus, expressed his opinion of the IFCJ in “Feeding the Hungry,” on page 11 of the July 2006 *Levitt Letter*, which is archived at [www.levitt.com/2006-07.pdf](http://www.levitt.com/2006-07.pdf).  
— Jeffrey Seif ★



# How a Civilization Collapses

By Caroline B. Glick, [JewishWorldReview.com](http://JewishWorldReview.com)



Glick

We are witnessing the death by a thousand cuts of free thought.

Earlier this year, two students at Cambridge University's Clare College became victims of this state of affairs. The students dedicated an edition of their satire magazine to the one-year anniversary of the global Muslim riots that followed the publication in a Danish newspaper of caricatures of Mohammed. Those riots led to the deaths of more than a hundred people. Although the British media refused to republish the caricatures, Muslims in Britain held terrifying protests there and called for the destruction of Britain, the U.S., Denmark, and Israel and for the murder of all who refuse to accept the global domination of Islam.

In their magazine, the students published some of the caricatures and mocked the Muslims for their hypocrisy in accusing British society of racial prejudice while calling for its violent destruction.

The Muslim reaction was swift. Fearing for their lives, the students went into hiding. But the Muslims were not alone in their anger. Clare College set up a special disciplinary court to consider action against the students. And the local police opened a criminal investigation against them.

The persecution of these students provides a case study of the two-pronged offensive being carried out today against Western culture. First, by the jihadists who call for our destruction. Then, by the intellectuals and public figures who defend Islamists and work to silence criticism by criminalizing speech and condemning free thinkers as racists.

The direct consequence of this two-pronged offensive is the repression of free thought.

The decision to abandon the ideological battlefield is the result of an ideological and political assault against the voices that justify the war against the global jihad. The Islamist front is eroding the free world's sense of justice. Rather than assert our liberal, democratic values and defend our freedoms, politicians and opinion shapers have permitted themselves to become shackled to ideologies that negate everything the free world stands for. Israel, which stands on the front lines of freedom, is duty-bound to stem the tide. But ignoble leaders have preferred to stop thinking and silently surrender.

This is how a civilization collapses. ★



## Muslims Solidify Temple Mount Takeover

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

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's reported decision to allow Muslims to construct a massive minaret on the Temple Mount will "serve to solidify Islam's takeover of Judaism's holiest site," a leading Israeli archaeologist charged.

Hebrew University's Eilat Mazar said Muslims are turning the Temple Mount into a "giant mosque for Islam only," and that the new minaret will "serve as a prize to the Muslims, who have been erasing Jewish ties to the site by openly discarding Jewish artifacts they find."

Mazar was referring to Muslim excavations near a new mosque constructed at the Temple Mount's Solomon's Stables. During the excavations, the Waqf (Muslim custodians of the Temple Mount) reportedly disposed of truckloads of dirt containing Jewish artifacts from the First and Second Temple periods. After the media reported this, Israeli authorities froze the construction permit given to the Waqf.

Mazar, a third-generation Israeli Temple Mount archaeologist, is the discoverer and lead archaeologist of Israel's City of David, believed to be the palace of the biblical King David, the second leader of a united Kingdom of Israel, who ruled from around 1005 to 965 B.C. She is also a fellow at Israel's Shalem Center and serves on the Israeli government's Public Committee for Prevention of the Destruction of Antiquities on Temple Mount.

See the April *Levitt Letter's* report of the proposed minaret, and history of the Temple Mount at [www.levitt.com/news](http://www.levitt.com/news). ★

# Georgia Tech's Censorship

By Orit T. Sklar, [www.FrontPageMagazine.com](http://www.FrontPageMagazine.com)

When the editorial board of the *Technique* — the Georgia Tech student newspaper — rejected an advertisement entitled “What Americans Need to Know about Jihad,” but published an article with the headline “Islamic Awareness Week Promotes Understanding,” it took upon itself to shut down debate, replacing honesty with censorship and partisanship.

The *Technique* seems to doubt the intellectual ability of Georgia Tech students to come to their own conclusions when given complete information. I'm sure the *Technique* would describe itself as a marketplace of ideas. Too bad there's only one item on the shelf at this marketplace. Buy it and like it.

Radical Islam has set every region of the world aflame in its quest to conquer and destroy modern civilization. While bodies pile up in every corner of the globe, the Muslim community and opinion-makers on college campuses refuse even to consider the possibility that the Islamic community is, if not to blame for the slaughter, complicit in its silence.

Islamic terrorists will remove anyone and anything that stands in the way of achieving their goals. The true victims in this situation are all of those people who wish to live in a free, democratic society.

The ad submitted by Terrorism Awareness Project called attention to the oft-stated goal of jihadists — the establishment of a global Islamic state under Islamic (Shari'a) law.

Muslim countries have some of the worst ratings in the world in terms of women's rights. Many of the outspoken critics of radical Islam are women who have written books based on their experiences as women in a Muslim country. Most of them need extra security to protect them from those that seek to silence them. And yet, the article published in the *Technique* addressed the hijab as if it was some kind of idealistic model for a woman's life. Women might be able to choose whether or not to wear a hijab in free societies, but that is not possible in countries where

Shari'a law reigns supreme. I doubt that a woman such as Azar Nafisi, author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran* — who was forced to wear a hijab in Iran out of fear for being killed — would agree with the article's assessment that, “Muslim women wear the hijab to not only reflect their modesty and self pride, but also to establish their identity in society.”

Accompanying the article was a picture of the mosque on 14th street with the caption, “Several Muslim students at Tech regularly visit the newly constructed mosque.” Ironically, this picture could have been used back in April 2006 when news broke that Syed Haris Ahmed, also known as the “Georgia Tech Terrorist,” was indicted on suspicion of giving material support of terrorism. The *Technique* places Islam and the mosque on an idealistic pedestal complete with praise and admiration.

The exclusion of vital but inconvenient opposition is representative of how the Institute and the Muslim community also chose to deal with the chilling news that one of “our own” was a terrorist: pretend it never happened.

The *Technique* is ultimately hindering Georgia Tech from truly becoming a marketplace of ideas by censoring its ideological adversaries. As long as a select few have the power to invent the “truth,” the entire Georgia Tech community will be done a great disservice. ★



# How Do Christians Live with Muslims?

By Frank Pastore, [www.townhall.com](http://www.townhall.com)



Pastore

As Christians, we believe Islam is a false religion—and the belief is reciprocal.

As Americans, we believe in the free exercise of religion, including Islam—but this belief is not reciprocal.

**See, the problem is, Christianity teaches the Golden Rule, while Islam doesn't.** The Koran teaches that every Muslim is superior to every non-Muslim and that men are superior to women. A Muslim may treat a Jew, a Buddhist, or a Christian with respect, but they will never be considered equals, for they are *dhimmis*, a near-slave status in Muslim teaching. **This is the fundamental reason why Islam is incompatible with democracy and thereby the West.** How can you have a democracy among non-equals? Let alone the fact that half of all Muslim populations are immediately excluded from the political process simply because of their gender. Either the West will cease to be the West, or Islam will cease to be Islam. But the two cannot blend and remain what they are. It is the defining characteristic of each that it has almost nothing in common with the other.

In Islam, the world is divided into the world of believers, *dar al Islam*, and that of unbelievers, *dar al harb*. Islam is not merely at war with the West, it is at war with the world. No authority is higher than the infallible divine law contained in the closed canon of the Koran. Sha'ria law trumps all other claims to divine law, all natural law, and all positive law. No Muslim can be under any authority other than Sha'ria law. To do so is to render oneself apostate and deserving of death. Reason itself is unable to inquire into the morality of the divine law. This is why the concepts of state, citizen, nation, pluralism, and tolerance are alien to Islam. It is also why perhaps there is no more clear instance of the reformer's dilemma in all of history. To reform one must question, and to question is forbidden.

The challenge of the West to live peaceably with Islam is made perhaps impossible by both the historical record and simply by looking around today. What do nearly all the problem spots around the world have in common? What dominant Muslim country has anything approaching real human rights? Where are the Muslim denunciations of violence, terrorism, genocide, and slavery

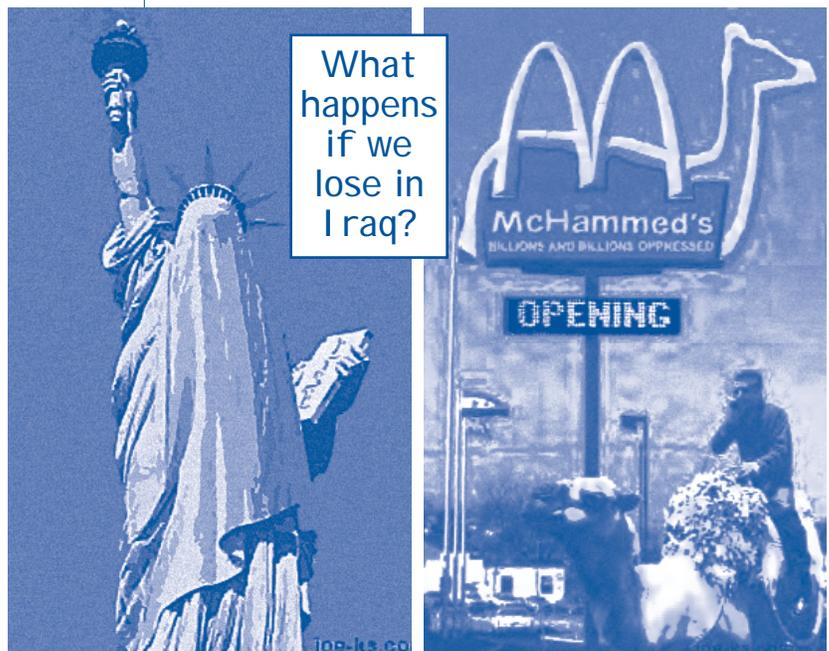
coming from the many mosques, universities, newspapers, and capitals throughout the Muslim world? For that matter, where are the condemnations of these things coming from the American Muslim community? **There are over one billion Muslims on this planet, and their collective silence on these evils is deafening and threatening.** What are we non-Muslims to think, other than that the vast majority of Muslims must either support or tolerate such things? Perhaps "moderate" Islam is merely a Western fiction created to avoid addressing the unavoidable and inevitable reality of civilizational incompatibility.

The loudest and most clear message we non-Muslims hear from the Muslim world is "Convert, submit to *dhimmitude*, or die." Come to think of it, I'm not hearing any other message. And that is what is so deeply troubling.

Are we to take comfort in being told not all Muslims are radical? Perhaps, and I hold on to that. But, if just one-hundredth of one-percent are future jihadists, you're still talking 100,000 killers hoping to blow up a school bus or fly a plane into a building. We are at war with these radicals, make no mistake.

Perhaps the moderate Muslim is an American citizen who loves this country and is bothered by what he sees, too. Maybe his family fled religious persecution back in the old country. Maybe he actually wants to live here and raise his family here. He might be in the National Guard. And maybe, just maybe, he's someone who worries about these things just as I do, and is trying to reform his religion into something that can live peaceably in modernity.

It's these last thoughts that stop me short of seeing him as the enemy. ★



## Miss Israel Finalist Quits After Family's Honor Killing Plot

By Sonia Verma,  
www.timesonline.co.uk



Doaa Fares

Doaa Fares believed she could be somebody other than herself—a 17-year old high-school dropout from a deeply conservative Druze village, where most women marry young and settle into traditional roles.

The striking brunette changed her name to Angelina and entered the Miss Israel beauty pageant hoping to be crowned queen, a title that comes with a cash prize, modeling contract, and a car.

Instead, Angelina—the first Druze to compete in the pageant—was threatened with death, allegedly by two uncles and other men from her village who accused her of disgracing the family name with promiscuous behavior.

When police uncovered the apparent plot to kill her, Ms. Fares disappeared into protective custody. When she emerged from hiding, she announced that she was withdrawing from the competition, fearing for her life.

“My life is much more important than a contest, but it’s very difficult for me to give up my dream,” she said, sitting in the darkened living room of her family home in this small Galilean village. She is too frightened to answer her mobile phone or leave the house.

Ms. Fares’s story has dominated the Israeli media as a high-profile example of a foiled “honor killing,” where a woman is murdered by members of her own family for supposed sexual offenses that have somehow brought shame to the family.

Last year, seventeen Palestinian women were reported killed in honor crimes, twelve in the Gaza Strip and five in the West Bank. In Israel, seven Arab women were similarly killed for “crimes” ranging from having sex before marriage to being the victim of rape.

### The Mysterious Druze

There are 104,000 Druze in Israel and around one million worldwide. Druze do not accept converts from other religions, and so all of today’s population descend directly from the original 10th-century adherents and claim descent from Jethro, father-in-law of Moses. The tenets of the religion are kept secret not just from outsiders, but also from the majority of the Druze, who are known as *juhal* (ignorant ones) and must accept the faith on trust. Most scholars consider the religion to be a mix of Judeo-Christian and Islamic traditions, incorporating elements of Greek philosophy as well as a belief in reincarnation.

## Muslim Kills Pakistani Woman Government Minister

By Mubasher Bukhari, Reuters

A suspected Islamist zealot shot dead a Pakistani woman provincial government minister because he believed women should not be in politics, officials said.

Zil-e-Huma, social welfare minister of the Punjab government, a women’s activist and supporter of President Pervez Musharraf, was about to give a speech to dozens of people when the lone attacker shot her in the head. She died later in hospital.



Zil-e-Huma

The gunman, identified as Mohammad Sarwar, was immediately arrested.

Punjab Law Minister Raja Basharat told Reuters the gunman had been implicated in six previous murder cases but had never been convicted because of a lack of evidence.

“He is basically a fanatic,” Basharat said. “He is against the involvement of women in politics and government affairs.”

*“He is basically a fanatic”*

“He considers it contrary to the teachings of Allah for a woman to become a minister or a ruler. That’s why he committed this action,” the police said in a statement.

Huma, 37, was married with two sons. Her husband is a doctor. She also ran a small fashion design business in Gujranwala.

Musharraf, a key ally in the U.S.-led war on terrorism, promotes a vision of “enlightened moderation” for the predominantly Muslim country of 160 million people and has vowed to empower women.

Women make up just over 20 percent of the lower house of parliament, according to the country’s main human rights group, and there are three women ministers in the cabinet of the federal government.

But women still face widespread violence and discrimination in a male-dominated society, particularly in the countryside, where most Pakistanis live.

BRIEFS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

**Ahmadinejad: Demise of Israel Imminent**

FARS [Iranian] News Agency

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a meeting in Tehran with Director of the Political Office of Palestine's Hamas Group, Khaled Mashal, stressed that the Zionist regime of Israel is in its worst conditions ever and about to face its imminent demise.



A statement released by the Presidential Press Office said that also during the meeting Ahmadinejad said the time for the materialization of Allah's promises is close, adding that Allah-given triumph, which is the result of the resistance and faith of the oppressed Palestinian nation, will soon manifest.

The president viewed as vitally important the duty of the Palestinian government and Hamas movement in preventing domestic conflicts and mentioned, "Palestinian groups should preserve their unity and the essence of the Palestinian nation's aspirational movement and continue their resistance and trust in Allah to lay the grounds for the withdrawal of the Zionist occupiers from the sacred land of Palestine and keep on doing these until even a span of the Palestinian territories is not under occupation."

"The closer we come to our ultimate goal, the more cumbersome the tasks grow," he said, adding that there are great expectations from the popular Palestinian government.

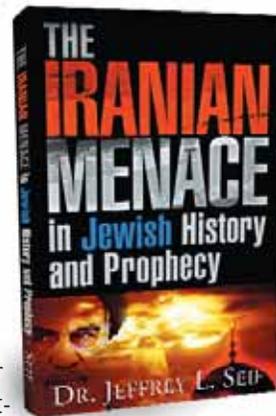
For his part, Khaled Mashal briefed Ahmadinejad about the latest conditions in the occupied territories and the problems created for the Hamas movement after its victory in last year's elections. "The Zionist regime and the United States placed a tight and all-out siege on Palestine, launched a propaganda war against Hamas, and improvised frequent plots to topple the popular government of Palestine, but all these plots ended in failure due to the resistance of the Palestinians."

Khaled Mashal reiterated his movement's irreversible stances on defending the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people and abstaining from recognizing the occupying regime of the Zionists.

"Besides reorganizing resistance, Hamas is striving to materialize the ideals of the Palestinian people through establishing a mighty and authoritative government," he concluded.

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**Israel – World's 3rd in High-Tech Investments**By Yoram Ettinger, *The Jerusalem Boardroom*

Israel ranks 3rd in the world (\$1.4 billion)—behind California (\$12.4 billion) and Massachusetts (\$2.8 billion), ahead of New York (\$1.3 billion) and Texas (\$1.2 billion)—in the level of 2006 high tech investments, according to Ernst & Young. The 2006 high tech investment in Israel increased 13% over 2005.

**Divorced Against Their Will**By Ebtihal Mubarak, *Arab News* (Riyadh Newspaper)

Divorce is always sad, but it's saddest when neither spouse wants to part. Here in Saudi Arabia, the courts recently ruled that a divorce can be forced upon a couple if the wife's father insists. Appalled feminist activists are now petitioning the king to intervene. The women are championing the cause of Fatima al-Timani, a 34-year-old woman who has been married for three years. Her father claimed that her husband, Mansour al-Timani, lied about his tribal background in order to marry her. The father brought and won a divorce suit. But Fatima, who loves her husband, refused to return to her father. She is now in jail with her baby, separated from her 2-year-old. Such a situation goes against Islamic law, which is the law of the kingdom. Sh'aria does not prohibit marriage between members of different tribes. More fundamentally, though, at stake are women's rights. It's a huge step backward if a married mother in her 30s can still be controlled by her father.



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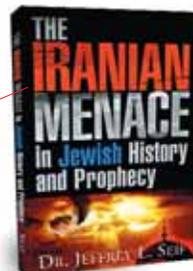
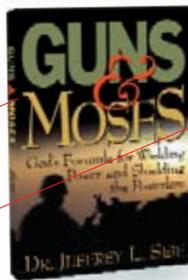
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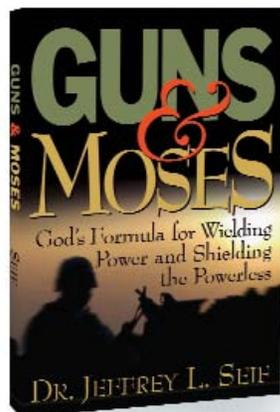


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## **Guns & Moses—** Jeff's New Book

In his new book, *Guns & Moses*, Jeff Seif draws on his experience as a police officer and theologian to walk readers through the Law of Moses, the biblical foundation of our Judeo-Christian culture. He describes God's specific instructions on how to use power to secure justice for all and protection for the weak. Anyone wielding any measure of power and influence—parents, professionals, police, presidents, pastors—can benefit from exposure to the writings of Moses, especially since familiarity with God's precepts guides biblically minded people to the godly use of power in times of war and peace. *Please see page 31 to order.*



- Does "turn the other cheek" condemn abuse victims to accept their tormentors' rage?
- Does the Bible ever sanction war?