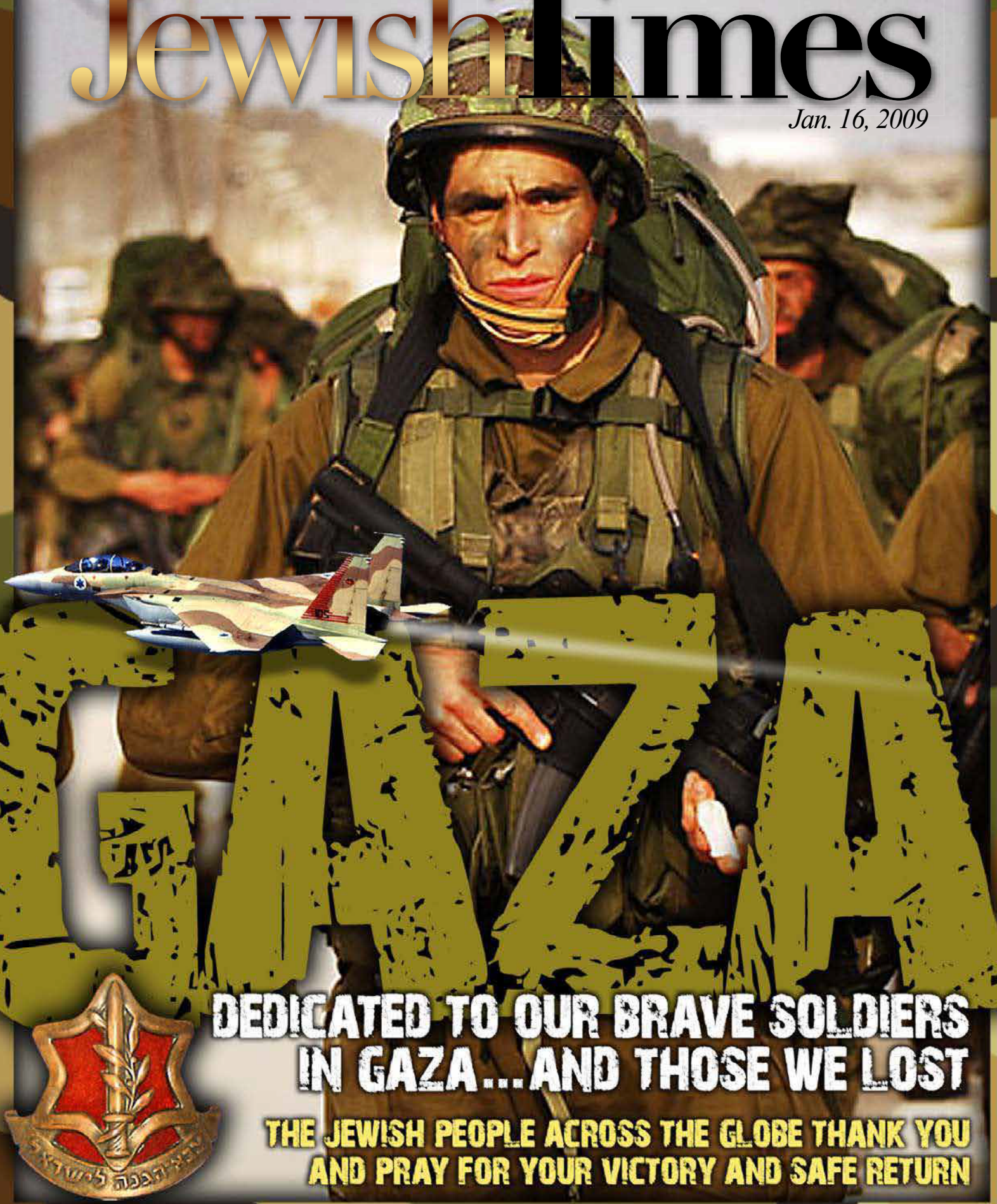


JewishTimes

Jan. 16, 2009



**DEDICATED TO OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS
IN GAZA...AND THOSE WE LOST**

**THE JEWISH PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE THANK YOU
AND PRAY FOR YOUR VICTORY AND SAFE RETURN**





USAIsrael.org

a MESORA.ORG initiative



RALLY FOLLOW-UP

The Moment is Now

U.S. and Canadian leaders support Israel's right to self-defense, blaming Hamas for the deaths in Gaza. However, the UN, the Vatican and others who are quiet while Hamas bombs us, now accuse Israel of treating Gaza as a "concentration camp". Don't be silent and allow such accusations to go unaddressed. Our numbers can and must influence more government officials.

Please sign here: www.USAIsrael.org

The battle against terror must be waged on the field,
and in government. Please sign and forward to others.



"לו עמי שמע לי
ישראל בדרכי יחלכו
כמעט אויביהם אכניע
ועל צריהם אשיב ידי"

תהלים פא'





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כולנו ידעים שאתם לחמים בעד כל היהודים בעולם -
ה' עמכם - תצליחו ותחזרו בשלום.

WE ALL KNOW YOU FIGHT FOR ALL JEWS
GOD BE WITH YOU BE SUCCESSFUL AND RETURN IN PEACE



ANTI

MFA: ISRAEL EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN ABOUT CURRENT WAVE OF ANTISEMITISM

(Communicated by the Foreign
Ministry Spokesperson)

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/About+the+Ministry/MFA+Spokesman/2009/Press+releases/Israel-expresses-concern-about-Antisemitism-12-Jan-2008.htm>

Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Tzipi Livni has expressed Israel's concern about the current wave of anti-Semitic attacks in various parts of the world:

"Israel has embarked on a defensive campaign against Hamas, a terrorist organization which, on a daily basis, has launched rocket and mortar barrages, thus threatening the lives of Israel's

civilians - men, women, and children. Moreover, Hamas' Charter and many declarations to this very day call for the destruction of Israel and, using anti-Semitic epithets, call for the annihilation of the Jewish people.

We have received with great concern and revulsion many reports of physical, moral, verbal and other manifestations of anti-Semitic attacks towards Jews and Israeli citizens in many parts of the world. Examples of these include physical assault, violence and abuse towards Jews, the desecration of cemeteries and synagogues, the use of anti-Semitic incitement in pro-Palestinian demonstrations, the writing of anti-Semitic graffiti on Jewish property, as well as cartoons, editorials and other press stories reminiscent of the kind that appeared in the media of certain countries during the darkest days of the early 20th Century. Israel and the Jewish people are appalled at these expressions of incitement, hatred and blatant extremism.

The Government of Israel therefore calls upon the leaders of the world to condemn, suppress and curb any and all forms of such incitement and hate, and to further hold accountable those responsible for their actions. We know that there is a delicate balance in maintaining freedom of expression while preventing it from becoming hate speech or worse. Nonetheless, the dangers that lie within the Pandora's box that appears to have been opened with this current wave of anti-Semitism are known too well to humanity, and we must all strive to prevent all forms of incitement to hatred and discrimination, whoever the victim might be.

Israel will continue to defend the operation it has undertaken to defend the lives of its citizens from systematic and continuous terrorist attacks. Nevertheless, whatever one's opinion may be of this operation, it should never be used to legitimize hate and anti-Semitic incitement." ■

SEMITISM



ANTI SEMITISM

RABBI MOSHE BEN CHAIM

TORAH PERSPECTIVE

What generates anti-Semitism? Is it any different than hatred towards any religion and its people? Is it caused by the Jews' poor actions? Or does anti-Semitism exist regardless of how Jews act? Aside from attacking Jews verbally or physically, is it justifiable? If not, how may it be eliminated?

A Rabbi once explained, when Jacob was strategizing how to escape from the clutches of his approaching twin Eisav, he told Eisav, "I have resided with the wicked Lavan and yet have kept the 613 commandments and have not learnt from his wicked deeds." What does Eisav, the wicked, and the rejecter of Torah values, care if Jacob kept the 613 commandments while he lived with Lavan? Furthermore, it seems this message could only antagonize Eisav.

Chazal (the Rabbis) say, quoting the Rambam in his Igeret Teyman, that the reason the mountain from which the Torah was given was called Sinai, was

because from this same mountain came down "sinah" (hatred) to the other nations of the world. Meaning to say that the very source of the hatred that the other nations harbor toward the Jews - is the Torah itself. What then did Jacob intend to accomplish by implying to Eisav that he kept the Torah, when this very Torah was the source of Eisav's hatred for Yaakov?

The Rabbi also expounded Talmud (Pesachim 49b) which tells us, "the hatred of an ignorant Jew toward the Torah scholar is greater than the hatred the idolaters have for the Jewish nation."

In both instances the cause is the same: Eisav resented his twin Jacob for the blessings Isaac their father gave to Jacob exclusively. And the Talmud teaches that Gentiles hate the Jew for their reception of the Torah at Sinai. Both Eisav and the Gentiles are resentful of God's favoritism for the Jew. (Jacob's blessing from Isaac were bestowed with God's will.) When the Talmud says the ignorant Jew's hatred of the Torah scholar exceeds the Gentiles' hatred of

the Jews, our idea finds additional support: the ignorant Jew is more aware of the Torah than the Gentile. As such, he senses more accurately what he lacks, and acts out this disdain for his own shortcomings, by hating he that has the good, i.e., the Torah. However, since a gentile is less informed about the Torah truths than a typical Jew, his disdain is on a lesser level.

We come to understand the root of anti-Semitism as jealousy over religion. One is an anti-Semite as he is deeply disturbed by his knowledge that he is not favored by God. This is an area where man's emotions are most aroused. Man's primary barometer of self-estimation is tied to what he knows truthfully is the "self"; i.e., his values and religious beliefs. It is therefore no surprise that it is religion that is the root of so many wars throughout history.

When other nations are confronted with the indisputable truth of God's Sinai selection of the Jew as His emissaries to the world, there is a sibling rivalry of sorts. But the Jew is at fault if he

(CONTINUED)



boasts this role, while simultaneously abandoning his observance of the Torah. Even the Torah observer too cannot boast that which was bestowed on "Abraham's descendants," and not due to his own merit. Personal merit is not why we are the chosen people. This is a denial of God's own words:

Deuteronomy, 10:15: "Only in your fathers did God desire and did He love them, and He chose their seed after them from all other peoples, as this day."

Jews are selected due to their descent from Abraham, and Abraham was selected based on his absolute, undiluted adherence to truth. All peoples should take a lesson from God's word. God "chooses" only those who adhere to truth, as exemplified by Abraham. One who adheres to truth must come to the realization that "multiple religions" must contradict each other, by definition. All religions must be false - except one. The goal is to arrive at an honest acceptance of what reality determines is the true, God-given religion. But until such a time when religions will embrace truth, in place of the current "defend-at-all-cost" approach, anti-Semitism will be alive and well, seeking opportunities to attack God's chosen, as a means of self justification.

The Rabbi who I quoted earlier taught that Jacob's response to Eisav was for good reason. We might think that telling a wicked Eisav that he has not veered from the Torah has no meaning to him. But in fact, it does. Jacob understood that in order for one to hate the Jew, he must have justifiable cause to vent his aggression. The cause in Jacob's case would be Jacob's abandonment of the monotheistic system received from Isaac, and learned on his own. Only in this case would Eisav feel justified in killing Jacob. The Rabbi said:

"There is an amazing Rashi in support of this idea in Toldos regarding the blessing Yitzchak gave to Eisav. Toldos 27:38-40: "Yitzchak, his [Eisav's] father replied and said to him... you shall live by your sword, and you shall serve your brother. When you have cause to be grieved, you will throw off his yoke from

your neck." And on the words "when you have caused to be grieved," Rashi writes, "... meaning to say, when the Israelites will transgress the Torah and you will have justification to grieve over the blessings which he took, [then] you will throw off his yoke."

With no fault, Eisav could not harm Jacob. For this reason, Jacob told Eisav that he did not veer from the Torah. A person requires justification for all his actions, unconditionally. The Rabbi also quoted the Koran, where it penalizes the Jew for veering from his laws, and thus, deserving of attack by the Koran. We see the same principle at work.

In contrast, when the Jews uphold God's Torah, they are admired, as the Torah says:

"And you shall watch them and keep them as they (the commands) are your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the nations, who will hear all these statutes and declare 'what a wise and understanding people is this great nation. Because what great nation has God close to them like God, whenever (they) call to Him? And what great nation has statutes and laws as righteous as this entire Torah'..." (Deuteronomy 4:6-8)

One example of when this took place, was during King Solomon's reign, when Queen Sheba came to hear his wisdom, bringing his lavish gifts:

Kings I, 10:1-10:

"And Queen Sheba heard the tidings of Solomon in the name of God, and she came to test him with riddles. And she came to Jerusalem with an exceedingly great entourage, camels carrying spices, and very much gold, and fine stones, and she came to Solomon and spoke to him, all that she had on her heart. And Solomon told her all her words, there was no matter hidden from the king that he did not tell (respond) to her. And Queen Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon, and the house (Temple) that he built. And the food of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the standing of his officers, and their clothing and their drinks, and his sacrifices that he brought up to the house of God, and she

had no spirit left in her. And she said to the king, "The matter that I heard in my land was true regarding your matters and your wisdom. And I did not believe the matters until I came, and my eyes saw, and not even half the matter was told to me, there is more wisdom and good than the matter I heard. It should be that God is blessed, in that He desired you, to place you onto the throne of Israel in God's eternal love for Israel, and He has placed you as king to do justice and righteousness." And she gave to the king 120 kikar of gold, and very much spices, and fine stones, there never came again the quantity of spices that Queen Sheba gave to King Solomon."

Queen Sheba - who our Rabbis describe as a greatly intelligent person - received answers to every one of her riddles. The verse says she "heard the tidings of Solomon in the name of God." This means her inquiries were about true, deep wisdom, God's knowledge. She was so impressed by King Solomon's wisdom that she said "It should be that God is blessed." What is significant is that her response was praise for God. She did not come to King Solomon with any agenda to find fault with him so as to support her culture. Queen Sheba, who searched for truth and found it in abundance in King Solomon, was awed by the Creator. She was not anti-Semitic towards His chosen ones.

Anti-Semitism can be dealt with. If Jews study Torah and live in accord with the perfect ideas created by God, other nations will have an opportunity to see God's wisdom. This is our obligation. And when the nations are afforded knowledge of God's Torah through contact with learned Jews, they will see a different life. They will be imbued with the perfection of Judaism, and will desire to learn more. They will appreciate the wisdom God desires all mankind to possess. The nations will no longer focus on "people," or Jews, but they will focus on God. This is exactly what happened with Queen Sheba. She came to King Solomon to verify his knowledge, and she ended with a love for God's wisdom, displayed in the king's answers. Her unmatched gifts prove her sincerity. As

(CONTINUED)



any scientist is awed by the cosmos, any person will be awed by the wisdom that is encapsulated in the Torah. But if as Jews, we do not study, and perform the Torah's laws, by what means will other nations have a chance at seeing Torah wisdom? By what means will other nations realize the true distinction of the Jew, and abandon anti-Semitism?

Jews continue to act with an ignorant, destructive, and disgusting arrogance, instead of a learned concern for other nations. This is seen in Yeshivas who scorn Gentiles with the term "Goy," with overly religious parents who won't allow their children to marry converts, and with Jews in general who feel "above" others. We must wake up. Didn't God create the Gentile nations as well? Doesn't He desire their perfection too?

Jews are not making an effort to conclude whether Judaism is truth, whether Sinai actually proves God's existence, and His will that we adhere to the Torah. This is laziness, and it is self-destructive. Would you be astonished to know that the greatest minds found Sinai as a clear proof of God's existence? Perhaps you are afraid of the obligations that follow such a realization. How can a person ignore the fact that he or she is "created," and there must be a Creator? How can one ignore clear proof that God exists, gave us a Torah, and that it is for our good, and is the most pleasurable life?

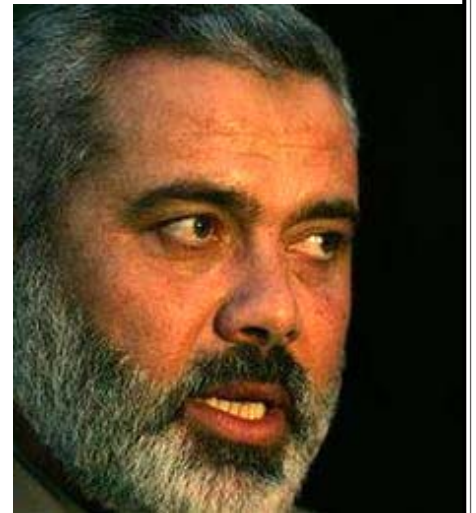
Jews attempt to assimilate to a lifestyle not desired by God. Inter-marriage and adoption of alien, cultural habits are the primary symptoms of a Jew's corruption.

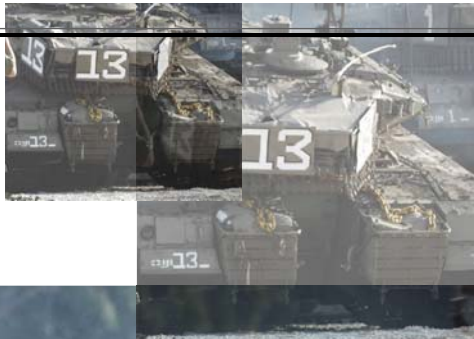
Torah was given to oppose alien lifestyles, and Jews do just the opposite, they gravitate to heathen practices, and anti-Semitic peoples. Jews wish to gain approval in the eyes of those who did not receive the Torah. It is sadly backwards. The Jew is to be a teacher, not a student.

Ironically, the very abandoning of our concern for approval by other nations, and rather, adhering to our heritage, displaying God's truth and knowledge through performing His commands, is the very solution to the anti-Semitic problem. Studying and applying Judaism, the only true religion, (plagiarized by others) not only instills truths and appreciation for reality in our minds, but in the hearts and minds of every other nation.

Placating other nations with foolish tactics of freeing homicide bombers, curtailing revenge on murders, and talking peace with assassins and butchers, is the problem, not the solution. These past decisions were not the result of studying God's wisdom, but are grave errors, and therefore will continue to fail. Therefore, it is truly a moment, as we see the IDF finally engaging Hamas and ignoring UN resolutions that kill more Jews.

Anti-Semitism will end when we observe Torah as a nation, when other nations see the beauty in God's Torah, and when we take the path which the IDF currently follows. Until then, the Jewish people are viewed as a nation who abandoned their God. And as Jacob taught us, this justifies anti-Semitic attacks. ■





IDF forces-- including infantry forces, tanks, combat engineers, artillery forces, and intelligence forces-- continue to operate throughout the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the Israel Air Force and the Israel Navy.

A total of 18 rockets and mortar shells were fired into Israel today; no injuries were reported.

Four fuel containers and 102 trucks transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza passed through the Kerem Shalom crossing today, bringing the total of humanitarian aid trucks allowed into the Gaza Strip since the beginning of Operation Cast Lead to 1,028.

The IAF attacked over 100 targets since the early morning hours, including:

55 weaponry smuggling tunnels in the southern Gaza Strip

20 rocket launching sites

22 cells of armed gunmen, some of which were targeted in coordination with ground forces

Troops operating in the northern Gaza Strip encountered several gunmen armed with anti-tank missiles and light weapons. The troops directed the IAF in targeting the gunmen, who were hit successfully.

Working with infantry troops in northern Gaza, combat engineering forces carried out the controlled detonation of a tunnel that led to Israeli territory, in the vicinity of the Nahal Oz terminal. The tunnel, uncovered on Monday in a joint IDF and ISA operation, was apparently intended to be used to kidnap Israeli citizens or soldiers.

On Monday night (Jan. 12), an IDF officer was critically wounded and two IDF soldiers were lightly to moderately wounded after an explosive device, used to target forces, was detonated in a booby trapped house. The soldiers were evacuated to hospitals in Israel and their families have been notified. The forces were performing searches in the northern Gaza Strip. Additional weaponry was uncovered while searching the booby-trapped house, which included a machine gun and a flak-jacket.

During Armored Corps, Engineering Corps and Infantry Corps operations on Monday night (Jan. 12) in the northern Gaza Strip, two booby-trap rigged tunnels and large amounts of weaponry were uncovered close to the security fence. The forces fired at three terror operatives and uncovered many weapons in the area. In addition, forces uncovered a number of additional smuggling tunnels used by Hamas. Throughout the night, approximately 30 terror operatives were hit.

Hamas continues to use mosques as operational centers in order to fire at IDF soldiers. Fire was opened from the yard of a mosque at IDF forces, who then returned the fire. In a separate incident, the IAF hit terror operatives in the yard of a mosque.

IDF forces spotted a number of terror operatives planting an explosive device in Gaza City and directed aerial forces that struck them. Different pieces of equipment used by Hamas, including four mortar launchers, an explosive device, a vest and a camera were uncovered in the outskirts of Gaza City.

The IAF continued to target terrorist sites on Monday night (Jan. 12) and hit over 60 targets, among them a hotel in which terror operatives were fathering in order to fire at IDF forces, a number of Hamas terror operatives who were rigging a house with explosive devices, fifteen smuggling tunnels in the Philadelphi Corridor, over fifteen rocket launching sites, ten Hamas outposts, fifteen squads of armed operatives, seven weaponry storage facilities, a weaponry manufacturing facility located in the house of a Hamas terror operative, and a rocket launching squad. Dozens of additional targets were struck in order to assist Ground Forces, when preparations for fire at IDF forces were identified from those sites.

Israel Navy boats assisted in enforcing the marine closure on the Gaza Strip and prevented the passage of boats that might arrive in the area.



SUMMARY of TODAY'S EVENTS

IDF Spokesperson

(Tues., 13.1.09)





SUMMARY of TODAY'S EVENTS

IDF Spokesperson

(Wed., 14.1.09; issued at 21:07)



IDF forces, including infantry, tanks, combat engineers, artillery, and intelligence, continue to operate throughout the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the Israel Air Force and the Israeli Navy.

A total of 14 rockets were fired into Israel today, no injuries were reported.

104,000 liters of fuel and 108 trucks transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza passed through the Kerem Shalom crossing today.

The IAF attacked over 50 targets since the early morning hours, including:

Two company commanders in the Hamas terror organization, in the area of Zaytun.

Walid Za'abud and Muhammad Dash, were both involved in launching rockets at Israel and attacks against IDF forces.

The armed cell responsible for launching an anti tank missile at an IDF force, causing the injury of seven soldiers.

15 smuggling tunnels used to transfer Grad and Kassam rockets.

10 cells of armed gunmen, including a terrorist identified placing an explosive device aimed at IDF forces. Some of these targets were identified in coordination with ground forces.

10 rocket launchers, including a launcher located next to a cemetery and an armed Grad launcher ready for use.

A weapon storage facility.

Underground launching sites, some armed and ready for use.

Troops operating west of Gaza city uncovered weaponry, including explosive devices, hand grenades, vests and communication equipment, in a mosque west of Gaza city.

A reserve force identified a mortar shell launcher aimed at Israel and fired at the terrorist responsible and identifying hitting him.

Today an IDF soldier was severely wounded, two soldiers were moderately wounded and 13?were lightly wounded in clashes in the northern Gaza strip.

The wounded soldiers were evacuated to a hospital for further medical treatment. Their families have been notified.

The IDF will continue its operations against all terrorists and those who support them.



SUMMARY of TODAY'S EVENTS

IDF Spokesperson

(Thur., 15.1.09; issued at 09:02)



At least ten rockets and mortars fired from Gaza hit Israel this morning.

More than 195,000 liters of fuel and 170 humanitarian aid trucks are expected to be transferred to Gaza today. The trucks' contents include medical equipment and medicines, food and other supplies. IDF forces operating in Gaza hit approximately 35 armed gunmen during the night, mostly in aerial attacks directed by ground forces.

The IAF attacked approximately 70 terrorist sites, including:

A mosque in Rafah used to stockpile rockets that served as an assembly area for senior operatives involved in launching rockets.

14 cells of armed gunmen.

14 sites used to launch rockets and mortars at Israeli communities and cities.

Five weapon storage facilities located in houses of Hamas operatives.

One tunnel located under the house of a Hamas operative.

The Israel Navy accompanied the ground forces and provided assisted in attacking Hamas outposts.

11 IDF soldiers were lightly wounded during tonight's operations.

Humanitarian recess to be extended by an Additional Hour following Visit of Joint Humanitarian Coordination Center to the Southern Command

MINISTRY of DEFENSE

Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories

(15th January, 2009)

The Humanitarian Pause in the fighting will be extended for an additional hour as of today (15 Jan.) and scheduled to take place on a daily basis, due to the dialogue between the Joint Humanitarian Coordination Center (JHCC) and commanders in the field. Members of the JHCC visited the Kerem Shalom cargo terminal and met with military commanders in the field. They also viewed the special humanitarian command post set up at a military base in the vicinity to coordinate medical movement and attend to the needs of the international organizations.

The JHCC was established by COGAT and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to provide a high level, "hot line", point of contact for the international organizations who are members of the JHCC. The JHCC serves as an integrative value-added coordinating body for all humanitarian efforts to the Gaza Strip.

Among the priorities of the humanitarian coordination is the transfer of goods into Gaza, the repairs of electrical grid and sewage systems, evacuation of wounded, coordination of medical assistance and evacuation of foreign and dual nationals.

The electrical supply is also being rehabilitated, the grid has been repaired and electricity is at 74% capacity up from 40% earlier in the operation. Rehabilitation of the power network is a direct result of the coordination between the IDF, the Palestinian Energy Authority and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The IDF intends to open all crossing points as soon as possible to enable maximum flow of goods, fuels and medical supplies and there are plans to increase the capacity of the crossings. Indeed today, the Karni conveyer belt is operating, operations of Karni and Nahal Oz were disrupted due to a terrorist tunnel that targeted the crossings.

The JHCC visitors learned that often problems are caused due to lack of organization on the part of Palestinian contractors. For example, for three days the IDF suspended operations in order to enable an ICRC convoy to escort Palestinian technicians to repair the pump of the Beit Lahiya sewage facility. For the first two days the technicians didn't arrive and today when they did arrive they didn't have the proper vehicles and implements to carry out the task.

Since the beginning of the operation a total of 1,136 trucks of produce have entered the Gaza Strip with over 26,000 tons of goods. In addition, fuel trucks and medical personnel have entered as well.

Humanitarian Aid Transferred to Gaza via Kerem Shalom Crossing On Monday (Dec.29), humanitarian aid was transferred to the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom border crossing. The humanitarian aid transfer included 63 trucks carrying food and medical supplies, on top of which 10 ambulances were transferred.



Get Involved

IDF Gaza & Israel

Email soldiers in Gaza

Email office@panimelpanim.org.il. The Panim el Panim organization in Jerusalem will reformat your letter and send it in an envelope to Geva Rapp, a major officer at the front who will make sure that it reaches a soldier in Gaza. Just include the message that you support what the soldiers are doing and you pray for victory and for their safe return home speedily.

Donate to the IDF through Mesora

See our Donate page:
<https://www.Mesora.org/Donate>
Make your donation with the cents amounting to "18", (\$10.18 \$25.18 \$50.18) 100% of your donation goes directly to the IDF.

Urge Obama to Support Israel

Subsequent to his inauguration, President-elect Obama will receive a "Citizens Briefing Book" on our concerns. By voting on posted issues, you can literally increase the "points" of each issue, making it something which Obama will take more seriously. Please "Vote Up" on "Truthful Approach to Israel: REVISED" at this link:
<http://citizensbriefingbook.change.gov/ideas/viewidea.apexp?id=087800000004ufm>

Operation Cast lead Newsletter— Official news from IDF website

<http://dover.idf.il/NR/rdonlyres/BBAD9702-A783-43A7-97C2-1FCD95EF9813/0/newsletter104.pdf>

Remaining items courtesy
**RAMBAM MESIVTA — 15 Frost Lane
Lawrence NY 11559:**

Adopting an IDF unit

Rambam Mesivta in Lawrence, NY has at least five alumni currently serving in the IDF. One of these alumni is in a unit in the Nachal Brigade which is particularly in need of special military grade fleece jackets to keep them warm. We would like to raise approximately \$1,500 to equip those soldiers with the fleece jackets. Please make your checks out to Rambam Mesivta. Send it to: Rambam Mesivta—Project Nachal—Rabbi Yotav Eliach 15 Frost Lane Lawrence NY 11559

Packages from Home

An organization founded and run by Barbara Silverman provides packages with little basics that remind a soldier of home: Packages for each soldier run about \$16. Please make out the checks to Rambam Mesivta, and send it to: Rambam Mesivta Project PFH (Packages from Home) Rabbi Yotav Eliach 15 Frost Lane Lawrence NY 11559

Phone Calls

Call or email friends and relatives in Israel and tell them that you are thinking of them and the IDF and share your feelings with them. Tell them what you and our community are doing. You have no idea how much these calls and emails mean to them.

Addressing Poverty

The war has hit the poverty stricken Israelis in the war-torn southern part of Israel especially hard. Rambam Mesivta has formed a close relationship with Shlomo Steinmetz of the Global Jewish Assistance & Relief Network. We are very impressed with their unique style of helping poverty stricken Israelis. Should you wish to donate online, please visit our site:
<http://www.globaljewish.org/default-alt.htm>

Thank U.S. Politicians

From the President on down, thank politicians for their incredible support of Israel during her hour of need. Be involved in the media image war as well.

Call the White House and thank President Bush for his steadfast and unflinching

support of Israel during this current crisis.
202-456-1414 and 202-456-1111

Thank Congresswoman McCarthy for her support. The following is a statement from Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy on the current conflict in Gaza: "After months of violent rocket attacks from the Hamas-controlled region of Gaza, Israel is exercising its right to defend itself. The acts of aggression against Israel can no longer be tolerated." Her Washington office number is 202-225-5516

Call the US State Department to support Israel at their Israeli-Palestine phone line: 202-647-6575, whe prompted press #1 and record at the tone.

Media Monitoring

Be vigilant in responding to anti-Israel news stories, blog postings, op-ed letters to the editor on campus media. Incorrect information or information presented without context could be challenged with letters-to-the-editor.

Contact your Member of Congress: You can reach out to your Member of Congress, and urge Members who have not done so to make a statement of support for Israel's right to defend itself.

Make your voice heard on: Facebook , Twitter, blogs, etc.

Post your thoughts on: President-Elect Obama's website.

Support the IDF during this difficult time and help the IDF in their efforts to keep up with demands from the ground for care packages, hygiene kits, enlistment kits, etc. You can earmark your donation to Operation Cast Lead at :
<https://www.israelsoldiers.org/makedonation.php>

Quick Facts on Humanitarian Aid

Kerem Shalom cargo crossing is scheduled to open for the transfer of humanitarian commodities. Eighty truck loads of medical supplies, medication, and food commodities including donations from Greece, Jordan and Egypt are expected to cross into Gaza. The fuel depot at Nahal Oz is scheduled to convey some 200,000 liters of fuel both for the power station and other humanitarian needs. The depot was closed for the last week due to security concerns that impeded the ability to operate the crossing. At the request of various embassies, an evacuation of some 200 dual nationals is also planned to take place. Arrangements have been made for dual nationals to leave Gaza to Jordan via the Allenby Bridge.

God's Land without God?

Upon their initial conquest of Israel, blessings and curses were pronounced upon two opposing mountain tops. Moses taught the Jews that a path devoid of Torah results in a poor life, exemplified by Mt. Ayval's barren state. If however one chooses a Torah lifestyle, it results in all forms of success and happiness, as in Mt. Grizim's lush quality.

Two goats are to be offered in the Temple each Yom Kippur.

A Rabbi once explained that these goats represent two opposing lifestyles: one can follow a life dedicated to God, as one goat was sacrificed to His name. Or one can follow a life devoid of God, destined to failure and fatality, displayed by the scapegoat being lead to its certain death over the sharp cliffs of Azazel.

Observant Jews view Israel as the land given to us by God – a haven secure for following His laws. To the observant Jew, God is essential to our land's objective. The non-observant Jew sees Israel purely as nationalistic, similar to any people's land. God is not essential, as all decisions concerning the state are decided politically.

Both positions concerning Israel cannot be correct.

Just as Moses taught in the example of two mountains, and as the Torah teaches via the two goats, now is the time to teach our people what path to select and why. The "why" is what is missing.

In all areas of life, observant or not, we act as rationally as possible, making decisions based on reason and proof. This is why a person carefully chooses the right school, the best doctor and what business decisions to make.

Unfortunately, people are not so rational when it comes to selecting an ideology. Observant Jews follow Torah either by understanding the proofs of God's existence, or without proofs. But most non-observant Jews have arrived at their conclusions with no rational analysis.

Each Jew owes it to him and herself to determine whether or not God exists, and whether He gave us Israel and the Torah. If we prove that God does exist, and that He gave us the Torah...then we know He gave us Israel. We can now determine how to live, what to do to keep our land, and how to deal with our enemies.

Mordechai and Esther did not succumb, they followed the Torah even in the face of great danger. On Purim, God saved Mordechai, Esther, and the entire Jewish nation because they followed God's Torah ideals. We must do the same. Our current battle in Gaza must have as its objective the fulfillment of God's will, His Torah. Would God save us if we were to return to a life where we ignore His commands? Or will we secure a better future for Israel if we follow God?

Those of you who have learned the proofs of God's existence and understand the perfection of a Torah lifestyle might begin sharing your knowledge. Give another Jew the opportunity to explore the tenets of Judaism. We are responsible for one another. If you are non-observant, ask yourself one question: "Am I following what is true or what is false? Does



God exist or not?" If this question does not matter to you, there's nothing more to be said. If however, you honestly seek answers to these questions, read on.

The contradiction any non-observant, Zionist Jew must face is this: "Why do I desire Israel as my land?"

What makes us a nation? Our history is accurate: we received the land and our nationhood from God who communicated with Abraham. This same God gave us the Torah for our own benefit. To believe we have rights to Israel with no obligation to follow the Torah, simply denies the facts. Just as we make decisions in other area using reason and objective criteria, let us decide rationally regarding Torah observance. What does history teach? Do you accept the story of God's promise of Israel to Abraham? If so, God continued talking to Abraham after that promise, and God secured his well-being, and that of all Israel...provided Torah was observed.

The Torah suggests a lifestyle that is most enjoyable and beneficial to man...a lifestyle that Moses, King Solomon and countless other intelligent leaders chose for themselves. They transmitted to many others the knowledge they understood would benefit future generations. Our great leaders felt proof was available. They felt their arguments to follow Torah would be warmly welcomed by the nation.

So, let us simply consider for a moment "why" so many intelligent leaders followed Torah Judaism. Do not feel you must agree, just give yourself a chance to discover why Moses, Maimonides, Rabbi Akiva or Rashi taught Torah Judaism. They must have felt it makes sense, and can be proved. They were intelligent individuals. So take a little time and finally seek out Moses' reasoning for being observant. Perhaps he knows something we have not yet considered.

If you value Israel, but you are not observant, would you welcome proof concerning the Torah's truth? You have but one life. You owe it to yourself to finally prove it. If one believes in God and desires the land He promised, exclusively through Torah, it appears contradictory to ignore His commands.

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Email your questions, research topics of interest, join a live class, or search through our articles. Our site is free, and we welcome your questions so we might provide the answers you seek. ■

*their courage
brought us*



1ST STEP

*we mourn with you,
families and friends
and take pride that their lives
were dedicated to God,
and our people*





Captain Yehonatan Netanel



Maj. Shai Danor



Staff Sergeant Dvir Immanuel

CLOSER *to safety*



Captain Roi Rosner



Captain Omer Rabinovitz



Major Dagan Vartman

WHAT ABOUT THE



NEIGHBORS

Dear President Obama,

Best wishes to you and Godspeed in your next 4–8 years as our leader.

To quote the Senate Floor Statement by James Inhofe (3/4/02):

"I believe very strongly that Israel has a right to the land. This is the most important reason: because God said so. In Genesis 13:14-17, the Bible says: "The Lord said to Abram, "Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where you are northward, and southward, and eastward and westward: for all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed forever. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it to thee"."

Mr. President, I understand you fear God, and that you hold the Bible as absolute truth. That Bible says that Jewish people are God's intended recipients of Israel. Furthermore, history disproves claims made by others to the land of Israel. To quote Sen. Inhofe again, "there were never any "Palestinian" people. Palestine was a region named by the Romans, but at that time it was under the control of Turkey, and there was no large mass of people there because the land would not support them. Today's "Palestinians" are merely relocated Arabs. Every time there is a dig in Israel, it does nothing but support the fact that Israelis have had a presence there for 3,000 years. The coins, the cities, the pottery, the culture...there is no mistaking the fact that Israelis have been present in that land for 3,000 years. It predates any claims that other peoples in the regions may have."

These are objective facts, not subjective opinions.

If anyone disagrees, then they must disagree with all world history.

That being said, I am for peace, as is any rational person. I am of the conviction that all men are created equal, and I practice this. I have taught, and continue to teach Jew and Gentile alike for 25 years, at my expense. I travel to educate others of all religions without seeking compensation. I speak out when others are wronged, regardless of race or religion. And I speak out against my own brothers when they are wrong.

I have written numerous articles on human equality. All men and women descend from Adam and Eve. We are therefore equal in every manner. In fact, there are Jews who disagree with me and feel they are superior to others, but I do not follow my brothers when they are patently wrong...I follow what God and reason dictate. I do not feel I have any more right to life than an Arab who too, seeks to follow God. For God created us both. Man only forfeits his right to life when he violates God's will, when he sins, or sadly...when he kills another not due to self-defense.

To achieve true peace, I feel any rational people must be open to compromise. But time and again, with our hand extended in peace talks, Israel's civilians were senselessly butchered...and the world was silent. But when we rise to defend ourselves in Gaza as in times earlier, the world cries out against us.

Why? This is because the lie has spread about a "Palestinian land" and a "Palestinian people" that Israel forcefully "occupied". A complete fallacy as history teaches, but the underdog is always sympathized with. No leader has yet mustered the courage to go against the masses and read a history book to the world. Had people read history, they would agree that there is no such thing as a "Palestinian people".

Mr. President, will you defend true history?

I am not opposed to any civil people having quality living conditions and ample work.

I favor it. God favors it. But I am opposed to lies. Peace must be built on truths. (continued next page)

What else is true?

Jews do not become suicidal/homocidal bombers.

Jews do not kidnap.

We never shoot a child - or civilian adults - at point blank range.

We never blew up buses.

We don't raise our children to become martyrs.

We medically treat the wounded of our enemies.

And we always seek to protect civilians and minimize hurt, even when at war.

I ask you Mr. President: what will you will do to address the next generation of Arab children being taught martyrdom at the cost of other human lives? This horror continues as we speak.

Can israel be expected to make peace with a nation who does not cease such ruthless hate?

What will you put into place that can reverse 2 or 3 current generations instilled with venomous hate against Jews? Is there anything that can be done? I honesty cannot think of a solution...but I ask you.

And if this is the case that no solution is readily at hand, can we be asked to live side-by-side with this ticking bomb?

Are we really being truthful with ourselves, that generations of youth, teens and adults who have been inculcated into a martyrdom doctrine...will be able to abandon this lifestyle?

How would that happen?

Moving forward, any agreement between Israel and others must carry strict prerequisite conditions – conditions when broken even partially, nullify the entire agreement. These conditions must be verified as fulfilled, and monitored regularly:

- 1) a prerequisite of sustained control over its people before all other terms are carried out
- 2) quick justice administered to to offenders
- 3) a proven halt to the teaching of martyrdom, and an implemented plan for reversal of such ideologies
- 4) a proven, permanent shut-down of all anti-Semitic propaganda machines in all media
- 5) severed ties with all militant, terrorist and anti-Semitic groups
- 6) transparent cash flows, and transparent spending of U.S. funds
- 7) installation of neutral parties as members of government

You once said, "If people were bombing the area where my children live, I'd do everything possible to stop them". I ask you to uphold this pledge for Israel. I ask you to defer to God's words when deciding morality, for He alone dictates morality.

You planted the promise of "Change" in the hearts of Americans and all nations.

I await the change you will deliver to the Middle East.

In closing, King Solomon said, "The heart of Kings is in God's hand". (Proverbs, 21:1) Today, you become the world's most powerful king. May God guide your thoughts and your heart towards following His words alone. And then...you will be victorious in all ways.

Rabbi Moshe Ben-Chaim
Mesora.org



Thank You

Mr. President,

We cannot thank you enough for your unparalleled friendship. You have saved many lives and you have inspired others. We are eternally grateful. May your unwavering commitment to justice and human rights set a new standard for world leaders.

In standing by us, you have insured that the recipients of God's Torah will continue and enlighten humankind so we all might equally enjoy life, as God intended.

Faced with many difficult decisions, we admire your choices and your integrity. We wish you well, and pray that God blesses you with a long life where you will continue as a beacon for generations to come.

The Jewish People



THANK
YOU







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