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Maoz Israel

R E P O R T

maoz

Israel - A Thorn in the Side of World's News Media

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Ari & Shira Sorko-Ram

As Israeli citizens we watch CNN, BBC and other world news programs with great distress. We listen to the twisted, biased reports of the events in Israel and wonder how journalists who are so certain they are relaying only "events as they happen" can twist and disfigure the facts to such an extent.

Israelis who are born again regard the Bible as the supreme reference point, the final referee to all the Middle East conflict. God himself gave this land in a sworn promise to Abraham and His designated descendants¹. He reconfirmed the promise through Isaac² and not Ishmael, and again through Jacob³ and not Esau. He renamed Jacob "Israel," and clearly stated that His promise of the land was for 1000 generations⁴.

God also gave large land areas to Ishmael⁵ and to Esau⁶, the forefathers of the Arab peoples. But He did not give them the land of Israel. It is God's prerogative to give whatever land He wants to whatever people He desires.

The world media, however, can in no way relate to the Bible as a base or starting point for solving the Middle East conflict. Rather, their humanistic vantage point sees the conflict as one of poor Arab natives being downtrodden by a powerful, harsh militaristic country.



FAMOUS INCIDENT OF PALESTINIAN BOY KILLED BY CROSSFIRE AT A GAZA BORDER CHECKPOINT, CAUSING OUTRAGE AGAINST ISRAEL. ISRAELI SOLDIERS AT THE CHECKPOINT HAD COME UNDER FIRE FROM PALESTINIANS. AFTER EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE BOY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SHOT FROM ISRAELI POSITIONS. HOWEVER, IT WAS TOO LATE. ARAFAT HAD RECEIVED WORLD COVERAGE FROM THE TRAGEDY. PALESTINIANS BELIEVE THAT SUCH MARTYRDOM WILL BRING THEM THE POLITICAL STRENGTH THEY NEED TO WRENCH A PALESTINIAN STATE FROM ISRAEL. EVERY ISRAELI KNOWS THAT CASUALTIES OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN ARE A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN THE INTIFADA AGAINST ISRAEL.

1 Gen. 17:7-8 2 Gen. 26:4 3 Gen. 28:13 4 Psa. 105:8-10 5 Gen. 16:12 6 Gen. 36:8,31

The news media openly operates from the premise that the Palestinian people are the rightful owners of the land of Palestine - never mind that such a nation has never before existed. Never mind that the most read book in the Western World is the Bible. The Jewish people, says the news media, are a new nation that has recently come into the Middle East and taken away the land of Palestine from the ancient Palestinian people. The implication, of course, is that Israel is a brutal oppressor which puts down democratic expression of dissent among those whose land has been stolen from them.

Reuven Doron, a well-known Messianic Israeli leader, states: "The world media has always had an unwritten policy to malign the Jewish State as it never quite fit into the global humanistic dream of our modern day visionaries. Israel was, and forever shall be, a thorn in the side of a run-away world; a nagging reminder that there is a sovereign God who runs the affairs of man and of nations, before whom we shall give an account some day.

"Today, a constant barrage of misinformation is gaining acceptance and credibility with millions of naive viewers and listeners who are receiving it as accurate and reliable "gospel truth." (Embrace Israel Ministries, Nov. 23,00)

PALESTINIANS WINNING WAR OF WORDS

Israeli newspapers which cannot understand the spiritual implications, lament the superior PR work of the Palestinians: "Israel is losing the war of words yet again...Palestinian leaders remain as adroit as ever at spinning those sound bites and answer only questions that suit them. We call it 'war.' The PA calls it 'popular uprising.' Palestinian gunmen open fire on a Jerusalem neighborhood and the Western media report 'Israeli helicopter gunships open fire on Palestinian schools.'" (Jerusalem Post, Nov. 5, 00)

CNN asks Arafat about Israeli convoys being ambushed: he answers with calls on Israel to "cease the use of illegal weapons." A car bomb kills two at Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market, yet Arab commentators decry "daily massacres of children." (Ibid.)

"TV news cannot be accurate," says the Jerusalem Post, "because footage is cut to suit short attention spans. They know they can hold the viewer's attention for no more than 15-20 seconds. For all practical purposes TV news has become just another form of entertainment. Thus, Palestinians seem to be fully aware that just appearing on TV guarantees its credibility. They present pleasing personalities and likable characters who look and sound like the 'native' homely academics fighting for human rights or

'freedom from occupation.'" (Ibid.)

For example, spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi is the Palestinians number one star who knows precisely how to present her case. Every interview she makes is generously peppered with the follow mantras: indiscriminate bombardment of residential areas, continuing occupation, occupied lands, legitimate rights of the Palestinians, Israeli occupation, Israeli aggression, illegal occupation, illegitimate use of arms, illegal settlements, indiscriminate killing of our children, daily massacres, etc.

The emphasis is on Arab rights, as opposed to Jewish oppression and injustice. The Jerusalem Post says it this way: Hanan Ashrawi and her media partners "will at all times deliver a clear message in good English. They know precisely how and when to go on the offensive. They effectively convey a simple story of a poor indigenous people downtrodden by a wealthy militaristic Western power. And they repeat their message over and over and over again." (Ibid.)

ISRAEL UNABLE TO DEFEND ITSELF

Meanwhile, Israel sees her very existence becoming more tenuous as time passes. Palestinians shoot into Israeli homes and then race to the Palestinian controlled areas, often only a couple of minutes away, where they have safe haven. Israeli cars are now regularly ambushed on our highways, mostly in the West Bank (the land of Judah and Samaria), but also on Israel's main highways between the main cities.

Israelis are stoned, stabbed, shot, bombed, and if our government fights back, even many of Israel's closest friends say we're "overreacting". The UN, with the initiative of the Arab nations, is creating serious legislation that could cause Israeli people to be tried for crimes against humanity!!! This prospect is a nightmare for Israelis.

Israelis, who are murdered in cold blood just because they are Jewish, are hardly given the sympathy which is reserved for those who are killed trying to murder or maim them. The media begins their broadcasts with something like this: "Over 300 people have been killed since the beginning of the Intifada - most of them are Palestinians."

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Yet, says Reuven Doron, "Justice is never measured by how many people are killed in conflict. It is measured by the circumstances, which caused the deaths. It is our distorted morality, which equates the evil intent of those who come to murder and destroy Jewish life, with those who seek to defend it. Why would any nation tolerate insurrection, seeing a foreign element stoning, shooting and bombing her civilians?" (Embrace Israel Ministries, Nov. 23,00)

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please e-mail us at maozisrael@maozisrael.org**

One blatant inequality constantly witnessed in the media is the way they deal with casualties. Their broadcasts often go something like this: "An 18 year old Palestinian boy was shot dead by Israeli soldiers. An Israeli was killed in an ensuing exchange of fire..." They fail to note that the Israeli was a child or a pregnant mother attacked by Palestinian terrorists, as is often the case, and the soldiers were attempting to defend these Israeli civilians. The press, of course, has never thought of mentioning that the Israeli soldiers sent to protect their nation are themselves usually 19 or 20 years old.

A poignant example of unbalanced coverage is a recent bombing of a school bus. Says Reuven Doron: "Most media services, when reporting of the children's school bus which was ambushed and blown up not long ago in the Gaza strip, never bothered to indicate to the international viewers that this was a cold blooded and carefully executed terror attack specifically aimed at Israeli children. Instead, the wording often was: 'A bus of Israeli settlers sustained severe damages during a recent clash in the Gaza strip. Two dead, nine wounded.'"

"Yet the incident involved a sophisticated and powerful device put together by professionally trained terrorists with access to military equipment and supplies. It was planted on the bus route leading from the children's village to their school, and detonated by remote control in perfect timing with the bus' position and speed in order to cause maximum damage.

"The media also failed to tell the world that of the nine casualties, five were children who lost legs and arms in the blast. The rest were schoolteachers and parents. The village from which the bus came, incidentally, is not a lawless or fanatical Jewish settlement in the middle of Arab territory. Kfar

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF PICTURES OF WOUNDED PALESTINIANS IN THE WORLD PHOTO INTERNET SERVICE WE USE, WE WERE UNABLE TO FIND A SINGLE PICTURE OF WOUNDED ISRAELI CIVILIANS. IN THIS BOMBED BUS, NINE CHILDREN WERE SEVERELY MAIMED, SEVERAL LOOSING ARMS AND LEGS. NO PICTURES WERE AVAILABLE OF THESE CHILDREN.

Darom, rather, is a fine community which was planted by government decree (Rabin and Peres' government) on lands which were legally purchased for full price by the Jewish agency in 1948, and which were liberated from Arab occupation during the 1967 Six Day war." (EIM, Nov. 23,00)

"Israel was, and forever shall be, a nagging reminder that there is a sovereign God who runs the affairs of man and of nations, before whom we shall give an account some day."

**Reuven Doron,
Embrace Israel Ministries**

In fact, the personal tragedies of the Jewish victims is rarely portrayed by the press. Three of the wounded children in the above attack were from the same family. The oldest, eight year old Tehila lost one leg. The doctors heroically tried to save her other leg, but in the end, they had to amputate it also. Her seven year old brother lost his right leg. Their little sister,

Orit had to have part of her right foot amputated. All the other wounded children remained in the hospital for an extended time. (J.P. Nov. 26, 00) This story the media forgot to tell. Yet, what if a busload of children were bombed in the U.S.? Or England? Germany or Japan?

GOING AFTER CHRISTIAN SUPPORT

Another of Arafat's astounding and bold media strategies is his contention that he and his Muslim warriors are the negotiators of Christian rights and the gatekeeper of Christian holy sites. Every avenue of possible political manipulation is explored to use against Israel. Thus, Islamic leader Arafat attends the Christmas Midnight Mass in Bethlehem each year. Last December a letter was sent from Bethlehem to the media stating: "This year we will celebrate Christmas under the missiles of the Israeli forces." (Ibid., Dec. 22, 00)



One of Hanan Ashrawi famous lines on a TV interview was that she and her Palestinian people were the first Christians. The reporter didn't even blink. But the Israeli press was quite disturbed about that fabrication, and proceeded to set the story straight - at least for Israeli viewers - the first Christians were disciples of the early Jewish followers of Yeshua!

The International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem spear-headed a petition to demonstrate Christian support worldwide for a united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty and open to all faiths. The Embassy and like-minded Christian organizations in Israel were established to give support to Israel and her citizens.

Embassy spokesman David Parsons wrote in a letter accompanying the petition form: "It is presumptuous - nay, preposterous - for Arafat to claim he stands in proxy for nearly two billion Christians when it comes to Jerusalem.

No one among us pines away for him to 'liberate' the holy sites like some modern Saladin. To Protestants, these are alien if not repulsive thoughts. On behalf of Catholics, the Vatican has indulged Arafat but never once given him a power of attorney, calling instead for an international regime. For Middle East Christians, the further away they live from Arafat's police state, the less they think of him. And even the bulk of the 14,000 Arab Christians in eastern Jerusalem privately prefer living under Israeli rule to the Muslim-dominated Palestinian Authority.

"Further, it is absurd to hold the city and its majority Jewish population hostage to the whim of every last Muslim in Bangladesh. Never forget that during 19 years of Jordanian rule over the Old City [1948-1967], barely a trickle of Muslim pilgrims bothered to come pray there. Why? Because it is the Hebrew Bible that invites the nations to come worship the Lord in Jerusalem, not the Koran.

"But Arab and Islamic leaders menacingly threaten a global *jihad* if Israel ever asserts its rightful claim to her historic, biblical, religious and cultural capital. For over three decades, in order to protect themselves from this frightening prospect, the Jewish people have been forced to demean their incomparable spiritual attachment to this city...." (EIM, Nov. 23,00)

We might add that we are recipients of a regular prayer

letter distributed by a close friend who works with converted Moslems in the West Bank under Arafat's authority. Any Moslem who comes to faith in Yeshua the Messiah puts his life in danger, and that of his wife and children. We can

assure you there is no freedom of religion for Moslems who choose to become Christians in the Palestinian controlled territories.

Meanwhile, commentators of the world's news media continue to interview Israelis and Palestinians, discussing the viewpoints of the two "equal" sides in their historic

claims for the Temple site. This is the very place where King David, Solomon and Yeshua, Himself worshiped. Arab spokespersons deny there ever was a Jewish Temple while the Western media astonishingly nods approvingly. Instead, say the Palestinians, 600 years ago, at that spot, Mohammed flew to heaven on his white horse.

Another quite different reason that world journalists tend

to be sympathetic with the Palestinians is because if they find themselves out of favor with Arafat, they will not be allowed into Palestinian areas - a swan song to a journalist's career in the Middle East.

Case in hand was an Italian journalist who somehow managed to take footage of the lynching of two Israeli soldiers who had lost their way and fell into the hands of a Palestinian mob. Other photographers present had their film confiscated on the spot. When the Palestinians found out that actual footage of the lynchings had been released to the media by the Italian journalist, she fled back to Italy. She then wrote a letter of apology to the Palestinian Authorities, reminding them of her sympathy to their cause. However, the Israeli authorities obtained a copy of the letter,

and her newspaper was forced to disassociate itself from her actions, assuring the world that their coverage is without bias. She was subsequently transferred to another location. On the other hand, journalists know they can say whatever they wish concerning Israel and not a finger will be raised against them. It is the difference between a dictatorship and a democracy.

As for CNN, one Israeli journalist put it this way: As Jews, we should put it all in proper historical perspective. CNN has existed for barely 20 years, Jerusalem for over 3,000. (J.P. Nov. 12,00)

"It is presumptuous - nay, preposterous - for Arafat to claim he stands in proxy for nearly two billion Christians when it comes to Jerusalem."

**David Parsons,
The International Christian Embassy.**



**THE INTIFADA IS NOT JUST PALESTINIANS
THROWING ROCKS.**

February 2001

Dear Maoz Partner,

We are definitely seeing expansion in the ministry in every direction. Our Hebrew-speaking congregation is growing, with new people coming virtually every week. Our members are showing spiritual growth. Believers are being mentored in home groups, and we are watching our new believers as they blossom and mature. The wounded are being healed, and people are reaching out to serve rather than just receive! In other words, the light at the end of the tunnel is growing brighter every day!

Secondly, our **Israeli Institute of Messianic Judaism**, led by Asher Intrater is on fire! People are literally coming off the streets (brought by friends) and hearing the Gospel for the first time.



We are now furnishing the institute (IIMJ) with the materials needed for this growing school. With video equipment donated to us by a major television network, we are able to video all of our classes.

These classes, giving the foundations of the faith, are in Hebrew, with very lively exchanges between teachers and students. **These videoed courses will be a tremendous tool for congregations throughout the land as more and more Israelis come to faith.**

As you who regularly read this newsletter know, the amount of literature and resources in Hebrew is yet very small. And, in fact, we do not know of any other video courses in Hebrew anywhere in the world.

The one exception are 100 hours of very valuable teachings by anointed American teachers on DVD's produced by Berin Gilfillin, which are in English and translated simultaneously into Hebrew. We have been using these courses and will continue to do so.

However, the time has come that we have straight Hebrew courses dealing with Biblical issues through Israeli eyes, available for believers and for unbelievers that can reach across the country - potentially into every city and village.

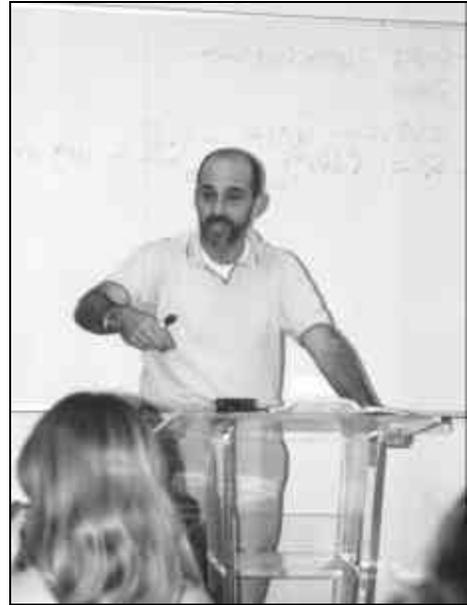
Another vital resource for the Institute will be the library we are opening, with all available Gospel books in Hebrew that we can find - from all the sources that exist! This resource center will be a glorious tool for anyone who wishes to seek after the Lord.

In establishing these tremendous tools for the growth of the Body of Messiah in Israel, we have two needs:

WE NEED bookshelves, tables, and furnishings for the library - cost approx \$16,000.

WE NEED supplies for our on-going video programming - approx \$10,000.

In short, WE NEED YOU to participate in this ministry which is reaching Israelis - both believers and unbelievers - throughout Israel. Israelis are hungry, and it is our desire to teach them the whole Gospel, using every possible tool that the Lord puts into our hands.



ASHER INTRATER TEACHING IN THE ISRAEL INSTITUTE OF MESSIANIC JUDAISM

We ask you to believe God with us to meet this need! Yeshua told us that as the earthly scene gets darker and darker we are to lift up our heads, for our redemption draws nigh! (Luke 21:28) The Lord specifically spoke to Israel through the prophet Isaiah, foretelling that "as deep darkness covers the peoples, the Lord will rise upon you, and nations will come to your light." (Isa. 60.2-3)

What an opportunity to have a part in actually fulfilling these Scriptures by helping to bring the Gospel to the Israeli people at this most critical time in her history!

We can together meet this need to provide the furnishings and materials to train these leaders. The classes are full with eager students. And we must provide the necessary tools for an excellent and powerful learning environment.

As we all work together to accomplish this goal, the needs will be met, and we will continue to persevere together toward our goal that **ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED!**

There is no time to waste. Let us hear from you today! The students are here - and they are ready to learn. The time to be involved with God's plan of the ages is NOW!

For Zion's Sake,

Ari & Shira Sorko-Ram