

OPINION

Open Forum

Editor's Note: *Mr. Katz, a transfer student from Israel, is responding to an editorial run in the Yellin Rebel (Volume VI, Issue I). The article is run exactly as Mr. Katz wrote it in order to avoid any accusation of bias on the part of the newspaper or the staff.*

In reaction to your ironical and misleading article, I would like to straighten some facts and clear some points in the issue called the Palastinien - Israeli conflict.

At first I would like to give some basic information about the so called "occupied territories" Judea - Samaria and the Gaza strip.

Judea - Samaria is a mostly mountainous region about 70 miles long and 30 miles wide, west of the Jordan River; the Gaza strip is a narrow strip of flat shoreline that extends some 20 miles along the Mediterranean coast to the Egyptian border.

Historically part of the ancient Land of Israel, both areas were included in the territory temporarily mandated to Great Britain after World War I. This territory, lying east and west of the Jordan River, was divided in 1922 by Britain into two districts. In the eastern part, on 77 percent of the total area a new Arab entity was set up which in 1946 became independent, the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan. In the western portion the remaining 23 percent, the Jewish national home was being developed in accordance with Britain's commitment to the terms of the Mandate which recognised the historical connection of the Jewish people with the Land of Israel and "the grounds for reconstituting their national home in that country".

In face of violence generated by the Arab militants, during the Mandatory period, in opposition to the growing Jewish

presence in the country and the Jewish community's insistence that the British stand by their obligations, Britain decided in 1947 to relinquish it's mandate and to submit the entire problem to the United Nations. On October 1947, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to partition the area west of the Jordan River into two independent states - one Arab, one Jewish. The Jews accepted the plan; the Arabs rejected it.

Upon termination of the British mandate on 14 May 1948, Israel proclaimed its independence. The following day, the armies of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq invaded the new established state, compelling Israel to fight its War of Independence as a result of which the Gaza strip came under Egyptian military rule and Judea - Samaria was occupied by Transjordan. In 1950 the Transjordanian king annexed Judea - Samaria, an act recognized only by the British and Pakistan, and renamed his country the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The administration of Judea - Samaria as well as the Gaza district came

under israel's control after the War against Israel by Egypt, Jordan and Syria in 1967.

Since then the living standard of the population has increased steadily: From \$116 mil. in 1968 to about \$1.1 bill. in the mid 1980's

What is actually happening in Judea - Samaria and the Gaza strip?

The current eruption started after an israeli businessman, Mr. Shlomo Sakal was murdered, in cold blood, in Gaza on December 6th. This murder was committed by a group called "Unit 17" which is considered to be the body guard unit of PLO leader Yasser Arafat. 2 days later a car accident in which 4 Arabs lost their lives was misused by local radicals to spread the word that the four were killed in revenge to the murder of the late Shlomo Sakal. LATER INVESTIGATIONS SHOWED THAT THE DRIVER INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT HAD NO CONNECTION TO SAKAL'S FAMILY NOR TO ANY OTHER VICTIM OF ARAB TERROR.

The PLO after having to admit a declination in its status due to an Arab meeting held in Aman on the Decmber 10th, encouraged the population to

further demonstrations and violence against the Israeli Defence Forces which were trying to maintain the peace the order and the act of normal life to the population. Local radicals, encouraged and well payed by the PLO stand behind most violent acts.

In fact, the majority of the population is enforced to take part in those actions. I myself have witnessed how masked men enter schools and "encourage" the boys an girls by means of threat and other undemocratic means to participate in actions such as Molotov cocktail throwing, stone throwing, car wheel burning etc. etc. Did anybody take notice of the young rioters being directed by older men from behind?

What is those radicals greatest strength ???

Israel's democracy !!! A French TV team just recently filmed an act of stone throwing out of a mosque after the MOAZIN (preacher) called for a JIHAD, a holy war, against Israel, knowing that it's forbidden to israeli soldiers to enter the holy places of the Islam.

In 1970 Plastinians demonstated in Jordan against the local government. We must not forget that 70 percent of Jordan

are Palstinians. The result of this demonstration was several thousands of dead Plastinians and several thousand of expelled Palastinians. Where was the world then ???

Where were you Oh honorable "Opinion Editor", then ??? Yes, I know the world expects of us Israelis to be better !! To be the moral leader of this world. And I'm proud of that. Therefore the world passed the UN censure against Israel.

But this is hypocrisy !!

Where was the world, and that INCLUDES YOU Mr. Seamus Brennan, when "Bloody Sunday" occurred as 13 Catholic nationalists were gunned down in Londoberry by British security forces ?

What about the slaughter of the people in Afganistan by Americas newest friend, Russia ? Or the handling of Sri Lanka by India ?

Where was the UN then ???

No, Israel doesn't belive in the solution of violence, but as long as our enemies will not realize that Israel exists, and have the right to do so, no solution will be found.

The solutions for these problems are difficult and do not seem near, but disinformation will not bring them any nearer. **Yuval Katz**



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