

America: Israel Among Top Most "Unacceptable" Countries

Tuesday, December 30, 2014 | David Lazarus

The US State Department in 2014 condemned Israel as one of the most "unacceptable" countries in the world, just behind North Korea.

According to an article published last week by *Foreign Policy*, over the past year the Obama Administration State Department cited Israel for "unacceptable behavior" more times than Pakistan, Russia, Egypt, China, Afghanistan and Iraq. The article examined how many times a country's actions were condemned as "unacceptable," and Israel came in fourth, right after Syria, Iran and North Korea.

Most of the State Department's criticisms came in response to Israeli announcements for plans to build housing in Jerusalem. The study also found that the US government panned out unprecedented amounts of condemnation towards Israel for civilian casualties during the summer war in Gaza.

The absurd and arbitrary way in which the United States condemns her allies more than her enemies only serves to render Washington's pronouncements meaningless in the eyes of most Israelis. How can building homes in Jerusalem be condemned on par with the actions of nations repeatedly engaged in aggressive and murderous violence towards their own civilian populations with absolutely no regard for human rights?

As journalist Micah Zenko pointed out in the *Foreign Policy* article, US officials regularly condemn actions as unacceptable "but then do very little in response to prevent or deter those actions from reoccurring."

The fact that these ongoing condemnations are hollow does not prevent the US State Department and others from regularly castigating Israel in the international diplomatic arena. **Israel's Ynet news portal found that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon used the word "concerned" 140 times in 2014 in statements about world events, and Israel was the most "concerning" country of all.**

The US government just keeps on pretending that their shameful condemnations of Israel are useful, clueless to the fact that no one is listening. Is it any wonder that Israel refuses to heed to the onslaught of mumbo-jumbo condemnations emanating from the White House and the UN?

Indeed, it would be foolish for Israel to even respond to the endless and empty pronouncements of American and international discontent. King Solomon understood long ago that it is utter folly to answer absurd and silly arguments as if you were dealing with a sensible person.

Textbook Publisher Apologizes for Erasing Israel

Thursday, January 01, 2015 | Israel Today Staff

HarperCollins, one of the world's largest English-language publishing companies, apologized this week after it was discovered that a new atlas printed for schools in the Middle East omitted the State of Israel.

The map in question shows Syria and Jordan extending to the Mediterranean Sea, while Gaza and the West Bank are clearly identified. Israel itself is missing from the map entirely.

HarperCollins initially tried to justify the omission by noting that its customers in the Persian Gulf found identifying Israel on the map to be "unacceptable," and that the Jewish state was therefore erased to suit "local preferences."

A subsequent outcry from Church leaders in the UK accused the publishing house of actually harming the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

"The publication of this atlas will confirm Israel's belief that there exists a hostility towards their country from parts of the Arab world. It will not help to build up a spirit of trust leading to peaceful co-existence," Bishop Declan Lang, chairman of the Bishops' Conference Department of International Affairs, told the British Catholic journal *The Tablet*.

Dr. Jane Clements, director of the Council of Christians and Jews, added that "maps can be a very powerful tool in terms of de-legitimizing 'the other' and can lead to confusion rather than clarity."

The publisher later issued an apology reading:

"HarperCollins regrets the omission of the name Israel from their Collins Middle East Atlas. This product has now been removed from sale in all territories and all remaining stock will be pulped. HarperCollins sincerely apologizes for this omission and for any offense caused."

CNN Anchor Drags Israel Into Debate Over Paris Shooting

Thursday, January 08, 2015 | Israel Today Staff

In the aftermath of the horrific massacre at the headquarters of a satirical magazine in Paris, veteran CNN news anchor and international correspondent tried to promote the notion that the Muslim perpetrators of this and all such atrocities are extremists, and therefore unrepresentative of mainstream Muslim sentiments or Islamic teachings.

"The cartoons [published by the magazine *Charlie Hebdo*] NEVER mocked the Prophet. They mocked how the COWARDS tried to distort his word," CNN's Jim Clancy posted to his Twitter account.

It is a similar argument to that made by most Western leaders who continue to uphold Islam as a "religion of peace," while painting Muslim terrorists as fringe elements disconnected from the will and direction of their own religion.

When one of Clancy's followers on Twitter pointed out that *Charlie Hebdo* had in fact directly mocked Mohammed in the eyes of most Muslims, the journalist accused the man, who has a Jewish name, of being an Israeli propaganda agent

When additional followers wondered why in the world Clancy would drag Israel into the argument, he likewise accused them of working for the Jewish state. [Click here: <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/189672#.VK5ZUYqUdJw>] to read a full report of the bizarre exchange]

Clancy's tirade was described as "unhinged" and "extraordinarily ill-judged" for a man in his position. It was also further evidence of the overriding anti-Israel bias that characterizes many mainstream international journalists and their reporting.

Can Charlie Hebdo's Spirit Include Israel?

Friday, January 09, 2015 | Noah Beck

The Islamist massacre at Charlie Hebdo has understandably captured global attention because it was a barbaric attack on France and freedom of expression. In a moment of defiant moral clarity, "je suis Charlie" emerged as a popular phrase of solidarity with the victims. Hopefully such clarity persists and extends to those facing similar challenges every day in the Middle East.

Christians and other religious minorities have been beheaded by Islamists for years, but it wasn't until U.S. journalist James Foley was beheaded that the West cared. ISIS raped and slaughtered thousands of Yazidis -- leaving the surviving refugees stranded on Mount Sinjar -- before the West took notice. But one Islamist besieging a cafe in Sydney, killing two, dominated global coverage for the entire sixteen-hour incident.

Western leaders and media must realize that religious minorities in the Middle East are the canary in the coalmine for the West when it comes to Islamist threats. And Israel provides the clearest early warning of all, precisely because -- despite Israel's location in a region of Islamists and dictatorships -- the Jewish state has free elections, freedom of speech, a vigorous political opposition and independent press, equal rights and protections for minorities and women (who are represented in all parts of civil, legal, political, artistic, and economic life), and a prosperous free market economy.

But had Palestinian gunmen similarly attacked Israel's most important daily newspaper and then escaped, would the event inspire such constant coverage or international sympathy? Israel has suffered countless massacres followed by a suspenseful manhunt for the Islamist terrorists; in each of these incidents, the world hardly noticed until Israel forcefully responded and Palestinians died (prompting global condemnation of Israel).

However, when there is an attack in Europe, North America, or Australia, there is widespread grief, solidarity, and an acceptance of whatever policy reaction is chosen. But when Israel is targeted, there is

almost always a call for "restraint," as happened last November after fatal stabbings by Palestinian terrorists in Tel Aviv and the West Bank.

If two Palestinians entered a European or North American church and attacked worshipers with meat cleavers, killing five people, including priests, the outrage would be palpable in every politician and journalist's voice. But when Israelis were victims of such an attack, Obama's reaction was spineless and tone deaf. Did Obama condemn the Charlie Hebdo massacre by noting how many Muslims have died at the hands of French military forces operating in Africa and the Middle East? Of course not. Such moral equivocation would be unthinkable with any ally or Western country except Israel.

Similarly, would Secretary of State John Kerry ever suggest that ISIS is somehow motivated by French policies (whether banning Muslim headscarves at public schools or fighting Islamists in Mali)? Obviously not. Yet Kerry did just that sort of thing with Israel when he suggested that ISIS is driven by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

And the media's anti-Israel bias is well known but became even more obvious when they couldn't get a simple story about vehicular terrorism against Israelis correct. Compare how The Guardian writes accurate headlines when France or Canada suffers an Islamist car attack but not when Israel does.

Consider all of the justifiable news coverage and outrage over the 2013 Boston bombings, and imagine if one of those happened every week. Would anyone dare suggest that the U.S. make peace with any Islamists demanding changes to U.S. policy? And yet Israel had such bomb attacks almost every week of 2002 and was invariably asked to restrain itself and make concessions to the very people bombing them (as happened again last summer, when Hamas fired thousands of rockets at Israel).

As Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has ruefully observed, "There is a standard for dictatorships, there is a standard for democracies, and there is still a third standard for the democracy called Israel."

Even when compared to Western democracies, what other country gives incredibly forgiving medical care to terrorists and agrees to treat the children of those working to destroy it? Israel is where a Hamas family member finds refuge when he is a gay convert to Christianity but this is yet another inconvenient fact for the mainstream media (as is the fact that some Israeli Arabs supported the IDF's 2014 war against Hamas). Why report what contradicts the one-sided, anti-Israel narrative that the media and groups like Human Rights Watch have adopted? That narrative is only reinforced on college campuses (leftist college history professors openly supported Hamas last summer). Nevertheless, US funding of anti-Israel groups continues to aggravate the misinformation problem.

Israel is still the country that everyone loves to hate. So it's the cheap way to please Muslim voters in Europe and oil producers in the Gulf. But what happens to Israel eventually comes to the West, because Israel is an extension of the West. And just as surrendering Czechoslovakia failed to appease the expansionist appetite and murderous rampage of Nazi totalitarianism, so too will feeding Israel to Islamist totalitarianism fail to appease that movement. In the end, there is no set of concessions -- short of civilizational surrender -- that the Islamists will accept.

Nevertheless, an EU court decided to remove Hamas from the European Union's terror list, even though Hamas is responsible for scores of terrorist attacks that have murdered hundreds of Israelis, North Americans, and Europeans, and has a charter calling for the destruction of Israel. And Western European countries have voted for Palestinian statehood at the UN and in their parliaments, effectively rewarding Palestinian terrorism and intransigence. Europe supports the Palestinian Authority as if Hamas couldn't overthrow it in the West Bank as easily as Hamas did in Gaza Strip in 2007. How can Europe not know that Hamas has designs on the West Bank and that any Israeli withdrawal from that territory will only facilitate such a takeover? And how can Europe believe that Israel could ever make peace with Hamas, which has launched three unprovoked wars on Israel in the last five years (in the decade since Israel withdrew from Gaza)?

Moreover, if lofty concerns about self-determination and human rights are the true motivation behind Europe's vocal support for Palestinian independence (despite its undemocratic and violent record), why is Europe deafeningly quiet on Kurdish statehood? Given that six million Jews were annihilated by a genocide on European soil, Europe's hypocrisy on Israel should embarrass the continent even more.

Worse still, Europe's gestures of appeasement only encourage the Islamists. The best response to the Charlie Hebdo attack is to redouble the free expression Islamists meant to stifle. Similarly, the best response to Islamist attacks on the only Mideast democracy, Israel, is to increase support for it.

Noah Beck is the author of *The Last Israelis*, an apocalyptic novel about Iranian nukes and other geopolitical issues in the Middle East.

BBC Reporter Seemingly Justifies Paris Attack on Jews

Monday, January 12, 2015 | Israel Today Staff

Just days after a senior CNN anchor tried to drag Israel into the debate over the Paris terror attacks, a BBC reporter on Sunday seemingly justified the targeting of a Jewish grocery store in the French capital.

Correspondent Tom Willcox was tasked with interviewing a Jewish participant in what turned out to be the largest rally in European history when some two million people turned out on the streets of Paris to denounce radical Islamic terror.

That it is becoming increasingly impossible to avoid the fact that most terrorism today emanates from Islam appears to irk many in the mainstream media and other liberal Western elements. And the BBC is no exception.

Willcox's interviewee was an Israeli-French woman by the name of Chava, a daughter of Holocaust survivors who warned that the anti-Semitic atmosphere in Europe today is dangerously reminiscent of the 1930s.

Willcox cut in, insisting that “many critics...of Israel’s policy would suggest that the Palestinians suffered hugely at Jewish hands as well.”

The remark struck most as either wholly unrelated or a subtle justification of, or at least understanding for, the rising tide of Muslim anti-Semitism in Europe.

Chava, who was taken aback by the suggestion, said that the two situations shouldn’t be linked, to which Willcox replied that everyone sees things “from different perspectives.”

Critics in both Israel and Europe slammed Willcox for his “disgraceful” display, and said the episode was yet further evidence that the BBC could not be trusted to be impartial and objective in its reporting on the Middle East conflict.

Jimmy Carter Blames Israel for Paris Attacks

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 | Ryan Jones

Former US President Jimmy Carter once again provided his sagacious insight into the root causes of Islamic violence by pointing an accusing finger at, where else, Israel!

Carter made the remarks on Monday while appearing on Comedy Central’s *The Daily Show*. When asked by host Jon Stewart what drove the kind of Islamic violence that claimed the lives of 17 people in Paris last week, Carter responded:

“Well, one of the origins for it is the Palestinian problem. And this aggravates people who are affiliated in any way with the Arab people who live in the West Bank and Gaza, what they are doing now — what’s being done to them. So I think that’s part of it.”

Carter has a long history of blaming all Middle East woes, and, indeed, most of the problems in the world, on Israel. And he is absolutely convinced that the lack of peace in this small sliver of land is no one’s fault but the Jews, as detailed in his 2006 book “Palestine: Peace, Not Apartheid.”

The former peanut farmer-turned-most powerful man in the world has gone so far as to extol Hamas as totally trustworthy, unlike those Israeli Jews and their hordes of “Zionist” cohorts.

In late 2008, Carter during a trip to Damascus boasted over having advised Hamas leader Khaled Mashal on what price to demand for then-hostage Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

Israeli Leaders Defiant as Paris Victims Buried in Jerusalem

Tuesday, January 13, 2015 | Israel Today Staff

Israeli leaders sounded a defiant tone on Tuesday as four Jewish victims of last week's terrorist attacks in Paris were laid to rest in Jerusalem.

Philippe Braham, Yohan Cohen, Yoav Hattab and Francois-Michel Saada were all killed during after a Muslim gunman stormed a Jewish grocery store and held shoppers and staff hostage, just days after fellow jihadists massacred employees at the offices of a satirical magazine in the French capital.

The bodies of the four victims of the grocery store attack were flown to Israel along with their families.

Their funeral at Jerusalem's Har HaMenuhot cemetery was attended by President Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, opposition leader Isaac Herzog and many other political and military leaders.

"This is not how we wanted to welcome you to Israel," Rivlin said, looking to the bereaved families. "I stand before you, brokenhearted, shaken and in pain, and with me stands an entire nation. ...This is sheer hatred of Jews; abhorrent, dark and premeditated, which seeks to strike, wherever there is Jewish life."

Netanyahu vowed that no matter how dark the present situation, the terrorists "will never, ever beat us. This is the strength of an ancient people that has always prevailed and thank God, look around you, here in the mountains of Jerusalem, today we have a state of our own, flourishing and advanced, a state that is a moral beacon to the world."

Herzog said there was a direct connection between the hatred that brought about the Paris supermarket attack, and the spilling of Jewish blood in Israel.

"A straight line connects the murder of the four Jews [in the Paris supermarket] to the bastards who penetrated the Har Nof synagogue and killed people at worship in their prayer shawls two months ago," the opposition leader stated.

Herzog echoed Netanyahu in insisting that "terror will not win. ...This is what brings the Jewish people together: the fact that we are set apart from other nations, the fact we face enemies."

Seriously? Israel, Jews Said Behind Paris Attacks

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 | Ryan Jones

It's inevitable. Any time there is a high profile terrorist attack, someone, somewhere will say the Jews did it. And that is precisely what is starting to happen following last week's string of shootings that took the lives of 17 innocent people in Paris.

I'm not talking about the BBC reporter who told a Jewish descendant of Holocaust survivors, of all people, that in the eyes of some, the Paris attacks could appear justified in light of what he called Israel's maltreatment of the Palestinians.

I'm not even talking about former US President Jimmy Carter, who more explicitly blamed Israel not only for the Paris attacks, but for Muslim agitation and aggression across Europe.

I'm talking about people who believe that Jews directly planned, financed and personally carried out the Paris attacks.

Sadly, or perhaps tellingly, these people are not some fringe lunatics or conspiracy theorists, but rather are normal French Muslims and government officials in the Muslim world.

A reporter for the online news magazine *The Daily Beast* said that French Algerian Muslims she interviewed in Paris were largely of the opinion that the attacks were a Jewish plot to make Islam look bad.

Dana Kennedy told MSNBC that one interviewee went so far as to claim the perpetrators "weren't just regular Jews...but a race of magical shape-shifting Jews that were master manipulators that could be everywhere at the same time."

As outlandish as it might sound, these are the types of libelous fairytales many Muslims across the Middle East are taught about Israel and the Jews at large.

If average French Muslims aren't a serious enough source, the mayor of the Turkish capital of Ankara, Melih Gokcek, also got in on the act. Gokcek told a political rally following the Paris attacks that **"it is certain that [Israel's] Mossad is behind these kinds of incidents. Mossad enflames Islamophobia by causing such incidents."**

Israel to Europe: We Warned You

Wednesday, January 14, 2015 | Israel Today Staff



Israel's outspoken embassy in Ireland this week again stirred the pot with a post to its Twitter feed reminding Europe that the Jewish state had warned it about failing to take seriously enough the threat of radical Islam.

The post, which featured the Mona Lisa in Muslim head garb and holding what appears to be a missile, came just days after Muslim terrorists killed 17 in three separate attacks in Paris.

Under the title “Israel Now - Paris Next,” the image was a repeat of an earlier Israeli PR campaign at the height of the ISIS conquest in Iraq and Syria, warning Western nations that if they didn’t halt the jihadists in the Middle East, a new wave of terror would soon reach European shores.

Don't say we didn't warn.... pic.twitter.com/YOzdOURnjf

— Israel in Ireland (@IsraelinIreland) January 12, 2015

The embassy later posted a tweet linking to an op-ed on the Ynet news portal that insisted the West’s anti-Israel propaganda is a major motivator of Islamic terrorism both against the Jewish state and increasingly vulnerable European nations.

Israel: The International Criminal Court Promotes Terror

Monday, January 19, 2015 | Aviel Schneider

Here in Jerusalem we are outraged by the preliminary investigations into alleged Israeli war crimes in Gaza by the International Criminal Court in The Hague (pictured). Israel finds it impossible to take seriously the insistence of Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda that the proceedings will be fair and impartial.

This is merely another example of the West’s double standards. What is permissible in and for the Western world when it comes to self-defense is prohibited for the Jewish State of Israel.

“We will not ask permission to defend ourselves,” stressed ex-Finance Minister Yair Lapid on Israel Radio. “Thousands of rockets were fired from Gaza into Israel. Terror tunnels were dug under kindergartens. And what does the International Criminal Court do? It decides to investigate Israel!”

An incensed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu noted that this decision was taken “just days after the terrorist attacks in Paris. That is absurd! Four Jews were murdered, and the court challenges the Jewish State of Israel. Even Hamas suggested it will file suit against Israel. I would not be surprised if Hezbollah did the same, and then ISIS and Al Qaeda. All will come to accuse us before the International Criminal Court.”

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman has advised not cooperating with the tribunal, as it will certainly operate from an anti-Israel bias. “We will ensure that this tribunal is dissolved, as this institution represents nothing but hypocrisy and support for terrorism,” said Lieberman.

The foreign minister noted that “around 200,000 have died in the Syrian civil war, and the International Criminal Court has done nothing there or in other Arab countries. Instead, the court focuses its attention on the only moral army in the region.”

In confidential talks with **Israel Today**, many politicians and experts in Jerusalem have expressed strong criticism of the International Criminal Court's European member states. Many are of the opinion that the European states, which largely fund the court, are trying to pacify the burgeoning radical Islam in their midst. Others insist that Europe "is anti-Semitic and will always be anti-Semitic."

The International Criminal Court in The Hague was founded in 2002 and counts 122 member states. Israel and the United States of America are not among them. The court's annual funding, as noted, is largely covered by its European members, nations that are largely critical of Israel.

Nevertheless, Israel has called on its European allies to halt funding for the court, pointing out that it has become a political institution. To date, the International Criminal Court has initiated proceedings against only African countries, 36 in total.

Listing of known terror attacks with death toll estimates since the terror bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen in the year 2000!

Estimate ↕	Name ↕	Political Ideology ↕	Country ↕	City	Date ▼
2,000	2015 Baga massacre	Jihadism	Nigeria	Baga	2015
12	Charlie Hebdo shooting	Jihadism	France	Paris	2015
4	Hyper Cacher Jewish grocery	Jihadism	France	Paris	2015
1	Policewoman ambushed during investigation of traffic accident	Jihadism	France	Paris	2015
336+	2014 Gamboru Ngala attack	Jihadism	Nigeria	Gamboru Ngala	2014
154	2014 Peshawar school attack	Jihadism	Pakistan	Peshawar	2014
43	May 2014 Ürümqi attack	Jihadism	China	Ürümqi	2014
33	2014 Kunming attack	Unknown	China	Kunming	2014
3	April 2014 Ürümqi attack	Jihadism	China	Ürümqi	2014
2	2014 shootings at Parliament Hill, Ottawa	Jihadism	Canada	Ottawa	2014
449	May 2013 Iraq attacks	Jihadism	Iraq	Across Iraq	2013
389	July 2013 Iraq attacks	Jihadism	Iraq	Across Iraq	2013
67	Westgate shopping mall shooting	Jihadism	Kenya	Nairobi	2013
67	In Amenas hostage crisis	Jihadism	Algeria	In Amenas	2013
32	December 2013 Volgograd bombings	Jihadism	Russia	Volgograd	2013
7	October 2013 Volgograd bus bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Volgograd	2013
5	Boston Marathon bombings	Jihadism	United States	Boston	2013
1	Murder of Lee Rigby	Jihadism	United Kingdom	London	2013
222+	January 2012 Nigeria attacks	Jihadism	Nigeria	Mubi, Yola, Gombi, Maiduguri and Kano	2012
120	2012 Sana'a bombing	Jihadism	Yemen	Sana'a	2012
8	Toulouse and Montauban shootings	Jihadism	France	Toulouse and Montauban	2012
133+	January 2011 Iraq suicide attacks	Jihadism	Iraq		2011
50+	Dera Ghazi Khan bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Dera Ghazi Khan	2011
48	27 January 2011 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2011
40+	9 March 2011 Peshawar bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Peshawar	2011
37	Domodedovo International Airport bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Moscow	2011
27+	24 January 2011 Iraq bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2011
24	2011 Alexandria bombing	Jihadism	Egypt	Alexandria	2011
23	2011 Kashgar attacks	Jihadism	China	Kashgar	2011
20	2011 Faisalabad bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Faisalabad	2011

20	2011 Mumbai bombings	Jihadism	India	Mumbai	2011
18	2011 Hotan attack	Jihadism	China	Hotan	2011
16	2011 Marrakech bombing	Jihadism	Morocco	Marrakech	2011
15	2011 Imbaba church attacks	Jihadism	Egypt	Imbaba	2011
14	2011 Minsk Metro bombing	Jihadism	Belarus	Minsk	2011
114+	10 May 2010 Iraq attacks	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
113+	2 November 2010 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
105	2010 Lakki Marwat suicide bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lakki Marwat	2010
104	Mohmand Agency attack	Jihadism	Pakistan	Mohmand Agency	2010
98	May 2010 attacks on Ahmadi mosques in Lahore	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2010
85	April 2010 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
76	2010 Maoist attack in Dantewada	Maoism	India	Dantewada, Chhattisgarh	2010
74	July 2010 Kampala attacks	Jihadism	Uganda	Kampala	2010
73+	September 2010 Quetta bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Quetta	2010
72+	March 2010 Lahore bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2010
70+	July 2010 Baghdad attacks	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
69+	17 August 2010 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
66	2010 Darra Adam Khel mosque bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Darra Adam Khel	2010
58	2010 Baghdad church attack	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
58	6 April 2010 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
58	April 2010 Kohat bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Kohat	2010
54	1 February 2010 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
53+	25 August 2010 Iraq bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Kut	2010
50+	December 2010 Mohmand Agency bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Mohmand Agency	2010
50	5 April 2010 Peshawar bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Peshawar	2010
50	July 2010 Lahore bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2010
47	December 2010 Bajaur bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Kher	2010
43+	7 August 2010 Basra attacks	Jihadism	Iraq	Basra	2010
42	April 4, 2010 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
41	25 January 2010 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
40	Nadahan wedding bombing	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Kandahar Province	2010
39	May 2010 Mogadishu bombings	Jihadism	Somalia	Mogadishu	2010
38	2010 Chabahar suicide bombing	Jihadism	Iran	Chabahar	2010
35+	2010 Dantewada bus bombing	Maoism	India	Dantewada	2010
35	September 2010 Lahore bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2010
33	2010 Baqubah bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baqubah	2010

32	Muna Hotel attack	Jihadism	Somalia	Mogadishu	2010
31+	19 September 2010 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2010
30	February 2010 Khyber Mosque bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Khyber Agency	2010
27+	2010 Zahedan bombings	Jihadism	Iran	Zahedan	2010
25+	February 2010 Karachi bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Karachi	2010
25	2010 Peshawar bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Peshawar	2010
19	February 2010 Khyber bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Khyber	2010
18	Pakistan CID building attack	Jihadism	Pakistan	Karachi	2010
18	May 2010 Kabul bombing	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Kabul	2010
18	February 2010 Kabul attack	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Kabul	2010
17	2010 Pune bombing	Jihadism	India	Pune	2010
17	2010 Vladikavkaz bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Vladikavkaz	2010
16	January 2010 Bajaur bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Bajaur	2010
12	October 2010 Abuja attacks	Jihadism	Nigeria	Abuja	2010
12	2010 Kizlyar bombings	Jihadism	Russia	Kizlyar	2010
11	Nag Hammadi massacre	Jihadism	Egypt	Nag Hammadi	2010
10	2010 Badakhshan massacre	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Badakhshan Province	2010
10	February 2010 Lower Dir bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lower Dir	2010
8	2010 Stavropol bomb blast	Jihadism	Russia	Stavropol	2010
155	October 2009 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2009
127	December 2009 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2009
117	28 October 2009 Peshawar bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Peshawar	2009
101	19 August 2009 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2009
73	20 June 2009 Taza bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Taza	2009
69	June 2009 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2009
54	December 2009 Lahore attacks	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2009
51	2009 African Union base bombings in Mogadishu	Jihadism	Somalia	Mogadishu	2009
48	2009 Jamrud mosque bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Jamrud	2009
43	2009 Pishin bombing	Jihadism	Iran	Pishin	2009
43	2009 Karachi bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Karachi	2009
38	October 2009 Lahore attacks	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2009
38	December 2009 Rawalpindi attack	Jihadism	Pakistan	Rawalpindi	2009
35	November 2009 Rawalpindi bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Rawalpindi	2009
35	2009 Beledweyne bombing	Jihadism	Somalia	Beledweyne	2009
35	2009 Lahore bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2009

34	April 2009 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2009
33	2009 Dera Ghazi Khan bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Dera Ghazi Khan	2009
32	2009 African Union base bombings in Mogadishu	Jihadism	Somalia	Mogadishu	2009
28	2009 Nevsky Express bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Bologoye	2009
25	2009 Hotel Shamo bombing	Jihadism	Somalia	Mogadishu	2009
25	2009 Nazran bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Nazran	2009
23	2009 Pakistan Army General Headquarters attack	Jihadism	Pakistan	Punjab	2009
20	2009 Zahedan bombing	Jihadism	Iran	Zahedan	2009
17	2009 Kabul Indian embassy attack	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Kabul	2009
16	2009 Lahore police academy attacks	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2009
13	2009 Fort Hood shooting	Jihadism	United States	Texas	2009
12	December 2009 Lower Dir mosque bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lower Dir	2009
9	Camp Chapman attack	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Khost Province	2009
8	July 2009 Mindanao bombings	Jihadism	Philippines	Mindanao	2009
8	2009 attack on the Sri Lanka national cricket team	Jihadism	Pakistan	Lahore	2009
8	2009 UN guest house attack in Kabul	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Kabul	2009
6	2009 International Islamic University bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Islamabad	2009
175	2008 Mumbai attacks	Jihadism	India	Mumbai	2008
110	10 October 2008 Orakzai bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Orakzai	2008
100	2008 Kandahar bombing	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Kandahar	2008
98	1 February 2008 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2008
80	Jaipur bombings	Jihadism	India	Jaipur	2008
75	2007 Baghlan sugar factory bombing	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Baghlan	2008
70	2008 Wah bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Wah	2008
68	6 March 2008 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2008
58	2008 Indian embassy bombing in Kabul	Jihadism	Afghanistan	Kabul	2008
56	2008 Ahmedabad bombings	Jihadism	Pakistan	Ahmedabad	2008
54	Islamabad Marriott Hotel bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Islamabad	2008
51	17 June 2008 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2008
47	2008 Parachinar bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Parachinar	2008
43	2008 Issers bombing	Jihadism	Algeria	Issers	2008
35	September 2008 Peshawar bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Peshawar	2008
35	2008 Baquba bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baqubah	2008
32	28 September 2008 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2008
30	13 September 2008 Delhi bombings	Jihadism	India	Delhi	2008
19	2008 attack on the American Embassy in Yemen	Jihadism	Yemen	Sana'a	2008
14	2008 Shiraz explosion	Jihadism	Iran	Shiraz	2008

13	2008 Beni Amrane bombings	Jihadism	Algeria	Beni Amrane	2008
12	2008 Vladikavkaz bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Vladikavkaz	2008
8	2008 Danish embassy bombing in Islamabad	Jihadism	Pakistan	Islamabad	2008
8	Mercaz HaRav massacre	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Jerusalem	2008
796	2007 Yazidi communities bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Kahtaniya and Adnaniyah	2007
198	18 April 2007 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2007
152	2007 Tal Afar bombings and massacre	Jihadism	Iraq	Tal Afar	2007
136	2007 Karachi bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Karachi	2007
135	February 3, 2007 Baghdad market bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2007
120	2007 Al Hillah bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Al Hillah	2007
88	22 January 2007 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2007
76	February 12, 2007 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2007
70	2007 Baghdad Mustansiriya University bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2007
68	2007 Samjhauta Express bombings	Jihadism	India		2007
63	February 18, 2007 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2007
42	25 August 2007 Hyderabad bombings	Jihadism	India	Hyderabad	2007
41	December 11, 2007 Algiers bombings	Jihadism	Algeria	Algiers	2007
33	11 April 2007 Algiers bombings	Jihadism	Algeria	Algiers	2007
30	2007 Dellys bombing	Jihadism	Algeria	Dellys	2007
25+	Assassination of Benazir Bhutto	Jihadism	Pakistan	Rawalpindi	2007
25	September 2007 bombings in Rawalpindi	Jihadism	Pakistan	Rawalpindi	2007
22	2007 Batna bombing	Jihadism	Algeria	Batna	2007
18	2007 Zahedan bombings	Jihadism	Iran	Zahedan	2007
10	2007 attack on tourists in Yemen	Jihadism	Yemen	Mareb	2007
6	Batasang Pambansa bombing	Jihadism	Philippines	Quezon City	2007
1	2007 Glasgow International Airport attack	Jihadism	United Kingdom	Glasgow	2007
215	23 November 2006 Sadr City bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Sadr City	2006
209	2006 Mumbai train bombings	Jihadism	India	Mumbai	2006
85	Buretha Mosque bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2006
62	July 1, 2006 Sadr City bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Sadr City	2006
57	Nishtar Park bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Karachi	2006
37	2006 Malegaon blasts	Jihadism	India		2006
28	2006 Varanasi bombings	Jihadism	India	Varanasi	2006

23	2006 Dahab bombings	Jihadism	Egypt	Dahab	2006
8	2006 Central Mindanao bombings	Jihadism	Philippines	Central Mindanao	2006
127	2005 Al Hillah bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Al Hillah	2005
112	September 14, 2005 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2005
98	Musayyib fuel tanker bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Musayyib	2005
90	2005 Sharm el-Sheikh attacks	Jihadism	Egypt	Sharm el-Sheikh	2005
74	2005 Khanaqin bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Khanaqin	2005
62	29 October 2005 Delhi bombings	Jihadism	India	Delhi	2005
60	2005 Amman bombings	Jihadism	Jordan	Amman	2005
52	7 July 2005 London bombings	Jihadism	United Kingdom	London	2005
6	April 2005 Cairo terrorist attacks	Jihadism	Egypt	Cairo	2005
191	2004 Madrid train bombings	Jihadism	Spain	Madrid	2004
178+	2004 Ashura bombings in Iraq	Jihadism	Iraq	Karbala and Baghdad	2004
117	2004 Irbil bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Irbil	2004
116	2004 SuperFerry 14 bombing	Jihadism	Philippines		2004
74	21 April 2004 Basra bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Basra	2004
74	2004 Kufa shelling	Unknown	Iraq	Kufa	2004
68	2004 Baqubah bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baqubah	2004
67	19 December 2004 Karbala and Najaf bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Karbala	2004
62	24 June 2004 Mosul bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Mosul	2004
47	14 September 2004 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2004
41	30 September 2004 Baghdad bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2004
34	2004 Sinai bombings	Jihadism	Egypt	Taba, Nuweiba	2004
22	2004 Khobar massacre	Jihadism	Saudi Arabia	Khobar	2004
22	2004 Forward Operating Base Marez bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Mosul	2004
11	Gaza Street bus bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Jerusalem	2004
10	August 2004 Moscow Metro bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Moscow	2004
1	Murder of Theo van Gogh	Jihadism	The Netherlands	Amsterdam	2004
83	Imam Ali Mosque bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Najaf	2003
57	2003 Istanbul Bombings	Jihadism	Turkey	Istanbul	2003
52	2003 Mumbai bombings	Jihadism	India	Mumbai	2003
46	2003 Stavropol train bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Stavropol	2003
46	2003 Casablanca bombings	Jihadism	Morocco	Casablanca	2003

35	27 October 2003 Baghdad bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2003
35	Riyadh compound bombings	Jihadism	Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	2003
28	2003 Nasiriyah bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Nasiriyah	2003
23	Shmuel HaNavi bus bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Jerusalem	2003
22	Canal Hotel bombing	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2003
21	Maxim restaurant suicide bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Haifa	2003
19	2003 Karbala bombings	Jihadism	Iraq	Karbala	2003
17	2003 Jordanian embassy bombing in Baghdad	Jihadism	Iraq	Baghdad	2003
17	Haifa bus 37 suicide bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Haifa	2003
10	2003 Mumbai train bombing	Unknown	India	Mumbai	2003
6	2003 Red Square bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Moscow	2003
202	2002 Bali bombings	Jihadism	Indonesia	Bali	2002
170	Moscow theater hostage crisis	Chechen separatism	Russia	Moscow	2002
130	Rafiganj train disaster	Unknown	India	Rafiganj	2002
44	Kaspiysk bombing	Jihadism	Russia	Kaspiysk	2002
33	Akshardham Temple attack	Jihadism	India	Gandhinagar	2002
30	Passover massacre	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Netanya	2002
19	Patt Junction Bus Bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Jerusalem	2002
15	Matza restaurant suicide bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Haifa	2002
14	Karkur junction suicide bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel		2002
13	2002 Karachi bus bombing	Jihadism	Pakistan	Karachi	2002
12	2002 US consulate bombing in Karachi	Jihadism	Pakistan	Karachi	2002
11	2002 Zamboanga City bombings	Jihadism	Philippines	Zamboanga City	2002
11	Café Moment bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Jerusalem	2002
11	Kiryat Menachem bus bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Jerusalem	2002
2,998	September 11 attacks	Jihadism	United States	World Trade Center, New York City, The Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia, Shanksville, Pennsylvania	2001
38	2001 attack on Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly	Jihadism	India	Srinagar	2001
21	Dolphinarium discotheque suicide bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Tel Aviv	2001
16	2001 Bahawalpur church attack	Jihadism	Pakistan	Bahawalpur	2001
15	Sbarro restaurant suicide bombing	Palestinian nationalism	Israel	Jerusalem	2001
12	2001 Indian Parliament attack	Jihadism	India	New Delhi	2001
22	Rizal Day bombings	Jihadism	Philippines	Metro Manila	2000
21	Kosheh massacre	Jihadism	Egypt	Kosheh	2000
19	USS Cole bombing	Jihadism	Yemen	Aden	2000

ISIS's Gruesome Muslim Death Toll

The group's killing of Westerners gets attention. But ISIS has killed far more Muslims, and publicizing that fact would harm it more.

Last Thursday, the United Nations released a report that could provide us with one of the keys to defeating ISIS. Unfortunately, it received almost zero media attention.

What makes this 26-page report ([PDF](#)) so powerful is that it describes to us the gruesome circumstances in which ISIS has killed fellow Muslims. We are talking beheadings, killing of women for objecting to ISIS' policies, and executing Sunni Muslim clerics for refusing to swear allegiance to ISIS.

Why is this important? This information can hopefully help dissuade other Muslims from joining or financially supporting ISIS. And it may even persuade other Muslim countries to join or increase their efforts in fighting ISIS. The reason being that slaughtering fellow Muslims is seen as universally wrong across the Muslim world and as a violation of Islamic values. In fact, Al Qaeda has even publicly criticized ISIS for this very conduct.

Now the report also details ISIS' horrific actions against Christians, Yazidis, and other minorities. But these events—along with the grisly beheadings of American journalists and Western aid workers- have been covered extensively by our media.

The killing of Muslims has not, and part of the reason may be because we lacked facts surrounding those events. After all, ISIS releases videos of its gruesome actions that it wants the world media to discuss but doesn't publicize events it understands can hurt its cause.

This report changes that. It provides us with evidence we were missing about the specifics of ISIS' actions towards Muslims. This investigation, undertaken by UN's Human Rights Office together with the UN's Assistance Mission for Iraq, conducted more than 500 interviews with witnesses and visited locations across Iraq to examine how many civilians were killed in Iraq between July and September of this year.

What did the UN find? ISIS had “carried out attacks deliberately and systematically targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, with the intention of killing and wounding civilians.” The UN concluded that in the first eight months of 2014, at least 9,347 civilians had been killed and at least 17,386 wounded. While all these deaths are not attributable to ISIS alone, ISIS is identified as the primary actor. (The report also documents what could be considered war crimes committed by the Iraqi military.)

Here are a few examples from the report to give you an idea of the way ISIS has methodically slaughtered Muslims:

- On September 5, ISIS executed three Sunni women in Mosul. What was their “crime”? They refused to provide medical care to ISIS fighters.
- On September 9, ISIS executed a Sunni Imam in western Mosul for refusing to swear loyalty to ISIS.
- On August 2, a man from the Salah ad Din province was abducted and beheaded for refusing to swear allegiance to ISIS.
- On August 19, a female Muslim doctor south of Mosul was killed for organizing a protest to object to ISIS’ mandate that female doctors cover their faces with religious veils when treating patients
- On August 31, 19 Sunni Muslim men were executed in Saadiya for refusing to swear allegiance to ISIS.
- On July 22, a Sunni Imam in Eastern Baquba was killed for simply denouncing ISIS.
- On September 9, ISIS executed two Muslim women by shooting them in the back of the head. Their exact “crime” was not known.

And the list goes on from ISIS slaughtering 1,500 Iraqi soldiers in June to blowing up numerous Sunni mosques because apparently the leaders of those mosques refused to swear loyalty to ISIS.

ISIS Is More Than Just a 'Terrorist Organization'

The group looks and acts more like a government with a military than a traditional terrorist group.

BY KAVEH WADDELL

[Follow on Twitter](#)

June 17, 2014 An extremist militant group has taken over number of major Iraqi cities [at breakneck speed](#), but the threat it poses to Iraq and the world are unlike any terrorist threat we've seen before.

The White House refers to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria as a terrorist organization. The group's name, however, reveals more about the nature of its aspirations. To reach its goal of establishing a caliphate in Iraq and Syria, ISIS has built itself to resemble a government, complete with a military, a police force, and public-works projects.

Rather than using targeted attacks to further specific goals, ISIS is waging full-out war on the Iraqi government in a campaign to capture territory, then governing those territories in an organized fashion.

ISIS is already laying down new laws in Iraq. Last week, the group handed out a "Contract of the City" to residents of the northern Niniveh province, where Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, is located. *The Washington Post* [translated](#) the contract's 16 main points, in which ISIS threatens to punish thieves by amputation, promises to sentence nonbelievers to death, and urges women to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary.

Genocide in Darfur



Darfur is a region in Sudan the size of France. It is home to about 6 million people from nearly 100 tribes. Some nomads. Some farmers. All Muslims. In 1989, General Omar Bashir took control of Sudan by military coup, which then allowed The National Islamic Front government to inflame regional tensions. In a struggle for political control of the area, weapons poured into Darfur. Conflicts increased between African farmers and many nomadic Arab tribes.

In 2003, two Darfuri rebel movements- the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)- took up arms against the Sudanese government, complaining about the marginalization of the area and the failure to protect sedentary people from attacks by nomads. The government of Sudan responded by unleashing Arab militias known as Janjaweed, or "devils on horseback". Sudanese forces and Janjaweed militia attacked hundreds of villages throughout Darfur. Over 400

villages were completely destroyed and millions of civilians were forced to flee their homes.

In the ongoing genocide, African farmers and others in Darfur are being systematically displaced and murdered at the hands of the Janjaweed. The genocide in Darfur has claimed 400,000 lives and displaced over 2,500,000 people. More than one hundred people continue to die each day; five thousand die every month. The Sudanese government disputes these estimates and denies any connection with the Janjaweed.

The Sudanese government appears unwilling to address the human rights crisis in the region and has not taken the necessary steps to restrict the activities of the Janjaweed. In June 2005, the International Criminal Court (ICC) took the first step in ending impunity in Darfur by launching investigations into human rights violations in Darfur. However, the government of Sudan refused to cooperate with the investigations.

On March 4, 2009 Sudanese President Omar al Bashir, became the first sitting president to be indicted by ICC for directing a campaign of mass killing, rape, and pillage against civilians in Darfur. The arrest warrant for Bashir follows arrest warrants issued by the ICC for former Sudanese Minister of State for the Interior Ahmad Harun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb. The government of Sudan has not surrendered either suspect to the ICC.

Darfuris today continue to suffer and the innumerable problems facing Sudan cannot be resolved until peace is secured in Darfur. According to UN estimates, 2.7 million Darfuris remain in internally displaced persons camps and over 4.7 million Darfuris rely on humanitarian aid. Resolving the Darfur conflict is critical not just for the people of Darfur, but also for the future of Sudan and the stability of the entire region.

So ... what is the point?

Does the information really need an explanation? Does the information readily available through various media outlets not paint a dire picture of ruthless indiscriminate intolerance, hate, violence and inhumanity?

Hopefully the answer is yes even at a surface level ... but as is the case with other seemingly complex issues there is more to the story and perhaps it is worthwhile digressing a bit so that we can understand from whence this current state of madness blossomed ... hmmm!

Because there are many better equipped minds in this particular area of expertise than my own ... let us summarize this issue at a high level by utilizing extracts from a source document produced from an organization with a proven pedigree in this field of study! ☺



The Ninth Annual
**Herzliya
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on the Balance of Israel's
National Security and Resilience

— POLICY, STATECRAFT AND LEADERSHIP FOR TRYING TIMES —

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WORKING PAPER

**Iranian Terrorist Policy and
“Export of Revolution”**

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Preface

Since its inception, the Islamic regime in Iran has been committed to jihad and to “propagation of Islam” (*tablighi eslami*) or “export of Revolution” (*sudur inqilab*). The former is viewed by the regime as a fundamental Islamic duty and the latter as a prime tenet of the regime’s ideology, enshrined in the Constitution and the works of the Imam Khomeini. **The targets of these ideological concepts are Israel and the West** against whom jihad is waged and Muslims to whom the Iranian Revolution must be exported.

Terrorism has played both a tactical and strategic role in this context. It has served as a tactical weapon in the struggle against the Iranian opposition, the American presence in the Middle East and Israel and as a means to export Iran’s influence in the Arab World and in the wider Muslim world. **On the strategic level, it has played a central role in Iran’s deterrent posture vis-à-vis its enemies by creating an image of a state, which holds a formidable terrorist capability, which it is willing to employ. This image is promoted by justification of (while denying involvement in) acts of terrorism against Israel and the United States, support of Islamic terrorist organizations from all parts of the globe and “predictions” of massive Muslim reaction to American and Israeli policies.**

This study focuses on the key drivers and motivation affecting Iran’s policy of export of Revolution and use of terrorism. Particular attention is given to description of the different drivers: Islamic, Shiite (including the Sunni-Shiite conflict), strategic, nationalistic, apocalyptic visions and perceptions of history and of the enemy and the role of domestic regime politics – the balance of power between the faction of the Supreme Leader/the traditional conservatives and that of Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi/ Ahmadinejad/the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). These drivers are the basis for Iran’s doctrine of use of terrorism and its objectives vis-à-vis Islamic terrorist organizations (Hizballah, Hamas, PIJ, and al-Qa’ida). Attempting to look ahead, the study takes a look at possible implications for Iranian policies of terrorism as a result of various scenarios in the Middle East and the Muslim world.

This study is based on a variety of sources: a series of “round tables” held at the Institute for Policy and Strategy in Herzliya with the participation of leading Israeli experts on Iran and radical Islamic movements; regular coverage of open sources dealing with the issue, Iranian ideological material found in Hizballah bases in South Lebanon, interviews with relevant individuals, etc. On many issues discussed below, a wide consensus of the participants in the project existed; on others – differences of opinion ranging from nuances to basic ones. Many of the generalizations that were made in the course of the round tables have been substantiated by documents. Others however remain in the realm of “feelings” of individuals who have been observing Iran for decades. The final judgments of the study are the responsibility of the project leader and author of this paper.

Ideological Drivers

Iran’s use of terrorism is both ideological and utilitarian. The ideology of the Islamic regime is multifaceted; it projects to the outside world and to itself different aspects of its identity under different circumstances. These faces include: the layer of an **Islamic** regime, which strives to appeal to all Muslims, beneath it lays **Shiite** identity and at the core – a strong **Iranian nationalist** identity. All these layers form a worldview that sees Islamic Iran as a nation with a “**manifest destiny**”: to lead the Muslim world and to become a predominant regional “superpower”, in the Gulf, the heart of the Arab world and in Central Asia. This vision is in consensus among moderates and radicals, liberals and conservatives.

Presumably, Iran's sense of strategic inferiority and perception of the enemy as waiting in the wings for an Iranian *casus belli* (see below – Iran's strategic assessment) should make the Iranian leadership shy away from actions that may be perceived as provocative towards its enemies. This is not the case. Iran regularly denies involvement in acts of terrorism. At the same time it cultivates its reputation of control over terrorist elements and willingness to use terrorism against its enemies. The Iranian perception of Western aversion to human (and particularly civilian) casualties, the cost-effectiveness of terrorism as the "weapon of the weak" and the regime's experience in achieving deniability makes terrorism an attractive and low cost weapon for the regime.

Iran's support of terrorist organizations serves a number of goals:

1. To maintain its commitment to Khomeini's doctrine of jihad and export of Revolution;
2. To pose a threat to Israel both for ideological reasons and in order to deter Israel from acting against it;
3. To further Iran's national objectives of hegemony in the Gulf and the Sunni Arab world, by promoting Islamist opposition to the pro-Western regimes in those countries;
4. To serve as a strategic deterrent against the US as long as Iran lacks a nuclear deterrent by posing a threat of wide spread terrorism in retaliation to acts of hostility towards Iran;
5. To enhance Iran's standing in the eyes of radical Sunni Islamist organizations as the only state willing to challenge Israel and the US, to draw them into its orbit and accord Iran a foothold in the heart of the Arab Middle East;
6. To serve as a bargaining chip to trade when the time is ripe in return for concessions on other issues important to itself; this is exemplified in Iran's links with al-Qa'ida, despite the Wahhabi anti-Shiite ideology of that organization.

Pan-Islamism

The upper layer of the Iranian ideology of "export of Revolution" is (pan-) **Islamism**. The Iranian Revolution did not portray itself to the Muslim world as a "Shiite" revolution, but as an **Islamic** Revolution for Muslims throughout the world. This inclusive attitude is part of Khomeini's original doctrine even before the Revolution and was set forth by him in countless documents and speeches. Khomeini did not restrict his revolutionary vision to re-Islamization of the Muslim Umma, but saw in the Islamic regime in Iran a basis for renewing the spread of Islam to the "oppressed" peoples around the world. **The general Islamic frame of reference of the regime entails a belief in the universalism of the Islamic mission of the Revolution. Hence, the ideology of the regime motivated the various arms of the state to forge alliances against the "world arrogance" (i.e. the United States) not only with groups and states whose ideologies were closely compatible with that of Iran, but also with any element, which saw the US as a nemesis.**

The "Islam" that the Iranian regime markets to Sunnis in Central Asia, South-East Asia and Africa is a "neo-Shiite" ("Shi'ah-Lite") ecumenical Islam which is designed to be palatable to all Muslims – Arabs and non-Arabs, Sunnis and Shiites, and through which even heterodox sects (e.g. Alawites) are to be brought back into the fold. **This Islamic model highlights the Shiite self-image as the faith of the "oppressed", as opposed to the corrupted Islam of the Gulf Arabs, which are linked to the "oppressor".** The influence of this model is stronger in countries, which lack a strong Sunni tradition of their own, and therefore do not see in the Shiite Islam that is being offered to them a significant deviation from their own religion. Paradoxically, at the same time, Iran is succeeding in proselytization of Sunni Moslems even in Arab countries on the basis of an image of strength and not weakness – an image of Iran and Hizballah as successful opponents of Israel and the West.

Iranian "ecumenism" is both legitimized by religious principle and utilitarian. From the religious point of view, it was endorsed by Khomeini at the onset of the Revolution and is permitted by the Shiite doctrine of *taqiyya* (dissimulation), which allows downplaying or even total denial of affiliation to Shi'ah when it serves one's

interest. On the practical level, ecumenism supports Iran's claim for recognition as a legitimate superpower. This ecumenism is translated into five main areas:

1. Declared identification of the basic interests of Iran with those of the (hypothetical) "Muslim Ummah". The Iranian regime reiterates whenever possible that the security of the Iranian nation-state is tantamount to that of the Islamic nation, and there can be no issue that serves Iranian interests but contradicts the wider interests of the Islamic Nation.¹
2. Obfuscation, as much as possible, of the Shiite identity of the regime. During the twenty-eight years since the Revolution, there have been almost no direct references at the leadership level of the Shiites as a separate identity or of Iran as leading the Shiites in particular.²
3. Universality of leadership – neither Khomeini, nor his successor Khamene'i viewed themselves as the leader of Iran alone or of the Shiites alone. The essence of the authority of the "Ruler-Jurisprudent" (*vali faqih*) was seen as transcending these differences and as an authority for all Muslims.³
4. Foreign Policy – Iran made great efforts to cultivate relations with the Sunni Muslim world (particularly the non-Arab Sunni world) and to forge out a position in the Organization of Islamic Conference. Iranian relations with the CIS (ex-USSR) countries (mainly Sunni) are based on a general Islamic identity.
5. Organizations – Shortly after the Islamic Revolution the regime formed organizations for promoting the idea of unity of all Islamic "schools" and legitimizing the Shi'a as the *Ja'fari* school within a generic Islam – neither Sunni nor Shiite (see below – Organs of the Regime). The *raison d'État* behind these efforts though was clear: a Sunni Muslim may accept the authority of any Sunni Sheikh – whatever the school he and the Sheikh follow, and if the *Ja'fari* (Shiite) school is just another school, any Sunni Muslim may follow the authority of a Shiite scholar without having to cross the lines and become a Shiite.

Iranian "Manifest Destiny"

The core element of the Iranian regime's identity, and ultimately its overriding frame of reference is **Iranian nationalism**. **The Islamic regime does not differ from any of its predecessors in its cultivation of a nationalist pride of belonging to an ancient noble and imperial nation which controlled most of the Middle East, experienced civilization centuries before Islam**, and (unlike most of the nations conquered by Islam who adopted Arabic) maintained its national language and culture even after the Islamic conquest. For Iranians, all that was great in what is commonly referred to as Islamic or Arab culture was actually Persian. This self-image even has certain racial overtones: it links Iran to a primordial Aryan (i.e. noble) world of settled civilization, far superior to the "primitive" nomadic Arabian culture. The sense of cultural superiority is echoed in the iconic status of the tenth-century Iranian national epic *Shahnameh* (*Book of Kings*), which recounts the history of ancient Persia from mythical times to the Arab conquest and ridicules the Arabs as "Drinkers of camel-milk and eaters of lizards ... [who] came to dare aspire to the throne of the Kings of Kian [an ancient Persian dynasty]."¹⁰ It is also expressed in the continued use of classic Persian names with pre-Islamic and even pagan symbolism.¹¹

Even in the context of its Islamic mission, it is, ultimately, the Islamic mission of the Iranian nation to spread the message of the Islamic Revolution. **This mission is, as pointed out above, the "manifest destiny" of Iran and a sort of rectification of the centuries in which Iran did not play its rightful regional role.**¹² While Iranian nationalism plays a major role in motivating Iran's export of the Revolution and terrorist policy, the regime realizes that this element must be downplayed. One of the primary obstacles that Iran has to overcome in these efforts is the very fact that it is Persian (*'ajami* – in the eyes of the Arabs). To overcome this difficulty Iran takes advantage of its Arab proxies as go-betweens with other Arab organizations.

Mahdism and Apocalyptic Tendencies

One of the most concerning recent trends in the Iranian regime, which potentially affects the regime's terrorist policy is the expectation of the imminent re-appearance of the Hidden Imam. A leadership, which anticipates an imminent eschatological event, may be expected to be more risk-prone and willing to engage in provocative behavior towards its enemies. A point in case of the influence of the Mahdist tendency on terrorist policy is the strategic thinking of the Head of the "Center for Strategic Studies" of the IRGC, Dr. Hasan Abbasi. Abbasi is also behind the "Center for Recruiting Suicide Volunteers". He is said to be affiliated with Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi and a supporter of the Hojatiyeh movement (see below) and of Ahmadinejad. Abbasi has been quoted as calling to "wipe liberal democracy off the face of the earth in order to prepare the ground for the appearance of the Hidden Imam," and to "cut down the roots of Anglo-Saxon civilization for good."¹³

The basis of this trend is the highly publicized claim of Ahmadinejad that he is in contact with the Hidden Imam, who has informed Ahmadinejad of his imminent re-appearance. Since Shiite eschatology links the re-appearance of the Hidden Imam with various apocalyptic events, the anticipation of the immanent return of the Imam raises significant questions regarding the willingness of the Iranian regime (or part of it) to take risks, that otherwise may seem reckless.

Ahmadinejad, it is claimed, has a "timeline" for the reappearance of the Imam. He claims to engage in regular *khalvat* (solitude) with the Imam who has told him that he will re-emerge within two years. The President's supporters have spread the claim that Ahmadinejad himself is one of the "pegs" (*owtad*), which hold the world together in each generation pending the return of the Imam. Ahmadinejad attributes his running and winning the presidency to this personal link with the Imam and hence sees himself as the agent of the Imam, bound to perform his mission, more than the representative of his constituency. Accordingly, he has taken concrete steps to prepare for the Imam: rebuilding the shrine at Jamkaran where the Imam is expected to appear and "depositing" his government's platform in the well at the shrine where Shiites place messages for the Imam (the well is where the Imam is believed to have disappeared).

The belief in the imminent re-appearance of the Imam is not characteristic of Shiite Islam and was not prevalent even in the early days of the Khomeini era. For all his revolutionarism, Khomeini was not apocalyptic or Mahdist; the Revolution was seen as serving the will of the Hidden Imam and a **first** stage towards his appearance but not an event which adumbrated or hastened his imminent re-appearance.¹⁴ Khomeini even went as far as banning the Mahdist Hojatiyeh movement (see below), which had at its core tenet the idea that the actions of the Muslims could hasten the advent of the Imam (a religious tendency known as *ta'jiliyān* or "hastenings").

From this point of view, Khomeini remained true to the traditional attitude of the Shiite 'ulama throughout the ages to reject intercessors with the Hidden Imam and forecasts regarding his imminent return. Since the final "greater occultation" (*ghayba*) of the Imam in 945, all religious decisions in Shiite Islam were made by the professional jurists and theologians ('*ulama*, *fuqaha*), who had, from then on, a vested institutional interest in keeping the eschatological authority of the Imam at arms-length. "Hastenings" and "Mahdists" were seen by the traditional Shiite 'ulama as a threat to their authority, which was now based principally on the absence of the authority of the Imam or of any intercessor who may claim that he is in touch with the Imam and transmits his will to the believers. Mahdism has thus been anathema to orthodox Shiite Islam; the Shiite clerical establishment dealt with this enemy brutally over the centuries, excommunicating and hunting them down from the *ghulāt* of the Middle Ages to the shooting of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Babis and Bahais. Consequently, the Sunni world has had to deal with far more Mahdist movements than appeared on the Shiite stage.

The modern Mahdist tendency is linked to the Hojatiyeh Association. The Hojatiyeh Society was established in 1953 by a preacher from Mashhad, Sheikh Mahmud Halabi who first supported Prime Minister Mosadeq and then the Shah. The essence of the Hojatie doctrine is that true Islamic government

must await the return of the Hidden Imam. Therefore, the Hojjatie Association opposed Ayatollah Khomeini's theory of Islamic government and *velayat-e faqih*, called for collective leadership of the religious community, and opposed religious involvement in political affairs.¹⁵ While the movement was essentially "quietist" and eschewed political involvement, it was "hastener" from the religious point of view; the underlying premise is that the defining characteristic of the Imam is his compassion for the believers. Therefore, creating "order" reduces the chances that he may appear, whereas when the situation would be intolerable and absolute chaos will reign, the Imam will feel obliged to reappear and to save the believers. This is the element of the Hojjatiyeh doctrine which implies willingness to incur risks that otherwise would be unreasonable.

The association came under attack of Khomeini and announced its dissolution in July 1983. Both conservatives and reformists accused their rivals of Hojjatie tendencies. The former claimed that the latter believe, like the Hojjatie, in separating government and religion and in tolerance of "vice" (un-Islamic behavior) until the appearance of the Imam; the latter claimed that the former represent the obscurantism and apocalyptic tendencies of the movement. In addition, clerics of the Qom Howzeh claim that the Hojjatiyeh are followers of Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani of Najaf (thus posing a threat to the institutional interests of Qom) and point at his rejection of *velayat-e faqih* as proof of his association.

Ahmadinejad and his circle vehemently deny any link to the Hojjatiyeh.¹⁶ Be that as it may, a central component of Ahmadinejad's declared objective – like that of the Hojjatiyeh – is to hasten the appearance of the Hidden Imam. This is to be accomplished through the precipitation of a clash of civilizations between the Islamic world and the West. Ahmadinejad's claim to a mystical "one on one" relationship with the Hidden Imam seems sincere. Such a claim does not serve his political interests, either domestically or vis-à-vis the Muslim world. In Iran such a claim, particularly by a person who is not even a cleric, is viewed with a degree of derision. From the point of view of Iran's relations with the Sunni Muslim world, anticipation of the Imam's advent (when one of his actions is supposed to be to convert the Sunnis into Shiites) only exacerbates the sense of sectarian conflict between Sunnis and Shiites and feeds the Wahhabi-Salafi line against the Shiites.

Hence, it must be taken into account that Ahmadinejad is truly driven by an apocalyptic Weltanschauung, truly "confers" with the Hidden Imam who informed him of his imminent advent, truly believes that he is destined to play an instrumental role in hastening that advent and truly "saw" a mysterious "halo" whilst speaking at the UN. Thus, the rise of Ahmadinejad has injected a new element into the religious motivation for "export of Revolution". His policy of confrontationalism (including his strident call for "wiping Israel off the map" and Holocaust denial) then should not be seen as mere populist bravado or jingoism or as political brinkmanship, based on a calculated risk that the US and Israel will not lift the gauntlet, but it may reflect a willingness to take risks that his predecessors found expeditious not to take including military collision with the US and Israel. These risks may be seen as the necessary "test of faith" that the Imam expects of his believers in order for them to be worthy of his re-appearance. The expectation that the Imam will reward the believers by manifesting himself and giving them victory is a factor that potentially distorts any normal strategic calculus.

The high public exposure of Ahmadinejad's Mahdist statements notwithstanding, he remains a minority within the Iranian regime. Except for his spiritual mentor, Ayatollah Taqi Mesbah Yazdi (and perhaps Ayatollah Janati), there seems to be no serious high-ranking cleric in Qom who sides with Ahmadinejad's Mahdism. The elections to the Experts Council in December 2006 imply that the traditional conservatives still have a strong hold on the reins of power and have the ability to restrain the President.

Perception of History

Another salient factor in the Iranian Weltanschauung that affects the regime's policy of terrorism is its singular view of history. For a variety of cultural, religious and historic reasons, **Iranians tend to lend much credence to elaborate conspiracy theories, and assume that appearances, by definition, hide ulterior and dark motives.**¹⁷ According to the common Iranian narrative, the West supported by ubiquitous, secretive and devious Machiavellian coalitions,¹⁸ has woven these conspiracies against Iran as far back as the confrontation between ancient Persia and Greece, with the latter conspiring to annihilate Iran's spiritual essence and political predominance. According to this outlook on history, the "dark forces" that operate against Iran/the Shiites/Islam are so powerful and devious that they justify extreme measures to combat them.

The prevalence of these theories is so great that they are widely perceived as a distinctive mark of the Iranian national psyche. God is perceived as intervening in human affairs on a regular basis. Consequently, Iranian political thinking tends to impute to political antagonists an uncanny level of premeditation of events and to accept complex theories involving multilateral conspiracies between strange political bedfellows.

This conspiratorial view of history has been attributed to a variety of cultural, religious and historic causes. Social psychologists attribute it to a combination of political, social, and psychological elements: **the history of colonial interference in modern Iran; the pre-Islamic Manichean belief in the efficacy of the Satanic forces in the world; the Islamic (including Shiite) belief in divine determinism (*taqdir*) into human affairs, giving birth to an exaggerated belief in pre-meditation in human affairs; and the need for a collective defense mechanism in times of national weakness and humiliation.** On the cultural level, it is claimed that the propensity of Persian historiography to mythological descriptions and the acceptance of poetic license in normal discourse also contribute to the acceptability of conspiracy theories.

The Islamic regime in Iran has internalized the conspiratorial narrative and made it into a fundamental element of its ideology. The regime tends to "connect the dots" of a multitude of regional and global events into a picture that indicates the brewing of a demonic plot against Iran. Great Britain is also seen as almost the prime mover of Iranian history during the Nineteenth and Twentieth centuries by way of its infiltration into the Iranian economy and manipulation of the Iranian elite. Since the mid-twentieth century, Britain has been joined by the United States and Israel. The US is depicted as "the Great Satan" or "Global arrogance."¹⁹ **These theories are taught in schools and are widely accepted by academic circles in Iran.**²⁰ The interpretation of current events through the prism of these theories tends to create a focus on issues or facts that may seem totally irrelevant to the outsider who is not aware of the current theory. **Thus for example, Iranian government websites explain that Hollywood acts upon orders by the US government to project an American image as the savior of mankind and to facilitate the British-American-Jewish conspiracy to redraw world borders that no longer serve their goals**²¹.

Along with the "conspiracy" theory, the Iranian regime tends to accept a Hegelian-Toynbeeian view of history. **According to this view, the US (and the West) is declining while Iran is the new sun rising over the world.** Clear proofs, in Iranian eyes, of the West's decline are the debacles of Iraq and Lebanon, the perceived failure of the US in the war on Terror, a lack of unity between the US and Europe and various domestic phenomenon in the West, which are exaggerated and interpreted as signs of moral decay. Hence, even though the Iranian "sun" is not yet at its peak, it will definitely rise on the West's expense.

The decline of the West is also attributed to lack of resolve. The West is reluctant to make self-sacrifices, whereas Iran (and the Muslims) will be victorious because of their belief in martyrdom and jihad for the sake of Allah. The civilization, which elevates the sublime objective over the value of the individual human life, will prevail. The Iranian regime believes that Iran will become a superpower within 10-15 years, mainly thanks to the West's suicidal tendencies.²²

Not only is the West sinking, but also the Arab world. It is dysfunctional and practically non-existent, while many forces are trying to tear parts of this Arab "corpse". The leaders of the Arab countries have "sold out"

to the West and are their agents within the Muslim world. **Therefore, the Arabs cannot lead the Muslims and must move aside and allow Iran to return to its rightful role as the leader of the Umma**. Iranian perceptions of history point out that the pinnacles of Muslim strength and achievements were all due to Persian influence, and that Iranian leadership will again lead the Muslims to victory.

This view of the decline of the West integrates into the regime's perception of its own "manifest destiny"; as the West declines, it is incumbent on Iran to spread the message of Islam. This is the philosophy behind numerous organs of Islamic proselytization that Iran employs throughout the world – including in the Western world. This is also behind Ahmadinejad's letters to world leaders, in which he suggests that they repent for their deeds and accept Islam.

Jihad and Export of Revolution

Iran's sponsorship of terrorist organizations is frequently mentioned in the context of other Middle Eastern regimes, which have supported various terrorist organizations for their own interests. **Iran however is *sui generis* insofar as this policy is not a mere tool in its strategic arsenal, but a fundamental element of the regime's identity.** This is represented by two separate tenets of the regime's ideology: the duty of every Muslim to support **jihad**; and the mission of the Islamic regime in Iran to "**propagate Islam**" (*tabligh-e eslami*) or "export the Revolution" (*sudur enqelabi*). These two pillars of Iranian doctrine are both characterized by support of proxy organizations that make use of terrorism. The former is exemplified by Iranian patronage of Hizballah in Lebanon and of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The main theatres of the latter are **Iraq and Lebanon**, with lesser theatres among the Shiites of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and radical Islamic movements in Africa and Central Asia.

This distinction is not always clear-cut. Hizballah is both a model of jihad against Israel and of a proxy for Iranian efforts to export revolution to other Muslim countries. Hamas, on the other hand, cannot serve Iran's wider cause, as the brand of Islam that it would propagate would be that of the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafi trends from which it sprang. In many ways they complement each other. The two goals however always complement each other and at least in the case of the jihad that was declared against Saddam Hussein, the Iranian regime justified its cessation by the argument that the *jihad* against Iraq had to end because the primary mission of the Islamic regime of Iran was "export of Islam", and the war prevented it from engaging in this mission.

The pivotal significance of "export of Revolution" for the regime was underscored by former President Rafsanjani, who stated that "revolutionarism" is the essence of the regime; if it loses it – Iran will become "an ordinary country".²³ This principle was formulated by Khomeini and enshrined in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic. This doctrine also plays a practical strategic role in Iran's national strategy by spreading Iran's influence in the Muslim world. To paraphrase Clausewitz, **"Religion is an extension of politics by other means". By "exporting" its model of Islam and of a political regime, Iran aspires to strengthen its hold within the Arab world and to re-incorporate it into a modern Iranian Empire.** The linkage between the acceptance of the Iranian ideology and becoming an Iranian satrap is the doctrine of *velayat-e faqih*. The acceptance of this principle entails the acceptance of the temporal leadership of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution – the Leader of Iran.

The Iranian *jihad* doctrine has its roots in traditional Shiite doctrines of *jihad* and *difa'* (defense). This doctrine distinguishes between the "**initiated jihad**" (*al-jihad al-ibtida'i*) and the "defensive jihad" (*al-jihad al-difa'i*). The former is the military struggle for spreading Islam in the world under the command of the (Hidden) Imam, and it is in abeyance pending the re-appearance of the Hidden Imam. The latter (*keshwar* in Farsi or *defa'*) is defense of the lands, faith or the honor of the Muslims or protection of the "oppressed" from infidels. This jihad is a duty for all Muslims when they face aggression.

The tendency to make the defense of Iran a religious duty was evident in the war with Iraq, which Khomeini declared a "*defa-e mughaddas/jang-i mughadas*" (holy defense) or *jihad fi-sabil Allah/jihad dar rah-i*

Khuda (jihad for the cause of God). Participation in the war was declared a *fard 'ayn* (personal religious duty) incumbent on every able bodied Muslim – man, woman, and child.²⁴ Nevertheless, Khomeini accepted the ceasefire with Iraq – a decision that was described by him as a “poisoned chalice”. In his letter to the Commander of the IRGC, Mohsen Rizai²⁵, he justified his decision in terms of the national interest of Iran. This precedent serves those in Iran who call for a more pragmatic approach on the basis that Khomeini himself gave priority to the national interest over jihad.

The concept of jihad as it is taught in the Revolutionary Guards can be construed from documents found in the hands of Hizballah in South Lebanon. The lion's share of these documents seems to have been prepared originally for the IRGC and translated from Farsi to Arabic (occasionally leaving the traces of the Farsi original or the direct reference to the IRGC).

According to these documents, jihad is not a means alone to obtain a political objective but a “pillar” of faith in itself; a “doctrine and a program of action”, through which a Muslim may “sacrifice his life for the sake of Allah and attain paradise.” It has intrinsic value as a means to test the belief of the Muslim by putting him through trials and tribulations (in emulation of the Imams Ali and Hussein) and is the path towards unity with Allah's will; it serves the interests of the believers, and by doing so fulfills the Islamic obligation to serve the community (over and above the individual)²⁶ and it is rewarded in this world by Allah who will give the believers victory.²⁷ The *mujahid* derives his power from his “revolutionary sentiment”. The *mujahid* does not succumb to deprivation, but rather challenges it. This is the secret of the victories of Islam throughout the ages.²⁸

Martyrdom (*shahada*) “for Allah's sake” is not a necessary evil but the greatest reward that is accorded to a *mujahid* and the pinnacle of jihad. The Imam Ali is quoted as saying that: “Jihad is one of the gateways to paradise, which Allah has opened unto His most loyal believers [only].” The role models are the Imams Ali and Hussein, who went into battle knowing they were heavily outnumbered and that they were going to become martyred.²⁹ The slogan of Hizballah, chosen by the Iranians – “For verily Hizballah (the Party of Allah) will overcome,”³⁰ relates specifically to the dauntlessness of the organization in its waging of jihad.

It noteworthy that some of the concepts used in this context are not common in Shiite doctrine and are usually more characteristic of Sunni Salafi thought. However, in contrast to the Sunni jihadi–Salafi concept of “defensive jihad”, the Iranian interpretation of this concept is not a spontaneous defense of the homeland, but a decision to be taken by the Ruler-Jurisprudent (*wali faqih*). He – and he alone – has the capability and authority to weigh all considerations and to take the decision whether the jihad should proceed or not. This Shiite doctrine fits more the Sunni orthodox doctrine of *wali al-amr*, i.e. the ruler has the final and ultimate saying regarding the waging of jihad. This is how al-Azhar justified its refusal to allow young volunteers to go to Iraq to help the Iraqi people defend their nation against the American occupation.

The centrality of this creed is such that disarmament is seen as “suspension of jihad” which cannot be countenanced from a religious point of view. Such a suspension (and more so any permanent peace with the “oppressor”) is not a pragmatic political concession in light of the adversary's superior power, but rather forsaking of a cardinal Islamic principle. On the other hand, this doctrine of jihad leaves room for determining whether the jihad should take the form of actual fighting or alternative forms of preparation for jihad, which are equally important at a time that the *wali faqih* determines that actual fighting is in abeyance. These include: “patience” (*sabr*), steadfastness” (*sumud*), training, self-education, “jihad of self-reliance” (*jihad khodkafai*)³¹ and the “jihad of construction” (*jihad sazangadi*).

As opposed to the elaborate legalistic discussion regarding the jihad against Iraq and Israel, clerics of the Iranian regime have been relatively silent on the legal status of the jihad against the West. Unlike Sunni scholars, who are not in power and vie among themselves in issuing *fatwas* that justify various aspects of jihad, neither Khomeini nor Khamene'i have provided a comprehensive picture of their concept of the rules of engagement in the jihad against the West.

Again ... back to the point?

Millions of people across the globe have died in the wake of the most recent spate of Islamic revolution ... the jihad ... since the Iranian revolution began!

The 2009 insights from the Herzliya Conference provide some useful information regarding the nature of this jihad from a social, political, cultural and religious perspective. On the other hand what remains so mysterious is the perpetual lack of understanding and response to this threat by the "Western Culture"!

Still further in this commentator's opinion there remains an unwillingness to address the larger question of how this "jihad" and the ignorance of "the West" should be viewed in a Biblical context!

Initially it must be declared that the "West" ... i.e. Europe and the United States (on the whole) are clearly asleep to the reality that has taken root. The "West" in all its relative liberalism, syncretism, individualism, humanism and unbounded toleration of virtually all things ... has become trapped, stupefied and paralyzed to the point wherein its avowed enemy is allowed to not just exist but flourish. The problem is apparent in that a significant portion of the "West" cannot even admit that the enemy is the enemy. Hence a continuation of anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish behaviors at the social and geopolitical strata of the "West".

The "West" simply cannot accept the reality that the "jihad" does not need or want from the "West" approval of its "right to exist and promulgate". The "West" does not understand that there will be no place for law-abiding and peaceful Muslims when the "jihad" succeeds. The "West" does not comprehend that there is no place for co-existence between the "jihad" and Western liberal democracy, socialism and Christianity.

Quite frankly the "West" has become a people whose governing principle is that "all principles" are equally important and deserve protection ... ironically even desiring to protect the principles of the enemy whose main principle itself is to eliminate the Western ideology which is perceived to be evil and satanic!

Sadly the "live and let live" mantra of the "West" is just not sufficient for the "jihad"! This live and let live mantra of "West" is what the "jihad" has vowed to wipe off the face of the Earth.

So ... is it being stated that the "West" is simply ignorant (collectively)? I will let you the reader mull over this question.

What can be stated however is that the storm is rising ... and the "West" does not seem to be preparing ... the "West" is sleeping!

Now beyond looking at the tactical geopolitical aspects of what is going on in the world presently ... let us consider some broader aspects of this "jihad" in a Biblical perspective.

Does anyone ever wonder about the need ... nay the mandate of the "jihad" to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth? Hmmm!

From a Biblical perspective the answer is quite simple: "As long as Israel exists then the Hebrew Bible ... along with the G_D of Israel continues to stand in opposition to the Koran and the god of Islam!" Please note as well that this front of "Islam" is little more than a mask for the innate conquering imperialism of ancient Persia ... going all the way back to ancient Babylon! An imperium mind you that is no less pervasive or destructive than that of Greco-Roman Hellenism.

Frankly we need look no further than this! And ... from a Biblical perspective it is clear that this central theme of "elimination of Israel" places the proponents of "jihad" directly against the G_D of Israel ... the GREAT I AM (YHVH) and of course the Jewish Messiah ... YESHUA ... more commonly known throughout the world as Jesus

Christ! Still further it must be noted that in a Biblical perspective, despite a marked difference in tactics, Hellenic Imperialism (the West) stands in opposition to the G_D of Israel as well.

Consequently this mandate to eliminate Israel ... G_D's chosen people ... enables us to define the proponents of "jihad" as being children of the adversary ... children of "ha-satan"!

But of course this mandate to eliminate the Jew ... is not unique to the "jihad". Long before Islam's existence Imperial Egypt sought this objective. Later the Persian Empire ... The Roman Empire ... The Catholic Church ... Martin Luther ... numerous European Monarchies ... and Nazi Germany all tried and failed to rid this temporal world community of "the Jew"!

What is unique at the present time however is the re-establishment not just of national Israel but also the re-establishment of those nations that consistently played the nemesis to Israel ... played the adversary to Israel ... played the "ha-satan" to Israel and the G_D of Israel.

Ultimately the fact that the "West" ... largely influenced by Christianity ... remains ignorant to the critical nature of this perpetual battle, only supports the notion that the "West" is devoid of the knowledge of what is really happening! The "West" has been lost in the haze of self-determinant Hellenic thought ... or assuredly it would appear so.

If the "West" ... if Christians ... had not bought a bill of goods that claims Israel has been replaced by the Church ... then we should see nothing but support from the West for National Israel as this cosmic battle perpetuates.

But even accepting for conversation sake the notion that the "Church" has replaced Israel ... what are we actually witnessing? Where is the "Crusade"? ... Where is the backbone?

It would seem that we are left with a people that would prefer to sit this one out. Well guess what? The "jihad" does not care about neutrality or ambivalence ... the "jihad" cares about one and only one thing ... victory and death to Israel as well as the liberal Hellenic framework of the "West"!

Please dear reader ... be certain that we are experiencing a new era of warfare ... of trial ... of tribulation. But also note that it is a war with a not to secretive agenda. On one hand there is the "West" which would simply be satisfied with the assimilation of the Jews and on the other hand there is the "jihad" which less discretely calls for the annihilation of the Jews. Ultimately we are left with the very real proposition that the imperial powers and principalities of the Earth are being used to achieve the ultimate goal ... victory over G_D's chosen people! And pray tell whose objective is this?

What we should be able to recognize is that the forces at work ... guile, confusion, hatred and violence are simply various prongs of ha-satan ... who cares nothing at all about the impacts to people ... who cares nothing at all about the victory of any particular imperium ... who is driven only by pride and desire to be G_D Most High!

So ... whose side are you on? Are you for or against the G_D of Israel ... are you for or against the Messiah of Israel ... are you for or against the chosen people of G_D? Hmmm!

Shalom Aleichem,

P.R. Otokletos