

ISRAEL NEWS FROM **CALVARY CHAPEL** **JERUSALEM**

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ISRAEL, ON TRIAL BY WORLD COURT, BURIES ITS DEAD

In an ironic turn of events, the international trial against Israel's self-defense against Palestinian terrorism began on February 23, as Israeli families continued to bury their dead from the latest murderous attack. Eight Israelis were killed and over 60 wounded when a member of Arafat's Al Aksa Martyr's Brigade detonated a bomb on February 22 in the center of west Jerusalem.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Holland, began hearing arguments on February 23 on the mostly-completed 450-mile (720-kilometer) barrier of fences, ditches, watch posts and - for 3-5% of it - concrete walls that Israel is erecting in and around Judea and Samaria. The UN General Assembly requested the hearing, expected to last three days, and both Arab and Jewish groups have sent hundreds of protestors to The Hague to present their cases.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has prepared several presentations, written and audio, explaining the need for Israel's counter-terrorism partition fence. SEE VIDEO: <http://securityfence.mfa.gov.il/>.

The Israeli Delegation at The Hague released a statement today about "the one-sided nature of the question before the court. It seeks to put Israel's measures to stop terrorism on trial, but not the terrorists themselves; it focuses only on quality of life [in the Palestinian Authority], and not on the right of Israelis to life itself; and it stresses only Israeli responsibilities, without a word about the responsibilities of the [PA] side." (Arutz 7)

"TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE ON TRIAL, NOT ISRAEL"

President Moshe Katsav, addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on February 22, made the following remarks:

"It is the Palestinian terrorist organizations who should be on trial before the International Court of Justice in The Hague and not the State of Israel. As long as they continue perpetrating acts of terrorism, Israel must build the

security fence and protect the lives of its citizens. The international community must halt the double standards; nobody has the right to condemn Israel or put it on trial solely because it is taking steps to protect the lives of its citizens by means of a temporary security fence." (Arutz 7)

UK AND SWEDEN PAY FOR ARAFAT AT THE HAGUE

The Palestinian propaganda offensive against Israel in the Hague is being led by two lawyers -- Michael Tarazi and Diana Butto, who are employed by Arafat's PLO and whose salaries are being paid by the taxpayers of Britain and Sweden via the Negotiations Support Unit.

The European Institute for Research on the Middle East has completed a study of the Palestinian Negotiations Support Unit, created in 1998 and funded by British and other governments, for technical assistance in its preparations for permanent status talks. The NSU is officially part of the PLO and therefore under the direct control of Arafat.

After the collapse of the Oslo framework and negotiations, the NSU has continued to operate, primarily as an information and propaganda arm of the Palestinian Authority. In particular, the NSU, which continues to receive British and other European funding, and its personal, have been central in the campaign to demonize Israel regarding the construction of the separation barrier, including in the UN General Assembly and the case brought to the International Court of Justice. The text is available at www.europeaninstitute.info/Publications.htm SAUDIS

SAUDIS LAUNCH MILITARY EXERCISE NEAR ISRAEL

Saudi Arabia has launched a major military exercise. The Saudi Defense Ministry said the exercise began on Saturday in northwestern region near the Israeli and Jordanian borders. The ministry said the exercise would last five days and include live ammunition fire.

The exercise was deemed as under the responsibility of the Northwestern Regional Command. A military statement said the exercise would include a series of maneuvers. The military plans at least another exercise over the next few weeks. The Saudi ministry said the Royal Saudi Navy would launch a live fire exercise in the Red Sea in March

MEANWHILE: MORE SYRIAN-SAUDI CONNECTIONS Deputy Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Nabi Rashid Hamed and Saudi Abdul Aziz Bin Saed al-Shatri signed on Monday, a program of scientific and technical cooperation between Ministers of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform in the Syrian Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia for the years 2004-2005, in the field of exchanging expertise and scientific programs. The agreement stipulates exchanging expertise, visits and scientific programs in

the fields of animals and agricultural issues. (MENL/IMRA)

US ENVOY SAYS ANTI-SEMITISM AS BAD AS 1930s

The U.S. envoy to the European Union said that anti-Semitism in Europe was nearly as bad as it was in the 1930s, a decade which saw the rise of German Nazism and led to the extermination of six millions Jews.

The remarks by Ambassador Rockwell Schnabel are likely to rekindle controversy over charges that anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe, which prompted the European Union's executive to schedule a major seminar on the issue next week.

Speaking at a dinner given by the American Jewish Committee to launch a Transatlantic Institute in Brussels, Schnabel said relations between Europe and the United States had improved since last year's acrimony over the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"There is one issue that we can work on together," he said. "It is to overcome the issue of anti-Semitism which ... is indeed-as I understand it and read-getting to a point where it is as bad as it was in the 30s." He did not elaborate. (Reuters)

ROLL OVER AND DIE

(Op-ED By Michael Freund, The Jerusalem Post)

South Korea has one. So does Kuwait, Lithuania, Namibia, South Africa, and India, not to mention Spain, Slovakia, and even the U.S.

What these disparate nations all have in common is that each one has built, or is in the process of building, a security fence along one of its borders, either to keep out smugglers, thwart infiltrators, or simply control the flow of people and goods across its boundaries.

But unlike Israel, they also share another conspicuous trait: none of their barriers has been threatened with condemnation by the International Court of Justice; nor have they received round-the-clock coverage on CNN. Each of these countries erected a fence for the simple reason that that is what states tend to do when they feel their interests are being threatened.

Kuwait's was put up for fairly obvious reasons, thanks to a once-hostile Iraq, while South Korea's barrier is intended to stave off a possible invasion from its communist neighbor to the north.

Lithuania saw fit to draw a line in metal along its border with Belarus, just as Namibia did to neighboring Angola, India has done with Pakistan, and the

U.S. to Mexico. Slovakia and the Ukraine are similarly demarcated, while Saudi Arabia recently considered building a fence along its border with Yemen.

And the list does not end there.

Five years ago, Spain spent more than \$35 million erecting a 10-foot-tall fence around its North African enclave of Melilla, cutting it off from the rest of Morocco. It consists of two rows of barricades, hi-tech security cameras, fiber optic sensors and a road to accommodate police patrols. The Spanish government went to all this trouble to stem the tide of Moroccans seeking to cross the border illegally.

Hey, now doesn't that sound familiar?

Even South Africa, which so brazenly criticized Israel at Monday's opening hearing at The Hague, has invested tens of millions of rand in recent years to reinforce its own border fence along the Limpopo River, which delineates the boundary with Zimbabwe. The reason? To keep out cattle that might be carrying foot-and-mouth disease.

To which I cannot help but ask: Why is it okay for South Africa to keep out the cows, but not for Israel to bar entry to suicide attackers?

For goodness' sake, there is even a border fence stretching for some 10 miles between England and Scotland, and they haven't fought a war against each other for centuries.

NOR CAN it be argued that the problem with Israel's fence is that it is not on a recognized border. Pakistan is protesting an elaborate fence erected by India in disputed Kashmir. Yet the world does not cry that India is stealing "occupied Pakistani territory."

"The fence will be a permanent barrier to prevent militants from entering," the head of India's Border Security Force in Kashmir told the Washington Post last summer. "Why should we wait for them to come in and attack our people?"

With so many fences going up in so many places around the world, why then is it Israel, and only Israel, which finds itself in the dock over this issue? The answer, it seems, is quite simple: The world is essentially telling the Jewish state to roll over and die.

They criticize us when we actively defend ourselves through military means, and now they aim to condemn us for adopting passive measures such as putting up a lousy fence.

Take, for example, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Shortly after the Palestinians launched the present terror campaign in September 2000, Annan ascended the podium at the UN Security Council and called on Israel "to use non-lethal methods" when quelling outbreaks of Palestinian unrest.

And yet, when Israel proceeded to do just that by initiating construction of the security fence, Annan decided to lead the charge against it. In a report submitted to the UN General Assembly on November 24, 2003, he berated Israel for erecting the barrier, calling it "a deeply unproductive act."

So, if Israel's use of military means against Palestinian terror is unacceptable to Annan, and he considers nonmilitary means, such as the fence, to be "unproductive" - how exactly does the secretary-general expect the Jewish state to protect its citizens?

Now don't get me wrong; I think the construction of the security fence is a pitiful substitute for an effective counter-terrorism policy on Israel's part. Indeed, rather than encircling the perpetrators of terror, the government is fencing in their intended victims.

But, that in no way gives the nations of the world the right to stand in judgment on the Jewish state. Were they to find themselves in a similar situation, they would no doubt act to ensure the safety and security of their citizens. In truth, it is not that the fence incorporates parts of Judea and Samaria that troubles our accusers, nor do they really care about the inconvenience it might cause to some Palestinians.

What truly seems to disturb them is that it just might save some Jewish lives. And that, as far as they are concerned, is perhaps the most unforgivable crime of all.

(February 25, 2004. Michael Freund, served as deputy director of Communications & Policy Planning in the Prime Minister's Office under former premier Binyamin Netanyahu.)

NEWS REPORT FROM JERUSALEM

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