

# **THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN ISRAEL**

By Rani Levy, Former Advisor to Prime Minister Sharon on World Jewish  
Affairs

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*Note from Pastor Kevin: This is a very well written and insightful article. Mr. Levy is in shock that Ariel Sharon has changed from being a defender of the Land of Israel to being the chief instigator to destroy it. How can this be? The answer is found in being aware of those people in high places who are bringing us to a "New World Order". These powerful global thinkers have given Ariel Sharon his marching orders. That is, give back the Gaza and West Bank or else.*

*It is interesting to me that Ariel Sharon signed into the law the removal of the southwest portion of Israel (under extreme pressure from the U.S.) on the same day that the Southwestern United States started suffering unprecedented rains and destruction. Is this just a coincidence? Maybe, but if this is a judgment from God, what will happen when the Jewish residents are actually being forcibly removed from their homes (planned for June/July)?*

This paper is written with an effort on my part to filter out emotions and opinions I have, and to focus on facts. It is a response to some of you who have asked me repeatedly over the past several weeks, "what is going on" in Israel. At the end of the (hopefully) objective summary, you will get the usual dosage of emotions and ideology I am so known for, for good and for bad...

## **The Palestinian Street.**

It is a fact, that Abu Mazen has been able to stabilize his control over the Palestinian street. Israel is trying hard to assist him, by not publicly praising him on one hand, and giving him room to act on the other hand, by restraining the IDF responses to continuous, decreasing, terror attacks on Israel. Abu Mazen has been able to exert his authority over the political and security organizations of the Palestinian Authority (PA), and he seems to be fully committed to stop terrorism against Israel. It is his belief, that a diplomatic assault against Israel, will produce higher dividends to the Palestinians than all the terrorism combined. He says it, and he acts it.

## **Palestinian Terror.**

At large, we have seen towards the end of 2004 a significant decline in terror attacks against Israel. Apart from the continuous shelling of Gush-Katif and the town of Sderot in the Western Negev area, Palestinian terror groups have hardly delivered any activity. The primary reason for this at the second half of 04', was NOT a Palestinian decision to cut terror, but rather, an amazing success rate in PREVENTING attacks, by Israel's GSS (General Security Services) and IDF (Israel Defense Forces). More than 50 suicide bombings were prevented in 2004.

It is since Arafat's death, that the Palestinians themselves, gave up most of the terror attacks, and it is about 2 weeks now, that we see a dramatic decline in the production of artillery attacks on Gush-Katif and Sderot.

### Bottom line:

\*\*\* Arafat's death.

\*\*\* IDF & GSS tremendous success in human intelligence and pre-emptive strikes on terror producing entities.

\*\*\* Fatigue and loss of faith in the ability to win, or deliver any real gain for their cause, on the part of Palestinian terror groups.

These 3 factors, have opened a way for Abu-Mazen to take the Palestinian struggle into the diplomatic arena. For the US administration, EU and UN, this will be a welcomed step. For Israel, it will present a more challenging front. When buses and café's were blowing up in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, no one wanted to hear about Palestinian "claims". When Abu Mazens pleasant diplomatic manners, will replace Arafat's' ugly unshaved barbaric hate driven voice, Israel will have to recruit all it has to resist.

(What does Israel have, is a different question...).

### **The "Disengagement Plan".**

Sharon's "Disengagement Plan" calls for the destruction of about 12 Israeli villages, and the forceful relocation of approximately 10,000 people. About two thirds of those, are in the Southwestern Gaza Strip, in the area called "Gush-Katif", and the other third, are in the Northern Samaria area.

Since this plan is extremely controversial and harms substantially the "right-wing" camp in the Israeli political spectrum, Mr. Sharon has lost his right wing coalition members in the Knesset. Not only that, about 10-15 MKs' from Sharon's own Likud party, strongly oppose his plan, and already voted against him on several opportunities in the Knesset and in Likud party conventions which took place several times in the past 10 months.

This is why Sharon had to bring in the dovish Labor Party into a partnership with him. Headed by Shimon Peres, the Labor Party will allow Sharon's government to exist a little longer – and perhaps, to complete the disengagement plan.

Even though many people feel that it is a “done deal”, it is far from being the case. True, Sharon is very determined to execute the relocation and destruction of those communities, however, the political environment is so fragile, that the likelihood of Sharon maneuvering through the next 3-6 months is high, but not at all guaranteed. When Israelis will start seeing and hearing the pain of the 10,000 people against whom this terrible act is aimed, when more and more Likud party members and Ministers will have a problem moving in the country in public gatherings due to public anger and outrage, and when more and more IDF officers or soldiers will ask to be removed from their position in order not to conduct this act, this is when things will get more and more complicated for Sharon. There are reasonable chances for Sharon to fall, prior to executing the “disengagement”.

### **The Israeli economy.**

According recent economic reports, Dun & Bradstreet has updated Israel's credit rating in the world has went from a (-) to a “Stable” rating. Reports this week persisted that Standard & Poors will follow very soon.

Netanyahu's appointment of World known economist and financial icon Stanley Fisher to be Israel's Bank Commissioner, has gained tremendous compliments from world leaders and banking giants.

Israel's world known brain power of Hi-Tech and Bio-Tech centers, are on the up-side again, all reporting a careful observation of increasing interest in venture capital investments and more and more visitors from potential investors in Israeli start ups and Capital Venture projects.

Tourism in Israel has recovered completely. From a deep crisis during the years 2001, 2002 & 2003, we have seen a drastic recovery of the inbound tourism into Israel already throughout 2004. The year 2004 has ended with tourism rates of over 75% of the record year 2000. But more so, the year 2005 is already looking almost as good as 2000, with many hotels and travel agents reporting over bookings and hotels being sold out for the known hi-seasons of the industry, Passover, and the Jewish hi holidays coming up in Fall 2005.

Employment rates in Israel have gone up as well, and January 05' has been a record month in demand for workforce, since January 2002.

From a narrow political standpoint, there is no doubt that the above report, serves the Sharon government very well. It is very comfortable to many skeptical Israelis to make the linkage and say – *“Look at all the benefits the disengagement plan has earned us already. Our economy is up, terror is down, Egypt is hugging us, and the tourists and the investors are back in*

*Israel.”*

## **And now, some ideology, opinions and faith related matters...**

### **Why is the Disengagement Plan immoral?**

The residents of Gush-Katif and Northern Samaria, have come to live in these places about 30-35 years ago, with a Government decision to settle these places. All the infrastructures including improved loans and mortgages which has helped these people go and live there, were provided by the Israeli Governments since 1967. NEVER, since 1967, has ANY Israel Government declared a possible removal of these people. (With the exception of Rabin in 1993, who suggested the “Netzarim First” Plan, and abandoned it later ). Is it normal for a country to send people to live in certain areas of historic national relevance, and in 35 years time, remove them from it ? Can anyone give valid examples of this elsewhere in the world from the past 50-60 years ???

Mr. Sharon was elected on the ticket of who Mr. Sharon was for the past 50 years in the Israeli public life. A hard hearted hawk, a right wing ideologist, a man who has single handedly, planted himself most of the 250,000 Jews who reside today in Judea and Samaria. It is true that Sharon talked about “A Palestinian State” in the recent elections, but he said there would be uncompromising conditions in order to advance in this direction. None of these conditions were met, nor ever accepted by the Palestinians.

People like myself, and there are many many hundreds of thousands like me, who voted for Likud in the past, can not vote for the Likud party – if elections were held today.

Voting for Sharon today means voting FOR a brutal uprooting of people from their homes. It is voting for giving a State (!!!) to the Palestinian terrorism. Is this what we voted Sharon for in the past 2 elections ?

Absolutely NOT. This is another reason why Sharon's actions and Disengagement plans are IMMORAL, because it is a theft of my vote, and a betrayal of my trust.

His contract with me and with hundred of thousands others was NOT for any of what he is doing now. It violates the Likud party platform, and it deceived the voters.

To answer such complaints as the one above, Sharon decided to go on an inner party referendum of the Likud party members last May. He lost, (60% said NO to the disengagement plan) but decided to ignore the results. Can anyone imagine such conduct in the USA or in England or

Japan ?

### **Why is the disengagement Anti-Zionist?**

Zionism is the practical execution of Jewish rights on the land of Israel. Settling and building communities, schools homes and industries, has always been regarded the most noble and civilized way of making the point of regaining control over our land. If the Jews believe the land of Israel is theirs, by way of a Biblical, Historical and Moral mandate, then the differences between the Gush-Katif region and the Galilee, are non-existent. Don't believe this ?

In 2002, as Prime Minister already, (!!!), Sharon said “*Tel-Aviv and Nezarim Alike*”. Meaning, there's no difference between Tel-Aviv and Nezarim, the most controversial and isolated “settlement” in the Gaza Strip. This also relates to how Sharon stole the voter's voice, and turned completely astray of what people thought they were voting for.

The Zionist cause as a whole, **the RIGHT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE to the Land of Israel**, is in the core of the Israeli – Arab conflict – and not some argument about this settlement or that valley. This phrase right here, is what people must get, in order to be able to talk about this conflict. I truly believe, that the CORE of the conflict is that the Arab world, and the Palestinians included, have not reached the needed acceptance, of Israel's birth-right to that land, and have very low respect to the Jewish culture and history. The fact that Abu Mazen, the present new Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, did his Phd in a Moscow university trying to prove that the Holocaust was all made up, (AKA a Holocaust denier), is a small example of that point. Not a territorial dispute, but a clash of cultures.

### **If G-d forbid, the plan will go through, will Sharon reap the expected diplomatic or military gains?**

Absolutely NOT. And this is the amazing part. Sharon has not once said what Israel will get out of this. The US has rejected Israeli requests to help finance the direct costs of this plan. Also, indirect costs, such as relocating about 3,000 families or so, have not even been requested by Israel. The USA has not agreed to make ANY future improvements towards Israel, and nothing tangible such as moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, or releasing Mr.(Jonathan) Pollard, or a Military Pact of some sort or refusing certain Palestinian demands in the future – NONE of these things, have been brought to public knowledge.

But worse. By conducting the brutal and barbaric transfer of 5,000 children from their homes in which they were born and raised in, Sharon is signaling to the world the worse message : “*We are fixing an old misconduct. We are*

*giving the Palestinians what is theirs', and we are taking out our own people, who settled on Arab territory”.*

This horrible rhetoric, will boomerang at Israel very soon. The world, will not waste time praising Sharon's self imposed policy of destroying Jewish homes. The world will simply say, ***“well ??? nice step in the right direction. But what about the rest of the 250,000 Jews who live illegally on Arab land taken in 1967 ??? When will you start moving them out ???”***

And so, in complete contrary to what he thinks, Sharon will find the walls narrowing on him ever more, if he will conduct his plan. He will further harm the Jewish claim for historic rights to the land, and he will cement even deeper the International claim and expectation from Israel, that only Jews moving in one direction, on the rubbles of their own homes built 25 – 35 years ago, can be the foundation for peace.

### **Is Sharon truly interested in this to minimize the risk to the residents themselves?**

Common mistake. In the past 4 years the Palestinians waged a vicious battle on Israeli civilian centers. **More than half of the 1,200 civilians killed, were killed in Israel's cities, and not in the “territories”.** Also, Sharon is not only offering to evacuate Gush-Katif in the SW Gaza, but also about 6 other villages in the Northern Samaria, which are NOT in heavily populated Palestinian areas. The town of Sderot, in the Western Negev, has been shelled heavily in the past year. They have taken over 1,000 rockets, in their homes and schools and café's. If the safety of the people is the issue, why has Sharon not proposed to evacuate the town of Sderot ?

Another point.

The famous “philadelphia” highway, which slithers along the fence of the Israel - Egypt border, is under complete Israeli control. Yet, through underground tunnels, (primarily), the Palestinians have been able to develop an artillery industry, that has delivered over 6,000 rockets on Israeli communities in the past 2 years. Under the “disengagement” plan, Israel will give up that very complicated Highway. It is easy to imagine, how much more the terrorists' abilities will improve, once Israel will leave this area. Under our control, with the Jewish Gush-Katif region along more than a third of it, the “Philadelphia” road was like a bucket full of holes for us. Soon, if Sharon will take out Gush-Katif's residents and the IDF patrolling Philadelphia, you can rely on longer range rockets, and more sophisticated armaments that the terrorist groups will get a hold of. (And please don't tell me that the Egyptians will now be responsible for sealing this border...).

## **What do people like me hope for these days ?**

Since I believe the “Disengagement Plan” is very dangerous for Israel, and I believe that the way in which Sharon has decided to pursue his plans is immoral and Anti-Democratic, the only reasonable thing for me to wish for, is the immediate removal of Sharon from office. There is enough potential to succeed in this. Our political system is crazy, and does Israel a lot of harm over the decades. However, there's one good thing about it. When our leaders go crazy, ( a frequent phenomenon since June 1992 ), there are democratic political safeguards which allow to remove them. It takes tremendous faith and persistence, but it has worked several times. Who will come next, a common question, should not paralyze our thinking. If people see Sharon's present actions as dangerous as I see them, it is obvious that the important thing is to impeach him in the democratic ways that are available. The key tool these days, is widespread public demonstrations, which will inspire more of the Likud MKs', to stand up against Sharon. There are already about 12-15 of them, we need 5 more, and it is done.

## **What is going to happen ?**

This is the \$1M question. But, I believe, that Sharon will not get to the scheduled November 2006 elections as scheduled. I believe he will lose power over his present Government in the next 3-6 months.

## **What if Sharon survives, and his plans go through?**

We will have an uglier Israel. An Israel where the army fights fellow reserve soldiers, rather than the enemy. An Israel which takes a village built over 35 years back, and destroys it, so Hamas and Jihad guerillas will celebrate on it. An Israel which destroys its own right to its homeland, by adopting the Arab rhetoric, that we took THEIR land, and the only condition for Peace is our return to the 1967 line. An Israel in which a leader can get elected on a ticket of crushing terror, and then in turn, he crushes his own party and its constitution. An Israel in which Cabinet Ministers are being fired prior to a vote, in order to ensure a majority. Irony at its best.

In 1999, an Important Israeli figure said the following words to Golan-Heights residents, when Mr. Barak was planning to give the Golan to Syria :

*“In the next few weeks, government officials will come to your homes and offer you money in order to leave your farms and your homes. They will tempt you, and they will double those amounts if you shall refuse. Do not talk to them - Send them back home!”*

*Ariel Sharon.*

