

Religious Zionism under ugly attack

written by David M. Weinberg | 14.02.2026

I cannot tolerate the demonizing of heroic Religious Zionist women, wives and mothers of courageous soldiers – who have led campaigns for the passage of an effective and enforceable haredi draft law.

Burn the kitchen down

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A transformational Trump must strike at Iran now.

Foreign forces will fail

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Only the IDF can truly defang Hamas.

Re-liberating Jerusalem

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Three news items of the past week serve as reminders that the security and sovereignty situations in Jerusalem require urgent government action.

First is the passing of the heroic Jerusalem archaeologist Dr. Gabi Barkay, who led protests against Wakf destruction of Temple Mount antiquities and founded the Temple Mount Sifting Project – which for the past 20 years has sought to recover and research the ruined, residual antiquities, with important results.

Barkay played a major role in pushing back against Palestinian ideological violence in Jerusalem and in reclaiming Jewish historical rights.

Second is the notable change in police policy on *Har HaBayit* (the Temple Mount), allowing Jewish/Israeli visitors to bring pages with prayer texts onto the Mount. This is one more blessed step forward toward full-scale and regular Jewish prayer at the site – the holiest place in earth according to Jewish tradition – with all necessary accoutrements (Torah scrolls, prayer books, tallit and tefillin, and more) in a permanent location.

Aside from being essential from a religious perspective, this is long-overdue pushback against the Arab/Islamic denialism of Jewish history in Zion and the Palestinian attempt to turn the Temple Mount into ground zero for warfare against Israel.

Third is the razing of the large UNRWA compound in Maalot Dafna (Sheikh Jarrah) in Jerusalem, the necessary and uber-justified result of new laws passed in Knesset outlawing UNRWA operations in Israel.

This too is long-overdue pushback against the Palestinian refugee-martyrdom narrative, perpetuated by UNRWA's support for the so-called Palestinian "right" of return, and it is punishment for the involvement of UNRWA personnel and administrators in Hamas operations against Israel in Gaza.

A NEXT STEP in the re-securing – dare I say re-liberation – of Jerusalem must include action to counter the subversion of Israeli sovereignty by radical Islamic groups (funded mainly by Turkey and Qatar) and by European nations and NGOs.

According to Dr. David Koren of the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research, foreign troublemakers are becoming ever-more brazen and omnipresent. They engage in covert and overt activities, both legal and illegal, ideological and concrete, in the civilian and security spheres. They have little interest in improving the lives of Jerusalemite Arabs but rather seek to undermine Israeli administration of the city. And some of the bad actors pump-out messaging

supportive of terrorism against Israel and Jews.

Another critical area requiring government action is wildcat Arab building in the Jerusalem envelope. Palestinians have grabbed over 2,600 dunam of land and built over 30,000 illegal structures in and around Jerusalem. Over the past decade 1,500 unauthorized buildings have shot up in the Jerusalem neighborhoods of Shuafat and Kafr Akab alone, with some of these buildings 15-20 stories tall.

(These were built without heed of engineering standards. God help residents of these buildings if an earthquake hits Jerusalem.)

MOST OF ALL, Israel must boost the manpower, resources, and authority of the Jerusalem police force, and the Border Police and IDF units arrayed around Jerusalem, to prevent infiltration of terrorists.

Everybody knows that the security fence/barrier around Jerusalem is a joke. Aside from the tens of thousands of Palestinians who travel legally into Jerusalem every day through 16 supervised gates, there are thousands of other Palestinians who infiltrate Israel illegally over and through the unfinished fence every month.

Most come to work in Jerusalem, but more than a few penetrate Israel for terrorist purposes, like the terrorists who breached the fence in northern Jerusalem and carried out the terrorist attack at the Ramot junction last September, killing six people.

The IDF says that about 16,000 Palestinians attempted to infiltrate into Israel from the West Bank in 2025, half of whom were apprehended – and mostly in the Jerusalem envelope. But since the IDF is not responsible for the barrier in the Jerusalem area (but rather the Israel Police and the paramilitary Border Police), the actual number of infiltrations is believed to be at least double the IDF number.

Obviously, this is an ongoing, massive security risk, an acute blunder, which must be addressed, especially as the Moslem month of Ramadan approaches one month from now.

Ramadan may be a holy time in the Moslem calendar – meant as a month of fasting, charity, prayer, contrition, and reflection – but often it has been “celebrated” by Moslem, especially Palestinian, violence, especially in Jerusalem

and on the Temple Mount. It is Ramadan exploited as an excuse for ramped-up holy war against Israel.

Those with long memories will remember that Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack against Israel on Yom Kippur 1973 – during the month of Ramadan. In many Arab circles, it is still called the “Ramadan War.” Somehow the prayer, contrition, and reflection did not inhibit that sneak attack that slaughtered 2,700 Israelis. Neither did the fasting. Egyptian and Syrian soldiers were given an exemption from fasting because they were engaged in the religious duty of killing “infidels.”

Hamas gleefully labeled the murderous attack in 2016 on the Sarona Market in Tel Aviv the “Ramadan Operation.” The beginning of Israel’s “Guardian of the Walls” offensive in 2021 against Hamas in Gaza was marked by barrages of Palestinian rockets fired toward Jerusalem; with 4,400 rockets fired into Israel over that 12-day war. That was also Ramadan.

SO SURE ENOUGH, again this year, everybody fears “escalation” in Ramadan, especially since Hamas and its mouthpiece the *Al Jazeera* broadcasting network are religiously calling for expansion of the “Al Aqsa Flood” (i.e., the war launched by Hamas’ October 7 attack) to Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria via terrorism and uprising.

Some subsequently call upon Israeli leaders to pay deference to Ramadan, to be extra cautious during Ramadan, to do nothing to “provoke” Moslems on Ramadan – especially in and around Jerusalem’s Temple Mount – because Moslem emotions are oh-so-very sensitive during this month.

This is the soft bigotry of low expectations. When so-called security experts, politicians, diplomats, and statesmen nod their heads and say, “Well, of course, tensions always run high during Ramadan, and as such Jews/Israelis should keep a low profile because Moslem violence must be anticipated during the holy month” – they insult the majority of the world’s Moslems, as well as our intelligence. It is the very definition of surrendering to bullies rather than confronting them.

Instead, Israel’s security, intelligence, and diplomatic experts should be gathering to secure Jerusalem over Ramadan and beyond.

This means imposing anti-riot limits on Arab visitors to Jerusalem and the two Moslem shrines on the Temple Mount – as has been the case over the past three years. This requires multiple concentric circles of police/army checkpoints in a broad envelope in and around the city.

(Only men over 45 years old and married with families, as well as women and children, should be allowed to visit. This keeps away the population most likely to riot or commit acts of terrorism.)

Furthermore, any Palestinian/Moslem preacher on the Temple Mount or in the city who incites to violence – say, by blaspheming the “Zionists” for “Judaizing” Jerusalem and “storming” its Moslem holy sites – should be swiftly jailed.

Alas, such wretched talk has become almost standard Palestinian discourse. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas continues to stoke a broad-scale campaign against the authenticity of Israel’s historic rights in Jerusalem. In 2015 he screeched that “Al-Aksa is ours and so is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. They (the Jews) have no right to desecrate these holy sites with their filthy feet.”

Additionally, the Israel Police must act decisively to bar the flying of ISIS, Hamas, Islamic Movement, and Turkish flags on the Temple Mount as well as banners with calls to annihilate Israel and the Jewish People. Again, this has become almost expected behavior during Ramadan.

On the diplomatic level, Israel must be ready to rebuff the despicable denunciations of gullible (and not-so-gullible) Western progressives, who, when there is trouble in Jerusalem, love to blabber about Israel’s supposedly (but not really) “unprovoked and unacceptable” actions on the Temple Mount, and about “excessive Israeli force” (again, not), “violations of the status quo,” and other such balderdash.

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Drunk on Jew-hatred and hatred of the West

written by David M. Weinberg | 14.02.2026

Why are the loudest mouths silent regarding freedom for Iran?

How lies became weapons in the war on the west

written by Ruth Wasserman Lande | 14.02.2026

The quote that “if you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it” is usually attributed to Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi minister of propaganda, but he was far from the first to adopt this manipulation to misguide the masses.

Long before mass media existed, the Soviet Union understood that the public would largely believe any narrative if it was repeated often enough, no matter how insane it sounded or how little sense it actually made.

Hence, when USSR leader Joseph Stalin, one of the world’s worst mass murderers, died, many young Soviet Jews wept over him, despite the bitter irony that he embodied the very oppression and torture of the Jewish people. Those who wept over him were simply victims of systematic mass indoctrination.

Inventing a people

In the 1960s, when the Soviet Union sought to diminish the influence of the United States in the Middle East, it devised a course of action to weaken the US’s closest ally in the region, Israel. The Soviets embraced Yasser Arafat, an Egyptian-born Arab, and effectively constructed a narrative casting him as the leader of a people who did not formerly exist: the Palestinians.

The so-called “liberation” narrative, which was the basis for the establishment of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), was inherently misleading, as it referred to the liberation of lands occupied during the Six Day War in 1967. The PLO was established in 1964, a fact that directly undermined the narrative, but

that did nothing to deter its creators. Facts were never allowed to interfere. Creating chaos in Western-led strongholds served the Soviet regime by undermining American influence and projected strength.

From Moscow to Ramallah

Interestingly, Abu Mazen, also known as Mahmoud Abbas, the current president of the Fatah movement (or the PLO) in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria), was educated and indoctrinated in the former Soviet Union. In the 1980s, he studied there, completing his doctoral thesis, which largely dealt with Holocaust denial. A little-known fact is that he was recruited and groomed by the KGB to continue to leverage and strengthen what Arafat had begun with Soviet backing.

In 1979, the leaders of the Islamic Revolution in Iran also sought to carry out a similar doctrine – the red-green alliance – as first conceptualized by the Soviets, to manipulate the minds of young, impressionable Western liberals wishing to promote freedom and equal rights.

The red-green alliance was based on planting doubt, unrest, and self-loathing among the young generation in Iran – namely students, artists, and intellectuals – who believed they were demonstrating for freedom and equal rights, only to be swallowed by the Islamic regime as soon as it came to power.

Chaos as strategy

Radical Islam, whether Shi'ite or Sunni, does not recognize the concept of a nation-state (El-Watan in Arabic). It only allows for the concept of a larger, global, Sharia-based Islamic community (Umma in Arabic). The two concepts are contradictory, making it impossible for any religiously led revolution – whether Shi'ite or Sunni – to adopt a single country, land, or geography, whether in Iran or elsewhere.

Over the last few decades, Iran has exported its extremism and indoctrination far beyond its borders, seeking leverage through the exploitation of populations that are not its own. The system by which it strengthened these proxies relied on creating chaos, dissent, deep societal fractures, and instability from within, into which it then embedded its own experts and proxies to maintain strategic assets, both economic and military.

In this manner, Iran sought to “ride” the Palestinian cause – not because it believed in the Palestinians, whose Soviet-crafted narrative was based on nation-state independence, a concept entirely foreign to Islamist ideology – but because it generated chaos, allowing Tehran to extend its grip across arenas such as Syria, Yemen, the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria, Iraq, and even Jordan. In Egypt, these attempts failed, though not for lack of effort.

Throughout this period, indoctrination and incitement against Jews and Israel strengthened the cause, as it was - and remains - comparatively easy to galvanize support against this enemy throughout the Islamic world, among both Sunnis and Shi'ites, despite their profound disagreements on nearly every other issue.

From bullets to algorithms

Over the past two decades, the Qataris, a state of just 350,000 citizens, have taken this information war to an entirely new level of sophistication. Lacking military might, they have instead deployed billions of petrodollars to infiltrate societies across the Middle East - and now the West - buying influence and undermining institutions from within.

They have elevated Soviet-style manipulation into an era of hyper-adaptability, speaking the jargon of ultra-leftist circles when useful, and that of the ultra-right when convenient.

Today's Russian Federation, together with China - both harboring imperial ambitions - continue to seek the weakening of the US-led West. What better way than dispersing self-loathing, guilt-ridden anti-American sentiment, jointly fueled by Qatar-funded Islamists and Russian and Chinese operatives, each pursuing their own interests.

The shared objective is the implantation of chaos, self-hatred, and paralyzing doubt among Western societies in general, and Americans in particular, toward the very values upon which the United States was founded: liberty and equality.

As a result, schools, colleges, and universities across the West increasingly teach extremism, Marxism, and activism as core intellectual frameworks. One need not rely on rhetoric to see this; a review of curricula in Australia, Europe, Canada, and the United States - the latter two most affected - is revealing enough.

Never was truth mandatory throughout history, but in a technological world where information ownership is radically decentralized and money can purchase any platform, control of the narrative has become an entirely different battlefield. The only question that remains is whether the West is willing to fight - or surrender - to the dominance of China, Russia, and Islamist warlords. Published in The Jerusalem Post, January 13, 2026.

Israel's long wars - bracing for

civilizational conflict in the Mideast

written by David M. Weinberg | 14.02.2026

Israelis understand the long-term ideological and civilizational nature of the battles ahead.

Israel's 'Wild West' of weapons is a growing national security threat

written by David M. Weinberg | 14.02.2026

Time for a national program to halt drone smuggling of arms into Israel.

Tis the season to flog Israel

written by David M. Weinberg | 14.02.2026

Bash Israel but ignore Islamic assaults on Christians across the region.

J'accuse!

written by David M. Weinberg | 14.02.2026

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese denies any link between Australia's recognition of a Palestinian state and this week's Bondi Beach terrorist attack

against Jews celebrating Chanuka.

“Overwhelmingly, most of the world recognizes a two-state solution as being the way forward in the Middle East,” Albanese muttered in his trademark anodyne tone when relating to the attack. This was pushback against insinuations of Australian diplomatic culpability made by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and many Jewish leaders.

Albanese is wrong. He is blind, purposefully in denial. His enthusiasm for promoting Palestinian statehood led to the Bondi Beach slaughter.

Albanese’s impudent and insolent, in-Israel’s-face, at-Israel’s-expense, over-Israel’s-objection, stance on this matter indeed makes him culpable in the murder of 15 Australian Jews. As Emile Zola famously wrote: J’accuse!

This may be an accusation not comfortable to make, but Israeli and Jewish leaders around the world must insist upon it in every interaction with politicians and diplomats.

Leaders like Albanese – and prime ministers Keith Starmer of Britain and Mark Carney of Canada, and President Emmanuel Macron of France – must be told that their insane insistence on unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood, specifically after October 7 and especially as calls for the destruction of Israel escalate in Palestinian society and in Western streets – is immoral.

Unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood in defiance of Israel obnoxiously delegitimizes Israeli historic-national and security positions and callously undermines the right to dignity of Jewish supporters of Israel. It amounts to abrogation of Western commitment to Israel’s security and to abandonment of the Jews. It is criminal appeasement of the enemy beast (and the beast will never be appeased).

It declares open season for hunting down Jews and “Zionists.” Yes, it directly paves the way to Sydney-style bloodbaths.

You see, the dereliction in countering antisemitism of the Australian government (and of the British, Canadian, French, and other governments) is clear, but that is only part of the picture.

Undeniably, they have been delinquent in setting proper limits on democratic

discourse and in applying concrete policies that would combat the escalating hate fest. They have let the jihadist mobs rant-away in their streets with calls of “Gas the Jews,” “Death to the IDF,” “Globalize the Intifada,” and other threats to Jews near and far.

Alas, dereliction of duty in combating such hate is an accusation easy to make and substantiate. It is a painfully obvious and searing indictment, but also too thin of an indictment. Western leaders must be charged with more – with molycoddling the rapidly accelerating civilizational assault on the Jewish People and their indigenous homeland, the State of Israel.

WHEN GOVERNMENTS like Canberra give credence to false anti-Israel narratives about the Gaza war (such as allegations that Israel intentionally starved Gazan children, or targeted hospitals and journalists) – Hamas is handed a victory, and supporters of jihad are given incentive for violence against Jews everywhere.

When these falsehoods are presented as legitimate criticism of Israel’s government, Israelis and Jews inevitably become classified as villains undeserving of rights or sympathy – and outrages like Bondi Beach as well as campus and subway attacks on Jews become likely, even normalized.

When governments like Canberra blabber about the “urgency” of Palestinian statehood and shower Israel with “tough love” in this regard through highhanded UN resolutions – Palestinians get a green light for more war against Israel, and antisemites are encouraged to rev-up their attacks on Jews.

When governments like Canberra continue to massively fund the nefarious Hamas-penetrated agency, UNRWA (the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinians) – this feeds the Palestinian claim to a so-called “right of return” that would demographically destroy Israel and nourishes the convictions of jihadist gunmen that they can freely pop-off Jews on beaches or in synagogues.

In short and in plain language: By slap-happily bashing Israel and recklessly promoting Palestinian statehood at this existential moment, governments like those of Prime Minister Albanese weaken Israel and prolong the Palestinian campaign to demonize Israel. And this fuels the mobs rampaging through Jewish neighborhoods in Sydney and Melbourne, London, and Toronto.

And when Western leaders are willfully and stubbornly oblivious to this linkage, their professing of support for Jews rings hollow.

Every thinking Jew in the world knows this to be true. We feel this in our bones. Albanese and his ilk can deny this perspective and profess to be concerned both for the rights of Palestinians and for the safety of Jews with no contradiction between them, but we Jews know otherwise.

To paraphrase the actor and podcaster Jonah Platt: Western leaders absolutely do not get to foment hatred of the one place in the world where Jews are not a minority and where half of all Jews on Earth live – and then pretend they care about Jewish lives.

They absolutely do not get to dismiss mainstream Jewish community voices while tokenizing fringe anti-Zionist Jews who agree with them and who libel Israel – and then pretend they care about Jewish lives.

Mr. Albanese, Mr. Starmer, Mr. Carney, and Mr. Macron: You absolutely do not get to superciliously ignore the genocidal intentions of Palestinians against Israel and the murderous aims of antisemitic rioters against Jews – and then pretend you care about Jewish lives.

Instead, breed a strategic brain and scale back your dangerous delegitimization of Israel and Jews. Get some gumption and tell Palestinians that there will be no Palestine “from the river to the sea” (i.e., no erasure of Israel). Grow a collective spine and tell your own publics that you reject the relentless equation of Israel and Jews with the evils of faddish radical discourse (imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, white supremacy, genocide, etc.).

Stop scurrying about the international stage with schemes to ram a hostile Palestinian state down Israel’s throat while offering crocodile tears when local Jews pay the price of your maliciousness and malfeasance.

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