

This is what ‘globalize the intifada’ looks like

written by Arsen Ostrovsky | 24.05.2025

On Wednesday night, the unthinkable happened on American soil: two young Israeli diplomats, Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, were brutally gunned down in a targeted, antisemitic attack outside the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C., by a perpetrator who shouted “free Palestine,” as he was being arrested.

Lischinsky had just bought an engagement ring, and was planning to propose to Milgrim on a trip to Jerusalem next week, their love cut so mercilessly short.

The brutal reality is that such an act of utter violence was the logical and horrific consequence of a relentless campaign of demonization, disinformation and delegitimization against the Jewish state — led not by fringe extremists alone, but by western governments and institutions.

Although the blood of these two young diplomats is first and foremost on the hands of their killer, responsibility is also shared by every government that has, in recent months, legitimized hatred against Israel under the guise of international law, diplomacy and human rights.

In recent weeks, we have seen an avalanche of false moral equivalence and political duplicity from the very countries that purport to uphold freedom and justice, and make a show of their supposedly unwavering commitment to combating the scourge of Jew-hatred.

The United Kingdom, for example, once a stalwart ally of Israel, has disgracefully suspended free trade negotiations, imposed sanctions on some Israelis and summoned Israel’s ambassador for a public dressing-down over Gaza, which it has called “intolerable” and “monstrous.”

France has followed suit, embracing punitive rhetoric, while doing little to pressure Hamas to release the hostages and calling for immediate recognition of a Palestinian state.

Canada, under new leadership, has shown alarming signs of softening its support for Israel, while, like the U.K. and France, increasingly parroting Hamas talking points on Gaza and ignoring the grotesque reality of Hamas’s tactics — including embedding weapons in schools, hospitals and civilian homes, and using its own people as human shields in its war of annihilation against the Jewish state.

Earlier this week, each of these three countries were immediately applauded by Hamas, upon announcing an unprecedented joint condemnation of Israel and threats of further sanctions against the Jewish state, if it does not acquiesce to their demands over aid that continues to be systematically diverted and

weaponized by Hamas.

This relentless campaign to isolate, sanction and vilify Israel does not occur in a vacuum. It clearly sends a message. A message that Israeli lives are worth less, that Jewish self-defence is unacceptable and that terrorism against Israelis may not only be tolerated, but tacitly justified.

And this message is being received loud and clear — by violent extremists on the streets of London, Paris, Montreal and now Washington, D.C., by radicalized students chanting genocidal slogans to “free Palestine” and to “globalize the intifada” on western campuses, and yes, by the killer who walked up to Israeli diplomats in Washington and ended their lives in cold blood.

Perhaps when the murderer from Washington and the jihadists from Gaza are shouting the same slogans as leaders from Europe and Canada, it might be time to rethink your policy?

What began in the halls of the United Nations, with its endless stream of one-sided resolutions condemning Israel, and the media, which has echoed one blood libel after another, has now metastasized into the language of western foreign ministries and international courts. The result is the normalization and mainstreaming of antisemitism and incitement, under the guise of diplomacy. And now, the consequences are being paid in blood.

This is certainly not the first time that the dehumanization of Jews has led to violence. But it is perhaps the first time in recent memory that it has been so directly aided and abetted by Israel’s supposed allies.

If the international community truly wishes to honour these two murder victims, it must begin by taking a long, hard look in the mirror.

It must start by ending the incessant double standards and opprobrium applied only to Israel — the sole democracy in the Middle East and the only state expected to fight a war against genocidal terrorists with one hand tied behind its back.

It must include a full-throated condemnation not just of the act of murder, but of the poisonous rhetoric and policy decisions that led to it.

This tragedy should be a wake-up call to every western leader. Appeasement of terror and appeasement of those who hate Israel does not bring peace. It brings more violence, more extremism and more death.

Because if your silence continues, if your condemnation remains reserved for Israel alone, then Wednesday night’s tragedy will sadly not be the last. Published in National Post, May 24, 2025.