

# Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall: Who is the Greatest Poison of Them All?

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By Robbie Friedmann

Bay City, Michigan has discovered it has vociferous hate in its midst. Not just the kind that vilifies but the kind that actively calls to kill Jews ("Antisemitic Preacher Gets Attention, Fear: Many in Bay City area worry about his impact," Marsha Low, *Detroit Free Press*, 12 April 2004). The *Detroit Press* followed with an editorial that could have been stronger. It lacked an unequivocal posture of not tolerating hate but at least it suggested the hate mongers "deserve no audience." Not strong enough, but better than silence ("Let the Message be Clear: Racists are not welcome," Editorial, *Detroit Free Press*, 19 April 2004).

Yet a week earlier the very same paper published an op-ed piece by a local Islamist cleric who wholeheartedly supported the terrorism of Hamas, portraying it as "peace seeking" and displaying Israel as "committing war-crimes." Obviously the paper is very selective in applying the term "hate-monger" and if a writer does not outright say "kill Jews" he is welcome at this paper, even if a cursory reading suggests he is supporting genocide. After all, his use of the term "justice" means exactly that ("Faith and Policy: Peace still possible despite sheik's killing," Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi, Special to *The Detroit News*, 10 April 2004).

To a large extent the support for terrorism is not always coming from Islamist sources in Western countries, but often from government officials as high as the British Foreign Minister, who express moral indignation at the elimination of Hamas leaders but almost in the same breath celebrated the killing of Saddam's two sons. That hypocrisy was not left unnoticed by some observers ("Spare Us the Righteous Tears at the Death of Another Monster," Barbara Amiel, *Daily Telegraph*, 19 April 2004).

Another observer carries his own personal indignation even further by criticizing a world that is insensitive to act in accordance with the very institutions it has built ("People are Beautiful, the World Stinks," Dennis Prager, Townhall.com, 20 April 2004): "I feel that I am living in a world that is morally sick. Good is called bad and bad is called 'militant', 'victimized,' 'misunderstood' and 'the product of hopelessness,' but rarely bad. Only those who fight the bad are called bad."

Respectable newspapers (including the *Boston Globe*) have recently carried a cartoon implying that Jews control the White House. To suggest it is not factual gives too much credibility to such a charge, yet the absurdity of such blatant vilifications does need to be pointed out. It is no less offensive to the President than to Jews and Israel, but obviously there is no hesitation in using it (Don Wright's cartoon, *Palm Beach Post*).

Terrorism is not only perpetrated and supported financially and through terror networks. It is supported through a set of claims, charges, grievances and myths that have been effectively perpetrated through the years using the technique of the "Big Lie" to promote "realities" that are

unfounded. Much of this has to do with the myth of Arab "disaster inflicted by Jews" (the 1948 *nakba*) - when they perpetrated it themselves. The refugee problem - which they created and maintained, the mal-ascription of traits and intent to the "enemy" that actually fit them far better are all part of Arab myth-making tactics. Therefore any efforts to separate myth from facts and expose lies where they are is worth paying attention to ("[The Arab Lie Whose Time Has Come](#)," David Gutmann, FrontPageMagazine.com, 21 April 2004).

Focus is advisable because what started in 1948 (actually years before that) continues to spread. Now Palestinian children are indoctrinated to a new canard that not only do Jews "need" the blood of Christian and Muslim children for Passover but Jews also committed genocide against Palestinian children in a holocaust type fashion ("PA Children's Play: The Jews burned Palestinians in ovens," Itamar Marcus, Palestinian Media Watch, 19 April 2004).

Not only does this technique of the Big Lie work well on young Palestinians, it is perpetrated continually by official government sources in the Arab world. The latest such propaganda is a new/old antisemitic canard that blames Jews for all the "evils" of the world ("[Leading Egyptian Journalist: The Jews are Behind Every Disaster or Terrorist Act](#)," MEMRI, Special Dispatch - Egypt/Arab Antisemitism Documentation Project, 23 April 2004, No. 700).

One has to actually read this venom in order to believe that an intelligent human being is capable of writing such trumpery: "If you want to know the real perpetrator of every disaster or every act of terrorism, look for the Zionist Jews. They are behind all the violent and terror operations that have occurred everywhere in the world. [They do this] first of all in order to slap [the label of the attacks] on the Arabs and Muslims, and second to harm them, distort their image and represent them to the world as terrorists who endanger innocents. What is even more dangerous is that after every terror operation they perpetrate, they leave a sign, clue or traces meant to show that the perpetrators are Arab Muslims."

Despite official criticism from Europe, England, Russia, the U.N. and a "balanced" statement from the U.S. that Israel has the right to defend itself but needs to "consider the consequences," an inescapable fact remains: Hamas is targeting the U.S. as well and hence Israel has done the U.S. (and itself) a favor by beginning to eliminate its leaders ("Hamas vs. America," Erick Stakelbeck, *New York Post*, 21 April 2004): "High-ranking Hamas officials have already managed to infiltrate America, the most notorious example being Musa Abu Marzook, a senior Hamas leader now based in Syria. Marzook, who had been living in northern Virginia, was detained by U.S. authorities for 22 months and deported to Jordan in 1997. Following Yassin's death, Marzook warned his former host country that 'currently the U.S. is not a target [of Hamas], but in the future, only God knows'."

The hate that is seething in the Gaza strip is a frenzy that feeds itself with constant burning of Israeli and American symbols, and by issuing ongoing threats ("[Youths on Gaza Frontline Keep Hatred Alive: Fighting or waiting to fight, boys bear the brunt of the Israeli incursion](#)," Ewen MacAskill, *The Guardian*, 23 April 2004).

Many simply prefer not to understand, recognize or even see it for what it is, namely that terrorism prevails not by the use of force, but by its victims weakness ("[The Hard Lessons of](#)

[Terror](#)," Melanie Phillips, *London Daily Mail*, 22 April 2004): "In reality, Israel is fighting a war for its own survival that has now gone on for more than fifty years. The Palestinians have repeatedly stated their aim remains the eradication of Israel altogether. Why is Israel alone deemed not entitled to defend itself? And here, the warning for Britain and Europe too could not be starker. For like Israel, we are facing the same 'asymmetric warfare,' in which conventional military might becomes worthless if countries are not prepared to use it against those who are willing to turn even children into human bombs...The danger lies in not recognizing that terrorism is encouraged by weakness, not strength."

Indeed, experts who understand terrorism suggest viewing it as an epidemic ("[Post-Modern Terrorism: suicide strikes](#)," Amnon Barzilai, *Ha'aretz*, 20 April 2004): "Fighting against suicide bombers, you have to follow the assumptions that modern society uses when confronting viral epidemics...The confrontation with terror wrought by suicide strikers is like the fight against viruses in terms of the inability to seize the [terror] leaders and the visibility of the suicide assailants. The remedy in the fight against terror can be compared to medicine against viruses."

The reasons there has not yet been a concerted global effort to defeat suicide terrorists suggest: "a failure to understand that the suicide terrorists have effectively disarmed armies; a problem fighting an enemy who believes that any means can be used to attain its goals; the prevalence of financial and moral support for the Palestinians, even though they utilize suicide terror; and there is European hesitation." But even the U.S. could do more than it does in terms of "grabbing the reins in the global struggle against terror."

Aiding and abetting terror seems to be rein-free in the West. Despite efforts to curb financial support to terrorist organizations, it appears that freezing terrorist funds is not an easy task and in a typical British understatement the Director of the Charity Commission Legal Services Department admitted that ("[Giving Alms or Arms?](#)" Sharon Sadeh, *Ha'aretz*, 19 April 2004): "There is a possibility that money that was raised in the U.K. has been used for terrorism."

Even more serious a problem than not being able to stop the funneling of "charity" funds to support terrorism is the sense of defeatism, finger-pointing and what one observer calls "whimpering" that shackles the likelihood of fighting terrorism and winning it ("Stop Whimpering, We're in a Battle," Mark Steyn, *Daily Telegraph*, 20 April 2004): "... the whimperers are only a minority of the American people, but they are even more plugged in - in the media, in politics, in the academy. The only relevant Vietnamese comparison is this: then as now, for America it is a choice between victory or self-defeat."

Indeed, following the distinction U.S. President George W. Bush made between good and evil some suggest - erroneously and maliciously - that the U.S. is too closely bonding itself with Israel. Last week the U.N. envoy to Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi, "revealed" that the "biggest obstacle" to peace in Iraq, indeed the "great poison," is not al-Qaeda, not Iran, not Syria, not terrorists, not Islamists but it is nothing less than Israel and her policies ("Brahimi's Israel Comments Draw Annan, Israeli Ire," *Ha'aretz* Service and Agencies, 24 April 2004). Public officials (elected or appointed) in the U.S. have been demoted or fired for comments far less vitriolic than this one (a Senate Majority leader, a football commentator) and it remains to be seen how President Bush will handle this latest embarrassment handed him by the U.N.

The U.N. tried to control the damage by suggestion these were "private views" not reflective of U.N. However, a look at the man who made the comment raises serious doubts as to his "objectivity" and ability to hand the world a peaceful Iraq ("How Bush's Iraq Man Betrayed the Lebanese to Syrian Regime: Brahimi this Week Called Israel's Policies "The Great Poison in the Region," Eli Lake, *The New York Sun*, 23 April 2004). He is "credited" with helping install Syria to occupy Lebanon and as a former official of the Arab league he cannot brag of excessive fairness to things not Arab/Muslim. Two or three decades ago it was seen as an "internal Arab affair" but his positions provide a valuable context to the damage that he currently brings forth and not only to Israel.

Yet neither the Secretary General of the U.N. nor the dubious body itself has any grounds to provide plausible deniability on their negative attitudes towards Israel. Indeed Brahimi reflects in a Hi Fidelity format his compliance with a string of U.N. negative decisions and hostile climate against Israel that cannot be interpreted as anything other than racist and antisemitic ("U.N. vs. Israel: Telling Standards," Anne Bayefsky, *National Review*, 20 April 2004): "Sooner or later one can only hope a light will go on. Whatever superficial lip service is paid to the contrary, according to the U.N., Israel has no right of self-defense. Everything the U.N. does in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict -- whether it be calls for the return to 1967's indefensible borders, declarations that Jerusalem is occupied territory, demands for the return of Palestinian refugees ending the Jewishness of the state, or efforts to isolate and demonize Israel as the worst human-rights violator in the world today -- emanates from the standpoint that the Jewish side is not entitled to fight back."

Not surprisingly some supporters of Israel attempted to intercept/avoid such "criticism" by promoting the distancing of Israel from the U.S. as also serving "Israeli interests." Observers examining this point suggest it is no longer valid for the U.S. and the West to make it and it certainly is no longer valid for Israel to do so either. By making a clear distinction between good and evil those who are on the side of good and are under the threat of evil should stand together un-apologetically and offer each other unwavering support ("[A Clear Divide Between Good and Evil](#)," Stuart Cohen, *Ha'aretz*, 19 April 2004).

For years, cynical commentators have jabbed the Palestinians with the famous adage coined by former Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban that they "never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity." In a sense this is a condescending approach that considers the Palestinians as lost souls who cannot find their way in the modern political labyrinth. Rather, they purposefully miss the opportunities because they want to. Because they do not see the opportunities the same way others do. When they talk about peace they do not mean it (as was proven by the Oslo Accords which their leaders later defined as a "Trojan Horse against Israel") and when they threaten violence they know exactly why they are doing it - to gain additional territory by force ("[Realities Palestinians Don't Want to Face](#)," Cragg Hines, *Houston Chronicle*, 17 April 2004). To wit: when a Hamas leader declares that "We will have no cease-fire and we will not put our gun aside until the liberation of Palestine, with its capital Al-Quds Ash-Shareef, holy Jerusalem. This is our legitimate right. Palestine from the river to the sea, that is our legitimate right in this homeland," leaves Israel with very few opportunities to survive as a free country in that territorial space.

Little wonder that Israel finds itself now in a jam when just between Holocaust Memorial Day and Memorial Day for its fallen soldiers and victims of terror, a traitor completed his 18 years in prison for revealing Israel's nuclear secrets and the first thing he did out of prison was to have a celebrity press conference declaring his hate for the country and its very existence. It may be convenient for the Anglican Church to adopt him and for Western media to present him as a "whistleblower" but that is like saying a vicious serial murderer is actually providing the community with the (legal and legitimized) service of euthanasia..... ("[The Vanunu Myths and Israeli Deterrence Policy](#)," Gerald M. Steinberg, Jerusalem Issue Brief, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Vol. 3, No. 22 - 19 April 2004).

This war is as much about words and terms of reference as it is about military tactics. Perhaps even more so. The frame of reference the terrorists use should not be allowed to penetrate and control us. America is learning a hard lesson in Iraq as Israel is learning a hard lesson in the disputed territories and inside the country. These remain the only two countries that are committed to fighting terrorism at its roots. Could they be doing a better job? Of course, but no one else comes even close and indeed with the passing of time the members of the Coalition seem to want to have their commitment to fighting terrorism annulled. The sooner the terrorists stop receiving financial support, a supportive social climate and be stripped from imposing their terms of reference - the sooner they will crumble. The U.S. could make a quantum leap in the fight against terrorism by demanding the removal of Brahimi as the U.N. envoy to Iraq. Should the U.N. not comply, it should be next on the list because that is really where much poison lies.