



Jerusalem 6:40
Toronto 8:04

ISRAEL NEWS

*A collection of the week's news from Israel
From the Bet El Twinning / Israel Action Committee of
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation*

stick around and fight.

They said that those who did leave were conspiracy theorists and they were making a mistake by leaving.

The writing was on the wall but they refused to see it because they didn't want to see it.

Commentary...

Thoughts and Frustrations on this Yom Haatzmaut

By Hillel Fuld

I am fed up. Really fed up.

I am sick of people telling me it won't happen again. I so had enough of people telling me this isn't Europe in the 40s. I am so fed up with people telling me this time is different. That I am being hysterical and alarmist.

Are you blind? Like for real, how can anyone in their right mind say it won't happen again??

How deep is your head in the sand? It won't happen again?! What exactly won't happen?

Jewish businesses won't be targeted again?

Synagogues won't be vandalized and have their windows shattered? That won't happen again?

Jews won't be banned from doing business again? Today is Wednesday, April 30th and today, I had not one, but two friends show me evidence that they were rejected for a business deal because the person was protesting the "Genocide in Gaza". Neither one of these people served in the IDF and neither one of them are Israeli. Know what they are? Jews.

So what is it exactly that won't happen again? Jews won't be abused, discriminated against, and assaulted in academic institutions? That won't happen again?

There won't be Jew haters in positions of power like in congress for example? Or in parliaments around the world? That?

There won't be antisemitism in courts? Like the international court of "Justice" for example? That won't happen again?

What won't happen? Blatantly antisemitic politicians won't be elected again? That won't happen? Hi, Canada. I'm looking at you.

What is it exactly that you think won't happen again?

Jews won't be spat on and beaten in broad daylight in major cities? That? That's what you think won't happen again?

Jew hatred won't get international diplomatic support? Like say from Ireland, France, South Africa, and Australia to name a few examples?

You know who else said it won't happen again? That it could never happen there? That this time was different? German Jews.

They saw all of the things I mentioned above happening and if anyone dared raise a red flag, want to know what they told them?

They said to stop being hysterical. They told them they're being an alarmist. They told them that Germany isn't Spain and that it could never happen there. Germany was too "enlightened".

So what has to happen for everyone to stop spreading the lie that it won't happen again?

That's a serious question.

Is there an event that, if that event happens, you'll say "Ok I was wrong. It's happening."?

What is that event?

Do we have to have concentration camps? Everything else we'll ignore? We have to wait till there's mass butchering of Jews? Only that will make us realize we were wrong?

My whole life I wondered why the German Jews didn't read the writing on the wall.

I no longer wonder. I now know exactly what they told themselves as they ignored the events around them.

They said Germany has been good to them and to their families. They said that they were more German than Jewish so they were safe. They said they aren't going to run away like cowards. That they'll

Today the writing is on the wall and if in Germany, you could have ignored the rhetoric and the events that were transpiring, today, we have social media and today, you cannot ignore what's happening.

All you have to do is open Twitter and search for the word 'Jew'. I wouldn't recommend it. Not for the weak of heart.

There is absolutely no way to not read the writing on the wall today. It is right in your face! It is filling up our feeds.

Today, on top of all the antisemitic Jew hating criminals carrying out the violent acts, you have millions of people cheering them on on social media.

As these fires blaze, the internet is flooded with Jew haters cheering on the fires proudly hoping for more dead Jews.

So what it is exactly that you think won't happen again?

And most importantly, will you ever admit that you were wrong about this like Jews were wrong in every generation when they said it won't happen here? If you are honest, then ask yourself what has to happen for you to realize that it IS happening again right before your eyes?

What has to happen?

And let me say one more thing.

One can argue that the German Jews had nowhere to go. That countries were closing their borders to Jews so they were stuck. Today, you have Israel. We are waiting for you over here.

And don't you dare come at me with "Oh, like Israel is so great. Look at what's going on there! You're in a war!"

Yea, we are. And you're staying there and abandoning your brothers and sisters as we fight an existential war? You cool with that?

And as I've said many times, in Israel, you know who your enemy is. In Israel, if you're in trouble, people will stop to help you. In Israel, you have an army that exists for one reason and one reason only, to protect you. Sure, Israel is not perfect. Yes, 10/7 was a horrible day and we failed on that day. Yes, Israel is messy. There is internal fighting. Even hatred. Not sugarcoating that or ignoring it.

But it's your home. It's the Jewish home. It's where you can build a life, not despite being Jewish, like in other places, but here, you can build an amazing life BECAUSE you're Jewish.

With all the balagan in Israel, and there's enough of it to go around, this is our country, our only home, and together, as a nation, we can, we must work to improve it.

Families sometimes have internal fighting. Homes can get messy. But that doesn't make it not your family or not your home.

Sure, America was good to you. Key word is 'was'.

The UK was good to you. Was.

Australia was good to you. Was.

South Africa. Was.

Was. Was. Was. Was.

All of these places were good to us until they weren't and we have reached that point.

So don't tell me it won't happen again. You want to stay put? Then have some integrity and admit that you know full well what happens next and you're choosing to stay there, to let your brothers and sisters here do the fighting, and to make the seriously absurd statement of "It happened in every generation but it won't happen here."

I don't think I need to tell you how dumb that statement sounds.

At least be honest with yourself and admit you're making a conscious decision to ignore the very obvious writing on the wall.

It's happening and you cannot possibly ignore it anymore.

I got this message on instagram today.

חג העצמאות שמח

"Yesterday I took my mom to Princess Margaret cancer centre in Toronto. They gave us this to fill out. You know how you always say Jews come home? It's not safe in Canada. You win."

I looked at the form this person showed me and I couldn't believe my eyes. It is a questionnaire given to patients at Canada's leading cancer center. One of the questions is about the person's ethnicity. The list to choose from was long, very long. It even included "Palestinian". Guess what it didn't include? Jewish.

Please, whoever you are and wherever you are, read the writing on the wall. Come here and help us improve this country. Be a part of the solution. Be a part of Jewish history. Defend your people. Build our future. Come home.

But first, open your eyes and read the very clear writing.

And of course, Shawarma is on me. (People think this is a joke. I sat with an Oleh this week who reminded me of this promise. I bought him the best shawarma he's ever had in his life. It's a real offer, ya know, just in case everything else didn't convince you, surely, shawarma will! 🍷🍷)

We prayed for thousands of years about the ingathering of the exiles. That Jews from around the world would come back to Israel.

Today; God has finally answered our prayers. He is giving us whatever we need to come home, but it's us who are not fulfilling our part.

Let's not pray about coming back to Jerusalem. Let's just do it. It's a 12 hour flight and you're home.

He promised to bring us back on the wings of eagles and he delivered on that promise.

See you soon. (Facebook May 1)

Unmasking the Palestinian Authority By Moshe Phillips

April 22, 2025, may be remembered as a turning point in the history of Israeli public diplomacy—and rightly so. On that day, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs harnessed the power of social media to expose the Palestinian Authority as the enemy it is.

From the official @Israel account on X, a powerful statement was posted: "The Palestinian Authority isn't educating children, it's indoctrinating them. Maps without Israel. Teachers praising martyrdom. Textbooks that glorify terror. As long as they teach hate, there's no hope for peace. Stop ignoring it. Stop funding education that leads to terror."

By directly attributing responsibility for the deeply rooted antisemitism prevalent in P.A.-controlled areas to Mahmoud Abbas and his co-conspirators, Israel took a vital step toward challenging the dangerous myth that a Palestinian state would lead to peace.

Prominent French public intellectual Bernard-Henri Lévy took to X and explained the tragedy that the so-called two-state solution would mean.

His post was quickly retweeted by @Israel. His message deserves to be quoted in full: "If there is a moment when the two states solution is not relevant, it is today! What do we want to tell? That we reward terrorism? That what could not be achieved through peace has been achieved with pogrom? That #Hamas has brought #Israel & the free world to its knees? Come on ..."

That these posts appeared during the week of Yom Hashoah, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day, was no coincidence. More and more Israelis are acknowledging a painful reality: Whether they support Fatah or Hamas, Palestinians overwhelmingly agree that the Jewish state must be eliminated. Their only disagreements are over tactics, not goals.

What, beyond the P.A.'s institutionalized antisemitism, has prompted this new boldness from Israel on social media?

The reasons may never be fully known, but a series of alarming recent events likely played a role, many of which have gone underreported in Western media.

For example, on April 16, Wafa, the P.A.'s official news agency, marked "Palestinian Prisoners' Day" by glorifying convicted terrorists. They accused Israel of "ongoing genocide" and "war crimes," and in an Orwellian twist, referred to imprisoned Hamas operatives as "political prisoners."

Then came French President Emmanuel Macron's announcement

in April that France would recognize a Palestinian state in June, while Israel is still in the midst of fighting to rescue hostages and dismantle Hamas. This move can only be seen as a betrayal.

But is Israel right about the P.A.?

Following the viral tweets, 89-year-old Mahmoud Abbas appeared to signal his choice for an intended successor by appointing Hussein al-Sheikh as vice president of the PLO.

Al-Sheikh's record speaks for itself. At a January 2023 event celebrating "Palestinian Martyrs' Day," he declared: "Even if we have one penny left, it will be spent on the families of the martyrs and prisoners. ... They are our purest, most permanent, loftiest and most precious jewel."

Such words make clear that terrorism is not merely tolerated by the P.A. but honored.

Fatah and Hamas are not ideological opposites; they are partners in terror. Fatah dominates both the PLO and the Palestinian Authority, and while tensions may exist between the two factions from time to time, they typically concern tactics, not the shared goal of Israel's destruction.

This reality was underscored in July 2024, when Hamas and Fatah representatives met in Beijing, and agreed to form a unity government following the end of the Israel-Hamas war. They released a joint statement affirming their commitment to ongoing collaboration.

The unity pact signed in Beijing leaves no doubt about the true intentions of these two terrorist organizations.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry is right: The Palestinian leadership does not want peace. What they want is Israel's defeat. (JNS Apr 29)

Saluting the IDF for Reminding us of the Broader Mission

By Ruthie Blum

Mothers and fathers file into the convention center in southern Israel. Some are toting bouquets. Others have young kids in tow. A few have paused outside to take selfies next to the poster for the event—a ceremony for outstanding soldiers.

Inside, all stop at the registry counter to have their names crossed off the list of invitees, limited to five per award recipient. They are then treated to a buffet of cakes, cookies and parfaits, next to an espresso machine manned by a cheerful barista taking orders.

Past the hot-drink station is a makeshift red carpet flanked by gold ropes, with the insignia of the Israeli ground forces as a backdrop. A few feet away is a platform facing a camera. Here, the conscripts and reservists—and civilians employed by the military also being recognized for citation—pose for photo-magnets with their parents and children.

The next stop is one flight down. Attendees are greeted by a spacious, air-conditioned dining room where music wafts from a surround-sound system. Glass doors lead to a sunny balcony, overlooking a large lawn, with tables for those who prefer to brave the heat and eat outside.

The meal is a smorgasbord: meat, pasta, vegetables, sandwiches, fruit and finger food. Across the room is an ice-cream stand replete with cones, cups and various toppings. The conscripts and reservists join their families until it's time to head to the auditorium.

The guests take their seats, on which small Israeli flags have been placed. The honorees wait in the wings for the proceedings to begin.

The lights go out and the men and women in uniform emerge from a side entrance. They march, single-file, to the beat of military music, down the steps at the side of the theater.

They are making their way to reserved spots in the rows just below the stage, where a spotlight shines on a chair holding a yellow ribbon. A female officer welcomes the assembly with a moving tribute to the Israel Defense Forces, noting the IDF's steadfast commitment to returning the hostages and meeting the other goals of the war.

The crowd claps without hesitation or cynicism. Everyone present is relieved to be reminded of a joint mission that began long before the Hamas massacre on Oct. 7, 2023. Ideological rifts are as irrelevant as they are absent.

A video of troops in Gaza is broadcast, as is a clip of the

honorees on a field trip to the area of the terrorist invasion barely more than a year and a half ago.

Every recipient is announced individually, with a description of his or her unique contribution to the war effort. A picture of each is displayed on a massive screen as he/she walks to the podium, salutes and receives a plaque.

The applause is loud. Genuine. But it is nearly deafening when an officer in the new haredi brigade is presented with a commendation.

The roaring reflects an understanding that encouragement and praise are better for ultra-Orthodox enlistment than hostile coercion. It also illustrates a kind of societal unity purported by the press and protest movement to be non-existent.

Cohesiveness comes across, as well, in the closing address by the commander of the ground forces. He speaks of a collective responsibility for the Jewish homeland, weaving a thread through Zionist history to the present.

He pays tribute to the memory of the Six Million and to all those who fell or were wounded defending the country, including during the current multi-front battle. His remarks are delivered between Yom Hashoah, the commemoration of the Nazi genocide, and Yom Hazikaron, Memorial Day for fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism—the eve of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day.

His words hold special significance for the men and women at the gathering who are returning to fight in Gaza. Yet, given the nature and extent of the ongoing war against the Jews, they should be repeated and resonate far beyond the confines of a conference hall.

This necessity becomes particularly apparent when leaving the premises, after standing to sing “Hatikvah,” Israel’s national anthem. The mood gradually shifts from celebratory to pragmatic—a resumption of the usual daily grind, accompanied by a pervasive gnawing anxiety about the future. (JNS Apr 27)

Hints of Israel’s Long-Term Gaza Strategy Emerge

By Yaakov Lappin

Indicators of Israel’s longer-term strategy for the Gaza Strip, aimed at dismantling Hamas’s terror regime and military capabilities and making sure it never again rules the Strip, have been emerging in recent days.

An initial pillar of the approach involves fundamentally altering the flow of humanitarian assistance to bypass Hamas.

Hamas has been systematically stealing the aid and using it to maintain its political regime, exploiting resources meant for civilians, while feeding and fueling its terror operatives.

Diverting the aid away from Hamas is only the first step, according to Brig. Gen. (res.) Hanan Gefen, former commander of signals intelligence Unit 8200 in the Israel Defense Forces’ Intelligence Directorate.

Gefen told JNS that a new approach had been under consideration in Israel for months. He explained that while Hamas anticipates a ceasefire that would allow it to regroup, Israel envisions a drastically different future for Gaza.

“Israel sees a completely different picture. Israel does not see Hamas in power. Hamas still doesn’t understand what this means from Israel’s perspective. It means something very similar to the situation in southern Lebanon, where Hamas will not be able to carry out any action without an Israeli response,” said Gefen.

To help achieve this, Israel is focusing on the separation of Hamas from the Gazan populace, beginning with aid, and moving on to the entire economic situation, which Hamas will not be allowed to be a part of, said Gefen.

“The Israeli government, together with regional partners headed by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the United States, want to cause all of these issues—the construction, and humanitarian aid, and medical aid, and then continuous fuel and water assistance, to be carried out using different mechanisms—away from Hamas. And importantly, to do this for years. This is not a three to four-month operation,” he added.

This vision also includes the possibility of facilitating the departure of Gazans who wish to leave, said Gefen, though he expressed doubt that it would happen at the scale envisioned by US

President Donald Trump.

“One of the things Israel is doing, and will increasingly do, is to open its borders via Ramon Airport. Another way is to enable Gazans to leave. Those who want to leave can leave. This is part of the pressure [on Hamas],” he stated.

A key component of this revised approach involves utilizing international private companies to distribute aid. Gefen described a process where Israel would securely deliver aid to a certain point, from which a civilian company, equipped for self-defense, would manage distribution to local Gazans.

Prof. Uzi Rabi, senior researcher and the head of the program for Regional Cooperation at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University, told JNS that the idea of involving private companies “is a solution that removes direct responsibility for distribution from the IDF—something that reduces direct friction with the Palestinian population, and indicates that Israel allows the flow of aid while avoiding direct involvement.”

However, this specific tactic was a point of disagreement between the IDF General Staff and the Security Cabinet. According to a report by Mako News on April 23, 2025, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir expressed concerns in cabinet discussions about the IDF directly handling aid distribution, a position also held by his predecessor, Lt. Gen. (res.) Herzl Halevi.

The Mako report indicated that defense officials, including the Defense Minister, Israel Katz, preferred alternatives like international companies for aid distribution. Zamir is reportedly concerned about avoiding making soldiers targets “as they carry sacks of rice for the residents of Gaza.”

Regarding the chief of staff’s stance, Rabi said his “public opposition stems from the concern that IDF soldiers will become a ‘stationary target’ during aid distribution. This is a tactical disagreement, not one of principle.”

Rabi added, “Hopefully this is a [passing] episode because if not, it could indicate a rift. The future will tell.”

Beyond the aid, Israel’s fundamental security doctrine is undergoing a dramatic shift, said Gefen. He highlighted a move away under Zamir from the approach championed by his predecessor, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi, of defensive combat.

“The Israeli policy along all the borders is changing completely,” Gefen said on April 30.

“The Minister of Defense said yesterday that the army will be a buffer between the threats and the Israeli population so that a similar situation [to Oct. 7, 2023] does not happen, and therefore we will see an offensive campaign, not a defensive one,” Gefen stated.

“It’s not about standing with fortifications and waiting to be attacked. Rather, every threat—in the Strip, in Judea, in Judea and Samaria, in Lebanon and in Syria is attacked all the time.”

Gefen argued that Gaza’s longer-term possibilities include massive reconstruction efforts after Hamas is removed from power, which could be led by regional powers such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, with American involvement. (JNS May 1)

Anti-Semites are Still Proving Why We Need Israel

By Jonathan S. Tobin

Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day, is less of a nationwide party than usual this year. That was probably already a given for a nation still engaged in a war for its survival that began with the Hamas-led terrorist attacks on communities in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. But having visited the sites of the brutal massacres that took place that day on the eve of Yom Hazikaron, Israel’s Memorial Day, which traditionally turns from national mourning to celebration, it was clear that Israeli emotions are influenced by profound sadness about the losses they’ve experienced on that awful day and the ensuing 18 months of war.

The toll of deaths includes the 1,200 men, women and children killed during the barbaric Palestinian orgy of mass murder, torture, rape and kidnapping, as well as the 847 Israel Defense Force soldiers and 58 police officers who have died in the fighting since then to eradicate Hamas in Gaza, defeat the Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon, and deal with an increase in terrorism in Judea and Samaria.

On top of those somber statistics, Independence Day has been marred by fires that have raged in the greater Jerusalem area, which may well be largely the result of deliberate arson on the part of Arabs and not—as the corporate media insists—merely the result of global warming in part of the world in which heat and wind are not exactly unknown.

But since Oct. 7, it is not only the people of Israel who have been under siege. Much to the surprise of many, Diaspora Jewry, including in the United States, has been subjected to an unprecedented surge of hateful protests, vandalism and violence that has made itself felt on the streets of major American cities, and especially, on college campuses.

That so many young people attending school are now the primary victims of the increase in antisemitism is a particularly cruel blow to the Jewish community. Most Jews rightly believed themselves to be fully accepted in American society and very much at home at the elite institutions of higher education, where they had thrived for a century after entry quotas at many schools were largely abandoned.

But now they find themselves the targets of prejudice rooted in the toxic ideas of critical race theory, intersectionality and settler-colonialism that falsely label Jews and Israel as “white” oppressors. That has led many to strengthen their Jewish identity and support for Israel. But it has caused a minority to abandon it and to join the pro-Hamas mobs since they regard, whether out of conviction or fear of standing out in leftist-dominated environments, their ties to those who promote woke culture to be of greater importance. Still others wonder whether the continued existence of a Jewish state that so many wish to destroy is worth it if it means that they must be subjected to prejudice or merely put on the spot to defend Jerusalem’s policies or actions.

Under these trying circumstances, what then is the argument for continued support for Zionism?

The answer is that those who think the problem of antisemitism can be eliminated by giving up Jewish rights, mandating Israel’s defeat and the victory of Hamas, or even by returning to the pre-state era of Jewish powerlessness, are not merely deluded. They are forgetting everything we know about the history of the last 2,000 years, during which Jews were at the mercy of a world dominated by powers and movements that exploited hatred of Jews to increase their own power.

It is true that Theodor Herzl, the founder of the modern Zionist movement, was wrong to believe that he could end antisemitism by giving the Jewish people a home and a “normal” existence like any other nation. Antisemitism is a lethal and adaptable virus of hate that adapts itself to many ideologies. In the last century, it found a home among fascists, Nazis, Communists, Islamists and now woke leftists. It cannot be eradicated because it is too useful a tool for those who know they can profit from it.

As has been the case for two millennia, those who blame Israel for Jew-hatred around the world because of its allegedly bad behavior in the war of self-defense it is fighting against Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and other Iranian terror proxies have it backwards. What Jews do or don’t do has never been the cause of the prejudice directed at them. Jews have been hated because they were rich and because they were poor ... because they assimilated into non-Jewish society and because they refused to assimilate and stood part ... because they were homeless, and now, because they have a home and refuse to let it be destroyed by those who believe one Jewish state on the planet is one too many.

Yet even as so many pounce on Israel and falsely term it an “apartheid” or “settler-colonial” state, Zionism has never been more compelling or necessary to Jewish survival.

The Jewish state that actually exists, as opposed to the mythical Israel that is demonized by a bizarre red-green coalition of leftists, is neither paradise nor inferno. Still, even as it is beset by so many problems—not just external war but internal political divisions—sociologists report that its people are among the happiest in the world.

How can that be so?

It isn’t hard to understand when you realize that Judaism and Jewish identity are the foundation of Western civilization in so many ways. As authors Melanie Phillips and Josh Hammer have written recently, while Israel needs support from the West, those who care about the future of freedom and liberty need Israel, since Jewish texts and core beliefs provide the rationale for free societies everywhere.

Both secular and religious Israelis, those on the right and the minority on the left, embrace a society rooted in a communal sense of devotion to the group, even though divisions continue to fester.

It’s equally true that the Jews need Israel. Despite claims from some leftist ideologues that Judaism can thrive if Jews would only give up their rights and embrace a universalist faith that eschews any form of nationalism and relies on the kindness of strangers, this is a dangerous myth. The existence of a sovereign Jewish homeland on the soil of its ancient homeland is rooted in international law, history and faith. But it is also a function of the needs of those Jews who live in the 21st century.

Without Israel—and a Jewish army and government to defend its citizens—the horrors of the past will not only be relived in Israel’s border communities. The unspeakable atrocities of Oct. 7 were just a trailer for what Palestinian Arabs want to do not only to the rest of Israel but to Jews everywhere. Their belief that it’s right and just for them to kill Jews is based not merely on an extremist faith. It’s also a conviction that dates back thousands of years, which claims that Jews are a people that must be deprived of the rights that no one would think to try to deny to others. It is not so much analogous to the eliminationist rationales of the Nazis for their crimes as it is a manifestation of the fact that they are Adolf Hitler’s successors in their age-old quest to slaughter the Jews for the crime of simply existing.

Zionism is more than just a justified reaction to persecution in the past and the existential threats of the present. It is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people and—in no small irony given the mendacious rhetoric of contemporary antisemites—it is the greatest and most successful anti-colonial movement in history since it restored this small country to its indigenous people: the Jews.

Rather than blaming its existence for antisemitism, it’s time to understand that Israel and Zionism must be the primary answer to hatred against Jews.

Israel is not merely a physical shield that is the only true monument to the Six Million slain in the Holocaust, as well as the only guarantee that it can never happen again. The idea of Zionism can and must serve as an inspiration for Jews, no matter where they live, no matter their religious beliefs, and whether or not they call themselves Zionists.

To imagine a world without Israel is to enter into a counterfactual scenario in which not only is the destruction of the Jewish people encompassed, but also a world in which barbarism, rather than the values of ethical monotheism, the nation-state and universal justice that the Jews gave the world, will reign unchallenged. If Israel is still under siege, it is because Islamists and Marxists—whether they fly a false flag of concern for “human rights” or are more open about their despotist beliefs—alike seek such a terrible outcome for humanity.

Jews have a right to their own nation in the place that has been their home for thousands of years, regardless of any other factor. Herzl was right that it was a necessity in a world in which, as the Passover Haggadah states, “in every generation, they rise against us.”

Though it is as imperfect as any human endeavor, Israel is more than a precarious shelter in a hostile world. Whether Israelis and Jews elsewhere would have it so or not, the Jewish state, like Judaism itself, remains a symbol of the greatness that humanity can achieve and of its highest ethics and morals. And it will never be forgiven for that by those who embrace the ideologies of hatred and destruction, and are inevitably to be found among the ranks of antisemites in every era.

No matter what its enemies throw against it—be it conventional armies, terrorists or calumnies about “genocide”—Israel is here to stay. The Jew-haters may labor under the delusion that they can destroy it and redefine Zionism as racism, but all they are doing is reminding the world of the imperative of the logic that made the modern-day nation of the Jews necessary. Whether it is a somber observance or a joyous party, Israel’s Independence Day is still a day that Jews and people of goodwill everywhere should celebrate since it is a commemoration of both freedom and the eternal cause of justice.

Happy Yom Ha’atzmaut! (JNS May 1)