



Commentary...

Mind-Blowing European Union Chutzpa By David M. Weinberg

Israel should repulse the escalating European Union campaign of intimidation.

You see, boycotts of Israeli products from Judea and Samaria no longer satisfies Brussels. Ramping-up its confrontation with Israel, the European Union has gone into the business of establishing "settlements" for the Bedouin and Palestinians in Judea and Samaria, tower and stockade style.

This includes the wild Bedouin building spurt that the EU has insolently funded in the strategic E1 quadrant between Jerusalem and Maaleh Adumim, in entirely purposeful defiance of Israel.

The IDF defines the area in question a pivotal part of Israel's strategic depth, and essential to defensible borders for Israel. It is also Area C under the Oslo Accords, which means that Israel holds exclusive civilian and military control.

Yet illegally-established Palestinian villages and Bedouin shanty-towns have slowly closed the corridor between Jerusalem and Maaleh Adumim, where a major highway runs, crawling to within several meters from it. These illegal outposts steal electricity from the highway lights and water from Israeli pipelines.

Civil Administration data, presented last year to the Knesset's subcommittee on Judea and Samaria, showed that 6,500 Palestinians were living in some 1,220 illegally-built homes in the area, and the number undoubtedly has grown since then – thanks to the EU.

The imperious EU has poured perhaps 100 million Euros into EU-emblazoned prefabs, EU-signed roads, and water and energy installations – in E1, in Gush Etzion (near Tekoa), in the southern Hebron hills, and even in the Negev.

Under the cover of diplomatic immunity, the EU's settlement-building bosses audaciously thumb their noses at inspectors of the IDF's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). Then, they scream bloody murder when the IDF moves in, ever so minimally (– far too meekly and infrequently, I think!) to knock back a few of the most provocatively- and problematically-positioned EU illegal outposts.

Note that every Israeli prime minister since Yitzhak Rabin has promised and intended to build in the E1 quadrant as the eastern strategic anchor for Jerusalem and its critical connection to the Jordan Valley; only to be stymied by international protests.

In short, the EU's support of the Palestinians has graduated from passive diplomatic and financial assistance to subversive participation in the Palestinian Authority's illegal construction ventures. The explicit EU intent is to erode Israeli control of Areas C and eastern Jerusalem while promoting Palestinian territorial continuity leading to runaway Palestinian statehood.

In June and August, the EU fiercely warned COGAT that Israel's policy of demolishing illegal and unauthorized Palestinian construction is harming ties between Israel and the 28-member EU countries.

According to Le Monde, eight member states of the EU this week took the further, unprecedented move of penning a letter to the Israeli foreign ministry demanding that Jerusalem reimburse (!) EU countries for the dismantling of infrastructures in the West Bank such as solar panels and mobile homes that were slated to serve innocent "local Arab schools."

Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden – members of the so-called "West Bank Protection Consortium," a body which coordinates "humanitarian assistance" to Bedouin and Palestinian squatters in Area C – are now demanding that Israel pay them compensation of more than 30,000 Euros each.

Such mind-boggling chutzpa! First the EU builds illegal settlements in defiance of Israel, then it demands that Israel pay for these offenses when Israel acts against them. How much more contemptuous can you get than that?

The European position is that under the Geneva Convention Israel is responsible for dealing with the everyday needs of the Palestinian population in Area C, and since it is "not doing so," the European states are stepping in with humanitarian aid. But it's clear to anybody with a brain that European activity in Area C is not "humanitarian assistance" but

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political activity that brazenly seeks to create "facts-on-the-ground" – to strengthen the Palestinians' hold on Area C.

In doing so, the EU has thrown key cornerstones of peace diplomacy out the window. "Not prejudging the outcome of negotiations," and "direct negotiations between the parties

without coercion" – are principles that no longer hold sway, at least as far as EU pampering of the Palestinians is concerned. Instead, collusion with Palestinians and defiance of Israel is in vogue.

The EU superciliously ignores the fact that the Palestinian Authority has rejected Israeli offers three times (2000, 2001, and 2008) which would have given them statehood, including possession of almost all the West Bank and a share of Jerusalem. They also fled from US Secretary of State John Kerry's talks in 2014, and have sought to grab international recognition of their "statehood" unilaterally, while demonizing and criminalizing Israel in international courts.

Then the Palestinians revel in useless peace confabs, like the conference that Paris convened last summer, because this diverts attention from their intransigence and heightens Israel's diplomatic isolation without actually brokering a peace negotiation that the PA doesn't want.

But none of this bothers the EU. It's just happy to push Israel toward essentially-unilateral withdrawals – without any expectations of real moderation from the Palestinians.

Obviously, Israel shouldn't pay the EU one red cent in "compensation" for its confiscated, cheeky solar panels.

In-your-face EU diplomacy should be met with in-your-face Israeli diplomacy. Perhaps Israel should demand compensation from Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Sweden for the Jews persecuted, the Jewish property confiscated, and the synagogues destroyed in their territories over the past 2,000 years.

And if our government idiotically dares to settle with the EU, and shells out a single shekel, I am going to withhold paying my taxes in protest. (Jerusalem Post Oct 29)

With Saddam Statue, Abbas Thumbs his Nose at the US

By Stephen Flatow

While Americans have been tearing down statues that honor people who don't deserve to be honored, Palestinian Arabs are doing exactly the opposite. A statue honoring Saddam Hussein, the notorious dictator, terror sponsor and mass murderer, was unveiled last week in the Palestinian Authority (PA) city of Qalqilya.

Technically, the statue was sponsored by the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), not the municipality of Qalqilya or the PA itself. But the PA's district governor for the Qalqilya District, Rafi Rawajba, attended the unveiling ceremony. Rawajba is a representative of the Fatah movement, which PA President Mahmoud Abbas chairs.

You can see from the photos distributed by The Associated Press that the statue is 20 feet tall, with lights so everyone can see it at night, too. And it's situated smack in the middle of a major street. If the mayor or Abbas didn't want there, it would be gone in five minutes.

In fact, the ALF has erected statues of Saddam in several other PA-controlled cities, too, and Abbas has not ordered them taken down, either. That's because he was always one of Saddam's biggest fans. Abbas could have written the Arabic inscription on the statue himself: "Allah is great, long live the nation, Palestine and Iraq, the Lord of the era's martyrs Saddam Hussein."

Just two weeks ago, the official Facebook page of Abbas's Fatah included Saddam alongside photos of other Arab heroes in a college with the slogan, "From the sea of the blood of the Martyrs, we will create the State of Palestine." On the 10th anniversary of Saddam's death, last December, the Fatah Facebook page featured a memorial poster hailing Saddam as a "martyr" (shahid).

There's even an entire "Martyr Saddam Hussein Square," in Ramallah, the PA's capital city. I wonder if Abbas salutes it on his way to work.

The ALF is a small Palestinian terrorist group that was established in 1969 with Iraqi financial sponsorship. Remember those infamous \$25,000 checks that Saddam sent to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers? The ALF was in charge of distributing the funds.

But the ALF's record goes beyond handing out rewards to terrorists. It was responsible, for example, for a bombing on Jerusalem's Ben Yehuda Street in September 1979, in which one person was killed and 58 were maimed. According to the Israeli police, the bomb was "set to detonate at

a time when it would cause maximum civilian casualties," just as "hundreds of customers were leaving the shops along the mall which close at 7 p.m. and other crowds were lining up for the first show at one of the many movie houses in the vicinity."

Since the whole premise of the 1993 Oslo Accords was that the Palestinian leadership now rejects terrorism, you would think that Yasser Arafat and his then-number two man, Abbas, would have expelled terrorist groups such as the ALF (and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of the Palestine) from the PLO.

No such luck. To this day, the ALF is a member in good standing of Abbas's PLO. The ALF operates openly and freely in PA territory. It has never been expelled, disarmed or outlawed.

Nearly 300 American soldiers died fighting Saddam in the Gulf War in 1990. Another 4,497 gave their lives fighting Saddam in the Iraq War of 2003 and its aftermath. The creation of statues and public squares in PA territory honoring Saddam is a direct slap in the face to the U.S. and its fallen soldiers.

Abbas and the PA received \$357 million from the U.S. last year. Abbas seems to assume that the aid will continue to flow, even if he allows anti-American terrorists such as the ALF to be part of the PLO, and even if statues of America's enemies, such as Saddam Hussein, are erected in PA cities.

To judge by the non-reaction of the Trump administration to the newest Saddam statue, it appears that Abbas's assumption may well be correct. (JNS.org Oct 31)

Palestinian 'Peace' By Eyal Zisser

The discovery and demolition of the terror tunnel under the Gaza border on Monday served as a reminder that even while the Palestinians talk about reconciliation in Cairo and Ramallah, terror tunnels continue to be dug in Gaza at full speed.

The fact that the IDF discovered the tunnel also reinforces the assessment that Hamas will not relinquish its military capabilities under the reconciliation agreement, but will instead opt to retain its missile arsenal and maintain its attack tunnels. Hamas views the tunnels as a key component of its military capabilities.

Hamas will likely also not comply with Israel's call to crack down on rogue Palestinian factions – some of which maintain ties with the Islamic State group – that continue to operate in Gaza and are not part of the Palestinian rapprochement between Fatah and Hamas. One of these factions, for example, was behind last weekend's assassination attempt aimed at the head of Hamas' security apparatus in Gaza, Tawfiq Abu Naim, even though Hamas would love to blame Israel.

These groups stockpile weapons and may even dig tunnels, but it is their very existence that is an important card that Hamas hopes to play in future dealings with Israel, even if, for now, Hamas' stated policy is to maintain calm along the border.

The discovery and demolition of the tunnel is also a reminder that any reconciliation deal seeking to restore calm, facilitate normal civilian life and cultivate a healthy economy in Gaza is doomed to fail unless it addresses the terror arsenal there – be it the stockpiles of missiles, the terror tunnels or armed militants. These will continue to be ticking time bombs waiting to blow up in our faces, as well as the faces of the Egyptians and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, just like the terror tunnel that the IDF exposed on Monday.

Israel was right to take the calculated risk of blowing up the tunnel and arousing the anger of Hamas and its partners in Gaza. The IDF proved its advanced technological capabilities in dealing with the tunnel threat, which will deter the diggers from Gaza. The decisiveness in protecting Israeli sovereignty and nipping any possible threat at the bud is also important. This is how Israel conducts itself in the northern front with weapons the Iranians try to give to Hezbollah, and this is how Israel conducts itself in Gaza. (Israel Hayom Oct 31)

Why They Protest Balfour By Jonathan Hunter

Lord Arthur Balfour stands in history as one of Britain's lesser known and perhaps less successful prime ministers. The reclusive Edwardian eccentric, who made a better academic than politician, is principally remembered for two things.

From the standpoint of British culture, Balfour is remembered for his cutting, patronizing wit: an endless array of bitter ironies, oozing with smugness, which merit an entire adjective: "Balfourian." But more importantly for the Jewish people, Balfour is hailed for his 1917 declaration which pledged the British government's support for a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

As the centenary of the Balfour Declaration approaches, a famous Balfourian phrase comes to mind: "I never forgive, but I always forget." Today, Balfour's legacy is being eroded by the twin millstones of millennials forgetting our collective past, and an international coalition of activists who cannot "forgive" the creation of the State of Israel.

Balfour is either forgotten or cannot be forgiven.

On November 4, thousands of anti-Israel activists will take to the streets in London, protesting a proclamation made a century ago. Tweeting the hashtag #MakeItRight, not only do these activists seek an apology for the Balfour Declaration – but they openly imply that Balfour's promise was such a travesty that it may only be "made right" by complete reversal. In a nutshell, the protest exploits history in order to question Israel's existence.

This comes in the wake of the Palestinian Authority's own ludicrous attempts to sue the British government over the declaration. "Anti-Balfour" activity must principally be seen as part of a global campaign to delegitimize Israel's very foundations.

Today, the anti-Zionist campaigns which exploit history (and simultaneously seek to reverse it) are preaching to a demographic which increasingly doesn't know better.

The memory of the persecution of European and Middle-Eastern Jewry, only a generation or two away from us, reverberates much less – and consequently, the reestablishment of the Jewish homeland is no longer seen as a necessity.

A generation of young people may be almost entirely unaware of the context of the Balfour Declaration – and why the British government's pledge was a remarkably humanitarian gesture for its time. Among Western millennials, such historical ignorance is increasing to epidemic proportions.

In November 2015, a survey conducted by Brandeis University found that the majority of young American Jews who attended Birthright programs lacked "the requisite knowledge to participate in productive conversations about Israel."

To cite one example, not even half of the survey's participants could name Yitzhak Rabin as the only Israeli prime minister to be assassinated. If most young Jews cannot even remember Rabin, who likely lived within their lifetime, it's doubtful they even have a hunch who Balfour was – he likely died before their grandparents were born.

Such findings have certainly worried Jewish leaders.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, has angrily spoken out about how young Jews "don't know the history and don't [know] much better than non-Jews."

This is cause for alarm. An array of NGOs, campus groups and obsessive foreign governments have equipped legions of young anti-Israel activists with the tools and "talking points" to dissect even the most obscure elements of Israeli history.

And while the president of the local Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) can wax lyrical on the colonial evils of the Balfour Declaration, it's embarrassing that the average Jewish millennial might not have even heard of Balfour, or know why his declaration is such a towering moment in Jewish history. It is in this context that the Brandeis report commented that some Jewish leaders "lacked some of the foundational knowledge that would equip them to engage in Israel-related activity."

Amid this dire situation, anyone invested in the future welfare of Diaspora Jewry – and the future diplomatic standing of the State of Israel – must prioritize Israel education, and develop its curricula beyond the communal infrastructure which already exists.

Some organizations have certainly recognized this.

Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi), the international Jewish fraternity, has launched a worldwide campaign – led by students – which seeks to applaud the British government for the Balfour Declaration. In doing so, AEPi brothers are educating their peers across the world about a crucial moment in Jewish history. It's educational initiatives like this which should be admired, emulated and repeated.

When the political adversaries of the State of Israel will never forgive the country for existing, the Jewish community cannot be allowed to forget its history. Only if young Jews are aware of their history, thoroughly educated in the facts and determined to educate others do we stand a chance of fighting back against the anti-Zionist narrative. (Jerusalem Post Oct 30)

Jonathan Hunter founded and manages The Pinsker Centre – a London based NGO which advocates for Israel on British university campuses. Yoseff Shachor serves as its Israel director.

The Embassy, the NIF, and the U.S.-Israeli Jewish Divide

By Evelyn Gordon

The Anti-Defamation League released a truly shocking poll of Israeli opinion last week. You wouldn't guess that from reading the newspaper headlines, which were all about decades-old divisions in Israeli society. But here's the shocking part: Over a fifth of respondents accused Diaspora Jews of contributing to those social divisions.

While some Israeli minorities might plausibly say this (ultra-Orthodox Jews upset by American Jewish pressure for religious pluralism, radical leftists upset by American Jewish support for Israel), it's hard to see those minorities alone adding up to 21 percent of respondents. But why would any mainstream Israelis, who have traditionally been appreciative of Diaspora Jews' political and financial support for Israel, now feel that overseas Jewry has become a negative factor, a force contributing to social

divisions?

If I had to answer in four words, I'd say "the New Israel Fund." But the NIF is merely the most visible face of a deeper problem, as demonstrated by another shocking poll released last month: Mainstream American Jews are increasingly siding with Israel's enemies on issues that many Israelis consider fundamental to their country's well-being.

The poll in question, by the American Jewish Committee, surveyed American Jewish opinion on a range of issues. But two questions were particularly noteworthy.

The first asked respondents what they thought about moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Supporting the embassy move used to be a mainstream American Jewish position. Yet in this poll, only 16 percent of respondents favored moving it immediately. Even more shocking, only another 36 percent supported moving it "at a later date in conjunction with progress in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks." A full 44 percent said they didn't want the embassy moved, period.

Most Israelis want international recognition of Jerusalem as their capital. Palestinians, by contrast, overwhelmingly oppose it. So on an issue where Israelis and Palestinians are clearly at odds, American Jews overwhelmingly opted to side with the Palestinians against Israel. Almost half didn't want the embassy moved at all, and most of the rest wanted to give the Palestinians de facto veto power over the move—which is the real meaning of saying it should happen only "in conjunction with progress" in peace talks. And needless to say, recognition of Judaism's holiest city—the focus of Jewish prayers for millennia—as Israel's capital is hardly a trivial issue.

This same divide was evident on a question about establishing a Palestinian state. Fully 55 percent of the AJC's respondents said they favor establishing a Palestinian state "in the current situation." Only 40 percent opposed it.

The "current situation," lest anyone forget, is one in which Palestinians adamantly refuse to recognize Israel as a Jewish state or drop their demand to relocate millions of Palestinians to Israel; in which every Palestinian party—including Mahmoud Abbas's supposedly "moderate" Fatah—lauds anti-Israel terror, incites it, pays generous salaries to terrorists, and educates its children to hate Israel; in which most Palestinians say their ultimate goal isn't a Palestinian state, but Israel's eradication; and in which Hamas, one of the two major Palestinian parties, still openly proclaims that goal.

Consequently, as repeated polls have shown, most Israelis believe a Palestinian state under current conditions would be inimical to their well-being. Far from bringing peace, they believe it would simply turn the West Bank into a base for anti-Israel terror, just as Gaza has been since Israel withdrew from that territory in 2005. Thus, on an issue that's literally life and death for Israelis, a majority of American Jews sided with the Palestinians against mainstream Israelis.

Are most Israelis actually familiar with this poll data? Of course not. But they intuit it from the behavior of one of the most high-profile American Jewish organizations in Israel – the NIF.

The NIF has become toxic not just for Israeli rightists but also centrists and even the soft left. As an example, take Women Wage Peace, a group seeking to mobilize Israeli and Palestinian women to lobby for Israeli-Palestinian peace. In an interview last month, its founders said they decided to stop accepting money from the NIF after their first year in operation because they wanted to broaden their base beyond the hardcore left and feared association with the NIF might drive away the centrists they sought to recruit.

Nor is this surprising. That same month, in response to a tweet asking whether Israel is "an evil country" or "just committing ethnic cleansing on a regular basis," the NIF's Israeli president, Talia Sasson, tweeted, "It is both." Also that month, Ruchama Marton, founder and president of one of the NIF's best-known grantees, Physicians for Human Rights, published an op-ed in Haaretz advocating for BDS.

In other words, the NIF has no problem with a chief executive who publicly calls Israel "evil" and falsely accuses it of systematic ethnic cleansing. And despite claiming that it doesn't "fund global BDS activities against Israel nor support organizations that have global BDS programs," it has no problem with its grantees' chief executives publicly promoting BDS. Given this, is it any wonder that even soft-left groups like Women Wage Peace don't want to be associated with the NIF?

Nor can the NIF be dismissed as a fringe organization. Unlike, say, the widely condemned Jewish Voices for Peace, the NIF is well within the mainstream American Jewish fold; Rabbi Rick Jacobs, today the president of America's largest Jewish denomination, the Reform movement, used to chair one of its grant committees. And with annual donations topping \$26 million in 2016, from a long list of donors, it clearly has a non-negligible support base. It's not in the top financial tier of American Jewish organizations, but neither is it anywhere near the bottom.

A generation ago, an organization whose executives and grantees spouted anti-Israel canards or advocated anti-Israel boycotts would have been as toxic among American Jews as it was among Israelis. That fact that today's NIF instead has broad support among American Jewry tells Israelis everything they need to know about how far away from Israel many American Jews have moved.

Given this, it's not surprising that a growing number of Israelis view

Diaspora Jewry negatively. The only question is whether anything can be done to close this widening rift before it's too late. (CommentaryMagazine.com Oct 24)

A Century of Missed Opportunities By Ron Prozor Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas,

This week we mark 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, which officially recognized the Jewish people's right to a national home in the land of Israel. Much has happened over this century; the Jewish people have suffered terrible tragedies but have also been wise enough to use every tool at their disposal to realize their dream of self-determination, creating a thriving country.

During the same 100 years, Mr. President, you and other Palestinian leaders never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity. Time and again you were required to make historic and courageous decisions, and time and again you bluntly rejected the hand presented to you in peace. You always had good excuses, but very few good deeds to go with them.

Over the past year, you have chosen another path, one that completely denies reality by focusing on attempts to deny the eternal existence of the State of Israel. Instead of recognizing the fact that Israel is here to stay, you and your kind have decided to revert a century back and try to change history.

You have climbed an imaginary tree, demanding the British government apologize for issuing the Balfour Declaration, then you tried to enlist Arab countries to file a compensation claim against the British government, and then you even demanded the Balfour Declaration be repealed.

What planet are you on, Mr. President? Your demands only prove to anyone still in need of such proof that you are oblivious to historical truths and that you think historical facts are pliable and can be manipulated at will.

Your audience must wonder, if this is how you treat binding historical documents, how can anyone expect that you live up to a signed agreement? With your actions, you have cemented the argument that you have no respect for any contract.

Mr. President, in calling for the repeal of the Balfour Declaration, you are seeking to negate the Jewish people's national home while fostering among your public the illusion that if they only wait long enough, the State of Israel will cease to exist. I'm sorry, but this effort will also end with sacrificing the Palestinian people's future for a cheap public relations spin, and you know it. You know that your demands are pipe dreams that will never come true. As a diplomat with over 30 years of experience, I must also warn you – do not get confused by the international support you get for peddling illusions.

True, since Nov. 29, 1947, when the U.N. General Assembly voted on the partition plan, the U.N. and international agencies have been assisting the Palestinians in their anti-Israel struggle and your automatic majority in international bodies allows you to pass almost every anti-Israeli resolution, but this has led you to develop a false notion that, with just a little more effort, you will be able to erase Israel off the map.

But who better than you knows that these are all illusions, and time and again they collide with reality because you – and the rest of the world – know that the State of Israel is a fait accompli, a productive and significant member of the international community.

Mr. President, you have evolved from a leader of a terrorist organization to the leader of the Palestinian Authority, a position you have kept for 15 years despite various difficulties. Time and again you set opposite Israeli leaders and you have seen how far they are willing to go. Time and again you have witnessed the State of Israel make concessions for peace, while you failed to rise to the occasion and make courageous decisions.

Now, sir, you must show leadership. You must take responsibility and retire from the business of peddling illusions. Do not confuse the Palestinian people with delusions of erasing history; don't encourage them with hopes for building a future on this basis; do not rile them up with what once was but help them aspire to what could be.

A century of missed opportunities is long enough, sir. Do not sentence your people to 100 years of solitude as well. (Israel Hayom Nov 2)

A Dangerous Deceit By Adam Milstein

It seems that anti-Semitic views are increasingly being accepted in mainstream American political discourse.

Anti-Semitism can currently be found among three different groups, two of which recently joined forces. The first is the radical Right, which almost everyone recognizes and denounces. Rooted in traditional Christian anti-Semitism, its legacy stretches from the Spanish Inquisition through the Nazis to the Klu Klux Klan.

The second is radical Islam, which has harbored anti-Semitic beliefs as part of its traditional hatred of infidels, in particular the Jews, for thousands of years. This hatred took on greater significance with Israel's founding and as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Finally, modern anti-Semitism can be found among members of the

radical Left, which sees Israel as a symbol of American and Western imperialism, aggressive military rule and the violation of human rights.

We do not give adequate attention to the developing alliance between the radical Left and radical Islam – two groups that, despite their seemingly incompatible worldviews, collaborate against Israel and the Jews. This strange alliance can be explained by the theory of intersectionality adopted by many in the far Left. According to this theory, groups that consider themselves neglected and discriminated against must come together to fight against each of those groups' supposed enemies.

Those who represent radical Islam have succeeded in tying their hatred of Israel to the theory of intersectionality and as a result have brought anti-Semitic ideas into mainstream discourse. They present this hatred as concern for Palestinian rights as they depict Israel as a scourge of humanity that must be fought by all those who favor progress. These people are succeeding in their efforts to depict Israeli Jews as white despots, despite the fact that the majority of Israeli Jews did not come from Europe. They see Muslims, and Palestinians in particular, as neglected and oppressed.

The alliance between the radical Left and radical Islam is especially destructive in that it presents those on the Left with a clear choice: Support Israel and be excluded from leftist circles and human rights organizations, or join the anti-Semitic anti-Israel campaign. Is it any wonder, then, that a majority of young American Jews are turning against Israel?

Radical Islamists and radical leftists have succeeded in creating an alternative reality, in which Jews have no right to self-determination and Israel is the world's greatest violator of human rights.

In most cases, behind the hatred of Israel lies an anti-Semitic ideology in disguise. We must remove anti-Semitism from mainstream discourse and push it back into the shadows. We must also show people that radical Islam is the enemy, not just of Israel, but of the United States, the West and the radical Left that has adopted it. (Israel Hayom Nov 1)

From Mueller to Mandelblit By Caroline B. Glick

There are stunning parallels between US Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe of alleged collusion between US President Donald Trump's presidential campaign and Russia and the ongoing criminal probes against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara.

Monday, after a weekend filled with speculation due to an illegal media leak regarding sealed grand jury indictments, Mueller and his team indicted two former Trump campaign officials, Paul Manafort and Richard Gates, for offenses related to their business and lobbying actions allegedly carried out between 2006 and 2014.

Mueller also announced that George Papadopoulos, a junior campaign aide, pled guilty to lying to investigators about a meeting he tried to arrange between then candidate Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

As commentators across the political spectrum have noted, none of the charges against Manafort and Gates have anything to do with Trump's presidential campaign.

As for Papadopoulos, his story exculpates rather than implicates Trump's campaign in collusion with Russia. Not only did Papadopoulos's boss on the campaign reject his offer to arrange a meeting between Trump and Putin, the actions described in his indictment demonstrate that the Trump campaign had no significant ties to the Russian regime.

And yet, despite the apparent absence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, no one expects Mueller to close down shop. To the contrary.

The Manafort and Gates indictments and the Papadopoulos plea tell us that Mueller has abandoned the stated purpose of his investigation. Having found no evidence of collusion – criminal or otherwise – between the Trump campaign and Russia, he has decided to investigate the business dealings of Trump and his associates going back decades.

Mueller's move demonstrates that he does not view it as his job to incriminate or exonerate Trump regarding alleged collusion with Russia. Indeed, he doesn't view it as his responsibility to investigate Russian involvement in the 2016 elections at all.

If he thought that was his job, then Mueller would not be expanding his writ to include alleged crimes carried out by Trump's associates that any US attorney could be investigating. He would be expanding his probe to include the growing mountain of evidence of collusion on the part of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, the Democratic National Committee and their attorneys, as well as Mueller's friend and successor as FBI director, James Comey, with foreign agents, including Russian government officials, during and in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential campaign.

Mueller's apparent refusal to follow the evidence where it leads him regarding Russian involvement in the 2016 elections and his decision instead to investigate any and all suspicions against Trump and his associates whenever the events in question may have taken place tells us that he views himself as a hunter, not an investigator. His prey is Trump.

Mueller will continue to hunt Trump until one of three things happen.

Mueller may eventually find something – anything – to charge Trump with. Such a finding will precipitate an impeachment hearing in Congress that could lead to Trump's removal from office.

His hunt may find nothing against Trump, but just as it netted Manafort,

Gates and Papadopoulos this week, it may bring down other people related to Trump. At a minimum, his continued probe will keep those close to Trump under continuous investigation. In this case, Mueller's probe will dominate Trump's presidency and make it impossible for Trump to govern in accordance with the agenda he was elected to advance.

The third possible outcome is that Trump fires Mueller and ends his probe or that Congress defunds his probe or limits its duration. Such moves would require the unanimous support of congressional and Senate Republicans, which currently is not on offer.

The threat that Mueller's investigation represents to US democracy couldn't be clearer. By making it clear through their actions to date that they will not stop their investigation until they get Trump, Mueller and his associates apparently view their investigation as a means to either overturn the election results or render them irrelevant. If Trump is either pushed out of office or denied the ability to govern in accordance with the agenda he ran on, then Mueller will have achieved that goal.

This then brings us to Netanyahu.

Netanyahu and the political Right won a massive electoral victory in 2015. For the first time in many years, the Right won indisputably. There are no coalition partners who place appeasing the PLO at the top of their governing agenda or even in the middle of their agenda.

Netanyahu and his political camp's victory came as a shock to Israel's elites. Led by the media, which was itself an adjunct of the anti-Netanyahu campaign, and assisted by the Obama administration, which siphoned US government funds into anti-Netanyahu political groups, Israel's elites were flummoxed by the election results.

Shortly after the election, the anti-Netanyahu media, with the support of police investigators, went on a hunt to find something – anything – to force Netanyahu from office. In the end, all they could come up with were two otherwise absurd allegations.

First, that Netanyahu received too many gifts from his wealthy friends. Specifically, he allegedly received too many cigars from his friend Arnon Milchen. Second, Netanyahu taped himself discussing with his nemesis, Yediot Aharonot publisher Arnon Mozes, the possibility of winning less adversarial coverage from Yediot Aharonot in exchange for lobbying Israel Hayom, which is owned by Netanyahu's friend Sheldon Adelson, to cut back its circulation and so diminish its competitive edge over Yediot. This discussion, which came to nothing, was discovered by police investigators during their investigation of Netanyahu's former chief of staff for alleged crimes unrelated to Netanyahu.

If the allegations were directed against any other politician, there is no doubt that they would not have led to police investigations. The late president Shimon Peres's legendary use of the public trough to pay for his lavish parties and lifestyle were never the subject of investigation. Former prime minister Ehud Barak never faced investigation over his allegedly sketchy business dealings or his deeply suspect campaign financing operations. Former prime minister Ehud Olmert was never investigated for the massive collection of expensive pens that he was showered with by "friends" during his tenure in government.

And none the 43 lawmakers who voted in favor of a bill backed by Mozes to shut down Israel Hayom were ever investigated for their votes.

But with Netanyahu, with the prodding and active support of the media the police are pursuing multi-million shekel investigations around the world to find and interrogate Netanyahu's friends and ask them about their gifts to him. Police Commissioner Roni Alsheich has hired Lior Horev, one of Israel's top anti-Netanyahu political consultants, to serve as the police's public relations representative.

As for the probes against Sara Netanyahu, every day the public is treated to yet more salacious, unsubstantiated tales of her alleged abuse of workers at the Prime Minister's Residence.

While Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit did not initiate the probes against Netanyahu, he has done nothing to stop them. This despite their demonstrably prejudicial nature. Mandelblit is a product of the system that has turned the police, media and state prosecution into a political party united in their common goal of hunting the political Right. As a result, he can be expected to go along with whatever they do. If the police recommend indicting Netanyahu, Mandelblit can be counted on to dutifully indict him, even though the acts he is suspected of committing are not crimes.

Given the current dynamic, the only way for Netanyahu not be forced from office for actions that aren't even criminal is for his political associates to rein in the out of control police and state prosecution by limiting their authority. So far, the media have cowed them into inaction.

In the Mueller probe and the incessant probes against Netanyahu we see the new face of the Left. Unable to win elections, they exploit their control over the bureaucracy and media to overturn election results. There can be no greater threat to the health of a liberal democracy than that.

Two things must happen for this situation to be corrected.

First, we must recognize what is happening and what it means for our systems of governance. Second, lawmakers in Congress and the Knesset alike need to stand up to the media and the legal fraternities and bravely restore the power to govern to those in whom the public has vested it. (Jerusalem Post Oct 31)