



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE JEWISH DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVE



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JEWISH DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVE, SOUTH AFRICA

Email: info@jdisa.org

Website: www.jdisa.org

Facebook: [jewish democratic initiative](https://www.facebook.com/jewishdemocraticinitiative)

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AMC

A ZIONIST?

WHAT IS A ZIONIST?

How did Zionism begin? Is there more than one kind of Zionism? Should a good Jew never criticise Israel?

An invitation to a discussion with the Jewish Democratic Initiative.



This brochure has been illustrated with examples of advertising for JDI events held in the past year.

A key paragraph from Israel's founding document, the 1948 Declaration of Independence, reads:

"[The State] will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew Prophets; will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed, or sex; will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education, and culture; will safeguard the sanctity and inviolability of the shrines and Holy Places of all religions; and will dedicate itself to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

Those are exemplary principles. The Jewish Democratic Initiative (JDI) supports them wholeheartedly. That single sentence tells you everything you need to know about our philosophy.

The question, though, is whether the State of Israel upholds its own founding principles: whether it upholds them now, whether it has upheld them in the past, whether it has ever, genuinely, upheld them all.

Many Jews, emotionally attached to Israel all their lives, find criticism of Israel hard to stomach. Hence this brochure, which lays out the guiding principles of the JDI, and why we believe that Israel needs to be held to account..

When did the organisation begin?

The Jewish Democratic Initiative launched in June 2017. It was the 50th anniversary of the Israeli victory in the Six Day War. It was also the 50th anniversary of a darker consequence: the start of the "Occupation", meaning the seizure and demolition of growing swathes of Palestinian villages and agriculture in the West Bank and the imposition of a military regime over millions of non-Jews.

It was an issue to which a majority of Jews had paid scant attention. June 2017 was a wake-up call, a moment of realisation that we had been silent for too long. We were reminded of the important role that South African Jews had played in the struggle for human rights and justice in this country, and we sought to honour this in our attitudes towards Israel/Palestine.

In June 2017, the JDI, together with Jewish organisations around the world, petitioned the Israeli government to restart the stalled peace negotiations with a greater sense of commitment towards finding a just and equitable solution.

What does the JDI stand for?

We strive for an inclusive and tolerant South African Jewish community, focused on social justice and open to a diverse range of approaches to societal challenges.

We value open debate and dialogue within our South African community to enrich our contribution to the constitutional values of freedom, equality, dignity and Ubuntu. We stand for the ethical values of Judaism, including empathy for the strangers among us.¹ We provide a home for those increasingly alienated by the closeminded bigotry of so much of the mainstream South African Jewish community.

We are an umbrella organisation accommodating a range of views. We have principles, but we are not dogmatic. These are difficult, indeed horrifying times, in which we struggle with our relationships to Israel-Palestine. Some of our members quote the forgotten ideals set out in the founding documents of the State of Israel; some say that the chauvinistic tendencies of contemporary Zionism are the problem; some say that political Zionism's failure to acknowledge the presence and the rights of its Palestinian population, a wilful blindness to the presence of another population, was always the problem.

We express no preferences for one state or two state or confederal or any of the other solutions that have been proposed. Instead, we are united on one thing. Following the example of South Africa, which we regularly present as a model, we call for an honest and equitable negotiated settlement in which all parties are represented.

Negotiations will be difficult, are likely to require painful compromises on all sides, may take months or years, but are the only viable solution. And South Africa itself is proof of that. This country has a great many problems today, but it is not locked in a perpetual, ever more hideous, civil war.

¹ As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has put it: "Empathy is not a lightweight, touchy-feely, add-on extra to the moral life. It is an essential element in conflict resolution. People who have suffered pain often respond by inflicting pain on others. The result is violence, sometimes emotional, sometimes physical, at times directed against individuals, at others, against whole groups. The only genuine, non-violent alternative is to enter into the pain of the other in such a way as to ensure that the other knows that he, she or they have been understood, their humanity recognised, and their dignity affirmed."

Is the JDI a radical leftwing organisation?

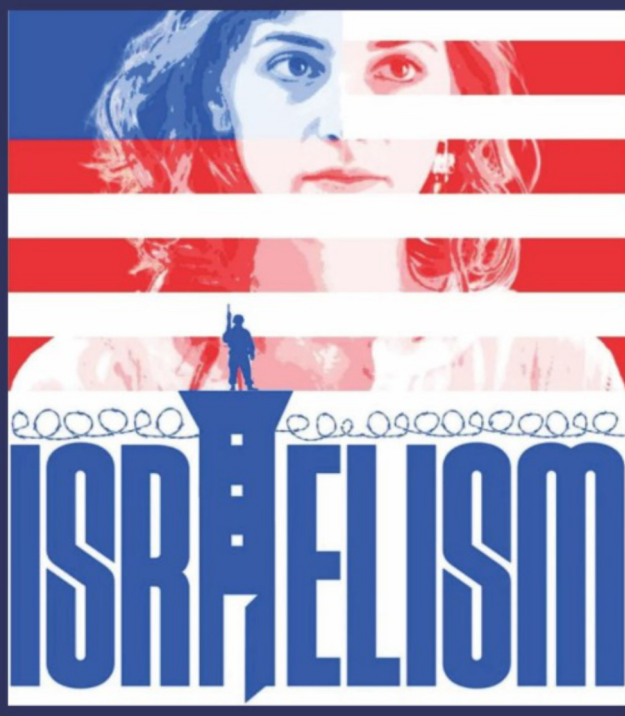
The JDI is a moderate, centrist organisation whose calls for basic human rights, the rule of law and ethnic and religious equality are the supposed baseline values of a state that continues to claim to be “the only democracy in the Middle East”.

The reason we may appear “radical” is that Jewish communities in Israel and in this country have moved so far to the extreme right, have become so intolerant of the slightest dissent, so unashamed of voicing Islamophobic and racist opinions, and so willing to uncritically and unreservedly support the gross excesses of the worst government in Israel’s history.

We have no power to change events in Israel, but what we can do is call out our local community leaders for their silence and complicity. And if other groups like ours across the global diaspora put similar pressure on their community leaders (and indeed, we are part of [a global network of similar organisations called JLink](#)) then perhaps there will one day be real push back from the fifty percent of world Jewry who do not live in Israel.



JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED DOCUMENTARY



“When two young American Jews raised to unconditionally love Israel witness the way Israel treats Palestinians, their lives take sharp left turns. Their stories reveal a deepening generational divide over modern Jewish identity.”

(IMDB)

**Wednesday 13 November 2024
at 19:00**

The Bioscope
44 Stanley Ave, Milpark

Has JDI spoken out in favour of, or against, the October 7th massacre?

The JDI has always been and always will be horrified by the mass murder or kidnapping of civilians. October 7th was the greatest tragedy in modern Jewish history. Hamas was of course the perpetrator. But Hamas, whose bloodthirsty intentions have been common knowledge for decades, should have been stopped before reaching the fence. Let us not forget that October 7th also represented the greatest intelligence and security failure in Israel’s history, for which no member of the political leadership has been held accountable.

Does JDI support Hamas?

We have never expressed support for Hamas, a chauvinistic and fanatical group whose values do not at any point align with our own. But it is worth noting that the Hamas indifference to human life, intolerance of dissent and religious zealotry is not dissimilar to that of members of the Israeli government. Netanyahu, Smotrich, Ben-Gvir and Hamas, in their mutual pursuit of perpetual war, need one another.

Does the JDI acknowledge Israel’s right to defend itself ?

Any country has the right to defend itself militarily against armed incursions. Which does not mean that there are no limits upon how a country chooses to defend itself. Israel has managed over the past few years to turn the greatest tragedy to face the Jewish people in modern times into the greatest tragedy facing the Palestinian people. Retaliation has been grossly disproportionate and deliberately so, for many reasons: to deflect criticism of those leaders who failed to prevent the attack; to stall elections and public accountability; to use the opportunity to seize land in both Gaza and the West Bank; and to detain tens of thousands of Palestinians without trial under the guise of security. The war itself was in part a consequence of years of refusing to reckon with the Palestinian “problem” by preferring crude suppression to negotiations.

Does the JDI use the term “genocide” to describe the Gaza war?

The term “genocide” is a legal term and should not be treated as a casual figure of speech or a political slogan. Jews tend to think of the Shoah whenever the word “genocide” is invoked, but the term was invented several years later and sets a lower bar than gas chambers and death marches. The argument is too complicated to be dealt with fully here. Let us instead say that the JDI supports the arguments of the renowned Holocaust scholar Omar Bartov, Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Brown University, who argues that Israel’s military campaign exhibits clear patterns of intent to destroy Palestinian society through starvation, forced displacement and the systematic destruction of essential infrastructure. "Making life impossible has become a central strategy—not an accidental consequence—of Israeli policy." [Follow this link to read his full argument.](#)

THINKING FORWARDS

In dangerous and uncertain times, are there opportunities to break the cycle of violence and despair?



ASHRAF AL-AJRAMI HANAN ALSANAH
Two prominent Palestinian activists speak to JDI

THE SECOND IN OUR SERIES
EXPLORING SCENARIOS
TOWARDS A LASTING PEACE



Thursday, November 27th at 7.30pm

Do you acknowledge the growing threat of global antisemitism?

Antisemitism has undoubtedly spiralled alarmingly in the past few years, with Bondi Beach and attacks on US synagogues as some of the more shocking examples. Antisemitism has been with us for more than two thousand years, often inflamed as official policy. The question is why antisemitism, always lurking below the surface, has spiked so dramatically since a specific moment, October 2023.

The obvious answer is that Israel's brutal and disproportionate retaliation has caused the world to forget that this all began with the massacre of October 7th. On social media, on the streets, in cities around the world, fairly or unfairly, the word "Israel" has become a synonym for the word "genocide", and the word "Zionist" has become shorthand for the word "Jew". The old tropes about evil, greedy Jews are re-emerging. And it is those of us in the diaspora, unable to hide ourselves behind the guns of the Israeli Defence Force, who are most vulnerable to an antisemitic backlash.

Does Israel care? Not really. The more frightened the diaspora Jewish communities, the more likely they are to rush to Israel for safety.

Is the JDI part of the BDS movement?

The JDI works inside the local and international Jewish communities, and we do not have affiliations with groups outside those communities, neither BDS nor any of the Palestinian solidarity groups. Our aim is to reach Jews who are having second thoughts about their allegiances. Our methods are education and information, as described further below.

We do not favour blanket boycotts of Israeli academics or cultural organisations. We prefer the approach of the African National Congress during apartheid's latter days, which allowed individuals or organisations to be considered on their merits. We boycott organisations which actively choose to work with or to supply the illegal settlements in the West Bank, or which supply munitions used against civilians in Gaza. But we engage with those Israelis who share our values. Given South Africa's own troubled legacy of censorship, we support free speech, including the free speech of those whose views we disagree with.

Where does your money come from?

The JDI is by no means a wealthy organisation, and we are entirely supported by donations. Much of that comes from private individuals ([how to donate to the JDI](#)), often anonymously. It is however public knowledge that our major supporter has been the Mauerberger Foundation Fund, a rare Jewish philanthropic foundation with the courage to defy the mainstream Jewish consensus and stand up for "human rights, meaning all human rights, which includes Palestinian human rights." The foundation has over many decades supported peace initiatives, bridge-building, grassroots public health, empowerment and education in Israel-Palestine.

Are there any Israeli institutions that you support?

We support the many peace movements that attempt, often at considerable cost to themselves, to build bridges between people. Groups that bring Jews and Arabs face-to-face on mutual projects provide an essential antidote to the bigotry that is increasingly widespread in Israeli society. If the country is to have any future at all, it will begin with the tireless work of the peace makers. We also admire the work of those courageous organisations which meticulously document human rights abuses, or which challenge those abuses before the courts. We regularly update our audiences about the activities of these groups and each month we choose one to honour.

What is the benefit of aligning with the JDI?

The benefit is community. We provide a home for Jews who have questions about the behaviour of Israel's leaders and the silence of our local community leadership. These Jews find themselves holding their tongues to keep the peace with colleagues, friends, relatives or teachers who may be hostile to their views. We provide a safe space in which they may freely express those opinions.

What is your key focus area?

Education and information. We aim to open people's minds to the dire situation within Israel-Palestine, and to remind them of their responsibility as Jews to speak out.

Some of our members have held dissenting views for many years and are acquainted with the troubling facts of Israeli history, society and politics. More recent arrivals, even those who have made the effort to keep up with events in Israel, have encountered only a narrow and one-sided perspective. There is almost no capacity for self-critique within the dominant Israeli or local Jewish cultural ethos.¹ Recent Jewish history is understood in triumphalist terms, with Israel's problems caused by hostile outsiders rather than by the actions of its own leaders.

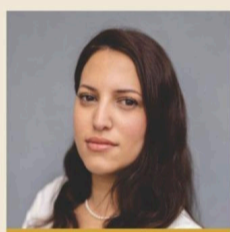
What activities does the JDI provide?

We hold public events, we host discussions with local and international speakers, often Israeli or Palestinian, we screen documentaries that have grabbed headlines abroad but are not widely available in South Africa, and we provide a daily news clipping service covering pertinent events in the Middle East and in the South African Jewish community.

¹ To quote prominent US rabbi Irwin Kula, mainstream Zionist defences of Israel lack the essential element of teshuva. "Teshuvah ... is a practice of rigorous self-interrogation — the willingness to ask, whatever the external causes, however justified the grievances against the other, however real the threats from outside: what have we done that has contributed to where we are?"

A Jewish Festival of DANGEROUS IDEAS

Johannesburg and Cape Town
SAT 26 JULY 19:00 - 22:00
SUN 27 JULY 09:00 - 18:00



HANIN MAJADLI

“ Israelis don't want one state, don't want two states, don't want distributive justice, don't want to restitute lands, don't want the right of return, don't want to end the siege, don't want to end the war. And they call it the “Palestinian problem”.”

Hanin Majadli, Ha'aretz journalist, visiting South Africa to present at the JDI conference.

INFO & BOOKING ON QUICKET



A Jewish Festival of DANGEROUS IDEAS

Johannesburg and Cape Town
SAT 26 JULY 19:00 - 22:00
SUN 27 JULY 09:00 - 18:00



YULI NOVAK

“ Imagine ... a reality in which we continue to live here, between the Jordan River and the sea, in a democracy in which there are no advantages bestowed on Jews. Or on men. Or on white people. In other words, a regime of the kind that lies beyond the limits of a political imagination dictated by apartheid.”

Yuli Novak, Director of B'Tselem, visiting South Africa to present at the JDI conference.

INFO & BOOKING ON QUICKET



Give us an example.

Our biggest event in 2025 was a weekend-long “Jewish Festival of Dangerous Ideas”. Over Zoom we hosted prominent international speakers including on the left, Peter Beinart, author of *Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza*, and in the political centre, Sir Mick Davis who had just established an international liberal Zionist network called the London Initiative. There was Yuli Novak, head of the human rights NGO B'Tselem which was about to release a meticulously researched but damning report the very next day, and there was a powerful address from former Israeli ambassador to South Africa Alon Liel. (*See the photographs from Zoom, above.*)

We also flew out a Palestinian journalist with a waspish pen, Hanan Majadli, who visited both Johannesburg and Cape Town. We screened a movie about the daily work of the Israeli-Palestinian peace movement Combatants for Peace and we exhibited a photographic essay about Palestinians living under the occupation. There was an interactive workshop in the form of a timeline of Zionist history laid out in a long line across the floor, with people invited to recall the moment they first identified with Israel and the moment they first began to ask questions.

But perhaps the main point is this: we brought together several hundred people in Johannesburg and Cape Town to meet one another, talk, eat and schmooze amongst themselves and perhaps form the beginnings of a community.

What other events have you held recently?

We hold at least one event each month, usually a panel discussion with one or more invited speakers who may disagree with one another. For example, on the vexed topic of whether the Gaza catastrophe can be defined as a genocide, we invited diverse speakers, the Holocaust historian Professor Amos Goldberg who said it was most certainly a genocide, the Israeli human rights lawyer Professor Sigall Horovitz who said there was insufficient evidence of intent to make for a winnable case, and the director of the Holocaust and Genocide Centre in Johannesburg, Tali Nates, who talked about how poorly international law deals with genocide. Law lecturer Caitlin Le Roith, who says it is a genocide, discussed how Israel has repeatedly managed to evade international sanction.

JDI BRINGS YOU A DYNAMIC TWO-PART DISCUSSION WITH TOP LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS, EXPLORING THE VEXED QUESTION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A GENOCIDE.

Session 1

THE HISTORIAN:

AMOS GOLDBERG

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

27 MARCH 2025

AT 7:30PM



THREE EXPERTS:

IS THE GAZA WAR A GENOCIDE?

Two separate sessions



Session 2

THE LAWYER:

SIGALL HOROVITZ

Hebrew University of Jerusalem



THE HISTORIAN:

TALI NATES

Founder and director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre:

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Both discussions will take place over Zoom, at JDI venues in Johannesburg and Cape Town. Audience discussions will follow.



We have hosted highly regarded movies including the Oscar-winning documentary *No Other Land* about the destruction of villages in the West Bank, which left the audience in a state of numb shock. We have screened *Israelism*, the story of passionately Zionist Americans who are obliged to reassess their most deeply-held beliefs on encountering the reality of the West Bank Occupation, and *The Viewing Booth*, about how social media disinformation causes people to doubt even verified information.

What do you do, day to day?

We publish a news clipping service called Chadashot which links to interesting and immediate news and opinion about Israel Palestine from sources that may be unfamiliar or inaccessible to our audience, including videos and essays from experts. We put out more than 100 items each month, or 1200 in a year. Chadashot is a sobering crash-course in the affairs of Israel-Palestine, an education even for those of us compiling it. We are repeatedly confronted with issues we may have complacently taken for granted, only to discover that the reality is uncomfortably different.

How many people does the JDI reach?

The Jewish community in this country is estimated at around 45 000. We have 850 people signed up to receive our email communications, 250 subscribed to Chadashot, and 950 followers on Instagram, a number which can on occasion jump to 1 700 ¹. Even if we allow for overlapping audiences, with some people following us on all three, we are nonetheless reaching more than a thousand people, or one Jew in about 40ish.

We are thus, as the Board of Deputies likes to say, an insignificant minority. But it's an insignificant minority that is growing. An insignificant minority that is attracting some serious, respected, influential people. We provide a home for people disillusioned with the leadership of the Jewish community, who may have become indifferent and apathetic, but who have finally found somewhere to turn. Perhaps these are people like you.

¹ Figures from January 2026. They are likely to have increased since.

How can I participate in the JDI?

We would love to have more people actively participate. It's not necessary to encumber yourself with the burden of sitting on a management committee. You may have skills that are useful, you may have occasional free time. We need help with catering and with organising with the front office and tech at events. We need help with social media and our website, which we would like to grow into a must-visit resource on Israel-Palestine, Zionism, the peace movements, the movies, the books, the issues, the culture, and so on. We need more participation from the youth. If you can help, please pop an email to us at info@jdisa.org.



THE DEMOCRATIC HAGGADAH



INTRODUCTION AND PREPARATION

In preparation for the seder, we arrange a plate with the following items as per tradition: A Leader holds up and explains each of the items on the Seder plate, in clockwise order:

Shank bone - zeroa - lamb or roasted chicken leg bone (a roasted beet is a vegetarian alternative).

Charoset - a mixture of nuts, fruit, wine, and spices.

Bitter herbs - maror - typically red or white horseradish (some people prefer raw horseradish).

Vegetable - karpas - parsley or any other vegetable, such as potatoes Egg - beitzah - a roasted hard-boiled egg

A covered plate that holds three pieces of **matzah**. A bowl of **salt water**.

A **wine** glass for each person.

An extra wine glass for **Elijah the Prophet** and an extra cup filled with water for the **Prophetess Miriam**.

In addition, as Jews committed to equality and tikkun olam, we have included some options of symbolic additions to your seder plate. Please include those that most speak to you.

Orange - The story goes that Susannah Heschel, a renowned Jewish feminist scholar, was searching for feminist and LGBTQI+ items for the Pesach Seder. While lecturing, she was attacked by a Rabbi who stated that he believed "that a women belongs on the Bima like an orange belongs on the seder plate." The orange, now part of many Seder tables and Haggadot, symbolizes the inclusion of women and LGBTQI+ people who are often marginalised in Judaism. It is symbolic of the fruitfulness of all Jewish life.

Olives - Represents the current and future attempts at peace and solidarity between Jews and Palestinians. Olives have been harvested in the Levant for at least 6000 years. An important and symbolic crop for both Jews and Palestinians, they have represented peace for almost as long as they have been cultivated. Settler violence in the West Bank has long targeted the olive harvest and one of the most important acts of peace work taken on by Jewish activists has been the observation and protection of the harvest in the Occupied Territories.

Fair Trade Coffee Beans /chocolate - Represents the bitterness of modern refugees, slavery and oppression. Both the coffee and the chocolate (cocoa) industries are hotbeds of modern slavery, with the vast majority of both being harvested by unpaid, often child labour.

Watermelon - Watermelon imagery has been used to represent the fight for Palestinian self-determination as it shares the same colours as the Palestinian flag.

4

The **SIMPLE-NATURED CHILD** what do they say?

"What is this?"

And you must tell them, "With a strong hand Hashem our God brought us out of Egypt, from the grip of slavery."

And the **ONE WHO DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO ASK**

you must open [the story] for them,

as it is said: And you shall tell your child on that day, "Because of this Hashem our god acted for me when I came out of Egypt."

At some point we have heard within ourselves the voices of any or all of these children. In which ways do you display the behaviour of all four children? How can you do better?

[A Meditation on the Four Children](#)

[by The Seder Creators by Rabbi Brant Rosen \(modified by MP\)](#)

As Jews, how do we respond when we hear the tragic news regularly coming out of Israel/Palestine? How do we respond to reports of checkpoints and walls, of home demolitions and evictions, of blockades and military incursions?

It might well be said that there are four very different children deep inside each of us, each reacting in his or her own characteristic way.

The **'Wicked' Bitter Child** channels her Jewish fears into demonization of the other. This child chooses to view Antisemitism as the most eternal and pernicious of all forms of hatred and considers all those "outside the tribe" to be real or potential enemies. She believes that Palestinians fundamentally despise Jews and will never tolerate their presence in the land - and that brute force is the only language they will ever understand.

The **Simple Fearful Child** is marked by the trauma of the Shoah and believes that to be a Jew means to be forever vulnerable. While he may be willing to accept that we live in an age of relative Jewish privilege and power, in his heart he feels that all of these freedoms could easily be taken away in the blink of an eye. To the Fearful Child, Israel represents Jewish empowerment - the only place in the world that can ensure the collective safety of the Jewish people.

19

Each year the JDI produces an updated version of its progressive Haggadah. Now much sought-after, it includes meditations on the themes of freedom, equality and empathy for strangers.



Basil Dubb
Community admin



Book tickets for Debate: What is Antisemitism (Cape Town)
www.quicket.co.za

Cape Town registration:

<https://www.quicket.co.za/events/362064-debate-what-is-antisemitism-cape-town/#/>

Johannesburg registration:

<https://www.quicket.co.za/events/361840-debate-what-is-antisemitism-johannesburg/#/>

9:34 am



You
Community admin

archive.is

<https://archive.is/rhXSK>
archive.is

<https://archive.is/rhXSK>

Whether the Iran war goes well or goes badly, it hardly matters for the one man who is guaranteed to benefit regardless: Benjamin Netanyahu. By Tel Aviv-based analyst Mairav Zonszein writing in the New York Times.

11:21 am ✓



Basil Dubb
Community admin

archive.is

<https://archive.is/Q33bP#selection-707.0-707.53>
archive.is

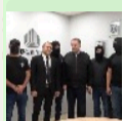
<https://archive.is/Q33bP#selection-707.0-707.53>

Israel Has Become Dangerous for Diaspora Jews

Haaretz journalist, Amira Haas, writes that as the State of Israel positions itself as the representative of global Jewry while conducting wars in Iran, Gaza, Lebanon, and the West Bank - the danger to Jews internationally increases. Diaspora Jews become targets by this association.



You
Community admin



Israeli soldiers who gang-raped Palestinian prisoner are now free to return to military service

The dehumanization of Israeli society itself reaches yet another nadir, as the soldiers who gang-raped a Palestinian prisoner from mondoweiss.net

<https://mondoweiss.net/2026/03/israeli-soldiers-who-gang-raped-palestinian-prisoner-are-now-free-to-return-to-military-service/>

The soldiers whose gang rape of Palestinian prisoners last year was captured on video, causing an international scandal, have had their charges dropped, received praise from the Prime Minister and Defence Minister, and have been allowed to return to service. (From Mondoweiss).

10:28 am ✓



2026 03 22 History repeating itself in Lebanon.pdf

4 pages • PDF • 252 kB

History tragically repeating itself in Lebanon

Kim Ghattas, contributing editor at the FT, gives us a review of past Israeli invasions and incursions into Lebanon and compares this with what is happening today. i.e., The sixth Israeli military campaign against Lebanon.

The Israeli invasion of 1982 encouraged Iran to nurture the genesis of Hizbollah to defend against the invader. What followed through the decades are various versions of today's Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon which has recently internally displaced over 1 million Lebanese and killed over 1,000 people.



You
Community admin



Trump's video game war: AI, memes and a simplistic narrative have flattened the conflict | Nesrine Malik

What was supposed to be a quick win has become a quagmire, so it now must be reduced to a dopamine hit, says Guardian columnist www.theguardian.com

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/mar/23/iran-us-trump-video-game-war-ai-memes>

This war is Trumpist television entertainment, a video game in which the bad guys are pulverised by American might. Clips from Top Gun, Braveheart, Superman are uploaded by the White House. In no other war has the brutal reality been so disconnected from the heedless political narrative. By Nesrine Malik in The Guardian.

12:05 pm ✓



Basil Dubb
Community admin



'My heart is breaking': Lebanese family grieve daughter killed by Israeli bomb

Narjis, one of 121 children killed in Lebanon this month, wanted to be a doctor and 'was like a blossom', her mother says www.theguardian.com

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/mar/27/lebanon-family-grieve-daughter-killed-israeli-bomb>

To grasp the true scale of suffering within mass violence, sometimes personal stories speak louder than statistics. Here are two accounts of loss in South Lebanon.

5:30 pm



Basil Dubb
Community admin

archive.is

<https://archive.is/1UdV7>
archive.is

<https://archive.is/1UdV7>

Strategy Behind the West Bank Pogroms: Deir Yassin

In a sobering article, Hagai El-Ad – former head of B'Tselem – argues that the driving impulse behind Israeli state policy, across all territory it controls, is the "correction" of the demographic balance between Jews and Palestinians.

Drawing on historical and contemporary evidence, he contends that Zionism's fundamental rejection of a binational state leaves only a spectrum of options ranging from apartheid to ethnic cleansing.



Basil Dubb
Community admin



Prominent New York synagogue hosts presentation on why U.S. Jews should support the ethnic cleansing of Gaza

Benjamin Anthony's speech at New York's influential Park Avenue Synagogue, where he argued that U.S. Jews need to support ethnic mondoweiss.net

<https://mondoweiss.net/2026/04/prominent-new-york-synagogue-hosts-presentation-on-why-u-s-jews-should-support-the-ethnic-cleansing-of-gaza/?>

Published by a pillar of the American Jewish establishment – the Park Avenue Synagogue – the content features an Israeli speaker asserting that "Palestinian Arabs are not fit to have a state", and calling for their removal from Gaza. It is worth emphasizing that these views are not being voiced on the fringes; they are being expressed (and legitimized) before a prominent mainstream audience

6:13 pm



You
Community admin

archive.is

<https://archive.is/TW1bl>
archive.is

<https://archive.is/TW1bl>

A weekend protest in Tel Aviv against the Iran war which drew a thousand protesters, was broken up by police who arrested 17 people and confiscated megaphones and other equipment. A few days earlier, a protest from Ha'aretz.

Facebook description of the event from the activist group Peace Now: <https://www.facebook.com/PeaceNowIsrael/posts/pfbid0xqPT1ZcVsGHfRsyhbBj9mk1A5a5jzMHAZ3AzJxiPBk5CtV6ptPReKJ1GqYanPQzwl?rdid=d6GrmsdBNIHvrtgl#>

5:29 pm ✓

The JDI's news and opinion feed on Whatsapp, Chadashot. Each item links to the original article, drawn from a variety of sources. Write to us at info@jdisa.org if you would like to subscribe.

“ I believe there is another Judaism than the one being offered by the Israeli government and America’s most powerful Jewish organizations. It begins where Torah begins, with the recognition that all human beings, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, and race are created equal in the image of God. ”

Peter Beinart, author of *Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza: A Reckoning*.

