



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

there [safe]—than a war, than an escalation, than opening up a second front there at that border with Lebanon against Hezbollah,” he said. “We still believe that there can be time and space for a diplomatic solution here and that’s what

Commentary...

News Flash for DC: Diplomacy Gets You Slaughtered

By Ruthie Blum

On ABC’s Sunday program, “This Week with George Stephanopoulos,” White House National Security Communications Adviser John Kirby acknowledged sheepishly that Hamas is holding up a deal with Israel that would see the end of the war in Gaza and the release of at least some of the hostages.

The fact that something so obvious requires repeating is beyond outrageous. Nevertheless, it’s made necessary by the choir of voices blaming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin (“Bibi”) Netanyahu for the absence of an arrangement with Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar and his army of mass murderers.

Asked by Stephanopoulos whether it’s true that the “Gaza ceasefire talks have gone cold,” Kirby replied: “I would say that we are not achieving any progress here in the last week to two weeks; not for lack of trying. But it doesn’t appear like Mr. Sinwar is prepared at all to keep negotiating in good faith, especially after he murdered six hostages in a tunnel ... execution-style. So, it doesn’t appear as if he’s willing to move this forward.”

As they always do when someone in the American administration fingers the real culprit, Israelis on the side of the spectrum that believes in the government’s war goals promptly highlighted this admission. It’s one of the arguments they use to counter claims by the “anybody but Bibi” protesters that Netanyahu is at fault for not playing ball with the so-called “mediators” in Washington, Cairo and Doha.

In their enthusiasm to illustrate, once again, that even U.S. officials are accusing Hamas of being the stumbling block, these pundits failed to focus on the language of Kirby’s interview—and on the rest of its disturbing content.

Let’s start with his referring to this bloodluster, famous for killing Palestinians with his bare hands, as “Mr. Sinwar.” Talk about an ill-deserved honorific, to put it mildly.

Worse, it indicates utter cluelessness about the character of the Middle East, in general, and Sinwar’s identity, in particular. He’s not a “mister.” He’s a monster who revels in being hailed as such. It’s the source of his power over the people he terrorizes, both his own and Israel’s.

Then there’s Kirby’s delicacy in describing how “it doesn’t appear like Mr. Sinwar is prepared at all to keep negotiating in good faith—especially after he murdered six hostages in a tunnel ... execution-style.”

When, one wonders, did he ever negotiate “in good faith?” Executing the starved, abused hostages his operatives and “civilian” supporters tortured, raped and kidnapped on Oct. 7 was par for Sinwar. Kirby’s use of the word “especially” constituted an apologetic clarification for the mere suggestion that the Hamas chief might not be as reliable a partner for powwows as the U.S. government had imagined.

Kirby then hurried to reassure Stephanopoulos that the above “doesn’t mean we’re not trying.”

Indeed, he added, “you heard the president talk about this just a few days ago. Things can be unrealistic until all of sudden they are realistic, and that’s why our team is still engaged with Qatar, with Egypt, with the Israelis, to see if we can’t move it forward.”

Notice Hamas’s glaring absence from the list of parties—you know, the ones negotiating with themselves.

As if Kirby’s statements about Gaza weren’t sufficiently nauseating, he outdid himself when discussing what Stephanopoulos called the “escalation” in Lebanon.

“We believe that there are better ways to try to get those Israeli citizens back in their homes up in the north—and to keep those that are

we’re working on.”

Stephanopoulos wasn’t satisfied with the answer; he wanted to know how it jibed with Netanyahu’s “disregarding what the United States is calling for,” which is a change in the balance of power along Israel’s northern border.

“Well, look, the prime minister can speak for himself and what policies he’s trying to pursue, what operations he’s trying to conduct,” Kirby responded. “We all, of course, recognize that the tensions are much higher now than they were even just a few days ago. We certainly have been monitoring the reports of strikes back and forth across that border. But all that does ... is underscore for us how important it is to try to find a diplomatic solution.”

He went on: “Nobody’s pollyannish about how hard that’s going to be, certainly in light of the events over the last week or so. But that doesn’t mean we’re going to give up on it. We don’t believe that a military conflict—and we’re saying this directly to our Israeli counterparts—we don’t believe that escalating this military conflict is in their best interest. It’s certainly not going to be in the best interest of all those people [whom] Netanyahu says he wants to be able to send back home.”

Somebody should let Kirby know that “all those people”—as well as the majority of Israelis throughout the country—have been urging Netanyahu to eliminate the threat through serious military action beyond tit-for-tat strikes of attrition.

Stephanopoulos pressed him further. “So, what is the U.S. doing exactly to advance a diplomatic initiative?” he asked.

“We have been involved in extensive and quite assertive diplomacy,” Kirby said proudly, clearly referring to pressure on Israel from the White House and State Department. “In fact, one of our envoys, Amos Hochstein ... was in the region just a few days ago. We will certainly keep up those conversations as best we can. And we’re talking to Mossad, too.”

Mention of Israel’s spy agency provided Stephanopoulos with the perfect segue to his next comment disguised as a query.

“This latest escalation seems to have been sparked by the pager detonations by Israel earlier this week. ... Is the United States concerned about what some have said is a relatively indiscriminate response—eh effect—of these pager detonations?”

Calling the most ingenious precision hit on thousands of Hezbollah terrorists simultaneously “indiscriminate” is nothing short of open hostility to Israel, no matter what it does or doesn’t do.

Kirby squirmed. “There’s not a lot I can say about those incidents ... because ... we weren’t involved in it,” he said. [But] we are watching all these escalating tensions that have been occurring over the last week or so with great concern. We want to make sure that we can continue to do everything we can to try to prevent this from becoming an all-out war there with Hezbollah there across that Lebanese border. We don’t want—in fact, we’ve been working since the beginning of this conflict, from Oct. 8 and on—to try to prevent an escalation and to prevent a broadening of this conflict, there and in and around Israel, but also in the region.”

He failed to clarify that Hezbollah attacked Israel, unprovoked, a day after Hamas committed the worst atrocities against Jews since the Holocaust. Nor did he bother to remind Stephanopoulos that both are Iranian proxies. He did stress, however, that “we don’t believe military action is in either side’s best interest.”

Here’s a news flash for him and anyone else who hasn’t been facing a seven-front war of annihilation: Diplomacy gets you slaughtered. Military action, which is the only option in this case, should be welcomed—and victory championed—not hampered, by Israel’s professed allies. (JNS Sep 23)

Yes to Schadenfreude By David M Weinberg

Everybody who wants to see the West triumph over the radical Islamo-fascist camp led by Iran smirked and smiled just a bit this week when thousands of beepers simultaneously exploded in the pockets of Hezbollah leaders in Lebanon and Syria.

Such “schadenfreude,” German for satisfaction felt at someone else’s misfortune, is more than reasonable. In this case, it is in fact quite healthy and splendidly justified, especially after so many months of seeming Israeli helplessness in the face of thousands of Hezbollah attacks on Israel.

The crafty technological hit on some of Israel’s worst enemies – an intelligence-driven caper straight out of the finest and wildest spy novels – gave Israelis and Jews, supporters of Israel everywhere, and all reasonable analysts a glimmer of hope that Israel is getting back its moxie, its verve, its vigor, its ability to win over enemies.

The ingenious strike that targeted and humiliated Hezbollah’s operational ranks gave supporters of this country renewed confidence that Israel is determined to prevail over the Shiite hegemonic juggernaut and that Israel has plenty effective surprises planned.

This feeling of triumph is healthy. That alone is a strategic victory.

Moralists have long despised schadenfreude as a guilty and cheap pleasure, a low emotion unbecoming of mature adults. But the emotions we are talking about in this case are neither cheap nor crude. There is no glee here, just a sense of justified comeuppance, of vindication, and of relief.

This is why I don’t like the Hebrew term *simcha la-ed* that is closest in meaning to *schadenfreude*. It translates as joy or happiness at the misfortune of others – and that smacks of primitivity.

That also is why the English term *epicuricity*, drawn from Greek and meaning the derivation of pleasure from, or finding fun in, the suffering of others is inappropriate too.

Again, these are not the core emotions at work here. Nobody is enjoying the pain of Hezbollah or having fun in warfare, but rather celebrating a cunning and necessary Israeli military success that comes after a long period of setbacks.

The truth is that Israel truly needed this win. Many Israelis have grown disillusioned with the Israeli military and the associated intelligence establishment, for failing to discern and warn of enemy intentions, for failing to find and target Hamas leadership, and for failing thus far to decisively win the wars against Hamas and Hezbollah.

The beeper bang-up is only a tactical win, but it suggests that Israel has turned the page – shall we say with a grin, turned the page(r)! – and is now embarking on a more offensive path to crushing Hezbollah, or at least significantly deterring it from further escalation.

Some Israelis also are disenchanted with the Netanyahu government, wildly accusing it of being a heartless government focused only on its base, concerned mainly about just getting through another day in power – not securing hostage release or resolutely winning the wars.

The beeper bang-up suggests that, on the contrary, the government has been smartly planning for a long time for an assault on Hezbollah, and that more intelligent military strikes and diplomatic moves are possible.

Wouldn’t it be good if Israel could disable Hezbollah’s massive missile force with a similar cyber strike? Imagine an electromagnetic attack, a burst of energy that short-circuits the 150,000 Hezbollah warheads aimed at Israel. Yes, I would celebrate that with profound *schadenfreude* (even if it wrought enormous destruction in Lebanon)!

Many Israelis also have been crushed by the ongoing pressures of long-term war: the grief over fallen soldiers, the suffering of the wounded, the torment of hostage families, the dislocations of displaced Israeli families from the north and the south – refugees in their own homeland, the anguish of young families whose fathers have been away from home on military reserve duty for most of the past year, and so much more.

The beeper bang-up does not solve their problems nor does it alone revolutionize Israel’s overall strategic situation. But the ingenuity, muscle, and grit evidenced by the strike on Hezbollah does

wonders for the Israeli national psyche and especially for those who in despair.

It suggests that the many sacrifices being made by Israelis will yet carry the day and help overcome the enemy. There is some relief if not consolation in knowing that Israeli political and military-intelligence leaders have a few more tricks up their sleeve and that the enemy is vulnerable.

Many Israelis and Jews around the world also have grown furious with the world. There is great rage at cynical, even malevolent Western thought leaders and politicians who have abandoned Israel by denying it weapons, falsely accusing it of war crimes, and voting to hand the enemy more land.

(See, for example, this week’s reprehensible United Nations General Assembly resolution passed by an overwhelming majority which essentially strips Israel of the right to self-defense and self-determination in Judea, Samaria and Jerusalem. To its disgrace, France voted in favor, while Britain, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Australia shamefully abstained.)

The beeper bang-up doesn’t quell anger at the world but it does suggest some pushback. After all, the world (especially the US) wrongly has been pushing Israel to settle for yet another flimsy diplomatic agreement with Hezbollah that essentially would change nothing.

So no, leaders of the world, Israel is not going to agree to “de-escalation” or to an agreement not-worth-the-paper-it-is-printed-upon that would leave the terrorist army’s arsenal intact and let it go scot-free after devastating the Galilee and Golan over 11 months of warfare. Israel is going to beeper-bomb Hezbollah and further rout it out, too.

In sum, by striking at Hezbollah so cleverly, Israel seems to have started back on the path to victories. Therefore, the resultant feelings of triumph as described above are justified, healthy, and very moral. The self-satisfaction and derision of the enemy as expressed in so many memes and jokes (– “If you have Motorola stock, sell short”) plays a crucial role in binding our society together, especially since the pyrotechnical beating suffered by Hezbollah is not the end of the story. Israeli society will yet have to endure more painful levels of conflict with Hezbollah.

Schadenfreude over even temporary and partial subjugation of Hezbollah to Israel’s technological wizardry is a wonderful and worthy thing. (Jerusalem Post Sep 20)

Palestinian Authority Not Part of the Solution for Gaza

By Aharon Friedman

A recent article in The Washington Post by Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammed Mustafa should convince even the Biden-Harris administration that the P.A. is not part of the solution in Gaza or elsewhere.

Any post-Hamas governing entity in Gaza must be willing and able to stop attacks against Israel, and vigorously combat weapons smuggling. This will require working very closely with Israeli security forces. Hamas is badly weakened but not yet destroyed. Significant military operations will be necessary for some time to prevent Hamas from re-emerging. If it was not clear before Oct. 7 that Hamas prioritizes the destruction of Israel and killing Jews over the safety and economic development of Gazans, that is undeniable now. Hamas cannot be allowed any governance role.

A crucial task of the entity will be completely revamping the school curriculum to support peace with Israel and delegitimize terror. Polls show the vast majority of Palestinian Arabs support the Oct. 7 attack. Gaza needs fundamental change, like the denazification of Germany after World War II.

Mustafa provides the P.A.’s perspective on Oct. 7 and vision for the future. Despite some perfunctory rhetoric about “a better future for all people in the region” he makes clear the P.A. opposes the tasks required of a post-Hamas authority.

The article begins: “Five weeks ago marked 300 days of the war on Gaza.” Mustafa does not even mention, let alone condemn, the

Oct. 7 invasion of Israel by Gazans.

Instead, Mustafa argues, “Such levels of mass killing, destruction, forced displacement and starvation of our people are unprecedented in recent history. ... Schools and hospitals, once havens, have become targets ... War crimes and massacres weigh heavily on a people who have suffered far too long.”

The accusations are completely baseless. Israel does not target civilian schools and hospitals. Hamas systemically uses schools and hospitals as military bases, giving Israel no choice but to target Hamas in those locations.

Mustafa does not explicitly mention Hamas. But he calls for a “nonpartisan” government staffed based on “technical” needs, that would give Hamas significant influence. Although his proposal for a police force is generally vague, he specifies the force must include Gazan police “personnel both before and after 2007,” which is when Hamas took control. He said the personnel must be “vetted” but does not elaborate to what end. Hamas has vetted those serving after 2007 to ensure devotion to jihad against Israel.

Although repeatedly making inflammatory accusations against Israel, Mustafa cannot bring himself to use the word “Israel,” except for one reference to the “Israeli military occupation.”

The article calls for assistance to the PA from various international bodies, specifically mentioning three that have failed spectacularly: the World Bank, the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) and the European Union Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM). The World Bank played a prominent role in Gaza’s 2005 disastrous transition following Israel’s withdrawal, eventually leading to the Hamas takeover in 2007. EUBAM was put in charge of monitoring the Egypt-Gaza border crossing to prevent weapons smuggling. Instead of doing their job, EUBAM forces fled upon the 2007 Hamas takeover. For 75 years, UNRWA has exacerbated, instead of resolving, the Palestinian Arab refugee problem to perpetuate the war against Israel. UNRWA has recently turned more destructive, employing terrorists and supplying electricity to Hamas’s server farm located under UNRWA’s Gaza headquarters.

Mustafa proved unwilling to even put on a reasonable facade. But the PA’s actions demonstrate it is no peace partner whatever it might say in *The Washington Post*.

The war crimes accusation echoes the P.A.’s lawfare against Israel at various international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice. These defamatory claims inflame passions against Israel and Jews around the world, including in the United States.

As antisemitism mimicking Soviet propaganda explodes globally, it is not coincidental P.A. leader and Fatah head Mahmoud Abbas has a Ph.D. in Holocaust denial from the USSR. This is not just ancient history. Last year, Abbas explained the Holocaust was not motivated by hatred, but by the role of Jews in usury and money.

Abbas, in the 20th year of his four-year term, recently gave a speech to Turkey’s parliament hailing Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and others who were “martyred” battling Israel, and asserted that “America is the plague.” Fatah, which runs the P.A., boasts of having participated in the Oct. 7 attack, which the P.A. refuses to condemn. Fatah says that such attacks will be repeated until Israel is destroyed. P.A. security personnel are an integral part of terror attacks against Israel. The P.A. continues “pay for slay” under which it rewards those committing terror attacks against Israel, including Oct. 7.

The P.A. is faithfully pursuing the mission of the PLO and Fatah, which were founded before 1967 for the purpose of destroying Israel, not for establishing a state in the territories later taken by Israel in the Six-Day War, that were then occupied by Jordan and Egypt.

In 1974, following the failed Yom Kippur War against Israel, the PLO revised its position that armed struggle was the only method of dealing with Israel. Instead, it adopted the “Phased Plan,” under which the PLO would use any land obtained from Israel to destroy the Jewish state. Abbas’s predecessor, Yasser Arafat, explained the Oslo Accords were never intended to achieve peace, but part of the Phased Plan.

Mustafa’s repeated invocation of the “steadfast” struggle against Israel is not about peace, but a reference to Arafat’s claiming

steadfastness as a strategy for building the capabilities to eventually militarily destroy Israel. The PLO called its alliance against Anwar Sadat’s pursuit of peace with Israel the “Steadfastness and Confrontation Front.”

Abbas appointed Mustafa as prime minister in March in response to demands by U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris for a “two-state solution” with a “revitalized” P.A. Mustafa’s article demonstrates the danger of the Biden-Harris administration’s push to leverage Oct. 7 to establish a P.A. state. (JNS Sep 24)

Israel’s Quandary: Can it Afford to Win in the Face of International Opprobrium? By Caroline B. Glick

The life of Israel is a split screen.

The first screen shows the life of a nation and a country fending off a coordinated seven-front assault whose goal is the Jewish state’s physical obliteration with heroism, ingenuity and fortitude that takes your breath away.

The second screen shows the envy and hatred that the nations of the world direct at the State of Israel.

And this week, with the U.N. General Assembly taking place in New York at the precise moment Israel has taken the initiative vis à vis the Lebanese front, the dissonance between the two sides is so glaring that it gives you whiplash.

Over the past week, for the first time since it unilaterally removed its forces from Southern Lebanon in 2000, Israel took the initiative in its war with Iran’s largest proxy force, Hezbollah, which controls Lebanon. The threat Hezbollah poses to Israel is orders of magnitude greater than the threat Hamas posed on Oct. 7. Hezbollah’s arsenal, which numbers some 200,000 short- and medium-range rockets and ballistic missiles, is nearly 35 times larger than Hamas’s arsenal of 6,000. Hezbollah’s missiles are capable of hitting nearly every strategic military and industrial site in Israel. They are capable of laying waste to northern communities and devastating cities and towns throughout the country.

And they are embedded in civilian neighborhoods. After the 2006 war, due to its control over the Lebanese government and military, Hezbollah oversaw the reconstruction of the areas in Southern Lebanon that were damaged and destroyed in the war. Hezbollah built the apartments as dual-use structures with missile launchers and missiles in many apartments. Residents received monthly payments for permitting their homes to be for this purpose.

Since the start of the war, Hezbollah shot 8,000 such projectiles into northern Israel. They severely damaged several critical military installations. They destroyed hundreds of homes. They ravaged the landscape of northern Israel, burning forests, as well as destroying nature and wildlife reserves from the Golan Heights to the Upper Galilee.

If the missile arsenals weren’t sufficient to keep Israel’s north depopulated, there is also the conventional threat of Hezbollah’s land forces. Citing U.S. and regional officials, *The Wall Street Journal* reported, “Those with knowledge of Hezbollah say the group accelerated its war preparations in recent months, expanding its network of tunnels in Southern Lebanon, repositioning fighters and weapons and smuggling in more arms. Iran has increased supplies of small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, along with guided and unguided long-range missiles.”

“The south is like a beehive right now,” said a former Hezbollah military officer referring to the military preparations to the newspaper. “Everything the Iranians have, we have.”

Hezbollah’s ground forces number some 40,000 men. Thousands in the so-called Radwan brigades are battle-hardened veterans of Iran’s insurgent wars in Syria and Iraq. They have oceans of American, British, Iraqi and Syrian blood on their hands.

Hezbollah’s operational concept since Oct. 7 (basically since Israel removed its forces from Southern Lebanon in May 2000) has been attrition warfare. Hezbollah’s massive and ever-growing arsenal deters Israel from getting into a major war with the terror army. At the same time, the terror group expands its effective control over

northern Israel by gradually expanding the expanse of Israeli territory it can strike at will. In the past month, emboldened by Israel's largely defense posture since Oct. 7, Hezbollah has massively escalated its missile assault on Israel, increasing the number and range of the projectiles its forces shot over daily from a few to a couple dozen to between 60 and 120.

Last week, it was the ingenious decapitation strikes that successfully targeted Hezbollah's operational leadership attributed to Israel involving the detonation of hand-held communications devices that enabled Israel to seize the operational initiative for the first time since 2000. Its follow-on airstrikes against the commanders of the Radwan Force in Beirut decimated Hezbollah's senior ranks, leaving Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and his bosses in Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps with a largely commander-less terror army.

Israel's airstrikes on Monday against missiles and missile launchers in Southern Lebanon, Beirut and the Beqaa Valley, based on stunning intelligence superiority, reportedly devastated Hezbollah's strategic missile power. A diplomatic source divulged Tuesday morning that the air force's 1,400 hits destroyed half of Hezbollah's precision-guided missiles. The source claimed further that now, Hezbollah possesses only one-quarter of the rockets with ranges up to 40 kilometers it had at the start of the war.

Critically, the source said that Hezbollah's capacity to launch coordinated missile strikes involving hundreds of projectiles simultaneously has been severely damaged. Hezbollah's operational concept throughout has been that in the event of an all-out war, it would swarm Israel with hundreds of projectiles simultaneously, overwhelming Israel's air-defense systems. If Israel has indeed taken out that capability, it means that Hezbollah's threat to Israeli territory is no longer existential.

By achieving something approaching operational control over Gaza, blocking avenues of resupply by controlling the Philadelpi corridor controlling the 14-kilometer border with Egypt and preventing the reinforcement of Hamas's terror forces in northern Gaza by controlling the Netzarim corridor, Israel has been able to scale back its force size in Gaza. Israel's military Division 98, the main maneuver unit in Gaza, was moved to the north, providing the IDF both the means to prevent or defeat a Hezbollah invasion by land, including underground, border-crossing tunnels. Division 98 is also capable of carrying out incursions up to and including an invasion of Southern Lebanon if so commanded.

Jerusalem's intelligence capabilities have enabled it to carry out the most precise airstrikes in history. Almost no ordnance has been wasted or misdirected. Thanks to the experience Israel has garnered in Gaza over the past year, it has developed the capacity to give civilians an opportunity to vacate areas, including their apartments, housing missiles before striking, thus again, bringing the number of civilians killed nearly to zero.

It is hard to ignore the global implications of what is happening on the ground. It isn't simply that Ibrahim Aqil, Hezbollah's operations commander who was killed at the leadership meeting in Beirut, had a \$7 million FBI award on his head for his role in carrying out the 1983 bombings of the U.S. embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 that murdered some 300 Americans, as well as 64 French paratroopers.

Hezbollah is the most powerful and well-seeded terror force in the world. Its operational and financial tentacles reach throughout Europe, Asia and Latin America. An Israeli victory would mean that Hezbollah's threat worldwide would be massively diminished.

Then there is Iran. For the past four years, Iran has moved steadily towards completing its nuclear weapons program. It is widely considered a threshold nuclear state. It is suspected of adapting its missile force to carry nuclear warheads. To date, Hezbollah has served as Iran's protector. By using the prospect of an all-out combined missile strike and ground invasion of Israel from Lebanon as a deterrent, Iran was able to deter Israel from striking its missile and nuclear installations or its oil platforms. Now with Hezbollah in the most vulnerable and weakest position it has suffered in decades—and Hamas effectively defeated as an offensive force—Iran faces the

specter of an Israel free to destroy its nuclear and regional hegemonic ambitions.

And this brings us to the second half of the screen. As Israel fights the free world's fight against Iran and its terrorist forces, the nations of the world have congregated at the U.N. General Assembly for their annual diplomatic lynch mob against the lone Jewish state. The General Assembly opened last week by passing a resolution demanding that Israel remove 800,000 citizens from their homes in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria within a year and transfer their communities to the Palestinian Authority, which shares the goal of Iran and its other proxies to annihilate Israel.

If Israel fails to abide by the U.N. dictate, or even if it does, the resolution calls on the U.N. member states to enact an arms embargo on Israel. António Guterres, the U.N.'s Israel-hating secretary-general helpfully proclaimed that he will use his powers of office to enforce the resolution.

It was all downhill from there. At the United Nations, in Paris, in Washington, policymakers and lawmakers have spared no effort to demonize Israel. President Joe Biden and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, met in Washington on Monday. Rather than congratulate (or thank) Israel for systematically removing the gravest threats to the stability and security of the Middle East, including to the UAE and the United States, Biden and MBZ focused their statements on demanding that Israel move to establish a Palestinian state in Gaza, Judea and Samaria—and Jerusalem.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and his fellow progressives in Congress responded with rage to the simultaneous detonation of Hezbollah's pages and walkie-talkies that took out thousands of terrorists in one fell swoop. They called it international terrorism and demanded a U.S. arms embargo on Israel. Even Leon Panetta, former secretary of defense, also called the strike that decimated the leadership of the most powerful terror army in the world a terror attack.

All of those clamoring to declare Israel the enemy of all that is good, and Hezbollah and Hamas as the good guys, predicate their condemnations on an entirely imaginary version of international law that turns morality and the very concept of legality on their heads to punish defenders—or one specific defender, Israel—and reward aggressors.

The dissonance between the reality on the ground and the diplomatic assault on Israel—now joined by nearly every nation on earth at the United Nations—presents Israel with an epic quandary.

Obviously, it cannot scale back the level or nature of the assault with reason. People cannot be reasoned out of positions they weren't reasoned into. The international community's hostility towards Israel owes to a poisonous mix of political expedience, greed, opportunism and prejudice.

And so, we come to the quandary. Can Israel afford to ignore these forces and just fight to victory or not?

Can Israel afford not to ignore them?

The Biden administration and its comrades at the United Nations are betting that Israel will decide that it cannot afford to ignore these voices. But in reaching this conclusion, they ignore the one overriding factor that has informed Israel's actions since Oct. 7.

This is a war for Israel's survival. Israelis back this war because they understand that the lesson of Oct. 7 is that the can has been kicked to the end of the road. Claims that we can stop and pick up where we left off in a year or so fall like artillery duds. No one will accept them because no one can accept them. It is literally now or never.

And so the United Nations and the United States, and their diplomatic lynch mob, will be ignored. Maybe the diplomatic chips falling today can be picked up at a later date. But this war must be won. And after the stunning successes in Lebanon, more and more Israelis are reinforced in their conviction that it is being won.

(JNS Sep 24)