



## Schlaglicht Israel Nr. 08/11

### Aktuelles aus israelischen Tageszeitungen

11. April – 01. Mai 2011

#### 1. Debatte um palästinensische Staatsgründung

*Die palästinensische Führung plant, im September die Unabhängigkeit Palästinas in den Grenzen von 1967 zu erklären und die Vereinten Nationen zu einer Abstimmung darüber aufzufordern. Während dieses Datum näher rückt und sich bereits mehr als 100 Staaten für einen palästinensischen Staat ausgesprochen haben, wächst in Israel die Sorge über einen solchen Schritt.*

*Verteidigungsminister Barak bezeichnete eine Anerkennung palästinensischer Unabhängigkeit durch die UN als "diplomatischen Tsunami". Die Frage ist, ob Israel sie noch abwenden kann.*

*Verhandlungen mit den Palästinensern haben seit Monaten nicht mehr stattgefunden. Ende Mai wird Premierminister Benjamin Netanyahu jedoch eine Rede vor dem amerikanischen Kongress halten. Gerüchten zufolge könnte er darin einen Friedensplan vorstellen, der israelisch-palästinensische Gespräche wieder ankurbeln könnte. Bestätigt wurde dies von Netanyahu jedoch bislang nicht.*

#### Stand beside her cradle

"If the land is destined to be divided, maybe Israel will benefit by standing genially beside the nascent Palestinian state's cradle, even as one of its nurturers. [...]"

It can be the first to welcome the establishment of a Palestinian sister-state, wish it luck, hold out its hand in peace and express a desire to discuss borders, refugees and settlements issues, this time on an entirely different level – as two sovereign states."

HAA 20.04.11 Editorial

#### Debunking the 2-state myth

"One of the assumed benefits of the proposed two-state solution is that the creation of a Palestinian state will finally make the Palestinians fully

accountable for their actions. [...] It is this distinction, so we are told, that will not only allow Israel to forcefully respond to any acts of Palestinian aggression but also do so with the full support and understanding of the international community. [...]"

We shouldn't buy it. [...]"

It is far more plausible to assume that acts of aggression emanating from a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria will be met with the usual limited Israeli response. Moreover, even in the rare instance where Israel responds more forcefully, it is safe to assume that the world will quickly condemn the Jewish state regardless of the circumstances."

Yoel Meltzer, JED 28.04.11

#### Good Morning Palestine

"The Palestinian Authority is conducting its independence drive in way that would do Harvard Business School proud and might even show the Israeli government a thing or two about long-term planning. [...] The state is emerging slowly and uneventfully because the Palestinian Health Ministry now delivers medical services, the Finance Ministry decides spending priorities and allocates money according to established systems, and the security services preserve law and order rather than aiding and abetting terrorism. [...]"

The fact is Palestine [...] is becoming a member of the community of nations. The argument that there is no one to talk to and that a Palestinian state is an existential security threat ring increasingly hollow against the evidence."

David Rosenberg, JPO 22.04.11

#### A trapped prime minister

"The third intifada is inevitable. It will erupt if the United Nations recognizes a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders because the decision will not be implemented automatically, and the Palestinians will go to war to demand their sovereign rights [...]. It will also erupt if the United Nation is deterred from

declaring independence for Palestine. [...] In that case, the Palestinians will start an uprising because of their frustration at the loss of international support. [...]

Netanyahu is now visiting Western capitals, pleading with world leaders not to turn their backs on Israel [...] Even if he garners a few Western votes against the declaration of Palestinian independence at the United Nations, the decision will pass by a large majority, and the intifada will erupt the following day."

Aluf Benn, HAA 27.04.11

### **It's time to go to the people**

"The major obstacle has been, and remains, Netanyahu's refusal to utter the words 'the borders of June 4, 1967, as a basis for a peace agreement' – wording which leaves open the possibility of exchanges of territory in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Whoever does not accept this principle by September will probably instead get the recognition [...] of a Palestinian state [...]. Without 'on the basis of' and without 'settlement blocs', and without special arrangements in the Holy Basin. There is no third way. The 'peace process' as a cover for gradual annexation of the territories is over."

Akiva Eldar, HAA 29.04.11

### **Imposed peace plans won't work**

"From the Palestinian perspective, there is absolutely no Israeli intention or even desire to reach an agreement. The Palestinians have had enough of peace processes. There is no need to sit at the negotiating table if there is no intention of reaching an agreement. So if Netanyahu is serious about negotiations, he should first state that he intends to reach a comprehensive agreement. Instead he has stated that he is willing to offer the Palestinians a state on 50 or 60% of the West Bank with Israel controlling the external borders; this is a non-starter. No state will agree to live in a sovereign cage."

Gershon Baskin, JPO 25.04.11

### **Bar Ilan II**

"If the Palestinians achieve recognition of statehood and UN Member status it is a horror waiting to happen for Israel. [...] I call what the Palestinians are doing now in the UN 'Diplomatic Terrorism'. [...] The bottom line is that it is not conceivable in the first place for the Palestinians to live in peace and security with Israel. When the Fogel family was

massacred in Itamar, Palestinians in Gaza rejoiced and danced in the streets.

The fact is the Palestinian national ethos is brazen malicious deceit and Jew-hatred. Their aim is not peace with Israel but Israel's resting in peace or Israel piece by piece. This is the reality, but the world's governments have agreed en masse to vote for recognition of a Palestinian State in the UN in September."

Yonatan Silverman, AS 26.04.11

### **Netanyahu, you are late**

" Netanyahu – the man of yesterday – continues to talk about Palestinian recognition of a Jewish state as a condition for any Israeli departure from the bunker of refusal. [...]

Now what we have on the agenda is partition without peace, and presenting conditions for a peace deal is irrelevant.

Under the circumstances, Israel should demand the things it wants from the international community, not from the Palestinians. Netanyahu's position will ultimately bring us to the point of a Palestinian declaration of independence, while we offer self-righteous screaming but lack any diplomatic assets."

Gadi Taub, JED 25.04.11

## **2. Eine Einheitsregierung von Fatah und Hamas?**

*Die beiden rivalisierenden palästinensischen Parteien Hamas und Fatah haben ihre Aussöhnung und die Bildung einer Einheitsregierung angekündigt.*

*Die Beziehungen zwischen der säkularen Fatah und der islamistischen Hamas hatten sich 2006 nach dem Wahlsieg der Hamas verschlechtert und waren mit der gewaltsamen Übernahme des Gazastreifens durch die Hamas 2007 ganz zusammengebrochen.*

*Nach mehreren Vermittlungsversuchen durch die Ägypter scheint es nun zu einem Durchbruch in den Verhandlungen gekommen zu sein. Sollte es zur Gründung einer Einheitsregierung kommen, würden vermutlich innerhalb eines Jahres Wahlen in den palästinensischen Gebieten anstehen.*

*Der israelische Regierungschef Benjamin Netanyahu verurteilte eine Aussöhnung mit der Hamas, die in Israel als Terrororganisation eingestuft wird, und sagte, Palästinenserpräsident Mahmoud Abbas müsse zwischen "Frieden mit Hamas und Frieden mit Israel" wählen. Der israelische Finanzminister Yuval Steinitz verzögerte indes den Transfer von Steuergeldern, die von Israel für die Palästinensi-*

*sche Autonomiebehörde eingesammelt werden, um - so seine Erklärung - eine Weiterleitung an die Hamas zu verhindern. Dieses Vorgehen wurde von der amerikanischen Regierung kritisiert.*

### **A nation of martyrs**

"It appears that Palestinian 'president' Mahmoud Abbas and the Fatah leadership decided to concede to power-sharing with Hamas in order to present a unified front to the United Nations. They also recognized that the United States is now perceived as the weak horse in the Middle East, as demonstrated by its confused and ineffective responses to revolutions in Egypt, Syria and Yemen. But there is a deeper aspect to Palestinian reconciliation that flows not from the politics of the moment but from the core of Palestinian identity. In choosing reconciliation both Hamas and Fatah stated explicitly that peace between Palestinians is more important than peace with Israel. Recreating Palestinian unity, above all, preserves the possibility of resistance."

Alex Joffe, JED 30.04.11

### **Same old song**

"The propagandists are now trying to score another fabricated point: Danger - Palestinian reconciliation. [...]"

Shimon Peres [...] made a presidential declaration: 'The reconciliation will prevent a Palestinian state,' - as if this is the Fatah position, as if Israel is about to leave the territories, and only this terrible, last minute development is preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state. [...]"

'It's either us or Hamas,' Netanyahu declares like some betrayed lover, as if the option of 'us' was ever on the table. [...]"

All those who complain that Abbas is about to include a radical partner in his government should probably first look at the composition of our government."

Gideon Levy, HAA 01.05.11

### **Echoes**

"Unfortunately, the official White House reaction was disappointingly muddled. White House Chief of Staff William Daley told the American Jewish Committee [...] that 'the US supports Palestinian reconciliation, providing it is on the terms that advance the cause of the peace.' Daley did not say how the incorporation of a terrorist organization into the Palestinian government would 'advance the cause of peace.' [...]"

Hamas's official charter compares Israeli treatment of Palestinians [...] to 'Nazism'; declares that 'abandoning the jihad with the Zionists is an act of high treason [...]. This is the same terrorist organization that advocates suicide bombings against innocent Israeli civilians and continues to launch mortar shells and rockets at residents of southern Israel.

What, then, can possibly be motivating experienced statesmen to look favorably upon a rapprochement that so obviously undermines chances for peace and risks bringing to power a Palestinian leadership that vows to destroy the Jewish state?"

JPO 01.05.11 Editorial

### **Time to talk to Hamas?**

"The road to real reconciliation between Fatah and Hamas is still long. We must also keep in mind that all reconciliation efforts in the last few years have failed. Yet should this agreement indeed be worked out, Netanyahu would do well to carefully weigh his steps and not cling to the initial response that rejects the Palestinian unity deal out of hand.

In the past year we've heard more and more voices in Israel [...] calling for efforts to engage in dialogue with Hamas as well. The main argument of dialogue supporters is that Israel cannot ignore what happened in the Gaza Strip: More than one and a half million Palestinians live there, and Hamas is therefore a legitimate candidate for dialogue. Now, Hamas' legitimacy is growing."

Shimon Shiffer, JED 28.04.11

### **The real danger**

"Palestinian terror existed before Hamas came into being, and Fatah has used terror without Hamas as its partner. The Palestinian leadership - with Hamas or without it - will not negotiate with Israel not because it will be a radical Islamic entity, but because it sees no chance of Israeli concessions and does not view Israel as a partner for peace. Israel is deluding itself and anyone still willing to listen to its wailing if it continues to declare that there will be no peace process because of reconciliation. [...]"

This self-delusion refuses to recognize the changing reality in the Middle East, the changing of the guard among leaders and peoples and the self-interested moves of Western powers that are longing for new partnerships in the Middle East to replace the ones that have disappeared. [...]"

But Israel has a rare opportunity to rewind the film back five years - not only to understand that the two

parts of the Palestinian people are one entity, but to correct the mistakes it made in 2006. It must deal with the entire Palestinian government, even if that government includes Hamas representatives."

Zvi Bar'el, HAA 01.05.11

### **No partner**

"The real impetus behind the reconciliation, [...] is that many, if not most, Palestinians truly identify with many of the goals and aims of Hamas. [...]"

Abbas failed to present to his people a compelling vision of a Palestinian state without religious extremism and violence; a state that fosters reconciliation – not with Hamas but with Israel. [...]"

Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman are right to be concerned that soon Abbas will lose control to Hamas in the West Bank as well. [...] His capitulation to it now has dealt a critical blow to any hope of Israeli-Palestinian progress.

Eight months ago in Washington, Netanyahu called Abbas his 'partner in peace.' He isn't any more."

JPO 28.04.11 Editorial

### **A step towards statehood**

"Should Hamas men indeed be integrated, in practice, into the Palestinian Authority's security arms, it will bring an end to the effective security cooperation between Israel and the PA and also end effective anti-Hamas operations by the PA in Judea and Samaria. [...]"

And what is Abbas getting? The Palestinian president has been granted renewed political legitimacy for his rule in the Palestinian street, because formally his term as president ended a while ago. [...] This also enables him to appear at the United Nations as a legitimate representative of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank and demand recognition of a Palestinian state. This is a significant advantage for Abbas and his people, who are planning to ask for the UN's recognition of Palestine in September."

Ron Ben-Yishai, JED 27.04.11

### **Fatahamasland is here**

"Hamas and Fatah now know the power of the street to topple governments in the ME. There is no question in my mind that they intend to develop a third intifada along those lines. Israel must prepare for such a contingency [...]"

But these would be defensive strategies. Israel must go on the offensive. It must lift the de facto freeze on construction and annex the settlement blocks at a minimum.

So long as Netanyahu continues the freeze we must conclude that he has no intention of keeping the blocks. That will be the litmus test of his intentions. Before, his excuse for continuing it was that construction would upset the US and the peace process.

Now that there is no peace process, what's the point of the freeze?"

Ted Belman, AS 28.04.11

## **3. Unruhen in Syrien**

*In Syrien sind in den letzten Wochen mehr als 500 Demonstranten bei Protesten gegen die Regierung getötet worden. Die Unruhen konzentrierten sich zunächst auf die Stadt Daraa an der jordanischen Grenze, haben nun aber auch die Hauptstadt Damaskus und andere Regionen erreicht.*

*Obwohl Präsident Bashar Assad angekündigt hat, die Anwendung der Notstandsgesetze auszusetzen, die seit 1963 das Leben in Syrien bestimmen, hielten die Demonstrationen an und Sicherheitskräfte gingen mit verstärkter Brutalität gegen sie vor. Die USA haben bereits Sanktionen gegen das Regime von Assad verhängt. Auch in der EU wurde nun das Verfahren für ein Waffenembargo und Sanktionen in Gang gesetzt.*

### **Arab spring? Not quite**

"In February, 2010 President Obama appointed a new ambassador to Damascus. [...] 'because Assad could play a constructive role in the Middle East.' In July 2000, Western policy-makers and public opinion molders cheered the prospect of Spring in Damascus upon the succession of Hafez Assad by his son, Bashar.

They were not alarmed by his 97% victory in two elections. They assumed [...] he must be a moderate. They sacrificed documented facts – about the Assad family, the ruling Alawite minority, the Damascus vision and the centrality of the strategic cooperation between Syria and Iran – on the altar of the yearning of peace with Syria. The current turmoil in Syria exposes Western oversimplification and the authentic merciless nature of this Syrian despot."

Yoram Ettinger, JED 29.04.11

### **Assad at war with his own people**

"For the Syrian president and the Alawite military elite around him, this is a war for survival. [...] Assad decided to take off the 'kid gloves' and suppress the protest at any price, including equally

unprecedented public criticism. [...] Assad is, in effect, mocking his international critics. He clearly has little interest in the international community's condemnation. [...]

Events in Syria are being watched with concern across the Middle East. Apart from Israel, which occasionally voices concern that one hostile ruler may be replaced with an even more hostile ruler or group, there is the worry of Assad's three natural allies, Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas.

The Hamas leadership enjoys funding and hosting by Syria, and any change in Assad's status does not bode well for it. Hezbollah and other forces operating in Lebanon understand that the Syrian president's fall could undermine the infamously fragile power equation in Lebanon, where so many have died at the hands of Syrian operatives, under both Assads.

In Iran, the specter of Assad's fall is a real concern, [...] because of the ramifications this would have for future protest against the Iranian regime."

Avi Issacharoff, HAA 26.04.11

### **The villains from Damascus**

"The fall of the Assad regime in Damascus would be a great blessing for the Middle East and the world. [...] Israeli sorrows and sufferings from the Assads' Syria were far more insidious in comparison to any inflicted upon the Jewish state by any other country. [...] The Damascene headquarters of Hamas and Islamic Jihad radiated Assad's centralizing leadership role in the war against Israel. This was no less apparent with Syria's emerging nuclear program, which Israel confronted in bombing its facility in 2007. [...]

If the Assad regime falls, the collapse of Iranian hegemony across the region may not be far behind. [...] Losing its strategic hinterland and ideological benefactor, Hezbollah too will suffer a blow. [...]

And with the Assads gone, the Middle East as a whole will be able to move to transcend the state of terror and tension with which the Syrian regime poisoned the political atmosphere for over four long decades."

Mordechai Nisan, JPO 24.04.11

### **The West's Syrian imperative**

"Damascus has enabled thousands of Islamist insurgents to make their way into Iraq to fight US troops and destabilize the fledgling democracy there. It hosts Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal, along with members of al-Qaida and global jihad. [...] And

it collaborates with Iran via Islamist proxies such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

It is overdue for the US and other Western countries to go beyond strong rhetoric and take more concrete steps to embolden Syrian opposition forces, while ensuring that sectarian violence does not spin out of control."

JPO 26.04.11 Editorial

### **Assad's fall would be welcome**

"The fall of Bashar Assad's regime would result in dramatic regional change. [...] I believe that such a development would significantly improve Israel's strategic situation. [...]

Syria, via its proxies, spilled IDF blood in Lebanon for three decades. [...] Assad offered a safe haven in Damascus to senior leaders of terrorist organizations and allowed them to continue their terror activities, with unlimited freedom, from his capital. [...]

Those who disagree with an Assad departure are troubled by the possibility that his successors will deviate from the path of restraint that characterized him, and opt for a more provocative policy toward Israel. The probability of this occurring is minimal. [...]

If opposition leaders survive the conflict, overcome the current oppressive regime and fill key positions in Syria, they are unlikely to show a surplus of sympathy toward the Shias of Iran and Hezbollah."

Tzachi Hanegbi, JPO 27.04.11

### **I was wrong about Syria**

"Three times in the past three years I wrote articles in favor of a peace treaty between Israel and Syria [...]. While making this argument, I did not take into account the Damascus regime's tyrannical character. [...]

Would Israel's current situation be worse with an Israeli embassy in Damascus and the Golan Heights mostly under Syrian sovereignty? I believe so. In that case, the Syrian rebellion would have taken a radical anti-Israel shape. The oppression and massacre by Assad's troops against his own citizens would have been perceived as a means to enforce the peace deal. A new regime – and after all, such regime will eventually rise in Damascus – would have annulled such treaty at once. [...]

A dictator is a dictator is a dictator, and peace with him would always be handicapped, flawed, and unstable. Peace with such tyrant is immoral, undesirable and dangerous for Israel."

Sever Plocker, JED 29.04.1

## 4. Medienquerschnitt

*Die Vielfalt der in Israel relevanten Themen kann in einem Medienspiegel nicht umfassend wiedergegeben werden. Um den deutschen LeserInnen dennoch einen Einblick in das breite Themenspektrum, das in den Medien behandelt wird, zu gewähren, veröffentlichen wir in dieser Schlaglichtausgabe wieder eine kleine Auswahl an weiteren Themen, die in den vergangenen zwei Wochen die israelische Gesellschaft bewegten.*

Über die Ermittlungen gegen **Außenminister Avigdor Lieberman** wegen Betrugs und Geldwäscherei:

### Don't write off Lieberman

"The offences prompting Lieberman's possible indictment are grave: Fraud, breach of trust, money laundering and witnesses tampering are not violations that should be downplayed – certainly not in respect to the chairman of a large party and the State of Israel's foreign minister.

However, after so many years, with one affair following another, endless interrogations, foot-dragging, and intolerable delays by prosecutors – the package presented Wednesday by the Justice Ministry is perceived as less grave than expected. [...]

In the absence of bribery offences, which were the heart of the matter, the whole story appears like something that Lieberman will be able to survive; the Netanyahu government will withstand it, and the political system will digest it – not to mention Lieberman's voters, with polls showing that the support for him keeps rising."

Sima Kadmon, JED 14.04.11

### Path to paradise

"For 15 years he has undergone questioning by police. While police commissioners and attorneys general have come and gone, Lieberman has become a senior political figure. [...]

Despite his calming declarations, he continues to collect political roadside bombs that he will detonate if he so desires, at any time. [...] If he decides elections suit him, he will use one of these bombshells to end the Netanyahu government.

Speculation says that with regard to the decision to indict him, Lieberman [...] will try to reach a plea bargain with the prosecution to get off with a fine and with moral turpitude. The latter will require him

to quit the Knesset, but he will still be able to run in the next elections. His party will remain in the coalition until he decides otherwise. Then he will take the party out on some pretext or other, and will go to elections with his desk cleared of any criminal matters. Then, it's on to his next goal: leader of Israel's rightist bloc. From there, he believes, the road is paved to the premiership."

Yossi Verter, HAA 14.04.11

*Über den Tod eines Israelis, der unangemeldet das **Grab des Josef**, ein jüdisches Heiligtum, in Nablus besuchte und von **palästinensischen Polizisten erschossen** wurde:*

### Investigate, don't inflame

"The preliminary investigation shows that Livnat and his companions decided to visit Joseph's tomb without coordinating their trip into the Palestinian Authority with the Israel Defense Forces. They apparently broke through a Palestinian roadblock, and Palestinian police officers shot them in response. [...]

The IDF sees the incident as 'an extremely grave mishap' but not as a terror attack, and this is how it must be handled for the time being. [...]

As long as the inquiry is going on, it is improper and harmful to make inflammatory declarations, call the Palestinian officers terrorists and murderers, and treat the shooting as a terror attack that must be avenged. [...] Both sides must be allowed to complete their investigation without threats of revenge or political pressure."

HAA 26.04.11 Editorial

### Relinquishing Joseph's Tomb was supposed to be temporary

"Earlier this week, an incident occurred that should have provoked outrage across the civilized world. In an act of wanton slaughter, Palestinian policemen opened fire at a convoy of Jewish worshipers near Joseph's Tomb in Nablus on Sunday. [...]

Needless to say, barely a peep was heard from the international community over this brazen assault on the fundamental right of Jews to worship freely. Just imagine what the reaction would have been had Palestinian worshipers leaving a mosque been attacked by Israeli policemen. [...]

It is time to correct the error made nearly 11 years ago, when Israel forsook this holy place. [...] Israel should annex the site, forever restoring it to our exclusive control. And measures should be taken to

ensure that Jews can visit safely whenever they wish."

Michael Freud, JPO 27.04.11

*Über die Auswirkungen des **Gerichtsverfahrens gegen Adolf Eichmann** anlässlich des 50. Jahrestages seiner Verurteilung:*

### **How the Eichmann trial changed Israel**

"When Adolf Eichmann's guilty sentence was handed down, [...] the trial had transformed Israeli society. Even though the Holocaust had been remembered and commemorated, never before had it received such consistent attention. [...]"

The testimonies made it clear that Jews had not 'gone like sheep to the slaughter' and that the few instances of physical rebellion were truly remarkable. The extremely personal accounts of survivors were broadcast to a captive audience glued to the radio throughout the day, and were avidly read in transcribed form in Israeli dailies. Israelis understood that through a thousand small acts of heroism- of-the-spirit, the Jews of Europe had maintained their humanity. Israelis understood that but for chance they might have ended up in Europe during the Shoah and shared an identical fate. [...]"

The Eichmann trial helped change, and improve, Israeli society, making it more empathetic to Holocaust survivors' suffering. Today, [...] should use the 50th anniversary of the trial to appreciate the power of survivors' testimony and take steps to ensure this testimony is never forgotten."

JPO 14.04.11 Editorial

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JED = Jedioth Ahronoth  
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GLO = Globes  
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