

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL - UK

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TORCH

M A G A Z I N E



SURVIVORS

*The Survival
of the Jewish
People*

*The Church's
"Tremendous
Responsibility"*



Introduction

Welcome to Christians United for Israel UK's ninth issue of the TORCH magazine.

The story of the Jewish people is one of both suffering and survival. When we look back at their history we see a pattern of immense hostility against them and numerous attempts for their destruction. Despite this incredible persecution and oppression through the ages, the Jewish people have miraculously survived. And the greatest testament to their survival is the rebirth of the Jewish State, Israel, for which this year we celebrate 70 years since its creation. Our main article in this issue tells this story and reminds us that God keeps His promises.

We also feature articles of present-day survivors, including "Baby Moshe", who survived the Mumbai terror attack, and Kay Wilson, the British Jew who survived a terror attack in Israel and is now challenging the UK government to stop funding Palestinian terrorism. We also highlight one way that Israeli innovation is helping survivors of a different kind live their lives to the fullest.

We hope you will enjoy this issue and consider sharing with others. Thank you for your support for the work of Christians United for Israel in the UK.



Des Starritt,
Executive Director,
CUFI-UK



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Christians United for Israel UK
PO Box 3837, Swindon, SN3 9DS
Tel: 01793 862210
Web: www.cufi.org.uk

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All Rights Reserved. Cover image: Buchenwald Survivors aboard the Mataroa ship, Haifa, July 1945
Colourised by Yusuf Tolga Ünker (See page 19)



THE SURVIVAL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

"The Egyptian, the Babylonian, the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans rose, but now they sit in twilight, yet the Jew remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"
– Mark Twain

Throughout history there has been no greater story of survival than that of the Jewish people. No other people group has been persecuted so heavily, and so consistently around the world and through the ages.

The Bible recalls the ancient history of the Jews and it also promises their survival. From exile to persecution and ultimately to the rebirth of the land God promised them. It is through the Jewish people that we see God's Word being fulfilled.

The Jewish people are one of the oldest peoples on earth, but despite their longevity, there are very few Jews on earth today. In fact, the total number of Jews in the world

has never exceeded 16 million people and rarely exceeded 1% of the world's total population.

This is particularly remarkable when we compare the Jewish people with other nations. Around 1,000 years ago there were 12 million Jews, the same number as there were people in the Han Dynasty of China. Yet today the Chinese population has exceeded 1.3 billion, while the global Jewish population is only 14 million people.

The persecution of the Jewish people has contributed to this low number, as well as their dispersion throughout the world. However, their low numbers are testimony to God's promises as it has made their survival

■ much harder, and therefore even more miraculous.

“And the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the Lord will drive you.”

Deuteronomy 4:27

Consider some of the ancient peoples that existed when the Jewish bloodline began - the Jebusites, the Hittites and the Canaanites - none of these exist today. The Jewish people are an incredible exception. However, it is not just these ancient peoples that no longer exist, even some of the greatest nations and empires, even those who have persecuted the Jews, have died out while the Jews remain.

The Roman Empire was one of the most vast and powerful in history. They conquered Israel, captured Jerusalem and plundered the wealth of the Jewish people. Meanwhile, the Spanish Empire was the largest on earth at its time and heavily persecuted the Jews through the Spanish Inquisition. The Ottoman Empire occupied the land of Israel for 400 years. The Egyptian Empire enslaved the Jewish people. The Jews were held in captivity by the Babylonian Empire. And the Nazis murdered the Jews in their millions.

All of these empires share three common qualities. They were all great in power, they all persecuted the Jews and none of them exist today. Yet, the Jews live on.

It is even more remarkable because this again remains true to the promises in the Bible.

“I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” - Genesis 12:3

The second part of this Scripture is also fulfilled when we consider the amazing impact the Jewish people have had in the

world. In fact, most people believe there are far more Jews on earth than there actually is. So many inventions, innovations and ideas have been created by this small group that they are by faith group the most influential people on earth, even though they are just 1% of population. Remarkable!

In the present day, the Jewish people have consistently remained the most persecuted throughout the world. For example, the vast majority of online hatred is directed at Jews. In almost every country that Jews live, the hatred against them is disproportionately high compared with the number of Jews living in the country. In Britain, for example, a person who is Jewish is eight times more likely to be attacked for their faith than someone from another religious group. This global antisemitism, or hatred of the Jews, was prophesied in the Bible millennia ago:

“And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul.”
- Ezekiel 28:65

Clearly this hatred is unique to the Jewish people. No other people group has been hated so intensely, for so long and so universally. Satan has stirred up the hearts of men against the Jewish people because he knows that if he can wipe them out, he destroys the promises of God and undermines the truth of the Bible, something that is never going to happen!

“Just as I am God and I do not change, so too you the children of Jacob shall never be wiped out.” - Malachi 3:6

The most brutal act of hatred against the Jewish people was the Holocaust in which more than 6 million Jews were murdered. And it is from the Holocaust that most of us will associate the word “survivor”. It is through the testimony of Holocaust survivors that we understand the horrors they endured. Such was the devastation of the Holocaust that there are currently less Jews living today than there were before the Holocaust. And while we are

still learning the lessons from the “darkest days in history” the evil of antisemitism remains. Thankfully, God has a response to antisemitism - Israel.

Ben Lesser, 89, survived several ghettos as well as the notorious camps of Auschwitz Buchenwald. He was finally liberated in Dachau. Born in Krakow, Poland, he and his older sister Lola were the only survivors in his family. All the rest were killed by the Nazis. In a recent video about the Holocaust, he declared: “As long as there is an Israel, the Holocaust to the Jewish people will never happen again. They will never allow it to happen again.”

Listen to Ben Lesser’s interview:

www.cufi.org.uk/spotlight/ben-lesser

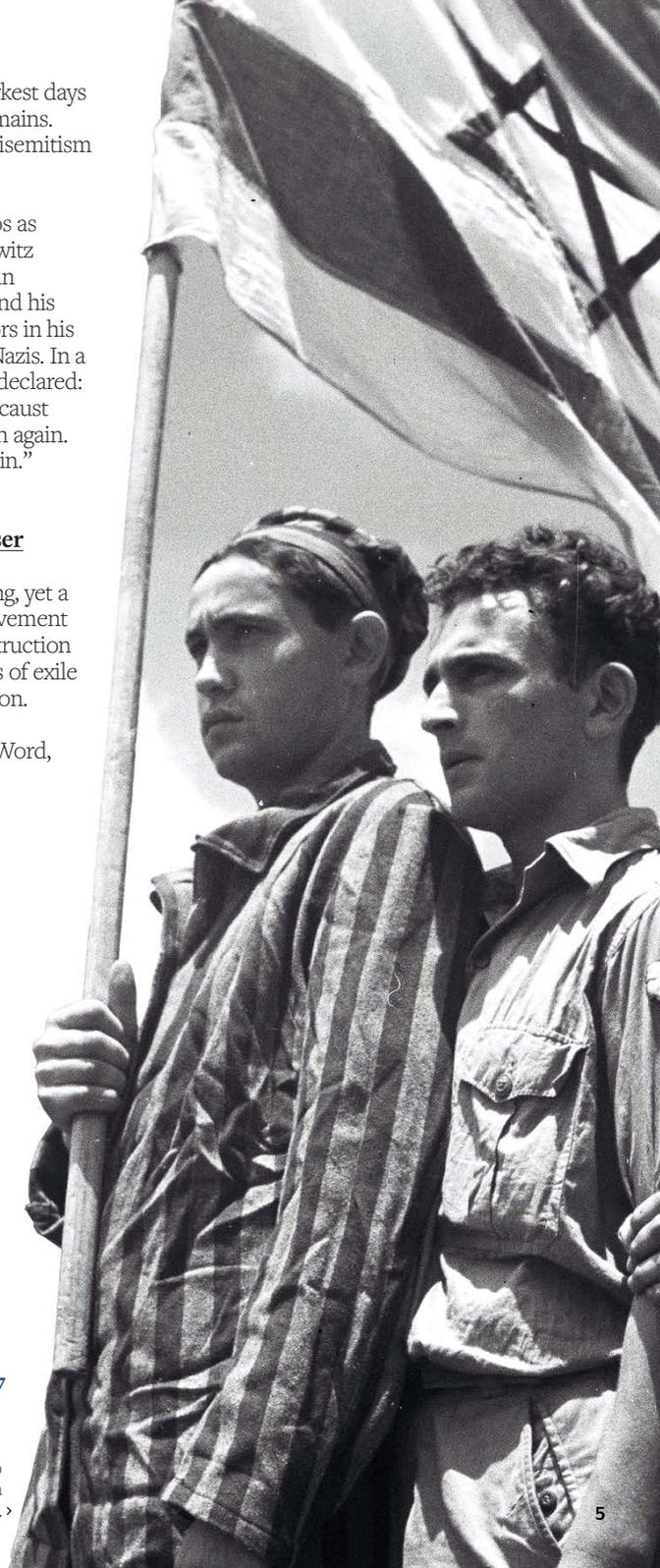
This is Israel’s story. A story of suffering, yet a story of survival. It has included enslavement in Egypt, captivity in Babylon, the destruction of their capital, Jerusalem, 2,000 years of exile and centuries of antisemitic persecution.

But as evidence of the truth of God’s Word, the Jewish people live on!

“Therefore say, Thus says the Lord God: “I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.”

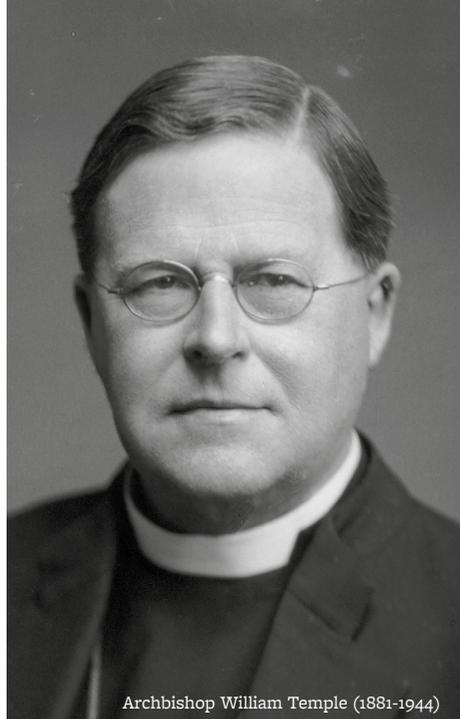
- Ezekiel 11:17

Survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp aboard the Mataroa immigrant ship sail into Haifa only to be arrested by the British (July 1945). >



THE CHURCH'S "TREMENDOUS RESPONSIBILITY" TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

"We at this moment have upon us a tremendous responsibility. We stand at the bar of history, of humanity and of God."



Archbishop William Temple (1881-1944)

On 23 March 1943, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord William Temple, spoke passionately in the House of Lords against the "massacres and starvation" of Jews by the Nazis, arguing for their protection to be made a priority.

"We are confronted, as all your Lordships know, with an evil the magnitude and horror of which it is impossible to describe in words," he declared.

Temple continued to explain reports of what was happening in Europe before comparing Allied leaders with the priest and the Levite in one of Jesus's parables:

"My chief protest is against procrastination of any kind...We know that what we can do is small compared with the magnitude of the problem, but we cannot rest so long as there is any sense among us that we are not doing all that might be done. We have discussed the matter on the footing that we are not responsible for this great evil, that the burden lies on others, but it is always true that the obligations of decent men are decided for them by contingencies

which they did not themselves create and very largely by the action of wicked men. The priest and the Levite in the parable were not in the least responsible for the traveller's wounds as he lay there by the roadside and no doubt they had many other pressing things to attend to, but they stand as the picture of those who are condemned for neglecting the opportunity of showing mercy. We at this moment have upon us a tremendous responsibility. We stand at the bar of history, of humanity and of God."

Temple died a year and half later, on 26 October 1944. He never got to witness the end of the war or the liberation of the Nazi death camps, however his words in Parliament on that day had a profound impact that today bears testimony of his resolve to support the Jewish people. Britain must not neglect its responsibility to condemn antisemitism and to act.

Earlier this year, bold MPs on both sides of the House spoke out against antisemitism perpetrated by the terror organisation Hezbollah – a radical Islamic group that has called for the annihilation of Jews both

in Israel and around the world. Until the Government changes its policy, CUFI will continue to call for a complete ban on Hezbollah.

At Christians United for Israel, we believe that the church in Britain must take a leading role, once again, against the evil of antisemitism. The UK should also be setting an example of opposing antisemitism in all its forms. Sadly the church in Britain hasn't always stood with the Jewish people as it should have. This is why in January CUFI approached the church denominations and affiliations in the UK, including the Church of England, Baptist Union, Methodist Church and Evangelical Alliance, calling for them to adopt the International Definition of Antisemitism.

The definition, which has been adopted by the UK Government and London Assembly, will provide the Church with the framework to identify and prevent antisemitism. It will also send a positive and reassuring message to the Jewish community that the Church in the United Kingdom is willing to take a leading role in countering antisemitism.

Antisemitism, like all prejudices and hatred, goes against the core of our Christian values. But further to this, we at Christians United for Israel believe

that all Christians have a Biblical responsibility to stand with the Jewish people.

Archbishop Temple recognised this. Echoing his words, "We at this moment have upon us a tremendous responsibility. We stand at the bar of history, of humanity and of God."

Today, the Church has a tremendous opportunity and we pray that it will embrace it.

To find out more about our Christians Against Antisemitism campaign, go to www.cufi.org.uk/antisemitism



cufi membership

*"Because I am a Christian,
I stand with Israel"*

Join online at www.cufi.org.uk/membership



BABY MOSHE, THE JEWISH SURVIVOR OF MUMBAI

Moshe Holtzberg is an 11-year-old Jewish survivor. In November 2008, when Moshe was just two-years-old, he survived the atrocious Mumbai terror attacks.

One of the targets of the attack was Nariman House, also known as the Mumbai Chabad House, which was a Jewish cultural centre in the city. Moshe lived at Chabad House with his parents, Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg and Rivka Holtzberg, who was six-months pregnant at the time. The couple managed the cultural centre.

The first evening of the Mumbai attacks, ten terrorists, armed with grenades and AK-47's stormed various buildings in the city. Two of those terrorists attacked Nariman House.

Moshe's Indian nanny, Sandra Samuel, was in the building at the time of the attack. Hearing noises outside, she decided to open the front door. When gunfire struck the door, she slammed it shut and ran to hide as the terrorists made their way into the building. From her hiding place, Sandra could hear Moshe crying out for her. Not thinking of her own safety, she ran upstairs and found the toddler knelt down and crying next to the dead bodies of his parents. They had been mercilessly gunned down in front of him. Sandra grabbed Moshe and ran down the stairs and out the building, saving Moshe's life.

The siege of the Chabad House continued and was part of a four-day terror attack that killed 165 people and wounded over 300.

Indian intelligence intercepted radio transmissions between the terrorists and those of their commanders in Pakistan. The Chabad House was targeted because the terrorists believed "the lives of Jews are worth 50 times those of non-Jews".

This horrific attack left Moshe an orphan. He would no longer grow up with the love of his parents and he would never meet his unborn brother or sister. All this was stolen from him because of the age-old hatred of antisemitism.

Shortly after his parents' deaths, Moshe moved to Israel to be raised by his maternal grandparents. Sandra, his nanny, went with him and was granted Israeli citizenship because of her bravery.

In January this year, Moshe Hotzleberg, now 11-years-old, returned to his childhood home in Mumbai. He is known as "Baby Moshe" to millions of Indians after images and video footage of his dramatic rescue in the arms of his Indian nanny were widely circulated in the media. And when he returned to the country he was given a hero's welcome.

Moshe was accompanied by his grandparents, Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu, India's President Modi and his nanny, Sandra. They made a moving visit to his Mumbai home and prayed there. It was an emotional journey for the young boy.

Nine years ago the terrorists came to snuff out the light of the Jewish people, but the light of Moshe's parents will never be extinguished. In the company of Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Modi, Moshe explained that he is determined to become a Rabbi, just like his father. He also told them that he dreams of living in Mumbai as an adult "to be the director of the Chabad House".

Pictured foreground left to right: President Modi, Moshe Holtzberg, Prime Minister Netanyahu, Sandra Samuel.

Your support helps us make a greater impact for Israel in the UK

By donating to CUFI, you enable us to:

- Confront anti-Semitism in the UK and Europe
- Develop resources that equip Christians in their support for Israel
- Counter anti-Israel narratives within the church and in society.
- Shape public opinion and government policy through our campaigns
- Defend Britain's Judeo-Christian heritage
- Stand with the Jewish community in Britain
- Impact the next generation through training and resources for young Christian leaders
- Bless the nation of Israel through charitable projects

**Thank you for standing with CUFI.
Thank you for standing with Israel.**

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THE ISRAELI BIONIC SUIT HELPING BRITISH SURVIVORS WALK AGAIN

ReWalk
Robotics
More Than Walking.



A British army veteran, who is unable to walk unaided, is the latest person whose life has been turned around by a robotic suit designed in Israel.

Chris Baker, who lives in Essex, was serving with the Royal Engineers in Iraq when he was injured by an improvised explosive device. His injuries included two fractured vertebrae in his spine. In 2008 his condition worsened confining him to a wheelchair. For the first time since the attack, Chris is now able to take his dog Millie out for a walk and is now nearly fully independent thanks to a ReWalk exoskeleton.

In a BBC report, Chris said,

“Because I can’t feel my legs moving forwards, you feel like you’re gliding across the room.”

“It’s a game changer,” Chris says. “I can go places that I can’t go in the wheelchair.”

“It fits on the lower half of my body and basically takes over the work of all the muscles that you would use to walk.”

The breakthrough invention uses a motorised brace that helps paraplegic people walk and even drive a car. The suit uses lightweight braces to help rotate joints and a series of sensors to allow users to control movement with their upper body.

Although not mentioned by the BBC, the incredible ReWalk was in fact invented in Israel by another determined individual with his own story. In 1997, Dr Amit Goffer was paralysed in a car accident and since then made it his mission to find a way to walk again. Being a quadriplegic, he was unable to use his own invention due to the need to operate it using arms, however he found an Israeli veteran who was willing to try it.

A former Israeli paratrooper, who was injured in south Lebanon and didn’t think he would be able to walk again, became the first to use Amit’s invention. Since then ReWalk has gone global.



Another British person to benefit from ReWalk is Claire Lomas. In 2012 Claire made history and inspired millions around the world by walking the London Marathon, earning her the nickname “bionic woman”. The same year, Claire lit the cauldron in Trafalgar Square to launch the torch relay for the London 2012 Paralympic Games, again aided by the Israeli-made suit.

She didn’t stop there. Claire, who was paralysed from the chest down after a riding accident in 2007, has so far raised over £600,000 to help find a cure for paralysis. In 2016 Claire completed the Great North Run, whilst also being 16 weeks pregnant. Last year the mum-of-two from Leicestershire completed the Great South Run, completing the 10-mile route in just 24 hours. Her next challenge is the ASICS Greater Manchester Marathon in April this year.

“ReWalking is much more than walking,” says Jeff Dykan, ReWalk’s Chairman. “ReWalk provides paralyzed individuals with the ability to stand and walk, to look someone in the eye, to hug and be hugged. These are simple acts which many of our ReWalkers thought they would never be able to do again.”

Through technological advances, extensive research and a desire to bless the world, Israel is changing lives through some amazing medical innovations and developments and bringing out some of the best qualities of people who are truly inspirational.

WATCH

ISSUE #009

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL - UK

WINTER 2018

Parliament front-benches refuse to ban Hezbollah despite growing MP support

Thousands of CUFU supporters wrote to MPs ahead of a House of Commons debate on 25 January about banning Hezbollah in the UK outright.

Both Labour and Conservative backbenchers were overwhelmingly supportive of the terror group to be proscribed, however support was disappointingly lacking on the front benches of both sides of the House.

Despite the fact that Labour MPs were asked by their leadership earlier in the day not to support, several from the Labour benches defiantly spoke out, including Joan Ryan who secured the debate and gave a powerful introductory speech.

Watch the debate in full:
www.cufi.org.uk/Hezbollah

Joan Ryan said Hezbollah was a “terrorist organisation driven by an anti-Semitic ideology that seeks the destruction of Israel” and

that Hezbollah itself does not distinguish between its armed wing – currently proscribed by the UK – and its political wing, currently not proscribed. She said the distinction made by the UK was “utterly bogus”.

This division of the organisation was created by Western politicians in an apparent attempt to show they were “serious about tackling terrorism” while at the same time trying not to offend the countries linked to them.

Intelligence agencies around the world have long seen the Iranian-backed Hezbollah as the biggest terrorist threat in existence. Unfortunately, the UK government’s weak approach when dealing with Hezbollah has allowed the support for this terror organisation on our streets. The Hezbollah flag is frequently seen in anti-Israel marches, including the Al-Quds march in London, where hundreds of flags were waved, sparking calls to ban the flying of the



Joan Ryan MP

Hezbollah flag.

CUFI UK took it further by leading calls for the organisation to be banned in its entirety. More than 16,000 people have so far signed the CUFU petition to ban Hezbollah, and we believe it is this support that has given confidence for others to join in calling for Hezbollah to be banned.

Spate of antisemitic attacks in Paris suburbs

A number of antisemitic attacks in Parisian suburbs during January have raised concern over a new wave of Jew-hatred in the French capital.

A 15-year-old Jewish girl was left bleeding and in shock after having her face slashed by an unidentified assailant in the suburb of Sarcelles. The violent attack was described by the former mayor as a “heinous antisemitic attack”.

The girl was wearing the uniform of her private Jewish school when the attack happened.

In a second incident in the same suburb, an 8-year-old Jewish boy, who was wearing a kippah, was attacked while on his way to after-school tuition.



Assailants pushed him to the ground and beat him up.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned the attack, tweeting: “An 8-year-old boy was attacked today in Sarcelles. Because he was wearing a kippa. Every time a citizen is attacked because of his age, his appearance or his religion, the whole country is being attacked.”

“And it is the whole country that stands, especially today, alongside the French Jews to fight each of these despicable acts, with them and for them,” he added.

The two violent attacks came after a kosher store in Creteil was destroyed by arson, which happened just days after the same store was hit by antisemitic graffiti. The arson attack occurred three years to the day since a deadly Islamist attack on a Jewish supermarket, where four Jews were murdered. The fire spread to an adjacent kosher store which was also vandalised the week before.

Israel’s ambassador to France, Aliza Bin Noun, called the fire a “shameful provocation.”



NEWS IN BRIEF



Boris commits UK towards a divided Jerusalem

Boris Johnson has said Jerusalem should ultimately be the “shared capital of Israeli and Palestinian states”, according to a statement released by the Foreign Office.

Johnson, who met with Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister, Riyad al-Malki, on Monday 8 January said, “It should be determined in a negotiated settlement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and Jerusalem should ultimately be the shared capital of the Israeli and Palestinian states.”

The UK embassy to Israel is currently in Tel Aviv, despite Britain’s representative to the Palestinians being situated in Jerusalem.

Join the campaign for the UK to recognise Jerusalem, go to www.cufi.org.uk/Jerusalem

UK: Antisemitism reached record high in 2017

New data from the Community Security Trust (CST) shows that in total there were 1,382 incidents of antisemitism in 2017. This was the highest tally the organisation has registered for a calendar year since it began gathering the data in 1984. Physical assaults on Jewish people increased by 34% compared with the previous year.

US to open Jerusalem embassy by end of 2019

Vice President Mike Pence confirmed on 22 January that plans for the new embassy will begin within weeks and will open before the end of next year.

Mr Pence made the announcement during a powerful speech at Israel’s Knesset during an historic visit to the Jewish State.

Watch Pence’s inspiring speech: www.cufi.org.uk/news/pence-knesset-speech



Two rabbis murdered by Palestinian terrorists in separate attacks

On 9 January, Rabbi Raziel Shevach, a 35 year-old father of six, was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting by Palestinian terrorists as he travelled near his home town of Havat Gilad, in Samaria.

Also in Samaria, Rabbi Itamar Ben Gal, a 29-year-old father of four, was stabbed to death by a Palestinian terrorist on 5 February as he was waiting at a bus stop near the city of Ariel.



Jewish and Christian leaders honour Guatemalan president for recognising Jerusalem

Around 35 American Jews joined 30 evangelical Christians in Guatemala to honour President Jimmy Morales for his recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and for making plans to move his country’s embassy to the Israeli capital.

In what was supposed to be a modest weekend trip by two Jewish congregations from Florida who wanted to thank Guatemala, the event turned into a Jewish-Christian celebration attended by evangelical Christians, Israeli and American diplomats and the Guatemalan president himself.

EU looks to have “central role” in Israel-Palestinian negotiations

Palestinian leader Abbas visited Brussels in January where he called upon the EU member states “to swiftly recognise the state of Palestine” adding that “there is no contradiction between recognition and a resumption of negotiations”.

EU foreign minister, Federica Mogherini, said she is ready to take a “central role,” alongside the United States, expanding the international role in mediating between Israel and the Palestinians.

- **Bloomberg News listed Israel as the 10th most innovative country**, hailing its high-tech industry and technological advances with the UK being placed 17th.
- **Chelsea Football Club has launched an initiative to combat antisemitism.** The club hosted a special event in which all players listened to Holocaust survivor Harry Spiro. Their Premiership match against Bournemouth was dedicated to “victims of the Holocaust” with owner Roman Abramovich writing about it in the match programme and players holding signs before kick-off.
- **Irish Parliament postponed voting on a bill that would boycott goods produced by Israeli companies** based in Judea and Samaria and the Golan Heights with violators receiving up to five years in prison. It is expected to resurface in the summer.
- **The Palestinian Authority has purchased a new luxurious \$50 million (£35 million) private jet** for its leader Mahmoud Abbas, according to a Jordanian newspaper. In 2017, the aid from the UK to the Palestinians was \$76.5 million (£54 million).
- **Israel destroyed a Hamas terror tunnel** on 14 January – the third in two months. The tunnel reached all the way to the Egyptian side of the border and was dug from Rafah at a length of approximately 1.5 kilometres.
- **Israeli security forces discovered and successfully destroyed a bomb** planted at Joseph’s Tomb in Nablus on 15 January ahead of a visit by 1,000 Jewish worshippers.

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Queen Esther

AND HER LEGACY TO CONFRONT PRESENT-DAY ANTISEMITISM

“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Esther 4:14

When God makes a promise, He never breaks it. Throughout history, God has revealed His sovereignty by positioning people, governments and circumstances to fulfil His plans and purposes. But He also calls upon those who love Him to respond to His call with obedience.

The young Queen Esther, a Jewish maiden, was chosen by God for an appointed time when the Jewish people lived under the Persian Empire. Her story was at the very centre of Middle East geopolitical events at the time. King Ahasuerus’ kingdom was the largest the world had ever seen. It covered the area now known as Turkey, as well as Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel; it also encompassed sections of modern-day Egypt, Sudan, Libya, and Saudi Arabia.

The Jewish people faced a crisis when the king appointed Haman to take charge over all his affairs. Haman was an evil man that hated the Jews. His hatred wasn’t influenced by experiences, instead it was deeply rooted in his world-view, stemming from his heritage and grounded by his upbringing. He was a descendent of Agag, who was the king of the Amalekites, a people who were Israel’s enemy for generations. The spirit of antisemitism was once again emerging with potentially devastating repercussions.

Esther 3:8-9 records that Haman told the king,

“There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them.”

The potential imminent genocide of the Jewish people, much like the Holocaust that happened during the 20th Century, began with a non-violent form of antisemitism. It began with a hatred for the Jewish people, simply for being Jews. This attitude of intolerance paved the way for a hatred so intense that the next question Haman asked was “If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them.”

In today’s antisemitism, as it was in Esther’s day, the Jewish people are still hated simply for being Jews. Antisemitism is never excusable. It seems to have no rationality or logic, yet antisemitism always has its root.

Whether found in the Far Left, the Far Right or in radical Islam, we must resolve to never be silent in confronting it. Even within the church, antisemitic attitudes exist today due to false teaching about God’s plan for Israel and the Jewish people. This is something that must be addressed.

Likewise, hatred for the State of Israel is a hatred for the Jewish people having their own State. Despite the persecution and injustice across the Middle East, antisemites will pick on the world’s only Jewish state, Israel. When leadership in Iran or the terrorist groups, Hamas, Hezbollah or ISIS call for the destruction of Israel, they mean the Jews. When pro-Palestinian protesters in London or New York or Sydney chant, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” they are not talking about the so-called West Bank or Gaza, they are inferring the entire Land of Israel, the homeland of the Jewish people for over 3,000 years, will be “free of all Jews”.

Esther was a remarkable woman and an incredible example of wisdom and courage in the midst of this same hatred. She put her **■**

life on the line by deciding to intercede with the king on behalf of her beloved people despite the consequences. In those times anyone approaching the king without being summoned was immediately put to death.

“When done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish” (Esther 4:16).

Esther had a love for Israel. She had a trust in God for Israel’s deliverance. But she also had a strategy. She enlisted Mordecai to gather the Israelites together and fast for three days, and by implication pray for her.

It is worth noting that hatred for Israel is not just a political matter – it is a spiritual one. Antisemitism is also anti-God. Praying for Israel is a wise foundation for standing with Israel practically. Esther recognised that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the defender of Israel and it is only by being obedient to His leading that the evil of antisemitism can be effectively countered.

Esther’s courageous decision to approach the king led to the saving of the Jewish people in Persia. Her bravery and willingness to stand up for her people reminds us that we must not be silent in the presence of evil, but must confront and eliminate it. We are reminded by history that while oppressors come and go, God’s promises and covenant with His people, Israel, last for ever.

The ancient evil of antisemitism exists in our world today and requires all those that follow the Bible to respond. Let us follow Esther’s example by not remaining silent when confronted by evil and standing for Israel “for such a time as this”.

While oppressors come and go, God’s promises and His covenant with Israel last for ever.



About our colourised front cover

The front cover of this issue has been colourised for CUFI by Turkish artist Yusuf Tolga Ünker. He colourises black and white photos from the Holocaust with the goal of making the past alive; to force the viewer to see these events as happening today.

Yusuf says, “There is a safety in viewing the black and white photos from the Holocaust era. When we see the haunting eyes and faces of the tormented and tortured souls who were victimised by Nazi brutality, we can distance ourselves from the horrors that befell them due to the old look of those black and white pictures. With careful and respectful colourising, these long-ago images transform into modern and relatable images that could have been photographed in the present.”

“For the deniers and ‘forgetters’, these colourised photos and paintings will confront their refusal to accept the reality of horror and destruction that the Nazis unleashed on the Jews of Europe during the 1930s and 40s.

“The truth can be shocking for some, however the price of ignoring the truth of the past, can only allow us to repeat it in the future.”

You can view Yusuf’s *Holocaust in Colour* collection at www.cufi.org.uk/spotlight/holocaust-in-colour

You can see more of Yusuf’s work at www.facebook.com/TolgaUnkerArt



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Kay Wilson

“People say we’re ‘terror victims’, but I say we’re **terror survivors**.”

And no matter how difficult life is if we take it one step at a time... that’s all we can do - and that’s the way to healing as well. I really don’t like calling myself a ‘victim’. I was the victim of an attack, yes, but I choose daily to engage with life again... to enjoy life, to derive benefit from each moment.”

– Kay Wilson, 2014

HOW A TERROR ATTACK SURVIVOR IS CONFRONTING GOVERNMENT OVER PALESTINIAN FUNDING

Kay Wilson, who survived a Palestinian terror attack seven years ago, has written to the UK Government’s Chair of the International Development Committee calling out misuse of Britain’s foreign aid by the Palestinian Authority.

In the letter co-sponsored by CUFI-UK, Kay, whose Christian friend was brutally murdered in the attack, highlights how funds intended for genuine development needs are funding and glorifying Palestinian terrorism and claims that DFID have misled Parliament.

Here is the letter Kay sent to the ministers:

“ My name is Kay Wilson and I am a British citizen.

My co-signatories and I are writing to you about the glorification of violence, the incitement of violence and misuse of British Aid funds by the Palestinian Authority.

We also draw your attention to evidence that strongly suggests that DFID civil servants and Ministers have misled Parliament.

In 2010 I was hiking in the Judean Hills with my friend, Kristine Luken, when two Palestinian terrorists attacked us.

We were held for 30 minutes at knifepoint then gagged and bound before being butchered with machetes.

Kristine was murdered. I watched my friend being killed before my eyes.

I only survived because I played dead. I was stabbed 13 times and had over 30 bones broken by the sheer force of the blows. Each time my attackers plunged their machetes into me I could hear my bones crunch, and my flesh ripping from the serrated blade.

They left, only to return moments later and roll me over.

I watched my attacker plunge the knife into my chest, just missing my heart (I attach pictures of my injuries).

The two men who attacked us were jailed. They were part of a terrorist cell aligned to the Fatah group, the group that runs the Palestinian Authority (PA).

The PA, via the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), is now paying these criminals salaries.

My story was highlighted in some detail by the Mail on Sunday. They also started a parliamentary petition that collected over 130,000 signatures and on 13 June 2016 it triggered a debate in Westminster Hall about Foreign Aid Expenditure. You spoke in that debate and said that it was important that MPs engage seriously with the concerns

constituents were raising.

Over 130,000 people (or constituents) in the UK were so concerned by the issues highlighted by the Mail on Sunday, including the murder of my friend and the injuries I suffered, that they signed the petition.

Yet you choose not to engage with those issues seriously, in fact you ignored them.

In the past DFID has suspended aid packages when evidence has emerged of taxpayer’s money being misspent or on the discovery of unacceptable behaviour and the IDC has also been swift to investigate when a misuse of funds or malpractice has been highlighted.

However, despite the fact that your committee possesses wide-ranging powers to examine DFID’s work you have chosen to ignore the PA’s funding and incitement of terrorism.

Moreover, the inconsistency of DFID’s position on this matter is blatant but again the IDC appears not to be concerned.

For example, DFID stated that no British Aid money was being misused because funds were paid into a multi-donor World Bank Trust Fund before being passed to the PA and paid to 85,000 PA civil servants using the EU PEGASE list.



Kristine Luken, terror attack victim

Successive DFID Ministers including Alan Duncan and Desmond Swayne repeated these claims in the House of Commons.

Yet when pressed in a cross party meeting of MPs, that included Sir Eric Pickles and Ian Austin, on 15 June 2016, with Desmond Swayne MP as DFID Minister present, department officials were unable to produce

▶ a list, or even confirm that a list existed.

Further to this DFID quietly suspended payments to the World Bank Trust Fund that financed the ‘payments to PA civil servants’.

Presumably DFID stopped these payments because they could not verify the recipients, but the programme was restarted with the department claiming that the money was now supporting schools and health projects, and reasserting that an EU list was being used as part of the verification process.

In answer to a written question submitted by Ian Austin MP on 8 December 2017, Alastair Burt, Minister of State for DFID and the FCO, replied: ‘Only named public servants from a pre-approved EU list are eligible and a robust verification system validates that funds are being used for intended purposes.’

That’s exactly the same defence that previous DFID Ministers used to support the discredited payments to PA civil servants.

Neither my co-signatories nor I believe that the diversion of aid from PA civil servants to PA health and education workers is legitimate.

What is more disconcerting is the IDC’s reluctance to investigate these matters.

The PA continues to pay terrorists by simply re-channelling the money through different entities and the evidence that it glorifies violence is incontrovertible.

British Aid funds are not hypothecated. Our money to the PA either directly supports terrorism, subsidises terrorism or releases other PA funds to support terrorism.

Moreover, the behaviour of the PA is in direct conflict with the principles of your committee’s report on ‘Tackling Corruption Overseas’.

In the USA the Taylor Force Act is making legislative progress. The bill, if passed, will prohibit certain assistance under the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 from being made available for the West Bank and Gaza unless the Department of State certifies that

the Palestinian Authority:

- *Is taking steps to end acts of violence against U.S. and Israeli citizens perpetrated by individuals under its jurisdictional control, such as the March 2016 attack that killed former Army officer Taylor Force;*
- *Is publicly condemning such acts of violence and is investigating, or cooperating in investigations of, such acts; and*
- *Has terminated payments for acts of terrorism against U.S. and Israeli citizens to any individual who has been convicted and imprisoned for such acts, to any individual who died committing such acts, and to family members of such an individual.*

Why are British politicians (and in particular the IDC) not seeking to adopt the same principles to support victims like me?

There is now strong evidence that DFID civil servants and Ministers have misled Parliament about how taxpayer’s money is distributed and there is incontestable evidence that the PA misuses aid funds, glorifies terror and prevents much needed development funds reaching those most in need.

As the chair of the International Development Select Committee my co-signatories and I demand that you institute an enquiry into these matters as a matter of urgency.

This letter has been copied to all IDC members.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Kay Wilson – Survivor of a Palestinian terror attack

For a full list of co-sponsors of this letter and response, go to www.cufi.org.uk/spotlight/terror-attack-survivor

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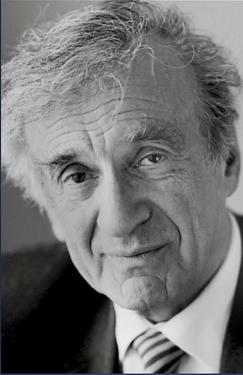
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Elie Wiesel (1928-2016)

Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate,
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