

## **Message from the Director**

The fellowship recently attended the 2012 President's Conference, which really, was a mixed bag. From Dr. Ruth speaking about orgasms to Peter Beinart glibly telling the bloggers that "he's no hero", it was so eclectic that it left many scratching their heads (there were some astronauts too).



Yet I did find one panel very interesting. 'The Tomorrow's Borders of Israel,' discussed the potential borders of a future Palestinian state. Speakers put forth their 'solutions' which included both two-state and one-state plans, and some other variations. The various experts used demographic data to support their solutions... and therein lay the problem: the data used by those supporting a one-state solution was totally different – and irreconcilable – to that used by those advocating a two-state solution.

What is the public meant to believe? Which data is correct? Each argument made sense (not that I necessarily agreed with one or the other) in light of the data presented, and goes something like this:

- **One-state solution:** if Israel were to annex the West Bank and give its Palestinian population Israeli citizenship Israel would not be in any danger of being overrun demographically as there is a 66% Jewish majority in the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea (excluding Gaza, which, presumably, would not be annexed). Israel could thus remain democratic and Jewish in character.
- **Two-state solution:** if Israel were to annex the West Bank and give its Palestinian population Israeli citizenship Israel would be in danger of being overrun demographically as there is now almost an equal amount of Jews and Arabs in the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea and the Arab population is outgrowing the Jewish one by some distance.

Both sides cite fancy studies commissioned by fancy NGOs, government bodies and international organizations. But each side has an agenda and is using the facts to suit the solution. If something as (supposedly) objective as the amount of people there are in the region is corrupted and manipulated, how are we to solve issues that are more subjective and emotive, such as refugees and Jerusalem?

Wishing you all the best ... *from Jerusalem.*

**Ari Rudolph**  
Director

## ***IRF Newsletter*** ***Issue 4, July 2012***

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**Mazaltov!**

The IRF would like wish mazaltov to:

- Current fellow, **Yinnon Persiko** and **Liron Strauss** on their recent wedding
- 2009/10 fellow, **Brian Blonde** and **Shirley Rachamim** on their recent engagement

***Mazaltov!!!***

*If you have any personal news that you would like to share, please let us know*

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**Fellows 2011/12**

<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Country of Origin</i>	<i>Placement</i>
<b>Duda, Patrizia</b>	Germany	The Institute for National Security Studies
<b>Greenberg, Alex</b>	UK	Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs
<b>Looks, Elka</b>	USA	Headline Media
<b>Persiko, Yinnon</b>	Israel	World Union of Jewish Students
<b>Phillips, Yael</b>	UK	Reut Institute
<b>Shampanier, Shir</b>	Israel	Institute for Policy and Strategy
<b>Shaviv, Gidon</b>	UK	NGO Monitor
<b>Stern, Margot</b>	USA	World Jewish Diplomatic Corps
<b>Valk, Jonathan</b>	Netherlands	UN Watch

*In each monthly newsletter we profile two fellows; this month, Gidon and Margot.*

**Gidon Shaviv**

Gidon is a doctoral candidate in International Law at Bar-Ilan University. He is a member of the Israeli Bar Association, holds a Masters Degree in Law (Hon), and has practiced as a litigator both in the private and public sector, having previously completing his Articles at the State Prosecutor's Office. Gidon moved to Israel in 1998 from Montreal, Canada, and served in the IDF in the Paratroopers Brigade. He has been placed at NGO Monitor for his fellowship year.

**Project and Accomplishments**

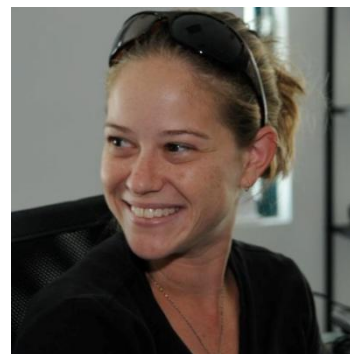
As part of the NGO Monitor team, Gidon has been placed in charge of the Canada, South Africa and Australian desk, where he is able use his expertise in Israeli and International Law to analyze and respond to various allegations of Israeli wrongdoings by various international NGOs. He is also responsible for covering the two largest human rights NGOs: Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. During the year Gidon wrote and published several detailed reports into various NGOs.

Gidon is most proud of his role in coordinating the community response in South Africa to the Russell Tribunal on Palestine (RToP). The RToP is an ongoing tribunal, which since 2009 has been hosting events where Israel is "put on trial". Their last event occurred in November in Cape Town, and "examined" whether Israel is an apartheid state. Due to the sensitivity in South Africa of the issue of apartheid, there were serious concerns that this event would be a watershed moment in Israeli delegitimization. Gidon worked closely with the local South African Jewish community in creating a successful and innovative strategy for the event. He also created a large database of research on the participants of the RToP, as well as answers to their claims. This database was uploaded to a specialized website ([www.Russelltribunal.com](http://www.Russelltribunal.com)) which was heavily publicized and used by the local Jewish community, as well as promoted by Israel's Foreign Ministry. The innovative use of social media by NGO Monitor during the Russell Tribunal was praised by the president of the World Jewish Congress, Dan Diker, at the Herzliya Conference.

Since the beginning of the Fellowship, Gidon has published 6 op-eds.

### **Margot Stern**

Margot comes from a professional background in management, international communications, and new media. She has worked within the global Jewish community and communications realm for the last five years and is an international speaker on leadership, Israel advocacy, and social networking. Since moving to Israel Margot has been Systems Operation Manager at IDT, in transcription with NPR, and more recently was the Marketing Director of the Jewish Media Hub, Leadel – a project of the European Jewish Congress, which spotlights Jewish identity and activity in the 21st century using digital media to both reflect upon, and inspire, innovation and creativity. Margot has an academic background in music and business and made Aliyah in 2007 from South Florida. For her fellowship year, Margot is working at the World Jewish Diplomatic Corps.



### **Project and Accomplishments**

During her time thus far at the WJDC, some of her major accomplishments where she either spearheaded and/or was an integral part of the team include:

- Established and created the new system of infrastructure for the organization to operate;
- Was the leading professional who researched, negotiated, and initiated a re-branding process for the WJDC;
- Redesigned and upgraded the organization's website;
- Worked with partner organizations – the LAJC and Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation (CJCUC) – to conduct a one-week educational mission with eight Latin American Catholic Priests;
- Helped multiple WJDC members edit and publish works)

## **Fellows on the Web**

### **[Amnesty International's Credibility Problem over Israel](#)**

**GIDON SHAVIV, June 6, 2012**

*What do you get when you combine a radical activist who volunteers as a human shield for terrorists with a former Palestinian Authority spokesman? The Israel research department for Amnesty International...*



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## **Alumni in Profile**

*An exciting new feature of the newsletter is our 'Alumni in Profile' section where we profile two ex-fellows and see what they are up to.*

### **Avigail Sugarman**

Avigail Sugarman, originally from Riverdale, NY, currently lives in Modiin, Israel, with her husband and their two-year old daughter. Avigail works is a deputy editor for NGO Monitor in Jerusalem, where she is part of the research department. She also serves as the administrative coordinator for the World Economic Forum's hub of Global Shapers in Tel Aviv. Avigail graduated in 2007 from Barnard College in NY with a degree in Political Science. Immediately following her studies, she was a Legacy Heritage Fellow placed at the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in New York working with ACCESS, the young professional program at the AJC.



Following her fellowship Avigail made Aliyah and lived in Jerusalem for three years, working in various Jewish non-profits and educational institutions. In 2011 she earned her MA degree in Government and Diplomacy at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya.

She loves Friday (not Sunday!) family outings to various parts of Israel; combining her love of Israel-politics, with greater knowledge and firsthand experience of the country and its people.



### **Andre Oboler**

Andre is a leading expert in social media, online public diplomacy and online hate. He is currently CEO of a new not-for-profit, the Online Hate Prevention Institute, which is based in Australia but has a global focus to combat all forms of online hate from antisemitism to xenophobia. Born in South Africa, Andre grew up in Australia, completed his PhD in Computer Science in the UK and was Legacy Heritage Fellow in Israel. He is currently undertaking a law degree in Australia.

In the UK, Andre was heavily involved in student politics. On campus he served as Chair of the Jewish Society, Vice President of the Graduate Student Association, an officer in the student union, and as a member of the student union's executive committee managing clubs and societies. Off campus he served as Secretary of the Union of Jewish Students (UJS), an officer of the National Postgraduate Committee (NPC) and as the student's representative with the Board of Directors of the QAA (the UK's Higher Education regulator). He was also involved in combating anti-Jewish and anti-Israel sentiments within the student movement in the UK, which ultimately led to the creation of 'Zionism on the Web.'

While a Legacy Heritage Fellow at NGO Monitor in 2008 Andre published an article with the JCPA coining the term "Antisemitism 2.0". He has also presented at the Global Forum to Combat Antisemitism.

After the fellowship Andre created and headed the Community Internet Engagement project which was based in the Zionist Federation of Australia and undertook work to counter online antisemitism and run online pro-Israel campaigns. These campaigns have had a global impact, they include "talk gaza" a public diplomacy site set up as the flotilla crisis unfolded, "meetgilad.com" a site that gathered messages for Gilad Shalit and advocating for his release, and the "BDS Cookbook" a campaign run for AICE to counter BDS on campus. Andre is currently completing a major new Israel advocacy project, "Joe's Israel" which will launch on North American campuses in September.

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### **Alumni on the Web**

*Here are a few articles published by our alumni recently.*

#### **[Algeria's Uncertain Future](#)**

***EMILY BOULTER, Class of 2009/10***

***(Transatlantic Institute)***

***May 1, 2012***



Although its own Arab Spring received less attention than the rest of North Africa, 2011 was a decisive year for Algeria. In February, while its neighbors were grappling with a surge of discontent, the Algerian government announced its decision to lift the country's 19-year-old Emergency Law; it capped the price of essential commodities, and, most importantly, it announced parliamentary elections for May 10, 2012. The Front de Liberation Nationale (FLN), which has effectively held control for over fifty years, is expected to be sorely tested by Islamist parties.

**Flunking the Syria Test**

**MATTHEW RJ BRODSKY, class of 2008/9**

**(American Foreign policy Council)**

**Spring/summer 2012**



*With the Syrian uprising now past its one-year anniversary, it's long past time to take stock of the carnage. More than 7,000 people have been killed to date by the Assad regime, as it has unleashed war on its own people.*