

July 11, 1997

Dry Bones



Message from the Director

This past month has seen some quite remarkable events in Israeli politics; some old stuff, some new. We saw the largest government formed in the history of Israel – 30 cabinet ministers (USA, a country with almost 40 times the population, has 18) – a result of Kadima joining the government minutes before a new election was to be formally voted on, and days after it elected a new leader, Shaul Mofaz ... even though in his campaign to win the leadership of the party he promised not to do so under any circumstances.

We also saw (and still see), in a great historical irony, Jewish mobs beating up people and trashing businesses. But on the other side of that coin, we see a government without a clue as to how to deal with the refugee/infiltrator/asylum-seeker issue that plagues the country.

We see that in response to Syrian forces massacring almost 100 people including children, Western countries have (finally) decided to expel Syrian diplomats. After more than 10,000 people have been killed in Syria over the past year, **what the hell took so long?!?**

Oh, and ominously, we also see an Iran nearing 'the bomb' and we haven't even mentioned the Palestinians...

Yet, we see Israel favorite to win medals in certain disciplines (swimming and judo, I think) at this summer's Olympics. And even better, we see the government finally tackling economic issues: one fine example, the monopolistic (oligopolistic, actually, to those in the know) practices of the three cellphone companies have finally been broken, resulting in slashed prices in the cellphone market – something I never thought I'd live to see. Let's see more of the same.

IRF Newsletter Issue 3, June 2012

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Going into summer, which promises to be as vibrant and pulsating as the weather is hot, would you really want to be anywhere else? Wishing you all the best ... *from Jerusalem.*

Ari Rudolph
Director

On a personal note, I'd like to wish alumnus, Ari Rudolph, mazaltov on the birth of his precious daughter.

Spot the Difference!

Human Rights Watch Press Release
May 20, 2012



One of the versions below is the original version of the Press Release (as quoted on the HRW website); one is the version quoted on the (Iranian) Fars News Agency website.

Guess which one is which...

Version A:

"The voice of the international community has been subdued regarding Bahrain's manifold violations, especially compared with the international response to abuses in Syria, Libya, Iran, and other Middle Eastern countries, Human Rights Watch said."

Version B:

"The voice of the international community has been subdued regarding Bahrain's manifold violations, especially compared with the international response to abuses in Israel, Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries, Human Rights Watch said."

Thank you to current fellow Gidon Shaviv for pointing this out.

Fellows 2011/12

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

In each monthly newsletter we profile two fellows; this month, Yael and Shir.

Shir Shampanier

Born in Haifa and currently residing in Tel Aviv, Shir graduated Summa Cum Laude from Bar-Ilan University with an M.A. in Political Science, with an emphasis on Strategy and National Security Studies. She earned her B.A. in Government, Diplomacy and Strategy (Summa Cum Laude) from the Lauder School of Government, at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya. While studying at the IDC, Shir was awarded the Sprintzak Scholarship at the 2004 Annual Herzliya Conference, for excellence in the fields of Diplomacy and Strategy. The following year, she was awarded Tutor of the Year in the district of Tel Aviv for her work with a child with social and learning disabilities. During her military service at the IDF, Shir served as an officer in the Naval Commando.



Project and Accomplishments

For her fellowship, Shir is at the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS), at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, where she is a member of the External Relations Team. Over the past five months, she became an integral part of the team that organized the 2012 Annual Herzliya Conference on the Balance of Israel's National Security. During the conference itself, she was the Deputy Manager of the Speakers Lounge.

In addition to her work on the Herzliya Conference, at IPS, Shir has also completed a position paper on the challenges of development in the Middle East, and is currently working on papers regarding the Herzliya Conference discussions on the strategic roles of the US, Europe and NATO in the Middle East, and the new European strategy in the Middle East, as well as on advancing Israel's diplomatic normalization in the International Community.

Yael Phillips

Yael Phillips graduated from Cambridge University with an MA Cantab in Social and Political Sciences. Following her degree she volunteered and traveled in Africa and Asia, before returning to London to start the Graduate Scheme of *Diageo*, one of the largest beverage companies in the world. Yael worked in Diageo's Marketing department where she worked on campaigns for international brands such as *Baileys*, *Captain Morgan* and *Jose Cuervo*, where she managed digital, experiential and relationship marketing campaigns, and was responsible for their strategic planning, budgets and performance reporting. Yael joined *JustIsrael* – an online Israel Advocacy platform – on the Career Israel Program and continued to work there after making Aliyah.



For her fellowship, Yael is working on External Relations at the *Reut Institute* – a role that combines her experience in Marketing with her passion for Israel.

Project and Accomplishments

As part of the External Relations team at the Reut Institute, Yael's role is to communicate the organization's activities and garner awareness and support for the work that it does. As such, she has been refining and clarifying Reut's mission and vision, internally and externally, and reflecting this in their communications. She was also part of a small group that built and created a mission statement for the Reut Institute.

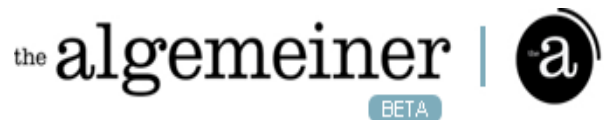
Within these responsibilities, Yael has been working with the Reut teams to ensure their work is effectively communicated and understood. In particular she has been working with the Tikkun Olam taskforce and the senior management. Her work with Reut's managers to clarify and communicate the vision and brand has set the foundations to move forwards effectively. Since joining Reut, Yael has launched a regular newsletter which currently goes out to almost 7,000 people per month. Reut's social media is also becoming more important, with a growing community of 3,000 people, and with this in mind Yael has ensured a more active presence on social media platforms and has initiated and led training sessions for Reut employees to better understand the various platforms and how to use them.

Yael recently initiated projects to update, simplify and refresh the Reut website and to create new and engaging marketing materials to represent the Reut Institute.

Fellows on the Web

Please click on the logos to get the full article

The Forrest Gump of Israeli Advocacy
GIDON SHAVIV, March 14, 2012



Last week, one of Israel's most under appreciated defenders was touring Canada. Ironically, the individual in question is French pro-Palestinian activist Frank Barat, who appeared in Toronto, Montreal, Waterloo, and Ottawa as part of "Apartheid Week." Barat lectured about the role of the "Russell Tribunal on Palestine" (RToP) – a troupe of self appointed individuals who theatrically put Israel on trial to promote the boycotting of Israel and propagate the use of Israel-apartheid analogy.

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.

Edoe Cohen

Edoe spends his time finding new ways to mesh his love for Israel, diplomacy, entrepreneurship, culture and creativity.

Born and raised in L.A., California, Edoe moved with his family to Israel in 1993. After studying film in a high school for the arts in Jerusalem, Edoe served in the Israeli Defense Forces for six years as an infantry officer and was a company commander during Operation Defensive Shield. He still serves as a reserve officer.



Edoe received a B.A. in Political Science from Columbia University and a B.A. in Modern Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. As a Grinspoon Fellow on campus, he initiated a number of interfaith and Israel related projects and co-founded Café Nana, an Israeli / world Jewry cafe at the Columbia / Barnard Hillel. While serving in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Legacy Heritage Fellow, Edoe created Omanoot.com to promote and market Israeli arts & culture through educational tools that teach about Israel through the arts.

Edoe just completed his MBA from the Kellogg-Recanati International EMBA program. He recently got engaged to his girlfriend Pauline Vorms, who doubles as the co-founding partner of his latest start-up, Koola Ring, an initiative that aims to revolutionize the way alumni communities engage online.

Edoe is extremely grateful to the Fellowship; beyond being an amazing year and springboard to a creative career, it was a fellow alumni who made the connection to Pauline.

Diane Morrison



Diane was born and raised in South Africa, where she studied at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. She completed both a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Law and Philosophy, and a Bachelor of Laws. At university Diane was very involved in Jewish student politics – she was a member of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), which she represented in Israel at the Conference of the World Union of Jewish Students; and at the UN

Conference for Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

Upon completion of her studies, Diane moved to Israel; where she developed a working relationship with the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs (JCPA); under the auspices of which she has co-authored several articles, including an analysis of the concept of safe passage between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; a policy paper regarding the Genocide Convention and the possibility of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad being found guilty for incitement to commit genocide; and an article regarding the abuse of the legal concept of

Universal Jurisdiction. Simultaneously, Diane completed her legal internship at Herzog, Fox and Neeman, a leading Israeli law firm and became a member of the Israeli bar in May of 2008.

Following admission to the Israeli Bar, Diane was awarded a full scholarship for tuition at New York University (NYU), and completed her Masters in International Legal Studies at NYU. During her fellowship year (2009 – 2010) Diane worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), splitting her time between the legal department and the *Hasbara* division. In addition to her work at the MFA, Diane researched and wrote, together with former Ambassador to the United Nations, Dore Gold, a submission to the International Criminal Court regarding the Palestinian Authority's declaration recognizing the jurisdiction of the ICC over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Following her fellowship year, Diane returned to the private sector and is currently enjoying her position as legal counsel in an international hi-tech company at its headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Alumni on the Web

Here are a few articles published by our alumni recently.

The Disappearing Debate between Pro-Israelis and Pro-Palestinians JOEL BRAUNOLD, Class of 2009/10 (One Voice Europe) May 10, 2012

The logo for Haaretz.com, featuring the word "HAARETZ" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a blue rectangular background, followed by ".com" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue background.

Israelis and Palestinians barely hold joint public events anymore. This risks letting the one-state solution paradigm take over.

At the recent debate between Daniel Gordis and Peter Beinart at Columbia University we saw two thinkers engage in a deep and informed debate. In substance there is very little between them, and the debate focused on the small but significant differences in their approach. One area where the division was stark however was on whether to engage with anti-Zionists. While Beinart thought it was vital that they be engaged with, Gordis believed that bringing them into the dialogue unjustifiably legitimizes their cause.

What future for Tunisia's Jews?

**ELI SHIRAYANAGI, class of 2008/9 (Office of Congressman Brad Sherman)
May 9, 2012**

The logo for The Guardian, with "the" in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font and "guardian" in a dark blue, lowercase, sans-serif font.

While Tunisia has promised safe passage for Jews on pilgrimage to El Ghriba, in reality the welcome loses its warmth.

Since the Tunisian revolution, a question on the minds of many outside observers has been: what impact will the changes in the country have on religious minority communities? The question is especially important because Tunisia is now widely perceived as a model for other countries undergoing transformations as a result of the Arab spring.

What Market Forces Mean for Facebook

ANDRE OBOLER, class of 2007/08 (NGO Monitor)

May 24, 2012



A few simple truths were demonstrated this week as Facebook became a publically listed company. The first was the power of government; the second was the ability of social media companies to create hype; and the third truth was a lesson in the wisdom of crowds.