



A view of the modern and prosperous Gaza City.

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The Goldstone blood libel unmasked

Judge admits that his report wrongly accused Israel of Gaza “war crimes”

Over the weekend of April 2, retired South African judge Richard Goldstone admitted that his report on the December 2008–January 2009 Israeli military incursion into Gaza had wrongly accused the Jewish state of war crimes. Goldstone acknowledged the evidence provided in subsequent Israeli investigations had debunked the **information** he and his team were **fed by the Palestinians** during their UN-commissioned inquiry. But the damage has already been done.

The Goldstone episode again highlights a favorite tactic of Israel’s enemies, which is to make outlandish claims against the Jewish state, and then get the international media to print them, or even get the UN to adopt the claims. The Palestinians and their backers know that the international community is predisposed to believing the worst about Israel, and so will latch onto these lies without conducting so much as rudimentary fact-checking. When the truth finally surfaces, it is too late. The story is old news by that time, and no longer of interest to the media. This is a common phenomenon over the past several decades of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

In The Goldstone Report Israel was accused by an official UN commission of purposely targeting Palestinian civilians during Operation Cast Lead, thereby leading to the deaths of well over 1,000 people in the Gaza Strip. The commission labeled the Israeli incursion an illegal action, despite the enormous Palestinian missile barrage on southern Israel that had preceded it. *(See the photo on right.)*

Only weeks later did reporters pick up on the discrepancies between Palestinian-provided casualty figures and the lack of patients in local hospitals. They didn’t bother to publish much about it. Several months after that, Hamas Interior Minister Fathi Hamad admitted that 700 of the people

killed during the mini-war were Hamas fighters, matching the figures Israeli originally provided. And now, two years after the fact, Goldstone himself has come forward and written in the Washington Post that Israel did not target Palestinian civilians and was only acting to defend itself and its own civilians. Israeli leaders want an apology, but the damage has been done.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has instructed various ministries to formulate practical and public diplomacy measures, in order to cancel the Goldstone report and minimize the great damage that has been done by this campaign of denigration against the State of Israel.



Preceding Israel’s Operation Cast Lead to Gaza in winter 2008–2009, Palestinians had fired over 10,000 rockets from civilian areas in Gaza into southern Israel. Photo: Beersheba kindergarten after one of the Palestinian rocket attacks from Gaza.

Other grievous lies against Israel

Organ harvesting: In August 2009, Swedish newspaper *Aftonbladet* headlined a story claiming that Israeli soldiers were capturing Palestinian Arabs and harvesting their organs. The only evidence provided were the unsubstantiated claims of a handful of **Palestinians**. Nevertheless, the story became a sensation, leading to international outcries against Israel. The editor of the newspaper later admitted he had **no proof** that the claims were true, but defended his right to publish the blood libel regardless.

Operation Defensive Shield: In 2002, following a particularly severe string of Palestinian terrorist attacks, Israel launched Operation Defensive Shield to root out the terrorist infrastructure in Judea and Samaria. One of the focal points was the northern Samaria town of Jenin. Of the 60 suicide bombers to attack Israelis in 2002, 23 had come from Jenin. During what came to be known as the *Battle of Jenin*, the **Palestinians** claimed that over 500 civilians had been massacred and that Israeli forces had demolished large portions of the city. The accusations were broadcast around the world, leading to a massive outcry against Israel. Months later it was revealed that only 52 Palestinians had died during the intense street battles in Jenin, and that most of them were armed militants. Israel lost 27 soldiers during the battle. A simple check of satellite photos also showed that Jenin had not been destroyed and that the fighting had been limited to a small corner of Jenin, where only a few buildings had been demolished. Israel was quietly absolved, but the damage had been done. — See the May book offer “A Psalm in Jenin” by Brett Goldberg.

Mohammed al-Dura: On September 30, 2000, Palestinian terrorists engaged Israeli soldiers stationed in the Gaza Strip. Video footage of the clash broadcast on and provided by France 2 showed 12-year-old Mohammed al-Dura hiding behind his terrified father as the bullets flew. Moments later, the boy slumps over dead and the father is wounded. Israel was immediately blamed for shooting the boy in cold blood, and Mohammed al-Dura became an internationally-recognized poster child for armed uprising against the Jewish state.

Subsequent investigations by the Israeli army and other journalists have shown that the Israeli troops could not possibly have hit al-Dura from their position, even if they were trying to, and that the France 2 reporter on the scene may have been collaborating with the **Palestinians**. Phillipe Karsenty, a French media commentator, was sued by France 2 for questioning the authenticity of the footage. A French court later ruled the Karsenty had indeed provided compelling evidence that France 2’s report was faulty, but the damage was already done.

Fainting schoolgirls: In 1983, a large number of **Palestinian** schoolgirls began fainting while at school. Accusations were immediately made that they had been poisoned, and that Israel had done it. The foreign press jumped on the story and reprinted it far and wide without bothering to check the facts. The UN Security Council condemned Israel for poisoning little girls. Months later, experts proved that the girls had in fact not been poisoned. The media stopped covering the story, and the UN remained silent.

First Lebanon War: The *Palestinians realized how they could manipulate the press and public opinion against Israel* for the first time during the First Lebanon War. After Israeli forces entered Lebanon (1982) in response to incessant PLO attacks on northern Israel, the **Palestinians** claimed that 10,000 civilians had been killed and more than half a million displaced. The foreign reporters repeated the claims without checking the facts, like, for instance, that there were not even half a million people living in the whole of southern Lebanon. Media outlets also recycled images of destruction caused during the earlier Lebanese civil war (1975–1990 with over 300,000 civilian fatalities) as though it had been caused by Israel.

And the list goes on.

Today’s blood libels against Israel mirror the historical blood libels against the Jews in their viciousness, their absurdity, and in the fact that—even after being debunked and dismissed—they continue to haunt the Jewish people and act as a platform for hatred. (Based on “The Goldstone blood libel unmasked” by Ryan Jones, *Israel Today Magazine*, April 3. and *Arutz Sheva–INN.com*, April 4.)



Speaking on April 3, the South African judge, Richard Goldstone, stated to the *Washington Post*: “If I had known then what I know now, *The Goldstone Report* would have been a different document.” As the chairman of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission to Gaza in 2009, he and the UN bear the responsibility of lies-based accusations against Israel. The UN—the partner in crime—has a long history of bias against Israel.

Unite in prayer for Israel

UN to Israel: Stop building in Jerusalem!

On the first week of April the State Department expressed “deep concern” over the Israeli government’s approval of plans to build 942 new apartment units in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo—home for tens of thousands of Jewish residents. The reason for the Administration’s “concern” is a hope to empty Gilo from Jews and hand it over to the Palestinians if and when the final status *peace deal* is to be signed.

—As you pray for Israel’s right to build on their own land, remember Genesis 13:14–15, that God gave the land [of Canaan] to Abraham and his descendant—forever.

All the land of Israel is also for Jews

In his interview for YouTube, PM Netanyahu referred to the Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria by saying, “Everybody knows we can’t kick-out 350,000 or 400,000 Jews from their homes. Many of them were kicked out from their homes by hostile Arab armies before the founding of Israel.” In actuality the difference between the Palestinian and Jewish refugee issues is that Israel fully absorbed and integrated the Jewish refugees that fled to Israel. However, the Arabs have worked hard to maintain the Palestinians’ refugee status and conditions as a political weapon against Israel by refusing them a place in Arab nations.

—Pray for peace for all communities in Judea and Samaria that are the heartland of the Jewish state.

Terror targets again Israeli children

Palestinian terrorists operating out of the Gaza Strip launched a barrage of 45 missiles, rockets and mortar shells at communities in southern Israel in one day, April 7. In one particularly villainous attack, a terrorist fired an anti-tank missile at an Israeli school bus. The driver and a 16-year-old student, Daniel Viflict of Beit Shemesh, were wounded. Daniel is still in critical condition and needs our prayers.

—“He who keeps you will not slumber, behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep” (Psalm 121:3–4). Pray His word over Daniel and all Israeli children.

Mideast—North Africa uprising

For months now nations around Israel have expressed unprecedented anger and resentment toward their leaders. Among displays and public speeches, hatred toward Israel is clearly rising up.

—Meditate Psalm 124 and pray God to rescue Israel from her enemies as “men rose up”... and as their “anger was kindled against us [Israel].”

Life from the ashes

Sundown on May 1st begins Israel’s **Holocaust Remembrance Day** that is dedicated for the memory of millions of Jews who lost their lives during WWII. Yad VaShem, the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Jerusalem, honors the victims’ heroism in the face of inhumanity and explores the roots of anti-Semitism.

—At the entrance to the Children’s Memorial is written: “The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the innermost parts of his being” Proverbs 20:27. May each of us examine our hearts to expel any seeds of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish sentiments.

Giving all for the Jewish people

May 8th marks the **Israel Memorial Day**—giving one’s life in defense of the Jewish people. It is a mitzvah of the highest order. Since 1948, wars, conflicts and attacks against Israel have claimed over 11,000 soldiers’ lives.

—Cover in prayer Israel’s military and the leadership as they defend the land and the people where the Son of Man will return as promised in Matthew 24:30.

A nation born in a day

On the eve of May 9th begins **Israel’s Independence Day**, with celebrations of the historic return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland in Israel. The birth of this tiny nation was prophesized in the book of Isaiah (66:8) where prophet Isaiah pondered, “Can a nation be brought forth all at once?” Sixty-three years and ten wars after her creation in 1948, Israel is still fighting for her very survival in the region where enemies look for any opportunity to “drive her to the (Mediterranean) Sea”.

—Thank God for Israel where every Jew from all “remote parts of the earth” is welcome. Pray protection for Jews who are to return home. Meditate Jeremiah 31:1–20.



Palestinians hit this school bus with an anti-tank missile April 7. The driver and a student, Daniel Viflict, were seriously wounded.

Appreciating Israeli soldiers

In all the wars and conflicts Israel has had, the soldiers are the ones who have become most hated and despised by the world. Israel, with population of about 7.0 million people (including all minority groups), is surrounded by over 400 million increasingly hostile Muslim Arabs, Turks and others. The recent uprising in neighboring countries, such as Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, has encouraged renewed violence against Israelis, as the Itamar killing of a family and the Jerusalem bus bombing in March 2011 have proved. A number of Muslim terror groups, operating in and around Israel, openly incite people of those nations to attack Israel, especially the soldiers. Keeping the homeland safe is a challenge. These young men and women risk their lives daily as they patrol the border areas, check IDs at road blocks, hunt down terror suspects or fight in conflicts and wars.



Tour members thank and encourage soldiers from Galilee.

Back to Malkiah with supplies

At the end of May our group is scheduled to visit the Malkiah IDF base on the Golan Heights. From our previous visits we recall that the Lebanon and Syrian borders are very close. We actually saw fully armed Hezbollah fighters at their border barracks. Again this time we will take supplies for the base. Tour members have purchased heavy socks, toiletries and dental needs among other items. Also, CFI-USA will prepare a financial gift to bless the soldiers. In all the bases we have seen, the living and dining quarters are very modest indeed. Any improvement would be welcome. Therefore, if you wish to participate in the *Malkiah gift*, please reply to this May appeal. Thank You! We'll greet the soldiers for you. —Hannele Pardain

Book store

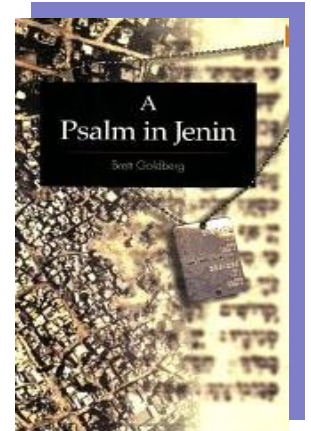
A Psalm in Jenin by Brett Goldberg (soft cover, 2003)

In March 2002, Israel suffered the worst month of terror attacks in its history. Over two hundred people were killed and many hundreds more, injured. This wave of attacks climaxed at Netanya's Park Hotel, where on Seder night a suicide bomber murdered thirty people and injured scores more. In response to this horrifying crime, the Israeli government undertook the sort of military operation many Israelis had been clamoring for during the previous months. Operation Defensive Shield was launched; it turned out to be decisive in greatly reducing Palestinian terror in the following days and months.

The most well-known focus of military action during this operation was Jenin, the West Bank city considered the capital of Palestinian suicide-bombing. Even before the Israeli military operation was underway, press reports emerged throughout the world of massacres by the Israeli forces of the Palestinians in the city and in the "refugee camp" nearby. These claims of massacre, fueled by the Palestinian propaganda machine, led to worldwide cries of outrage against Israel, accusations of genocide, and comparisons with the Nazis. Palestinian spokesman Saab Erekat claimed hundreds had been murdered in the Jenin camp. The worldwide cries led to a U.N. investigation.

This investigation concluded weeks later with a lame admission (by a body normally hostile to Israel) that there was no evidence of massacre at all. But the damage to Israel's already battered image was significant. Jews throughout the world saw Israel stigmatized, isolated, and made the object of an intense and unjust attack.

Brett Goldberg of Connecticut—who had served in the IDF as a tank commander and lived for years in the Negev of Israel—felt impelled to act. He flew to Israel and spent the next seven months interviewing the Israeli soldiers who participated in the operation in Jenin. *A Psalm in Jenin* is the product of those interviews, and it provides a detailed and authentic picture of both the Israeli military and the daily struggle of Israeli civilians during this period of terror.



Book of the month—B45

Clearly and movingly written, Goldberg's book is a must-read for anyone who wishes to understand the challenges Israel, its people, and its soldiers have faced and continue facing daily. Order by mail or from the website Store at www.cfi-usa.org for **\$19.00**.