

KOL MEVASSER

An Open Letter to the Presbyterian Church

By Joseph Samuels

Reprinted from the "Times of Israel"

Some of your members, under the banner of human rights, have demonized one country. According to them, the one country that destabilizes the Middle East and creates much pain and suffering to the Arab world, is not Iran, Syria, or Lebanon. It is Israel. They believe the root of the problem is Zionism and the return of the Jews to Israel.

Your group has just published a booklet entitled "Zionism Unsettled". The booklet claims that if it weren't for the Zionist movement that established Israel, the Jews from Arab lands would still be living in peace and harmony among the Arab nations.

I quote from your from Page 48 of "Zionism Unsettled". *"Middle eastern Jews, also called Mizrahi Jews, share a history of largely harmonious integration and acculturation in their host countries. Sadly, this model of coexistence was destabilized by the regional penetration of Zionism beginning in the late 19th century."*

My Arabic name is Yusuf. I was born in the Jewish quarter of the old city of Baghdad known as "Taht El Takia" in December of

1930. I am now 83 years old. My mother tongue is Arabic and I am one those Jews who was integrated in the Arabic Islamic culture of Iraq.

Here are some examples of how us Arab Jews lived in harmony with our hosts: I survived the Farhud of 1941 – a violent "pogrom" when Iraqi Muslims, incited by Nazi Germany, took to the streets, destroyed the Jewish quarter and killed 180 Jewish men, women and children. I was 11 years old. Google Farhud or read Edwin Black's book "The Farhud". This cause of the Farhud, wasn't Zionism. The Farhud was purely an Anti-Jewish act. At 14, I was chased by two Muslim youths with a knife for stopping them from molesting my neighbor's teenage daughter in broad daylight. At 18, after graduation from Al A'Adariah High School, I was refused an exit visa to leave Iraq to study in America, because I was Jewish. My story is not unique. I am one of 150,000 Iraqi Jews who was discriminated against, oppressed, and forced to escape religious persecution because of my faith.

In May, 1948, after failed attempts to destroy Israel in it's fight for independence, the Iraqi government, turned against its Jewish citizens whose ancestors had been there continuously for over 2,500 years. Arrests, torture, imprisonment and hanging of Jews sent fear

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KJ Schedule

Parashat Tzav / Shabbat Zachor PURIM

Erev Shabbat Zachor

Friday, March 14th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim.....	6:25 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting.....	6:41 pm
Minhah/Arbith	6:41 pm

Yom Shabbat / Shabbat Day

Erev Purim /Purim Eve

Saturday, March 15th

Shaharit/Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Minha, Seudah Shlisheet, Arvit.....	6:00 pm
Motzei Shabbat / Havdallah	7:46 pm

**MEGILLAH READING & Choir Performance
with Treats for Kids..... 8:00 pm**

PURIM DAY

Sunday, March 16th

Shaharit.....	7:30 am
Morning Megillah, First Reading approx	7:45 am
Talmud Torah Private Party	10:00 am

KJ PURIM CARNIVAL

11 am to 4 pm

Morning Megillah, Second Reading ...	12:00 noon
Mincha Prayer Service	1:00 pm

**Hear the Megillah, Send Mishloah Manot, Give
Matanot La'Evyonim & Enjoy Seudat Purim**

Weekdays

Shushan Purim

Monday, March 17th

Shaharit.....	6:30 am
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Thank You Yvette Dabby & KJ Purim Baking Volunteers

Faye Aharonoff	Evelyn Salem
Rachel Bakash	Fuad Salem
Arlette Darwish	Sophie Salem
Eva Dloomy	Gabby Sarraf
Esther Duke	Odette Sarraf
Katie Fischman	Ryan Sarraf
Jessica Fischman	Guity Sawdayi
Rita Hanin	Eli Sawdayi
Tikva Iny	Nahid Sedaghat
Sally Joseph	Esperance Shashoua
Judith Levy	Widad Shiri
Shaoul Moshi	Yvonne Shiri
Rosy Nissan	Penina Solomon
Suheila Ovadia	Gilda Tawfik-Coco
Renee Reiz	Anita Wozniak
Aviva Sagi	

Shabbat Kiddush

is sponsored
in memory of

Nazi bat Nissan Solymani Radfar, z"l
and
Yona ben Shlomo Solymani Radfar, z"l

by
David Radfar and Family

Seudah Shlisheet

is sponsored in memory of
Farha bat Gordjia & Aboudie, z"l
by Ruth & Edmond Hagooli
and Family

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Tuesday to Friday, March 18 to 21

Shaharit 6:30 am

**Erev Shabbat Parah
Friday, March 21st**

Shaharit/Morning Prayer..... 6:30 am
Shir Hashirim 6:30 pm
Shabbat Candlelighting 6:47 pm
Minhah/Arbith 6:47 pm

In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for March 15 to 22, 2014. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, & attend services the preceding Shabbat.

13 Adar II / Shabbat, March 15th
Kodadad ben Yair

18 Adar II / Thursday, March 20th
Nazay Radfar Nazeh bat Nisan

19 Adar II / Friday, March 21st
Charles Eric Ezekiel Saleh ben Ezra Yehezkel

20 Adar II / Shabbat, March 22nd
Yona Radfar Yona ben Shlomo



KJ Shabbat Lunch & Learn with

Rabbi Daniel Bouskila *SEC Director*

*March 22, 2014 following morning services
Rabbi Bouskila will address the topic of:*

***Halakhic Genius, Political Revolutionary:
The Unique Legacy of Rav Ovadia Yosef***

Advance paid RSVP required to attend.
Please call 310.474.0559 to reserve.

Thank You

Aviva & Ezra Sagi
and EZ Kitchen and Bath

for generously donating a
new stove to replace the one in the
upstairs kitchen in less than a day

Torah & Haftarah Readings

Leviticus/Vayikra 429-438, Zachor 856-867
Haftara Samuel I / Shmuel Alef 995 to 998

Refuah Shlemah

Rahel bat Marcel

Mordechai Cohen / Mordecai ben Avraham
Moselle Amron/Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana
Tilda Levy / Tilda bat Miriam

Joseph Sharaf / Yossef ben Jamila
Maurice Ovadia / Moshe ben Noosha
Pnina Herzbrun / Pnina bat Esther

Michael Herzbrun / Michael Baruch ben Sarah
To remove or add a name please call 310-474-0559



David Kelly YOUTH CHOIR
with Rabbi Batzri, Director
will perform Megillah Night

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in every Jewish person's heart. It was the fear for my life that made me attempt to be smuggled out of Iraq in December, 1949. I was smuggled through Iran and found my freedom for the first time in Israel. In 1941 during the Farhud, there was nowhere to run to. Thank God Israel was there to take us. I started my life there, like many Jews from Muslim countries, as a dispossessed, homeless, penniless refugee.

Your comment that "the Jews in Arab lands lived in harmonious integration and coexistence in their host countries and were destabilized because of Zionism in the 19th century" is totally misleading and wrong. First there was never a continuous peaceful coexistence between Muslim and Jews. There was existence of the Jews in Arab lands for thousands of years, but we lived as second-class citizen dhimmis. We had to pay bribes regularly and take abuse without seeking justice. For example when a Jewish girl was raped, when a Muslim customer didn't pay my father for merchandise he bought, or when a Muslim murdered a Jew, we wouldn't dare seek justice for fear of the threat of retaliation.

Out of the 850,00 Jews who once inhabited Arab lands who were either expelled or fled, myself and family included, none of us are living in refugee camps. We are settled around the world as good-standing citizens in many countries. My family is grateful to be citizens of the United States. We are happy to have escaped Iraq and none of us share your sadness or have nostalgia to go back

and live as oppressed second-class citizens of any Muslim country.

Of the 600,000 Jews who left Arab lands for Israel, none of them are living in refugee camps. A similar number of Palestinian refugees, from the war their leaders started, are still living in refugee camps in Arab lands after 66 years.

Imagine the Iraqi government promising to return my family's confiscated home in the Al Alwiya district. Imagine them promising the return of my father's import business. Imagine taking my wife, my three children (two PH.ds, and one M.D) and five grandchildren to Baghdad. How crazy would I be? As American Jews and Zionists, how long do you think we would last before being killed?

Your publication, "Zionism Unsettled," advocating for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) of Israel rejects the existence of a Jewish state. It is not an attack on Israeli politics, but the very idea of Jews being self-determined and having our own country and home. To pretend that your publication is about occupation, to pretend this is about peace, to pretend this is about human right abuse, to pretend that this anything other than vile, spiteful Anti-Semitic Jew hatred is a lie.

As a Christian church, shouldn't your priority be to advocate for your Christian brothers? Where is your publication "Islam Unsettled, and the treatment of Christians in the Muslim world." Fifty Coptic churches were burnt in one day when Morsi ruled Egypt. One Million

Kahal Joseph Congregation

Norma & Sam Dabby Jewish Learning Center

Mommy & Me

Next Meeting

Tuesday, March 25th@10:45 am

Developmentally appropriate music, art and play for children 18 months to 2 1/2 years.

For information contact Dafna at
dafna@kahaljoseph.org or 310-502-8548

Iraqi Christians live in refugee camps in Jordan. How about Christians in Syria under the rebels or Christians in Gaza? Bethlehem was a Christian majority; today it has a Muslims majority. Lebanon was the only Arab country with a majority of Christians. Today the Lebanese Christians live as minority and dare to disarm Hezbollah, the Islamic extremist group, that rules Lebanon?

Rev. Chris Leighton, the Executive Director of the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies, who strongly objected to your publication, summarizes his objection in an open letter to the church. He wrote, "to suggest that the Jewish yearning for their own homeland—a yearning that we Presbyterians have supported for numerous other nations—is somehow theologically and morally abhorrent is to deny Jews their own identity as a people."

There are 22 Arab countries. There is place for a 23rd. Yet there is no place for a Jewish state the size of New Jersey? Shame on you.

GREAT RIDES & GAMES

Amazing Prizes, Prizes, PRIZES!
Hot Dogs! CANDY! Hamburgers!
And, much, much MORE . . .!

Kahal Joseph Congregation



Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 16th
11 am to 4 pm



Game & Ride Wristbands—Check out our Special Deals
\$20/wristband or \$1 per ticket

*Wristbands are good for games and rides only.
Tickets for food and special services are purchased separately.
For more information call 310.474.0559*

KJ PURIM

MEGILLAH READING

with Choir Performance

Motzei Shabbat, March 15th at 8:00 pm

PURIM DAY

Sunday, March 16th

Morning Megillah, 1st Reading 7:30 am,

2nd Reading 12:00 pm

Mincha Prayer, 1:00 pm

Kahal Joseph 9th Annual Purim Carnival

Event Co-Chair

Jonathan S. Kelly

Event Co-Chair

Dafna Young

Event Committee

Sarah Bouchoucha • Yvette Dabby • Ron Einy • Penina Solomon

Booth Sponsors

Desiree & Tooraj Aghalar

The Ironi Family

Yvette & Joseph Dabby

Hannie Kelly

Julie & Mark Darwish

Michelle & Stan Kurtz

Letizia & Ron Einy

Doris & Shaoul Moshi

The Ezra Family

Keren & Elisha Shashoua

Ruth & Edmond Hagooli

Ruby & Joseph Samuels

Tikva & Yoel Iny

Sandra & Eddie Sarraf

Shoshana & Eli Sawdayi

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors