

Iraq, Syria, Algeria and Jordan, Jews are excluded by laws from their colleges and universities.

The facts speak for themselves.

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THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: I thank S. J. Adelman for urging me to "do my homework," and thank the editor for allowing me to reply in some detail to the controversial points that were raised.

The prophet Mohammed could not have been "anti-Semitic" simply because he himself was a Semite. The fate of the Qurayza tribe is far from the heroic martyrdom pictured in the letter. Mohammed's supporters were under siege in Medina and the Qurayzas "had almost certainly been in contact with the enemy, and would have attacked Mohammed in the rear... Mohammed attacked this clan in their forts"¹—a military and not a religious action. On the other hand, "Northern Jewish and Christian tribes were allied to Mohammed."²

There were 28 synagogues in Baghdad in the year 1168 (although Baghdad was a city founded by Moslem Arabs),³ and to this day Jews look back to their so-called Golden Age in Moslem Spain, when the Jewish-Moslem symbiosis reached its zenith.

In contrast, when the Crusaders entered Jerusalem, they slaughtered its Jewish inhabitants. The Jews were only reinstated in the city when Saladin liberated it.⁴ Jews in Arab lands continued to enjoy relative peace with their neighbors, so that in the mid-19th century a rabbi visiting Iraq could write: "In no other place in the East have I found my Israelith brethren in such happy circumstances."⁵

Thus while Jews suffered from waves of anti-Semitism, pogroms and genocide in Europe, in Arab and Moslem lands no such calamities befell them. But when the Zionist movement was initiated, with Palestinian Arabs gradually losing their land to the Jewish immigrants, the atmosphere started to sour, and Zionist propaganda encouraged Arab-Jewish hatred to stimulate Jewish immigration to Israel. King Abdul-Aziz's alleged remark must have been uttered then, but most Arabs opposed to Israel do make a clear distinction between Judaism as a religion and political Zionism.

Anti-Jewish statements, laws and actions are just as ugly as their anti-Arab counterparts. Statements that the enemies are "two-legged animals" or "cockroaches turning around in a bottle" were not made by "Arab Theologians" about Jews, but were spoken by Israeli Prime Minister Begin and his chief-of-staff Eitan about the Palestinians, on the eve of the invasion of Lebanon. No doubt dehumanizing the Arabs made it easier to kill tens of

thousands of them. The worst excesses of the PLO pale besides this organized Israeli state terror.⁶

Israel's highly probable nuclear weapons capability^{6,7} and its refusal to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty as well as its rejection of International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards on its reactor at Dimona, all make it rather hypocritical when it defends its attack on the Iraqi reactor. Iraq is a signatory of the NPT and its reactor was under IAEA supervision when it was attacked.

While it seems true that purely scientific books are not included in the lists of banned books, titles in geography and archaeology have been included. Searches for banned books are used as a pretext for harrasing university students: "The (Israeli) army conducted late-night raids on student homes in Bir Zeit town. Five students were arrested and eleven others were summoned for interrogation because 'illegal literature' was seized."⁸

A Japanese photojournalist was in Beirut when Israeli tanks attacked the Arab University, and a photograph of the scene was published in his book about the invasion.⁹ Besides, "schools and cultural centers, particularly the various buildings of the Lebanese University and the UNESCO were all bombed. The Barbir hospital was almost completely destroyed."¹⁰

Hanna Nasir is the current, not the "former" president of Bir Zeit University. The university is not located in "Samaria" even if one accepts the Zionists' terminology, but 20 kilometers north of Jerusalem. More seriously, Adelman errs in terming a whole university "terrorist" merely because the students hold a few demonstrations in favor of their threatened national identity against cruel military occupation. He might consider the observations of a scientist like Martin Guterman: "Israel aimed to hold and develop the conquered lands, keeping the Arab inhabitants outside the political process."¹¹ It is the duty of students to resist this onslaught on their freedom!

It was in this atmosphere that Nasir, a respected community and church leader, was arrested by the Israelis, blindfolded, packed in a jeep and dumped at the border near a minefield and ordered to leave his homeland. No legal charges or proceedings of any kind were made against him. Paul Kessler (who is Jewish) is a physicist at the prestigious Collège de France, and has recently helped organize a Center for Cooperation with BZU, to "help their colleagues at that university safeguard Palestinian identity and culture; and to be active, themselves, for the sake of human rights in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967" adding, "we cannot allow it to be said to us that the horrors of the war in Lebanon have

been invented by the press and media... nor still that those dwelling in the territories occupied by Israel are living in happiness."¹²

The protest of 60 Israeli intellectuals, mostly professors at the Hebrew University, against the closure of BZU by the Israeli military has already been fully reported to the US scientific community.¹¹ In view of all this, Adelman is either joking or is misinformed when he implies that somehow Israel is responsible for the growth of the Palestinian universities under occupation!

Readers interested in further details on the effects of the occupation on higher education in the West Bank can write for their copy of *Report on How Israeli Military Order 854 Affects Higher Education in the West Bank*, from Birzeit University, Public Relations Office, Birzeit, West Bank, Via Israel.

References

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2. G. Hodgson, *The Venture of Islam*, Vol. I, U. of Chicago Press, page 191.
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4. R. Runciman, *A History of the Crusades*, Vol. II, Penguin, page 467.
5. "Israel in Lebanon" (The Report of the International Commission to enquire into reported violations of International Law by Israel during its invasion of the Lebanon), Ithaca Press (1983).
6. "Israel's Silent Gamble with the Bomb," *New Scientist* 64, 809 (1974).
7. "Nuclear Weapons and Israel," *The Middle East Journal* 37, 547 (1983).
8. AL-FAJR weekly, 8 April 1983 (Jerusalem).
9. R. Hirokawa, *BEIRUT 82* (From the Israeli Invasion to the massacre of Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila camps), Adhoc. Committee on Sabra and Chatila, Damascus (1982).
10. *Israel and Palestine*, No. 100, 12, Paris (1983).
11. *Science* 210, 110 (1980).

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Correction

January, page 67—several labels were inadvertently left off the figures in "Kinetic theory of fluids—an introduction" by E. G. D. Cohen. In part a the lower tree is number 2, the upper is number 3. In part b, the unlabeled tree is number 2. In parts b and c the wind particle 1 hits tree 2 at two points: The upper point is B, the lower point is A. In part c the point where wind particle 1 hits tree 2 is again point A. On page 69 the figure should have indicated that the decrease in amplitude of the sound modes takes place while they propagate away from the disturbance.