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1. Verdacht der Spionage gegen Ex-Minister

Der frühere Minister für Energie und Infrastruktur Gonen Segev soll geheime Informationen über Israels Energiesektor und Verteidigungseinrichtungen an die iranische Regierung geleitet haben. Der 62jährige ist offenbar schon Mitte Mai in Äquatorialguinea festgenommen und nach Israel ausgeliefert worden. Segev galt in den frühen 90er Jahren als Vertrauter des damaligen Regierungschefs Yizhak Rabin. Nach dem Mordanschlag auf Rabin und der Wahlniederlage der Arbeitspartei verlor Segev seinen Sitz in der Knesset. Der gelernte Kinderarzt machte Anfang der 2000er Jahre schon einmal Negativschlagzeilen. 2004 verurteilte ihn ein Gericht zu fünf Jahren Haft, nachdem er versucht hatte, 30.000 Ecstasy-Pillen aus Holland nach Israel zu schmuggeln. Er selbst behauptete stets, von den Drogen nichts gewusst zu haben. Auch in der Spionageaffäre beteuerte Segev der Polizei gegenüber, keineswegs für den Iran Spionage betrieben zu haben. Vielmehr sei es seine Absicht gewesen, die Iraner in die Irre zu führen. Berichten zufolge halten Untersuchungsbeamte die Affäre für eine der schwersten Verletzungen der Sicherheit seit Staatsgründung.

extorted. He chose, with eyes wide open, to help Israel's archenemy gather intelligence. Segev was methodical and shrewd; he took measures to cover his tracks and tried recruiting others. (...) The case against him is strong, the evidence is abundant and it is corroborated by Segev's own testimony – which it is safe to assume was extracted over the nine days he was held in special custody without access to a lawyer. (...) he did not have "gold" to benefit the Iranians in any significant way. He served in the government over two decades ago, and it is safe to assume the classified information he had was not particularly relevant. The advantages to recruiting him stem from a different goal: Intelligence agencies seek to establish networks, to learn processes, to understand how decisions are made, to identify power centers and vulnerabilities. Segev could have helped the Iranians in all these areas. (...) What prompted him to do this? It is safe to conclude he was motivated mostly by greed, and perhaps by a desire to exact vengeance on his own country, which, in his twisted perception, threw him to the dogs. (...) the working assumption needs to be that other "Gonen Segevs" are out there. (...)
Yoav Limor, IHY, 19.06.18

The highest-ranking spy in Israel's history
(...) former minister Gonen Segev (...) gave information to Iran. (...) Segev was not duped or

Enlisting a former Israeli minister is a victory for Iranian intelligence

(...) For Iranian intelligence, the recruitment of a former cabinet minister and Knesset member like Gonen Segev as an agent would have been a significant achievement. (...) if the charges against him are true, he could presumably have provided the Iranians with intelligence they couldn't obtain from the internet. (...) Segev (...) had significant information about Israel's energy industry, which is always a target for an enemy. (...) The parts of the indictment not under a gag order (...) leave more questions than answers. (...) Segev's ties with the Iranians began in Nigeria in 2012, and over the years, he held numerous meetings with his operators and even traveled to Iran twice. So how did Segev escape detection for six years, and what information did he divulge during this time? (...) this case shows how focused Iranian intelligence is on Israel. In addition to gathering military information and increased efforts at cyberspying, Iran and Hezbollah haven't neglected that traditional source of information, human agents. (...) The Shin Bet will presumably seek to broaden its inquiries to ensure that Iran didn't recruit other agents who still play or previously played an active role in events, but without starting a witch hunt. The agency's counterespionage unit has been greatly expanded in recent years. The Segev case hints that this expansion was necessary.

Amos Harel, HAA, 19.06.18

The target: infrastructure

Former minister Gonen Segev's recruitment and handling by Iranian intelligence (...) provide a window into the missions assigned to Iranian intelligence agents and the difficulties they encounter. If they did (...) see Segev as an asset worth cultivating, it raises questions as to the value of the information he supplied and the priority given to the information Iranian intelligence was tasked with obtaining. (...) beyond what we know about other intelligence efforts by Hezbollah and Iran, the Iranians – seeking to destroy Israel – are mainly interested in identifying attack targets, especially major ones. The former energy minister is an asset who can produce a lot in this area, as someone who was responsible for sensitive infrastructure systems. (...) even if we are satisfied with what we already know, we can understand plenty about Iran and its goals and the limits of the Iranian intelligence community's capabilities. If this is the best they could do, Israel's proven intelligence superiority is in no danger.

Col. (ret.) Dr. Eran Lerman, IHY, 20.06.18

Putting treason into perspective

(...) The news that former energy minister Gonen Segev was arrested and would be facing trial for assisting the enemy in a time of war, spying against the State of Israel and providing intelligence to the enemy, took Israel by storm (...). He was characterized as a serial failure, a greedy opportunist, a small-time macher – and at the same time, as the Islamic republic's greatest intelligence asset. The truth probably lies somewhere in between. (...) While his previous status and access could have provided Iran with insights into Israel's operating methods and patterns of behavior, his familiarity with real-time developments, individual players and the considerations that go into high-level decisions are close to nothing. (...) The former minister has a reputation for being a selfish and greedy person; one for whom personal interest trumped all other considerations. Shocking as the accusations are, it does not require too much mental effort to connect that sort of character to the crimes of which he is accused. (...) The accusations Segev has been charged with (...) transcend ideology, and that's what is so worrying about this. One can disagree about ideology and still agree about the need to maintain security. But when it comes to personal greed, no one is immune – and it is those with the loosest convictions who are the most susceptible. (...)

Editorial, JPO, 19.06.18

2. Krieg im Gazastreifen wieder wahrscheinlicher

Israels Luftwaffe reagierte erstmals mit Beschuss auf einen palästinensischen Angriff mit einem Brandsatz. Dabei wurde ein Fahrzeug beschädigt. Menschen kamen nicht zu Schaden. Trotzdem schoss die radikal-islamische Hamas anschließend Raketen und Mörser als Vergeltung auf Israel ab. Militärische Analysten sehen darin eine Veränderung der bisherigen Strategie im Gazastreifen. Angesichts der fortgesetzten Brandanschläge sei ein erneuter Krieg zwischen Israel und der Hamas wieder wahrscheinlicher, obschon keine der beiden Seiten derzeit eine Eskalation zu wollen scheint. Die Proteste im Grenzgebiet dauern sporadisch an. Bei einer Demonstration mehrerer tausend palästinensischer Frauen kam es erneut zum Einsatz von Tränengas sowie Schusswaffen. Seit Ende März haben

israelische Soldaten bei zum Teil gewaltsamen Protesten mehr als 130 Menschen getötet. Nach Informationen der radikal-islamischen Machthaber in Gaza gehörten viele der Toten der Hamas an. Zudem mehren sich – angesichts der großen Brand-schäden, die die palästinensischen Ballons und Drachen nun schon seit Wochen auf israelischer Seite anrichten – die Forderungen jüdischer Einwohner des Grenzgebiets zum Gazastreifen nach Wiederherstellung der Sicherheit.

The government should take the IDF's advice on Gaza

(...) an extensive military operation in Gaza is not the solution. In the short term it could attain some calm, but the price in human lives and destruction could be heavy. (...) It seems that the government should adopt the IDF's recommendations from before the most recent rounds of combat. Senior military officers have asserted repeatedly that the dangerous situation in Gaza stems first and foremost from the ignominious poverty, severe unemployment, terrible overcrowding and lack of basic services. All these are generating frustration and rage among the residents. The fact that Hamas is in distress and cannot cope with the economic burden of running the Strip makes things even worse. (...) the Trump administration wants to raise half a billion to a billion dollars from the Gulf states for economic projects to develop the Gaza Strip. Netanyahu and Lieberman must understand that this is the desirable direction. They must display leadership and adopt a practical plan in the spirit of the army's recommendations, based on the need to alleviate the Gaza residents' plight, instead of continuing the warfare rounds, which could escalate to a bloody military operation.

Editorial, HAA ,21.06.18

Hamas, Islamic Jihad just rewrote the rules - and the next Gaza war is staring Israel in the face

(...) Israel and Hamas are now in a completely different reality than the one that prevailed in the Gaza Strip for almost four years since the end of Operation Protective Edge. The main achievement of that operation from Israel's point of view – relative calm that gradually restored a sense of security to those living near the Gaza border – is eroding. It has been replaced by violent demonstrations, riddled with casualties on the Palestinian side, burning kites that torch Israeli fields and groves, and now rockets and mortars. (...)The effort exerted by Hamas to promote the demonstrations near the fence since

the end of March has not yielded much benefit. (...) It was the kites, a simpler method, with which Hamas was able to circumvent the IDF's blocking maneuvers along the fence. (...) Hamas believes that Israel, for its own reasons, is not eager for a military confrontation in the Gaza Strip and that the continued military friction might spur Israel to help it to obtain more money, including from PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. (...) The pace of violent events in Gaza (...) may deteriorate into war. (...) Amos Harel, HAA, 21.06.18

Next Israel-Hamas clash is imminent

The rocket salvo fired at the Israeli communities (...) signaled another step on the way to a confrontation in which neither Israel nor Hamas are interested. (...) Hamas is pushing the kite terrorism campaign, the IDF has had to intensify its response, and Hamas has had to escalate its reprisals so as to maintain its image as the defender of Gaza. This is a dangerous dynamic that leaves too much to chance. All it would take is an incendiary kite that burns down an Israeli house or an Israeli strike that results in Palestinian casualties to trigger a full-blown conflict. (...) every day the IDF inches closer to the point where it would no longer be able to control circumstances. Firing warning shots at kite terrorist cells has grown into strikes on Hamas vehicles transporting them, and while this is still far from targeted assassinations, it is merely one step away. (...) The battle against kite terrorism is far from over and it may escalate into a full-fledged war before a solution is devised. (...) For the first time in months, Hamas has a feeling that its struggle is bearing fruit: Egypt has opened the Rafah crossing after four years, and the American envoys who visited Israel this week focused on the crisis in Gaza – not the Palestinian Authority. A misinterpretation of the situation by Hamas could lead it to conclude that it should intensify its border riot campaign to mark more achievements. This will prompt Israeli counter measures, which could then lead to an inevitable escalation. The way to change this process runs through the parallel, behind-the-scenes efforts trying to broker an understanding between Israel and Hamas that could facilitate a long-term cease-fire. Quite a few individuals – Western and Arab – are involved in these efforts, which have yet to come to fruition. (...) This is a race against time between words and rockets and sadly, the latter may have the upper hand.

Yoav Limor, IHY, 28.06.18

Israeli deterrence against Hamas has ended

The strong deterrence achieved by Israel following Operation Protective Edge lasted three years and 10 months. (...) Hamas (...) is both making threats and making good on them—and Israel is being dragged into a situation it isn't interested in. (...) Hamas announced a new equation under which "fire will be met with fire," and responded with a rocket barrage into Israel. Israel said it won't allow such an equation and promised a harsh response, which never arrived of course. (...) Hamas keeps testing Israel's patience, dispatching incendiary kites that have consumed thousands of dunams of land in the Gaza vicinity area, and attempting to infiltrate Israel through the border fence. (...) The IDF struck an empty vehicle belonging to a member of the kite-launching unit, intentionally avoiding hurting anyone. Hamas responded by firing 13 mortar shells across the Gaza vicinity area in a measured and organized manner. The result was that Hamas proved that it stands by its words and maintains a price tag of responding to every Israeli attack. (...) This marks a considerable change in the equation we have been used to in recent years. In the past, the IDF knew how to handle Hamas' violations of the calm. The political echelon (...) has adopted a problematic PR policy indicating that Israel isn't interested in a conflict in Gaza. Having internalized that, Hamas is responding accordingly by implementing the equation of "a bombing for a bombing." If this (...) policy doesn't change, Israel will find itself being dragged into a conflict in Gaza under less convenient conditions, without the element of surprise and the strategic blow it dealt Hamas at the start of Operations Cast Lead and Pillar of Defense. Yossi Yehushua, YED, 28.06.18

3. Anklage gegen Sara Netanyahu erhoben

Sara Netanyahu, Ehefrau des Ministerpräsidenten, wird sich wegen Untreue und Betrugs vor Gericht verantworten müssen. Wie das israelische Justizministerium mitteilte, soll auch ein Mitarbeiter des Büros des Ministerpräsidenten angeklagt werden. Zusammen sollen sie laut Anklage in Restaurants Gerichte im Wert von umgerechnet 83.000 Euro bestellt haben. Dies habe gegen die Regeln verstoßen, da die Familie gleichzeitig Köche in der Residenz des Regierungschefs beschäftigte. Der Mitarbeiter, gegen den ebenfalls Anklage erhoben werden soll, sei für die Verwaltung der Residenz zuständig gewesen. Frau Netanyahu steht bereits in mehreren Fällen unter dem Verdacht der Veruntreu-

ung. Sie soll eine Pflegekraft für ihren inzwischen verstorbenen Vater mit öffentlichen Geldern bezahlt und Ausgaben im Privathaus der Familie auf Staatskosten abgerechnet haben, wie für den Kauf von Gartenmöbeln. Ihrem Ehemann, Regierungschef Benjamin Netanyahu, drohen gleich mehrere Korruptionsverfahren.

Innocent until proven guilty

(...) The media's obsession with the purchase of memorial candles and outdoor furniture, the redemption of recyclable bottles for cash (...) and the hiring of waiters and chefs and a caregiver for Sara's late father started three years ago. (...) The media ruled itself judge, jury and executioner in the case, all to create the impression that the Prime Minister's Residence was an organized crime syndicate. (...) everything here is rotten and corrupt and Israeli democracy is on the verge of collapse. This has always been the strategy of the Bolsheviks, who hold that "the worse, the better." (...) of all the affairs that have been discussed, the one remaining issue is the ordering of meals to the Prime Minister's Residence. (...) these meals were not ordered for Netanyahu and his family but for guests of the Prime Minister's Residence. (...) when respected guests arrive at the Prime Minister's Residence, it would only be reasonable to host them at a higher standard than the cook employed by the state. If Israel's citizens knew the amount of chefs, sous-chefs, confectioners and bakers employed at the White House, the Elysee Palace and 10 Downing Street, they would realize the Prime Minister's Residence is one of the more modest official residences in the world. (...) Now that it has been decided to file an indictment, it is only fitting that media outlets, politicians, senior police officials and protesters out in the streets will allow due process to ensure no one's legal rights are trampled. (...) Like any other citizen, Sara Netanyahu is entitled to the presumption of innocence. (...) Dr. Haim Shine, IHY, 22.06.18

What Sara Netanyahu's embarrassing indictment means for her husband

(...) Sara Netanyahu has long been a synonym for all those traits that parents with values would raise their kids to avoid. These include tight-fistedness, self-indulgence, exploitation, malice, abusing the weak, rudeness and aggression extending at times to violence. It's regrettable, it's depressing, and it's not what we would wish upon ourselves. (...) all this has not even scratched the surface of her husband,

Benjamin Netanyahu's popularity, stability and political power. Political figures believe that the Sara problem is already embodied in the Netanyahu brand. One more discovery, one more testimony, one more verdict, one more horror cassette won't change a thing. Bibi is Bibi and Sara is Sara. On the face of it, they are two separate entities. (...) The descriptions in the charge sheet are simply offensive. Sara and Benjamin Netanyahu are, as is commonly known, millionaires. But it wouldn't occur to them to put their hand into their own pocket, take out a credit card and pay the difference for their own dinners or for their friends. They believe, religiously, that the almighty in heaven sent them to save Israel from destruction. He as a leader and she as his helpmate. To ask them to pay for a good meal (...) is chutzpah, impertinence. They are convinced of it. (...) The long time, more than two years, that elapsed since the police handed their recommendations regarding Sara Netanyahu to this day, shows what we may expect (...). If Mendelblit had difficulty making a decision in a case dealing with meals and small-time fraud, which should really have been closed with Sara Netanyahu returning the money and paying an appropriate fine, he certainly won't hurry to make a move that could bring down the government and dismiss a prime minister. (...) Yossi Verter, HAA, 22.06.18

Sara Netanyahu chose the disgrace of an indictment over common sense

There is only one reason for the indictment (...). It's called stinginess, a word which in this case doesn't do justice to the defendant's qualities. (...) the charges (...) tell the story of a petty and stingy woman who does everything she can to impose her personal expenses and her family's expenses on the state. (...) although we were familiar with the stories, this is the first time we receive an official legal authorization that the first lady is simply a liar. (...) Sara Netanyahu could have easily avoided such a shameful indictment, if only she had been willing to put her hand in the family pocket—which there is no reason to pity, by the way. It really isn't poor. She wouldn't have even had to pay the entire sum. Exceptional gestures were offered and promised. All she had to do was to agree to pay a reasonable sum. (...) Sara Netanyahu chose the disgrace of an indictment over logic. She chose to expose her pettiness and stinginess over common sense. We would have expected her to settle the issue as quickly as possible, to pay and remove the issue from the agenda. If not for her, then out of respect

for the prime minister. But the urge is so strong, the traits are so obsessive, that they control her. There is a bright side, however, in this whole business: (...) Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit has proved that he is not afraid of the Netanyahu family. And this comes as bad news for the prime minister with all his investigations. On the other hand, there are those who say that he may be indicting Sara to let Netanyahu off the hook in the future. Who knows? Sima Kadmon, YED, 24.06.18

The real scandal is in the media

(...) This "affair," which revolves around the question of whether the prime minister's wife failed to properly pay for gourmet food deliveries, pales in comparison to the corrupting influence of the mainstream media on our discourse. Under the guise of an anti-corruption campaign, the Israeli Left wants all of us to be obsessed with the latest gossip on the Prime Minister's Residence, to lose the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, and to blur the distinction between proper public oversight and a vicious witch hunt against the family members of a political adversary. (...) Vile rhetoric is now a worthy value (...). Anyone who reads the indictment against Sara Netanyahu objectively would come to the conclusion that it is legally flawed, deals with petty accusations and, in light of previous precedents, is unfair. If takeout meals valued at 350,000 shekels (\$98,000) are worthy of thousands of hours of news broadcasts, how can we justify the tens of millions of shekels worth of wasteful spending under left-wing premierships? (...) Two years ago, Likud was polling at 25 Knesset seats. Now, after months of media coverage on so-called scandals involving everything from champagne to furniture, Likud is polling at 35 seats. The media-led campaign aimed at destroying Netanyahu has hurt everyone but Netanyahu. His standing has increased immeasurably. For the Israeli public, this witch hunt has shown that Israel is undergoing a severe crisis of corruption and abuse of power, but not in the Prime Minister's Residence. The crisis, it turns out, is in the media and the Israel Police.

Erez Tadmor, IHY, 26.06.18

4. Medienquerschnitt

Herzog wird Chef der Jewish Agency

The Jewish Agency's crisis is too deep for Isaac Herzog to solve

(...) Herzog, who was officially approved (...) as the next chairman of the Jewish Agency, had an inbuilt advantage (...): He was perceived as being an opponent to whoever would be selected as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's preferred candidate. It is usually the other way around. (...) The Agency chairman is supposed to be the point (...) in the complex Israel-Jewish Diaspora relationship. He must be someone who can work well with the prime minister of Israel. (...) Netanyahu has done everything in recent years to anger the Diaspora – in particular that of the United States, the largest Jewish community in the world. (...) Herzog (...) isn't what the Jewish Agency needs if it is to reinvent itself. He is too much a creature of the old establishment. The Agency has been in long-term decline and suffering a deep identity crisis long before the rift between Israel and the Diaspora came out into the open. There is little need for an organization to facilitate Jewish immigration to Israel when virtually all the potential immigrants live in relative freedom (...). Natan Sharansky, has failed over nine years to revive the Agency's fortunes. (...) under his lackluster leadership, the largest Jewish organization in the world – and with the biggest budget – has failed to articulate a core mission for itself and lost any real relevance to Jewish life in Israel or abroad. (...) Herzog is the epitome of the old Israeli establishment – the son of a Labor MK who became president; a man who has spent his entire career as a lawyer and politician in the nexus of money and power. If the Agency is to regain its relevancy, it needs an iconoclast. Someone who will clear out the bureaucracy, sell off the real-estate portfolio and revolutionize its mission. (...) Nothing in Herzog's life and career suggests he has the capacity and skills needed to open up the Agency to these changing currents. (...)

Anshel Pfeffer, HAA, 24.06.18

Wahlsieg für Erdogan

Anti-Erdogan opposition fails to halt Turkey's descent into an elected dictatorship

(...) Turkey's opposition could have defeated President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and halted the country's descent towards an elected dictatorship but failed. Erdogan's master stroke was to call elections nineteen months early. He knew that if elections were to be held during an economic crisis, it would cost him dear. So, he avoided it. (...) the outlook for Turkey's economy is gloomy. (...) But the brunt of

the financial crisis has yet to arrive. Most people have not felt the full pinch. (...) where did the opposition go wrong? Despite an attempt to repackage the party through the energy of its presidential candidate Muharrem Ince, a firebrand former high school teacher, there was still political bickering and infighting within the CHP. Ince's supporters were largely excluded from the party list drawn up by the CHP's leader Kemal Kalıçdaroglu, who feared a mutiny if Ince was too successful. (...) There's also of course the fact that the elections were neither free nor fair. Erdogan and the AKP used state resources to ensure victory. The media is almost totally pro-Erdogan after years of co-option and censorship. (...) There were also cases of harassment and violence against opponents of Erdogan and the AKP. The main victims of this intimidation were the liberal and Kurdish-oriented Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). (...) At least Erdogan's plans to exclude Kurdish representation from parliament, while many of the party's members remain imprisoned, failed. Regardless, the results of these elections were the best that Erdogan, the AKP and their allies could have hoped for. But the victory is at expense of national cohesion. The country is more divided than ever - while looking ahead towards an economic disaster, which will have to dominate the attention of President Erdogan for the next five years.

Simon A. Waldman, HAA, 25.06.18

Dokumentieren verboten

Punishing the witnesses

(...) offenders from human rights groups who document soldiers' crimes must not be given the light sentences, at most, imposed by the military courts on soldiers who misbehave. The ministerial committee (...) seeks a prison sentence of five years in the event their action intended to harm "the soldiers' spirit" and 10 years if the goal was to compromise national security. (...) Who determines what constitutes "harm to the spirit of Israeli soldiers and residents"? The wording leaves broad room for interpretation and makes it possible to stop human rights activists, journalists and in fact anyone with a smartphone. This bill violates the right to freedom of expression and to journalistic freedom, encourages censorship and presents Israel in general and the army in particular as having something to hide. This bill must not be allowed to pass into law.

Editorial, HAA, 17.06.18

Felicia Langer gestorben

Holocaust survivor and Palestinians' rights lawyer Felicia Langer dies in exile at 87

(...) she was (...) a symbol of hatred for Israel, a public enemy, a reviled, outcast traitor. (...) Now, at 87, she has died in exile; her image glows brightly in my eyes through the distance of time and space. Felicia Langer (...) was a hero, a pioneer and a woman of conscience. She (...) never got the recognition here (...) there is no room for courageous justice warriors who paid a high personal price for trying to lead a camp that never followed. Langer was a Holocaust survivor from Poland who studied law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. (...) her sense of justice brought her into conflict with her state. (...) a pioneer among Israeli lawyers of conscience who came out for the defense of the rights of the occupied population, but she was also the first to throw in the towel, closing her law office in 1990 and going into exile. (...) She said she didn't switch battlefronts, only her place on the front, but the front is currently at its lowest point. (...) Langer came to the conclusion that things were hopeless. Apparently, she was right. The fight in the military courts was doomed to failure. It has no prospect of success because the military courts are only subject to the laws of the occupation and not to the laws of justice. The proceedings involve nothing more than hollow and false legal ritual. (...) What did this brave and courageous woman fight against? Against torture by the Shin Bet security service at a time when we didn't believe that such torture existed, yet it was at the peak of its cruelty. She fought against the expulsion of political activists, against false arrests, against home demolitions. Above all, she fought for the enforcement of international law from which Israel decided to exempt itself on unbelievable grounds. That's what she fought and that is why she was considered a public enemy. (...)

Gideon Levy, HAA, 24.06.18

Boycott gegen El Al

And thank you for not flying El Al

An El Al flight that departed from New York to Tel Aviv last week was delayed by over an hour because a handful of male Haredi passengers

refused to sit next to women. The (...) solution was to move the women to other seats. (...) this incident triggered a surprising reaction at the beginning of this week – the CEO of high-tech company Nice Ltd., Barak Eilam, announced that he and his company would boycott El Al. (...) Eilam is not a regular customer. Rather, he is a major client. He and the company he heads take many El Al flights, and not only economy class but the much more lucrative business class. (...) Eilam's involvement in this incident is not characteristic of the business sector in general and not the high-tech field in particular. Many of the industry heads boast of contributing to society and being socially responsible, but they do not so by confronting other corporations, out of fear that they in turn will face such boycotts. However, a high-tech company like Nice is free of such fears, as it operates in the international market and does not depend on Israeli clients or domestic regulation. Thus, this company can take a socially responsible step (...). El Al and other companies needed to hear this sort of message. They needed someone to make it clear to the airline's employees and managers that they have customers who are no less important, who also deserve respect. Nice's boycott is an important signal to the business community, and mainly to high-tech companies, to exit from their bubble and to act to promote important social (...). Fixing computers and painting classrooms does indeed constitute a contribution to the community, but true social responsibility lies in repairing social ills. Editorial, HAA, 28.06.18

USA verlassen UN-Menschenrechtsrat

A moral move

The United States is to be applauded for its moral decision (...) to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council, a politically biased body that has passed more resolutions against Israel than against other country, including heinous human rights abusers, such as Iran, Syria and the Palestinian Authority. (...) The 47-member HRC, based in Geneva (...) was established in 2006 to promote and protect human rights around the world. (...) Israel has never been a member, but despite a call to boycott the council from Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman last year, has up to now cooperated with it (...). Washington's withdrawal leaves the UNHRC in a predicament, because the US has traditionally been the prime defender of

human rights around the globe. (...) Let's hope the US decision triggers a reassessment by the UNHRC of its mission and a real change in its review of human rights violations around the world in which Israel is not the focus.
Editorial, JPO 20.06.18

The hypocrisy of the UNHRC

(...) The U.N. itself and the UNHRC in particular comprise the main assembly line for anti-Semitism in the world today. If the UNHRC was only influential in Arab nations or in China, it would not matter so much. The problem is that it is respected in western nations like Germany, France, Britain, and the U.S. that give the anti-Israeli body its legitimacy. The U.S. withdrawal from the UNHRC is good news. It is the beginning of delegitimizing a harmful entity based on attacking Israel and the Israel Defense Forces. (...) "Human rights cannot be used as a platform for national suicide," former Chief Justice Aharon Barak said. In this generation, human rights are being exploited to assist terrorism, particularly Palestinian terrorism. International law enforcement entities are vital. But if they operate under Palestinian pressure to criminalize Israel, the system could use a good shaking up.

Amnon Lord, IHY, 20.06.18

Polen ändert Holocaust-Gesetz

Our voice was heard

Revoking the terrible clauses in Poland's controversial Holocaust law came too late. (...) our voices were heard (...). No one will silence us. The Poles still need to be ashamed that after everything they did – to me, to my family, and to my people – that they even thought to make a law like this. (...) they need to make an opposite law, one that tells the entire world the extent to which the Poles were partners to the Nazis. The time has come for the Poles to confess to their crimes and stop denying this enormous lie. It is impossible to forget and to deny what the Poles did to us. (...) I light candles and remember my parents and what the Poles did to us. (...) The law they passed only reflects the immense evil. No government in the world should be allowed to make such laws. (...) The Poles worked hand-in-hand with the Nazis. They are the ones who built the death camps. Instead of making this law, they should take steps to return our stolen property.

Yaffa Peer, IHY, 28.06.18

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