

The Geneva Accord: Stone Soap

Bob Friedland

Biography

Born in New York City in 1947, Bob Friedland has been the Sheriff of a Judicial District; an investigator for the United States Treasury Department; a Regional Director of the Alberta Human Rights Commission; Human Rights Advisor for Malaspina University-College; a two term City Councillor in Victoria, British Columbia; and, Chief Lawyer for a group of seven First Nations in the Interior of British Columbia. He currently practices human rights and administrative law in Vancouver, British Columbia.

He is a widely published commentator on the international, Canadian, and British Columbian political scene. He is the father of Dr Amos Friedland [*who has also provided PEHW with an opinion piece on the Geneva Initiative*].

“Its like deja vu all over again.”

Y. Berra

IT IS SAID that the sonderkommandos handed the Jews who entered the extermination chambers at Auschwitz a bar of soap made of stone. This last thin ruse afforded those condemned Jews who may have wished for it, a final opportunity to deny the horrific reality that lay just ahead - the forsaken hope that the gas chamber really was a cleansing shower.

For the Germans and the sonderkommandos, stone soap was a means to an end - a method of maintaining the orderly apparatus of genocide which, without the cooperation of the slaughtered, could never have been so terribly efficient. For the condemned Jews, the stone soap was the touchstone of a mechanism of denial. Denial is that powerful psychological phenomenon in which otherwise sensible, intelligent, and educated people seek to avoid a fearful external reality by refusing to see it. The sonderkommandos who distributed the stone bars of soap knew, with grim certainty, that death waited ahead. The Israelis who mass-mailed every Israeli a copy of the Geneva Accord still believe in the cleansing shower.

Israel focuses its use of violence on the leadership and perpetrators of the Palestinian terrorist organizations. The target of the Palestinian terrorists has been any Jew and every Jew. And not just every Israeli Jew, or every Israeli Jew in the territories, but every Jew in Israel and around the world. Those Jews who have, by the luxurious and peaceful shores of Lake Geneva, forgotten the past, will soon re-learn that you cannot negotiate with those who seek to destroy your people, who are genocidal anti-Semites. That type of one-sided negotiation leads quickly to eternity, reduces rapidly to absurdity, means negotiating earnestly with Eichmann's as to how many suitcases of personal belongings an adult Jew may take on the boxcar to a place of annihilation. The Jewish people should know this well, having been tested in this kind of crucible before. The last time out, 1933-45, they nearly did not survive.

An aide to Osama bin Laden calls for a Holy War to kill non-Israeli Jews anywhere in the world. A Palestinian cleric in London calls for a Holy War to kill non-Israeli Jews. In Tunis and Casablanca, Buenos Aires, London, New York, and lately in Istanbul, Islamic killers have already attacked non-Israeli Jewish targets, including synagogues and social clubs.

This is genocide. For many Jews, it is too difficult to have to face, and we should not have to face it, but we do. We do not want to believe it is true, that people want to kill Jews, plan to kill Jewish children, and actually carry out those plans, simply because those children are Jews. Some would rather believe in the Geneva Accord.

The Israelis, under former Prime Ministers Barak and Rabin, were willing to make major concessions regarding settlements and land and security. The two Intifadas have demonstrated the race-killing intent of Islam. Jews are a funny people. When you tell them that you are going to kill them because they are Jews, they tend to believe you. Wonder why? It is precisely that race-killing intent which must be either transcended by Muslims or extirpated by the West.

For the moment, the Islamic world wants, not peace with Israel, but peace without Israel. It is Islam, and not Israel, that must transform itself before there can be peace in the middle east. However, the Palestinians have demonstrated that they cannot transform themselves at this time. Irrespective of the leadership, a corrupt Arafat, or a committed Hamas, the goal of the Palestinians and the Islamic world remains the destruction of Israel.

The presumption that the Palestinians, yea the Islamic world, is deeply divided on Israel is, in my view, mistaken. Call it a caliphate, or a consensus, the Islamic world, insofar as it apprehends the Jewish State of Israel, is a crowd. One hundred years ago, Gustav LeBon diagnosed the true nature of political crowds. The Second Intifada is not, as characterized by the Oslo and Geneva ideologues, the 'veto of the fanatics', some marginalized group of Palestinian

deviants, but the violence of the political crowd, where Jew-killing is celebrated by women and children and the 'street', with the exchange of sweets and the firing of AK-47's into the air.

It is a mistake to confuse Islam's lack of military success against Israel (thusfar), and their lack of military and political organization (thusfar), with a deep division. There is no division. The Islamic world would, if the Islamic world could, extirpate the State of Israel. Because they cannot, for the present, they are playing for time, playing good-cop/bad-cop, and playing both very effectively. No agreement, including the Geneva Accord, can work for the same reasons Oslo did not work and the Intifadas do. The Palestinians correctly strategized that delay and terror would get them much improved two state deal terms, (which it did). And now they believe, perhaps correctly, that further delay and terror will get them a one-state deal.

It is the oldest trick in the book. Good cop, bad cop. One hard-bitten detective terrorizes the suspect; while the other detective is Mr. Nice Guy. He sympathizes. He wants to help. He confides, "My partner has a bad temper. I don't know what he'll do. Just make another concession".

"Hegel remarks somewhere that all great, world-historical facts and personages occur, as it were, twice. He has forgotten to add: the first time as tragedy, the second as farce."

K. Marx

We saw Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini play this good-cop/bad-cop game with British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. He bought the con game so completely that when he returned to London after having sold Czechoslovakia up the river, he said, "My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honor. I believe it is peace for our time... Go home and get a nice quiet sleep." The Munich Pact of September 29, 1938, between Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy, ceded Sudeten Czechoslovakia to Nazi Germany. In less than a year, Germany's race-driven, territorial ambitions, led to a second world war, and the Holocaust.

The Oslo Agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority obligated the Palestinians to renounce and fight terror attacks on Israelis. "The Palestinian Police will act systematically against all expressions of violence and terror." and, "The Palestinian Police will arrest and prosecute individuals who are suspected of perpetrating acts of violence and terror."

It is argued that fear of genocidal terror is somehow a subterfuge by which Israel seeks to avoid making difficult concessions for peace. Michel Foucault and Giorgio Agamben argue that nations have used the 'national security card' to justify the unprincipled use of force and derogation of legal rights for a occult purpose, "the manipulation of disorder". Yet we have only to go back to Hobbes' 'Leviathan' to remember why men first surrendered liberty to the state. If

the state cannot offer a modicum of security, first and foremost, men will opt out for self-protection, militias, and vigilantism. We should not pooh-pooh security. It is number one in the hierarchy of needs. It is suggested that in the presence of an international military guarantor of the Geneva Accord, Israel is supposed to take no countermeasures when that robust international force proves unable, (or unwilling), to protect it against terrorist attacks from the Palestinian state. The experience of the United States in post-Saddam Hussein Iraq demonstrates that even the greatest military power in history cannot prevent terrorist acts by true believers when it dearly wants to prevent them. How effective will international military guarantors be when they are called upon to bleed and die for Jews? The track record of the West in this regard is not impressive. Time has been on the side of the Islamic world since 1948. What the sworn enemies of Israel could not win on the battlefield, they whittled away with treaties and terror. So long as the Palestinian people and leadership believed it was worthwhile to play a waiting game, so long as they were willing to lay waste to generations of their children and grandchildren, time was the ultimate weapon. Time and refusal to settle.

If the Palestinians had truly wanted only a state, and not the destruction of the State of Israel, they could have had it years ago. We might, even now, be watching the proceedings of long and tedious bilateral border adjustment commissions marking new lines of demarcation, in an atmosphere of peaceful cooperation and economic prosperity. But that was never what the Palestinians wanted.

The Geneva Accord is bar of stone soap. In the United States, we used to refuse a bad deal by saying, "No soap."