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As Repression Escalates on US Campuses, an Account of My Ordeal With the Israel Lobby and UC Sunday, 17 August 2014 00:00By [William I Robinson](#), Truthout | News Analysis



A building in Rafah destroyed by the Israelis during Israel's assault on Gaza in January, 2009. Shortly after Israel concluded its month-long Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, Professor William Robinson was targeted for repression for including material critical of Israel in his course materials. Photo: [International Solidarity Movement](#)

Professor William Robinson of UCSB was the target of a campaign of intimidation, silencing, and political repression that included techniques described in the "Hasbara handbook" by the Israel lobby in contravention of academic freedom and university rules. He describes the experience here.

The latest Israeli carnage in Gaza has provoked worldwide condemnation of Israel for its continued war crimes and its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. In response, the Israeli state and its allies and agents are stepping up campaigns of intimidation, silencing, and political repression against opponents of its policies. Israel may continue to win military battles - after all, it has the fifth most powerful military on the planet - but it is losing the war for legitimacy. In the wake of its bloody attacks on schools, hospitals and United Nations refugee centers in Gaza, support has intensified around the world for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. The BDS campaign in the United States has taken off, above all,

on university campuses, which is why the Israel lobby is so intent on targeting academia.

Five years ago, I was attacked by the Israel lobby in the United States, led by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), and nearly run from the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB), where I work as a professor of sociology, global and Latin American studies. The campaign against me lasted some six months and garnered worldwide attention, but I am hardly alone. Dozens, perhaps hundreds, of professors and student groups have been harassed and persecuted for speaking out against Israeli occupation and apartheid and in support of the Palestinian struggle. Some of these cases have been high profile in the media and others have gone relatively unknown. The latest victim, Steven Salaita, a respected scholar and professor of English literature and American Indian Studies, was fired in August from the University of

Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for denouncing on social media the most recent Israeli atrocities in Gaza.

The persecution to which I was subjected involved a litany of harassment, slander, defamation of character and all kinds of threats against the university by outside forces if I was not dismissed, as well as hate mail and death threats from unknown sources. More insidiously, it involved a shameful collaboration between a number of university officials and outside forces from the Israel lobby as the university administration stood by silently, making a mockery of academic freedom.

The disciplinary procedure initiated against me by UCSB officials involved a host of irregularities, violations of the university's own procedures, breaches of confidentiality, denial of due process, conflicts of interest, failure of disclosure, improper political surveillance, abuses of power and position, unwarranted interference in curriculum and teaching and so on. As I would discover during the course of the ordeal, individuals inside the university and in positions of authority had linked up with agents of the lobby outside the university in setting out to prosecute me.

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I may well have been run from the university if it were not for graduate and undergraduate students (together with a handful of committed colleagues), who early on in the persecution set up the Committee to Defend Academic Freedom that launched a worldwide campaign in my defense. This in turn sparked a good portion of the faculty into action, several months into the campaign of persecution against me, to defend my academic freedom. This campaign also generated widespread support for me off campus, pressure that eventually forced the university to back down and the Israel lobby to give up and move on to targets of harassment elsewhere, thereby demonstrating that this lobby is not invincible, and indeed, is increasingly vulnerable. The entire story is documented on the [committee's website](#). During the course of the six-month campaign the committee and I were able to piece together the events that are here reconstructed - in part and in brief - to the best of my knowledge.

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Operation Cast Lead and the Israel lobby's Inside-Outside Strategy

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On January 18, 2009, Israel concluded its month-long Operation Cast Lead in Gaza, which left 1,400 Palestinians dead and thousands more wounded, up to 80 percent of them civilians. The following day, one week into our winter quarter classes, I forwarded to the LISTSERV for my course on the sociology of globalization optional reading materials drawn from the international press for classroom discussion that evening on the Israel-Palestine conflict. The reading materials included among other items a Reuters news article reporting that a Jewish editor of the Kansas City Jewish Chronicle had been sacked for publishing an article by a Jewish-American journalist who visited the West Bank and denounced the occupation. They also

included a photo-essay that had been circulating on the internet and that juxtaposed Israeli atrocities in Gaza and Nazi atrocities in Warsaw, along with a commentary of my own, including this paragraph:

The Israeli army is the fifth most potent military machine in the world and one that is backed by a propaganda machine that rivals and may well surpass that of the US, a machine that dares to make the ludicrous and obnoxious claim that opposition to the policies and practices of the Israeli state is anti-Semitism. It should be no surprise that a state founded on the negation of a people was one of the principal backers of the apartheid South African state not to mention of the Latin American military dictatorships until those regimes collapsed under mass protest, and today arms, trains, and advises military and paramilitary forces in Colombia, one of the world's worst human rights violators.

My course on the sociology of globalization takes up vital and controversial issues that impact global society and each class meeting starts with a discussion of some current affair, such as Operation Cast Lead. However, two students of the 80 enrolled in the course, whom I have never met and did not know, apparently did not feel that they should receive any course material that challenged their beliefs. Instead of attending class that evening, they made contact with the Hillel organization on campus who then took them to meet with the ADL, the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, Stand With Us, and several other Jewish organizations and faculty members of campus. The ADL and these other organizations then went into action.

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External monitoring and censorship of course conduct is a violation of faculty academic freedom and was not a legitimate part of the university's complaint procedure.

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First, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Zionist organization in Los Angeles, sat down with one of the students to film her, with her face blotted out (the film stated the student "has asked to protect her identity for fear of reprisal"), as she claimed she was intimidated by my course material, and then posted the film on [YouTube](#) under the title "Jewish Students Shocked by UCSB Professor's Demonizing Email." The Wiesenthal Center called for me to be punished and accused me of anti-Semitism until they learned that I am of Jewish background, and then charged instead that I was a "self-hating Jew."

Next, the students met with the local ADL chapter in Santa Barbara, and were apparently instructed by the ADL and its affiliated groups to contact the Charges Office at UCSB and lodge a grievance against me. The Charges Office is set up by the University to receive grievances over possible violation by faculty members of the Faculty Code of Conduct (e.g., sexual harassment, racial bias, etc.). The Charges Office is expected to investigate possible violations, and to dismiss frivolous charges, that is, charges that clearly do not involve a violation of the code.

What I did not know at the time, but would soon learn, is that two of the three officers of the Charges Office belonged to the Zionist community in Santa Barbara that had already begun to combine against me, and that at least one of them, Aaron Ettenberg, had

already made contact with the outside groups working with the students. Ettenberg, was a former president of the Santa Barbara B'nai B'rith, the parent organization of the ADL. Neither of these two revealed their affiliations or recused themselves due to the blatant conflict of interests. To the contrary, we would soon learn that Ettenberg met with Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaeffer, director at the time of the Santa Barbara chapter of Hillel, a Jewish organization linked with the ADL, and an outspoken leader of the pro-Israeli Jewish community in Santa Barbara, to consult with him about my case prior to the university's decision to investigate me.

This explains why, on February 9 the director of the local ADL Chapter Cynthia Silverman sent me a letter protesting my course materials and accusing me of violating a number of items of the Faculty Code of Conduct. How did the ADL come into possession of my course material? Copies of this ADL letter were sent to my department chair, to UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang, and to then-UC President Mark Yudof (himself an outspoken Zionist). The campaign now picked up steam. Three days later, Martin Scharlemann, who was the chair of the Charges Office, summoned me "urgently" to meet with him to discuss the complaint that the students had lodged with the Charges Office. I was by told by Scharlemann's staff assistant, Stephanie Smagala, that it was "imperative" that I come down that very afternoon due to "an urgent situation." I did not understand at the time why such alarm, why Scharlemann was treating this as an emergency situation, whereas this was but a routine student grievance evidently not involving any urgent matter such as sexual assault, possible violence, or anything remotely of that nature, and strictly referred to two students' disagreement with the content of course material, a course that they had dropped.

At the same time as the university's Charges Office was organizing its prosecution, I was contacted through a mediator by Rabbi Gross-Schaeffer, who had previously met with Charges Office member Aaron Ettenberg. This mediator, a colleague of mine, then set up a confidential meeting between the two of us. "We [the Israel lobby] will pull back if you meet our conditions," he told me. You need to "ask for repentance, to apologize for what you have done." I told Gross-Schaeffer that I had done nothing morally objectionable and more so, I had not violated any rules, codes or procedures at the university and was acting fully within my rights of academic freedom. "Well apparently there are people at the university that disagree with you and are prepared to move forward against you if you do not repent," he replied.

Contriving Charges

The charges against me were *entirely* contrived. There is absolutely nothing in the Faculty Code of Conduct that even remotely suggests that my course material violated any item of the code. In my February meeting with Scharlemann and his staff assistant Smagala, the two asked several questions entirely inappropriate and outside of their jurisdiction, including as to whether I had placed on the course syllabus the topic of the Israeli-Palestine conflict, which suggested that the two believed they were empowered as part of the complaint procedure to examine the content of my

course and to determine what was and was not relevant to that content.

Such external monitoring and censorship of course conduct is a violation of faculty academic freedom and was not a legitimate part of the university's complaint procedure. Although the materials I distributed were relevant for my course, even if they had not been, their inclusion in the course reading material would not have violated the Faculty Code of Conduct. Neither Scharlemann nor Smagala had any right to assess what was relevant for my courses on globalization (or indeed any other topics of sociology).

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The charges amounted to a blatant attempt at political censorship and an illegitimate use of the university's grievance procedure.

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These gross violations by the Charges Office, as well as the contact between the Charges Office and outside pressure groups from the Israel lobby and other irregularities and violations of university rules and procedures as this persecution unfolded were brought to the attention of university officials of the highest levels, right up to Chancellor Yang and Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas, upon whom it was incumbent to defend my academic freedom and the integrity of the university. Yang chose, however, to ignore my insistence that he and the university defend my academic freedom and put an end to what was becoming a charade. In fact, he expressed more anxiety about the harassment campaign organized by Stand With Us and its members' threats to withdraw funding from the university if I were not fully prosecuted.

A week later, Scharlemann notified me that the two students had filed formal written complaints and I was expected to reply and defend myself. The farcical and politicized nature of the attacks against me now became apparent. Here is an excerpt from one of the student complaints (the [full complaints](#) are posted on the website):

An important issue is the distinction between the legitimate criticism of policies and practices of the State of Israel, and commentary that assumes an anti-Semitic character. The demonization of Israel, or vilification of Israeli leaders sometimes through comparisons with Nazi leaders, and through the use of Nazi symbols to caricature them, indicates an anti-Semitic bias rather than a valid criticism of policy. I found these parallel images intimidating, disgusting, and beyond a teacher role as an educator in the university system. I feel that something must be done so other students don't have to go through the same intimidating disgust I went through . . . He has also violated the universities policies by 'participating in or deliberately abetting disruption, interference, or intimidation in the classroom (Part II, Section A, Number 5). Robinson has done so through this intimidating email which had pushed me to withdraw from this course and take another one . . . By Robinson using his university email account he attaches his thoughts with that of the university and they become a single entity sharing the same ideas."

The second letter repeats the accusation of anti-Semitism, a definition lifted verbatim from the US State Department and then continues:

In all the years of schooling and higher education I have never experienced an abuse of an educator position . . . To hide behind a computer and send this provocative email shows poor judgment and perhaps a warped personality. The classroom and the forum of which higher education is presented needs to be safe and guarded so the rights of individuals are respected. handle [sic] . . . The fact that the professor attached his views to the depiction of what my great grandparents and family experienced shows lack of sensitivity and awareness. What he did was criminal because he took my trust and invaded something that is very personal. I felt as if I have been violated by the professor. Yes I am aware of Anti-Semitism, but to abuse this position in an environment of higher education where I always thought it to be safe, until now, is intimidating. This professor should be stopped immediately from continuing to disseminate this information and be punished because his damage is irreversible.

The actual charges contained in the students' letters were simply absurd; they included a long list of charges copied straight from the Code of Conduct, including those against romantic relations with students, despite the fact that I had never met the students in question, and charges against the use of university property for commercial gain, which had no bearing whatsoever on the case. The letters of complaint, in fact, opened up with the bizarre charge that I actually violated *my own* right to present controversial material. They included the charge of discrimination, even though my only act for which the students submitted a grievance was to have sent reading material uniformly to the entire class, for which reason by definition discrimination was not involved. The litany of charges included also violations of the canons of intellectual honesty, speaking in private capacity while creating the impression that I represented the university, and so on. And all these accusations were generated by nothing more than an optional reading sent by internet to the entire course LISTSERV and that represented some 1/10th of 1 percent of the assigned reading material for the course.

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"Apparently, they have decided enough vulnerability exists in the university community . . . They're making this (the Robinson case) into a litmus test to silence criticism of Israel."

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In matter of fact, the students' grievance was based strictly on their objection to the content of course material. This fact, indeed, is not in dispute, as is apparent from the text of their letters. According to the University of California procedures, a grievance procedure is available to students who feel that they may have been disadvantaged, graded unfairly, or otherwise discriminated against on account of disagreements with the professor's views, not when the students merely disagree with a professor's views, or with the views expressed in course readings. To the contrary, the very preamble to the University's Faculty Code of Conduct states that the primary purpose of the code is to protect faculty's right to academic freedom, e.g., to protect faculty from frivolous complaints by students.

I was bewildered at the time as to why Scharlemann refused to reject the claims as frivolous. Given that there was no substantiation of the students' long list of complaints and that the only basis for the students' complaint was an optional reading they received by email that criticized the Israeli government as part of a course on global affairs, what could Scharlemann possibly have found in these student letters to have led him *not* to inform the students that it was frivolous? I only learned subsequently that behind Scharlemann and several other university officials involved in my persecution was the malicious intent of a web of individuals outside the university representing the Israel lobby and coordinating with the students and university officials.

For much of March and into April Scharlemann ignored my request for him to substantiate the basis of his decision to press forward rather than dismiss the case. The university waited more than two months before actually informing me of exactly what was the charge against me, that is, exactly what aspect of the Code of Conduct I was alleged to have violated. On April 5, Scharlemann sent to me what is known as a "charges sheet," which accused me of distributing "highly partisan" material to my students "accompanied by lurid photographs" and "was unexpected and without educational context," that I had engaged in "coercion of conscience" as a result of which "two enrolled students were too distraught to continue with the course."

In fact, the University's Faculty Code of Conduct nowhere states that course material must not be "partisan" or that "lurid" images are violations of the code. Indeed, *not a single one* of the charges against me are stipulated in the code as violations. The charges amounted to a blatant attempt at political censorship and an illegitimate use of the university's grievance procedure. I asked Scharlemann for explanations, e.g., what he meant by "lurid photos." [In my letter](#) requesting further explanation, I wrote:

'Lurid' is defined by Webster's as 'vivid in a harsh or shocking way.' In what way is the introduction of images vivid in a harsh or shocking way a violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct? Why would photos of military conflict not be 'harsh and shocking'? And why would their presentation in a University course be a violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct? . . . By suggesting that images that document shocking events and "partisan" material should not be introduced into a university course your charges sheet appears to advocate - beyond the suppression of academic freedom - outright political censorship. The Faculty Code of Conduct does not, in any way, proscribe "partisan" material or images that are vivid in a harsh and shocking way. To the contrary, the code establishes as the right of faculty the 'right to present controversial material relevant to a course of instruction' and its very Preamble states that the intent of the code is to protect academic freedom."

Scharlemann ignored my letter, and more seriously, so did all of the university administrators to whom I wrote demanding an explanation for this political persecution and demanding that the university protect and defend my academic freedom. Instead, this Charges Office proceeded to establish a special investigative and prosecutorial committee (known on my campus as an

Ad Hoc Committee) to further investigate my alleged violations and apply possible sanctions.

Enter the ADL's (and Mossad's) Abraham Foxman

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), with 34 regional offices in North America, a staff of 400, and a \$32 million annual budget, is one of the core organizations of the Israel lobby in the United States, exposed by US political scientists John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt in their study "The Israel lobby and US Foreign Policy." The ADL has a long and [sordid history](#) of spying on, slandering and vilifying critics of Israel - victims of its infiltration have included the NAACP, the ACLU, Greenpeace, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination League, and thousands of private citizens, among others - in cooperation with Israel's foreign intelligence service, Mossad. ADL director Abraham Foxman is an international lobbyist for Israel who has met frequently with national and world leaders, including all US presidents since Richard Nixon, and who brags that he has direct access to the office of the Israeli Prime Minister.

On March 19, Foxman arrived at UCSB for a meeting hosted by Religious Studies professor Richard Hecht and attended by Deans David Marshall and Michael Young and several faculty members. Cynthia Silverman by his side, Foxman demanded that the university take action against me. Some of the meeting participants told me that Foxman requested the meeting at UCSB for the sole purpose of demanding that university officials investigate me for introducing course materials critical of Israeli state policies. In fact, the only agenda item of this meeting was my case. History professor Harold Marcuse, who attended the meeting, later stated: "When the meeting started, Foxman quickly launched into what I would call a rant about what he said was an anti-Semitic email that professor Robinson sent to his class. We then had an open discussion about Foxman's comments and the charges against Robinson. In my recollection, that was the only thing we talked about at the meeting. [Nothing else](#) was discussed."

Alongside the ADL, the organization Stand With Us launched a nationwide and worldwide campaign to pressure the university to fire me, including a petition drive and a letter-writing campaign. Stand With Us' founding mission is to counter criticism of Israel on university campuses worldwide, according to its website. Created in 2001, its site openly calls college campuses a "modern-day battlefield" for Israel. "Today Israel faces a new global threat, one that is fought in the media, on university campuses, and in the court of public opinion," reads the Stand With Us home page, while its Bay Area chapter is even more candid: "Our mission is to stand up to anti-Israel speech wherever it may surface," reads the site. "We are (unofficially) representing the state of Israel."

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In late 2008, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee announced that it would target US universities, especially big state universities, starting with the University of California.

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Stand With Us representatives threatened a campaign to have pro-Israel donors cut off financial donations to UCSB if I were not prosecuted. For instance, Stand With Us sent a letter to Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas dated March 16 and posted at ww.standwithus.com.

The letter states that Stand With Us board member Leah Yadegar was in contact with the two student complainants. It stated that Yadegar then "distributed the email widely to UCSB donors, media, and Jewish organizations, including Stand With US," and that Stand With US board member Howard Waldow, a UCSB donor, discussed my case with Chancellor Yang at a reception.

At the time, Roz Rothstein, international director for Stand With Us, told the UCSB student newspaper, The Daily Nexus, that the campaign against me could set a precedent for more action against Israel critics at other universities. My colleague Richard Falk, who was a visiting professor of global studies at UCSB and the UN's special rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, commented at the time that Rothstein's remarks indicated a "disturbing" escalation in pro-Israel pressure on college campuses in general, and at UCSB in particular. "Apparently, they have decided enough vulnerability exists in the university community for them to mobilize pressure campaigns," Falk said. "They're making this (the Robinson case) into a litmus test to silence criticism of Israel."

Falk was right; the Israel lobby had made my case a litmus test. On the other hand, I was carried away by support from around the world as international pressure mounted on the university to put an end to my persecution. The university received letters in support of me and demanding that the charges be dropped from dozens of professional associations and community organizations, among them, the National Lawyers Guild, California Scholars for Academic Freedom, the Middle Eastern Studies Association of North America, the editorial board of the UK-based scholarly journal Race and Class, the Global Studies Association, and the March 25 Coalition, an immigrant rights coalition in Southern California. It also received petitions signed by thousands of people from around the United States and the world, and countless letters from individuals from all five continents, [a sampling](#) of which have been posted. The Committee to Defend Academic Freedom organized a teach-in on May 21 that left standing room only in the auditorium and media in attendance from around Southern California.

A Secret Absolution

The Ad Hoc Committee set up to investigate me in April concluded its investigation into me on May 15 and found that I was not in violation of the Faculty Code of Conduct. Yet Chancellor Yang kept these results secret from me and from the public for another six weeks, until June 24. Since Chancellor Yang and his immediate underlings, including Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas, ignored my correspondence with them, I do not know from the horse's mouth what their motives were for continuing to apply political pressure on me for another six weeks. Were they waiting for a major Jewish donation to the university to be consummated before publicly announcing their dismissal of the charges against me? Was the Israel lobby still conspiring on how to move forward in persecuting me? On June 10, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Education ([FIRE](#)), a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit, had come to my defense in the name of First Amendment rights and academic freedom. One of their Attorneys, Adam Kissel, wrote the chancellor warning him that if all charges against me were not dropped by 5 pm on

June 24, his organization would launch a major media campaign and a law suit against the University of California. An hour or so before this deadline, the university chose to inform me of the decision, made six weeks earlier and kept secret, that the charges against me had already been dropped.

But the administration was also under mounting pressure from my colleagues. Spurred on by my students, whose mobilization in my defense included a sit-in at the chancellor's office and threats of more sit-ins, an international petition drive, and other public protests, my colleagues mobilized against the improprieties. Some 100 faculty members and 20 heads of departments signed a petition protesting the university's handling of the accusations against me. And on June 8, some 80 faculty members filled a Senate meeting and passed a motion to investigate the irregularities surrounding my case. By this time, my case had garnered worldwide media attention and the university was in the spotlight as public pressure mounted. Yet the university administration refused to put an end to the witch-hunt. Instead, Chancellor Yang sent me a message via an intermediary: "Stop embarrassing the university."

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"Scholars whose work is critical of Israeli policies have been denied jobs, denied tenure, and in general have their lives made difficult not because of academic criteria, but because of political interference."

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Following the dismissal of charges against me, I submitted a 40-page grievance to the UCSB Academic Senate. According to the Senate's bylaws, a committee should have investigated the litany of irregularities, violations of procedure, breaches of confidentiality, conflicts of interest, failure of disclosure, improper political surveillance, abuses of power and position, and other acts of misconduct against me as a faculty member, some of which has been discussed here and all of which can be found at the [website](#), including original letters and documents pertaining to the case. Nonetheless, the Senate chose to investigate exactly one single violation - that of Ettenberg's undisclosed conflict of interest - and then exonerated him. How did they reach this decision to exonerate? According to the Senate's letter to me in response to my grievance, they simply asked him if he had a conflict of interest and he said he did not!

Whereas the allegations against me took just a few minutes to make, and the Senate investigation into breaches of my rights took but one word to dismiss, I had to suspend my research and professional activities and put on hold my personal life for the duration of the six months, in which I had to defend myself against frivolous allegations. Indeed, across the country whenever such persecutions are launched the burden falls on those that are targeted to defend themselves, often tying up the individual's time and life for months and generating great emotional stress.

UCSB has yet to honor my demand that the institution apologize for the ordeal it put me through and the damage done to my professional reputation.

Nazi Propaganda Minister Goebbels' Tactics on US Campuses

Yet that ordeal is but a fly in the face of the horrific crimes to which the Palestinians are subjected on a daily basis by Israeli occupation, apartheid, and

periodic massacres. It is, in addition, something faced by dozens, perhaps hundreds, of faculty and students who chose not to back down in the face of McCarthyist repression in their commitment to speaking truth to power.

In late 2008, the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee announced that it would target US universities, especially big state universities, starting with the University of California. AIPAC director Howard Kohr acknowledged at the 2009 annual convention the erosion of Israel's legitimacy, warning that there was a huge and growing international campaign against Israeli policies. "No longer is this campaign confined to the ravings of the political far left or far right," he said, "but increasingly it is entering the [American mainstream](#)."

In their 2009 [article in Tikkun](#), University of California at Irvine professor David Theo Goldberg and UCLA professor Saree Makdissi noted that "no fewer than 33 distinct organizations - including AIPAC, the Zionist Organization of America, the American Jewish Congress, and the Jewish National Fund - are gathered together today as members or affiliates of the Israel on Campus Coalition," whose stated objective is to generate "a pro-active, pro-Israeli agenda on campus. There is accordingly, disproportionate and unbalanced intervention on campuses across the country by a coalition of well-funded organizations, who have no time for - and even less interest in - the niceties of intellectual exchange and academic process." They note that "scholars whose work is critical of Israeli policies have been denied jobs, denied tenure, and in general have their lives made difficult not because of academic criteria, but because of political interference."

They go on to observe how this apparatus systematically uses disinformation and misinformation, blatant fabrications, character assassination, and so on. The objective is not to engage in rational dialogue based on exchange of ideas in the search for truth, but "to create an environment of fear and intimidation on and off campuses, in which any criticism of Israeli policies is subject to sanctions and censorship." Then they note:

The Hasbara Handbook: Promoting Israel on Campus, which is distributed to campus activists by organizations like Stand With Us, explains that it is often better to score points than to engage in actual arguments, and offers an explanation for how, in its own words, 'to score points whilst avoiding debate'. Point-scoring, the Hasbara Handbook explains, "works because most audience members fail to analyze what they hear. Rather, they register only a key few points, and form a vague 'impression' of whose argument was stronger." Part of the strategy is to recycle the same claims over and over again, in as many settings as possible. 'If people hear something often enough,' the document points out, 'they come to believe it.'

Needless to say, this was precisely the tactic developed by the Nazi Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, which he called "[the big lie](#)." Goldberg and Makdissi continue:

The Hasbara Handbook offers several other propaganda devices, all of which can be seen vividly at play in the coverage of the UCLA Gaza panel and other similar events, including again, the Robinson affair.

'Creating negative connotations by name calling is done to try to get the audience to reject a person or idea on the basis of negative associations, *without allowing a real examination of that person or idea,*' the handbook states with remarkable bluntness, in advocating this tactic. It also suggests using the opposite of name-calling, to defend Israel by what it calls the deployment of 'glittering generalities' (words like 'freedom', 'civilization', 'democracy') to describe the country, manipulating the audiences' fears, etc.

I can attest that these Goebbelsian tactics - when backed by the economic resources and political influence of the Israel lobby and in the context of US state support for, and sponsorship of, the Israeli Zionist project - are often effective. Such tactics cower many people, not just politicians, but academics who become scared to even mention any criticism of Israel or support for Palestinians in their classrooms, their research and their public appearances. I see this almost every day in my own professional work in academia, and of course in the media.

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We are morally compelled to speak out against injustice, in this case, against Israeli repression, colonialism, and apartheid, even when it means we run the risk of facing the wrath of the powerful, on our campuses and in the larger society.

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In my case, while some colleagues came out courageously and publicly in my defense (and many were aroused by the student mobilization to come out in support of academic freedom yet still kept themselves arms-length from me), many others, it seemed to me almost overnight, started to avoid me once the lobby placed a scarlet letter on my forehead. I became a pariah on campus. Some colleagues would literally turn the other way when they saw me; others would comment in hushed tones as I approached. Cowardly administrators avoided me like the plague, fearful of damaging their own status or security, principles-be-damned.

Political repression of the nature executed by the Israeli lobby and its agents and supporters can wreck lives and careers and leads to *self-censorship* among journalists, politicians, academics and other public figures. It results in a kind of perverted hegemony in the Gramscian sense - the forging of a coerced consensus, or at least the appearance of one, imposed by intimidation and backed up by the threat of sanctions.

However, that hegemony has been eroding in the face of Israeli atrocities, defiant intellectuals committed to justice such as (most recently) Steven Salaita, and the spread of the BDS campaign and other movements in support of Palestinian rights. My own case shows that Israel lobby is not omnipotent; it does not enjoy

uncontested power. To the contrary, those who choose to side with justice and are willing to speak truth to power may find that they are swept away by support from all corners of the globe.

Finally, a word on academic freedom: When academic freedom is suppressed, the university becomes an indoctrination camp where truth is subordinated to ideology and power. Academic freedom is the life blood of the university. Any attack on such freedom exercises a chilling effect on the ability of the university community to engage in open debate and exchange of ideas on contemporary matters. Free speech and academic freedom are such threats to the Israel lobby, and indeed, to all anti-democratic, authoritarian, or totalitarian projects, precisely because it proscribes censorship and prohibits any attempt to limit what is and is not acceptable to research, to teach, to question and to debate, and precisely because academic freedom thrives on controversy and critical thinking.

It is no wonder academic freedom was suppressed in Nazi Germany, in apartheid South Africa, in military dictatorships in Latin America, in the former Soviet Union, in the United States - under McCarthyism and at many other times, such as the present moment - and elsewhere. Our mission as educators is to help develop citizens who can think critically and independently on the burning issues of our day, who can search out the truth without fear of what they will find. I believe this search for the truth inevitably leads us to a position of justice; silence in the face of social injustice is complicity in that injustice. We are morally compelled to speak out against injustice, in this case, against Israeli repression, colonialism, and apartheid, even when it means we run the risk of facing the wrath of the powerful, on our campuses and in the larger society.

The list would be very long of those I must thank for their principled support in 2009 for my right to academic freedom and free speech. I would like to acknowledge above all sociology graduate students at UCSB Yousef Baker (now Dr. Baker) and Maryam Griffin (soon to be Dr. Griffin), UCSB sociology professors Geoff Raymond and Verta Taylor, distinguished professor emeritus Richard Falk, Kevin Robinson and Marielle Mayorga-Robinson. The content of this article is my sole responsibility and acknowledgment of these individuals does not suggest in any way that they agree with the content herein or share my views.

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<http://www.truthout.org/news/item/25587asrepressi-on-escalates-on-us-campuses-an-account-of-myordeal-with-the-israel-lobby-and-uc>

Hesitatingly we publish this angry piece of writing and remind the reader of Fredrick Toben's maxim: *Don't only blame the Jews, also blame those that bend to Jewish pressure!*

Like a mad dog that should be euthanized

Israel must be destroyed

In order to survive, U.S. must purge itself of all Jews

By John Kaminski, 15 August 2014

It is too late to save Planet Earth from an unprecedented catastrophe for the simple reason that people have failed — and still fail — to discern the role of Jews in the deliberate demolition of human civilization.

It should be the goal of honest Americans who support the cause of the beleaguered Palestinians to make Jews in the United States feel as uncomfortable as the Israelis have made the residents of Gaza feel — or, at least the ones who are still left alive.

Currently, the opposite is true, as intimidated cowards everywhere kowtow to the evil kosher butchers while the Jewish police state continues to squeeze the life out of free-thinking peoples everywhere. The U.S. Congress unanimously backs Israel's genocide in Gaza while inside the U.S., police go berserk on people protesting the murder-by-cop of completely innocent victims.

It's hard to argue with religious zealots who insist these are the End Times, especially with the news from the East Siberian Sea that warm water is beginning to melt the Arctic ice cover that triggers the methane release that ultimately will end all life on this planet much sooner than anybody thinks.

If people decided to be honest, it would be appropriate behavior for residents of the rest of the world to make Americans feel as uncomfortable as the mad dog Yanks have made the rest of the world feel with their endless invasions and random murders of innocent people. This is something that will surely begin on the day the Jews decide to vaporize the dollar and begin the selloff of U.S. assets to China and other eager customers. So maybe that's what the police are doing, acting in the best interests of the foreigners who are about to plunder America thanks to a president who hates the country he has been charged to lead, and is doing his best to destroy it.

Whatever fate befalls Israel and the Jews for their savage indifference to the suffering of others also awaits Americans when they no longer have the power to ruin people's lives with their technological marvels and and fast-talking financial deceptions.

Prior to that, however, Americans will doubtless have destroyed themselves by their unshakable preference for obscene creature comforts over sensible and healthful living practices, as the Jews have turned most of the so-called adults in the U.S. into drug addled sex addicts and their children into electronic androids who deliberately ignore their own well-being and are now being taught to become illiterate homosexuals in their own perverted public school systems.

As the kosher monsters who rule create endless distractions to take the world's focus of their continuing executions of defenseless Palestinians and continuing to lie about their victim status from Hamas missiles that never seem to injure anyone, sleepwalking Americans continue to ignore events that have a direct bearing on their sketchy futures.

Right now the No. 1 task of everyone in the world is to detox their governments from the fatal embrace of Jewish financiers, who guarantee their assets will be stolen and sold off to criminal entrepreneurs who have embraced the Jewish method of financial predation.

It is the profit motive that has destroyed the planet, as we see so pathetically as American politicians endorse Israeli mass murder as typically normal behavior.

The Jewish puppetmasters have made Americans so scrambled that they can cheer the obliteration of people in Gaza as a necessary evil and accept the importation of gangs from central America as a humanitarian good deed, even as that cynical maneuver hammers the final nail into the coffin of America's disintegrating social structure.

We are headed toward a slave society — or, we are already there — in which the ruthless Jews control every aspect of our existence, and have regimented us all into a prison of

their own desires, to be exterminated, or if we're extremely lucky, to be selected to serve them as slaves as long as we exhibit the proper servile demeanor. Just ask any journalist who has attempted to speak about the Jewish threat.

Throughout the 20th century, Jews have manipulated reality by their control of money and media. Jews caused both world wars by their control of corrupt politicians. Even today, the whole world knows that Jews designed and supervised the takedown of the Twin Towers, but the American political system and public reality remains so dominated by Jews that every member of Congress must pretend that Muslim outlaws were responsible for 9/11 and cheer the barbaric behavior of Israel as their American marionettes do the dirty work and destabilize country after country on behalf of their insane Talmudic masters.

The American educational system, on the brink of descending to a new low in political indoctrination and misleading subject matter, remains asphyxiated by Jews, who seek to create docile slaves who can no longer think for themselves. The success of their mission is evidenced by noticing that people no longer care about political events as they pursue their meaningless pastimes that take them farther away from reality with each passing day.

The environmental dangers that have been deliberately created by Jewish scientists, notably nuclear power and weather control, together with Jewish sabotage of the medical profession which has led to the creation of progressively more dangerous diseases, now promise to create an environment where no one will survive unless privy to Jewish "cures" that will be dispensed solely to the suitably indoctrinated.

Already this is the case with schools that demand students be properly vaccinated before they are allowed to ingest the poisoned information and false reality that Jewish educators demand of a dumbed down populace that can no longer distinguish between truth and fiction.

The influx of uneducated immigrants from disadvantaged countries is having the effect of further dragging down the general level of intelligence within America more suitable to slaves doing menial labor than it is for resourceful people trying to improve their lives.

The production and distribution of exotic designer diseases like Ebola are surely the population culling mechanism that Jews have been seeking for a long time to reduce that world's population to a much smaller number that they can totally control.

Be that as it may, under no circumstances are you to accept any hastily contrived vaccines to protect you from Ebola, a threat that may or may not be real. But given the people who have promoted this pandemic and are supposedly creating protection from it, it's a safe bet that the cure will be worse than the disease.

Unless we are able to escape Jewish control of our lives, and unless we are able to destroy that demented war making machine known as Israel, our lives are over, and planet Earth is lost to the insanity of believing we may rape and exploit our fellow humans as the finest expression of human civilization.

This is the Jewish curse we must escape and erase if we are even to harbor the hope of becoming fully functioning human beings with hope and compassion as our guiding instincts.

John Kaminski is a writer who lives on the Gulf Coast of Florida, constantly trying to figure out why we are destroying ourselves, and pinpointing a corrupt belief system as the engine of our demise. Solely dependent on contributions from readers, please support his work by mail: 6871 Willow Creek Circle #103, North Port FL 34287 USA.

<http://therebel.org/en/kaminski>

<http://johnkaminski.info/>

Adolf Hitler's Nazi deputy Rudolf Hess 'murdered by British agents' to stop him spilling wartime secrets

CAHAL MILMO, CHIEF REPORTER, FRIDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2013



Surgeon claims Hess was killed on British orders to preserve wartime secrets

Scotland Yard was given the names of British agents who allegedly murdered the Nazi Rudolf Hess in the infamous Spandau Prison but was advised by prosecutors not to pursue its investigations, according to a newly-released police report. Written two years after Hess's death in 1987, the classified document outlines a highly-sensitive inquiry into the claims of a British surgeon who had once treated Adolf Hitler's deputy that, rather than taking his own life, the elderly Nazi was killed on British orders to preserve wartime secrets.

Released under the Freedom of Information Act, the partially-redacted report by Detective Chief Superintendent Howard Jones revealed that the surgeon - Hugh Thomas - had supplied him with the names of two suspects provided by a "government employee" responsible for training secret agents.

Withheld for nearly 25 years, the report has been released by the Yard's counter-terrorism command following consultation with "other Government and foreign government departments".

The death of Hess in Berlin at the age of 93 after he apparently hung himself with a wire flex in a summer house in the grounds of Spandau has long been controversial with claims that he was too infirm to commit suicide and a farewell note to his family had in fact been written 20 years earlier.

The Yard was called in in 1989 after Mr Thomas, an eminent former military surgeon previously based in Spandau, claimed in a book that "Hess" was in fact an impostor sent by the Nazis to Britain in 1941 and his murder was carried out by two British assassins disguised as American servicemen.

In his subsequent 11-page report, Mr Jones said the surgeon had "confidentially imparted" the names of two alleged suspects passed to him by an informant who was a former member of the SAS and had since taken on a role "training people for undercover or spying operations".

Prior to his death, speculation had been growing that Hess might be released because a long-standing veto by the Soviet Union, which for decades had insisted on a severe regime for Hess, including forcing him to wash his hands in toilet bowl, might be reversed by Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Jones wrote: "[Mr Thomas] had received information that two assassins had been ordered on behalf of the British Government to kill Hess in order that he should not be released and free to expose secrets concerning the plot to overthrow the Churchill government."

The officer found there was not "much substance" to Mr Thomas's claims of murder but suggested that efforts should be made to trace and interview the alleged killers along with other witnesses to ensure the matter could be "comprehensively adjudged" to have been fully investigated.

It is not known if the two suspects were tracked down after the report was submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service in May 1989.

But within six months the investigation was declared closed after the then Director of Public Prosecutions, Sir Allan Green QC, advised that further inquiries were not necessary.

In November 1989, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the solicitor general, told Parliament: "The inquiries carried out by Detective Chief Superintendent Jones have produced no cogent evidence to suggest that Rudolf Hess was murdered; nor, on the view of the Director of Public Prosecutions, is there any basis for further investigation."

The unannounced arrival of Hess in Britain was one of the strangest incidents of the Second World War and remains the subject of extensive debate about its motivation, including whether it was an ill-judged attempt to unseat Winston Churchill by enlisting aristocrats with Nazi sympathies.

After flying solo to Scotland in 1941, Hitler's deputy fuhrer parachuted to the ground and, after being taken into custody at pitchfork-point by an astonished ploughman, declared his

intention to negotiate a peace with Britain to form an alliance against Stalin's Soviet Union.

Hess was sentenced to life imprisonment as a war criminal at the Nuremberg Trials and incarcerated in Spandau along with other prominent Nazis including Albert Speer. From 1966 onwards, Hitler's deputy - whose Allied guards were required to only address him as Prisoner Seven - was the sole inmate in the 600-cell prison.

Further doubt was claimed to have been cast last year on the circumstances of Hess's suicide when photographs emerged of the summer house where he died, showing the short distance - some 5ft - between the cord from which he was found hanging and the floor.

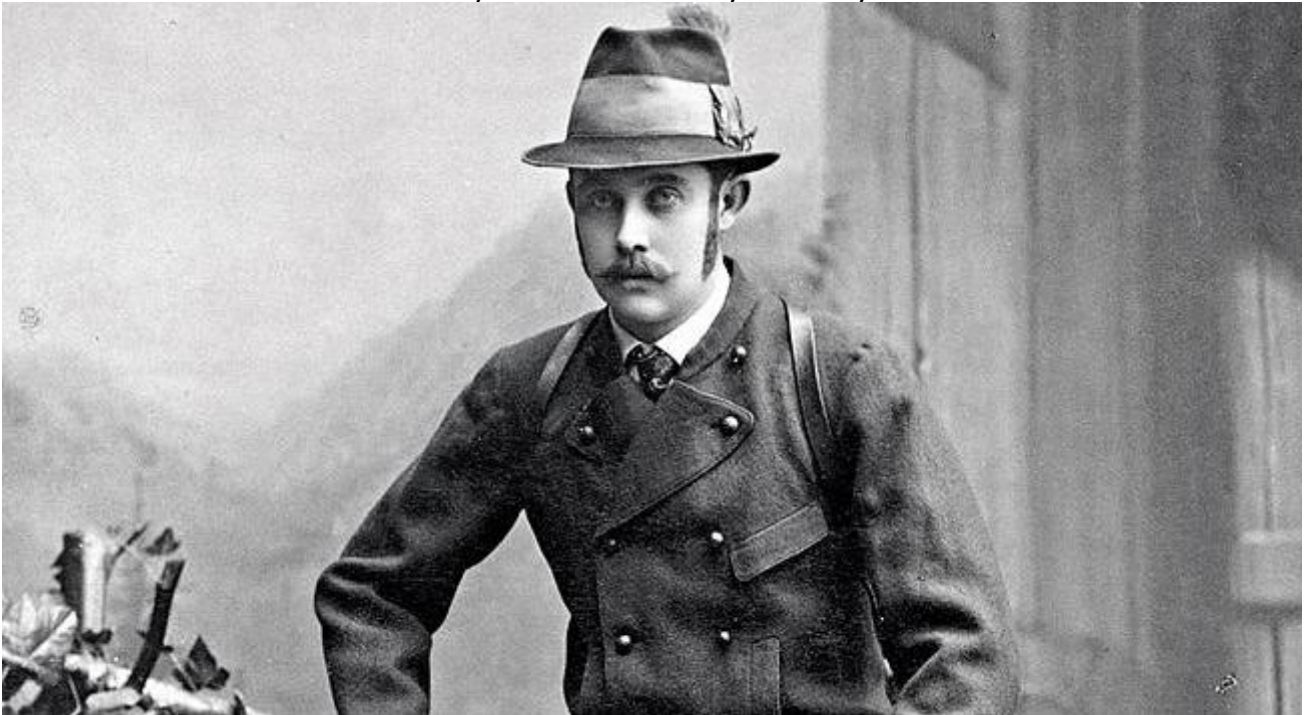
His son, Wolf, had previously insisted that the height was insufficient for his father, crippled by arthritis, to hang himself and added to post mortem examination evidence suggesting a full noose had been placed around his neck.

In his report, Mr Jones dismissed such concerns, saying expert advice showed Hess's injuries were consistent with an "unusual hanging situation".

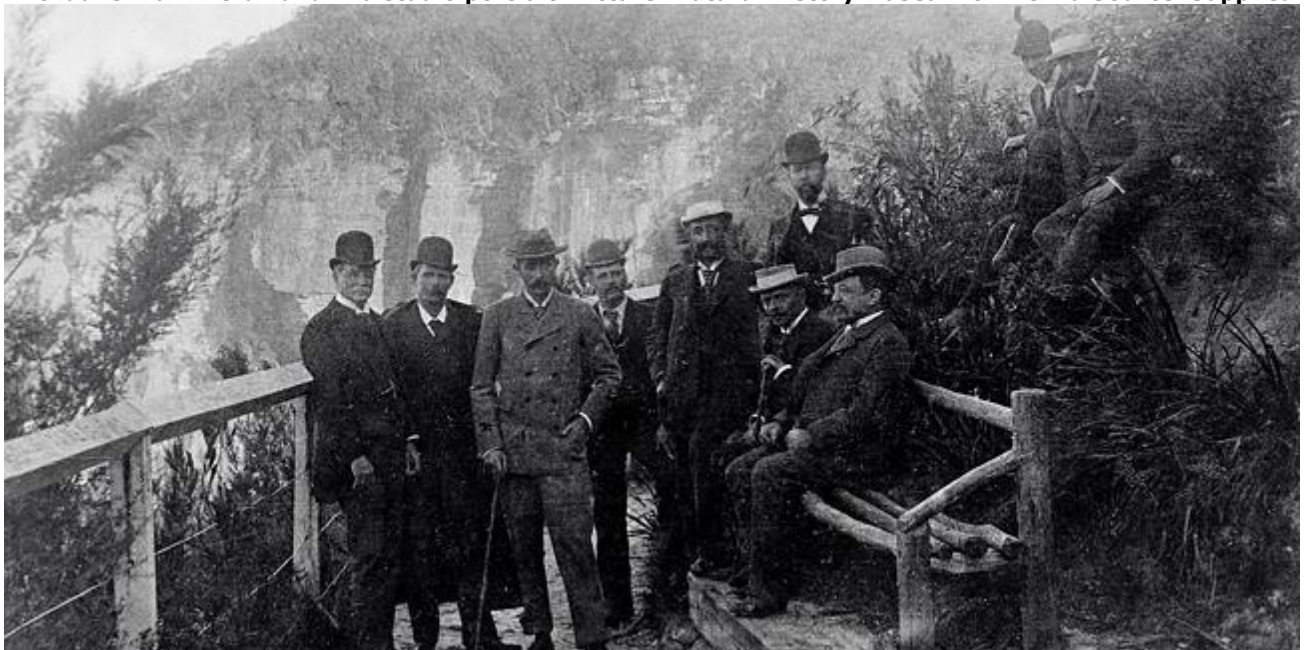
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/adolf-hitlers-nazi-deputy-rudolf-hess-murdered-by-british-agents-to-stop-him-spilling-wartime-secrets-8802603.html>

How Archduke Franz Ferdinand took in the sights - through his sights

PETER MONTEATH, THE AUSTRALIAN, JUNE 14, 2014 12:00AM



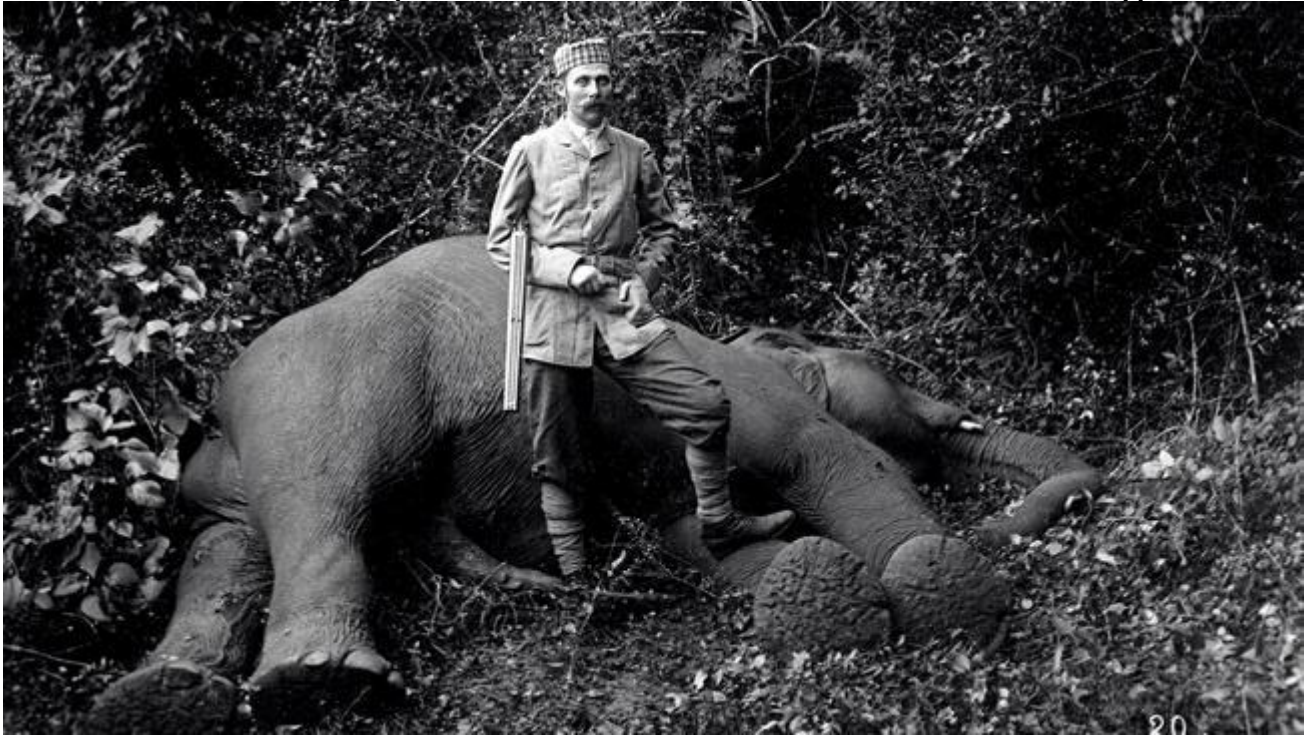
Archduke Franz Ferdinand in a studio portrait. Picture: Natural History Museum of Vienna Source: Supplied



The archduke (with stick) and companions in the Blue Mountains. Picture: Natural History Museum of Vienna Source: Supplied



Some of his hunting trophies. Picture: Natural History Museum of Vienna Source: Supplied



Big man: the archduke with an elephant he shot in Ceylon, on his way to Australia.

Picture: Natural History Museum of Vienna Source: Supplied

IF THE terrorists had not botched their work, it would have been a bomb that killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie that fateful Sunday morning in Sarajevo a century ago.

Instead, the bomb hurled by Nedeljko Cabrinovic exploded under the car behind, injuring its passengers but leaving the archduke unscathed. Later that same day, June 28, 1914, freakish ill fortune delivered the archduke's car within easy range of the assassin Gavrilo Princip, who lost no time in pumping bullets from his Browning into the archduke's jugular and Sophie's abdomen. Both were dead in minutes.

So it was a shot, not a blast, that was heard around the world, setting off four years of unimaginable bloodshed. It was not a war that the archduke had wanted. Had he ever succeeded his uncle as emperor – and he had been waiting

for that moment a very long time – then his agenda was one of domestic consolidation, not war with his neighbours. Yet there was also a kind of poetic justice in the mode of his death. The man who died by the gun had lived by the gun, as was never more obvious than when he visited Australia 21 years earlier.

In theory, the voyage which delivered Franz Ferdinand to Australia in May 1893 was to be a great learning experience, indeed, an education befitting an heir to the throne, with no expense spared. The cruiser Kaiserin Elisabeth, the pride of the Austro-Hungarian navy, took him from Trieste through the Suez Canal to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and India, and from there to Singapore and Batavia (Jakarta). At every port he dutifully met the local dignitaries as protocol demanded, honing the skills of statecraft and diplomacy that a future

emperor would need. But for Franz Ferdinand this journey was above all about pleasure, and he derived his greatest pleasure from killing animals.

Landfall was first made in Australia on Thursday Island, where the archduke and his 400 officers and crew cooled their heels for a couple of days as Kaiserin Elisabeth took on water and provisions. On May 16 she entered Sydney Harbour, moored in Farm Cove and fired off a 21-gun salute to the colonial flag. The archduke recorded in his diary his impressions of the harbour's great beauty and his relief at feeling the fresh, cool Sydney air after many weeks travelling through the tropics.

The formalities that accompany even a private visit were dealt with quickly and efficiently. The first visitor aboard to welcome the archduke was the German Consul-General in Australia, Alfred Pell dram, who was doubling as Austria-Hungary's representative. By the afternoon the archduke and a sizeable royal retinue were venturing onto land to meet and greet the local elite. NSW was still awaiting the arrival of its new governor, Robert Duff, so it was Lieutenant-Governor Frederick Darley who played host at Government House, acquainting his royal visitor with a number of Her Majesty's ministers.

Sydney was not without its charms; the archduke wrote glowingly of the commercial life, the museum, and the remarkable number of beautiful women and girls. But for him the brief sojourn in town was little more than a prelude to the main events, a couple of hunting expeditions to the city's west and south. Wisely he drew on the local knowledge and contacts of his hosts, who pieced together an itinerary which soon earned royal approval.

The next day a specially commissioned train, serving both as transport and accommodation, delivered the archduke and his entourage to the Blue Mountains. That might have been - Darley's idea, since although the lieutenant-governor lived in Woollahra, his preferred site of "rustication" was Lillianfels, his grand summer residence at Katoomba. A photograph taken that day shows the archduke, stick in hand, at Govett's Leap lookout, which impressed the archduke immensely.

There was more fun to be had further west, as the archduke might well have learnt from Frank Suttor, the minister of public instruction, who hailed from Bathurst. When the curtains were parted on the royal carriage on the morning of May 18, the archduke awoke to find himself in Narromine, 40km west of Dubbo. There he was entrusted to the care and hunting instincts of local squatter Frank Mack.

The fun began in Mack's carriage on the way to the farm, when the archduke spotted, and promptly dispatched, three colourful birds. Then, and with the help of greyhounds the train had collected in Bathurst, the archduke sighted his first marsupial quarry - kangaroos. The animals' distinctive locomotion held him spellbound for a moment, leading him to note in his diary "how agile these apparently clumsy animals are and what great jumps they are able to make thanks to their powerfully developed back legs and the tail, with which they launch themselves from the ground". Of course that was no reason to spare them, and the killing continued through the morning, until an invitation to partake of luncheon (a combination of half-raw and half-burnt lamb roasted on an open fire) forced a temporary stay of the slaughter.

Next day, local farmers on horseback kindly drove ever more kangaroos towards the archduke. Their efforts were richly rewarded when, after quite a chase, an emu was added to the royal collection.

On the morning of Sunday, May 21, the archduke was back in Sydney, exercising great forbearance in attending a service at St Mary's Cathedral lasting more than two hours; he understood barely a word of it. Further social duties were fulfilled that afternoon, but already the archduke's thoughts were elsewhere.

The next day the train took the southern line, allowing its passengers to inspect the abattoir and meat-canning factory at Auburn before the journey continued to Moss Vale. The archduke's host there, a certain Mr Badgery, soon cottoned

on to the Austrian's fondness for Australian fauna. Having collected his guest from the station, Badgery thoughtfully halted the carriage under some trees and gestured to a round shape huddled in one of the branches. What transpired was recorded in the archduke's diary in the following words:

"Without being clear about what kind of animal it was, I fired a decent load of shot at it. Although I had obviously hit the target pretty well, because a lot of fur flew from its thick, grey coat, the shot produced little effect. The animal simply clung more tightly to the branch and did not appear to be finished off until the third shot, without having stirred itself noticeably. We were just about to send someone up the tree when suddenly the animal fell onto the road, and I was now able to identify it as the so-called Australian Bear (*Phascolarctus cinereus*). It belonged to the family of marsupials, and in its exterior appearance is reminiscent of a small bear. The fully grown animal reaches a length of barely a metre; the body is stockily built and covered with a very thick, soft coat, which is grey on the back but white on the stomach and on the inner side of the extremities. The head is round like a ball, the nose flattened out, the ears have tufts of hair and stand upright. The five toes of the front feet are divided into two groups, the back feet distinguished by the joining of the second and third toes. The toe, which is the equivalent of the thumb on the back feet and performs an important function in climbing, has no nail. The animal I killed was carrying a young one, which fell out of the pouch during the fall from the tree.

"One distinctive feature of the Australian Bear is its sluggishness and apathy; its only talent is climbing, but even this it does with astonishing slowness. Some time later we tried to coax a bear hanging quite low on a tree into fleeing or at least climbing quickly by yelling and making noise, but for a long time it took no notice at all of us, until finally turning its head away casually, climbing upward a few centimetres and then remaining restfully on the branch, until eventually I shot him down."

Franz Ferdinand managed to shoot another seven koalas on the ride to Badgery Station, whereby on each occasion, as he put it, he was "astonished again and again at the passivity of this animal when shot. Naturally one hits it with the first shot, but often one needed a whole series of shots before the dead bear fell down from the tree to which it had clung with its forearms and claws."

The platypus offered quite a different kind of challenge. Even to spot one was difficult, but to shoot one required a high degree of skill from its stalker. The archduke, as ever, was up for the challenge. In the company of just one other hunter he made his way one morning to a well-shaded watercourse at the base of a steep gorge, where he soon spied his quarry. "A lucky shot killed the animal immediately, but then we were at a loss to know how to get hold of it, because in deep water it was being driven downstream, and no one was keen to take a swim on the ice-cold current on this very cool morning. Finally my practical Australian came up with an idea to save the day - by throwing stones behind the dead platypus it was possible to create waves which gradually drove it to the bank. This process took a while, but it finally provided us with an animal, which turned out to be an old male."

One sample alone was a meagre return for such effort, so the archduke rode another two kilometres to a site warmly recommended by his hosts. Sure enough, after scrambling through a landscape better suited to goats, he reached a stretch of water where not just one but two platypuses were to be seen. He resolved to hide behind a tree until one swam in his direction. Alas, Franz Ferdinand was thwarted in his aim of adding another of these creatures to his collection, as Badgery's booming voice broke the silence, scared the platypus and darkened the archduke's mood. Even European royalty, it seems, could not expect breakfast to be delayed any longer. As he trudged off to take it, the archduke took out his frustration on an unfortunate rock wallaby which happened across his path, followed by a couple more koalas and a bird.

A tight schedule demanded that Kaiserin Elisabeth prepare for departure, much though the archduke was enjoying himself. Back in Sydney he hurriedly ticked off the last items on his itinerary, among them witnessing demonstrations in sheep-shearing and boomerang-throwing, another visit to the museum, and a final meal at the Australian Hotel. His diary also reveals that he purchased a considerable part of an unnamed gentleman's collection of ethnographica.

Those last couple of days in Sydney offered the Austrians the chance to reciprocate their hosts' hospitality. Invitations were extended to 300 locals to attend a gala ball to be held on the decks of Kaiserin Elisabeth, whose crew festooned her with decorations. These were financially troubled times in colonial Sydney, gripped by a banking crisis, and few would pass up the opportunity for a free party. So it was that 500 turned up, among them, as the host noted, some very beautiful women, who excelled themselves on the dance floor. The next day Sydney was abuzz with news of the ball hosted by the Austrians.

As Kaiserin Elisabeth steamed through Sydney Heads on May 28, Franz Ferdinand reflected on the land he was leaving

behind, its people, and above all its fauna. New Caledonia lay ahead, then New Guinea, Borneo, Singapore (for the second time), Hong Kong, three weeks in Japan and a railway journey across North America, before a transatlantic crossing delivered the archduke to Vienna and further training for the job he never got. And at just about every point along the way there was wildlife to be shot, stuffed and catalogued.

Over the course of his life, records show, the archduke managed to snuff the life out of 274,899 animals. Until, of course, that fateful day in Sarajevo a century ago, when he found himself at the wrong end of a gun.

Those meticulous records also show that a number of exotic birds from numerous points of Franz Ferdinand's world tour completed the journey back to Vienna alive, where they found new homes in the royal menagerie at Schönbrunn Palace. Among them were souvenirs of the archduke's Australian travels: kookaburras and cockatoos, blissfully unaware just how lucky they were to be alive.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/features/how-archduke-franz-ferdinand-took-in-the-sights-through-his-sights/story-e6frq8h6-1226948541451>

RED ALERT:

World's biggest gold storage company dumps US citizens

By Simon Blackon, February 22, 2013

ViaMat, a Swiss logistics company that has been safeguarding precious metals since 1945, is literally the gold standard in secure storage.

They have vaults from Switzerland to Hong Kong to Dubai, and they count among their clients some of the largest mining companies in the world. They know what they're doing.



And now they're dumping US citizens.

ViaMat does a great deal of business within the United States. As such, the company is heavily exposed to the insane US regulatory environment.

As an example, the 2010 Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act turned into more than 500 pages of regulation! The costs and risks associated with compliance simply became too much for ViaMat to bear.

This matter-of-fact letter from ViaMat management explains their decision: "We are currently experiencing rapid and substantial changes in the general regulations within this business. The changes mainly relate to the tax structures and taxation systems of various countries. As a consequence of these changes VIA MAT INTERNATIONAL has taken the decision to stop offering this service at its vault [sic] outside of the US to private customers with potential US-tax liability." This is huge. I can't possibly overstate the potential ramifications.

For one, the big gold depositories like Gold Money and Bullion Vault ALL use ViaMat as a primary secure storage provider. So it's only a matter of time before ViaMat's decision cascades across these other firms.

I have written extensively about this to subscribers of our premium service, Sovereign Man: Confidential; most gold storage firms are all essentially different varieties of the exact same product. They are retail marketing channels that ultimately use ViaMat to store their gold bars. If ViaMat has US exposure, THEY have US exposure. It's the same risk.

Now, if you're in the United States in particular, one of the most important (and cost effective) steps you can take in

international diversification is to store precious metals overseas.

Gold remains the most effective 'anti-currency' out there, a bet against a corrupt financial system and debt-laden sovereign governments. But remember— governments have an unblemished track record of plundering their citizens' wealth. So if you store your gold in the US, you might as well ask Barack Obama to keep it under his mattress.

If history is any guide, storing gold abroad is critical. And it's one of those things that you won't be worse off for doing.

The thing is, it's equally critical to work with a service provider that has no US exposure.

There are very few options out there. Again, most of the big boys use ViaMat, which has heavy US exposure. Or Brinks, which is a US company.

For nearly a year, I've been encouraging our premium subscribers to store their gold with a Singapore-based company that has the most advanced, transparent operation on the planet.

They are 100% Singaporean, and their US regulatory exposure is effectively zero.

They're also one of the only firms on the planet that actually tests the gold it sells (and stores) through three different methods, including X-ray and ultrasound. This way you know that your gold is, in fact, gold... and not tungsten.

Best of all, they're launching a new service to receive your existing gold at their facilities in Singapore. So if you've just been shut out of ViaMat, or you want to transfer your gold from another facility that has heavy US exposure, these guys will be able to do it.

They are, without a doubt, the best solution out there. And Sovereign Man: Confidential members have received unprecedented discounts and exclusive access to new services offered by this firm.

Storing gold overseas makes sense no matter what happens. And it's critical to choose a reputable partner with no US exposure. If you agree with this premise and are serious about taking action, I'd encourage you to get started right away with a premium membership. Get the actionable intelligence you need, all backed by our risk-free guarantee.

[Note the date and ask: What is the truth-content value/price of the above article? – ed. AI.]

Korean bass-baritone wins famed German prize Bass-baritone Samuel Youn

By Lee Kyung-min



Bass-baritone Samuel Youn, 43, received a "Koelner Opernpreis" from the city of Cologne in Germany, according his Korean agent Tuesday. He became the first Korean to win the prestigious prize.

Established in 2010, the award recognizes those who have made significant contribution to classical music. "We have selected Youn as this year's winner in recognition his achievements at the Bayreuth Festival," a statement from the city of Cologne said. "Cologne Opera member Youn played a key role in the festival."

The annual festival is held in Bayreuth, Germany, for honoring the German opera writer and composer Wilhelm

Richard Wagner (1813-1883). Wagner built the Bayreuth Spielhaus himself to present and promote his operas.

The festival invites the world's top singers, orchestras and conductors for performances of Wagner's masterpieces. Asian singers, formerly rarely heard at the festival, have been taking up lead roles in recent years.

In 2012, Youn stepped in as the lead in Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman" when Russian singer Evgeny Nikitin withdrew. In the opening production of the 2012 Bayreuth fest, Youn stunned audiences and critics.

The singer graduated from the Milan Conservatory in Italy in 1999, which is widely known as Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory. He has been with the Cologne Opera for more than 15 years. His future engagements include appearances some of the most important venues in Europe, including London's Covent Garden and the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

A panel of experts in the field such as composers, critics, and classical music program producers of TV and radio select the Koelner Opernpreis winner every two years.

The ceremony was held at Kuppeldach Kolnkongres in Cologne on June 14.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/people/2014/06/178_159293.html

Malaysian Airlines MH17: Who Stands to Gain? – cui bono?



By Chandra Muzaffar

The Russian military has released military monitoring data which challenge allegations circulating in the media pertaining to the MH 17 crash in the Donetsk Region of Eastern Ukraine on July 17 2014. Questions have been raised about Kiev military jets tracking MH 17, Ukrainian air traffic controllers and the deployment of Buk missile systems. Kiev should also release military data on the circumstances leading to the crash. So should the Pentagon which reportedly has relevant intelligence and satellite data.

Since military data is hardcore information, Kiev and Washington should be persuaded to be transparent and accountable. The UN Secretary-General can play a role in this since there is a specialized agency within the UN, the ICAO, dedicated to international civil aviation. Military data from Moscow, Kiev and Washington should be scrutinized by the independent international panel that is supposed to probe the MH 17 catastrophe.

Such data carries much more weight than videos purportedly revealing the role of the pro-Russian rebels and the Russian government in the crash. One such video showing a Buk system being moved from Ukraine to Russia is a fabrication. The billboard in the background establishes that it was shot in a town —Krasnoarmeisk — that has been under the control of the Ukrainian military since May 11. Similarly, a You Tube video showing a Russian General and Ukrainian rebels discussing their role in mistakenly downing a civilian aircraft was, from various tell-tale signs, produced before the event.

The public should be wary of fabricated "evidence" of this sort, after what we have witnessed in the last so many years. Have we forgotten the monstrous lies and massive distortions that accompanied the reckless allegation that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMD) which led eventually to the invasion of that country in 2003 and the death of more than a million people? Iraq continues to bleed to this day.

What about the Gulf of Tonkin episode of 1964 which again was a fabrication that paved the way for wanton US aggression against Vietnam that resulted in the death of more than 3 million Vietnamese? Babies in incubators" incident in Kuwait in 1990 was yet another manufactured lie that aroused the anger of the people and served to justify the US assault on Iraq.

Just last year we saw how an attempt was made by some parties to pin the blame for a sarin gas attack in Ghouta, Syria upon the Assad government when subsequent investigations have revealed that it was the work of some militant rebel group.

From Tonkin to Ghouta there is a discernible pattern when it comes to the fabrication of evidence to justify some nefarious agenda or other. As soon as the event occurs before any proper investigation has begun, blame is apportioned upon the targeted party. This is done wilfully to divert attention from the real culprit whose act of evil remains concealed and camouflaged.

The colluding media then begins to spin the "correct" version with the help of its reporters and columnists who concoct "fact" out of fiction. Any other explanation or interpretation of the event is discredited and dismissed derisively to ensure that the "credibility" of the dominant narrative remains intact. As the narrative unfolds, the target often embodied in a certain personality is demonized to such a degree that he arouses the ire of the public and becomes an object of venom. The pattern described here is typical of what is known as a "false flag" operation in which blame for some dastardly deed is consciously transferred to one's adversary. It has happened right through history and many contemporary nation-states — and not just the United States — are guilty of flying false flags.

To protect ourselves from being deceived by such operations, the general public should always ask: who stands to gain from a particular episode? Cui Bono is in fact an important principle in the investigation of a crime.

In the case of the MH 17 carnage, the pro-Russian rebels do not benefit in any way from downing a civilian airliner. Their

goal is independence from the Kiev government which is why they are fighting Kiev through sometimes violent means including shooting down its military planes. Massacring 298 passengers in a flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur does not serve their cause.

Moscow which backs the rebels to an extent also gains nothing from involving itself in such a diabolical carnage.

10 days after the carnage, it is now clear who is trying to reap benefits from that terrible tragedy in the skies. The demonization of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, orchestrated from various Western capitals, including Kiev, after Crimea voted to join the Russian Federation, thus thwarting one of the primary strategic goals of NATO's eastward expansion, has now reached its pinnacle.

After MH 17, it has become a lot easier to convince people—even without an iota of evidence — that Putin is a “mass murderer”. The tarnishing of Putin's image is crucial for those in the West who want to curb Russia's political re-assertion so that the US and its allies can perpetuate their global dominance without hindrance.

MH 17 has helped the elite in Washington in yet another sense. It has strengthened its push for tougher sanctions against Russia which began after the Crimea vote. Given their extensive economic ties with Russia, many European countries such as Germany, France, Netherlands and Italy have been somewhat lukewarm about widening and deepening sanctions. But will that change now? Will an outraged European public, incensed by the MH 17 massacre, demand that their governments punish Moscow?

It is obvious that those who seek to punish Russia and the pro-Russian rebels, namely, the elite in Washington and Kiev, are poised to gain the most from the MH17 episode.

Does it imply that they would have had a role in the episode itself? Only a truly independent and impartial international inquiry would be able to provide the answer.

In this regard, we must admit that while elites in Kiev and Washington may stand to gain from MH 17, those who actually pulled the trigger may be some other group or individual with links to the powerful in the two capitals. It is quite conceivable that a certain well-heeled individual equipped with the appropriate military apparatus and with access to air-control authorities in the region may have executed the act of evil itself.

Because of who he is, and where his loyalties lie, that individual may have also decided to target Malaysia. Was he giving vent to his anger over our principled stand on the question of justice for the Palestinians? Was he also attempting to divert public attention from Israel's ground offensive against Gaza which time-wise coincided with the downing of the Malaysian airliner?

As we explore MH 17 from this angle, would we be able to connect the dots between MH 17 and MH 370, between July 17 and March 8, 2014?

We should not rest till the whole truth is known and the evil behind these two colossal catastrophes punished severely.

We owe this to every soul who perished on those fateful flights.

This article is dedicated to the cherished memory of all those on MH 17 — especially the 80 children who were on board.

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<http://www.globalresearch.ca/mh-17-who-stands-to-gain/5393540>

Sydney Jewish leader resigns government post over Gaza conflict

July 27, 2014 9:25am

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) – A senior Jewish leader in Sydney resigned from a high-profile government post amid a furor over the Gaza conflict. Vic Alhadeff, the chief executive of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, stood down on Sunday as the part-time chair of the NSW Community Relations Commission just two weeks after an email he sent accusing Hamas of “war crimes” triggered outrage among Arab and Muslim organizations. “It is with considerable regret that I have decided to resign from my position as chair of the NSW Community Relations Commission,” Alhadeff said in a statement issued Sunday. “I have chosen to do so in the interests of the CRC and its important work in fostering social harmony within our society.” Alhadeff, a former Sydney editor of the Australian Jewish News, was backed with “full confidence” by NSW Premier Mike Baird.

But some Arab groups boycotted an iftar celebration marking Ramadan at Parliament House in Sydney last Thursday night over the email controversy.

Titled “Israel under fire” and sent in his capacity as chief executive of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Alhadeff's email earlier this month claimed Israel was operating with “care to avoid civilian casualties” but made no reference to Palestinian fatalities.

“Israel has made it clear that it is not interested in further escalation, but will do whatever is needed to defend its citizens,” Alhadeff wrote to members of the Jewish community. “All options are on the table.”

In resigning on Sunday, Alhadeff conceded his email “inadvertently caused offense to some.”

“This is greatly regretted,” he added. “While this was unintended, and despite the backing of numerous community leaders who acknowledged my record of goodwill, the reaction from some has become a distraction to the work of the CRC and the role of the chair.”

<http://www.jta.org/2014/07/27/news-opinion/israel-middle-east/sydney-jewish-leader-resigns-government-post-over-gaza-conflict#ixzz38jZ9eRcI>

Madrid Jews to ‘defend’ against author who justified expulsions

July 27, 2014 12:36pm

SEVILLA, Spain (JTA) — The Jewish Community of Madrid said it would take legal steps against a celebrated writer who cited Israel's Gaza operation in justifying past expulsions of Jews. Antonio Gala, an award-winning playwright and author, made the statement in an Op-Ed which was published on July 23 by the Spanish daily El Mundo. “It's not strange that they have been so frequently expelled,” he wrote about the Jewish people in his 233-word article. “What is surprising, is that they persist. Either they are not good, or someone is poisoning them. I am not a racist.”

In a letter to the editor of El Mundo, David Hatchwell, president of the Madrid Jewish Community, vowed to “invoke [legal] protection with all our vigor” against Gala, whom he said has a history of penning texts which were deemed offensive to Jews.

Hundreds of thousands of Jews were deported from Spain and Portugal in the 15th and 16th centuries as part of the Iberian Inquisition — a campaign of persecution led by local leaders and the Catholic Church.

"We know this form of aggression very well, and its final consequences if we fail to draw red lines," wrote Hatchwell, who added that his community's "defense" against Gala will be based on a clause of Spain's legal code which prohibits anti-Semitic hate speech. Titled "The Chosen," the article by Gala — the 1989 laureate of the Leon Felipe Prize for Civic Values, among other honors — also states: "Now you have to suffer their abuses in Gaza, and review it all with an apparent injustice. They are never clear."

Gala's article begins with the assertion that "The Jewish People could have done much good for mankind" but "it is as though they were not made to coexist."

He also said Jews have "new means, dimensions and benefits with new pressure from a power situated elsewhere in the world and an invisible community of blood."

In 2009, El Mundo drew condemnations from Jewish institutions in Spain and beyond for publishing an interview with Holocaust-denier David Irving, who was described by El Mundo as an "expert" and "innovative thinker."

<http://www.jta.org/2014/07/27/newsopinion/world/madrid-jews-to-defend-against-author-who-justified-expulsions#ixzz38iZeFOng>

BEWARE OF CHINA AND INDIA

Andrew McKillop - xtran9@gmail.com, 24 August 2014

Goading Putin is One Thing

It is simple good luck and certainly not by design that the west has chosen Russia as No 1 whipping boy. Russia is a western country, largely dominated by Christian values or a Christian heritage. It is a "known" rather than the "unknown" of China and India. When the political goading, military provocation and economic sanctions start with them, we will be on a short fuse.

Only dimly perceived by western leaders and never reported by their mainstream media, the reason why Putin's opinion poll ratings are so high is not just the Russian population "rallying around the flag". There is a much more sombre reason. Russians are frightened by the extreme aggressivity and irrationality of the west. They cannot understand what has happened. As the Ukraine crisis draws on and on, this fear only increases.

China doesn't have any time for this 19th century style Dance To War. The Chinese official statement, today 24 August on the latest mid-air clash between a US military spy plane and Chinese fighter jets was this:

"Their various reconnaissance aircraft have been wandering around foreign airspace for decades and watching the military secrets of other countries like a disgusting thief spying over his neighbour's fence".

The raging statement went on to say:

"America has lost face and does not want to show the world they are sick. They have been lording over other countries for so long, and they will never let it go after they eat this loss."

The warning signs are clear but of course at the Mad Hatter's tea party — called "western foreign policy and international relations" — these warnings count for nothing. China is only a non-white, non-western small country and probably its nuclear weapons don't work if the Chinese actually know how to use them. Would you like more sugar in your tea?

Obama Talks About Nihilism!

India is also in no way fooled by western economic nihilism — setting out to sabotage the global economy. India is further back and less clear in its toughening stance towards the west, but its BOI central bank chief has already said, several times this year, that the G7 group is sabotaging the global economy. Prime Minister Modi is light years away from being a dove. India has not even one millisecond's interest in applying sanctions against Iran, for example, let alone Russia! The western sanctions game is seen by Indians for what it is — economic sabotage. Only that.

Western nihilism — spreading like a cancer to use Mr Obama's term — is much more dangerous than that of ISIS and its Punk Killers who think they stepped out of Assassins Creed. Anybody who wants to stand back and take a look at what has happened in our "mature societies" — only since the 2008 crisis — has to admit that strange things are happening, most of them bad.

To be sure the 2008 economic and financial crisis was called "a statistical freak event", a Black Swan that nobody could

have predicted — and so on. Since 2008 however, economic crisis and crisis talk is hard-wired and endemic in our society. Running hand in glove with that, western aggression against anybody at all is rising like scum in a cesspit.

Don't look for logic because there is no logic. It is harmful or to use an ISIS word it is "haram" as in Boko Haram.

So we get the Mad Hatter's tea party, with ISIS playing Queen of Hearts and screaming "Off with their heads!". Until their own heads get cut off, of course. Probable reasons why western leaders and their security "experts" had no idea what was happening in the Middle East include their infatuation with the ever-so-exciting project of goading Vladimir Putin and Russia into war with the west — and you don't call that simple madness? Nihilist madness to be exact.

Partying On at the Nihilist Ball

Don't mess with China or India! The warning is crystal clear but will be it heard at the Mad Hatter's ball? The major point is that both Chinese and Indian leaders and their media see the west, today, as mentally sick and unpredictable — and dangerous.

Amazingly enough, but not when it concerns the mentally sick, western leaderships and their tame media actually believe that "Russia has been contained". After that success, they can move on and up to goading China and India. That will be so much fun!

The point is that neither Russia, nor China, nor India wants to be "contained", whatever that means in Mad Hatter talk. They want some serious action on repairing the world economy — not further sabotaging it. They are not only disgusted by the economic sanctions game — but frightened by it.

Reasons for this unstable dangerous world situation are as we say "multivariate" but the West's sombre and deadly antics in the Middle East — called "foreign policy" — have made the region a cesspit of terror. The supposed logic was "something to do with oil" but that is now rearview mirror.

In the playtime casino economy of the west — called "the markets" — operators and players are themselves nihilist and do not believe that, for example, oil supply from the Middle East will be affected. Until of course it is cut off one day — in the same way ISIS says it must "cut the head off the snake". That event would permit the market operators to rack up oil prices to maybe \$200 per barrel — giving an excellent new excuse for another 2008 crash-and-panic circus act.

What could be more reasonable, for Nihilists who only want to destroy?

Nihilism, by the way, started in the Russia of the 1860s as a Youth Revolt. Youth rejected everything. They even rejected Anarchy — it was "too organized" for them! Nihilism rejects all ideologies and all doctrines. Any logic, of any kind, is denied. Using the Merriam-Webster dictionary definition, it is a belief that "all of society's political and social institutions are so bad they must be destroyed". What comes after is (of course) not defined! Why should Russia, China and India accept that?