# Israel and the Jihadi Connection

Israel's complex game with Jihadi terror groups pays off as more and more African states look to Israel for protection.

By Richard Galustian
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*Earlier this year, with little publicity, the official position of Israel on terrorism was explained by Israeli **Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon***

> "I would like to see ISIS rule all of Syria (by inference, the whole region – RG); ISIS and its offshoots do not pose a threat to the Israeli State. Iran remains the main enemy!"

Ya'alon was being disingenuous, but the thinking behind his words is actually clear enough from the words themselves.  Put simply, Israel's relentless emphasis on the supposed threat from Iran is simply a diversionary tactic intended to conceal the continuing realisation of the 'Greater Israel' Project.

Ya'alon added

> "Iran is a rogue regime with designs on a regional hegemony. Hezbollah is Iran's proxy, with the ability to declare war. Iran currently has terror infrastructure in place in five continents: Asia, Africa, Europe and both in South and North America."

Ya'alon's last comment refers to Iran as a rogue regime.  However experienced Middle East observers will no doubt hesitate after reading the totality of his comments, and will wonder whether in light of them it is actually Israel and the US which should be considered the rogue regimes rather than Iran or indeed anyone else,  other than obviously Israel's and the US's staunch ally,  the odious Saudi regime.



Many similar comments of this nature  have been made by senior Israeli officials, but one in particular stands out.  This is a speech made at the Herzliya Conference by Israel's military intelligence chief, Major General Herzi Halevy.  He took Israel's long-standing position that it "prefers ISIS" over the Syrian government to a whole new level, declaring openly that Israel does not want to see ISIS defeated in **any** war.  As quoted in the Hebrew language NRG site, owned by the Maariv Newspaper conglomerate, **Major Gen. Halevy** actually expressed worry about the recent offensives against ISIS, expressing concern that military offensives in the last three months had placed ISIS in the "most difficult" situation it has known since its inception or at least since its declaration of a caliphate.

Needless to say most people are not aware that Major Gen. Halevy has in effect become a spokesperson for ISIS.

So what is going on?

The short answer is that the real 'game' in the region is being played out by and an on behalf of Israeli interests. An indirect but nonetheless highly revealing clue has just been provided by the recently developing relationship between Israel and Chad. Chad, located south of Libya in the Sahara, faces a mountain of difficulties which Israel can help it deal with. These range from extreme water scarcity to Chad finding itself on the front line in Africa's fight against Islamist terrorism, be it in the form ISIS, al-Qaeda or Boko Haram. This supplies the reason for Chadian **President Idriss Déby** recent visit to Israel, which has taken place 46 years after Libya's former leader **Muammar Gaddafi** pressured Chad into breaking off diplomatic relations with Israel in 1972, a step which Chad took even before the big wave of African countries severing diplomatic ties with Israel took place, which happened after the 1973 Arab-Israeli Yom Kippur War.

Chad broke off diplomatic relations with Israel in 1972 because it believed that it would gain more by forging close ties with Gaddafi's Libya than by retaining ties with Israel. Obviously since the fall of Gaddafi that calculation has changed.

However another – obviously unacknowledged – reason is almost certainly Chad's worry that it might find itself facing the same sort of Islamist terrorism in Chad that Syria has recently experienced. After all if Israeli officials can publicly admit to Israel's de facto support for Islamist terrorism in Syria why should it be any different in Chad?

So the bottom line is that Chad – and no doubt plenty of other countries in the region – find themselves needing Israel's help to protect themselves from the Frankenstein's monster of worldwide Islamist terrorism which Israeli and US policies have conjured up. It amounts to the classic protection racket, with countries like Chad looking to Israel to 'protect' them from the very Islamist threat Israeli and US policies are themselves creating.

Given that this is so, and given the extent to which the spread of Islamist terrorist groups across the Middle East and North Africa actually serves Israeli and US interests, there is simply no point looking to Israel and the US for a 'solution' to the problem caused by them. Certainly no such solution is going to be found in Palermo, site of the latest Libya peace talks. No such solution is going to be found whilst the 'protection racket' serves Israel's regional interests so well. Indeed Déby's visit to Jerusalem, as does the rush of other African countries restoring relations with Israel, shows the spectacular success of the 'protection racket'.

In view of this it should come as no surprise that all attempts to change it are furiously resisted. Thus in the US "The Stop Arming Terrorists Act" proposed in early 2017 by **Representative Tulsi Gabbard** and **Senator Rand Paul,** which sought to prohibit use of US government funds from providing assistance to terrorist groups like Al Qaeda, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, ISIS, and the rest, and to those countries which support these organizations, predictably ran into a wall of opposition. As of November 2017 only 14 out of 435 members of the US House of Representatives were prepared to co-sponsor the bill with Gabbard, whilst in the Senate Rand Paul could find no co-sponsors at all.

Given the extremely close ties between the US and Israel, there is in fact no possibility of

the bill – at least in the form proposed by Gabbard and Rand Paul – being passed.

Given the strong feelings many in the US have about Islamist terrorism – with memories of 9/11 still fresh – one might suppose that this would be an enormous scandal.  However – predictably enough – neither the US media nor the global media seem at all interested in it.

*Authors note: many of the sources and quotes, details etc, contained herein came from Israeli media.*

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