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Subject: IDF's Counter-Terrorism Branch helps Israel 'be ready for the next war'

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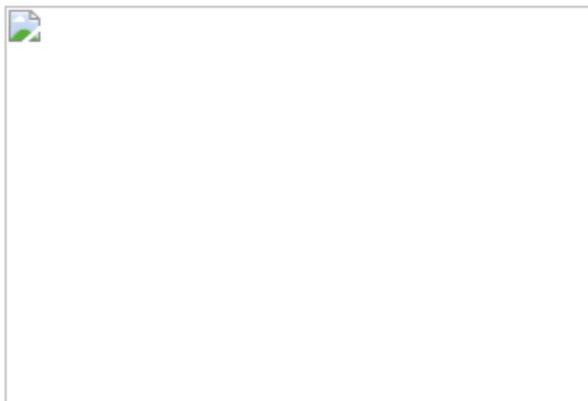


**IDF's Counter-Terrorism
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An Israeli security officer outside the home in Halamish where a Palestinian terrorist killed three members of an Israeli family July 21.

IDF's Counter-Terrorism Branch helps Israel 'be ready for the next war'

By Yaakov Lappin/JNS.org

On a Friday night July 21, Maj. Hanan (full name withheld for security reasons) received word that a Palestinian terrorist fatally stabbed three members of an Israeli family in Halamish. "We scanned the area searching for more potential attackers, and spent the rest of Shabbat there," said Hanan, who heads the Counter-Terrorism Branch in the IDF's Counter-Terrorism School. Hanan's branch is no ordinary response unit—it is responsible for training all of Israel's elite special forces. "We need to be ready for the next war, not the last one," he said.

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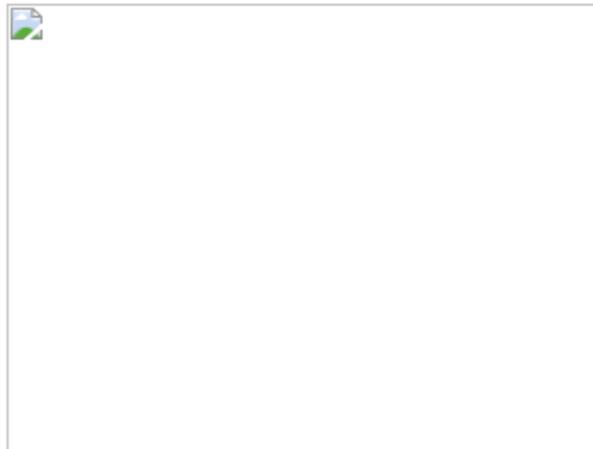
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**Sarah Halimi, Sisyphus and the
denial of anti-Semitic violence**

By Simone Rodan-Benzaquen/JNS.org

All those fighting for French society to stand up against anti-Semitic violence find themselves in the same position as the mythological hero Sisyphus, condemned for all eternity to perform the impossible task of pushing an immense boulder up a steep hill each day. Yet after weeks of indifference by media outlets and politicians, French President Emmanuel Macron demanded that France's judiciary shed light on the nature of April's brutal murder of Jewish woman Sarah Halimi. Macron has, in his own way, advanced the boulder of Sisyphus, writes Simone Rodan-Benzaquen, director of the American Jewish Committee's Paris-based Europe branch.

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French President Emmanuel Macron (pictured) has demanded that France's judiciary "bring total clarity around the death of Sarah Halimi."

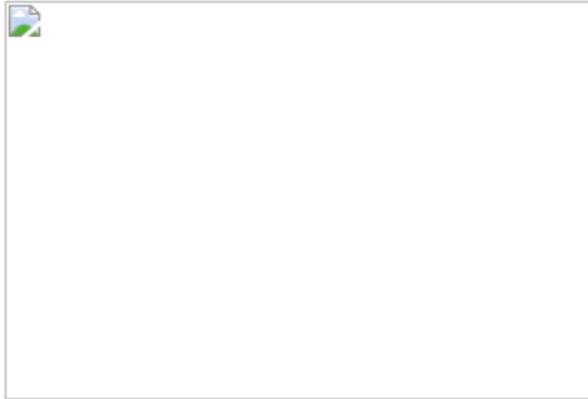
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Beyond terror: Israel's Jewish-Arab conflict extends to demography

Ariel Ben Solomon/JNS.org

As a wave of Arab terror attacks once again spreads across Jerusalem and the disputed territories, a much-less-discussed conflict over the identity of Jewish cities is underway in northern Israel. The frontline of this demographic battle is the Galilee region, where Arabs are increasingly leaving their villages for Jewish cities such as Nazareth Illit, Afula and Akko, due to higher quality of life and better access to services such as public transportation. With the Arab population rising in Jewish-majority municipalities, the change in local character is causing residents to express concern over rising crime.

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An aerial view of Akko, a Jewish-majority city in northern Israel's Galilee region.

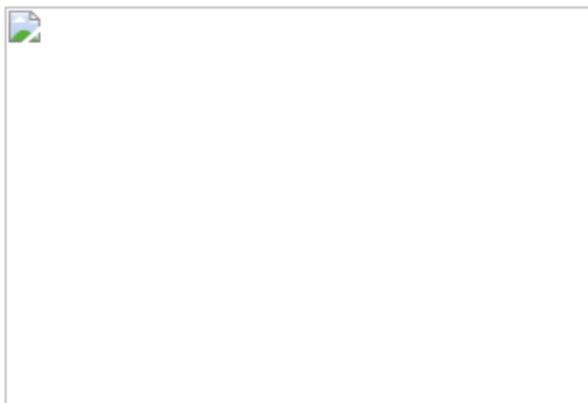
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Ex-Israeli diplomats: State Dept. recycles old reports to whitewash Palestinian incitement

By Rafael Medoff/JNS.org

Former Israeli diplomats charge that the State Department is recycling parts of its old reports in order to whitewash the Palestinian Authority's (PA) incitement to violence. The State Department last week released its annual assessment of global terrorism for the year 2016, claiming the PA works "to ensure that official institutions in the West Bank under its control do not create or disseminate content that incites violence." Alan Baker, former deputy director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, told JNS.org the State Department is seemingly "taking previous reports and copying them, making slight changes where they consider it relevant."

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Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (left) meets with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Washington, D.C., May 3, 2017.

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