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Subject: AICE Update: Is Israel the Only Country in the Middle East with a Separation Barrier?

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The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

Our 20th Year
E-Newsletter



September 9, 2015

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THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

[Jewish Community of Berlin is officially established \(1671\)](#)

[Birthday of Jewish-British singer Amy Winehouse \(1983\)](#)

[Daniel Lewin, a former IDF soldier, becomes the first victim of 9/11 \(2001\)](#)

[See More Jewish History Events](#)

AICE PROJECTS

Myths & Facts: Online Exclusive

Is Israel the Only Middle Eastern Country with a Separation Barrier?

Israel is the only country in the world that has been condemned for building a security fence while countries around the world, including several in the Middle East, construct new fences to protect themselves from illegal immigrants and their enemies.

Israel reluctantly began building a security fence only after more than 1,000 Israelis were killed in terrorist attacks. Since that time, the number of attacks and fatalities inside Israel that originate in the West Bank has been reduced to nearly zero. Israel is now building a fence along its border with Jordan because of fears about the instability of the kingdom.

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[Myths & Facts: 2012](#)

Mitchell Bard in the Times of Israel

Explaining the Iran vote and the next steps

It should have come as no surprise that President Obama lined up the votes in the Senate to secure approval of his deal with the radical Islamic government of Iran. Still, many people ask me why Senate Democrats, especially Jewish ones, sided with the president, and what opponents of the deal should do next.

At least six explanations can be given for the decision by senators, many of whom criticized the failings of the agreement, to vote for the Iran deal...

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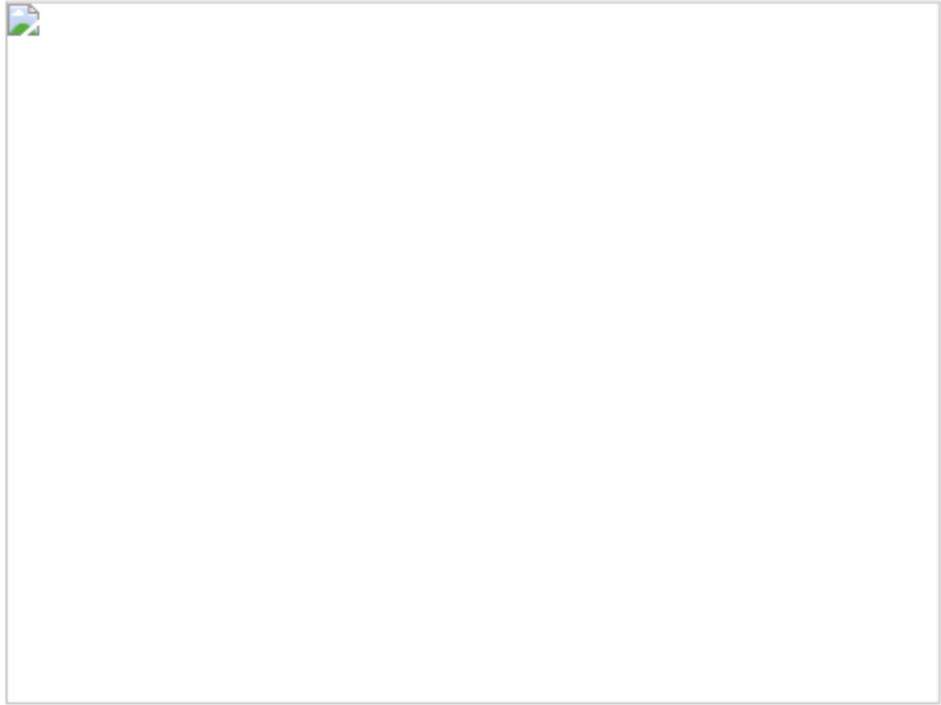
backStorygroup:

This summer, AICE expanded its efforts to introduce influential Americans to Israel in a joint program with the backStorygroup, whose mission is to expand the lens through which Americans view Israel to include its kaleidoscopic culture, people and accomplishments.

The backStorygroup's approach is to take modern day storytellers (content producers) and film music composers on educational trips to Israel. The expectation is that Israel's dynamic society and outsized personalities will motivate the participants to seek collaborative projects with their Israeli counterparts and give them ideas for new productions with an Israeli focus. The participants on the inaugural trip were indeed inspired and have already initiated new contacts and projects:

- Two producers have been in touch with individuals whom they met on the trip to discuss documentary possibilities.
- The interest in developing film score recording in Israel was overwhelming, and the backStorygroup has been asked to develop a joint residency program with the Jerusalem Foundation.
- New peer networks in Israel have been formed and there is ongoing contact between trip participants with composers, orchestras, producers, scientists and others.
- The positive impressions made on the participants stimulated an interest in establishing further connections with Israel and their Israeli peers.

[Read More about backStoryGroup Here](#)



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Sincerely,



**Mitchell Bard
AICE Executive Director**



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