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Subject: AICE Update: Does Israeli Discriminate Against its Arab Citizens?

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The American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise

Our 21st Year
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THIS WEEK IN JEWISH HISTORY

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Myths & Facts: Online Exclusive

Does Israel Discriminate Against its Arab Citizens?

Arabs in Israel have equal voting rights; in fact, it is one of the few places in the Middle East where Arab women may vote. Arabs in 2016 held 16 seats in the 120-seat Knesset. Israeli Arabs have also held various government posts, including one who served as Israel's ambassador to Finland and the deputy mayor of [Tel Aviv](#). Oscar Abu Razaq was appointed Director General of the Ministry of Interior, the first Arab citizen to become chief executive of a key government ministry. [Ariel Sharon's](#) original cabinet included the first Arab minister, [Salah Tarif](#), a [Druze](#) who served as a minister without portfolio. An Arab is also a [Supreme Court](#) justice. In October 2005, an Arab professor was named Vice President of Haifa University.

[Myths & Facts: 2012](#)

Arabic, like Hebrew, is an official language in Israel. More than 300,000 Arab children attend Israeli schools. At the time of Israel's founding, there was one Arab high school in the country. Today, there are hundreds of Arab schools.

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Mitchell Bard in The Times of Israel

Israeli Democracy is Healthy Unless You Hate Democratic Outcomes

Several years ago the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations convened in Jerusalem and one of the panels featured Naomi Chazan, a left-of-center academic and former MK, and Zalman Shoval, a right-of-center former ambassador to the United States. The Likud was in power and Chazan urged American Jews to be more openly critical of the Israeli government to which Shoval responded that she didn't feel that way when Labor was in power. This brief exchange captured the essence of the

hypocrisy of the American Jewish and Israeli left who only believe in democracy when it suits them; that is, when Israel adopts their preferred policies.

If you read *Haaretz* - an act of masochism for lovers of Israel - or listen to the likes of Peter Beinart and Roger Cohen, you might believe Israeli democracy is in crisis. They are not only frustrated by the failure of the majority of Israelis to share their beliefs, but repeatedly impugn the motives of American Jews who refuse to buy their snake oil prescriptions for Israel's future.

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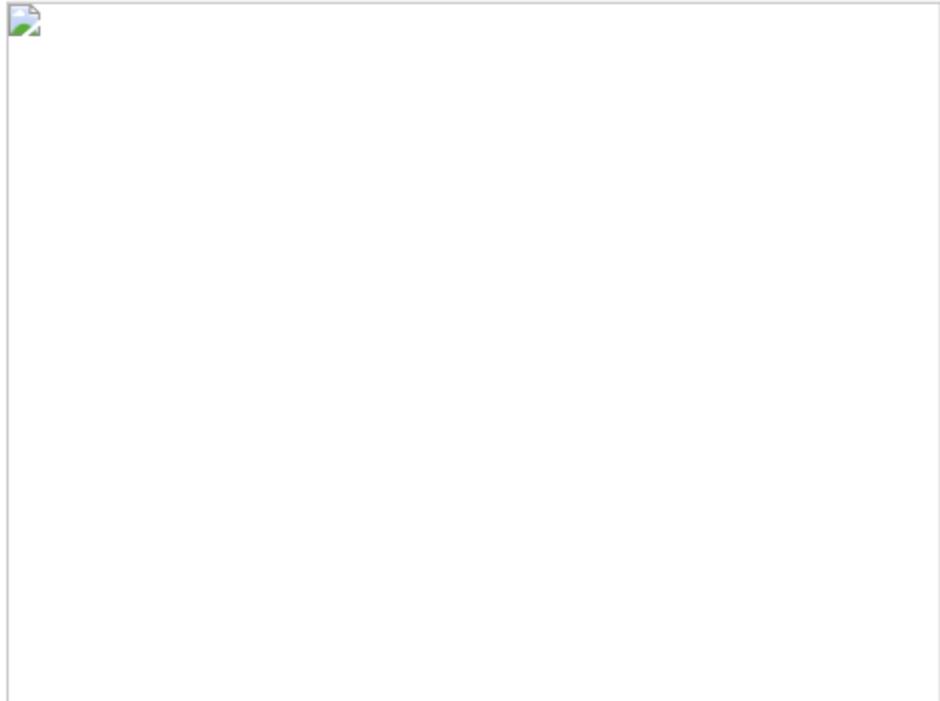
Fact of the Day

Eight Hamas Militants Killed in Tunnel Collapse

Eight Hamas militants were killed on January 27, 2016, after heavy rains collapsed the terror tunnel that they were constructing. The militants were killed during the tunnel collapse and were buried in the rubble.

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Prime Minister Netanyahu: Statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016



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Sincerely,



Mitchell Bard

AICE Executive Director



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