

It's Time to Stand Against Israel

By Matt Hutaff
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Last month the *Toronto Sun* published an editorial entitled "[It's time to stand with Israel.](#)" Repeated indemnification of Palestine and its supporters aside, it's mainly notable for the title, which insinuates the world is somehow "against" Israel.

It's a funny thing when one considers the current political climate surrounding the rogue nation. After all, Israel has launched two wars in less than 30 days, one against the Palestinians, the other against Lebanon. Throughout their aggression, which has seen destruction in the tens of millions of dollars (to say nothing of the incalculable human cost that continues to rise), the Western world has done everything it can to legitimize said violence. American politicians loudly proclaim that [we stand united behind Israel](#) while magazines such as *Time* paint the Middle East [as a curiosity](#). "Why do they fight?" they ask while ignoring the patently obvious answers: They're on someone else's land. And they want more of it.

I grow tired of Israel, whose various deceptions and exploits have graced my writings for years. Has it made a difference? Doubtful; our elected representatives continue to do everything in their power to protect a nation that undermines us every step of the way. When Israeli spies [steal coveted secrets](#) there is no execution, only jail time or a quiet deportation. When Israeli agents attempt to goad us into war with Egypt (see the Lavon Affair or the attack on the [USS Liberty](#)) the murdered go unavenged and the investigation is buried.

When Israel [steals land from others](#) we look the other way. When they [make plans to murder Hamas leadership](#) then shell a Palestinian beach to create a conflict for invasion, we shrug. And when [Israeli soldiers are captured in Lebanon](#), their act of retaliation is to level infrastructure that is still recovering from 20 years of Israeli occupation.

And we look on and sigh, as if we are not the genesis of all this violence. We might even reassure ourselves that Israel has the right to defend itself by sending the nation another couple billion dollars. Before you assuage that guilt, however, consider the following:

1. **The invasion of Gaza to neuter Hamas was planned long before Gilat Shalit "disappeared."** [According to Ha'aretz](#), "the detention of Hamas parliamentarians ... had been planned several weeks ago and received approval from [Attorney General Menachem] Mazuz." Bear in mind also that Hamas was established by Israel as an opposition party to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, so this is simply a means of robbing indigenous Palestinians of a democratically-elected voice.
2. **Israel planned its invasion of Lebanon before Hezbollah captured its two troops.** [Asia Times reports](#) that the troops "were ambushed on Lebanon's side of the border with Israel. Hezbollah, which commands the Lebanese south, immediately seized on their crossing." Israel used their own invasion as justification for... an invasion.
3. **The disproportionate level of the attacks is staggering.** Savaging all of southern Lebanon over two soldiers is akin to Mexico destroying the Golden Gate Bridge because two border-crossers died at the hands of a Southern California gang. Did the IDF really think that leveling airports, bridges and roads would hamper the continued movement of their captured troops? Israel opposes international peacekeeping forces [yet encourages that children write messages of hate on the missiles that will kill their Lebanese counterparts](#).

In the end this will all have been a manufactured conflict to draw Iran, Syria and ultimately the United States into a war with each other. Even though the vast majority of Americans oppose another battlefield in the Middle East, the Bush administration's unwavering support of Israel means it will fight its ally's fight should Iran or Syria naturally choose to defend themselves. It [gives Bush his war with Iran](#) and it gives Israel its chance to destabilize the region further without worrying about the body count.

After all, it won't be Israeli kids dying.

I could keep going with [Israeli acts of treachery and violence](#) but I've reached a saturation point. If you aren't already disgusted by Israel's actions, nothing I say or do here today will make much difference.

If you've reached a saturation point, too, however, make a stand. Voice your disapproval at the voting booth this year and force any proponents of Israel from Congress. Demand the AIPAC trial continue (it's been halted several times). Educate yourself and your peers on how ensconced we are with this tiny Mediterranean country.

David Ben Gurion, the first Israeli Prime Minister, once said, "If I were an Arab leader, I would never sign an agreement with Israel. It is normal; we have taken their country. It is true God promised it to us, but how could that interest them? Our God is not theirs. There has been Anti-Semitism, the Nazis, Hitler, Auschwitz, but was that their fault? They see but one thing: we have come and we have stolen their country. Why would they accept that?"

As you watch the tragedy continue to unfold, ask yourself the same question. Why should we accept Israel's theft of Palestinian and Lebanese land? And why should we rationalize any American deaths that come as a result?

Perhaps the author of "[It's time to stand with Israel](#)" has changed opinions in the wake of eight Canadian deaths in Lebanon. Maybe the *Toronto Sun* will push for retribution, for justice. Maybe Canada will adopt the Israeli plan of attack and destroy Tel Aviv's business district. After all, a handful of Canadian citizens apparently merit that level of retaliation.

Regardless, it's time to stand against Israel. If you look on the events of today as a human being, you cannot see otherwise.