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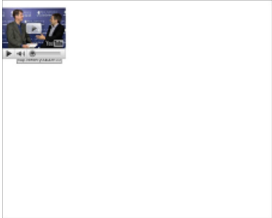
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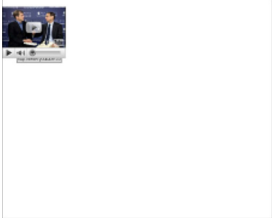


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Council on Foreign Relations Senior

Disturbing: Israeli Youth Help Raze Entire Bedouin Village

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(Moments before the destruction of the Bedouin village of al-Arakib, Israeli high school age police volunteers lounge on furniture taken from a family's home; photo credit: Ata Abu Madyam, Arab Negev News; click image to make larger)

I support Israel's legitimate interests and rights in what is a very tough neighborhood, but this behavior -- reported by [Max Blumenthal](#) -- is not that of an Israeli that is behaving responsibly and is rather, an Israel that is playing recklessly with its own interests and America's.

This story is one among many outrages that are piling up -- but [do read](#).

Here is the [first part](#):

AL-ARAKIB, ISRAEL -- On July 26, Israeli police demolished 45 buildings in the unrecognized Bedouin village of al-Arakib, razing the entire village to the ground to make way for a Jewish National Fund forest.

The destruction was part of a larger project to force the Bedouin community of the Negev away from their ancestral lands and into seven Indian reservation-style communities the Israeli government has constructed for them. The land will then be open for Jewish settlers, including young couples in the army and those who may someday be evacuated from the West Bank after a peace treaty is signed. For now, the Israeli government intends to uproot as many villages as possible and erase them from the map by establishing "facts on the ground" in the form of JNF forests. (See video of of al-Arakib's demolition here).

"Israeli high school age police volunteers lounge on furniture taken from an al-Arakib family's home. All photos by Ata Abu Madyam of Arab Negev News.

One of the most troubling aspects of the destruction of al-Arakib was a report by CNN that the hundreds of Israeli riot police who stormed the village were accompanied by "busloads of cheering civilians." Who were these civilians and why didn't CNN or any outlet investigate further?

I traveled to al-Arakib yesterday with a delegation from Ta'ayush, an Israeli group that promotes a joint Arab-Jewish struggle against the occupation. The activists spent the day preparing games and activities for the village's traumatized children, helping the villagers replace their uprooted olive groves, and assisting in the reconstruction of their demolished homes. In a massive makeshift tent where many of al-Arakib's residents now sleep, I interviewed village leaders about the identity of the cheering civilians. Each one confirmed the presence of the civilians, describing how they celebrated the demolitions. As I compiled details, the story grew increasingly horrific.

After interviewing more than a half dozen elders of the village, I was able to finally identify the civilians in question. What I discovered was more disturbing than I had imagined.

Fellow Charles Kupchan explains the value of engagement with our enemies and the hard work and years of effort needed to make peace.

James K. Glassman on Strategic Communications and U.S. Policy Toward Iran



Glassman argued that Iran is an ideal place for strategic communications and said that everything we do and everything we say should be coordinated to meet the goal of changing the character of the Iranian leadership.

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The rest is [here](#).

-- Steve Clemons

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Posted by Carroll, Aug 01 2010, 12:01AM - [Link](#)

More than just disturbing...this sort of thing is done every day by the IDF.

Palestine children are shot every week, Palestine homes are torn down every week. This isn't unique or unusual. Steve should visit Phil Weiss's blog..mondoweiss.com occasionally to see the almost daily occurrences of this kind of thing by the Israelis.

BTW..here is the youtube video of the razing of the village.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvD-2BsPAQU&feature=player_embedded

The IDF is dressed all in black with face mask and carry these huge silver shields with a large cross insignia on them....looks like a version of the nazis iron cross.

This is what congress is supporting with our money. Midget nazis.

Posted by nadine, Aug 01 2010, 12:40AM - [Link](#)

Clemons, what do you or this Blumenthal know or care about this town, the Bedouins, or the Negev? What do you know of the history of settling the Bedouin in Israel, in Jordan or anywhere else? Nothing! Somebody saw a story about Israel tearing down some Arab houses, made a big sob story out of it, and you're off to the races with incendiary language: "an Israel that is playing recklessly with its own interests and America's."

This is the new name of the game: make an international case of it every time Israel evicts a squatter (unless the squatter happens to be a Jew - in that case, no story). Now you are even suggesting that America should declare Israel an enemy because Israel has resettled 300 Bedouin?

Presumably America should make a Grand Alliance instead with the wonderful mullahs of Iran, who would never, ever be so nasty to their minority nomads this way (try asking the Kurds, Balouchi or Arabs of Iran about that question some time).

Pure irresponsible anti-Israel agitprop on your part, Clemons. And let's not have any hand-wringing about how "disturbing" it is to see towns removed. If the inhabitants of that town were Jews, you'd call it a "settlement" and be delighted to see it torn down.

The fact that you agitate continually for engagement with Hizbullah and Iran makes a mockery of your human rights concerns. Let's just have it straight with the bark on: you are against an alliance with the country that has Gay Pride parades and for an alliance with the country that hangs homosexuals. Let's stop the pretending this is about human rights, shall we?

As Wigwag has observed before, from a pattern of bad actions one can deduce bad intent. Enjoy Carroll's comments, she has clearly found her proper home at TWN.

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 1:01AM - [Link](#)

Keep talking, Nadine. It only underscores what we point out about you racists and the inhumane policies of The Jewish State.

"Now you are even suggesting that America should declare Israel an enemy because Israel has resettled 300 Bedouin?"

RESETTLED???

You lying racist sack of shit.

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 1:12AM - [Link](#)

"Thus the scenes from al-Arakib, from the demolished homes to the uprooted gardens to the grinning teens who joined the mayhem, can be viewed as much more than the destruction of a village. They are snapshots of the phenomenon that is laying Israeli society as a whole to waste"

Amen. And how ironic is it that a minority of despicable Jewish bigots and monsters such as Nadine are wielding the axe that will bring Israel down.

Posted by Franklin, Aug 01 2010, 1:19AM - [Link](#)

"Disturbing" seems like an understatement. Not too hard to see where these kind of actions are leading. Immoral and illegal. Hopefully Blumenthal is able to identify the civilian participants.

Posted by JohnH, Aug 01 2010, 1:35AM - [Link](#)

As always, Nadine is the voice of Jewish supremacy--the right to steal other people's land without compensation, the right to

flog the wogs every day, the right pursue ethnic cleansing and commit war crimes with impunity.

Yes, the ethnic cleansing of Bedouin is disturbing. But what's more disturbing are the powerful voices that defend such atrocities.

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 1:38AM - [Link](#)

"Hopefully Blumenthal is able to identify the civilian participants"

To what end? So racist Jews such as Nadine can hold them in high esteem?

Better to identify the organizers of this horrific orgy, and expose the despicable and demonic fanatics that inflict such sick ideology and racist hatred upon the youth of Israel. There is some sick radical racist piece of shit in the forefront of this action. Someone dreamed this up, and had the power to enact it. Expose him, for he, and those like him, are the rot that is infecting Israel.

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 1:55AM - [Link](#)

Occupied Palestine: Home Demolitions, Dispossessions and Residency Rights Revoked

By Stephen Lendman

Daily, Israeli oppression continues - demolishing homes, dispossessing occupants, and revoking residency rights, three of its many crimes under international law, Israel spurning it with impunity.

On July 22, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD) reported mass Jordan Valley Al Farisyie village demolitions, displacing 107 people, including 52 children. Targeted were 26 residential tents, 22 animal shelters, seven taboun clay ovens, eight kitchens, 10 bathrooms, four water tanks, and an agricultural equipment shed - in all, 74 structures illegally bulldozed, family homes and belongings destroyed along with large quantities of food and animal fodder.

Many families weren't warned or present, so lost everything under rubble, Israel displacing Palestinians to make way for Judaization, area residents on their own, abandoned and unaided.

In July, three other communities were affected:

-- Fasayile al Fuga where a family home of nine, including seven children and a 10-month old infant, was destroyed;

-- Bardala where evacuation and demolition orders were issued; and

-- Ras Ar Ahmar where 13 homes and dozens of animal shelters were bulldozed after declaring the area a Closed Military Zone.

The Jordan Valley comprises about 30% of the West Bank, Israel continuing demolitions, dispossessions, land theft, and appropriation of water resources, annexing areas for Jews, collectively punishing its residents by declaring large areas Closed Military Zones, ordering entire villages evacuated in defiance of international law, hundreds of residents affected, half of them children.

On July 7, Haaretz writer Mijal Grinberg headlined "More than 800 protest Bedouin house demolitions in front of the Knesset," saying they erected a tent city after arriving in 17 buses to petition the government to "stop destroying homes."

Arab MKs and Hadash Party member Dov Hanin joined them, demanding this stop and accommodation with Bedouins reached, Israeli citizens denied their rights.

They rightfully claim ownership to 800,000 dunams of land, about 200,000 acres - around 6% of southern Israel's Negev desert. Israel, however, doesn't recognize them, saying about 75,000 Bedouins live in unrecognized villages, their public funding and services denied. More on that below.

Still, in recent years, 11 unrecognized villages were legalized. But another 36 are in limbo, their homes subject to demolition and land confiscated. In 2007, the government destroyed 110 homes. A-Sira is slated for demolition, its residents petitioning Israel's High Court to prevent it. Some lost their homes earlier. Others hope to save theirs. All Palestinians fear they're next - dispossession for Judaization, ongoing throughout East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Bedouin areas.

On July 27, Ma'an News reported that all Al-Araqib homes, fruit orchards and olive trees were destroyed, another unrecognized Bedouin village in southern Israel. At 4:30AM, 1,500 police arrived, including special riot forces, mounted officers, helicopters and bulldozers, awakening residents to evict them after an 11-year trial and court battle, residents winning to no avail. Israel dispossessed them anyway.

continues....

<http://www.opednews.com/articles/Occupied-Palestine-Home-D-by-Stephen-Lendman-100731-550.html>

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 2:03AM - [Link](#)

(Take the time to email Baird and let him know you support his efforts)

US Rep. Brian Baird: US on the side of injustice in Palestine

Washington - The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation held its ninth annual National Organizers' Conference in Kansas City, Missouri last week. Keynote speaker US Representative Brian Baird (D-WA) spoke about his own experiences visiting the Palestinian territories and how the ongoing occupation hurts not only Palestinians, but Israelis and Americans as well.

"When the United States is on the side of injustice, it harms our country, it harms our integrity, it harms our principle, it harms

our standing in the world," said Baird. "People want to believe that we, as the world's leading superpower, live up to our highest virtues. And when we fail to do that, it threatens, and endangers, and undermines us."

Baird also joined a growing choir of voices that emphasize how the occupation poses an existential threat to its own Israeli enforcers. "The soul of Israel is being harmed by these actions, and the security of Israel is being harmed by these actions," argued Baird.

Baird bemoaned the realities of the US Congressional system. Many congressmen vote "reflexively" in favor of resolutions that support Israel actions, like they did following the 2008-2009 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip and again following the release of the subsequent Goldstone Report.

But things are changing, remarked Baird. 54 votes were either present or against the resolution in support of Israel's 2008-2009 Operation Cast Lead. And now nearly a dozen congressmen have visited the Strip to see the realities on the ground.

Ignorance remains, however, said Baird. And this is the main source of why most congressmen vote the way they do on the Israel-Palestinian conflict, he said. "I'm certain there is ignorance involved...because they've never been [to Gaza]," insisted Baird.

Baird has himself been to the Strip twice and plans to go again next month. Speaking on his observations in Gaza, Baird argued "it's collective punishment...there's no question about it."

In his closing comments, Baird urged his audience to appreciate subtle and smaller victories. "Appreciate gradual changes," said Baird. The congressman is not seeking reelection this November but plans to continue his advocacy for the Palestinian struggle. As Baird evoked his own audience to do, "never give out, never give up, never give in."

Other speakers at the conference, held July 24, included Ramzi Kysia of the Free Gaza Movement and Cindy and Craig Corrie, parents of killed American activist Rachel Corrie, who was crushed by a bulldozer in 2003 in Gaza while trying to prevent a home demolition.

<http://palestinote.com/cs/blogs/news/archive/2010/07/30/us-rep-baird-us-on-the-side-of-injustice-in-palestine.aspx>

Also, go here.....

<http://www.endtheoccupation.org/>

Posted by non-hater, Aug 01 2010, 2:13AM - [Link](#)

"I support Israel's legitimate interests and rights in what is a very tough neighborhood, but this behavior -- reported by Max Blumenthal -- is not that of an Israeli that is behaving responsibly and is rather, an Israel that is playing recklessly with its own interests and America's."

What does Israel's foreign relations have to do with forced displacement of its own citizens? Conflating the two is sloppy.

Posted by nadine, Aug 01 2010, 2:21AM - [Link](#)

"What does Israel's foreign relations have to do with forced displacement of its own citizens? Conflating the two is sloppy." (non-hater)

...unless the purpose is just Israel-bashing. As for his declaration of support of Israel's legitimate interests, I cannot recall an instance of actual, as opposed to theoretical, support.

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 2:41AM - [Link](#)

"Conflating the two is sloppy"

So is presenting the blockade as just an effort to stop arms from reaching Hamas, (as Steve did in a prior essay), as if the ridiculous array of banned items has anything to do with Israel's "defense". I note the bigot Nadine raised no opposition to that bit of disingenuous pandering to the Israeli narrative.

As much as I "like" Steve, it is disheartening to see him precede his every little tepid criticism of Israel's atrocities with a qualifier. It only underscores what a tightrope one has to walk when navigating the minefield of debate concerning middle eastern affairs inside the beltway. Its as if an Israeli ninja hides behind every pillar and corner, ready to pounce at any poor insider hapless enough to utter the wrong comment or opinion about Israel and its horrendously inhumane and racist policies. Steve seems genuinely cowed when he broaches any criticism of Israel, and the willing whores in DC that bow to Israeli control, such as this pathetic Secretary Of State, Hillary Clinton. Best to avoid the topic when possible, but, when outraged to the point of comment, always make clear that you stand firmly in Israel's corner, and somehow this endless chain of Israeli atrocities is just an unfortunate mistake in policy, and, after all, its a tough neighborhood.

If you were threatened with Hamas rockets, and Iranian nukes, you'd kick the Bedouin out of their homes too!

"As for his declaration of support of Israel's legitimate interests, I cannot recall an instance of actual, as opposed to theoretical, support"

Posted by sagesiah, Aug 01 2010, 2:46AM - [Link](#)

non-hater: It matters because displacing its own citizens is grossly against the values of the West, from which Israel gets 100% of its diplomatic support (and is 100% democratic, meaning the opinions of the individuals in these states matter). It matters because this is a Jewish-dominated state displacing Arab Bedouins; it would be like the US government demolishing homes in an African-American community, except worse, seeing as the Bedouins have been here longer than those Israelis that are European-descended. It also threatens the viability of Israel's Arab allies (Jordan and Egypt), because these despotic states have taken stances that run directly counter to their citizenry and actions like this only feed the anti-Israeli attitudes of their citizens - thus threatening the only Arab governments that were intelligent enough to realize (at the time) that Israel probably wasn't going to go away. Again, as someone who wants an Israeli state to continue to exist, the problem here is not a problem of tactics but of strategy. Israel is operating without one, lurching forward towards a future it could have created but has instead decided to submit to.

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 2:50AM - [Link](#)

BTW, it would be interesting to find out if that Bedouin furniture that those sneering little mini racists and wannabe nazis are lounging in was "resettled" along with its rightful owners. Somehow, I doubt it.

What kind of sick twisted pieces of shit do this to their youth?

Posted by sagesiah, Aug 01 2010, 3:05AM - [Link](#)

POA: People who are afraid do this. The two-state solution is almost dead, and we have to pray that Bibi's 2001 comments were a function of "speaking to your audience" and not what he truly believes. He is the only person with the rightist credentials to deliver on Israel's behalf, the only person with the credentials to convince Israelis that he is 100% acting in their interests. We have to pray and hope that this time really will be different. People are people. Israelis get rocketed and they go crazy. Palestinians see their land gobbled up and they go crazy. We have to hope for something crazy-good to happen in the direct talks. We have a president who is handcuffed by Congress but who is genuinely perceived as being impartial, a Palestinian leadership in charge of a large portion of Palestinian land that is without the baggage of Hamas. It could actually happen this time around.

If it doesn't, we can become vindictive because that will be justified. Until then I think we need to cool the rhetoric.

Posted by PissedOffAmerican, Aug 01 2010, 3:06AM - [Link](#)

Well, after all, its not without precedent....

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a6/Hitler_jugend.jpg

Posted by non-hater, Aug 01 2010, 3:07AM - [Link](#)

"As for his declaration of support of Israel's legitimate interests, I cannot recall an instance of actual, as opposed to theoretical, support."

If you think Clemons is anti-Israel you are quite simply unable to comprehend reality.
