



JERUSALEM, JUNE 13 - 15, 2010

**ITINERARY**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13**

**HISTORY & FACTS**

**Conference Office:** Room 341-342 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Entrance:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Synagogue:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Open Space:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Main Hall:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

	Rotation A			Rotation B		
	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3
<b>08h30</b>	Sign-in According to Youth Movement <i>(Entrance Lobby)</i>					
<b>09h40</b>	Robbie Franco, Exec. Director, The Zionist Federation of Australia <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>10h00</b>	Conference Opening Session (Michelle Rojas-Tal) <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>10h30</b>	Security Barrier Tour : (Elliot Chodoff)	Security Barrier Tour : (Avi Melamed)	Security Barrier Tour : (Danny Tirza)	Anti Zionism vs. Anti Semitism (Gil Troy) <i>(Main Hall)</i>		
<b>11h30</b>				Bringing it back to basics- History through maps (Ari Varon) <i>(Main Hall)</i>		
<b>12h30</b>	Lunch					
<b>13h30</b>	Anti Zionism vs. Anti Semitism (Gil Troy) <i>(Main Hall)</i>			Security Barrier Tour : (Elliot Chodoff)	Security Barrier Tour : (Avi Melamed)	Security Barrier Tour : (Danny Tirza)
<b>14h30</b>	Bringing it back to basics- History through maps (Ari Varon) <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>15h30</b>	Break / Mincha (15h50)					
<b>16h00</b>	Palestinian Education and Society: Obstacles to Peace (Itamar Marcus, Palestinian Media Watch) <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>17h30</b>	Discussion <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Discussion <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Discussion <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Discussion <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Discussion <i>(Synagogue)</i>	Discussion <i>(Synagogue)</i>
<b>18h00</b>	Setting up in rooms					
<b>19h00</b>	Dinner / Ma'ariv (19h45)					
<b>20h15</b>	Guest Panel: Minister Yuli Edelstein <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>21h30</b>	World Cup Match <i>(Outdoors)</i>			Staff Meeting <i>(Conference Office)</i>		



The State of Israel  
Ministry of  
Information and  
Diaspora



StandWithUs



DEENA AND RON GOLDSCHLAGER  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



J E R U S A L E M , J U N E 1 3 - 1 5 , 2 0 1 0

**ITINERARY**

**MONDAY, JUNE 14**

**GREATEST ACCUSATIONS**

**Conference Office:** Room 341-342 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Entrance:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Synagogue:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Open Space:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Main Hall:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

	Rotation A			Rotation B		
	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3
<b>07h00-08h00</b>	Breakfast / Shaharit (07h00)					
<b>08h30</b>	The Palestinian Refugee Issue (Josh Teitelbaum) <i>(Main Hall)</i>			The Biggest Defamations (David Olesker) <i>(Synagogue)</i>		
<b>09h30</b>	The Biggest Defamations (David Olesker) <i>(Main Hall)</i>			The Palestinian Refugee Issue (Josh Teitelbaum) <i>(Synagogue)</i>		
<b>10h30</b>	Break					
<b>11h00</b>	Does Israel Have a Partner for Peace? (Khaled Abu Toameh) <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>12h30</b>	Lunch					
<b>13h30</b>	<b>Choice 1:</b> Soldiers Speak Out – Challenging defamations against the IDF <i>(Main Hall)</i>		<b>Choice 2:</b> Southern Sudanese Refugees in Israel (Gabriel Kuol) <i>(Synagogue)</i>		<b>Choice 3:</b> Int'l Law – making sense of resolutions, settlements and beyond (Ann Herzberg) <i>(Open Space)</i>	
<b>14h30</b>	A Conversation with Mark Regev (Prime Minister's Spokesperson) and Aluf Ben (Journalist, Ha'aretz) <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>16h00</b>	Hot topics discussion (staff) <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Hot topics discussion (staff) <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Hot topics discussion (staff) <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Hot topics discussion (staff) <i>(Main Hall)</i>	Hot topics discussion (staff) <i>(Synagogue)</i>	Hot topics discussion (staff) <i>(Synagogue)</i>
<b>16h45</b>	Break / Mincha (16h50)					
<b>17h00</b>	Screening: "The Case for Israel, Democracy's Outpost" <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>19h00</b>	Guest Speaker: MK Ze'ev Bielski <i>(Main Hall)</i>					
<b>20h00</b>	Dinner / Ma'ariv (20h30)					
<b>21h00</b>	Comedian Benji Lovitt <i>(Main Hall)</i>			Staff Meeting <i>(Conference Office)</i>		



The State of Israel  
Ministry of  
Information and  
Diaspora



**StandWithUs**



**DEENA AND RON GOLDSCHLAGER**  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



J E R U S A L E M , J U N E 1 3 - 1 5 , 2 0 1 0

**ITINERARY**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15**

**TAKING ACTION**

**Conference Office:** Room 341-342 (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

**Entrance:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Synagogue:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

**Open Space:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Main Hall:** 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

	Rotation A			Rotation B		
	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3
<b>07h00-08h00</b>	Breakfast / Shaharit (07h00)					
<b>08h30</b>	<b>Choice 1:</b> Communication Skills (Neil Lazarus) (Synagogue)		<b>Choice 2:</b> Web 2.0: Online Advocacy (David Aboutbul) (Main Hall)		<b>Choice 3:</b> Stump the Panel Simulation (Michelle Rojas-Tal) (Open Space)	
<b>09h30</b>	<b>Choice 3:</b> Stump the Panel Simulation (Michelle Rojas-Tal) (Open Space)		<b>Choice 1:</b> Communication Skills (Neil Lazarus) (Synagogue)		<b>Choice 2:</b> Web 2.0: Online Advocacy (David Aboutbul) (Main Hall)	
<b>10h30</b>	Break					
<b>11h00</b>	Israel's Innovations and Successes (Saul Singer) (Main Hall)					
<b>12h30</b>	Lunch					
<b>13h30</b>	Israeli Humanitarian Aid (Israel Flying Aid- Gal Lusky) (Main Hall)					
<b>15h00</b>	In a war fought with words and images; how will YOU stand up for Israel (Staff) (Main Hall)			In a war fought with words and images; how will YOU stand up for Israel (Staff) (Synagogue)		
<b>16h00</b>	Break / Mincha (16h15)					
<b>16h30</b>	"Ozls: Israel-Australia Campus Initiative" (SWU BGU Fellows) (Main Hall)					
<b>17h00</b>	Evaluations + Final Thoughts (Main Hall)	Evaluations + Final Thoughts (Main Hall)	Evaluations + Final Thoughts (Main Hall)	Evaluations + Final Thoughts (Main Hall)	Evaluations + Final Thoughts (Synagogue)	Evaluations + Final Thoughts (Synagogue)
<b>18h00</b>	Group Photo, Reflections and Goodbyes (Main Hall)					



The State of Israel  
Ministry of  
Information and  
Diaspora



StandWithUs



DEENA AND RON GOLDSCHLAGER  
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



J E R U S A L E M , J U N E 1 3 - 1 5 , 2 0 1 0

S P E A K E R S B I O ' S

A l u f B e n

Senior Political Editor, Ha'aretz



He was born in Ramat Hasharon in 1965. He was named after his uncle (mother's brother), Colonel Horowitz, who was killed in 1955 in Gaza.

Aluf Ben is the Diplomatic Affairs Correspondent for Ha'aretz. Today he is also the editor of a country's opinion page.

In 1986, Aluf Ben started working for "Ha'ir" (a city), a local newspaper. In 1989, he began working for Ha'aretz. He was a night editor, wrote investigations, and was the head of the new system security correspondent. The newspaper's diplomatic correspondent covered the tenure of six Prime Ministers (Rabin and Ehud Olmert) and political contacts with the Palestinians and Syria.

During his work as a cultural affairs business journalist, he did investigative reporting, and writings about diplomacy, foreign relations, national security, and leadership. He also wrote articles, columns, and commentary for newspapers and international magazines.

Z e e v B i e l s k i

Member of Knesset, Kadima Party



Zeev Bielski was born, raised and educated in Jerusalem. He served in the Israel Defense Forces from 1967 through 1970. His last rank was Major. Zeev graduated with a BA in Economics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. In 1982, he moved with his family to Ra'anana, where he served as mayor from 1989 to 2005.

Public Activities:

Chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization 2005 to 2009

Mayor of the City of Ra'anana 1989-2005

Deputy Chairman of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel 1996-1999

National Chairman of the "Al-Sam" (anti-drug) Organization 1994-1996

Chairman of the Absorption Committee, Union of Local Authorities 1989-1993

Head of JAFI Aliyah Dept. in South Africa 1977-1980

Founders and President of "The Israeli Forum"

E l l i o t P . C h o d o f f

Political and Military Analyst



Elliot Chodoff is a political and military analyst specializing in the Middle East conflict and the global war on terror. His articles have appeared in the *Washington Times*, *National Post of Canada*, *In the National Interest*, and *Front Page Magazine*. Elliot is the founding and managing editor of *MidEast: On Target*, an e-journal and newsletter.

Elliot is a major in the IDF reserves and is the Deputy Chief of Staff for Population for the Northern Region of Israel in Home Front Command. In that capacity, he served on active duty in the North during the Lebanon War of 2006. In 2004 he was a member of the rescue team in the aftermath of the bombing of the Taba Hilton. He was selected for the IDF Home Front Command Outstanding Officer award in April 2006.

Elliot received a BA with honors in Sociology as well as a BS in Biological Sciences from SUNY at Stony Brook and an MA in Sociology from The University of Chicago. He is currently writing a PhD dissertation in International Relations at the University of Haifa. His specialties include military, political, and organizational sociology, international terrorism, military strategy and tactics, and the Arab Israeli conflict. He will be a visiting professor at the University of Memphis for the spring semester, 2008.

## Minister of Public Affairs and the Diaspora



Yuli Edelstein was born in 1958 in Chernovitz, Ukraine (part of the former USSR). He studied foreign languages at the Moscow Institute for Teacher Training.

A former aliya activist and Hebrew teacher in Moscow and a Prisoner of Zion (1984-87), he immigrated to Israel in 1987 where he served as Vice President of the Zionist Forum in Israel (1988-1996). In 1990 he graduated from the Jerusalem Fellows Program, and from 1990-93 was a Department Head at the Melitz Center for Zionist Education. In 1993-94 he served as an advisor to then opposition leader MK Benjamin Netanyahu.

He was a founding member of Yisrael ba-Aliya in 1996, and has been a member of Knesset since May of that year, serving as a member of the House Committee, the Committee on the Status of Women, the Committee for Immigration, Absorption, and Diaspora Affairs, the Education and Culture Committee, the Internal Affairs and Environment Committee, the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, and the State Control Committee.

Yuli Edelstein served as Minister of Immigrant Absorption, from June 1996-July 1999, and as Deputy Minister of Immigrant Absorption from March 2001 until February 2003. In the 16th and 17th Knesset he served as Deputy Speaker. In March 2009 Yuli Edelstein was appointed Minister of Public Affairs and the Diaspora.

## Anne Herzberg

## Legal Advisor, NGO Monitor



Anne is a graduate of Oberlin College and Columbia University Law School where she was named a James Kent Scholar and a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar. Prior to joining NGO Monitor, she worked as a litigation associate in New York for the law firms Winston & Strawn and Shearman & Sterling. As part of her pro bono work as an associate, Anne assisted asylum seekers and performed work for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. She has published on the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia.

## Gabriel Kuol

## Southern Sudanese Refugee



Gabriel Kuol was born January 2, 1983, in the village Mar to a tribe of more than 600. His uncle, John Garang, aggravated by Islamic and military rule over Sudan, formed the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in May 1983 and Gabriel's father, Maketh Kuol, immediately joined. When his father left to fight, Kuol continued living with his mother and two sisters in Mar. But the Muslim Northern Army had been watching the village, searching for his family and waiting for the right time to strike. The Northern Army knew about Kuol's relationship with the rebels and they were hunting for Gabriel's father and uncle. When the villagers refused to respond, Kuol says the soldiers became violent. "They wanted to make us afraid," Kuol says. "They took another man also and killed him. He was killed right next to me. I looked straight at the man who killed my cousin." The Kuol family was herded together and brought under custody to the town of Mading. There, Kuol's mother was forced in front of a judge and tossed into prison. A devout Christian, Kuol says he spent each day praying for news about his imprisoned mother.

"One day [the Northern Army] allowed my mom to come see me and my two sisters," Kuol said. Allowed to stay overnight with the family, his mother's visit gave Kuol a new hope for the future. "She prayed with us all night," Kuol remembers. And with these prayers a miracle occurred. The SPLA launched a surprise attack on Mading at 4:30 a.m., just two hours before Kuol's mother was to return to prison. The SPLA battered Mading, launching grenades at the military compound where the family was captive. The barrage destroyed the Kuols' housing facility, leaving them buried beneath heaps of rubble and stone. "All four of us were under bunk beds where we were praying," Kuol says. "I could not see because of the smoke. We were all underneath the rubble. But my mother heard the sound of boots marching and she screamed, 'I'm here!'" Under strict orders to protect the family at all costs, the SPLA dug through the remains until they located all four family members.

## Neil Lazarus

## Awesome Seminars



Neil Lazarus is an internationally acclaimed expert in the field of Middle East, Israel advocacy and effective communication training. Born in Britain he received his first degree in Political Science at the University of Wales. Neil immigrated to Israel in 1988 and soon after received his Masters Degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Neil Lazarus has helped train a new generation of Israeli diplomats as well as Israel's army and air force spokespeople. His client list is extensive and includes; The Prime Minister's Office, The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Israeli Defense Forces, The Israeli Air Force, The Israeli Ministry of Tourism, Jewish Federations, Keshet Television, The World Bank, Harvard University Extension Courses in Israel, Yad Vashem, Hillel, Hadassah, Birthright and The Jewish Agency of Israel, UNESCO, The Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzalia, and many more. He acted as the Israel advocacy policy advisor for Israel's leading reality television program, "The Ambassador." Speaking to over 25 000 people a year Neil has a crucial component for any seminar concerning Israel.

## CEO and founder of "Israel Flying Aid"



Israeli Flying Aid (IFA) is a non-profit, volunteer-based, non-governmental organizations (NGO) that aims to provide humanitarian life saving aid and relief to communities in areas stricken by natural disaster or territorial conflicts. Israel Flying Aid operated out of the Israel Defense Forces IDF field hospital in Haiti, but after the IDF left back for Israel, IFA then selected an orphanage in Haiti to support and rebuild. The orphanage, which has 53 children aged 2-14 years of age, had 20 children taken illegally by human traffickers to be sold to pedophiles.

"We have been watching you and your team work 24 by 7 since you arrived at the orphanage. Your quick, professional and modest action in caring for these very small and sick children has saved many lives," Haiti Minister for Culture and Communications Marie Laurence Jocelyn-Lassegue told Gal Lusk y, CEO and founder of IFA. In less than three days Israel Flying Aid rebuilt the orphanage and took the children, who were all suffering from severe malnutrition, from sleeping on the cold ground with rocks and garbage to soft, clean mattresses and colorful balloons inside a newly built house.

## Itamar Marcus

## Founder and Director of Palestinian Media Watch



Itamar Marcus' Palestinian Media Watch has become one of the leading independent organizations monitoring and reporting on media of the Palestinian Authority. Marcus has spoken internationally, including a recent talk to the European Union, detailing the incitement of hatred and violence towards Jews and Christians in Palestinian media and textbooks.

In 1996, Marcus founded [Palestinian Media Watch](#) (PMW), which seeks "to gain an understanding of Palestinian society through the monitoring of the Palestinian Arabic language media and schoolbooks. Palestinian Media Watch analyzes Palestinian Authority culture and society from numerous perspectives, including studies on summer camps, poetry, schoolbooks, religious ideology, crossword puzzles, and more."

From 1998 to 2000, Marcus was the director of research for the Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace (CMIP), where he wrote studies on Palestinian, Jordanian and Syrian textbooks.

Itamar Marcus was a member of the Israeli delegation to the Tri-lateral [American, Israeli and Palestinian] Committee to Monitor Incitement, established under the Wye Accords.

## Jon Medved

## Chief Executive Officer and Director of Israel Seed Partners (ISP)



Jon Medved co-founded Israel Seed Partners and acted as a co-manager of the fund from January 1995 to January 2006. He has served as the Chief Executive Officer and a director since January 2006. During Mr. Medved's tenure, ISP had \$262 million under management in four funds and has been an investor in 60 leading Israeli companies. In addition, Mr. Medved co-managed the fund's successful dispositions of various investments, including the investments in Shopping.com (subsequently acquired by eBay Inc.), Compugen Ltd. (NasdaqCM:CGEN), Answers Corporation (NasdaqCM:ANSW), Cyota Inc. (acquired by RSA Security Inc.), Native Networks (acquired by Alcatel (NYSE:ALA))...etc.

Mr. Medved was a member of the founding management team of Accent Software International Ltd., which developed multilingual internet publishing, browsing and email software, and served as its executive vice president of marketing and sales from April 1992 to October 1994. From June 1982 to June 1991, Mr. Medved was a founder of and served as Executive Vice President of Marketing and Sales of MERET Optical Communications, Inc., which was an early pioneer in fiber optic communication systems for video transmission and was acquired by Amoco Corporation (NYSE:BP) in 1990.

## Avi Melamed

## Analyst, Consultant, and Lecturer: Middle East Affairs, Security and Contemporary Israeli Society.



Avi Melamed, former senior Israeli official on Arab affairs based in Israel, lectures in Israel and around the world and offers an extraordinary and unparalleled educational experience for individuals and groups, from the air, in the field, or in the conference room.

Avi Melamed was born in 1960 to an old Jerusalemite Sefardi family. Avi is a sought-after lecturer in Israel and abroad, specializing in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, democracy, education, the West and Islam. For thirteen years Avi, worked for the Government of Israel in civilian affairs and counter-terrorism. By the mid 1990's Avi was a Senior Advisor on Arab Affairs for the Mayor of Jerusalem. Based on this experience, Avi co-authored "Separate and Unequal-The Inside Story of Israeli Rule in East Jerusalem" (Harvard University Press, 1999). Avi has delivered lectures to the UJC, the World Bank, The Israeli Foreign Office, The Peres Institute for Peace, AJC, and The Jerusalem Foundation. He is also the Founder of The Teachers for a New Leadership movement (TNL) and a member of the Board of The Israeli Forum and a member of the Young Israeli Leadership Forum (YLF). Currently, Avi works as an Educator and Lecturer in the Maayan-Shachar educational campus.

## Director of the Jerusalem Center for Communications and Advocacy Training (JCCAT)



David Olesker, director of the Jerusalem Center for communications and Advocacy Training, brings an entertaining mixture of humor and activism training. Based in Jerusalem, Olesker travels to North America often to share his expertise in communicating Israel's message in an effective manner. His presentation is perfect for Israel activists looking to sharpen their communication skills.

Professional training in Israel advocacy and communication skills. He has clients from around the world including AIPAC, ADL, and student and community activists on five continents.

## Mark Regev

## PM Spokesperson



Mark Regev currently serves as Spokesman at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C. Since 1991, Mr. Regev served in various positions at the Foreign Ministry, including Deputy Chief of Mission at the Consulate General in Honk Kong, Spokesman at the Embassy in Beijing and at the Jordan Division at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Jerusalem.

Prior to joining the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Regev taught International Relations and Strategy at the Israel Defense Forces' Staff College.

Mr. Regev received his Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science at Melbourne University, Australia. Mr. Regev holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as well as a Master of Science in Management from Boston University.

## Michelle Rojas - Tal

## Diaspora Education Director, StandWithUs International



Michelle Rojas-Tal grew up in a very different environment than many in the Jewish world. She is the daughter of a Jewish mother and a Hispanic father. Michelle had very little connection to the Jewish world. During her junior year of high school, she witnessed September 11th. The tragic events led to a domino effect of where life was to take her. Suddenly, everything that was taking place in Israel mattered. During the next few years, she would begin devoting her life to Israel and the Jewish people because the time had come to not only defend the causes of others, but also to stand up for herself.

Michelle began her work at StandWithUs in the spring of 2005 in Israel, while here as a Jerry Seinfeld Family Scholar and taking part in an Ambassadors' training course at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That summer, she returned to NY to serve for 2 years as the StandWithUs Community Outreach Coordinator for the East Coast

working with numerous organizations to plan rallies, speaker events and activism training sessions.

Michelle made Aliyah in July of 2007, joining the StandWithUs International team as Diaspora Education Director. In her position, Michelle coordinates all programs for International students in Israel including our flagship program, "The Ambassadors' Club". Michelle also handles outreach to activists abroad in South America, Australia and South Africa. Michelle has traveled to Switzerland, South Africa, Turkey, and Australia in her position being featured as a keynote speaker in numerous conferences and forums.

## Josh Teitelbaum, PhD

## Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies



A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Dr. Joshua Teitelbaum took his B.A. in Near Eastern Studies at UCLA and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Middle Eastern History at Tel Aviv University. He is the author of two acclaimed books: Holier Than Thou: Saudi Arabia's Islamic Opposition (Washington Institute for Near East Policy), and The Rise and Fall of the Hashemite Kingdom of Arabia (New York University Press), a study of the early modern history of Saudi Arabia. His edited volume - for which he has written the introduction - Political Liberalization in the Persian Gulf is forthcoming from Columbia University Press. He has published numerous scholarly articles on the modern Middle East and his work has also appeared in The New Republic and The Jerusalem Report. Dr. Teitelbaum is a Senior Research Fellow at Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, where he studies the politics and history of Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf countries, as well as Palestinian issues. He is CDDRL Rosenbloom Visiting Associate Professor for the Spring quarter of 2008. Teitelbaum was a legislative aide to Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, Jr., of California's 12th District.

IDF's Chief Architect for the Security Barrier



Col. (Res.) Danny Tirza is in charge of planning the security fence between the West Bank and Israel, Israel's largest infrastructure project. Since 1994, Col. Tirza has headed a special staff in the IDF Central Command in charge of regional strategic planning. He has taken part in formulating Israel's security positions in negotiations with the Palestinians and has participated in various stages of the negotiations. Col. Tirza specializes in the geography of Judea and Samaria, the Jordan Valley, and Jerusalem.

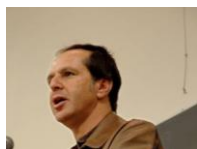
Tirza joined the army in 1977. As a young lieutenant in the early 1980s, Tirza served in the Nahal, a select unit the Israeli Defense Ministry used to establish what would become civilian settlements in the territories Israel occupied during the 1967 Middle East war. The defense minister at the time was Ariel Sharon, with whom Tirza would work closely on the barrier two decades later.

Tirza, a Jewish settler who believes Israel has a historic right to the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, drew the barrier along a route that effectively annexes 10 percent of the West Bank. In the absence of a peace agreement, the course cements the territorial claims of tens of thousands of Jewish settlers, including Tirza's.

Recently retired after three decades in Israel's army, Tirza has had to defend his design in court, been accused by dovish Israelis of having a conflict of interest because he lives in a West Bank settlement, and antagonized neighbors who oppose the project because it divides what they see as Jewish territory.

K h a l e d A b u T o a m e h

Journalist and Television news producer



Khaled Abu Toameh, is an award-winning journalist and television news producer. He has reported from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for more than twenty years for both Palestinian and Israeli print publications, and acts as producer for television news programs in the US and Europe.

Having built a reputation for unique and brave reporting on Palestinian affairs, he now produces for NBC and other major TV networks. He is also the Senior Palestinian Affairs writer for the Jerusalem Post.

G i l T r o y

Professor of History, McGill University



Gil Troy is Professor of History at McGill University in Montreal and a Visiting Scholar affiliated with the Bipartisan Policy Center in Washington.

His latest book [Leading from the Center: Why Moderates Make the Best Presidents](#) will be published this June by Basic Books. This spring the University Press of Kansas released the paperback edition of his book [Hillary Rodham Clinton: Polarizing First Lady](#), having been published in hard cover in 2006. Troy is the author of [Morning in America: How Ronald Reagan Invented the 1980s](#), published in 2005 by Princeton University Press and released in paperback in 2007. It has been called a "masterly study of Ronald Reagan's presidency - the best single book we have on his administration to date." His two other works in American history were [Mr. and Mrs. President: From the Trumans to the Clintons](#) (2000) - first published by The Free Press as *Affairs of State: The Rise and Rejection of the Presidential Couple Since World War II* and *See How They Ran: The Changing Role of the Presidential Candidate*, originally published by the Free Press in 1991, then released in an updated paperback edition by Harvard University Press in 1997.

Troy is also the author of [Why I Am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today](#). The book has been hailed as a "must read," and the most persuasive presentation of the Zionist case "in decades." It has been released in a third expanded and updated edition, having sold over 15,000 copies.

A r i V a r o n

Assistant Foreign Policy Advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert



Ari Varon is currently a Ph.D. student in Political Science at Tel Aviv University in Israel and Sciences Po, in Paris France. His dissertation focuses on "The Islamic Discourses on European Polity."

Ari served as the Deputy Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Israel from April 2005 through May 2009. His responsibilities included assisting to prepare the Prime Minister for all matters relating to Israeli foreign policy.

Before working at the Prime Minister's office, Ari received his Masters degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins SAIS in Washington DC with a dual concentration in strategic studies and international law and a specialization in quantitative international economics. In conjunction with his studies at SAIS he worked part time at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy.

He obtained his Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Berkeley. Before his university studies Ari spent four and a half years in the Israeli Defense Force.