

Israel at War: 'You Don't Make Peace With People Who Are Trying to Kill You'



by Roger L. Simon

The New York Post is reporting that the number of Americans killed in Hamas's rampage in Israel is currently at 14.

It also tells us, via White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, that the number of missing, perhaps kidnapped, could be 20 or more. This isn't likely the full story. Also from the New York Post:

"Meanwhile, the nonprofit Project DYNAMO said its U.S. veterans are shipping out to Israel in a desperate attempt to free trapped Americans after [previously helping in Afghanistan.](#)

"Bryan Stern, CEO and founder of the group, said his team has

already received hundreds of requests from Americans, their families and other allies who need assistance under the organization's Operation: PROMISED LAND as Hamas continues to kidnap individuals.

“Probably the actual number is five, six, seven, or eight [times] that that need help,” he told [WUSF](#).

“The group—comprising a team of special operations and intelligence community veterans, as well as civilian volunteers—has already mobilized assets in the region and initiated emergency launch preparations of its American Operations team for potential evacuation and hostage rescue operations.”

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal has been reporting for a few days the heavy involvement of Iran in Hamas's actions:

“Iranian security officials helped plan [Hamas's \[Oct. 7\] surprise attack on Israel](#) and gave the green light for the assault at a meeting in Beirut. ...,” according to senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah, another Iran-backed militant group.

“Officers of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps had worked with Hamas since August to devise the [air, land and sea incursions](#)—the most significant [breach of Israel's borders](#) since the 1973 Yom Kippur War—those people said.”

It goes on with more details worth reading, but, disturbingly, further down in the article, we find Secretary of State Antony Blinken weirdly equivocating, “We have not yet seen evidence that Iran directed or was behind this particular attack, but there is certainly a long relationship.”

Why?

At the minimum, Mr. Blinken may fear acknowledgement of Iran's role that, with the mounting American death toll, might appear a casus belli for the United States to attack Iran.

More likely, he's concerned that it would redound poorly on the Biden administration and on Mr. Blinken himself for their

Iran policy that recently resulted in the released \$6 billion in sanctions to the world's greatest sponsor of terrorism.

Mr. Blinken has been going everywhere insisting that the \$6 billion hasn't yet reached Iran, but that's at best deceptive and at worst a lie.

The money was transferred to Iran through Qatar, which has functioned for some time as the mullah's financial conduit. Its status is therefore unknown, and money, as we all know and Mr. Blinken fails to admit, is fungible.

Conservative Treehouse has much interesting information on how the Qatar "bank" actually works, and how it has enabled both Iran and Hamas over the years.

This was reiterated to me in a phone conversation that I just had with an old friend of mine in Israel, Yigal Carmon, who says that Qatar has long provided intelligence to Hamas.

A counterterrorism adviser to Israeli prime ministers, Mr. Carmon was lauded by Benjamin Weinthal in an Oct. 8 [Jerusalem Post](#) article as the one Israeli counterterrorism expert who predicted the Hamas invasion.

He's the one of the founders of the [Middle East Media Research Institute](#) who translates media from the Arab and Iranian press—also some Russian and Chinese—into English. They have been accused of doing this selectively or inaccurately by Wikipedia in much the same way that the left-leaning "encyclopedia" slurs The Epoch Times.

Talking with Mr. Carmon, it was clear that he found the intelligence failure the latest version of a form of naïve wish-fulfillment dating back at least to the 1995 Oslo Accords that created a belief in Israel and the rest of the world that the likes of Yasser Arafat actually wanted a peaceful two-state solution to the conflict.

He sees little difference in the end between Hamas and Arafat's—now Mahmoud Abbas's—Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

As the counterterrorism expert put it succinctly: “You don’t make peace with people who are trying to kill you. You fight them.” He abjures, actually finds ridiculous, the famous quotation “You only make peace with your enemies.”

The facts on the ground have clearly borne him out.

Mr. Carmon also told me that he’s working on an article titled “The Einsatzgruppen Operation,” likening the Hamas attacks to the behavior of the [Einsatzgruppen](#), the Nazi mobile killing units, part of the Schutzstaffel (SS), that advanced into Eastern Europe ahead of the regular German troops to slaughter Jews and others.

He said that to call these people animals was an insult to animals because animals kill to live. These people kill and rape for the pleasure of it.

For that reason, Mr. Carmon sees no room for any kind of traditional negotiated settlement of the conflict. It will end only when one side or the other gets tired.

Nevertheless, he was grimly optimistic. “As someone who was in five wars,” he said, “I can assure you we will not get tired. They will get tired before we will, and then there will be a settlement.”

More to come.

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