

ISRAEL REPORT

To provide greater exposure to primary Israeli news sources and opinions in order to become better informed on the issues, and to gain a better understanding of the wide range of perspectives that exist in Israeli society and politics.
Issue 1115 • July 20, 2018 • 8 Av 5778

CONTROVERSIAL JEWISH NATION-STATE BILL PASSES INTO LAW (JPost 7/19/18)

The controversial Jewish nation-state bill became Israel's 14th Basic Law early Thursday morning after it passed into law in the Knesset plenum by a vote of 62 in favor, 55 against, and two abstentions.

The law passed after a stormy debate full of theatrics that stretched more than eight hours.

Applauding the vote, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the law as "a defining moment in the history of Zionism and the history of the State of Israel.

"122 years after Herzl published his vision, we have stated by law the basic principle of our existence," Netanyahu said from the Knesset podium.

The head of the special committee that legislated the bill, MK Amir Ohana (Likud), told the plenum it could be the most important legislation in the history of the state. He said the bill had been discussed more than any of the basic laws that have been passed before.

The law's sponsor, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Avi Dichter, turned to Arab MKs in the final address before voting and told them: "We were here before you, and we will be here after you." But he said their rights as minorities would not be harmed by the law.

Joint List MKs condemned the legislation. Party leader Ayman Odeh waved a black flag on the Knesset podium and his faction colleague, MK Jamal Zahalka, ripped up the bill.

"We are now seeing with shock the death of our democracy, which has been dying in recent years, and suffering from the racism that has hit a new peak with this bill," Joint List MK Ahmed Tibi said earlier in a meeting of Ohana's committee that legislated the bill and approved it by an 8 to 7 vote Wednesday morning along coalition and opposition lines.

The Jewish nation-state bill is a Basic Law with constitutional heft that declares Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people. It anchors in law the state's menorah emblem, Jerusalem as Israel's capital, national holidays and the right of all Israeli residents to preserve their heritage without consideration of religion and nationality.

The two most controversial clauses in the bill were changed.

The Diaspora clause says, "The state will act in the Diaspora to maintain the connection between the state and the Jewish people." The original version said that the connection would be maintained among "the Jewish people, wherever they are."

A clause that could have permitted one religious group to bar another from living in their community was replaced with one saying that "The state sees developing Jewish settlement as a national interest and will take steps to encourage, advance, and implement this interest."

BALLOON CARRYING FIREBOMB FROM GAZA HITS ISRAELI KINDERGARTEN (Israel Hayom 7/18/18)

A balloon carrying a firebomb launched from the Gaza Strip landed in the yard of a kindergarten in the southern Israeli town of Tkuma on Tuesday, while young children were playing there.

The bomb caused a small fire in the sandy yard, which was quickly contained.

"We had just let the kids outside so they could go play," kindergarten teacher Bat Sheva Bruchin said.

"Just as we were heading toward the grass, I looked up and saw smoke from above. I immediately realized it was a firebomb balloon. My biggest fear was

that the balloon was carrying explosives or gas.

"I had no time to think and I began moving the kids to a protected area, just as we had practiced time and time again. I then called the rescue services and they quickly arrived."

Earlier in the day, two incendiary balloons were found in a school in the area, but caused no injuries to the staff in the building.

An Israeli aircraft targeted a Palestinian cell in Gaza that had launched additional incendiary balloons across the border.

NEW REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON DARING MOSSAD RAID ON IRANIAN NUCLEAR SITE (Israel Hayom 7/16/18)

Six hours and 29 minutes: That's how long it took Mossad spies to disable the alarms, break through two heavy doors, cut open 32 safes and smuggle nearly a half-ton of classified documents out of a top-secret facility in Iran earlier this year, the New York Times reported.

The new information reported Sunday shed more light on the daring Mossad operation but offered few other details beyond what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu unveiled in April in what he said was a trove of secret Iranian nuclear documents dating back to 2003 seized by Israeli intelligence.

The Israeli leader argued that the 55,000 pages of documents and 183 CDs of the Iranian program, dubbed "Project Amad," provided more reason for U.S. President Donald Trump to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal with world powers.

After a year of closely surveilling the site, according to The New York Times, Mossad agents arrived at the nondescript facility in a commercial district in the Iranian capital, Tehran, at around 11 p.m. on January 31, knowing that the guards would only arrive at 7 a.m.

The agents had orders to leave the building by 5 a.m. to give them enough

Israel Report is a Student Publication of

Torah Academy of Bergen County

Alex Ostrin, Yoav Zolty, Editors-in-Chief

Akiva Sturm, Eli Jarashov, Ezra Sepowitz and Bentzion Rotblat, Editors

We are proud to be distributed by these institutions, though they do not necessarily support or condone any of the material published:

Anshei Chesed Cong., Boynton Beach, FL	Hillel at Brandeis University
Bergen County High School of Jewish Studies	Hillel at California State University - Long Beach
Boca Raton Synagogue, FL	Hillel at Columbia University
Carmel School, Hong Kong	Hillel at Johns Hopkins University
Cong. Agudath Achim, Bradley Beach, NJ	Hillel at Yale University
Cong. Ahavas Achim, Highland Park, NJ	Hillel High School, Deal NJ
Cong. Ahavath Achim, Fairfield, CT	Jewish Center of Teaneck, NJ
Cong. Anshe Shalom, Jamaica Estates, NY	Kehillas Bais Yehudah Tzvi, Cedarhurst, NY
Cong. Anshe Shalom, New Rochelle, NY	Kemp Mill Synagogue, Silver Spring, MD
Cong. Beth Aaron, Teaneck, NJ	Mizrachi Shul, Johannesburg, SA
Cong. Beth Shalom, Monroe Twp, NJ	North Shore Hebrew Academy HS, NY
Cong. Bnai Yeshurun, Teaneck, NJ	Suburban Torah Center, Livingston, NJ
Cong. Etz Ahaim, Highland Park, NJ	The Learning Shul, Columbia, SC
Cong. Ohr Torah, Edison, NJ	Woodsburgh, NY Minyan
Cong. Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, NJ	Young Israel Bet Tefilah of Aberdeen, NJ
Cong. Shomrei Torah, Fair Lawn, NJ	Young Israel of Brookline, MA
Cong. Sons of Israel, Allentown, PA	Young Israel of East Brunswick, NJ
Cong. Zichron Mordechai, Teaneck, NJ	Young Israel of Fort Lee, NJ
Cong. Zichron R. M. Feinstein, Brooklyn, NY	Young Israel of Hancock Park, CA
Delray Orthodox Synagogue, Delray Beach, FL	Young Israel of Holliswood, NY
East Denver Orthodox Synagogue, CO	Young Israel of Houston, TX
Flatbush Park Jewish Center, Mill Basin, NY	Young Israel of New Hyde Park, NY
Harvard University Library	Young Israel of North Woodmere, NY
Hebrew Academy of Long Beach, NY	Young Israel of New Rochelle, NY
Hillel at Baruch College	Young Israel of Sharon, MA

YI Shomrai Emunah, Silver Spring, MD

We encourage our readers to subscribe to our sources on the internet. For more information or to subscribe by e-mail, reach us at IsraelReport@tabc.org



time to escape the country.

The agents were equipped with torches that burned at least 3,600 degrees Celsius, hot enough, as they knew from intelligence collected during the planning of the operation, to cut through the 32 Iranian-made safes. The agents, the report continued, also left many untouched, focusing on the ones containing the black binders containing the most critical nuclear designs. Iran maintains the entire document trove is fraudulent.

At the invitation of the Israeli government, three reporters, including one from The New York Times, were reportedly shown key documents from the intelligence trove last week, the paper said.

Many of the documents, The New York Times reported, confirmed what inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency have always suspected: Iran had worked in the past to systematically assemble everything it needed to produce atomic weapons, despite insistence that its program was for peaceful purposes.

RADICAL HAREDIM PROTEST IMMODESTY IN BEIT SHEMESH (YNet 7/18/18)

Some 150 ultra-Orthodox residents of Beit Shemesh protested early Wednesday near the homes of two families they are accusing of leading local youth astray.

"This is a religious neighborhood and there are two 'irreligious' households corrupting the youth, and they hit on the women. This degeneracy must not happen in our neighborhood," said one of the protesters.

They stood across from the homes they were targeting on Nehar HaYarden Street praying, shouting and holding signs calling on the families to leave the neighborhood. From time to time the police tried to disperse them but the protesters only went to their synagogue before returning with increased ranks.

A few dozen began marching in the street in the direction of the police forces, holding signs opposing the media and the mayor.

At that point, the police were ordered to disperse the gathering. The commander announced that they had one minute to leave or be arrested.

However, when the police tried to arrest them, the protesters scattered into the alleyways, nearby buildings and their synagogue, which is surrounded by a large iron fence to keep out outsiders.

The families being targeted by the protest are newly religious and belong to the Chabad community. Many long-time residents feel that they create an inappropriate atmosphere in the neighborhood. They also claim that over the last year, there has been an increase of home invasions.

"They have large dogs that wander the neighborhood and scare our children. They are purposely corrupting this neighborhood," one protester exclaimed.

Tensions increased lately after the circulation of a video showing religious zealots chasing after young women in Ramat Beit Shemesh sparked angry discussions online where some commenters complained of an increase in religious extremism, while others strongly disagreed.

As protesters began arriving around midnight, gathering across from the two homes, police, some undercover, poured into the area. Across the street, friends and supporters of the families being targeted gathered on the sidewalk.

Members of the families stood on their steps as if ready for a confrontation. "The religious people coming here to protest are extremists. But there are only about 40 of them, a tiny percentage of the population that decide to take the law into their own hands," said one. "They want us to leave, and we say no! We have a right to live here."

But another expressed concern for the safety of his children: "I am not worried about myself but for them, these (protesters) are deranged and I am here to protect my home."

Three days after the highly publicized incident in which three young women were filmed being chased by a mob of Haredim in Ramat Beit Shemesh B, they three told Ynet what life is like among the zealots.

Hadassa, Nava and A. were raised in religious families, but have become targets of ultra-Orthodox extremists who want them out of their neighborhood.

"Not all Haredim are like that, they are just a small minority who instill terror upon the neighborhood," one said.

They feel that it has become dangerous for women to walk the streets and that the police are not doing enough. As far as the extremists are concerned, even not wearing socks is considered immodest behavior. "The neighborhood has become more extreme over time," another girl lamented.

They said that as soon as a woman is seen dressed not in accordance with their stringent standards, a commotion begins and they are chased or possibly even targeted with pepper spray.

They said that they try to avoid groups of Haredi extremists and denied the charge that they deliberately cause provocations.

Although they are traumatized by what happened, they insist that not all Haredim are like that.

"I am from a religious family, as are the other girls, and our families are loving and accepting," said A. "Unlike them, a group with no decency ... They are but a small group from Beit Shemesh B."

About a month ago, modesty squads began harassing people, especially members of the Breslov community, some of whose children have abandoned Orthodoxy and are seen as unwanted elements by the extremists. The modesty squads demand that their families leave the neighborhood.

One Nehar HaYarden resident said that the police and activists from the Beit Shemesh municipality's City Without Violence program are called to the scene almost every night. However, they did not do anything to put an end to the matter, according to the resident.

"My stairway is a mobile emergency room. Casualties go in and out in ambulances. We ask the police to come and show their presence beforehand, but they only come after being called (when a violent incident happens-ed)," she elucidated.

Liberal activists and local residents are demanding that the municipality install cameras that can help mitigate the problem. They blame the city and police for not doing enough.

"These disturbances take place on a weekly basis," said Miri Shalem, director of the Institute for Zionist Strategies and a resident of the city. "Every time there is an incident, there is a media uproar, but everyone quickly returns to their routine. Until someone is seriously hurt, they won't wake up."

The police for their part claim that while they have zero tolerance for criminal activity, the victims often do not file a complaint.

"We emphasize that whenever a police report is filed or a complaint is received, or alternatively, there is a suspicion that an act of a person may lead to a breach of public order or harm to another, the Israel Police acts in accordance with the authority granted to it by law for the prevention of offenses ... to maintain public order and ensure public safety and security."

THE BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS THAT WILL SAVE SOLDIERS' LIVES (Arutz Sheva 7/18/18)

In the past week, the Medical Corps has been leading an unprecedented move to replace the blood units in the IDF's operational medical units, and thus Israel will join a small group of countries that use whole blood transfusions.

The new dishes make it possible to save the lives of more soldiers in a combat situation and reduce the resources needed for the blood supply.

So what is the difference between the existing blood units and the new whole blood doses?

Today, blood units are divided into three different groups: platelets, white blood cells, and red blood cells. Thus, when a person needs a blood transfusion, they perform it using three different bags, which must be carried out by the Magen David Adom and the military medical units under special

conditions.

However, in recent studies, it has been shown that whole blood doses of Type O blood, with low antibody rates, ie, blood packs containing all three types of cells in one bag, are more effective in treating the wounded on the battlefield. In addition, the need to transport only one blood bag for each dose allows the operational medical units to carry more blood with less resources and thus save the lives of more fighters.

In the annual ceremony marking the IDF units that were distinguished by blood donations last week, MDA delivered the first whole blood units to the Air Force's rescue and evacuation unit (669). The ceremony was held in the presence of the Chief Medical Officer, Brig. Gen. Dr. Tarif Bader, Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Head of the Operational Medicine Department, Colonel Dr. Haggai Frenkel, Head of the Operational Medicine Branch, Lt. Col. Dr. Yaakov Chen who led the project The Medical Corps and other senior members of the Medical Corps.

"When we analyze the medical activity that takes place every week in the IDF, we see that the medical team that meets the wounded in all sorts of descriptions is 669. We know that implementing the procedure in this unit can save more lives," said Lieutenant Colonel S. head of medicine in the Air Force.

"The Medical Corps and MDA cooperate over the years in routine and emergency situations. As part of this cooperation, there is a great deal of work in the area of medical treatment in the field. "The Medical Corps is working at all times to advance the issue of medical treatment for the wounded in general and during the evacuation of the wounded and wounded in particular," said Brig. Gen. Dr. Tarif Bader, Chief Medical Officer. Adding the ability to provide whole blood to the injured during treatment and evacuation is another milestone in the success of human life. "

"The full blood ration was first given to an IDF unit that would approach it close to the point of injury on the battlefield. This is a breakthrough in the field of medicine in the IDF," said Dr. Yaakov Chen, head of the IDF's Operational Medicine Branch, "since it provides all the blood components needed to save the lives of the wounded in the field. The State of Israel is the second in the world to begin using the "whole blood ration" and the IDF has the right to be the body that leads the process and to maintain international cooperation with experts from the United States and Norway together with the Blood Bank and MDA."

In order to ensure medical assistance even in an extreme case in which the first force only has access with the blood units it has brought to the battlefield, the Medical Corps is initiating another step in locating potential blood donors in the operational medical units. Both the replacement of blood units and this procedure are currently being carried out as part of a pilot program, and after sufficient experience has been accumulated, it will be decided whether to expand the reform from Unit 669 to all medical units.

"The IDF has given us a life-saving mission of saving casualties," explained Lieutenant Haggai Frenkel, deputy chief of medical operations and medical operations. "This is an ambitious goal which, in order to realize, we are working tirelessly and leading significant steps to strengthen operational medicine. Bringing whole blood forward to the medical personnel in the field is an innovative and groundbreaking move. The IDF Medical Corps began a pilot program in the air force's rescue and evacuation unit in cooperation with the Blood Bank of the Israeli Air Force and the MDA. We will continue to work to strengthen our operational edge. "

The process of locating the potential donors themselves is also an innovative move. Since the blood donor is not filtered and separated, it is passed on to the patient when they contain the antibodies in the donor's blood. Therefore, a potential donor is only a person whose blood type is O and the antibody rate in his blood is low so that the patient's body does not reject the donated blood, which could endanger the patient's life.

The medical corps, together with the team of the blood classification laboratory at MDA Blood Services, formulated an automatic and

computerized method for testing the level of the antibodies of the donor, which will enable the identification of the appropriate donors in the operational medical units even before they donate blood.

LUFTHANSA LAUNCHES FOUR WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO EILAT (Ha'aretz 7/19/18)

The German airlines Lufthansa announced plans on Wednesday to launch four weekly flights to Eilat.

Lufthansa said it would fly from Frankfurt and Munich to the Ovda airport, north of the Red Sea resort town, twice a week, starting Oct. 28.

Lufthansa will offer two weekly flights from Frankfurt to Ovda and two from Munich using Airbus A320 aircraft with seating capacity for 168 passengers. The round-trip fare from Frankfurt to Ovda will start at 344 euros (\$400). The fare from Munich round-trip will begin at 331 euros.

The Lufthansa group's Israel director, Ofer Kish, said passengers will be offered the flexibility of, for example, flying from Germany to Eilat but returning to Germany from Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion International Airport.

More than 175,000 foreign tourists flew into Ovda, a converted military airfield 60 kilometers (40 miles) from Eilat, in the first five months of 2018. That is double the number for all of 2017. Helping spur growth is a government grant of 60 euros (\$70) per passenger for airlines starting routes to Eilat.

The city will later be served by the new Ramon International Airport which is expected to open in early 2019. Since 2015, a number of airlines, mainly low-cost, have been operating direct flights to Ovda, led by Ireland-based Ryanair and WizzAir, the Hungarian carrier.

"The number of [international] flights to the city has increased from four weekly flights to more than 60 weekly flights," said Tourism Minister Yariv Levin.

The Tourism Ministry has a budget of 30 million shekels (\$8.25 million) a year to subsidize flights to Ovda.

"We are willing to pay more," Levin said, adding the ministry is also in talks with British Airways. The airline declined to comment.

International tourist arrivals in Israel hit a record 3.6 million last year, pumping \$5.5 billion into the economy.

ISRAEL WINS 6 MEDALS AT GLOBAL MATH OLYMPICS FOR TEENS

(Israel Hayom 7/16/18)

Israeli high-school students won six medals in this year's International Mathematical Olympiad.

The competition was held between July 3 to July 14 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The competition had 615 contestants representing 116 countries.

Israeli participants claimed two silver and four bronze medals, and as a result, Israel is now ranked 26th in the competition's overall ranking. Contestants from United States, China and Russia came out on top.

Israel has participated in the competition since 1979, and has so far claimed 13 gold, 52 silver and 96 bronze medals. Its contestants have also received 24 honorable mentions.

Educational Minister Naftali Bennett praised the Israeli squad: "Israel can be proud! Math and science are the foundation for the continued existence of Israel as a startup nation; this is why in recent years I have put a particular emphasis on those subjects," he said.

PALESTINIANS DONATE TO ESTABLISH SYNAGOGUE IN MEMORY OF TERROR VICTIM (YNet 7/17/18)

Several Palestinians decided to donate money to the establishment of a synagogue in memory of the late Reuven Schmerling, who was stabbed to death in October 2017 by two terrorists.

Schmerling, was murdered on the day he was supposed to celebrate his 70th birthday with his family, by two Palestinians at a coal storehouse belonging to his family in the Kafr Qasim industrial zone. He was ambushed and attacked

with a knife, a pickax and a fan.

His family decided to commemorate his name and establish a synagogue in Schmerling's hometown of Elkana, and had launched a campaign to raise funds for the project.

A few days ago they received an unusual donation: a Palestinian businessman from the Gaza Strip, who met Reuven through work, donated several thousand shekels to the campaign.

The Palestinian, who due to personal safety concerns decided to remain anonymous, described the victim as a noble, good man.

"Reuven had a pure heart. He loved everyone, I met him in the 1990s, when I used to import goods from China. He was a good man. What they did to him is horrific. If more people were like Reuven, peace would have been achieved a long ago," said the businessman.

Following this donation, several other Palestinians who personally knew Reuven also contacted the family in order to donate funds to the project—some from the Gaza Strip and some from Kafr Qasim.

Reuven's son Shai Schmerling says the family was not surprised by the donations.

"My father always had Arab friends, they loved and respected him. It wasn't surprising to us. Even during the shiva, Palestinians from Gaza and Arabs from Kafr Qasim came over to express their condolences," he added.

The Lod District Court is expected to sentence the two terrorists, Yousef Kamil and Muhammad Abu al-Rob, on Thursday. The two were convicted as part of a plea bargain and confessed to the murder.

The family continues to raise money for the project. The donation can be made on the jgive website.

IS ISRAEL HEADING TO ANOTHER WAR WITH GAZA... OVER KITES AND BALLOONS? (Editorial, JPost 7/19/18)

After 100 days of flaming kites and explosive balloons burning the South, many are wondering how close Israel is to returning to war in Gaza.

The flames have wreaked havoc on a once-beautiful landscape, leaving scorched fields and forests destroyed by incendiary devices. Residents of the South are upset, frustrated and weary.

Is yet another battle with Gaza the answer? There is public pressure on politicians – and some, like Education Minister Naftali Bennett, have called for an army operation against Hamas to stop the kites and balloons from continuing to burn southern Israel.

According to a report by Channel 10 on Tuesday, Israel has given Hamas via Egyptian intermediaries until Friday to stop the incendiary aerial devices. If not, the report said, Israel will have no other choice but to launch a military offensive.

In response, Hamas is said to have instructed its fighters not to launch any more incendiary devices toward Israel, and positioned forces along the border fence to stop the launching of the arson devices by Gazan youth.

Hundreds of incendiary devices have been launched into Israel, including a falcon which was found dead in a burnt field with such a device attached to its leg.

While the sense of security felt by residents of the South may have gone up in flames, the security risk caused by the fires has been limited. Do these fire kites and balloons justify launching a fourth war with Hamas in Gaza? Both Hamas and the IDF wish to avoid an escalation that would lead to a Gaza war four years after Operation Protective Edge.

Hamas, which itself is under intense public pressure due to the humanitarian situation in the coastal enclave, knows that it cannot militarily stand another conflict against the IDF.

Similarly, the IDF understands that another asymmetric military campaign against Hamas and the other terrorist groups in the Strip will not end with a clear victory. And therein lies the problem.

Both sides recognize that in the event of another conflict, both would emerge as losers. Yet both sides are acting and making statements which are

reminiscent to the weeks before Operation Protective Edge.

At the time this article was written, incoming rocket sirens were activated in southern Israel communities bordering the northern Gaza Strip, including Ashkelon.

While the IDF subsequently declared the siren to be a false alarm, the tension remains.

Both sides are playing with fire.

A ZIONIST CONSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTION (Aviad Bakshi, Israel Hayom 7/17/18)

The likely passage of the nation-state bill is the most important Zionist development to be inserted into Israel's lawbooks since the Law of Return was passed in 1950. The new bill, which makes the Jewish character of the state a national value that can be enforced in various ways, restores the old and proper balance between the rights of the individual and the patriotic values of Israel as the only national home of the Jewish people.

Some say that Israel's Jewish character is self-evident. They say that a bill that makes it official just antagonizes Israeli Arabs and the international community, noting that it simply states the obvious. In the song "Do You Love Me?" from the musical "Fiddler on the Roof," Tevye the milkman and his wife Golde discovered that their love must be reinforced despite it being obvious. Moreover, that very fact that some people in Israel are against proclaiming that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people underscores the need to make it more obvious.

The very fact that foreign ministries of certain Western countries and various groups in leading universities around the world consider Zionism to be a form of racism means that the nation-state bill says something that is anything but self-explanatory. The nation-state bill sends an important and timely message – that Israelis are all-in when it comes to the Zionist idea of having a Jewish national home and are willing to set it in stone through a basic law. Since Israel's basic laws are its de facto constitution, the definition of Israel as a nation-state will now be at the pinnacle of Israeli law.

The nation-state bill fills a void when it comes to Israel's relations with the Jewish diaspora. People have been lamenting that Israelis and young Jews around the world no longer share a strong bond. A new basic law that details Israel's Zionist underpinnings as a state for all Jews will serve to renew the covenant between the Jews here and abroad and will bolster the ties between the two groups.

But above all, the new bill's main audience is Israel's judiciary, which has consistently eroded the state's Jewish character through various rulings.

Israel's Jewish character was once considered a legal consensus, but lately, judges no longer seem to accept this. In 1965, then Supreme Court President and civil liberties giant Shimon Agranat ruled that Israel is not just a democracy that espouses freedom and human rights; it is also a Jewish state because of the Jewish people's natural right on the land. Agranat disqualified a party from competing in the general election because its candidates rejected Israel's Jewish character.

But today courts are struggling to uphold Israel's Jewish values. When the justices deliberate on family reunification of 130,000 Palestinians, and when they deal with the massive influx of illegal migrants from Africa, they render rulings that are based on values such as security and sovereignty and individual rights. They have no legal foundation to issue rulings that cite the state's Jewish character and the need to preserve it. That is because Israel's basic laws currently deal extensively with governance and personal freedoms but make no clear statement that guarantees Israel's national character.

Thus, the nation-state bill sends a Zionist message to the Israeli public on both sides of the political divide; it sends a clear message to backers and detractors of Israel abroad; it provides a strong embrace for our brethren abroad; and it creates a Zionist legal revolution that would restore the welcome equilibrium between the rights of the individual and Israel's character as the nation-state of the Jewish people.