

Israel — victim of blood lust in the Middle East

By N. STEPHAN KINSELLA

Reveille Columnist

6-21-88

Once again, the liberal news media have ignored the facts of reality: they have reversed the role of victim and criminal.

In the Middle East, the news media claim, loathsome Israel is violating the rights of the Palestinian "refugees" living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is claimed that the Palestinians deserve their own nation and homeland; that Israel has been persecuting Arabs for years.

The news media is wrong. It is the Israelis who are being persecuted and treated unfairly — by the entire world.

The fact is that Israel is the *only* country in the Middle East that values freedom, liberty, and individual rights.

All of the various Arab states in the Middle East are either theocracies, feudalist monarchies, or socialist dictatorships. In other words, all except Israel have a government which, on principle, brutally denies its citizens' individual rights.

In Israel, Arabs make up about 15 percent of the population. Yet Arabs who live there actually have more rights and freedoms than they could in any other Arab state.

Under Israeli law, Arabs have the same rights as Jews. Arabs are able to run for public office. Israel even gave Arab women the right to vote before any Arab state did.

The Israelis have a moral right to their nation — not because of any Biblical writings, not because of any ethnic tradition or heritage — but because Israel protects the individual rights and freedoms of its citizens (whether Jewish or not).

Although Israel, when compared to the bloody and hostile Arab states, is a lonely land of freedom, Israel is not perfect. But Israel is not being condemned for its vices. Israel is being condemned ... for its virtues.

Ever since Israel was founded in 1948, it has been attacked time and again by its freedom-hating Arab neighbors. Each time, Israel has ruthlessly, righteously and quickly defeated its enemies — without any mindless debating about whether self-defense is proper. (In many ways, Israel has a more rational and effective foreign policy than does the United States.)

In the Six-Day War of 1967, the West Bank and Gaza Strip — which border Israel — were used by Arabs as launching grounds for attacks. Israel withstood the attacks, and captured and kept these two territories.

They had every right to do this in order to protect themselves — just as America and the Allies occupied Germany and Japan after World War II in order to prevent further attacks against us in the future.

And the Palestinians who remain in Israel's captured

territories — the Palestinians who are infinitely better off in the free country of Israel than as virtual slaves in any Arab state — what do they want?

Why, just ask their spokesman: the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The same PLO whose policy it is to hijack, hack, machine-gun, bomb or butcher their enemies — enemies like passengers on cruise ships and children on school buses.

The Palestinians recognize the murderous, terrorist PLO: they fly its flag, they open and close their shops and schools, and riot, according to the PLO's dictates.

And if any Palestinian makes the mistake of suggesting or supporting true peace with Israel, he is murdered. So much for the PLO's desire for peace or justice.

The Israelis are denounced for not giving them free reign, when instead Israel deserves praise for safeguarding the individual rights of its citizens.

There is a reason why so many people condemn Israel for not giving the Palestinians their own "homeland". They see no difference between *freedom* and *slavery*.

The Jews have their own nation, the liberals say, why can't the Palestinians have theirs? Never mind that the Israelis have a free country, whereas the Palestinians seek to establish another repressive Arab dictatorship, under which no individual rights are possible.

To the liberals, and other anti-freedom, compromise-with-your-enemies advocates, there is no *fundamental* difference between a free country and a dictatorship. To them, nothing in life is certain; everything is a wishy-washy matter of opinion anyway.

If the Palestinians truly wanted freedom, Israel would have no quarrel with them — just as the United States has no need to occupy Canada. But the Palestinians do not want freedom; else they would not support the PLO.

And until the Palestinians completely reject the barbaric PLO and its policies, Israel cannot and should not back up one inch from its iron-fisted, non-compromising policy of self-defense.

The Palestinians do not have a right to a barbaric, anti-freedom "homeland" any more than a group of deranged neo-Nazi socialists would have a right to turn Montana into a Nazi "homeland" — even if every person in Montana wanted it so. Both "homelands" would be intolerable threats to their freedom-loving neighbors and, accordingly, should not be tolerated.

If the Palestinians would perform the rational yet unlikely act of rejecting the terrorist, blood-thirsty PLO in favor of freedom and peace, they would cease to despise Israel; they might even come to appreciate the freedoms that they enjoy there. If they would cease to raise their ugly head of blood lust and fanatic hostility, Israel would have no need to slap it down.