ADELAIDE INSTITUTE

PO Box 3300 Adelaide 5067 Australia

Online ISSN 1440-9828



Mob: 61+401692057

Email: info@adelaideinstitute.org
Web: http://www.adelaideinstitute.org

April 2016 No 946

>>Trump the Zionist?<<

Donald Trump's full speech to AIPAC

Republican presidential front-runner vows to confront Iran, veto UN imposed peace deal, slams Palestinian incitement



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) March 21, 2016 in Washington, DC. (Alex Wong/Getty Images/AFP)

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) on Monday morning, at its annual conference in Washington, DC.

Good evening. Thank you very much.

I speak to you today as a lifelong supporter and true friend of Israel.

I am a newcomer to politics, but not to backing the Jewish state.

In 2001, weeks after the attacks on New York City and on Washington and, frankly, the attacks on all of us, attacks that perpetrated and they were perpetrated by the Islamic fundamentalists, Mayor Rudy Giuliani visited Israel to show solidarity with terror victims.

I sent my plane because I backed the mission for Israel $100\ \text{percent}.$

In spring of 2004 at the height of the violence in the Gaza Strip, I was the grand marshal of the 40th Salute to Israel Parade, the largest-single gathering in support of the Jewish state.

It was a very dangerous time for Israel and frankly for anyone supporting Israel. Many people turned down this honor. I did not. I took the risk and I'm glad I did.

But I didn't come here tonight to pander to you about Israel. That's what politicians do: all talk, no action. Believe me.

I came here to speak to you about where I stand on the future of American relations with our strategic ally, our unbreakable friendship and our cultural brother, the only democracy in the Middle East, the state of Israel.

My number-one priority is to dismantle the disastrous deal with Iran.

I have been in business a long time. I know deal-making. And let me tell you, this deal is catastrophic for America, for Israel and for the whole of the Middle East.

The problem here is fundamental. We've rewarded the world's leading state sponsor of terror with \$150 billion, and we received absolutely nothing in return.

I've studied this issue in great detail, I would say actually greater by far than anybody else.

Believe me. Oh, believe me. And it's a bad deal.



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at the 2016 American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference at the Verizon Center, on Monday, March 21, 2016, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

The biggest concern with the deal is not necessarily that Iran is going to violate it because already, you know, as you know, it has, the bigger problem is that they can keep the terms and still get the bomb by simply running out the clock. And of course, they'll keep the billions and billions of dollars that we so stupidly and foolishly gave them.

The deal doesn't even require Iran to dismantle its military nuclear capability. Yes, it places limits on its military nuclear program for only a certain number of years, but when those restrictions expire, Iran will have an industrial-sized, military nuclear capability ready to go and with zero provision for delay, no matter how bad Iran's behavior is. Terrible, terrible situation that we are all placed in and especially Israel.

When I'm president, I will adopt a strategy that focuses on three things when it comes to Iran. First, we will stand up to Iran's aggressive push to destabilize and dominate the region.

Iran is a very big problem and will continue to be. But if I'm not elected president, I know how to deal with trouble. And believe me, that's why I'm going to be elected president, folks.

And we are leading in every poll. Remember that, please. Iran is a problem in Iraq, a problem in Syria, a problem in Lebanon, a problem in Yemen and will be a very, very major problem for Saudi Arabia. Literally every day, Iran provides more and better weapons to support their puppet states. Hezbollah, Lebanon received — and I'll tell you what, it has received sophisticated anti-ship weapons, anti-aircraft weapons and GPS systems and rockets like very few people anywhere in the world and certainly very few countries have. Now they're in Syria trying to establish another front against Israel from the Syrian side of the Golan Heights.

In Gaza, Iran is supporting Hamas and Islamic jihad. And in the West Bank, they're openly offering Palestinians \$7,000 per terror attack and \$30,000 for every Palestinian terrorist's home that's been destroyed. A deplorable, deplorable situation.

Iran is financing military forces throughout the Middle East and it's absolutely incredible that we handed them over \$150 billion to do even more toward the many horrible acts of terror.

Secondly, we will totally dismantle Iran's global terror network which is big and powerful, but not powerful like us.

Iran has seeded terror groups all over the world. During the last five years, Iran has perpetuated terror attacks in 25 different countries on five continents. They've got terror cells everywhere, including in the Western Hemisphere, very close to home.

Iran is the biggest sponsor of terrorism around the world. And we will work to dismantle that reach, believe me, believe me.

Third, at the very least, we must enforce the terms of the previous deal to hold Iran totally accountable. And we will enforce it like you've never seen a contract enforced before, folks, believe me.



AIPAC attendees standing and cheering Donald Trump at the policy conference in Washington on March 21, 2016. (screen capture: AIPAC/JLTV)

Iran has already, since the deal is in place, test-fired ballistic missiles three times. Those ballistic missiles, with a range of 1,250 miles, were designed to intimidate not only Israel, which is only 600 miles away, but also intended to frighten Europe and someday maybe hit even the United States. And we're not going to let that happen. We're not letting it happen to Israel, believe me.

Do you want to hear something really shocking? As many of the great people in this room know, painted on those missiles in both Hebrew and Farsi were the words "Israel must be wiped off the face of the earth." You can forget that.

What kind of demented minds write that in Hebrew?

And here's another. You talk about twisted. Here's another twisted part. Testing these missiles does not even violate the horrible deal that we've made. The deal is silent on test missiles. But those tests do violate the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The problem is no one has done anything about it. We will, we will. I promise, we will.

Which brings me to my next point, the utter weakness and incompetence of the United Nations.

The United Nations is not a friend of democracy, it's not a friend to freedom, it's not a friend even to the United States of America where, as you know, it has its home. And it surely is not a friend to Israel.

With President Obama in his final year — yea!

He may be the worst thing to ever happen to Israel, believe me, believe me. And you know it and you know it better than anybody.

So with the president in his final year, discussions have been swirling about an attempt to bring a Security Council resolution on terms of an eventual agreement between Israel and Palestine.

Let me be clear: An agreement imposed by the United Nations would be a total and complete disaster.

The United States must oppose this resolution and use the power of our veto, which I will use as president 100 percent.

When people ask why, it's because that's not how you make a deal. Deals are made when parties come together, they come to a table and they negotiate. Each side must give up something. It's values. I mean, we have to do something where there's value in exchange for something that it requires. That's what a deal is. A deal is really something that when we impose it on Israel and Palestine, we bring together a group of people that come up with something.

That's not going to happen with the United Nations. It will only further, very importantly, it will only further delegitimize Israel. It will be a catastrophe and a disaster for Israel. It's not going to happen, folks.

And further, it would reward Palestinian terrorism because every day they're stabbing Israelis and even Americans. Just last week, American Taylor Allen Force, a West Point grad, phenomenal young person who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, was murdered in the street by a knife-wielding Palestinian. You don't reward behavior like that. You cannot do it.

There's only one way you treat that kind of behavior. You have to confront it.

So it's not up to the United Nations to really go with a solution. It's really the parties that must negotiate a resolution themselves. They have no choice. They have to do it themselves or it will never hold up anyway. The United States can be useful as a facilitator of negotiations, but no one should be telling Israel that it must be and really that it must abide by some agreement made by others thousands of miles away that don't even really know what's happening to Israel, to anything in the area. It's so preposterous, we're not going to let that happen.

When I'm president, believe me, I will veto any attempt by the UN to impose its will on the Jewish state. It will be vetoed 100 percent.

You see, I know about deal-making. That's what I do. I wrote "The Art of the Deal."

One of the best-selling, all-time — and I mean, seriously, I'm saying one of because I'll be criticized when I say "the" so I'm going to be very diplomatic — one of...

I'll be criticized. I think it is number one, but why take a chance?

One of the all-time best-selling books about deals and deal- making. To make a great deal, you need two willing participants. We know Israel is willing to deal. Israel has been trying.

That's right. Israel has been trying to sit down at the negotiating table without preconditions for years. You had Camp David in 2000 where Prime Minister Barak made an incredible offer, maybe even too generous; Arafat rejected it.

In 2008, Prime Minister Olmert made an equally generous offer. The Palestinian Authority rejected it also. Then John Kerry tried to come up with a framework and Abbas didn't even respond, not even to the secretary of

state of the United States of America. They didn't even respond.

When I become president, the days of treating Israel like a second-class citizen will end on day one.

Thank you.

And when I say something, I mean it, I mean it.

I will meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu immediately. I have known him for many years and we'll be able to work closely together to help bring stability and peace to Israel and to the entire region.

Meanwhile, every single day you have rampant incitement and children being taught to hate Israel and to hate the Jews. It has to stop.

When you live in a society where the firefighters are the heroes, little kids want to be firefighters. When you live in a society where athletes and movie stars are the heroes, little kids want to be athletes and movie stars.

In Palestinian society, the heroes are those who murder Jews. We can't let this continue. We can't let this happen any longer.

You cannot achieve peace if terrorists are treated as martyrs. Glorifying terrorists is a tremendous barrier to peace. It is a horrible, horrible way to think. It's a barrier that can't be broken. That will end and it'll end soon, believe me.

In Palestinian textbooks and mosques, you've got a culture of hatred that has been fomenting there for years. And if we want to achieve peace, they've got to go out and they've got to start this educational process. They have to end education of hatred. They have to end it and now.

There is no moral equivalency. Israel does not name public squares after terrorists. Israel does not pay its children to stab random Palestinians.

You see, what President Obama gets wrong about dealmaking is that he constantly applies pressure to our friends and rewards our enemies.

And you see that happening all the time, that pattern practiced by the president and his administration, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is a total disaster, by the way.



US Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump gives a thumbs-up as he arrives to speak during the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) 2016 Policy Conference at the Verizon Center in Washington, DC, March 21, 2016. (AFP / SAUL LOEB)

She and President Obama have treated Israel very, very badly.

But it's repeated itself over and over again and has done nothing (to) embolden those who hate America. We saw that with releasing the \$150 billion to Iran in the hope that they would magically join the world community. It didn't happen.

President Obama thinks that applying pressure to Israel will force the issue. But it's precisely the opposite that happens. Already half of the population of Palestine has been taken over by the Palestinian ISIS and Hamas, and the other half refuses to confront the first half, so it's a very difficult situation that's never going to get solved unless you have great leadership right here in the United States.

We'll get it solved. One way or the other, we will get it solved.

But when the United States stands with Israel, the chances of peace really rise and rises exponentially. That's what will happen when Donald Trump is president of the United States.

We will move the American embassy to the eternal capital of the Jewish people, Jerusalem.

And we will send a clear signal that there is no daylight between America and our most reliable ally, the state of Israel.

The Palestinians must come to the table knowing that the bond between the United States and Israel is absolutely, totally unbreakable. They must come to the table willing and able to stop the terror being committed on a daily basis against Israel. They must do that.

And they must come to the table willing to accept that Israel is a Jewish state and it will forever exist as a Jewish state.

I love the people in this room. I love Israel. I love Israel. I've been with Israel so long in terms of I've received some of my greatest honors from Israel, my father before me, incredible. My daughter, Ivanka, is about to have a beautiful Jewish baby.

In fact, it could be happening right now, which would be very nice as far as I'm concerned.

So I want to thank you very much. This has been a truly great honor. Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Thank you very much.

http://www.timesofisrael.com/donald-trumps-full-speech-to-aipac/

[Emph.added - ed AI]

A Short Memoir

We are the last ones – Children of the 30s & 40s "The Last Ones"

Born in the 1930s and early 40s, we exist as a very special age cohort. We are the "last ones." We are the last, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the war itself with fathers and uncles going off. We are the last to remember ration books for everything from sugar to shoes to stoves. We saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans. We saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available. My mother delivered milk in a horse drawn cart.

We are the last to hear Roosevelt's radio assurances and to see gold stars in the front windows of our grieving neighbors. We can also remember the parades on August 15, 1945; VJ Day.

We saw the 'boys' home from the war build their Cape Cod style houses, pouring the cellar, tar papering it over and living there until they could afford the time and money to build it out.

We are the last who spent childhood without television; instead imagining what we heard on the radio. As we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood "playing outside until the street lights came on." We did play outside and we did play on our own. There was no little league.

The lack of television in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like. Our Saturday afternoons, if at the movies, gave us newsreels of the war and the holocaust sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons.

Newspapers and magazines were written for adults.

We are the last who had to find out for ourselves.

As we grew up, the country was exploding with growth. The G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. VA loans fanned a housing boom. Pent-up demand coupled with new installment payment plans put factories to work. New highways would bring jobs and mobility. The veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics. In the late 40s and early 50s the country seemed to lie in the

embrace of brisk but quiet order as it gave birth to its new middle class. Our parents understandably became absorbed with their own new lives. They were free from the confines of the depression and the war. They threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

We weren't neglected but we weren't today's allconsuming family focus. They were glad we played by ourselves 'until the street lights came on.' They were busy discovering the post war world.

Most of us had no life plan, but with the unexpected virtue of ignorance and an economic rising tide we simply stepped into the world and went to find out. We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed. Based on our naïve belief that there was more where this came from, we shaped life as we went.

We enjoyed a luxury; we felt secure in our future. Of course, just as today, not all Americans shared in this experience. Depression poverty was deep rooted. Polio was still a crippler. The Korean War was a dark presage in the early 50s and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks. China became Red China. Eisenhower sent the first 'advisors' to Vietnam. Castro set up camp in Cuba and Khrushchev came to power.

We are the last to experience an interlude when there were no existential threats to our homeland. We came of age in the late 40s and early 50s. The war was over and the cold war, terrorism, climate change, technological upheaval and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with insistent unease.

Only we can remember both a time of apocalyptic war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We experienced both.

We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better.... not worse.

We are the 'last ones.'

Trump's declared views on international relations could turn the world on its head. So where does Australia stand?

MARCH 19, 20161:20PM

HE has hailed Vladimir Putin as a leader who knows what he's doing, is fed up with some of America's closest allies and opposes free trade: Donald Trump could be a President who changes the world order as Australia knows it.

When the Republican frontrunner for the presidential nomination was asked this week who he consults primarily on foreign policy, he had a simple answer: himself.

"My primary consultant is myself and I have a good instinct for this stuff," he told CNN.

He then added, as though in afterthought, that he did also listen to "a lot of people".

It was an answer that flew in the face of Trump's backers who have long brushed off criticism of his lack of political experience by saying the billionaire would be guided by policy experts.

Trump has a very particular view of America's place in the world order - one that has been dubbed "neoisolationist" in some quarters.

AMERICA THE MIGHTY



A Donald Trump supporter holds a Trump sign during a recent rally. Picture: APSource: AP

He believes he can restore glory to America - in short, make it more wealthy and more powerful.

At the heart of it, the businessman sees America as being ripped off, or as he says, "loosing badly" to it's allies, it's trading partners and of course, it's enemies.

A Trump world order looks something like this. Firstly, trade barriers go up - China is slapped with a 45 per cent tax on goods sent to the US and the TPP is scuttled. Secondly, Trump pushes back on US allies he believes don't give as much to America as it does to them - he's already flagged South Korea, Europe and Japan. Thirdly, he goes harder in the Middle East - more ground troops, the return of waterboarding torture techniques and a greater effort to take oil out from under ISIS's nose.

Trump has made no secret of any of these policies. His anti-trade views and his ferocity on ISIS are capturing everyday Americans en masse.

But what do these positions mean for the rest of the world?

TRUMP: AN INTERNATIONAL RISK

An Economist Intelligent Unit Report - a global forecasting service linked to the The Economist magazine

- this week ranked a Trump presidency as one of the top risks facing the world.



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump following his victory in the Florida state primary earlier this week. The 69-year-old billionaire also won in Illinois and North Carolina. Picture: AFPSource: AFP

The report, which described a Trump presidency as a "moderate probability, high impact" event flagged two key themes it viewed as problematic: hostility to free trade and a hostility to the Middle East and Mexico.

"In the event of a Trump victory, his hostile attitude to free trade, and alienation of Mexico and China in particular, could escalate rapidly into a trade war - and at the least scupper the TPP," the report read.

"His militaristic tendencies towards the Middle East (and ban on on muslim travel to the US) would be a potent recruitment tool for jihadi groups, increasing their threat both within the region and beyond."





Donald Trump has proven remarkably popular despite his often contradictory policies. Picture: AFPSource: AFP

These perceived risks all swirl around Australia as much as they do any other nation of the world - the Federal Government is desperate to see the ambitious TPP ratified and as a close ally of the US, any escalation of terror threat would impact at home.

However, while Trump has made it clear he is keen to relevel the playing field with US allies, Australia may be safe on that front.

Professor of Political Science at Duke University and former employee of the Bush Administration Peter Feaver said despite Trump's brewing war with America's allies, Australia could be one of Trump's favourites.

"Australia might be the rare ally he might say something favourable about," Professor Feaver said.

"Australia has the distinction of being the most reliable ally in terms of fighting war shoulder to shoulder with Americans - I don't think there's another country that's been in as many conflicts on the side of the US as Australia.

"Trump is someone who believes that allies take advantage of the US. If you believe our allies take advantage of us, the ally that is hardest to make that case for is Australia."

Professor Feaver said the US presence in Darwin was relatively small and would be unlikely to be an immediate priority for Trump, despite his dislike for expensive military posts around the world.

THE PRICE OF FREE TRADE



Protesters, organized by The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, stage a "die-in" in front of Trump Tower, the residence of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. Picture: APSource: AP

The other Trump policy that could instantly impact Australia is his disdain for free trade. He has flagged slapping a 45 per cent tariff on Chinese imports and rails against the TPP - the ambitious free trade agreement Australia wants to get across the line.

"The TPP is a horrible deal," Trump has repeated ad nauseam on the campaign trail.

It's a world view also articulated by democratic frontrunner Hilllary Clinton.

Australian Trade Minister Steve Ciobo met with Obama's chief trade negotiator Michael Froman last month, and was assured there was still hope for the deal.

Mr Ciobo has worked hard behind the scenes on the deal, along with new US ambassador Joe Hockey and former Trade Minister Andrew Robb.

It is understood Australia would consider sending a contingent to negotiate directly with members of congress if they were summonsed.

Trump has stormed to victory in blue-collar states like Michigan on a strong anti-free trade message, bolstering the case of anti-TPP congressmen.

THE MANY FACES OF TRUMP

Professor Feaver noted that it's difficult to know "which Trump" the world would get if he won the presidency, because the ferocity of the nomination process encourages candidates to be their most extreme version of themselves.

"No one knows which president Trump will be President Trump," Professor Feaver said.

"The optimistic scenario says Trump is part blank slate and part marketing genius - and he doesn't believe what he's saying now but he understands he has to say it to get elected. Once he is elected...he will want to write policies that will be successful."



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump wipes his cheek as he listens to a question at a campaign event in Tampa, Florida. Picture: APSource: AP

Professor Feaver posited it was also possible that Trump was so driven by success that if he tried his policies and they failed he would adapt.

The "less optimistic" scenario, said Professor Feaver, was that the temperament of Trump on display so far continues into the administration and is reflected by his staff.

"In that scenario you get a very negative outcome," he said. "Mr Trump will have many an hour to achieve mischief."

Only time will tell.



http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/real-life/newslife/australia-could-be-one-of-trumps-favourites/newsstory/87b7f65b891463e2f2197c435929f1be



Trump's Warm Reception at AIPAC Makes Our Fight Against Him Even More Urgent

Having led the protest movement against Trump's speech to the pro-Israel lobby, I have a message to Jews: Unite against bigotry, xenophobia and misogyny; unite against the Republican frontrunner.

David Paskin, Haaretz Contributor, March 25, 2016 4:50 PM



US Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump arrives to address the American Israel Public Affairs Committee 2016 Policy Conference at the Verizon Center, Washington D.C., U.S., March 21, 2016. AFP

This week, I was honored to be one of the leaders of a movement to protest Donald Trump at the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington D.C. Our protest, which called on those in attendance to walk out of the room when the Republican presidential frontrunner was to speak, joined the actions and letters of protest from many other groups, including those in the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements, as well as the Anti-Defamation League and interfaith clergy groups from California to Boston.

Our collective voices were raised to denounce the hatred and vitriol that has become all too commonplace in this year's campaign season. We stood together to say that there is no place for xenophobia, bigotry, racism and violence in our democracy and especially at our AIPAC conference. We felt, and still do feel, that Mr. Trump has played a far too significant role in spreading this hatred and has contributed to the ugliness that has engulfed our democratic process of choosing a new president.

When Trump took the stage at AIPAC, thousands stayed in the room to hear him speak, receiving him warmly with applause. Some have pointed to this as evidence that our protest efforts failed; that we didn't achieve our goal. This is absolutely not true.

Our protest movement sent a strong message. Hundreds of people either stayed out of the auditorium or left it during Donald Trump's speech. We gathered in groups all over the Verizon center and studied, sang and prayed for an end to hatred, vitriol and negativity. We spoke of love and respect. We talked about seeing all people as created in the image of God. And millions of people heard our message on television, in print and on the Web.

From the beginning, we have been clear. For nine months we have listened to Donald Trump attack women, the disabled, Mexicans, Muslims and anyone who is "other." Since June, we have listened to Mr. Trump encourage his supporters to "knock the hell" out of protesters offering to pay their legal fees and suggest that he'd like to "punch (a protester) in the face." We have listened to him disparage his fellow Republican candidates, denigrate the Democratic candidates, belittle the press and deprecate all who disagree with him.

We have listened for long enough. That Mr. Trump was warmly received at AIPAC has made it even more urgent for us to come together against hate. We must stand on the shoulders of those who built our beloved country

based on values born out of our sacred scriptures. We must come together as people of faith and say, "Mr. Trump – you do not speak for us; you do not represent us and we will not let your bigotry, xenophobia, misogyny, racism and hatred go unanswered anymore." And our message must resonate beyond Donald Trump to all who have been swept up by his rhetoric. We must face our friends and colleagues who don't see or don't want to speak out about the danger that Donald Trump poses. We must remind them that we believe in the democratic process: that this isn't a political battle; it is a struggle for common decency and goodness. We stand for something much bigger than any one candidate. We come together for civility, for respect and for love.

In the coming days and weeks, our movement will decide how we can continue to spread this message. As Jews, we have a biblical responsibility to act as a beacon to the world by speaking out about our values. As a rabbi, I have a responsibility to teach that there are some things that are right and some things that are wrong. Hate and fear-mongering are wrong and have no place in a democratic society.

David Paskin, or Rabbi David as he is known by his congregants, is an accomplished spiritual leader, singer/songwriter, entertainer and award-winning Jewish educator. For over 20 years, David has been serving the Jewish communities of Boston and Palm Beach. David considers himself to be an underconstructionist Jew, also growing and learning.

© Haaretz Daily Newspaper Ltd. All Rights Reserved http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/jewishworldopinions/.pre mium-1.710851



'ISIS to cut your head off': WA man on trial over Facebook threats

March 21 2016

A man who told a stranger on social media a Middle Eastern friend wanted ISIS to cut his head off has told a Perth court he wasn't threatening the man's safety.

Brendon Lee O'Connell is on trial in the District Court of Western Australia, charged with using a carriage service to menace, harass or offend, and admits he sent 17 Facebook messages to Jason Hodgkinson in the space of two days in November 2014.

A man who sent 17 threatening messages to a stranger on social media has avoided jail.

Mr Hodgkinson told the court he had no idea what the accused - a stranger to him - was referring to in the first message, which asked if he had threatened O'Connell's friend, Northam kebab shop owner Mustafa Atieh.

The initial message also read: "Mustafa wants ISIS to cut your head off".

The accused told the court he believed Mr Hodgkinson was among seven men who went into Mr Atieh's shop and racially abused him in September 2014, telling him to "fuck off back to his country".

O'Connell said Mr Atieh, who was born in Kuwait but identified as Palestinian, was highly distressed by the verbal attack but the local police took no action.

"Police gave him the run-around and refused to help whatsoever," O'Connell said.

He claimed he spent two months trying to ensure he had the right man, then took to Facebook to tell Mr

Hodgkinson to "confess" so he could "force the issue" with police.

"I simply wanted to stir the pot so police would become involved and investigate the case," O'Connell said.

"I wanted him to go to the police and sort it out. I wanted the police to do their job."

O'Connell became animated when the prosecutor asked if he was trying to threaten Mr Hodgkinson with messages such as "an awful lot of Muslims want the head of the man that did this", dismissing the comments as "a throwaway line" and "a figure of speech".

"Do you think anyone would take that seriously? Are you suggesting an ISIS team would fly over? Do you think they were going to send over a hit team from a Lebanese Hezbollah? If he [Mr Hodgkinson] takes that seriously, he's a retarded moron."

O'Connell claimed he was referring to the possibility of Mr Hodgkinson losing his job over the alleged racial slur when he wrote in a message "police are the least of your worries".

O'Connell was repeatedly told by Judge Michael Bowden to stick to the matter at hand.

"It would be a lot quicker if you just answered the question," Judge Bowden said.

AAP

http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/isis-to-cut-your-head-off-wa-man-on-trial-over-facebook-threats-20160321-gnnhk3.html

CRIME

WA man convicted over ISIS beheading threats

By AAP, 2:41am March 22, 2016

The first person to be convicted under WA's racial vilification laws has again been found guilty by a jury, this time for telling a stranger on social media a Middle Eastern kebab shop owner wanted ISIS to cut his head off.

Brendon Lee O'Connell went on trial in the District Court of Western Australia on Monday, charged with using a carriage service to menace, harass or offend.

O'Connell admitted he had sent 17 Facebook messages to Jason Hodgkinson in the space of two days in November 2014 but denied he was threatening the man's safety.

O'Connell told the court he believed Mr Hodgkinson was among seven men who racially abused his friend, Northam kebab shop owner Mustafa Atieh, in front of his children in September 2014, telling him to f*** off back to his country.



Brendon O'Connell.

O'Connell said Mr Atieh, who was born in Kuwait but identified as Palestinian, was highly distressed by the verbal attack and had complained to him that local police had taken no action.

After spending two months trying to ensure he had the right man, he took to Facebook to tell Mr Hodgkinson to "confess" so he could "force the issue" with police.

In the initial message, O'Connell said Mr Atieh "wants ISIS to cut your head off".

"I simply wanted to stir the pot so police would become involved and investigate the case," O'Connell said.

"I wanted him to go to the police and sort it out.

"I wanted the police to do their job."

O'Connell became animated when the prosecutor asked if he was trying to threaten Mr Hodgkinson with the message "an awful lot of Muslims want the head of the man that did this", dismissing the comments as "a throwaway line" and "a figure of speech".

"Do you think anyone would take that seriously? he said. "Are you suggesting an ISIS team would fly over? Do you think they were going to send over a hit team from a Lebanese Hezbollah?

"If he (Mr Hodgkinson) takes that seriously, he's a retarded moron."

O'Connell claimed he was trying to frighten Mr Hodgkinson about the possibility of losing his job over the alleged racial slur when he posted "police are the least of your worries".

"You are in deep, deep, deep sh**," he wrote.

The prosecutor submitted that Mr Hodgkinson was not involved in the kebab shop incident so the fundamental premise of O'Connell's conduct was wrong.

The jury took less than an hour to deliberate and the verdict was unanimous.

Sentencing is scheduled for Tuesday morning.

O'Connell was remanded on bail overnight and faces a maximum penalty of three years behind bars.

He was in January 2011 sentenced to three years in prison for posting an anti-Semitic video on YouTube. © AAP 2016

http://www.9news.com.au/national/2016/03/21/17/29/manontrialoverfacebookisisposts#sAq8DiIFUM2RJqG7.99





The <u>lewish Bolshevik</u> regime had begun murdering their way through ethnic Europeans as early as the 1920's. Initially these crimes were concealed behind the <u>Jewish Bolshevik</u> construct of the 'Soviet Union' but with a Jewish victory in 1945 a new paradigm was concocted with the German Nation as the scapegoat. The source of <u>the Big Lie</u> can be traced back to the Jewish architect of ethnic European Genocide <u>Vladimir Lenin</u> who pronounced that "a lie told often enough becomes the truth". While the <u>Jewish Bolshevik</u> genocide of ethnic Europeans is concealed, for the 70 years since WWII ethnic Europe has been saturated with propaganda regarding a <u>Jewish</u>

http://holodomorinfo.com/

http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/david-schneider-is-right-if-you-think-a-jewish-conspiracy-controls-politicsand-the-bbc-you-are-anti-a6942081.html

David Schneider's guide to anti-semitism hits the nail on the head

Simmy Richman

In the two years or so of this column's existence, it has covered a great many subjects - whatever amused, entertained or raised an eyebrow was considered fair game. But there is one subject that was never touched on in Out There. I'm talking about the J word, and while I have written about my own (complex) relationship with the Jewish thing in other places, I have always steered

But now seems as good a time as any to rectify that situation, not least because last week the comedian David Schneider, inspired by the second suspension from the Labour Party of the "activist" Vicki Kirby, took to Twitter to present his "Are you anti-Semitic? A personal guide to lefties and others". While I agree with everything Schneider says, one point felt particularly pertinent:

"If you think a Jewish conspiracy controls the media/international finance/politics/the BBC, you are anti-Semitic. There is no conspiracy. I am well-connected in the Jewish community so I'd definitely be invited, and I've heard nothing."

Likewise, David, likewise. In fact, never mind the international Jewish conspiracy people, I'm still waiting to be approached by the Association of Jewish Writers and Journalists.

Cape of good hope

The feelgood Facebook story of the week comes from South Africa, where a businessman by the name of Jay Margolis spotted the following on a beach in the affluent suburb of Bantry Bay, Cape Town.

"So this afternoon I was waiting for a client," he wrote on his page, "and I see this chap putting two bags of rubbish in the bin. When I come back 45 minutes later, I see him filling another two big bin bags and wait for him to have a chat. Turns out he's 'embarrassed about the pollution, and wants the beaches and seas looking good for the tourists'. He hasn't been asked to do this, and doesn't have a job. He tells me that he cleans the beaches every day, for no other reason than to 'make the place nice'. What a legend, Siyabulela 'Dan' Magobiyane! City of Cape Town, give this man a job."

And guess what? After becoming something of an "online sensation", Cape Town did just that, with Magobiyane given a bed for the indefinite future at the Haven Night Shelter and a job as an assistant driver at a rubble removal company called Cape Skip. Facebook. It's not just for sprogs, selfies and smugness, right?

Slam punk!

When the 40th anniversary of punk rock received a £99,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund last year, various establishments – including the BFI, the Design Museum and the British Library – launched a joint celebration under the banner Punk London. Not everyone was guite so taken with the idea, though.

Joe Corré is the co-founder of Agent Provocateur and the son of Malcolm McLaren and Vivienne Westwood. "Talk about alternative and punk culture being appropriated by the mainstream," he huffed in a press release announcing his intention to burn his £5m punk memorabilia collection in London's Camden Town on 26 November.

Among the kinder reactions on various social-media threads were the following: "Agent Provocateur sold to a private equity firm for £60m. Yeah mate, you're punk" and, "You know what's really punk? Not having a £5m punk collection.

The 40th anniversary of punk rock received a £99,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2015 (Getty)

Bore necessities

A book published next week catches my eye. The Upside of Downtime: Why Boredom is Good represents many years of research by Sandi Mann, a senior psychology lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire. But while full of fun lists, guizzes and facts to reinforce how easily bored we all are, it is not until the final chapter, 242 pages in, that the book tackles the subject its title promises, in a section called "The Benefits of Boredom". Naturally, I skipped straight to those pages. I would have read the whole thing, but, you know, I got bored.

How Pee-wee saw the future

The article of the week appeared in PC Mag, where Evan Dashevsky argued that the "visionary most responsible for shaping today's technology" was the 1980s comic character Pee-wee Herman. "It's hard to ignore the eerie similarities between today's tech and the sentient inhabitants of Pee-wee's Playhouse," Dashevsky argued. The evidence? A "Magic Screen" that looked like an iPad, a "Picturephone" booth that looked like Skype and a Sirilike character called Globey. Quick! Catch the repeats on Netflix, now.

Meme artist

You've probably seen that internet thing that puts pictures of, say, muffins next to pictures of chihuahuas and asks you to spot the difference. The meme is the brainchild of a woman called Karen Zack who, last week, offered the following rules for going viral: "1) Do whatever you want. 2) Stick to it." And on that bombshell

Twitter: @simmyrichman

More about:

Anti-Semitism David Schneider

Démocrat-Kerald

"Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde"

PATRICK FANCHER, 24 March 2016

"Oscar Wilde was a great playwright, and what | That's why Wagner wanted to direct Moises Kaufman's happened to him was unjust by today's standards," says Richard Wagner.

"Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" for

the Majestic Reader's Theatre. The play will have two performances this Sunday.



Jonathan Pederson as Oscar Wilde and Ray McDonald as Lord Alfred Douglas (Bosie) rehearse a scene from "Gross Indecency: The Trials of Oscar Wilde." The play will be performed twice on Sunday for the Majestic Reader's Theatre.

In 1895, Wilde was prosecuted by the crown for gross indecency, accused of sodomy, Wagner said.

"He was at the time in love with the son of the Marques of Queensbury (Lord Alfred Douglas) whose nickname was Bosie. The trials took place during that relationship, and Wilde was ultimately sent to prison for two years a broken man," Wagner said.

The play uses real quotes, trial transcripts, personal correspondence, and interviews read by four narrators to

show how Wilde, played by Jonathan Pederson, was persecuted for his sexual orientation.

Wilde's wit and retorts in the courtroom interrogations lend comedic moments to the play, but ultimately help build the prosecution's case.

The cast members perform in multiple roles and speak in the formal British accent, Wagner said. The performers include Pederson, Rory McDaniel, Michael Wren, Jeff Martin and Richard Weinman. The four narrators are A.J. Bartholomew, Nate Hermanson, Jeff Ryser, and Joshua Burlock.

Wagner, director of five Majestic Theatre main stage plays and an actor, said "Gross Indecency" demonstrates how much attitudes have changed regarding same-sex relationships.

"The audience will learn more about Oscar Wilde and his writing than they knew before, and they will see what a tragedy it has been in the past to have been born homosexual," he said.

http://democratherald.com/entertainment/arts-and-theatre/theatre/gross-indecency-the-three-trials-of-oscar-wilde/article 9ab110bb-4dfc-551b-9871-6fbeda4e0cb4.html

UK seeks review of UN Julian Assange 'arbitrary detention' finding Foreign Office says United Nations panel's conclusions are inaccurate and WikiLeaks founder is voluntarily avoiding arrest in embassy

Esther Addley

Friday 25 March 2016 03.12 AEDTLast modified on Friday 25 March 201604.20 AEDT



The international panel said it believed Assange's confinement was arbitrary because of the length of time in bringing his case to resolution. Photograph: Dominic Lipinski/PA

The British government has fo rmally asked a <u>United Nations</u> panel to review its finding that <u>Julian Assange</u> is "arbitrarily detained" in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, calling the opinion "deeply flawed".

In its first formal response to the finding of the UN working group on arbitrary detention, which <u>published its</u> <u>opinion in February</u>, the Foreign Office <u>confirmed it would</u> <u>contest the finding</u>,

saying: "The original conclusions of the UN working group are inaccurate and should be reviewed."

In a statement, the Foreign Office minister Hugo Swire said: "We want to ensure the working group is in possession of the full facts. Our request for a review of the opinion sets those facts out clearly.

Britain 'sets dangerous precedent' by defying UN report on Assange

"Julian Assange has never been arbitrarily detained by the UK, and is in fact voluntarily avoiding lawful arrest by choosing to remain in the Ecuadorian embassy. The UK continues to have a legal obligation to extradite him to Sweden."

The <u>WikiLeaks</u> founder has been confined to the embassy in London since July 2012, when he sought asylum in a

bid to avoid extradition to Sweden over sexual assault allegations, which he denies.

The international panel <u>said on 4 February</u> that it believed Assange's confinement was arbitrary because of the length of time in bringing his case to resolution, citing in particular a "lack of diligence by the Swedish prosecutor in its investigations".

The government argues that the panel is not a judicial body and its findings are therefore not binding. "The working group's opinion is deeply flawed and Mr Assange has never been the subject of arbitrary detention," it said. "His human rights have been protected throughout the process and will continue to be protected if and when he is extradited to Sweden."

Speaking shortly after the working group's findings were published, Philip Hammond, the foreign secretary, described them as ridiculous and said Assange was hiding from justice.

Assange <u>accused Hammond of insulting the UN</u>, saying: "This is the end of the road for the legal arguments that have been put forward by <u>Sweden</u>and the UK."

Responding to the government statement, Melinda Taylor, a legal adviser to Assange, told the Guardian: "The fact that they have submitted this request for reconsideration undermines their previous assertion that they weren't in any way bound to comply with its opinion."

She said that all the points made by the Foreign Office had been known to the working group before it gave its original opinion, and the UK had every opportunity to make its case and correct any factual errors before the opinion was published.

"In the absence of any objective basis to seek reconsideration, this rebuttal appears to be an attempt to publicly undermine the working group's opinion," she said.

The panel's decision on whether or not to review its opinion will be made during its next session, beginning 18 April, the Foreign Office said.

http://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/mar/24/uk-seeks-review-un-julian-assange-arbitrary-detention

Existentialism

Smokey and the bandits

Fun and philosophy in Paris Mar 26th 2016



At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being and Apricot Cocktails. By Sarah Bakewell. Other Press; 439 pages; \$25. Chatto & Windus; £16.99.

EXISTENTIALISM is the only philosophy that anyone would even think of calling sexy. Black clothes, "free love", late nights of smoky jazz—these were a few of intellectuals' favourite things in Paris after the city's liberation in 1944.

Simone de Beauvoir was "the prettiest Existentialist you ever saw", according to the *New Yorker* in 1947. Her companion, Jean-Paul Sartre (pictured) was no looker, but he smoked a mean Gauloise. *Life*magazine billed their friend, Albert Camus, the "action-packed intellectual".

Certainly there was action. One evening in Paris, a restaurant punch-up involving Sartre, Camus, de Beauvoir and Arthur Koestler spilled out on to the streets. In New York another novelist, Norman Mailer, drunkenly stabbed his wife at the launch of his abortive campaign to run for mayor on an "Existentialist Party" ticket in 1960. In addition to such excitements, existentialism offered a rationale for the feeling that life is absurd.

Countless adolescents, both young and old, have discovered the joys of angst through the writings of Sartre and his ilk. In her instructive and entertaining study of these thinkers and their hangers-on, Sarah Bakewell, a British biographer, tells how she was drawn as a teenager to Sartre's "Nausea" because it was described on the cover as "a novel of the alienation of personality and the mystery of being".

It was over apricot cocktails on the Rue Montparnasse that Sartre and de Beauvoir glimpsed a novel way to explore such mysteries. The year was 1932, and their friend Raymond Aron, a political scientist and philosopher, had just returned from Germany with news of the "phenomenology" of Edmund Husserl and Martin

Heidegger. "If you are a phenomenologist," Aron explained, "you can talk about this cocktail and make philosophy out of it!" The idea was to glean the essence of things by closely observing one's own experience of them, preferably in mundane settings. Sartre and de Beauvoir set out to do just that.

Drawing on considerable personal knowledge, Sartre delved into "the meaning of the act of smoking", among other things. Observing the behavioural tics of waiters, he noted that they sometimes seemed to be play-acting at being waiters. This led to labyrinthine reflections on the nature of freedom and authenticity. De Beauvoir's efforts were more focused. By dissecting female experience of everyday life, she illustrated the ways in which gender is shaped by self-consciousness and social expectations. Ms Bakewell plausibly suggests that de Beauvoir's pioneering feminist work, "The Second Sex", was the most broadly influential product of European café philosophy of the period.

When Norman Mailer was asked what existentialism meant to him, he reportedly answered, "Oh, kinda playing things by ear." Serious existentialists, such as Sartre, earned their label by focusing on a sense of "existence" that is supposedly distinctive of humans. People are uniquely aware of—and typically troubled by—their own state of being, or so the theory goes. Human existence is thus not at all like the existence of brute matter, or, for that matter, like the existence of brutes. People, but not animals, find themselves thrown into the world, as existentialists liked to say. They are forced to make sense of it for themselves and to forge their own identities.

The café philosophers came to regard each other's existence as particularly troubling. Except for Sartre and de Beauvoir, who remained an intellectually devoted pair until his death in 1980, the main characters in post-war French philosophy drifted apart with varying degrees of drama. So did the German philosophers who inspired them.

Sartre's embrace of Soviet communism, which he abandoned only to endorse Maoism instead, led Aron to condemn him as "merciless towards the failings of the democracies but ready to tolerate the worst crimes as long as they are committed in the name of the proper doctrines". Ms Bakewell credits the existentialist movement, broadly defined, with providing inspiration to feminism, gay rights, anti-racism, anti-colonialism and other radical causes. A few cocktails can, it seems, lead to unexpected things.

http://www.economist.com/news/booksandarts/21695 369-fun-and-philosophy-paris-smokey-and-bandits



Tech News

Friday, 25 March 2016 | MYT 1:09 PM

French court throws out Savimbi 'Call of Duty' case



Revisionist history: The lawsuit brought by Savimbi's children against Activision Blizzard for depicting their warlord father as a "barbarian" in the game 'Black Ops II' has been thrown out by a French court due to "procedural flaws" and a lack of jurisdiction in the case. — AFP

NANTERRE, France: A French court threw out a case in which the children of slain Angolan rebel chief Jonas Savimbi sued the makers of the *Call of Duty* videogame for representing their father as a "barbarian".

The magistrates said the lawsuit contained procedural flaws and that they had no jurisdiction in the case.

"We are disappointed," said Cheya Savimbi, the 42-year-old son of the notorious rebel.

The Savimbi children sued Activision Blizzard, the maker of *Call of Duty*, for defaming their father by portraying him as a violent character in the 2012 *Black Ops II* game.

Call of Duty, the world's best-selling videogame last year, puts the player in the role of a shooter, and often features characters based on historical and political figures.

Cheya previously told the court in Nanterre outside Paris that he wanted to "rehabilitate the memory and image" of his father, who led a brutal 27-year war against the government in Luanda.

The offending clip showed Savimbi, known as the "Black Cockerel" by his supporters, rallying his troops from the back of a tank as MPLA government troops advance on them, gunfire rattling all around.

He yells out phrases such as "fight, my brothers" and "we must finish them... death to the MPLA".

"Seeing him kill people, cutting someone's arm off ... that isn't Dad," Cheya said.

Activision's lawyers argued freedom of expression.

"He was a warlord, there is no possible contestation," said lawyer Etienne Kowalski.

Savimbi was known to have terrorised civilian populations and became one of the first warlords to fund his army with so-called "blood diamonds".

He was killed in battle against MPLA government forces in 2002, paving the way for a peace deal that would bring an end to one of Africa's longest and bloodiest conflicts, which erupted after independence from Portugal in 1975. — AFP

http://www.thestar.com.my/tech/technews/2016/03/2 5/french-court-throws-out-savimbi-call-of-duty-case/

Zeti shares her views

BY JAGDEV SINGH SIDHU and GURMEET KAUR, Saturday, 26 March 2016



Governor gives her frank opinions on the central bank, her successor and the challenges the country faces

AS one of her last acts as governor of Bank Negara, Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz will be asked to write something to be placed into a time capsule at Bank Negara's new automated cash centre. That capsule will be opened during the 100th anniversary of the central bank in the year 2059.

She has not decided what will be penned on that special sheet of paper that will be given to her, but the symbolic aspect of that gesture goes some ways in explaining the respect her colleagues have for the retiring governor.

Her reputation was forged over a period of 16 years where she served as the head of Bank Negara, with many of those years fire-fighting crisis after crisis, big and small. Her career spanned 35 years at the central bank and Zeti was the head of economics at Bank Negara during the Asian financial crisis. After being appointed as its governor, she had to steer the economy through other rough waters, most notably, the global financial crisis.

Apart from navigating the economy and the banking system through rough patches, Zeti also oversaw the transformation of the banking system. During the past 16 years, Malaysia's banking system has grown from banks that were predominantly domestic-focused to a few that have sprawling regional footprints. It was during her tenure that two financial sector masterplans were drawn up and executed, resulting in improved efficiency, delivery channels and structural processes by the banks.

Apart from the reach and services of banks, domestic financial institutions have emerged stronger from a period of consolidation and capitalisation that by the central bank's own assessment, is now able to withstand just about any imaginable crises.

The regularly conducted stress tests it conducts attest to the strength of the banking system. Those tests also help the central bank check the pulse of the banking sector to ensure there is no undue build-up of risks that could derail or puncture

the financial system. The process of approving financial products in Malaysia has also kept banking relatively simple and steady.

But it has not always been a trouble-free career as governor. Zeti has had her detractors, which she does acknowledge. The latest has been the way Bank Negara has handled the issues regarding 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), which she now appears to be atoning for past oversights.

But her record, regardless of the hiccups, is one where there have been more accolades than criticism. In her final briefing of the media ahead of the release of Bank Negara's 2015 annual report, she spoke candidly on a number of subjects, about her career and the state of the economy. Below is a question-and-answer session she had with the media.

In terms of the development of the financial sector, what are you most proud of in terms of the challenges faced and what are your disappointments during your tenure?

The achievements of the central bank have been backed by a very solid team (sitting beside and behind me).

We drove the achievements and many of that were highly challenging. When I complete my term, I give the assurance that this institution is still very solid and resilient, and therefore, has every potential to continue doing the very good job it has been doing and delivering to the people of this country.

Of course, managing a challenging environment, including crises, was one of the accomplishments of this bank. That was very, very difficult.

The other relates to areas involving other countries where we need to build the consensus for the greater good of the region. This was very challenging, as some of these took years and some of it set us so back that we went back to the position where we started. We were sort of worse off and that was very stressful. Our challenges were in the area of financial integration, Islamic finance, in the area to get recognition by the international community on certain issues that we thought were important for the emerging world and the region.

It's rewarding to see it through during a person's career lifetime. But it's the team that did it and it's a privilege to be leading the team.

I won't say there were disappointments, but I wish we would have moved a little bit faster on the migration to electronic payments. There were other things that were more important at that time. Now we are placing higher priority on this because the benefit of it would be so immense.

Integration is an ongoing thing ... we are not there by any means, but at least we have a platform from which we can leap forward

In terms of the domestic economy and financial markets, they continue to function very well.

Tan Sri, you had talked earlier that you don't want the position of governor to be politicised. You talked about the virtues and strength of Bank Negara as an institution. How important is it that a governor is a person that will be well-liked by the markets and will continue the work the central bank has done under your leadership?

I have to say that I wasn't always well-liked. There were times that some of our policies were attacked quite viciously. But we undertook those policies because we had the conviction that they were the right policies to do. It's not about being well-liked ... it's about people having the confidence that you are going to do the right thing and having the capability also to do it. So, there are a lot of demands on the governor. First of all, having the capability to do it and having the confidence of the people that you are going to do the right thing.

Will the wrong candidate set the central bank back in terms of development that has taken place under your tenure?

The person has to be ready and able and for the team to be here and intact because it is not about one individual. While leadership is important, equally important is for the team to stay together. And the team here is of a very high quality ... we spend a lot of time investing in people. We have one of the best talent collectively in all the areas from reserve management to supervision, regulation and economic analysis of international affairs. Like in any organisation, the CEO has to command the

respect and confidence of the team. Without that, the central bank will be set back.

Is it a concern that the independence of the bank may be compromised if someone from the outside comes in as governor?

Everyone who works in the central bank knows that independence is the most precious thing that we want to safeguard. This culture of independence was already there before my time; the culture that we don't want to be drawn into politics. In the 60s and 70s, we did not have the kind of political pressure as we had during the Asian financial crisis. There is a corporate culture which everyone takes great pride in the feeling that our actions are not drawn into politics and driven by any political agenda.

The political agenda changes all the time and if we are drawn into such matters, the central bank will lose credibility and respect.

The central bank gets its powers from the respect and confidence the people have in us. This is where the power of the central bank is derived from. It's the same as all other central banks.

How would you describe the changes and transformation the Malaysian economy has undergone in the past 16 years?

The Malaysian economy has been able to withstand a lot of shocks like the energy and commodity shocks, the volatile and disruptive financial markets, the surges of inflows and outflows. Are we satisfied? I would say no because in our assessment, we could be so much better in terms of being on a higher phase of growth. Because we are ambitious, at least I am ambitious in anything that we do, if we compare ourselves with some of our peers, we are doing quite well. But if we compare ourselves with, say, South Korea, the country was poorer than us before but it is now a developed country. So, we ask ourselves why aren't we there too?

So, how can we make ourselves better?

Several years ago in 2009, we made a presentation to the Cabinet. We were discussing among ourselves the three most urgent things that needed to be addressed. When we presented it to the Cabinet, we asked to pick one and after I reflected for a while, the answer was education.

From the entry point to the CEO level, we have one of the best education programmes. We spend so much effort on this but we wish it's across the board.

The other two were price distortions and having the broadband infrastructure that is important to advance the economy. You can have the other two but without education, you still cannot move forward.

In the short to medium term, what is the risk to the economy? Is the 1MDB issue still a certain risk?

The current risk volatility in the financial markets. If our level of indebtedness goes higher (at the current level it is just manageable), that means that as we go forward and take on more and more debt, it will become like what Europe is facing. That is even if you get higher income or better growth, you will have to repay your debt. So, you are consuming now based on your future income, which means we are getting our future generation of grandchildren and great grandchildren to repay for our excessive expenditure.

In the current environment, if we don't rein in our borrowings, not only household or corporate but the public sector also, it poses a future risk. Right now, everything is about a manageable level. It's not alarming or a great concern now, but beyond that is a future risk.

Then, there are other issues like an ageing society. Fourteen years from now in 2030, 15% of our population will be ageing, which means we would need to have facilities to support them. And we have to start preparing for it now. We can deal with the current challenges because we had prepared for it 10 years ago.

How do we define the independence of the central bank? There should be no external influence on the decision-making process of the central bank in regards to our mandate.

A few days ago, at one panel discussion meeting where the audience was made up of central bank governors and their

delegations, a question was posed on how the governors dealt with interference. That's a question all governors share with each other. The governor of the Reserve Bank of South Africa's response was: you have to stand your ground, which means do what is in the best interest of the country. When it came to my turn to give a response, I said, "of course the central bank has to stand its ground, but better be sure you are standing on solid ground". It drew laughter from the floor. Because if you want to be able to stand your ground and be able to deliver for the people of this country, you have to stand on solid ground. We worked with the Government to do all this.

How have you been dealing with politicians in this country? Has it been difficult over the years?

We have a professional relationship. We don't get to know them well. That is how it is and that is how I guide.

You can't be their friend, but that does not mean we are not going to work with them. We have no problems working with so many agencies. Take small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for instance. We have to work with many agencies. It all started with why banks were not lending to SMEs and when we asked the banks, they said it was because the SMEs were at a low level of development because their contribution to the economy was less than 7% then. So, we recommended a few things like setting up a National Council, which the Government did during Tun Dr Mahathir's time.

Then, we wanted to set up an agency - SME Corp - to be independent in reporting to the board. Just about every ministry attacked us for that and said that it would erode their powers. We went on with this and demonstrated that their powers were not eroded. As a result of the formation of the SME Council and SME Corp, now the contribution of SMEs to growth is more than 30%.

Tan Sri, earlier on you had talked about building future resilience and being focused on some key challenges like productivity and technology. The brain drain seems to be at a critical stage as highlighted by some reports. How does this affect the building of future resilience?

I think every effort is being done to address the brain drain. We need the talent to remain and we need to build the existing talent. And most of all, we need strong institutions as well. We need many things to realise that.

This also relates to moving up the value chain and if the job opportunity is not there to keep the talent, then the talent will move elsewhere. It's all part of a circle. If you have an economy that is moving up the value chain, there would be job opportunities for the talent and they will stay.

Are we moving up the value chain at the required pace?

If we compare ourselves against South Korea, we could have been much higher up the value chain. One of the things that is holding us back is the over-dependence on low-cost labour. While our economy cannot completely not need low-cost labour. the question is one of over-dependence, which is shuttling us to a particular state of economic activity and preventing us from progressing further.

We can't be competing on cost, we have to compete on quality and that will allow us to move up the value chain. The number of patents by our residents is one of the lowest. These are some of the structural things that we must address.

How do we regain the loss of investor confidence?

The point I want to emphasise is that Malaysia is in a position to manage the current environment and is still growing in 2015 despite the collapse in commodity prices. Of course, there is some loss of investment activity in the economy because of confidence issues and waiting on the sidelines for some certainty about where the ringgit is headed. We got the International Trade and Industry Ministry working very hard to attract investments. Malaysia is still attracting investments into the country, as we have a low cost of doing business, but we need to have the talent so that we get the right type of investments.

Tan Sri, of the few economic crises under you tenure, which was the most challenging?

It was the 1997/1998 Asian economic crisis because it involved the whole region and it was made worse on how it was managed in some of the other countries with no end in sight. In 1997, Malaysia still had 7% growth. Then in 1998, for the first time in our history, we had minus 7%. We never had that kind of economic contraction.

The good thing at that time was that the developed world was growing well. We managed to stabilise the domestic economy and picked up based on the demand from the global economy.

The issue we are facing now under the current circumstances is that our domestic fundamentals are relatively sound but the world environment is not as good.

In the annual report, household debt is at 89.1% and does not seem to be going down.

Of course, as debt is growing faster than income, but assets are more than two times liability.

In terms of quality of debt, the non-performing loan ratio is at 1.5%, meaning that there are not many loans that are turning bad and the people who borrowed can afford to borrow. We look at a wide range of indicators, but if this trend continues, then it will become a concern.

From an economic perspective, if you have credit-driven growth, it is not a sustainable economy. As a policymaker, we also have to be cautious from the perspective of how fast we want that to grow. Addressing the issue on that level, given the demographics of our society, it is going to continue to grow. But we need to look at who is this debt with; is it with people who can service the debt or those who are financially stretched?

Are you going to write your memoir?

I will do some writing, some serious writing on subject matters like integration or central banking.

Are you going to play a more active role in society?

I have not had time to think about that, but I know I am going to do some writing and spend some time with my family. The bank has not been too kind to me in allowing any free time. The past 12 months have been back-to-back in terms of functions. My life has been very full this past year but I enjoyed it.

When you took over, did you expect to last 16 years?

I didn't, and people ask me why I am not staying on to match Tun Ismail Mohd Ali's record of 18 years.

That is not the objective. The thing that is important is what you do while in office.

More in Business

A stir in Empire City

Lufthansa departs KLIA again

Jaya Grocer stake sale

Is Azman building his war chest?

SapuraKencana dips into the red

http://www.thestar.com.my/business/business-

news/2016/03/26/zeti-shares-her-views/

Columnists

One Man's Meat – The Sulu side of the story

BY PHILIP GOLINGAI, Saturday, 26 March 2016

A self-styled sultan attempts to clear his name and explain the role of his people in Sabah.

LAST week, I received a polite "royal" rebuke from one of the

claimants to the Sulu throne.

Via Facebook messenger, "sultan" Muedzul-Lail Tan Kiram wrote, "Dear Philip, I read your write-up and it makes me sad. I was condemned without trial and so were my people."

The "sultan" was referring to my article, "It's actually not as bad as it sounds" published last Saturday. Quoting a Malaysian intelligence officer, I wrote that people in Sabah claiming to be panglima (commanders) of Sultan Muedzul-Lail criminals and not a threat to internal security, unlike the family of the late self-styled Sultan Jamalul Kiram III.

"Can I interview you to write about your side of the story?" I replied to the Tausug man I met in Jolo, Sulu province in 2013. Here's the 50-year-old self-styled sultan's side of his story.

Muedzul-Lail lives in Jolo island, southern Philippines.

He has many rivals – some of whom are conmen – claiming to be the legitimate Sultan of Sulu. One of his main rivals is the family of "Sultan" Jamalul. The family hit the headlines when the "crown prince" Agbimuddin led some 200 followers in the occupation of Kg Tanduo in Lahad Datu, Sabah in 2013.

Muedzul-Lail's claim to royal legitimacy is that he's the son of the 34th Sultan of Sulu Mahakuttah Kiram. He was Sultan from

1974 to 1986.



Sulu Sultanate claimant Muedzul-Lail Tan Kiram - raised hand.

"Now that the two interim Sultans, the brothers Jamalul Kiram III and Sultan Esmail Kiram II are both dead, I hereby assert my birth right as a legitimate Sultan of Sulu archipelago and North Borneo, being the son of the late Sultan Mahakuttah Kiram, the last Sultan recognised by the Philippines Government, and the grandson of the late Sultan Ismael Kiram," he said.

It was his grandfather who transferred the sovereign authority of North Borneo (renamed to Sabah after it formed Malaysia in Sept 16, 1963) to the Philippines government in 1962.

Muedzul-Lail is related to the late Jamalul, as his uncle is the first cousin of Mahakuttah. He said his uncles – Jamalul and Esmail – stole the sultanship from him after his father died in 1986.

"That time I was a minor. Now it's time to regain that sultanship from them," he said.

There were so many fake sultans coming out like mushrooms, according to Muedzul-Lail, because Jamalul and his brothers didn't respect the law of succession.

"All the fake sultans want to gain United States support to claim back Sabah and Sarawak by all means. But for me as a legit sultan, I don't want to wage war with Malaysia and Sabahans as I want respect, peace and harmony."

The three Kiram brothers – Jamalul, Esmail (who succeeded him as Sultan) and Agbimuddin – are dead. Their brother Phugdalun is now the family's self-styled Sultan of Sulu.

Muedzul-Lail claimed that Phugdalun wants Philippine Vice President Jejomar Binay to win the presidential elections in May because Binay is committed to help him claim Sabah.

"But I can assure Malaysia that I'm the biggest blocking force and opposed to their moves," he said.

("Princess" Jacel Kiram, the daughter of the late Jamalul and the niece of Phugdalun, is with Binay and she's using the Sabah claim as her campaign promise in her bid to be a Senator.)

On Feb 13, Malaysian security forces launched a massive predawn operation in the Telipok Filipino refugee settlement, about 25km from Kota Kinabalu. Armoured personnel carriers entered the settlement, known to harbour criminals, as early as 3am.

The settlement was built in the 1970s for Muslim refugees fleeing southern Philippines during the Moro National Liberation Front war against Manila. Six people, linked to Muedzul-Lail, were among 520 people arrested.

"Who are the six people? What is their link to you?" I messaged the sultan.

"The six people are my panglima and maharaja and their families," he said. "My only sentiment is the Sabah authority has no respect for my stature.

Let me be clear that all my officials are of good moral character and law-abiding citizens and whenever we find one violating the law, we immediately remove him from our roster."

According to Muedzul-Lail, his *panglima* told him that they were arrested due to false intelligence that they were supporters of the family of Jamalul who launched the Tanduo intrusion.

That's not the perspective of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

On Tuesday in Parliament, the Home Minister revealed that Sulu terrorists had appointed a commander for each state constituency in Sabah, towards establishing a Sulu sultanate in the state. Bernama reported him as saying that "the information was derived during interrogation of six terror suspects arrested by security forces in Sabah, besides evidence like thumb drives and several documents".

"What's your response?" I asked Muedzul-Lail.

"The panglima is just like a district officer. According to our tradition, their duty is to maintain the good relationship of the people within that region, to maintain peace and order of the region and they are not a commander or a terrorist," he said.

Muedzul-Lail then explained the roles of the titles that he had bestowed to his followers.

The panglima's duty is to promote good relationship with the fellow Tausugs (the major ethnic group in Sulu province) monitoring the bad elements in Sabah. Themaharaja is the deputy to the panglima. And the paduka are the community leaders who will update the panglima on the situation in their respective areas.

"How do you recruit your panglima, maharaja and paduka in Sabah?" I messaged. "Before the standoff in Lahad Datu I would always come and go to and from Sabah and Sulu. I would choose a poor person but with good moral character who can be of help to fellow Tausug, convincing others not to be involved with lawbreakers."

After the Tanduo standoff, Muedzul-Lail stopped visiting Sabah as he was instructed by "some top officials in KL to clear my name first because all Kirams were branded as conspirators".

Muedzul-Lail might be out of Sabah but some of his panglimas are still in the state.

More in Opinion

Heatwave over bungalow issue
Be thankful for what you have
Friendship, family and money, but South China Sea?
Ministry is being penny wise pound foolish
Be fair to English language teachers

http://www.thestar.com.my/opinion/columnists/one-mans-meat/2016/03/26/the-sulu-side-of-the-story-a-selfstyled-sultan-attempts-to-clear-his-name-and-explain-the-role-of-hi/

Dustin Hoffman chokes up after discovering remarkable family story By Michael Pearson, CNN Updated 1700 GMT (0100 HKT) March 10, 2016

(CNN)Dustin Hoffman never knew his family history, and what a doozy of a history it turns out to be.

The Academy Award-winning actor learned in the latest episode of the PBS genealogy series "Finding Your Roots" that both his grandfather and great-grandfather -- both Jews -- died at the hands of Soviet secret police.

Moreover, his great-grandmother nearly suffered the same fate, spending five years in a Russian concentration camp before eventually making her way to the United States.

The tale was one Hoffman's late father hid from his family, and learning it left the actor in tears.

"Why did he want to erase all this?" Hoffman muses in the episode.



Dustin Hoffman appeared in the latest episode of the PBS genealogy series "Finding Your Roots."

Actor Dustin Hoffman becomes emotional as he learns his dramatic family history He says that learning the story brings him closer to his Jewish roots

Maybe, Hoffman says, his dad just wanted to shield his family from the tragedies that had befallen his grandfather, Frank, and great-grandfather Sam Hoffman.

"Who knows," Hoffman said. "My father could have been crying, grabbing his father's leg, saying, 'Daddy, please don't go.'

"My poor dad," Hoffman said.

Hoffman said that learning the story has brought him closer to his Jewish roots.

"People ask me today, 'What are you?' " Hoffman said, tearfully. "I say, 'I'm a Jew.' " $\,$

The episode of <u>"Finding Your Roots"</u> featuring Hoffman, as well as actress Mia Farrow, debuted Tuesday. It's also available online.

The show was the focus of controversy

last year when it emerged that its producers had omitted information about actor Ben Affleck's slave-owning ancestors at his request. An internal PBS review found that the show's producers failed to "shield the creative and editorial process from improper influence."

How children benefit from learning their family history

http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/10/entertainment/dust inhoffmanfindingyourrootsfeat/index.html?iid=ob_article_footer_expansion&iref=obnetwork

Clive Evatt to appeal over Stephen Dank defamation case ruling



Chris Merritt, Legal Affairs Editor, Sydney, THE AUSTRALIAN, MARCH 28, 2016 12:00AM



Clive Evatt believes the scale of the fight adversely affected Stephen Dank's effectiveness as a witness in his defamation case. Picture: John Feder

Eccentric defamation barrister Clive Evatt is planning a last-ditch appeal to avoid his client paying \$2 million in costs after representing controversial sports scientist Stephen Dank.

After securing a Pyrrhic victory against *The Sunday Telegraph*, Mr Evatt hopes to turn a minor victory into cash.

His client, Mr Dank, has instructed Mr Evatt to lodge an appeal against this month's ruling that found Mr Dank had been defamed but deserved no damages.

He will also seek to overturn an order from the NSW Supreme Court that requires him to pay the newspaper's legal costs, which are expected to top \$2 million.

Mr Evatt said the Dank case, while a technical victory, was one of the worst cases in which he had been involved.

"It was a Pyrrhic win. What's the point of winning if you don't get any damages or costs?" he said.

"In England they are still giving verdicts of a farthing, but I've never heard of zero damages where they find for the plaintiff. It's new ground in defamation."

"The usual rule is that if you find for the plaintiff, the plaintiff gets the costs — so Dank has instructed us to appeal on that point."

Under Mr Evatt's business model, he relies on costs orders from successful cases for his income. But in the Dank case, many things went wrong.

An associated claim against *The Daily Telegraph* failed. - Nationwide News, which publishes the *Telegraphs* and *The Australian*, successfully defended a report that Mr Dank had accelerated the death of footballer Jon Mannah by administering banned peptides. Mr Evatt believed the scale of the fight adversely affected Mr Dank's effectiveness as a witness.

His client had been "a bit overawed by it all', he said. "He was like a rabbit caught in the headlights. Some people are born witnesses. He wasn't a natural witness."

He believed Mr Dank had been shocked to be subjected to cross-examination for more than two days — even though Mr Evatt said he did not consider this to be excessive. He believed he had been "outgunned by a better team — I don't have any excuses".

But he believed the case suffered because three expert witnesses who had been promised by Mr Dank had failed to appear and give supporting evidence.

"The other side were really well prepared. They ran their case perfectly and we were a bit at sea," he said. "All right, we lost Dank's case. Totally crushed. But nevertheless, it cost them a few bob to fight it."

So does he feel guilty about forcing media companies to spend so much defending themselves?: "No. They can settle. These are tough, tough-nosed people. They love a good fight."

Mr Dank's case is the latest in a series of high-profile defamation matters in which Mr Evatt has found himself representing colourful clients.

Others include notorious historian Fredrick Toben, who was an undischarged bankrupt when he launched defamation proceedings over an article in *The Australian* that described him as a Holocaust denier. "You would not say he was the full quid," he said.

But he viewed the Toben case, which is under appeal, as a free-speech issue. "He is obsessed, completely

obsessed about the Holocaust. But why can't he express his view?" Mr Evatt said.

In 1998 Dr Toben was jailed in Germany for breaching that country's Holocaust law. In Australia he was jailed for contempt of court in 2009 when he refused to stop publishing material that vilified Jews.

In November last year, the NSW Supreme Court ruled that his litigation against *The Australian* was an abuse of process aimed at securing a privileged forum and should be permanently stayed.

He had sued Clive Mathieson, who was then editor of *The Australian*; senior reporter Christian Kerr and former Greens leader Christine Milne over a 2013 article that carried the headline: "Split in the Greens over Holocaust denier".

Mr Evatt has deep links to the law. His uncle was former High Court judge and federal Labor leader Bert Evatt; his sister is Elizabeth Evatt, the first chief justice of the Family Court; and his father, Clive Evatt Sr, was a silk and state Labor politician in NSW.

Clive Evatt Jr has twice been admitted to the Bar; the time in 1956 and the second in 1981, after an enforced absence.

He was struck off in 1968 for his part in a scheme with two solicitors, H.A.P. Vernon and B.R. Miles, that led to clients being charged what the NSW Supreme Court described as "extortionate and grossly excessive sums". The Supreme Court had only wanted Mr Evatt suspended for two years. But the NSW Bar Association went to the High Court and had him struck off.

Since returning to practice, he said he believed he had won about 80 per cent of his cases against the media, including the 2012 case he ran for former Guantanamo Bay inmate Mamdouh Habib.

He won \$176,000 from radio stations 2GB and 2UE after broadcasts by Ray Hadley, Steve Price and John Laws concerning Mr Habib's entitlement to social security benefits.

After all those victories against the media, did he mind that mainstream media organisations might considered him to be the great satan?

"It's just words. It means nothing to me," he said. He also saw no inconsistency with his strong stance on freedom of speech because he considered defamation cases were merely "correcting mistakes". "Free speech is pretty important," he said. "That's about all we have got left. I think anyone within reason should be able to express their opinion."

While his practice is dominated by defamation, he understood that "journalists hate it".

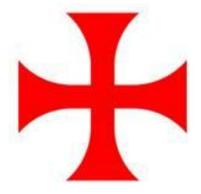
"They go to a lot of trouble to write their stories and they expect their newspapers to stick up for them — which they do."

But he said this was not the case when *The Sydney Morning Herald* stood down respected columnist Paul Sheahan this month over one flawed column.

"It was a bit of an over-reaction; he has been with them for 20 years and was treated unfairly," he said.

Mr Evatt believed former *Herald* columnist Mike Carlton had also been treated harshly. Carlton resigned two years ago after sending abusive emails to readers, accusing one of being a "Jewish bigot".

http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/media/clive-evatt-to-appeal-over-stephen-dank-defamation-case-ruling/news-story/38cf51b6d127ab0bf4f1ddbd8bc61369



League of Extraordinary Revisionists

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkhr70oo_Int0NLW83Q2ovw

MICHAEL SANTOMAURO

https://youtu.be/NfOXNCG5Y64

From his apartment on Manhattan's Upper West Side, in what might be called the intellectual center of Jewish America, Michael Santomauro sends out a daily e-mail digest of what are, for his neighborhood, some unusual views on Judaism. Among them: questions on the Holocaust's veracity, excoriation of every aspect of Israel's behavior and questions on the morality of Judaism itself. Santomauro, 50, says his messages, which he claims reach about 144,000 subscribers, caught some unwanted attention. The Jewish Defense Organization (JDO), a militant group known for its sharptongued rhetoric, called for his eviction from the apartment in which he lives and assembles his "Reporter's Notebook" Web site. The organization has posted leaflets outside his building and called for a rally there next weekend. The group is also attempting to organize a boycott of Santomauro's business, a Webbased service called Roommate Finders, which Santomauro says has a clientele that is about 45% Jewish... Santomauro landed in the mainstream media in January 2003 when The New York Times reported that he had been sending his Reporter's Notebook e-mails to his Roommate Finder clients, prompting some salty protests. Santomauro is not hesitant to blur the lines between his business and his obsession with Jewish issues. In discussing his theories on Jewish social psychology, he claimed that of his business clients who express a racial preference in their roommate search, 95% are Jews. "It's a much more cliquish community," he said. The JDO says it targeted Santomauro's apartment as "Nazi headquarters" because of meetings he hosted with Holocaust deniers. ... Santomauro launched his Reporter's Notebook about four years ago. E-mails go out several times a day, offering press clippings from mainstream newspapers, frequently salted with Santomauro's editorial notes. He also sends out essays that are hostile to Israel and that question the Holocaust. In one recent week, titles included "The Amazing, Rapidly Shrinking 'Holocaust,'" "Miami, Florida: Zionist Occupied Territory?" and "Jewish Discrimination Against Christians." ... As for the Holocaust, "There are things that have been twisted and exaggerated," he said, ... On Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year, he sent out an

article arguing that Jews were involved in the Civil Rights Movement because it "dilutes Euro-American power," which he said "stands in opposition to Jewish interests. ... There are a lot of things in Judaism that are very hateful," Santomauro said, "It could be a group strategy to promote a reaction of antisemitism, so that it keeps the Jewish community cohesive and intact." Santomauro is sticking to his position: "A dialogue should be done on an intellectual level. They make it very clear they're not interested in having a debate. They want to destroy me."

http://codoh.com/library/authors/2638/

JIM RIZOLI, Cofounder, producer/interviewer (Fred Leuchter and Assistant, Diane King) of the Series, LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY REVISIONISTS. This also entails seeking out UNSUNG HEROES and German survivors of Allied atrocities - The German Story, The German Way. Hard core historical revisionist, Jim and, his brother, Joe moved from combating the illegal immigrant hordes in their cable shows to dealing with the fundamental and pervading issue of the holocaust. Their immigrant battles led them to the plight of Ernst Zundel in Canada, being prosecuted for having reprinted * Did 6 Million Really Die*! Thus Jim and Joe's efforts and cable shows also turned toward the issue of the holocaust. That's when their troubles accelerated. In 2002 - 2003 they began producing numerous (1000s of videos) dealing with many issues and 100s of videos about the holocaust. Consequently, YouTube videos (700) under the name of Jim Rizoli were banned. His name was banned on Facebook. In 2010, their cable shows were suspended. They returned and then were permanently removed in 2014. We are back to provide a venue of/freedom of, telling the story for tried-and-true revisionists and Germans throughout North America, Europe and Australia.

If you are interested in helping us defray costs in this effort, send a check to:

Jim Rizoli (LOER) 94 Pond St. Framingham, MA 01702 508-872-7292 USA Thank You!

Erdogan's ominous foretelling of Brussels attacks: Premonition or Freudian slip? Tuesday March 22, 2016 10:11PM



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned of possible terrorist attacks in European cities during a ceremony in the coastal town of Çanakkale, March 18, 2016. (AFP)

Last week, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned European countries that they could become a victim of terrorist attacks like the car bombing in the Turkish capital on March 13 that killed 37 people. And the only city that came to his mind as an example of a possible target was the Belgian capital Brussels.

"There is no reason why the bomb that exploded in Ankara cannot explode in Brussels, in any other European city," Erdogan said during a Friday speech to commemorate a ey-Erdogan-predicted--Brussels-attacks

famous World War I battle in the Turkish coastal town of Canakkale.

A few days later on Tuesday, two bomb attacks at Brussels airport killed at least 14 people and left nearly 100 people wounded, while a separate bombing in a metro station killed around 20 people and injured about 100 more.

However, the parapraxis is reminiscent of former US President George Bush's slip of tongue back in 2005 when he briefly mixed up the names of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in a news conference at the White House.

Of course, there is no correlation between the attacks in Brussels and Ankara as the former was claimed by the Daesh Takfiri terrorists but the latter was claimed by a militant group affiliated to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). And it should be noted that Erdogan's warning was only an expression of anger directed toward EU leaders because they had allowed the PKK supporters to set up protest tents outside the European Union building in Brussels, the de facto capital of the European Union. And the Turkish government itself has been implicated in support for Takfiri terrorists and has also been accused on numerous occasions of being involved in illegal oil trade with

http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/03/22/457098/Turk

Israel recently warned Belgium of lax airport security — report Weeks ahead of deadly blasts, Israeli security assessment found Brussels airport had 'significant shortcomings'

By <u>Tamar Pileggi</u> March 23, 2016, 11:18 pm 1

Israel reportedly warned Belgian officials of the numerous security failings at the Brussels airport weeks before a series of deadly bomb blasts ripped through the site on Tuesday.

Israeli security officials tasked with assessing safety measures at various international airports that operate flights to Tel Aviv found "significant shortcomings" at Zaventem Airport, Channel 2 reported Wednesday.

The report came amid widespread criticism of Belgium's approach to immigration and security and reports that Brussels officials had specific information about the planned attacks.

On Wednesday, Turkey revealed that Brussels attacker Ibrahim El Bakraoui was detained and deported back to Europe last year. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Belgian authorities failed to confirm the suspect's jihadist links and released him despite Ankara's warnings that he was "a foreign fighter."



A picture taken on March 22, 2016 shows a Belgian police vehicle driving past passengers who are evacuating the Brussels Airport of Zaventem after twin blasts killed 15 and injured dozens of others earlier that day. AFP / Belga / Jonas Roosens.

Belgium identified Ibrahim El Bakraoui as one of two men who blew themselves up in the Zaventem airport departure hall while his brother Khalid struck at the Maalbeek metro station in the attacks on the symbolic heart of Europe.

Some 32 people were killed in the attacks and over 200 injured.

Belgium said on Wednesday that the Bakraoui brothers were connected to the deadly Paris terror attacks in November of last

In the wake of the attacks, Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz on Wednesday criticized Belgian complacency in the face of rising terrorism

Katz said the Belgians were too busy "eating chocolate and enjoying life" to properly identify terror as Islamist, and would not be able to combat the phenomenon until it did so.



Left to right, Khalid El Bakraoui, Ibrahim El Bakraoui and Najim Laachraoui in a photo distributed by Belgian authorities. Belgian Federal Police.

In a similar vein, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin on Tuesday accused Brussels of "naivety" over the spread of Islamist extremism in their country.

Both Katz and Sapin were criticized for their remarks, and some say the country is being unfairly singled out and the timing of the criticism is crass.

Belgium has faced disparagement in the past over its security failings, particularly in the wake of November's Paris attacks that were largely planned in the Brussels suburb of Molenbeek, considered a hotbed of Islamist radicalism.

AFP contributed to this report.

http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-recently-warnedbelgium-of-lax-airport-security-report/