

# **The Iranian Leadership's Continuing Declarations of Intent to Destroy Israel**



**2009-2012**

**Prof. Joshua Teitelbaum  
Lt. Col. (ret.) Michael Segall**



**The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs**  
המרכז הירושלמי לענייני ציבור ומדינה (ע"ר)

# **The Iranian Leadership's Continuing Declarations of Intent to Destroy Israel**

**2009-2012**

**Prof. Joshua Teitelbaum  
Lt. Col. (ret.) Michael Segall**



**Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs**  
המרכז הירושלמי לענייני ציבור ומדינה (ע"ר)

© 2012 Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

13 Tel Hai Street, Jerusalem, Israel

Tel. 972-2-5619281 Fax. 972-2-5619112

**Email:** [jcpa@netvision.net.il](mailto:jcpa@netvision.net.il)

**Website:** [www.jcpa.org](http://www.jcpa.org)

**ISBN:** 978-965-218-106-0

Production Coordinator: Tommy Berzi

Graphic Design: Studio Rami & Jaki - [www.ramijaki.co.il](http://www.ramijaki.co.il)

An updated version of “What Iranian Leaders Really Say about Doing Away with Israel: A Refutation of the Campaign to Excuse Ahmadinejad’s Incitement to Genocide”  
(November 2008)

## Preface

In 2008, the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs published an in-depth study of the Iranian leadership's views on Israel and Jews.<sup>1</sup> At the time, international attention had been focused on President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's October 2005 statement that Israel should be "wiped off the map." A controversy arose at the time over whether he indeed made this remark or was mistranslated, as several academics and two members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) and Ron Paul (R-Texas), alleged. It was demonstrated that Ahmadinejad indeed called for the destruction of Israel and his words were not misrepresented.

The previous study concluded with the observation by Michael Axworthy, who served as head of the Iran Section of Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1998 to 2000: "The formula had been used before by Khomeini and others, and had been translated by representatives of the Iranian regime as 'wiped off the map.' Some of the dispute that has arisen over what exactly Ahmadinejad meant by it has been rather bogus. When the slogan appeared draped over missiles in military parades, that meaning was pretty clear."<sup>2</sup>

In fact, when the Iranians go to the trouble of translating by themselves into English the Persian slogans draped on their missile transports as "Israel Must Be Wiped Off the Map," there is no further basis for this debate. (See top photo on page 18)

This newer study takes the previous analysis a step further. Three features of these Iranian statements stand out:

- 1. What is striking is that these declarations calling for Israel's destruction are being voiced by a broad spectrum of the Iranian leadership, including different senior officers in the Revolutionary Guard.**
- 2. Moreover, these spokesmen are not talking about a long historical process regarding Israel's elimination, but rather a development that is to take place in the near term.**
- 3. Finally, these calls for the destruction of Israel for the most part are not made in the context of an Iranian retaliatory strike, and are not contingent upon what actions Israel will take.**

Thus the problem is not just President Ahmadinejad, who will be out of office when his term ends in 2013, but rather with the entire present-day Iranian leadership. This was raised in the earlier study, but it is far more evident in the pages that follow. Because of the skepticism that was voiced in the past about the veracity of Iranian statements about Israel, this study will demonstrate what the Iranians have been precisely saying in considerable detail.

The context of this new examination of Iranian intentions is the increasing evidence that has come out over the last year about Iranian nuclear capabilities. In May 2011, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) revealed that Tehran had worked on sophisticated triggering technology that “could be used for only one purpose: setting off a nuclear weapon.”<sup>3</sup> The next month, Iran announced that it planned to triple its production of higher-grade uranium enriched to 20 percent, and was moving centrifuges to its new Fordow enrichment facility, near Qom, which is located inside of a mountain.<sup>4</sup> In September 2011, the IAEA again noted that it was “increasingly concerned” that Iran was conducting experiments on warheads with nuclear payloads.<sup>5</sup> Two months later another IAEA report presented the existence of Iranian engineering studies for replacing the conventional warhead in the re-entry vehicle on a Shahab-3 missile with a new device.<sup>6</sup>

Perhaps most worrisome of all was an article posted on the website of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on April 24, 2011. It imagines, in a chilling, matter-of-fact fashion, the day after Iran’s first nuclear-bomb test. The article concludes:

The day after Iran’s first nuclear test will be an ordinary day for us Iranians, but many of us will have a new gleam in our eyes – a gleam of national pride and might.

[Koran 8:60:] “And prepare against them what force you can and horses tied at the frontier, to frighten thereby the enemy of Allah and your enemy.”<sup>7</sup>

Despite all the financial and other sanctions on Iran enacted by the international community, Iran has developed a core group of scientific nationalists who continue to develop nuclear potential and cross technical thresholds. Although estimates vary, it seems clear that in the not-too-distant future Iran will be capable of detonating a nuclear device.<sup>8</sup>

## Iranian Leaders on Israel: A Reminder of Statements Past



### Ahmadinejad's Original "Wipe Israel off the Map" Speech

In an address to the "World without Zionism" conference held in Tehran on October 26, 2005, Ahmadinejad said:<sup>9</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
و امام عزیز ما فرمودند که این رژیم اشغالگر قدس باید از صفحه روزگار محو شود این جمله بسیار حکیمانه است.	Our dear Imam [Khomeini] ordered that this Jerusalem-occupying regime [Israel] must be erased from the page of time. This was a very wise statement.

The *New York Times* translated the statement as Israel "must be wiped off the map," a *nonliteral translation* that nevertheless conveyed the meaning of the original – the destruction of Israel.<sup>10</sup> Despite the international controversy that Ahmadinejad's language generated, a report on his October 2005 speech was still available on his presidential website as of May 2008.

## The Statements of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

### *The elimination of Israel from the region – January 15, 2001*



In the Iranian system, the highest-ranking political authority is the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who succeeded Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989. Khamenei has made statements about Israel similar to Ahmadinejad's. In a Friday sermon on December 15, 2000 (shown on Iranian TV), he declared: "Iran's position, which was first expressed by the Imam [Khomeini] and stated several times by those responsible, is that the cancerous tumor called Israel must be uprooted from the region."<sup>11</sup>

A month later on January 15, 2001, at a meeting with organizers of the International Conference for Support of the Intifada, he stated: "The foundation of the Islamic regime is opposition to Israel and the perpetual subject of Iran is the elimination of Israel from the region."<sup>12</sup> Iranian journalist Kasra Naji translated this sentence from the original Farsi as: "It is the mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to erase Israel from the map of the region."<sup>13</sup>

## Former President Mohammad Khatami

### *Confront and kill the Zionist regime – October 20, 2000*



"If we abide by real legal laws, we should mobilize the whole Islamic world for a sharp confrontation with the Zionist regime...if we abide by the Koran, all of us should mobilize to kill."<sup>14</sup>

## Former President and Current Head of the Expediency Council Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

### *Wiping Israel off the face of the earth is not unreasonable – December 14, 2000*



The Jews [who immigrated to Israel] should expect a "reverse exodus," because one day, the tumor will be removed from the body of the Islamic World, and then millions of Jews who moved there will become homeless again. And when will that be? We shall have to discuss it another time.... If one day, a very important day, of course, the Islamic World will also be equipped with the weapons available to Israel now, the imperialist strategy will reach an impasse, because the employment of even one atomic bomb inside Israel will wipe it off the face of the earth, but [such a bomb] would only do damage to the Islamic World. *It is not unreasonable to consider this possibility.*<sup>15</sup>



## General Yahya Rahim Safavi

### *Death for the Zionist Regime – February 23, 2008*

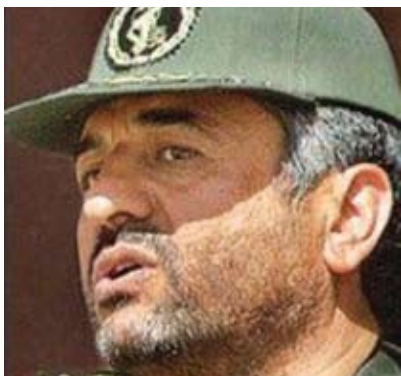


Yahya Rahim Safavi, one of the “hard-core” founders of the Revolutionary Guard and its former commander, is now senior adviser to Supreme Leader Khamenei. In a speech in February 2008, he said: *“With God’s help the time has come for the Zionist regime’s death sentence.”*<sup>16</sup>

Safavi is also fond of referring to Israel as impure, unhygienic, and contaminated. In remarks at a memorial ceremony for assassinated terrorist Imad Mughniyeh held in the city of Hamadan on February 23, 2008, he stated that the *“death of this unclean regime [دژیم نجس] [Israel] will arrive soon following the revolt of Muslims.”*<sup>17</sup>

## General Mohammad-Ali Jafari

### *Cancerous Microbe Israel – February 18, 2008*



In a message to Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-general of Hizbullah, the commander of the Revolutionary Guard, General Mohammad-Ali Jafari, wrote: *“In the near future, we will witness the destruction of the cancerous microbe Israel [جرثومه اسرائيلي] by the strong and capable hands of the nation of Hizbullah.”*<sup>18</sup>

## Hizbullah: Iran’s Arm on Israel’s Northern Border

### Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah

### *Gathering Jews in Israel makes it easier to kill them – October 22, 2002*



In its founding political platform, Hizbullah makes it clear that it takes its orders from Tehran: “We abide by the orders of one single wise and just leadership, represented by ‘Wali al-Faqih’ and personified by Khomeini.”<sup>19</sup> Hizbullah was founded in 1982 with the deployment of Iranian Revolutionary Guard forces in Lebanon’s Bīqā’ Valley and the training of its first Shiite cadre. Hizbullah’s first governing council was established by the then Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.<sup>20</sup> Thus the positions of Hizbullah are also an important indicator of Iranian intentions toward Israel.

It is important, then, to take note of the statements of Nasrallah. In 2002, he disclosed his own organization’s genocidal intent when he declared:



Islamic prophecies and not only Jewish prophecies declare that this state [Israel] will come into being, and all the Jews of the world will gather from all corners of the world in occupied Palestine. But this will not be so their false messiah [al-Dajjal] can rule in the world, but so that God can save you the trouble of running them down all over the world. And then the battle will be decisive and crushing.<sup>21</sup>

## Recent Statements Continue Major Genocidal Themes

**Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**

*The extinction of Israel is certain – February 8, 2010*

Ayatollah Khamenei praised the role of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization in the jihad struggle and added:<sup>22</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
من به آینده فلسطین بسیار خوشبین هستم و معتقدم اسرائیل در سراشیپی تند افول و زوال حرکت می کند و ان شاء الله نابودی آن حتمی خواهد بود.	I am very optimistic about the future of Palestine, and believe that Israel is moving down the steep slope of decline and downfall, and with Allah's will, its extinction will be certain.

Khamenei quotes Khomeini in a speech honoring the anniversary of his death, June 4, 2010:

*The only remedy for a cancerous growth is to cut it out.*<sup>23</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
اسرائیل يك غدهی سرطانی است. خوب، غدهی سرطانی را چه کار میکنند؟ غیر از قطع غده، چه علاجی میتوان برای آن کرد؟ امام ملاحظهی کسی را نکرد. منطق امام این بود. این حرف شعاری نیست؛ این منطقی است.	Israel is a cancerous tumor. Well, what is done with a cancerous tumor? Besides cutting out the tumor, what remedy is there?... Imam [Khomeini] did not consider [the opinion] of anyone else. This was his logic. This statement is not just a slogan!

Khamenei tweets in Persian...<sup>24</sup>

*“Israel will be destroyed”* – اسرائیل نابود خواهد شد @khamenei\_ir, September 10, 2010

And in English...<sup>25</sup>  
September 2, 2010



khamenei.ir  
@khamenei\_ir



Ayatollah Khamenei: Israel Is A Hideous Entity In the Middle East Which Will Undoubtedly Be Annihilated <http://twitpic.com/2kkj6>

## Key Khamenei Allies

### *To replace Israel in its entirety with a big holocaust – January 12, 2010*



Mohammad Hassan Rahimian is Khamenei's personal representative to one of the main foundations (Bonyad) through which the Iranian regime provides political patronage. Interviewed on Al-Manar TV on January 12, 2010, he stated that "We have manufactured missiles that allow us, when necessary, to replace [*sic*] Israel in its entirety with a big holocaust."<sup>26</sup>

### *Laying out the legal and religious justification for the destruction of Israel*



While not quoting Khamenei directly, on February 4, 2012, the conservative website Alef, known for its ties with the Supreme Leader, featured an article providing the legal and religious justification for the destruction of Israel and the slaughter of its people. The article was repeated on the website of the Revolutionary Guard.<sup>27</sup>

## Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

### *Death to Israel – February 11, 2011*



While in English Ahmadinejad's sign says "Down with Israel," in Persian and Arabic it reads "Death to Israel," February 11, 2011

### *The Zionists are extinctable – October 14, 2010<sup>28</sup>*

During a visit to Bint Jbeil, Lebanon, Ahmadinejad accused the West of being behind a 9/11 conspiracy, and concluded his remarks:

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
صهیونیست ها رفتني هستند و مردم بنت جبیل طعم شکست تلخ را به آنها خواهند چشاند و گرد یاس و ناامیدی را بر چهره دشمنان بشریت خواهند پاشید.	The Zionists are extinctable, and the people of Bint Jbeil will give them the taste of the bitter flavor of defeat, and will scatter the dust of despair and hopelessness into the face of the enemies of humanity.

### *Israel, as insult to mankind, will disappear, Holocaust is a myth – September 18, 2009*

Ahmadinejad's most virulent rhetoric is saved for the annual Jerusalem (Qods) Day speech. Here are some excerpts from the 2009 speech:<sup>29</sup>

You should know that this regime is on its way to dissolution. Do not attach yourself to this regime. This regime is on its way to extinction – do not tie your fate to these people.

بدانید این رژیم رو به زوال است خودتان را به آن پیوند نزنید ... این رژیم رفتني است ، سرنوشت خودتان را به اینها گره نزنید.

The Zionist regime can cease to exist (or can be made to cease to exist).

رژیم صهیونیستی از بین رفتني است.

### *Cleansing humanity of Israel – September 3, 2010<sup>30</sup>*

In his 2010 speech in September on Jerusalem Day. Ahmadinejad showed no sign of moderating his rhetoric:

To the West and the United States I propose a solution to the Palestine issue: just as you created this evil Zionist regime through deception, I suggest you take away this regime to wherever you want. You can give them one of your own states or territories.

رییس جمهور در ادامه با پیشنهاد راهحلي به دولت هاي غربي و آمريکايي براي حل موضوع فلسطين، خاطر نشان کرد: همان طور که با دغل کاري رژیم منحوس صهیونیستی را تاسیس کردید، همانطور این رژیم را به هر جا که مي خواهيد منتقل کنید و مي توانيد يکي از کشور هاي خود و يا سرزميني را به آنها واگذار کنید.

The Zionists have no power, and the Zionist regime is on a downward slide toward collapse, and no ruse will save it.

صهیونیست ها قدرتي ندارند و رژیم صهیونیستی در سراشیبي سقوط قرار دارد و با هیچ ترفندي هم نجات نخواهد یافت.

Jerusalem will be liberated, the Zionists will cease to exist, and world justice will prevail.

قدس آزاد خواهد شد، صهیونیست ها از بین خواهند رفت و عدالت جهاني برپا مي شود.

Jerusalem Day [should] also be an arena for fighting the devil, and should be a day for the cleansing of human society from the Zionists.

روز قدس هم بايد عرصه اي براي مبارزه با شيطان و همچنين روز پاکيزگي هاي جامعه بشري از صهیونیست ها باشد.

### *Israel as tumor – May 15, 2011<sup>31</sup>*

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
اگر این رژیم به هر عنوان در منطقه حضور پیدا کند، منطقه را آلوده می کند همانند یک سلول سرطانی که در بدن رشد می نماید، بنابراین، این سلول باید از بدن بیرون رود.	The origin of the Zionist regime...is a cancerous infested tumor that even if one of its cells remains in the region it will be infested, and this situation will go on, this is why these cells must be extracted.

### *Iran is determined to eradicate Israel – August 25, 2011*

“Iran believes that whoever is for humanity should also be for eradicating the Zionist regime as a symbol of suppression and discrimination.”<sup>32</sup>

### *No place in the Middle East for cancerous cell Israel – Jerusalem Day speech, August 26, 2011*

“Israel will have no place in the Middle East after the establishment of a Palestinian state. Establishing such a state will be the first step toward liberating Palestine. The Zionist regime is a cancerous cell. A lab of microbes. If it continues existing on even a sliver of Palestine, it will rearm itself and harm the world.”<sup>33</sup>

### **Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi**

### *Israel has activated the countdown to its extinction – June 1, 2010*



Ahmad Vahidi has been Iran’s defense minister since August 2009. From 2005 to 2009 he was Ahmadinejad’s vice-president for defense affairs. Having served in the Revolutionary Guard for more than ten years since 1980, he reached the rank of brigadier general and commanded the Guard’s elite Qods Force unit, responsible for terrorist activities and operations outside Iran. An international Interpol warrant against him was issued by the Argentinian authorities for suspected involvement in the bombing of the Jewish community center (AMIA building) in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, which left eighty-five people dead.<sup>34</sup>

### *Iran can stand up to this wicked and dangerous creature – August 17, 2010*

In a press conference he gave on Defense Industry Day, Vahidi unveiled the Karar UAV bomber and said regarding the threats from Israel:<sup>35</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
رژیم صهیونیستی فکر کند که می تواند با قدرت جمهوری اسلامی به طور مستقیم روبرو شود، ولی جمهوری اسلامی امروز آمادگی لازم و کامل دارد تا در برابر این موجود شرور و خطرناک بایستد و آنها هیچ خطری نداشته باشند. ما امروز آماده دادن درس فراموش نشدنی به آنها هستیم.	The Zionist regime believes that it can directly confront the power of the Islamic Republic, but today the Islamic Republic has the complete and necessary ability to stand up to this wicked and dangerous creature, so that no danger can emanate from it. Today we are prepared to teach them an unforgettable lesson.

### *Israel has activated the countdown to its extinction – June 1, 2010<sup>36</sup>*

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
رژیم صهیونیستی نشان داد که حتی به ابتدایی ترین اصول حقوق بشر نیز پایبند نیست... اسرائیل با یورش وحشیانه به کاروان آزادی شمارش معکوس نابودی خود را کلید زد.	The Zionist regime has shown that it does not adhere to the most fundamental principles of human rights...and with this action [defending its Gaza blockade] it has activated the countdown to its extinction.

**Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces**

### *Zionists: Scream until your destruction – November 15, 2011<sup>37</sup>*



Born in 1951 in Mashhad, Firouzabadi has been chief of staff since 1989. He was active against the Shah and was arrested by SAVAK. Following the contested elections of 2009, Firouzabadi said that the army was ready to protect the regime.



ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
صهیونیست‌ها که راهی جز مرگ در پیش‌روی خود ندارند این فریاد جنگ را تا زمانی که نابود شوند، بر خواهند آورد.	The Zionists, who do not have any fate but death, will continue screaming of war until their destruction.

**Brigadier General Mohammad-Reza Naghdi, commander of the Basij Paramilitary Force**

*Pack your bags and leave. If not, the sea awaits you – February 11, 2011*<sup>38</sup>



Naghdi has commanded the Basij militia since October 2009. He was born in the Iraqi holy city of Najaf, moving to Iran after the Islamic Revolution. He has announced that he plans to expand the Basij until it has seven thousand bases throughout Iran.

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
به زودی محاصره صهیونیست‌ها کامل خواهد شد و تنفس گاه‌های اندکی هم که برایشان باقی مانده به زودی مسدود خواهد شد و توصیه می‌کنم که صهیونیست‌ها برای اینکه زنده بمانند هر چه زودتر چمدان‌هایشان را ببندند و به کشورهای خود باز گردند چون اگر این محاصره تکمیل شود دیگر انقلابیون فلسطینی راهی جز ریختن بقایای آنها به دریا نخواهند داشت.	Soon the siege on the Zionists will be complete, and the little breath they still have left will be stifled. I recommend to the Zionists that in order to stay alive they should pack their bags quickly and return to their countries of origin. Because as soon as this siege is fully tightened, the Palestinian revolutionaries will have no choice but to throw them into the sea.

*Israelis: Leave and save your lives – August 10, 2011*

“Today Zionists are completely surrounded by the Mujahedin of Islam and we advise them [Zionists] to return to the countries of their origin soon to save their lives.”<sup>39</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
<p>به صهیونیست ها توصیه می کنیم اثاثیه منازل شان را برداشته و به کشورهای خود برگردند و اگر خیلی بر ماندن اصرار دارند باید بدانند زمانی فرا خواهد رسید که حتی فرصت جمع کردن چمدان های شان را هم نخواهند داشت .</p>	<p>We recommend them to pack their furniture and return to their countries. And if they insist on staying, they should know that a time will arrive when they will not even have time to pack their suitcases.</p>

### Commander of the Iranian Navy Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayari

*Killing the Zionists – June 29, 2011*<sup>41</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
<p>هر پیشرفتی در مملکت باشد صهیونیست ها نسبت به آن حساس هستند و ما به این دلیل توانمندی های خود را با اعزام ناوگروه ها و زیر سطحی به آنها نشان می دهیم تا باعث مرگ آنها شود .</p>	<p>The Zionists are nervous because of all the progress our country has made. Therefore, we will display our capabilities by dispatching destroyers and submarines until they kill them.</p>

### General Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, missile scientist and IRGC officer

An Iranian website disclosed that senior IRGC officer Hassan Tehrani-Moghaddam, who was killed in a blast in November 2011, requested in his last will that his epitaph would state: “A man is buried here who wanted to destroy Israel.”<sup>42</sup>



**Mohsen Rafighdoost, former commander of the IRGC**

*Wishing for Israel's demise – Jerusalem Day, August 26, 2011*<sup>43</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
به امید خدا امسال سال آخر حیات رژیم صهیونیستی است .	With God's help this will be the last year in the life of the Zionist regime.

**Sardar Yahya Safavi, chief adviser to the Supreme Leader for the Armed Forces**

*Calling for Jihad – Jerusalem Day, August 26, 2011*<sup>44</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
مقاومت اسلامی و ادامه جهاد بعنوان تنها راهبرد آزادی فلسطین.	Islamic opposition and continued jihad are the only way to liberate Palestine.

**Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, IRGC Aerospace Force commander**

*Our missiles are aimed at U.S. forces and Israel – June 28, 2011*<sup>45</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
همان طور که گفته ام برد موشک های ما 2 هزار کیلومتر است ضمن اینکه بیشترین دشمن های فرمانطقه ای ما آمریکا و اسرائیل هستند و ما احساس تهدیدی از ناحیه کشورهای دیگر نمی کنیم بنابراین برد موشک هایمان را بر اساس اهداف آمریکایی در منطقه و اسرائیل طراحی کرده ایم .	As I explained, our missile range is two thousand kilometers, and our main enemies outside the region are the U.S. and Israel. We are not aware of threats from other countries and so the range of our missiles has been calculated according to the location of U.S. targets in the region and Israel.

**Rostam Ghasemi, minister of petroleum**

*Israel's final days – Jerusalem Day, August 26, 2011*<sup>46</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
به نظر می رسد اسرائیلی ها دریافته اند در حال گذراندن آخرهای عمرشان هستند . ان شاء الله دولت فلسطین تشکیل شود .	It would appear that the Israelis have understood that they are living their final days. Inshallah [God willing] a Palestinian state will be established.

## Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar

*Destroying Israel – August 25, 2011*<sup>47</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
اکنون مسلمانان به سمتی پیش می‌روند که رژیم صهیونیستی را به لطف خدا از بین برند.	The Muslims in the world are now moving in a direction in which, with the help of God, they will destroy the Zionist regime.

## Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi

*The coming destruction of Israel – December 12, 2010*<sup>48</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
آیت الله ناصر مکارم شیرازی صبح یکشنبه در دیدار اعضای کاروان همبستگی با مردم غزه، با بیان اینکه زوال اسرائیل نزدیک است.	In a meeting with the members of the Asia to Gaza Solidarity Caravan, Ayatollah Shirazi said that the destruction of Israel is drawing near.

## Ayatollah Mohammadi, representative of the Supreme Leader in Hamadan Province, and Friday prayer leader of the city of Hamadan

*Israel on the way out – August 13, 2011*<sup>49</sup>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
رژیم صهیونیستی هم اکنون در محاصره قرار دارد و به نابودی خود نزدیک می‌شود.	The Zionist regime is under siege at the moment and nearing annihilation.

## Iranian nuclear scientist Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan

Fars News Agency quoted the wife of the Iranian scientist, who was killed in January 2012, stating that “Mostafa’s ultimate goal was the annihilation of Israel.”<sup>50</sup>

## Former Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki

The sign on the podium reads: “Imam Khomeini: If nations rise, Israel shall be annihilated”  
– Jerusalem Day, August 26, 2011



## Iranian Military Parades

The Iranian Armed Forces regularly hold military parades in Tehran, which are also an important indication of regime intent. Usually featured are Iranian Shahab-3 missiles, which have a 1300-kilometer range that enables them to strike Israel. In these parades, the Iranians frequently fix signs on the transport vehicles carrying the missiles, which have read: “Israel must be wiped off the map.” The Iranians have even translated the text into English by themselves:



Footage from Tehran military parade, Channel 1 (Iran), IRINN TV (Iran), September 22, 2004

Another variation of this theme was evident in last year’s military parade:



Footage of Shahab-3 missile transport vehicles on parade. Visible on the front is a draped slogan stating “Israel Must Be Destroyed.” Iranian Revolutionary Guard in Tehran, Islamic year 1389 (March 2010-March 2011)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZpLFvcJaIM>

ORIGINAL	TRANSLATION
اسرائیل باید از بین برود .	Israel Must Be Destroyed



## Incitement to Genocide

It is manifestly clear that the statements of Iran's leaders continue to constitute incitement to genocide of the people of Israel. They remain alarmingly similar to the coded statements of incitement that preceded the Rwandan genocide of the Tutsis in 1994,<sup>51</sup> and should therefore alarm all peace-loving people.

There is ample legal basis for the prosecution of Ahmadinejad and other Iranian leaders in the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court for direct and public incitement to commit genocide and crimes against humanity.<sup>52</sup>



Israel should be wiped from the annals of history – Jerusalem Day, August 26, 2011

*Kayhan* (major Iranian daily): “Israel should be destroyed from the Nile to the Euphrates.” Jerusalem Day coverage, August 27, 2011



## Notes

- 1 Joshua Teitelbaum, "What Iranian Leaders Really Say about Doing Away with Israel: A Refutation of the Campaign to Excuse Ahmadinejad's Incitement to Genocide," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, November 2008.
- 2 Michael Axworthy, *A History of Iran: Empire of the Mind* (New York: Basic Books, 2008), 313.
- 3 *New York Times*, May 24, 30; Reuters, June 1, 2011.
- 4 *Washington Post*, June 8; Reuters, June 9, 2011.
- 5 *Wall Street Journal*, September 3, 2011.
- 6 <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Board/2011/gov2011-65.pdf>.
- 7 [http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/5355.htm#\\_ednref1](http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/5355.htm#_ednref1).
- 8 [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-march-toward-a-nuclear-iran/2011/07/29/gIQAfcypsI\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-march-toward-a-nuclear-iran/2011/07/29/gIQAfcypsI_story.html).
- 9 Iranian Students News Agency, October 26, 2005, <http://www.isna.ir/Main/NewsView.aspx?ID=News-603209> (no longer active). To view a similar report on Ahmadinejad's website (<http://www.president.ir/fa>), it is necessary to enter the archive of presidential speeches according to the Persian date, 4 Aban (8th month), 1384. Of the five items listed for that day, the "World without Zionism" speech is first.
- 10 The *New York Times*'s nonliteral translation of Ahmadinejad's call to destroy Israel, as "the occupying regime must be wiped off the map," was picked up by many world leaders opposed to the current regime. See Nazila Fathi's translation, *New York Times*, October 30, 2005. Fathi works at the *Times*'s Tehran bureau. She translated Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi's book, *The History and Documentation of Human Rights in Iran*, from Persian into English. Even the official IRIB news agency reported in English that the president had called for Israel to be "wiped off the map," [http://www.iribnews.ir/Full\\_en.asp?news\\_id=204682&n=35](http://www.iribnews.ir/Full_en.asp?news_id=204682&n=35) (no longer active, but see screenshot at <http://tilmantarach.blogspot.com/2010/01/iran.html>. My thanks to Tilman Tarach). President Ahmadinejad made a similar statement in a speech honoring Ayatollah Khomeini on June 2, 2008. See the clip and translation as monitored by MEMRITV at <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/1784.htm>, and the wire stories by IRNA, AFP, AP, and Reuters, June 2, 2008.
- 11 "Iran Calls for the Destruction of Israel," Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, Center for Special Studies, Special Information Bulletin, November 2003, citing Khabar TV, December 14, 2000. [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/html/final/eng/bu/iran/shihab\\_11\\_03.htm](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/html/final/eng/bu/iran/shihab_11_03.htm)  
See also "Iran Leader Urges Destruction of 'Cancerous' Israel," CNN, December 15, 2000, <http://archives.cnn.com/2000/WORLD/meast/12/15/mideast.iran.reut/>. A similar quotation in Persian is at <http://www.kheimh.org/kheimh/index.php?po=fulltext&op=1&pg=1&id=455>.
- 12 "Iran Calls for the Destruction of Israel."
- 13 Kasma Naji, *Ahmadinejad: The Secret History of Iran's Radical Leader* (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2008), 144.
- 14 Khabar TV, October 24, 2000, [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/html/final/eng/bu/iran/shihab\\_11\\_03.htm](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/html/final/eng/bu/iran/shihab_11_03.htm).
- 15 Khabar TV, December 14, 2000, [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/html/final/eng/bu/iran/shihab\\_11\\_03.htm](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/html/final/eng/bu/iran/shihab_11_03.htm).
- 16 <http://www1.irna.com/fa/news/view/line-5/8612021449121206.htm>, [http://www.taghribnews.com/tmain\\_fa.aspx?lng=fa&mode=art&artid=20992](http://www.taghribnews.com/tmain_fa.aspx?lng=fa&mode=art&artid=20992).
- 17 <http://sepahnews.com/nEWS/uNew.aspx?id=8584&pid=0>.

- 18 <http://sepahnews.com/nEWS/uNew.aspx?id=8482&pid=0>, February 18, 2008.
- 19 Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, Center for Special Studies, *Hezbollah*, Part 1 (Tel Aviv: Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, June 2003), 53. *Wali al-Faqih* is the "Rule of the Jurisconsult." Nasrallah referred again to Hizbullah as the party of the Rule of the Jurisconsult in a speech on May 26, 2008. For the clip, see MEMRITV, <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/1779.htm>.
- 20 Martin Kramer, "Hizbullah in Lebanon," *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World*, Vol. 2 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), 130-133.
- 21 For a recording of the speech in Arabic, go to <http://audio.hizbollah.tv/details.php?cid=1&linkid=189>. The Beirut *Daily Star* reported on the speech and quoted Nasrallah: "If they (Jews) all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide." "Nasrallah Alleges 'Christian Zionist' Plot," *Daily Star*, October 23, 2002, citing Nasrallah speech in the village of Haret Hreik on October 22. The interpolation "Jews" is in the original *Daily Star* text.
- 22 <http://www.khabaronline.ir/news-42632.aspx>.
- 23 <http://leader.ir/langs/fa/index.php?p=bayanat&id=6893>.
- 24 [http://twitter.com/#!/khamenei\\_ir/status/22819421324](http://twitter.com/#!/khamenei_ir/status/22819421324).
- 25 [http://twitter.com/#!/khamenei\\_ir/status/22815824658](http://twitter.com/#!/khamenei_ir/status/22815824658).
- 26 "Senior Iranian Official Mohammad Hassan Rahimian: Our Missiles Can Cause 'Big Holocaust' in Israel," Al-Manar TV (Lebanon), January 12, 2010, <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/2342.htm>.
- 27 <http://www.alef.ir/vdcepw8zvjh8ewi.b9bj.html>.
- 28 <http://www.president.ir/fa/?ArtID=24593>.
- 29 <http://www.president.ir/fa/?ArtID=17819>.
- 30 <http://www.president.ir/fa/?ArtID=23576>.
- 31 <http://president.ir/fa/?ArtID=281760mes>; <http://www.tabnak.ir/fa/news/164890>
- 32 *Haaretz*, August 25, 2011, citing DPA.
- 33 [http://www.thememriblog.org/blog\\_personal/en/40337.htm](http://www.thememriblog.org/blog_personal/en/40337.htm), citing IRNA, PressTV, Irib.ir, Farau.com.
- 34 [http://www.interpol.int/Public/data/wanted/notices/data/2007/57/2007\\_49957.asp](http://www.interpol.int/Public/data/wanted/notices/data/2007/57/2007_49957.asp).
- 35 [http://aftabir.com/news/2010/aug/17/c1c1282026452\\_politics\\_iran\\_ahmad\\_vahidi.php](http://aftabir.com/news/2010/aug/17/c1c1282026452_politics_iran_ahmad_vahidi.php)
- 36 <http://www.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8903100908>.
- 37 <http://www.ilna.ir/newsText.aspx?ID=162198>.
- 38 <http://www.mehrnews.com/fa/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1251153>.
- 39 <http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9005193117>.
- 40 <http://www.aftabnews.ir/vdcefx8zzjh8xwi.b9bj.html>.
- 41 <http://iranyar.ir/component/content/article/29169--90.html>.
- 42 <http://snn.ir/print-13900908066.aspx>
- 43 <http://goo.gl/fV56T>.
- 44 <http://gilan.basij.ir/?q=node/20109>.
- 45 <http://www.mehrnews.com/fa/newsdetail.aspx?NewsID=1346291>.
- 46 <http://www.ariansteel.com/AllFolders/News/IndustryNewsDetailes.jsp?NewsID=69721&GID=1>.
- 47 <http://goo.gl/pmlYO>.
- 48 <http://goo.gl/hGYNd>.
- 49 [http://yjchmd.ir/newsDisplay.aspx?alias=News&news\\_id=26673](http://yjchmd.ir/newsDisplay.aspx?alias=News&news_id=26673).
- 50 "Wife Says Assassinated Iranian Scientist Wanted 'Annihilation' of Israel," Fars News Agency, February 21, <http://www.google.co.il/search?aq=f&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&q=Mostafa+Ahmadi+Roshan+Behdast>
- 51 Gregory S. Gordon, "From Incitement to Indictment? Prosecuting Iran's President for



Advocating Israel's Destruction and Piecing Together Incitement Law's Emerging Analytical Framework," *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, Vol. 98 (Spring 2008), 853-920.  
52 *Ibid.*

## About the Authors

Prof. Joshua Teitelbaum is principal research fellow at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He is Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, and is senior fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University. Prof. Teitelbaum holds visiting positions at the Hoover Institution and the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University. He would like to thank the staff of Terrogeance.com for their Persian translation services.

Lt. Col. (ret.) Michael (Mickey) Segall, a former IDF military intelligence officer and an expert on strategic issues with a focus on Iran, terrorism, and the Middle East, is a senior analyst at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.



## Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs המרכז הירושלמי לענייני ציבור ומדינה (ע"ר)

The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs is a leading independent research institute specializing in public diplomacy and foreign policy. Founded in 1976, the Center has produced hundreds of studies and initiatives by leading experts on a wide range of strategic topics. Dr. Dore Gold, Israel's former ambassador to the UN, has headed the Jerusalem Center since 2000.

### Jerusalem Center Programs:

**Global Law Forum** – A ground-breaking program that undertakes studies and advances policy initiatives to protect Israel's legal rights in its conflict with the Palestinians, the Arab world, and radical Islam. ([www.globallawforum.org](http://www.globallawforum.org))

**Defensible Borders Initiative** – A major security and public diplomacy initiative that analyzes current terror threats and Israel's corresponding territorial requirements, particularly in the strategically vital West Bank, that Israel must maintain to fulfill its existential security and defense needs. ([www.defensibleborders.org](http://www.defensibleborders.org))

**Jerusalem in International Diplomacy** – Dr. Dore Gold analyzes the legal and historic rights of Israel in Jerusalem and exposes the dangers of compromise that will unleash a new *jihadist momentum* in his book *The Fight for Jerusalem: Radical Islam, the West, and the Future of the Holy City* (Regnery, 2007). Adv. Justus Reid Weiner looks at *Illegal Construction in Jerusalem: A Variation on an Alarming Global Phenomenon* (2003). Veteran Israeli journalist Nadav Shragai documents nearly a century of Arab violence against Jews in Israel triggered by the commonly believed myth that the Jews are seeking to destroy the Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem in *The "Al-Aksa is in Danger" Libel: The History of a Lie*.

**Iran and the Threats to the West** – Preparation of a legal document jointly with leading Israeli and international scholars and public personalities on the initiation of legal proceedings against Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for incitement to commit genocide and participate in genocide. This program also features major policy studies by security and academic experts on Iran's use of terror proxies and allies in the regime's war against the West and its race for regional supremacy.

**Institute for Contemporary Affairs (ICA)** – A diplomacy program, founded in 2002 jointly with the Wechsler Family Foundation, that presents Israel's case on current issues through high-level briefings by government and military leaders to the foreign diplomatic corps and foreign press, as well as production and dissemination of information materials.

**Combating Delegitimization** – A major multilingual public diplomacy program exposing those forces that are questioning Israel's very legitimacy, while carrying out initiatives to strengthen Israel's fundamental right to security and to reinforce the historical connection between the Jewish people and their historical homeland including Jerusalem. The program also provides resources for commentators and educates students to effectively communicate these messages to promote attitude change in targeted populations.

**Anti-Semitism After the Holocaust** – Initiated and directed by Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld, this program includes conferences, seminars, and publications discussing restitution, the academic boycott, Holocaust denial, and anti-Semitism in the Arab world, European countries, and the post-Soviet states. ([www.jewishaffairs.org](http://www.jewishaffairs.org))

### Jerusalem Center Serial Publications:

**Jerusalem Viewpoints** – providing in-depth analysis of changing events in Israel and the Middle East since 1977.

**Jerusalem Issue Briefs** – insider briefings by top-level Israeli government officials, military experts, and academics, as part of the Center's Institute for Contemporary Affairs.

**Daily Alert** – a daily digest of hyperlinked news and commentary on Israel and the Middle East from the world and Israeli press.

**Post-Holocaust and Anti-Semitism** – a monthly publication examining anti-Semitism after the Holocaust.

**Jewish Political Studies Review** – a scholarly journal founded in 1989.

### Jerusalem Center Websites

[www.jcpa.org](http://www.jcpa.org) (English)  
[www.jcpa.org.il](http://www.jcpa.org.il) (Hebrew)  
[www.jcpa-lecape.org](http://www.jcpa-lecape.org) (French)  
[www.jer-zentrum.org](http://www.jer-zentrum.org) (German)  
[www.facebook.com/jerusalemcenter](https://www.facebook.com/jerusalemcenter)  
[www.twitter.com/JerusalemCenter](https://twitter.com/JerusalemCenter)  
[www.youtube.com/TheJerusalemCenter](https://www.youtube.com/TheJerusalemCenter)

President – Dr. Dore Gold  
Director General – Chaya Herskovic

Steering Committee:  
Chairman – Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld  
Members – Prof. Rela Mintz Geffen  
Prof. Arthur I. Eidelman  
Zvi R. Marom  
Prof. Yakir Plessner  
Prof. Shmuel Sandler  
Prof. Efraim Torgovnik



In 2008, the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs published an in-depth study of the Iranian leadership's views on Israel and Jews. At the time, international attention had been focused on President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's October 2005 statement that Israel should be "wiped off the map." It was demonstrated that Ahmadinejad indeed called for the destruction of Israel and his words were not misrepresented.

This newer study takes the previous analysis a step further. What is striking is that these themes are being voiced by a broad spectrum of the Iranian leadership, including different senior officers in the Revolutionary Guard.

ISBN 978-965-218-106-0



The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs  
המרכז הירושלמי לענייני ציבור ומדינה (ע"ר)