

BIOGRAPHIES

Prof. Uzi Arad, Head and Founder, Institute for Policy and Strategy, IDC Herzliya

Founding Director of the prestigious Institute for Policy and Strategy of the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Professor Uzi Arad is a well-respected figure in foreign policy, security and strategic circles. As the Institute, he established and chairs the Annual Herzliya Conference Series on Israel's Balance of National Security. Professor Arad also founded and chairs the Atlantic Forum of Israel. Recently, Professor Arad was empowered to assemble and nominated to chair the Presidential World Jewish Forum. After twenty-five years of distinguished service in the Mossad, Israel's Secret Intelligence Service, during which he served in senior positions in Israel and abroad, culminating in his tenure as Director of Intelligence (at a Major General rank), Professor Arad was appointed by then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to serve as his Foreign Policy Advisor. After retiring from the civil service, Professor Arad was appointed by the Council of the European Union to establish and direct the EU-Israel Forum. Today, Professor Arad is the Advisor of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Prior to his career in government, Professor Arad was a Professional Staff Member with the Hudson Institute in New York and Research Fellow at Tel Aviv University's Center for Strategic Studies. Professor Arad received his Bachelor's Degree from Tel Aviv University. In 1971, he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship for advanced studies at Princeton University, where he earned his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in International Relations.

Hayim Azses, Educational Director, Sephardic Educational Center

Hayim Azses is the founder and former director of the Kiryat Moriah Educational Center and of the Youth Department European Desk. Hayim Azses has extensive experience in the field of educational and leadership training, directing many projects at the Education Department of the Jewish Agency. He completed BA degrees in Middle Eastern Affairs, French Literature, Economics and English Literature at the Hebrew university. Hayim also studied at the Istanbul University and the Sorbonne in Paris, Hayim has published extensively. His works include anthologies, activity books, films, and audiovisual kits for educators.

Dr. Mitchell Bard, Executive Director, American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise,

Mitchell Bard is the Executive Director of the nonprofit American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE) and one of the leading authorities on U.S.-Middle East policy. Dr. Bard is also the director of the Jewish Virtual Library (www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org), the world's most comprehensive online encyclopedia of Jewish history and culture. Dr. Bard's work has been published in academic journals, magazines and major newspapers. He has written and edited 17 books, including *Myths And Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict* and *1001 Facts Everyone Should Know About Israel*. His newest book, *Will Israel Survive?* is due out in Spring 2007.

Noam Bedein, Sderot Media Center

After a year of seminary study, three years of Israel army service on the Lebanese border and a year's trek around Asia, Noam Bedein moved to Sderot to study at the Business School of the Sapir College Branch of Ben-Gurion University. He currently works at the new Sderot Media Information Center for the Western Negev Region of Israel.

Charles Chuman, Lebanese Political Journal

Charles Chuman is the editor of the Lebanese Political Journal. He liveblogged the July 2006 war from Beirut, having previously liveblogged the Cedar Revolution from Martyrs' Square. He worked in the pan-Arab television market as director of market strategy for Signal One Media, and has extensive experience in the Emirati, Iraqi, Jordanian, and Lebanese markets. He is also involved in political consulting.

Dr. Mike Cohen, Senior Analyst and Founder, Galilee Institute

Dr. Mike Cohen, Senior Fellow at the Galilee Institute, is a veteran political and security analyst, strategist and commentator. A 22-year veteran IDF reserve officer in an elite special-forces unit, Dr. Cohen has been active in Israeli, American and Israel-Diaspora politics in a wide variety of behind-the-scenes capacities since his teen years and has served in a range of advisory positions under five Israeli Prime Ministers dating back to the late Menachem Begin, of blessed memory. Since being named to the IDF's National Crisis Resolution and Negotiating team in Bethlehem during the abduction of the Church of the Nativity by terrorists in 2002, he has been assisting the IDF and the Israel Police in their efforts to depoliticize the nation's security efforts and concerns, comprehensively briefing visiting diplomats, politicians, dignitaries, security experts and communal missions and trying to help redefine the electronic information distribution systems the official security services use to "get the word out." Among many other innovative contributions, Dr. Cohen developed and directed the US-based extra-governmental National Media Response Team, a 2,500 student volunteer force designed to help support the government of Yitzchak Shamir and Israel's official diplomatic efforts during Gulf War I and the Madrid Peace Conference. Dr. Cohen was recently named as the Israeli representative of the Medical Enterprise Development Group (M-EDG) and is currently working with Israeli officials and venture capitalists on a new \$50 million landmark marketing initiative for Israeli inventions and technological discoveries.

Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, Director, Shurat HaDin Israel Law Center

For the past ten years Nitsana Darshan-Leitner has been leading the struggle to fight the Palestinian and Islamic terrorist groups in the courtroom. She is currently representing hundreds of terror victims in lawsuits and legal actions against HAMAS, the Palestinian Authority, Iran, Syria, Islamic Jihad and the European Union. The cases are litigated in the Israeli, American, Canadian and European courts. Attorney Darshan-Leitner is a graduate of the Bar-Ilan University Law Faculty and holds an MBA from Manchester University. She regularly appears in the media including Israeli talk show programs, Voice of Israel radio, CNN, the BBC, European television, the Jerusalem Report and many American and Canadian publications. As a result of Ms. Darshan-Leitner and Shurat HaDin's courtroom victories, hundreds of terror victims reached out for her help in suing the terrorists and sponsors one who devastated their lives. Together with other activists lawyers in Israel she founded Shurat HaDin – Israel Law Center in order to carry out efficiently the vital task of helping the terror victims to fight back. Following the model of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil right organization dedicated to bankrupting the K.K.K and other neo-Nazis groups in the US, Ms. Darshan-Leitner established Shurat HaDin to economically destroy the hate groups in the Middle East. Ms. Darshan-Leitner has been involved in a wide-range of legal actions in Israel and abroad on behalf of other Jewish rights cases. She has sued the Egyptian Ambassador over his sexual assault of an Israeli belly dancer. She represents the families of 12 missing Iranian Jews, believed to be secretly imprisoned in Tehran, in a civil action brought against the Mossad and Jewish Agency. Moreover, she has represented the family of a young Israeli officer accused of killing an anti-Israel I.S.M militant during an IDF operation in Gaza. Ms. Darshan-Leitner works with several other Israeli attorneys employed by Shurat HaDin in Israel and with numerous other law offices which serve as co-counsel on cases being litigated in courtrooms around the world.

Aussie Dave, Israellycool

A lawyer by training, "Aussie Dave" is a tireless advocate for Israel, through his popular Israellycool blog (<http://www.israellycool.com>) and podcast (<http://www.israellycoolpodcast.com/>). His liveblogging coverage of the recent Lebanon War attracted widespread attention, resulting in mainstream media interviews with *Sky News* and the *BBC*, and mentions by *MSNBC* and *AFP*. Dave is also the founder of the Jewish and Israeli blog awards, which were hosted by the Jerusalem Post in 2005

Jonathan Davis, IDF Spokesperson's Unit (res.), VP for External Relations, IDC Herzliya

Jonathan Davis is Vice-President for External Relations of the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, where he is also Head of the Raphael Recanati International School. Prior to this position, he was Director of the Division for Development and Public Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and also filled senior roles in the coordination of social and cultural services to immigrants, actively participating in the rescue of Ethiopian Jewry during "Operation Solomon" and promoting immigration from the FSU, North America and South Africa. Born in England and raised in the United States, Mr. Davis was educated at Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He earned his BA in Jewish History and in International Relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and pursued graduate studies at Tel Aviv University in the economics of developing countries. Jonathan Davis served in a paratrooper reconnaissance unit that was commanded by former Minister of Defense Shaul Mofaz. This unit executed many behind-the-lines missions, including a mission on the Syrian-Iraqi border during the Yom Kippur War. Davis serves as a reserve officer in the IDF Spokesman's Office briefing foreign journalists, escorting dignitaries and lecturing on the situation in the Middle East. During the Second Lebanon War, Major Jonathan Davis briefed hundreds of foreign journalists and appeared on numerous networks on behalf of the IDF Spokesman's Office.

MK Amira Dotan, Member of Knesset, Chairperson, Hasbara Committee

Brig. General (Res.) Amira Dotan, founder and Joint CEO of the The Mediation Center Neve - Zedek. Israel born, the first woman to reach the rank of Brig. General. Served in the I.D.F. and retired after completing a five years term as the Chief of the Women Corps. During her military service she earned her B.A. Degree in Behavioral Sciences and completed courses for a Master Degree (at Ben-Gurion University). In 1988 she was Vice President of Ben-Gurion University. Between 1989 and 1992 she chaired the Zionist Delegation to North America and represented the Jewish Agency Executive. Since 1992, she directs Business Network Israel (BNI), an American organization aimed at increasing business activities between Israel and North America. Her public activities include: directorship in public companies, Special Advisor for Women's Affairs in The Jewish Agency, Board Member at the New Foundation for Cinema and television, member of the Council for Peace and Security, Founder and Chairperson of the Middle East Career Forum, Chairperson of the Board of the Shechter Institute. She is graduate of Mediation courses in Israel and in the US.

Richard Fernandez, The Belmont Club, Australian Editor, Pajamas Media

Born and educated in the Philippines, Richard Fernandez received graduate degrees in Public Policy from Harvard University, and Applied Math from Case Western Reserve. From 1970 to 1986, he was active in the anti-Marcos movement, and from 1986 to 1990, he served as the Executive Director of an NGO that titled Filipino tribal lands. Richard was a consultant to the Philippine Peace Commission in its negotiations with the Muslim separatists from 1990 to 1993, and a consultant in community forestry to the Asian Development Bank for SGS, Switzerland from 1993 to 1996. In 1997, he emigrated to Australia where he worked as a software developer for eight years. He is currently the author of the "Belmont Club" and the Australian editor of Pajamas Media.

Dr. Joel Fishman, Project Director of Democracy in Israel, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

Dr. Joel Fishman is a Fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs and has carried out research on political warfare, particularly propaganda, as an extension of hot warfare in the current conflict. Some of his recent contributions on the subject are: "Israel's Information Policy and the Challenge of Ideological Warfare," *Nativ* Vol. 15, no 6 (November 2002): 58-64. (in Hebrew); "Information Policy and National Identity: Israel's Ideological War," *Ariel Center for Policy Research Paper* No. 142 (January 2003).; "Ten Years Since Oslo: The PLO's 'People's War' Strategy and Israel's Inadequate Response," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, *Jerusalem Viewpoints* No. 503, 1 September 2003. "The Cold-War Origins of Contemporary Anti-Semitic Terminology," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, *Jerusalem Viewpoints* No. 517, 2-16 May 2004. *La Guerre d'Oslo* (with co-author Prof. Ephraim Karsh), Paris: Editions de Passy, 2005. At present, Dr Fishman has completed an article, "The Big Lie and the Media War against Israel; From Inversion of the Truth to Inversion of Reality," which is currently under consideration by a learned journal.

Prof. Anna Geifman, Boston University

Anna Geifman, PhD, is the author of *Thou Shalt Kill: Revolutionary Terrorism in Russia, 1894-1917* (Princeton University Press, 1993) and *Entangled in Terror: The Azeff Affair and the Russian Revolution* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2000). She is the editor of *Russia under the Last Tsar: Opposition and Subversion, 1894-1917* (Blackwell, 1999). She has also authored journal articles and book chapters on Russian political and cultural history, as well as psychohistory. Her last major publication is a psychohistorical essay, *La mort sera votre dieu: du nihilisme russe au terrorisme islamiste* (« La Table Ronde » Paris, 2005). Geifman is Professor of History at Boston University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate classes on the history of imperial Russia, the USSR, and psychohistory.

Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld, Chairman of the Steering Committee, Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld is chairman of the Board of Fellows of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He is an international business strategist who has been a consultant to governments, international agencies, and boards of some of the world's largest corporations. His current fields of research include anti-Semitism, European-Israeli relations, post-Holocaust studies and Jewish environmental studies. Among his ten books are *Europe's Crumbling Myths: The Post-Holocaust Origins of Today's Anti-Semitism*, *Israel and Europe: An Expanding Abyss?* and *European-Israeli Relations: Between Confusion and Change?* (Another book he has edited, *Academics against Israel*, will appear in 2007.)

Amir Gissin, Director, Public Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Amir Gissin is the Director of Public Affairs Department and a senior spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Mr. Gissin has been at the forefront of Israel's public relations war during the second Intifadah, The second Gulf war and during recent events. He is a professional diplomat who has had postings in several Israeli embassies. Formerly the assistant foreign policy advisor to Prime Ministers Netanyahu & Barak, and chief of staff of the Minister for the World Jewish Community, Mr. Gissin was also the CEO of the "Mosaica" Research center for State, Society & Religion, and the CEO of the Shalom Beinenu ("Peace between Us") Foundation.

Dr. Raanan Gissin, Strategic Consultant and former advisor to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

Col. (Res.) Raanan Gissin PhD., a Strategic Analyst, has in recent years become one of Israel's leading spokesmen for the foreign press and the international community on security and strategic issues, and the peace process. Until recently (2001-2006) he served as Foreign Press & Public Adviser to the Prime Ministers of Israel. He is currently serving as a Foreign Press Liaison for the 7th Annual Herzliya Conference

Aryeh Green, Director, MediaCentral

Aryeh Green is the director of MediaCentral, a new initiative providing support services to journalists visiting or based in Israel. An advisor to former minister Natan Sharansky on issues relating to Hasbara, anti-Semitism and young Jewish leadership, Aryeh has been active in public diplomacy and Israel advocacy for over two decades, since arriving in Israel in 1984. He is presently involved in a number of projects encouraging greater freedom and democracy in Palestinian society and the region, and speaks frequently on these topics in universities and communities across North America and Europe. While not promoting Israel, spending time with his wife and three children, or making wine, Aryeh has spent the past 15 years in executive marketing positions or consulting for many of Israel's leading companies, including ECI Telecom, AudioCodes, Aladdin, Bank Hapoalim, Lannet, Finjan, Telrad-Connegy, and others.

Lisa Goldman, On the Face

Lisa Goldman is a Canadian-Israeli journalist and blogger. Her articles have been published in *The Guardian*, the *Jewish Quarterly*, *Haaretz* (English edition), *Alma Magazine* (owned by Yedioth Ahronoth), Israel21c.com and the *Jerusalem Post*. She also works as a translator and researcher for the Israel bureau chief of Corriere Della Sera. During the Israel-Hezbollah war her blog, On the Face, was widely quoted in the international media. She was interviewed for articles that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Le Monde*, *Liberation*, *La Repubblica* and *The Guardian*, amongst many others. *Time Magazine* chose her blog as one of the 50 "coolest" websites of 2006. During the war she was also interviewed on CNN, CTV (Canada), NHK (Japan), Bavaria's *Zum Funk Radio*, NPR Radio and BBC Radio's *Live at Five* and *World Have Your Say*. Lisa is the author of [City Guide Tel Aviv](#), the first sophisticated traveler's book about Tel Aviv in English, which was described by Tel Aviv's *Ha'ir* newspaper as a summary of "nearly all the Foreign Ministry's public relations efforts of the past 58 years in one book." She lives in Tel Aviv.

Stephanie Gutmann, *The Other War: Israelis, Palestinians and the Struggle for Media Supremacy*

Stephanie Gutmann has been a working journalist for about 16 years. She received a degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. She was a staff reporter for the *New York Post* and has freelanced for publications including the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Playboy*, *Elle*, the *New Republic* and the *Weekly Standard*. Her first book, [The Kinder, Gentler Military](#), about the effect of political correctness on the U.S. military, was published in 2000 by Scribner and was listed among Notable Nonfiction for that year by the New York Times Book Review. [The Other War: Israelis, Palestinians and the Struggle for Media Supremacy](#) was published in 2005 by Encounter Books. *The Jerusalem Post* called [The Other War](#) an "insightful book on how organs like CNN, the BBC...and others give a grossly distorted picture of [the conflict.]"

Joe Hyams, CEO, Honest Reporting

Joe Hyams is the CEO of HonestReporting.Com. His focus is on delivering efficiency and professionalism as HR moves into new technological and geographical spheres. 140,000 subscribers across six continents use HonestReporting material and expertise to monitor, understand and respond effectively to specific errant reports and long term bias trends. The development of affiliate sites (UK, Brazil, Italy, Russia and www.teachkidspace.com), and the Dec 20th launch of MediaCentral (downtown Jerusalem resource lounge for foreign journalists) are the focus of his work through the next phase of the organization's growth. Joe immigrated to Israel from the UK in 2000. He brings 9 years of Media and Marketing know-how to HonestReporting, as former Commercial Director of London's oldest advertising agency and Strategic Planner for Saatchi & Saatchi Tel Aviv. Joe's latest book is titled [The Holocaust in Sephardic Communities](#) (in series: Dreams, Dilemmas and Decisions of Jewish Leaders, vol. 5).

Charles Jacobs, Founder, The David Project

Charles Jacobs is a long-time activist in the Jewish community and beyond. In 1988, he co-founded the Boston branch of CAMERA which became the national office. In 1993, Charles founded the American Anti-Slavery Group, which brought international attention to the enslavement of tens of thousands of black Africans by Arabs in Sudan. During Passover, 2001, Charles flew into Sudan on a rescue mission that freed thousands of slaves. Charles has published widely on this topic including in *The New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. He has appeared on local and national television and radio, including NBC, CBS, NPR, CNN and PBS. In September of 2000, Coretta Scott King and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino presented Charles with the Boston Freedom Award for his abolitionist work. Jacobs has testified before Congress three times and on October 21, 2002, was invited to the White House signing of the Sudan Peace Act, where he met and spoke with President Bush. In the summer of 2002, in response to the sudden emergence of a new global anti-Semitism, Charles founded The David Project which promotes a fair and honest discussion of the Middle East conflict, and which has evolved into a Center for Jewish Leadership. Charles received his doctoral degree in social policy from Harvard. He lives with his wife and their two daughters in a suburb of Boston.

Allison Kaplan Sommer, Israel 21c, Middle East Editor, Pajamas Media

Allison Kaplan Sommer worked in local television and radio stations in Rhode Island and Massachusetts before attending and receiving her M.S. from Columbia School of Journalism. Following graduation, she worked for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York as a print reporter, covering the United Nations and national Jewish organizations for Jewish newspapers across the U.S. In 1990, she moved to Washington, DC to become the Jerusalem Post's Washington correspondent (following Wolf Blitzer's departure to CNN) where she covered the first Gulf War, the Madrid peace conference and the subsequent talks between Israel, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians. In 1993, she relocated to Tel Aviv, where she continued to write for the Post for nine more years as a news reporter, feature writer, and columnist. In 2002, she left the Post and discovered blogging – creating “An Unsealed Room,” one of the first Israeli blogs in English. For the past four years she has served as associate editorial director of Israel 21c where among other responsibilities, she currently edits the blog Israelity. Since August 2006, she has served as Middle East editor for Pajamas Media. She lives north of Tel Aviv in the town of Ra'anana with her husband and three children.

Philippe Karsenty, Media-Ratings

Philippe Karsenty worked as a financial consultant for over ten years. After a brief foray into French politics in 2002, he founded Media Ratings (www.M-R.fr), the first-ever French media rating agency. The organization established its own method of analysis to scrutinize the media. Media-Ratings deals with a wide variety of topics ranging from politics and sports to international news pieces, and analyzes all types of media. Since 2004 Media Ratings has been served with a number of defamation law suits by mainstream media organizations. Most recently, Media Ratings lost an important legal battle against France 2 and Charles Enderlin after it presented evidence that the network falsified a news report on the "death" of Muhammed al-Dura. The judge cited the Government of Israel's failure to submit a formal complaint about the images in question to validate his ruling in favor of France 2.

Benjamin Kerstein, Diary of an Anti-Chomskyite

Benjamin Kerstein was born in Boston in 1978. He escaped to Israel in 2002 and is now a writer, blogger, essayist, poet, film critic, aspiring novelist, and a student of Jewish and Israeli history at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheva. For the last three years, Benjamin has published the blog Diary of an Anti-Chomskyite (www.antichomsky.blogspot.com) which presents extensive critiques of writings by Noam Chomsky and other anti-American and anti-Zionist intellectuals. He has published articles in Ha'aretz, Ynet, Azure Magazine, Senses of Cinema and the Jerusalem Post. He lives in Beersheva and remains an unapologetic participant in the struggle for Israel's continued existence as a Jewish and Zionist state.

Yaakov Kirschen, The Drybones Blog

Another Brooklyn boy. Born March 8, 1938. Graduated from Queens College 1961. Wrote and drew funny cards for Norcross. After dismissal for loudness and jocular attitude became a freelance gag cartoonist for the former "Mad Mag" guys who were then doing "Cracked". Moved on to doing cartoons for *Playboy*. Included in several "Best Of" *Playboy* anthologies. Fell in with the anti-Vietnam War folks and was actually elected delegate to the 1968 Democratic convention in Chicago where, in spite of all the riots, was unable to get arrested. In 1971 moved to Israel, changed first name from Jerry to Yaakov, and in 1973 began drawing a daily editorial strip called Dry Bones. In 2003 the toon celebrated its 30th year in the *Jerusalem Post*. It has been reprinted or quoted by the *NY Times*, *Time Mag*, *LA Times*, *CBS*, *AP*, etc. *Forbes Mag* said about Kirschen: "In the tradition of Nast, Herblock, and Mauldin."

Reuven Koret, Publisher, Israel Insider

Reuven Koret is publisher of Israel Insider, an independent English language daily online newsmagazine and interactive community focusing on Mideast politics, diplomacy, and security. His Tel Aviv company, Koret Communications, also publishes Jewweek magazine and produces the Jewish Content digital marketplace and the Shmooze knowledge network, as well as the online networks of Taglit-birthright israel, ISRAEL21c, the Avi Chai Foundation, and Caravan for Democracy, the student activist website of the JNF. Koret Communications also produces "Israel's Story in Maps" as a Flash-based CD and online interactive educational tool, which the Israeli Foreign Ministry uses as a primary cartographic resource for explaining Israel's changing borders and historical claims to its land. Koret, an American immigrant and Princeton graduate, is a frequent speaker and analyst of media coverage of the middle east. At the inaugural CAMERA conference in 1989, he produced "Romancing the Stones," an interactive video documentary of US TV network coverage of the first Intifada.

Prof. Richard Landes, Head of the Media Working Group for the 7th Annual Herzliya Conference

Richard Landes is a professor of medieval history at Boston University. His work focuses on the role of religion in shaping and transforming the relationships between elites and commoners in various cultures, in particular the impact of "demotic religiosity" which prizes equality before the law, dignity of manual labor, and access to sacred texts and divinity for all believers. For the past 10 years he has directed the Center for Millennial Studies at Boston University and is now working on two volumes, the first entitled *Heaven on Earth: The Varieties of the Millennial Experience*, and the second, *While God Tarried: Demotic Millennialism from Jesus to the Peace of God, 33-1033*. He has written and lectured widely on the role of communications technology – from the invention of writing to modern media – in shaping public awareness and discussion, and, in some rare cases, in establishing and maintaining civil society. He has recently launched a media-oversight project called *The Second Draft* in which he proposes to look at what the news media calls their “first draft of history.” His opening dossier is Pallywood (Palestinian cameramen staging news using Western cameras and feeding it to cooperative news editors) and the Muhamed al Durah Affair (the staging of the “death” of a 12 year old Palestinian boy at Netzarim Junction on September 30, 2000).

Maj. Avital Leibovich, Head of the Foreign Press Division, IDF Spokesperson's Unit

Maj. Avital Leibovich is the Head of the Foreign Press Division in the IDF Spokesperson's Unit (Dover Tzahal). Prior to joining this unit, she served as the head of the IDF's Northern Development Unit, where she was responsible for liaising with institutions of higher learning in the North, and as head of the Hasbara Department in the IDF's Foreign Relations Division. As her knowledge of communications developed, Avital was appointed Coordinator of International Organizations for Dover Tzahal in 1999. In 2002, during her last year in this position, Avital earned a certificate in Correspondence, Communications, and International Relations from Bar-Ilan University. She spent the next three years as the Spokesperson for the IDF's Northern Command, dealing with domestic and international media during the withdrawal from Lebanon. In the past year, Avital managed and initiated Dover Tzahal's activities with the international print and electronic print media. She has a BA in English literature and national studies from Bar-Ilan University and an MA in International Relations from the University of Haifa.

Mary Madigan, Exit Zero

Mary Madigan is a web designer and blogger who contributes to Dean's World as well as her own blog, "Exit Zero". Her essay concerning Saudi women's rights was published in the Wall Street Journal and her essay "Arabists vs. the Middle East" was published in Campus Watch. Mary currently lives in Hoboken with her husband and two children.

Itamar Marcus, Director, Palestinian Media Watch

Itamar Marcus is the founder and director of Palestinian Media Watch. Founded in 1996, PMW is an Israeli NGO that studies Palestinian society from a broad range of perspectives by monitoring and analyzing the Palestinian Authority through its media and schoolbooks. PMW reports on summer camps, poetry, schoolbooks, crossword puzzles, religious ideology, women and mothers, children's video clips, and inciting children to 'martyrdom', have changed the way the world sees the Palestinians. Mr. Marcus represented Israel in the negotiations with the Palestinians on incitement in the Trilateral Anti-Incitement Committee (Israeli-Palestinian-American). Mr. Marcus has testified before the Education Subcommittee of the US Senate Committee on Allocations, has also presented before members of Congress, and to Members of Parliament in numerous countries including, the European Union, Britain, France, Canada, and Australia, and has lectured in universities and conferences world wide. PMW continues today to supply the world through its bulletins and reports with a precise understanding of the reality of the Palestinian Authority. The world's view of the Palestinian Authority is to a significant degree the result of PMW research.

Dr. Emmanuel Navon, Lecturer, The Abba Eban Graduate Studies Program in Diplomacy, TAU

Dr. Emmanuel Navon is an International Relations lecturer at Tel-Aviv University and a business consultant. He earned his MA in Public Administration from Sciences-Po Paris, one of Europe's most distinguished universities, and his Ph.D. in International Relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. While at Sciences-Po, he interned at the French Foreign Ministry and at the French Ministry of Finance. During his graduate studies, he consulted to the Israeli Foreign Ministry on UN reform and was a research fellow at the Shalem Center. He was awarded the Yehoshafat Harkabi Prize for his MA Thesis and the Yaacov Herzog Prize for his Doctoral Dissertation. He started his academic career as a lecturer in Public Administration at Bar-Ilan University and subsequently joined the Abba Eban Graduate Studies Program in Diplomacy at Tel-Aviv University. He has published extensively in academic journals and is a frequent public speaker in Israel and abroad. In parallel to Academia, he is active in business and in public diplomacy. He is a senior consultant for Arttic, the leading group in Europe and Israel specialized in the preparation and management of technology-based partnerships, and was formerly CEO of the Business Network for International Cooperation (BNIC), an organization that trained Israeli business leaders for pro-Israel advocacy overseas. His paper on "Arab Propaganda and the Erosion of Israel's International Standing" was submitted to the Sixth Herzliya Conference, and he co-authored on behalf of the Institute for Policy and Strategy a guide to pro-Israel advocacy for Jewish students in the Diaspora. He lives in Efrat with his wife and four children.

Dr. Reuven Paz, Senior Fellow, GLORIA

Reuven Paz was born and raised in Haifa, Israel, where he finished his academic education in Arabic language and literature and Middle Eastern studies, specializing on Islam and modern Islamic thought. Reuven Paz is fluent in written and spoken Arabic. Reuven Paz served between 1971-1994 in the Israeli Security Service, dealing mainly with Palestinian and Arab issues. His most senior post was the head of the research department of the Israeli Security Service. Most of his studies, research, and field of experience in the past 30 years focused on Islam, Islamic culture, Islamic radicalism, development of radical Islamic doctrines, and Palestinian society both in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and all over the world. His research combines academic work with long field experience. Reuven Paz was a visiting fellow in the Dayan Center in Tel-Aviv University and twice in The Washington Institute for Near East Policy in Washington, D.C. In 1989-1998 he lectured in the department of Middle Eastern studies at Haifa University, about radical Islamic movements and Palestinian society. In 1997-2000 he was the academic director of the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) in Herzliya, Israel. In 2003 he established the Project for the Research of Islamist Movements (PRISM – www.e-prism.org) in the GLORIA Center at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya, Israel, which he directs. PRISM focuses on research in the field of Islamic radical movements and ideology and global Jihad. Reuven Paz has published so far dozens of articles in the field of Palestinian society and politics, and global radical Islam. He also gave 14 expert testimonies in U.S. courts in cases that involve terrorism.

Nidra Poller, Paris Editor, Pajamas Media

Paris editor of Pajamas Media. Published by Commentary, National Post, TCSDaily, Makor Rishon, Wall Street Journal, jihadwatch, , AtlasShrugs, City Journal, Jewish Quarterly, FrontPage Magazine, American Thinker, National Review Online, New York Sun, SPME Faculty Forum, Israel Hasbara Committee, LibertyVox, Metula News Agency, Guysen Israel News, L'Arche... Lectures on campus—including Harvard, UNCC, CCSU, Haifa U. and Tel Aviv U. —in synagogues, schools, JCCs and think tanks. Recent appearances were sponsored by CAMERA, David Project, Israel Project, JCPA. Interviewed by John Batchelor, Joseph Farah, Dale Hurd, Manfred Gerstenfeld, Lori L. Marcus, Dennis Prager, Rabbi Shaul Praver, Janet Parshall, Rabbi Amiel Wohl... **Vital statistics:** Born in Jessup Pennsylvania in 1935. BA in History from the University of Wisconsin (1956 FKF), MA from Johns Hopkins University (1969 Writing Seminars). Living in Paris since 1972. Author of [unpublished] novels, short stories, illustrated books for young readers, translations (including two works by Emmanuel Levinas).

Mark Regev, Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mark Regev assumed the post of Spokesman of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 2004. Prior to his current position Mr. Regev served as Spokesman at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, D.C (1999 – 2004). Since 1991, Mr. Regev held a variety of positions at the Foreign Ministry, including Deputy Chief of Mission at the Consulate General in Hong Kong, Spokesman at the Embassy in Beijing and at the Jordan Division at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in Jerusalem. Before joining the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Regev taught International Relations and Strategy at the Israel Defense Forces' Staff College. Mr. Regev received his Bachelor's degree in History and Political Science at Melbourne University, Australia. Mr. Regev holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as well as a Master of Science in Management from Boston University.

Joël Rubinfeld, President, Atlantis Institute

Joël Rubinfeld is President of the Brussels-based think tank [Atlantis Institute](#) and Secretary-General of the [Belgium-Israel Friendship Society](#). He holds a degree in Communication from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes Commerciales (Brussels, 1991), and regularly writes opinion pieces published in the main French-speaking Belgian newspapers (*Le Soir*, *La Libre Belgique*, *L'Echo*) and in Israeli dailies (*Yediot Abaronot*, *The Jerusalem Post*). and is the author of the chapter on Belgium in the book [Les Habits neufs de l'antisémitisme](#) (Under the Direction of Manfred Gerstenfeld and Shmuel Trigano, Editions Café Noir, 2004), in which he analyses the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Belgium following the outbreak of the second Intifada, and of a study on the coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by the Belgian media, published in [L'antisémitisme après la Shoah](#) (La Pensée et les Hommes, 2003).

Daniel Seaman, Director, Government Press Office

Daniel Seaman is the Director of the Israeli Government Press Office which is part of the Office of the Prime Minister in Jerusalem. Appointed in December 2000, his office is responsible for working with the thousands of foreign media who cover events in Israel. Mr. Seaman is one of the foremost experts on the foreign press coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict, having headed the Information and Foreign Press Departments since 1990 and having served as an officer for two years as the Israel Military Foreign Press Liaison. Mr. Seaman completed his BA in Political Science, with honors, at the City University of New York's Hunter College, while serving at the Consulate General of Israel in New York between 1983 and 1989. Mr. Seaman is an established speaker on behalf of the State of Israel, has given numerous interviews and has published several articles in the Israeli and international press. He has also served on several advisory councils, including the IDC's annual Herzliya Conference, the Ministry of Health, and the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Ron Schliefer, Bar Ilan University and College of Judea and Samaria

Dr. Ron Schleifer is deputy head of the Department of Communications, College of Judea and Samaria in Ariel. Research fields: communication and defense issues, including information warfare in general and psychological warfare in particular. His book on psychological warfare in the first Intifada was published recently by Sussex Academic Press and his book on psychological warfare in Hebrew is coming out with Maarchot – Ministry of Defense Publishing House in January.

Nachman Shai, Director, UJC Israel, Former IDF Spokesperson

Brigadier General (Res.) Nachman Shai is Senior Vice President of the United Jewish Communities (UJC) and Director General of UJC Israel, a position he holds since March 2002. Shai brings his rich professional experience and array of skills to this preeminent leading American Jewish organization. In 1979, he became Press Secretary to the Israel Delegation to the United Nations, and in 1981 was named Press Advisor to the Israel Embassy in Washington. Since 1964 Shai has worked in a variety of positions in the Israeli media. Starting out as a writer in the military journal “Ba’Machane Nachal,” working for the daily “Yedioth Aharonot”, to Kol Yisrael radio broadcasts and Israeli television. Nachman Shai served as Communications Advisor to the Minister of Defense and the IDF. Shai also held the position of Commander and Chief Editor of the popular Army Radio Station, Galei Zahal. In 1989, he was appointed to the position of IDF Spokesperson and rank of Brigadier General. Shai served as IDF spokesperson during the first Gulf War in 1991, and had the difficult task of calming the Israeli homefront, which was subjected to frequent missile attacks from Iraq. In 1991, Shai founded the first commercial television and radio network in Israel and served as CEO of the Second Authority for Television and Radio, and as Chairman of Channel 2 News. In 1999, he was appointed Director General of the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport. With an MA *cum laude* degree from the Communications Institute at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Shai completed advanced studies at the World Press Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Nowadays, he is studying for his PhD degree in Political Science at Bar Ilan University, researching Israel’s Public Diplomacy.

Candy Shinaar, Director, Council of Hasbara Volunteers (CoHaV)

Candy Shinaar is the co-founder of CoHaV, an international coalition of volunteer Israel advocacy groups and organizations, which assist each other and coordinate international campaigns and projects. She is also an activist for government reform, and presently working on the establishment of a Youth Knesset. She was nominated for the Charles Bronfman Prize humanitarian award of 2004

Lee Smith, Visiting Fellow, Hudson Institute

Lee Smith is Washington, DC-based journalist specializing in Middle East affairs who contributes regularly to the Weekly Standard. A Visiting Fellow at the Hudson Institute, Smith is finishing a book on the Arab world after September 11 for Doubleday, and a monograph on Arab media. He has spent extensive time in the region, having lived in Cairo and most recently Beirut, which he left in the course of this summer’s Israel-Hezbollah war, before making his way to Israel to work on several projects with the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.

Leah Soibel, Senior Researcher, The Israel Project

Leah Soibel is Senior Advisor for Research/Communications at The Israel Project. Soibel specializes in Arab cyber-public diplomacy after 9/11; researching Arab political communication methods through internet websites. Additionally, she monitors extremist groups' website content and online infrastructures. Soibel has conducted research on public diplomacy in North African countries and in the Levant. She studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo and has an M.A. in Security Policy Studies and the Middle East from George Washington University.

Yitzhak Sokoloff, Executive Director, Merkaz Keshet,

Yitzhak Sokoloff is the founder and Executive Director of Keshet: The Center for Educational Tourism in Israel. He was also the founder of the Jerusalem Public Policy Center and a Rennert Fellow of Bar Ilan University. He studied at Columbia University, Hebrew University and Bar Ilan and at the Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies. He taught Political Science and Jewish Philosophy at the Rothberg School of Hebrew University and then served in the Israel Defense Ministry. Mr. Sokoloff has lectured widely on issues relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the challenges facing Israel's public relations efforts. He delivered several briefings for congressional staff and members on Capitol Hill and to senior media executives on the practice of incitement in the Palestinian media and appeared as a political analyst on television and radio programs in the United States, Canada and Israel. Most notably, he studied the battle of Jenin during Operation Defensive Shield and conducted several lecture tours of American Universities during the height of the controversy. Beginning in 2002, Yitzhak began to develop therapeutic based educational programs for the families of Israeli terrorist victims under the auspices of the Koby Mandell Foundation. During the recent war in Lebanon he introduced and implemented a unique educational program for Israeli soldiers emerging from challenging combat situations.

Martin Solomon, Solomonia

Martin Solomon is the author of the popular blog site Solomonia.com, a member of the Pajamas Media blogging network. Solomon is a small business owner who felt the call to write as he watched a rising-tide of anti-Semitism and anti-Americanism sweeping out of Europe and the Middle East that a moribund mainstream media was unequipped to face seriously in the post-9/11 era. A frequent and long-time participant in the rough and tumble of internet discussion and argument, he noticed a growing and disturbing trend toward a nihilistic anti-Western attitude and a resurgence of old hatreds long thought banished, but now showing themselves as only having been at rest. He started his web site, in part, to fight that awakening. In an era where many of our elites are asleep at the wheel of our society, Solomon takes the view that it's come to the "average Joe" to take the wheel and steer the ship by harnessing the power of the alternative media.

Prof. Gerald Steinberg, Bar Ilan University, Editor, NGO Monitor

Gerald Steinberg is a Professor of Political Studies at Bar Ilan University, directs the Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation, heads NGO Monitor and is a fellow of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. He specializes in Middle East diplomatic issues, Israeli politics, and the political dimension of international law. He works with a number of international organizations (NATO, UN University, OSCE, SIPRI) and universities, is a columnist for the Jerusalem Post, and his articles appear in the Wall St. Journal, the International Herald Tribune, etc. Recent publications include "Soft Powers Play Hardball: NGOs Wage War against Israel", *Israel Affairs* (2006); "The UN, the ICJ and the Separation Barrier: War by Other Means" *Israel Law Review*, (38:1-2, 2005) and "Realism, Politics and Culture in Middle East Arms Control Negotiations" *International Negotiation*, Vol. 10 (2005)

Tamar Sternthal, Israel Director, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America

Tamar Sternthal, director of CAMERA's Israel Office, has been with CAMERA since 1999. She regularly communicates with editors at major media outlets such as the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, ABC News, and the Associated Press and has elicited countless corrections in print and on the air. Since opening CAMERA's Israel office in 2004, Sternthal has also monitored the English-language Israeli daily Ha'aretz. The editor of *CAMERA on Campus*, she writes for CAMERA's *Media Report* and Web site. Formerly the Associate Editor of the Jewish Advocate of Boston, her columns have appeared in newspapers across America.

Michael Totten, Middle East Journal

Michael J. Totten is a freelance journalist and blogger who frequently reports from the Middle East. He covered the Cedar Revolution in Lebanon, the Hezbollah war from the Israeli side, and has also reported from Libya, Iraq, and Egypt. Immediately prior to attending this conference he spent three weeks gathering new material in Beirut and South Lebanon. His work has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, the *L.A. Weekly*, Beirut's *Daily Star*, *TCS Daily*, *Reason Magazine* and the Australian edition of *Newsweek*.

Judith Weiss, Kesher Talk

Judith Weiss was born and raised in Dallas, and has lived in Philadelphia, Austin, and now New York. She has degrees in graphic and instructional design, and her most recent full-time job was as project manager for a technical training company. She edits Kesher Talk, one of the first Jewish political blogs. With contributors in Portland, San Francisco, New York, and Beersheva, Kesher Talk is unique in its bohemian sensibilities, user-friendly approach to Jewish practice, and sophisticated centrist politics with an emphasis on hawkish foreign policy.

Dr. Michael Widlanski, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Michael Widlanski specializes in Arab politics and communication at The Hebrew University, and has served as reporter, correspondent, editor and media monitor, respectively, at *The New York Times*, *The Cox Newspapers*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and IDF Radio. He has also served as Strategic Affairs Advisor to the Ministry of Public Security, editing secret PLO Archives captured in Jerusalem.