

Israel News Desk

With David Hoyle

May 2017

The Jewish Telegraph reports a "Good News week for war on anti-Semitism"!

Top of the list would be the failure of Maria Bouattia to win her bid to be re-elected as the President of the National Union of Students. She variously described Birmingham University as a 'Zionist Outpost' and made reference to a 'Zionist-led Media' and also appeared to back violent Palestinian resistance. . An enquiry found her guilty of misconduct and stated it was "not reasonable" to regards her comments as anti-Semitic.

A Commons Home Affairs Select Committee described her views as "outright racism". Shakire Martin who replaced her attended the Union of Jewish Students award dinner and went also on an organised trip to Israel and the West Bank.

Izzy Lenga who was elected vice president for welfare issues told delegates to the students conference she had been referred to as the "Jewish candidate"!

The Jewish Chronicle reports that David Ward, former Bradford East Lib Dem MP for 5 years until 2015 had been sacked as an election candidate by Tim Farron despite being selected by his local party to stand again. Mr Farron said Mr Ward, who had accused Jews of 'inflicting atrocities on Palestinians and blamed last months Westminster terror attack on British Foreign policy was unfit to represent the party". His sacking means he cannot sit as a Lib Dem on Bradford Council to which he was elected last May. Mr Farron had previously described Mr Wards comments as "offensive, wrong and anti-Semitic. The Liberal Democrats also suspended Ashuk Ahmed from the party after he compared the Jews to Nazis.

The Government made it clear that it would not apologise for the Balfour Declaration, which led to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

Jonathan Arkush, the President of the Jewish Board of Deputies said "its been a very good week for Britain's Jewish Community".

However it is not all good news!

Scotland. A protest has been made to the Scottish Parliament after an attempt was made to remove Jewish observers.

The Chairman of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities and two Jewish colleagues attended a Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Palestine as observers. The Group Treasurer called them "representatives of Zionist Organisations and ideological terrorists" and demanded their removal. He said their presence intimidated him! Several speakers said that their removal would look like Jewish people were being targeted and they were allowed to stay.

One member of the group said she believed the use of the term "ideological terrorists" was anti-Semitic.

The Palestinian Ambassador to the UN has complained to the UK Government regarding its decision not to apologise to the Palestinians for the Balfour Declaration nor its move to regularise the status of the Palestinian Mission in Britain. The latter will halt the next Palestinian Authority representative from calling himself Ambassador.

Mark Regev, Israel's Ambassador to the UK was invited to speak at the School of Oriental and African Studies at a meeting due to take place last Thursday. 100 staff called for his visit to be called off by the Director Valerie Amos. A spokesman for SOAS said the University supported the right of students to invite speakers and debate contentious issues.

France. Russia's Chief Rabbi has urged French Jews to leave their country if Marine Le Pen, the Far right politician is elected next month. She recently called for a ban on ritual slaughter of animals, which might affect Jewish meat, although probably aimed at Islamic slaughter.

Donald Trump. Speaking at a World Jewish Congress dinner Mr Trump said "we must defeat the threats of a regime that talks openly of Israel's destruction". Mr Trump hailed Israel as a great Nation. Looking back at the Holocaust he said "the mind cannot fathom the pain, the horror and loss. Two thirds of Europe's Jews murdered by an evil that words cannot describe and the human heart cannot bear" Today, he said "we see a great Nation risen from the desert and we see a proud star of David waving above the State of Israel. This is a symbol of Jewish perseverance, a monument to unyielding strength. We recall the famous words of Theodor Herzl, "If you will it, it is no dream".

Tel Aviv. An 18 year old Palestinian stabbed 4 people on the promenade last week and Israeli troops shot a man trying to stab soldiers near an army camp in the West Bank.

Benjamin Netanyahu expressed outrage after learning that the terrorist who murdered a British student in Jerusalem will be paid £800 a month 'salary' by the Palestinian Government. Hannah Bladon was killed on Good Friday, Mahmoud Abbas did not denounce her killer but rather rewarded her killer with a 'salary'. Speaking on Holocaust Remembrance Day Mr Netanyahu said newly released documents released by the UN show that the allies were aware of Germany's systematic extermination of Jews two years earlier than previously known and if it had acted could have saved 4 million Jews from the Nazis.

President Assad. The assessment of General John Allen that Mr Assad would not survive if he used chemical weapons against Israel was also described as regime suicide.

Mr trump to visit Israel. It is reported that Mr Trump will visit Israel next month. Advanced talks about the visit are taking place. Mr Trump is seeking a conflict ending settlement between Israel and the Palestinians. Mr Abbas has expressed a willingness to meet with Mr Netanyahu in Washington under Mr Trump's chairmanship and he has not yet, as in the past, set pre-conditions. Mr Trumps visit to Jerusalem is likely to be on Jerusalem Day! Will he recognise Jerusalem as Israel's Capital? Undivided? Will he move the US Embassy?

All the above is background to the news. Continue please to study the Word and watch events and above all "Look Up, our Salvation grows near" (Luke 21:25-38)

David.