

ARAB MEDIA REVIEW: ANTI-SEMITISM AND OTHER TRENDS

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OUR 90TH YEAR

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On the cover: Qatar's *Al-Watan*, take of the Eurobarometer poll. In Arabic: "The European Survey". Published November 8, 2003.

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Introduction

Anti-Semitism is widespread throughout the Arab and Muslim world, manifested in every segment of society. The following report is a compilation of select anti-Semitic expressions in the Arab and Muslim world in November 2003. Such periodic surveys are part of ADL's campaign to expose and combat anti-Semitism in this region.

This issue also includes a special focus section on the Arab media's reaction to the November Eurobarometer poll in which Israel was listed as the country most Europeans see as a "threat to world peace."

In general, there are "ups and downs" in the wave of anti-Semitism, fueled mainly by political events. However, there are common elements in these expressions, mixing classical and modern anti-Semitic hate. Such themes include:

- Demonizing the Jews – presenting the Jews as animals (usually representing negative characteristics as snakes, eagles etc.)
- Comparing Jews and Israelis to Nazis using symbols as Swastika and Seig Heil
- Conspiracy theories of Jews wanting to control the world, Jews controlling the Western governments, Jews controlling the world media, Jews owning the world's capital etc. Some of the conspiracy theories lift theme from the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.
- Blood libels from the Middle Ages in different variations
- Illustrating the stereotypical Jew (big nose, black coat and hat, skull cap etc.), along with Jewish symbols as the Star of David and the menorah
- Holocaust denial is very common in the Arab and Muslim world, using the claims of western Holocaust deniers such as David Irving and Roger Garaudy. These expressions include claims concerning the numbers of Jewish victims during the Holocaust or denial of the Holocaust itself.

All material in this compilation was translated by ADL from the original Arabic or are from English language sources in the Middle East.

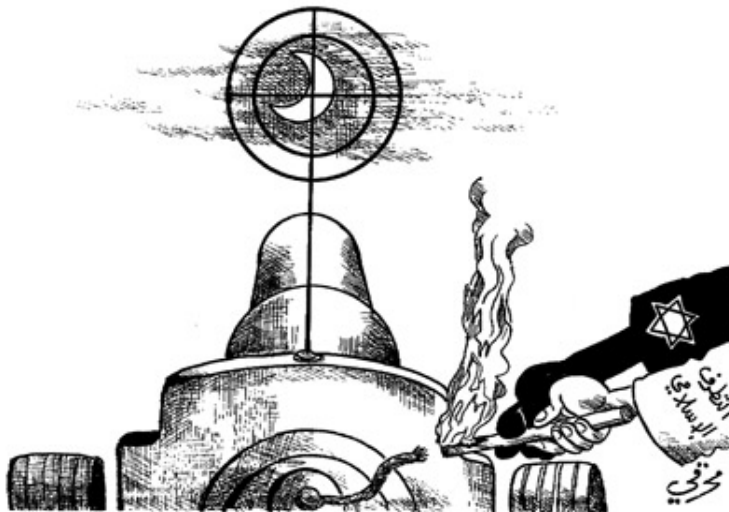
Bahrain

Cartoons



Akhbar al-Khalij, November 9, 2003

"The Arab world" is given as the first meal after sunset during the month of Ramadan "the American democracy" and "Bush's speech". "The Arab world" is saying: "But I want to eat a dish of meat, bulgur, sopped bread and broth". The sandwich contains the Jewish snake, decorated with the Star of David.



Akhbar al-Khalij, November 11, 2003

In Arabic: "Islamic extremism".



Akhbar al-Khalij, November 22, 2003

In Arabic: "Lies and accusations".

Egypt

Newspapers

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion

- The writer reported that the book of the Protocols is presented at the front of the Museum of Manuscripts: "... As opposed to the expectations, the book 'The Jewish Danger – the Protocols of the Elders of Zion', which was added to the show-window of the Semite books near the Torah, so that the visitors from all of the world's nationalities who arrive to the museum...

Al-Usbu' met with Dr. Yusuf Zeidan, the Director of the Museum of Manuscripts, and the one who decided to present the book. He said: 'When my eyes fell upon this rare copy of this dangerous book, I immediately decided to put it near the Torah of all things, although it is not a divine book. However, it became one of the Jews' sacred things, their first constitution, their Halacha (literally: their religious law) and their way of life. In other words, it is not only an ideological or theoretical book. The book of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion may be more important than the Torah amongst the Zionist Jews in the world, who manage through it their Zionist life'."

Jihan Hussein, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion in the front of the Museum of Manuscripts", *Al-Usbu'*, November 17, 2003

** Editor's Note: On December 4, 2003, The Library announced that it had removed the Protocols from display case, saying in a statement: ``The book was promptly withdrawn from public display. But its very inclusion showed bad judgment and insensitivity, and an internal hearing is underway to determine whether further action is to be taken.'' (source: Associate Press)*

The Istanbul Attacks

"Why don't we interpret this event as an attempt to improve the ugly image of Israel within the European world's mind?... Do we see it unlikely that the Jewish terror organizations committed this criminal crime?..."

If we want to look for those who committed this crime, we will only find those secret associations and anonymous organizations where the fingers of the international Zionism mingle in order to distort the image of the Arabs and Muslims, having this take the place of the terror image of America and Israel in the minds of the European world".

Jamal Badawi, "Turkey's Jews", *Al-Wafd*, November 18, 2003

Comparison between Zionism and Nazism

- "...If we want to understand the truth of Zionism, we would find that Zionism is the lower kind of racism. Moreover, through its ugliness it excelled the other racist groups of its kind... though they did not commit the crimes that the Zionist entity committed to humanity..."

Dr. Jamal Salama 'Ali, "The Shame in the Zionist Nature", *Al-Ahram*, November 15, 2003

- The writer claims that the Zionist movement, which he calls "racist imperialist nationalism", is based "on the alliance between the conservative forces and even more racist ones, as long as it serves its interests, as it was expressed through the applause of Zionist leaders and thinkers of Hitler when he rose to the government, since they shared with him the belief in race superiority and the objection to the assimilation of the Jews with the Arian race..."

Salah Salem, "Our Claimed Hostility towards Semitism or their Hostility towards Humanity?", *Al-Ahram*, November 4, 2003

Conspiracy Theory

- "...We condemn this suspected attack (on the attacks on two synagogues in Istanbul). However, we do not see it unlikely that someone did it or that it was a Zionist plan, from greediness to attract the worldly sympathy towards the Jews..."

Moreover, we do not see it unlikely that that these two attacks in Istanbul were planned and done in the manner of what Israel aimed in the Lavon affair...

Again – we do not see it unlikely that the aim of these two attacks was to improve the image of the Jew and the image of Israel..."

'Abas at-Tarabili, "Egyptian Concerns", *Al-Wafd*, November 20, 2003

The Jews Use the Holocaust

- "...Not only the USA surrendered to the Jewish robbery – it was preceded by Germany since Israel, strongly supported by the USA, imposed in the 60's payment of 70 million dollars per year for a period of twelve years as compensation to Israel for what the Nazi regime did to Jews during the famous crematoria and the Holocaust, which became deemed the holiest events to the Jews, who manage to collect a huge (amount of) money, and is used as a basis to international prevention and robbery..."

As-Sayyid Yasin, "Anti-Semitism or Victory to the Truth?", *Al-Ahram*, November 6, 2003

Cartoons



Al-Ahram, November 1, 2003

The "Israeli *negotiator*" on the right is saying: "Sit and let's negotiate. Why do you stand?"

Qatar

Cartoons



Al-Watan, November 18, 2003

In Arabic: "Oh, the best of all nations".



Al-Watan, November 8, 2003

In Arabic: "The European Survey".

Saudi Arabia

Cartoons



Ar-Riyadh, November 28, 2003

Syria

Newspapers

Conspiracy Theory

- "'There is a bid to implement a colonialist and Zionist plot with a view to securing the riches of the region and undermining its culture and heritage,' Tlass told the official Sana news agency.

'The Zionist lobby is the cause of these accusations,' he charged.

Syrian minister: Middle East target of "colonialist and Zionist plot",
Damascus –AFP, November 17, 2003

Cartoons



Tishrin, November 23, 2003

United Arab Emirates

Newspapers

Conspiracy Theory – The Mossad is Behind the Istanbul Attacks

- “The bombing of the two synagogues in Istanbul, and before, the attack with a booby-trapped car on a Jewish synagogue in Casablanca, aroused different Arab responses, to the extent of contradiction. There are people who condemn it considering it as a terror act, from which the first and the last to be benefit is ‘Israel’, the Zionist movement and the international Jewish power... Many of those who hold this view are convinced that the Mossad and its members and agents, are responsible for these criminal acts, according to their custom to commit whatever they think can serve their imperialistic colonial plan and to arouse doubts concerning their opponents...

The Arab commentaries believed that there are Jewish wise people within the negative results of the European survey towards ‘Israel’ and within the attacks in Istanbul, which made them review their unlimited support to the Zionist hostility in Palestine...

In light of the above mentioned, we can say with all certainty that the Istanbul attacks, and the former attacks in Casablanca, and every hostile action against the Jews outside of the Arab occupied land, is not in line with the Arab Islamic culture, as opposed to its total accordance with the Jewish racist culture”.

‘Awni Farsakh, “The Attack on the Two Synagogues in Istanbul - to Whose Interest?”, *Al-Khalij*, November 20, 2003

Cartoons



Al-Ittihad, November 18, 2003

Sharon (?) as a king, saying: "I am Israel, and Israel is me". The Jew on the left is applauding him.



Al-Ittihad, November 7, 2003

In Arabic: "The European Legation".

Arab Media Survey Focus: Reactions to the Eurobarometer Survey

The European Union released one of its periodic Eurobarometer surveys on November 2, 2003. The public opinion poll, titled Iraq and Peace in the World, questioned more than 7,000 Europeans on a variety of issues related to Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and other issues. Pollsters listed 15 countries and asked the respondents if each country was a "threat to world peace." Fifty-nine percent answered affirmatively about Israel. Fifty-three percent named North Korean, Iran and the United States as threats to world peace. The Netherlands had the greatest number of respondents listing Israel as a threat – 74 percent, followed by Austria at 69 percent. Below is the reaction in the Arab media to the poll results.

- "...And here I say again: where do we stand according to all of these developments? This (the EU) is a prodigy for us to help us to reveal the true face of the Zionist project..."

Ibrahim Nafi', "After the European Survey: The Israeli Campaign Against Shirac, France and the European Civilization Continues", *Al-Ahram*, November 17, 2003

- "...Tel Aviv and the Zionist organizations made a stir of the European legation, which asked for this survey, and committed arrogantly its ideological and political terror, and rubbed their noses into the ready and preserved accusation of anti-Semitism..."

European public opinion emphasized its refusal of the Zionist involvement in the world's affairs, amongst it Europe. Then it announced its opposition to submit to the Israeli expansionist strategy, which is strongly tied to the ruling American right..."

Muhammad Basha, "Israel and the European Survey – the Meaning and the Results, and the Necessary Move", *Al-Ahram*, November 17, 2003

- "...Confident in having monopolized the field as Semites, so as to hurl 'anti-Semite' at all and sundry who criticize Israel, Zionist leaders have helped shape a media that spews the most atrocious racist abuse against others..."

There remains, however, the question as to how the Arabs can best safeguard and promote their rights in the face of this racist onslaught and the spurious claims spread by Zionist organizations and the Israeli ultra right. European public opinion has had its say: Israel presents the foremost threat to world peace. The Arabs should take this as a signal to act. We must work, along with other peace loving, egalitarian peoples, to drive home to world opinion that Israel is a conventional occupying power and a racist state that practices in word and deed some of the cruelest forms of anti-Semitism against the Arabs".

Ibrahim Nafi', "Israel's Anti-Semitism", *Al-Ahram weekly*, November 20-26, 2003 (Egypt)

- "... It can be understood as a product of the Israeli repression policy of the racist Zionist nature..."

Dr. As-Sayyid 'Aliwa, "How Can We Use the Occasion among the European Public Opinion?", *Al-Ahram*, November 17, 2003

- "More than we brought through calls, conferences, TV dialogues or political analysis of the conflicts between the Arabs and America and Israel, the international public opinion came to reveal the facts concerning the two states and their policy in the Arab region. Perhaps the saying that indicates the danger of Israel and Bush on international safety does not come from vacuum, especially in a continent such as Europe... Although the cultural gap between the European and American people brought evidence to the rise of the European awareness... in America and Israel there is behavior that led Nazism and Fascism to make the world a victim of their ideologies..."

"The Wake of the World's Conscience", *Ar-Riyadh*, November 18, 2003

- "...The Israeli terror itself convinced 60% of Europeans that Israel is the biggest danger for world's safety, and not the rise in anti-Semitism as Israel and the Zionist movements try to make out..."

Dr. Fawzi al-Asmar, "Fighting Terror: Different and Contradicting Channels", *Ar-Riyadh*, November 20, 2003

- The writer is talking about events that molded European public opinion which came out in the survey concluding that: "All of this is a natural prologue to the European unanimity that Israel is a state that stands above the law and that it is a source of repression, racism and human annihilation of people that their land had been illegally taken from them..."

Mahmud Mu'awwed, "The Jewish People is Paying the Price", *Al-Ahram*, November 20, 2003

- "... This Israel – it was made clear recently that it embodies a widespread dangerous threat... not only to the Middle East people, but to the whole world..."

These are countries that were classified for more than half a century as one of Zionism's strongholds. It granted great importance to the results of the European Legation's survey of their people's public opinion, as a passing of the stage of complexity of sin embodied through the Holocaust, and objective distinction between anti-Semitism and crimes of slaughtering and arresting an entire people..."

Dr. 'Ali Fadel Hasan, "The Peace Enemies", *Al-Ahram*, November 24, 2003

Arab Newspapers

Al-Ahram (Egypt) - an Egyptian daily owned by the Egyptian government: the president appoints the editor. He (as the editor of the other government owned dailies, *al-Gumhuriyya* and *al-Akhbar*) is given substantial leeway in his editorial practices, assuming he avoids certain "taboos". *Al-Ahram* is the largest Arabic paper in the world and has established the *Al-Ahram* Regional Press Institute.

(From the website:

<http://www.ijnet.org/Profile/Africa/Egypt/media.html>)

Al-Gumhuriyya (Egypt) – a government daily.

Al-Wafd (Egypt) - *Al-Wafd* is the main opposition paper in Egypt. The paper criticizes the regime on a wide range of issues - from economy to internal and foreign policy. However, it is important to note that the criticism is on subjects that are allowed by the regime. The paper is one of the most acceptable channels of opposition activism, since the Egyptians see themselves as supporters of freedom of the press, and the paper is supposed to be concrete proof to this idea. *Al-Wafd* expresses extreme anti-Israel and anti-Semitic views, in articles and cartoons.

Ar-Rai (Jordan) – a government daily; expresses the approaches of the Jordanian regime.

As-Safir (Lebanon) - a Lebanese daily, close to Syria.

Al-Ayyam (PA) – a government daily.

Al-Hayat al-Jadida (PA) – the PA daily.

Al-Quds (PA) – an opposition daily, which does not exceed the government policy.

Al-Watan (SA) – a daily owned by the governor of the 'Asir district.

Ar-Riyadh (SA) - A Saudi daily, one of the four principal Saudi papers (the three others are: *al-Madina*, *al-Jazira* and *al-Watan*). The paper presents a relatively conservative attitude, while emphasizing (as most of the Saudi papers) its praise of the Royal family.

Generally, the Saudi government lays severe limitations on the freedom of press and has a strict censorship, even on the foreign press that enters Saudi Arabia. Since the Saudi press is government-oriented, it concentrates on praising the Saudi Royal Family. Of course, opposition or independent newspapers do not exist in Saudi Arabia. However, the London based Saudi press has more independent features

Tishrin (Syria) - a state sponsored and owned newspaper, in which the journalists are appointed and instructed by the government (The English-language *Syria Times* is published by *Tishrin* as well).

Al-Watan (Qatar) - *Al-Watan* is one of the five Qatari dailies. *Al-Watan's* chairman is Hamad bin Sahim al Thani, a member of the royal family (All of the papers are owned by different branches of the royal family). The Foreign Minister, Hamed bin Jasem bin Jaber al Thani, owns half of the newspaper.