



# Chávez's Venezuela

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY UNDER THREAT



# Anti-Defamation League



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On the Cover: top image: In an attack on January 30, 2009, vandals ransacked the holy ark containing Torah scrolls at a Caracas synagogue, AP photo; on the left: Published by online forum Noticierodigital.com by Carlos Salas January 24, 2009, Location: Park “Las Ballenas” in Maracay, State of Aragua; on the right: “Jews Assassins,” appeared on January 2, 2009, at the Jewish Center in Maracaibo - Sociedad Israelita de Maracaibo.





## Chávez's Venezuela: The Jewish Community Under Threat

Anti-Semitism is used as a political tool in Venezuela, fostered by those at the highest levels in government. Pronouncements against Israel and Jews are made by the president, the foreign minister and other cabinet-level officials, and parliamentary and government leaders, and in the media. All are left unchallenged by any government representatives, and are often aided and abetted by officials within the Chávez regime.

The reaction of President Hugo Chávez to the most recent conflict in Gaza, when Israel launched airstrikes and sent in troops in an effort to stop Hamas from firing rockets at civilians, played out across all levels of society in Venezuela. Chávez and other government leaders issued a series inflammatory statements and took provocative actions, including expelling from Venezuela the Israeli ambassador and other diplomats and ending diplomatic relations with Israel.

This was followed by a barrage of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish statements by members of parliament, media commentators and dozens of rallies where anti-Israel expressions were commingled with raw anti-Semitism.

Holocaust imagery comparing Jews to Nazis appeared at anti-Israel rallies in Caracas and other major cities, and the Jewish community and its institutions were the targets of threats, harassment and intimidation.

Venezuela's Jewish community of approximately 15,000 has been subject to hateful rhetoric, intimidation, and vandalism to their communal and personal property, and their businesses, institutions and events have been boycotted.

On January 31, 2009, during the Jewish Sabbath, a synagogue in Caracas was attacked. For five hours, violent anti-Semites ransacked and vandalized the most sacred space and objects of Jewish life, leaving behind graffiti that said "Get out," "Death to All" and "Damn Israel, Death."

Other anti-Semitic incidents included an attempted physical attack on a rabbi who escaped unharmed, a death threat to another rabbi, tear gas thrown into a synagogue, vandalism against synagogues and businesses owned by Jews, and threats of boycotting a production of "The Fiddler on the Roof."

Meanwhile, despite the ceasefire in Gaza, members of the Chávez regime continue to openly question Israel's right to exist while at the same time raising insidious questions about the loyalties of Venezuelan Jews. Those questions are echoed in the public comment sections of Web sites, where ordinary Venezuelans, under the veil of anonymity afforded by the Internet, express virulently anti-Semitic views and call for the expulsion of the country's Jews.

The plight of the Venezuelan Jewish community is nothing new. In recent years Chávez has openly questioned Israel's right to exist while developing close relations with the Iranian regime and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a Holocaust denier who has called for Israel to be "wiped off of the map." Chávez's rhetoric and actions have created an atmosphere in which the Jewish community feels insecure and vulnerable.

Recent statements by officials of the Chávez government about their opposition to anti-Semitism in Venezuela lack credibility. Government officials continue to stoke anti-Semitism by comparing Israel's actions to the Nazi atrocities of the Holocaust. The perfunctory condemnations of the January 31 synagogue attack were made in the context of demonizing Israel and were filled with conspiracy theories. The foreign minister blamed the "Zionist Lobby," who he claimed controls the media and uses anti-Semitism to wage a campaign of "extortion" against the government. President Chávez's weak denunciation of the attack on the synagogue did not include any mention of anti-Semitism and was made almost in passing. Using a code word for those who oppose his regime, Chávez also suggested a conspiracy theory. He accused an unidentified group of so-called "oligarchs" as the alleged perpetrators of the attack and claimed they also control the media.

In contrast to the anti-Semitism fostered by the Chávez regime and its supporters, following the synagogue desecration there has been an outpouring of support from non-Jewish Venezuelan citizens condemning the attack on the synagogue and anti-Semitism in Venezuela. A group of neighbors and grass-roots community organizers went to the synagogue to help the congregation paint over the anti-Semitic graffiti. Hundreds of non-Jewish students participated in a march organized by local Jewish students to denounce anti-Semitism in Venezuela. Mainstream newspapers that are not controlled by or sympathetic to the Chávez regime have also published articles and opinion pieces condemning the outburst and encouragement of anti-Semitism by the Venezuelan government. Ambassadors and diplomats representing many countries in Caracas have condemned the attack and diplomats from Canada, U.S. and France visited the synagogue and expressed their support for the Jewish community.

This report translates statements by Chávez and other government officials and analyzes how the recent conflict in Gaza has played out thousands of miles away in Venezuela, and the impact the government's actions have had on the Venezuelan Jewish community.

## The Flashpoint: Chávez Reacts

A series of statements and actions by President Hugo Chávez in response to Israel's operation in Gaza triggered a wave of anti-Semitism across the country:

- On January 6, 2009, President Hugo Chávez expelled Israel's ambassador to Venezuela along with six other Israeli diplomats.
- After the expulsion of Israeli diplomats, President Chávez made very provocative statements calling on the Venezuelan Jewish community to speak out against the actions of Israel. His statements fostered an atmosphere of intimidation and fear for the Jewish community, as Chávez held the community accountable for events completely outside of their control.
- On January 14, 2009, Venezuela officially severed relations with the State of Israel, ending 60 years of diplomatic ties and deepening the vulnerability of Venezuelan Jews.
- In televised statements, President Chávez claimed that the Israeli Mossad and the CIA were responsible for poisoning former Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat.
- Anti-Israel rallies were organized by social and political organizations with ties to President Chávez, religious Muslim leaders and Venezuelan-Arab leaders. The rallies and marches in Caracas were given prominence on the airwaves of the official government media. One protest in Caracas was co-sponsored by the Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela – PSUV, the political party of Chávez.
- At the anti-Israel protests, government officials including the Minister of Interior and the Minister of Foreign Affairs made comparisons between the situation in Gaza and the Holocaust. The President of the National Assembly falsely claimed that Israel was using chemical weapons against Palestinian civilians. A congresswoman from Chávez's political party claiming Israel is a manufactured state.

By trivializing the horrors of the Holocaust and equating the Nazi efforts to exterminate Jews with the current military actions of Israel against the Hamas terrorist threat, President Chávez violated the "Declaration Against Racism" signed by President Chávez along with the presidents of Brazil and Argentina three weeks prior to the outbreak of violence in Gaza. The declaration condemned anti-Semitism and other types of ethnic discrimination.

The principles of that Declaration were violated by Chávez the moment he put the weight of Israel's right of self defense on the shoulders of Venezuelan Jews. Instead of promoting tolerance and understanding, President Chávez chose to encourage biased actions toward a minority group of citizens. Ironically, the use of Holocaust references singled out the minority that sought refuge in the hospitable land of Venezuela during the Nazi regime.

## Chávez: In His Own Words

“How sad is that Israel continues to behave like the assassin arm of the government of the United States...Israel is killing millions of innocents...The government of Israel is a government of assassins, government engaged in genocide.

“This is a terrible injustice against the people of Palestine.. I have no doubt that Yasser Arafat was assassinated...it was a plan elaborated by the CIA... it was the first step to start the weakening [of the Palestinians]...when they killed Arafat, the strategists of the Yankee imperialism knew what was coming...they knew that the Palestinian people would elect, in free elections, the Hamas movement...Israel’s plan is to sweep Gaza.”

**Remarks at the Teresa Carreño Theater in Caracas, January 5, 2009**

(Source: *Noticias 24 - noticias24.com*)

“There are sectors that justify the assassin government of Israel. The president of Israel should be taken to the International Criminal Court together with the U.S. President, if there would be shame in this world... but they accuse us instead.

“From the bottom of my heart, for the love of life, how many innocent Palestinian children are suffering this instant? And what if it would be your child? Under bombs during the day and night? They are cowards, bombing innocent people. What great soldiers they are! What valor the Israel army has!

“I hope that the Jewish community in Venezuela pronounces itself against these barbaric acts. Do it! Don’t you reject forcefully any act of persecution? Don’t the Jews reject the Holocaust? And what are we living now? Do it! Put your hands in your heart. Be fair. We should all be fair!

“Among us lives a Palestinian community, that we adore, that we like, as do of all the people of this world. We also like the Jews.”

**Remarks at the Latin American Children’s Cardiology Hospital in Caracas, January 6, 2009.** Source: *Venezolana de Television*

“Unfortunately Israel has become the assassin arm of the U.S. The Israelis are not acting alone, they are an executing arm of a genocidal policy...We can do what we can by expelling the ambassador, as a sign of dignity, a message to the world that we can take action. Imagine if half the world would break relations with Israel, you would hear a different rooster crowing. But we are far from the world’s liberation of North American imperialism and for this to end, the Empire has to end.”

**January 10, 2009** Source: *Telesur – telesur.net*

*Chávez noted that no one from the Venezuelan opposition had expressed outrage over the situation in Gaza. According to Chávez, the lack of statements from the opposition means, “The owners of Israel, in other words, the Empire, are the owners of the opposition.”*

*Chávez reiterated his call to send the president of Israel to the International Criminal Court. He called on “Israelis to put their hand on their hearts and reject the Holocaust*

against the Palestinian people... Your grandparents were persecuted and the entire world rejects the persecution against the Jews and the Holocaust. Are you going to be quiet? [that would be] the negation of yourselves."

**On his televised show, "Alo Presidente," January 11, 2009**

"Some sectors of the oligarchy pretend to cast a shadow on the advances of the Revolution with acts of violence, fabricated in laboratories, that occupy all the headlines of all the newspapers of the oligarchy, and which we condemn the actions in the synagogue in Caracas. We condemn violence from wherever it may come.

"Who benefits from those acts of violence? It doesn't benefit the Revolution... They are trying to disturb the prompt popular victory... Why do different media outlets of the oligarchy accuse the government? Why? To whom it benefits? It is them! It is them!... We will do everything possible, in the framework of the constitution and the law to demonstrate, Mr. Interior Minister Tarek Al Aissami, the real purpose of these acts.

"The oligarchy is the violent one; it is the one that kills, the one that uses youth without a soul in search of violent acts. The one who provoke violence and are looking for blood... You oligarchs are the spokespeople of violence; we are the spokespeople for peace, for hope, for good, for the sublime, for the great, for the beautiful."

**Televised remarks on February 1, 2009.**

# Government Statements

When Chávez speaks government officials and his followers act. So it came as no surprise that the political machine built by Chávez echoed his anti-Semitic statements in the press, on radio and television, in the streets of Caracas and in cities across Venezuela.

During the Gaza crisis, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel statements were made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Interior, the President of the National Assembly, a number of members of congress, the PSUV (the government's political party), representatives of Venezuela in the United Nations, the Organization of American States and the Latin American Parliament, as well as governors across the country who support Chávez.

These statements vilified Israel as a terrorist aggressor. The word Zionist was equated with fascist. Israel and its actions are compared to the atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Some government officials questioned Israel's right to exist. Many of Chávez's cronies have included Venezuelan Jews in their condemnations.

None of the official government statements in Venezuela have expressed sympathy for the lives of Israeli civilians who have been under a constant barrage of attacks from the terrorist organization Hamas for more than eight years. Instead, government officials, led by Chávez, vilified Israel in the context of the regime's anti-imperialist agenda. Not only does this show a lack of understanding of the conflict in Gaza, but it also seeks to import a conflict occurring miles away as a means to advance Chávez's anti-American and anti-Zionist sentiments.

The magazine *Encontrarte*, distributed by the Ministry of Culture, devoted its January 17 edition to the Palestinian plight. Close to 60 articles were published, containing one-sided views condemning Israel's alleged terrorist actions and making Holocaust references. Some of the articles included anti-Semitic myths of financial control as well as the power of the Jewish lobby. Titles of some articles were: "The Gaza Ghetto and the West's Hypocrisy," "We are all Palestinians," "Hamas is a Creation of the Mossad," "Palestine: the crime of existing," "The Jewish lobby in the Obama government," "Zionism, Imperialism and Global Terrorism."

## Selected excerpts of statements by Venezuelan government ministries and top government officials

"The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela strongly condemns the flagrant violations of international law committed by the State of Israel, and denounces its planned use of state terrorism, which places this country outside the concert of nations.

"Because of the above mentioned reasons, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has decided to expel the Israeli Ambassador and the staff of the Israeli Embassy in Venezuela, reaffirming its mission for peace and its demand for respect for international law..."

"President Hugo Chávez, who has held meetings with senior representatives of the World Jewish Council, and has always been opposed to anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination and racism, fraternally calls on the Jewish people throughout the world to

oppose these criminal policies of Israel that are reminiscent of the worst pages in the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. With the genocide of the Palestinian people, the State of Israel will never be able to offer to its people the prospect of a lasting and needed peace.”

**Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, January, 6, 2009**

“I ratify my repudiation of the Jewish Holocaust and ask that Jews stand up from the depth of their conscience to repudiate the Palestinian Holocaust that is being committed by the Zionist elite governing Israel.”

**Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro at a rally in the Sheik Ibrahim Mosque in Caracas, January 6, 2009.** (Source: *Venezolana de Television*)

“Under the inhumane persecution of the Palestinian people, directed by the Israeli authorities, the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will insist to the international community, to denounce [Israel] in the International Criminal Court for the humanitarian crimes of its leaders and will not rest until they are severely punished”

**Statement by Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro severing relations with the State of Israel, January 14, 2009**

“The information published in the Argentine Jewish Press, an official arm of Israel, has only one objective, which is to manipulate and foster a campaign of intrigue to try to diminish and lower the moral and political impact of the decision made by our government to declare persona non grata and expel seven Israeli diplomats, including the Israeli ambassador Shlomo Cohen.”

**Statement by Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro in response to an article published in the Argentine Jewish Press (AJN) suggesting that Venezuela wants to re-establish ties with the State of Israel, January 14, 2009**

“[I speak] beyond my government duties, because I am also a child of Arabs, I am Palestinian, I am Iraqi and we are today the force of resistance...How much bloodshed does the world need to react to the death promoted by the State of Israel?...In Venezuela there is a piece of Palestine and in Palestine there is a piece of Venezuela. Our revolution is also the revolution for a Free Palestine... You should know that here we are all willing to offer our lives, if needed, but the bombs and rifles will not quiet us down...We have dignity and the dignity that is bestowed on the Bolivarian revolution is equal to that of the Palestinian revolution! Long live Palestine! Long live Hugo Chávez, Long live the Revolution!”

**Interior Minister Tarek Al Aissami, at a rally in the Sheik Ibrahim Mosque in Caracas, January 6, 2009** (Source: *Venezolana de Television*).

“... in response to the Israeli government’s policy of Genocide against the Palestinian people, and faced with the crimes against humanity committed by its political and military elite in the Gaza Strip, and given Israel’s repeated use of State Terrorism, and given its government’s unwillingness to respect Resolution 1860 of the Security Council; given all of the above, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ... has decided to break diplomatic relations with the Israeli State. ...

“Mr. President, the actions of the Israeli State seek to subjugate the Palestinian people by means of its extermination. This is genocide! Crimes against humanity have been committed and they cannot go unpunished....

“The plan is to expel and exterminate the Palestinian citizens from their land with the support of imperial powers. The Israeli government’s punitive measures are part of a deliberate strategy aimed at rendering unviable the Palestinian people’s the ability to effectively self determine itself in a free manner. In this context, it foments military action designed to carry out an ethnic cleansing of this Arab people.”

**Venezuelan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Julio Escalona, in statements to the General Assembly, January 7, 2009**

“First it was a ghetto, next a concentration camp and finally an extermination camp...I speak of Gaza which, observed by the overwhelmed eyes of the world, sees how an arrogant and mediocre military elite — on the eve of the general elections in Israel — understands only the language of violence and devotes itself to the slaughter of innocents, arguing they are punishing the guilty.”

**Venezuelan Representative to the Organization of American States, Roy Chaderton, January 14, 2009**

“PSUV demands that Israel ceases its aggressions against the Palestinian people! The National Leadership of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) expresses its absolute condemnation of the military aggression of Israel against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip...We, the socialists in Venezuela, recall that the accomplice silence of the international community made possible the genocide against the Jewish people during World War II. Now, when we are witnesses of the extermination policy of the State of Israel against the Palestinian people, Venezuela won’t keep its mouth shut.”

**Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV, United Socialist Party of Venezuela, President Chávez’s political party), January 18, 2009**

“We are supporting the decision by the Venezuelan president to expel the Israeli ambassador in Venezuela. The people of Anzoategui and the Arab community are demonstrating our solidarity with the people of Palestine. We voice our words of freedom, our condemnation to war and to the massacre against defenseless people, against women, children, against homemakers. It should be allowed once and for all to lift the ban on Gaza to deliver food and medicine and to stop the Holocaust.”

**Governor of Anzoategui, Tarek William Saab, at an anti-Israeli rally in Anzoategui, January 8, 2009**

“The Zionist government of Israel has converted Gaza in a humongous concentration camp, as well as Palestine in the biggest open-sky prison known in the world and tolerated by many of the countries who claim to defend human rights, these under the complicity of Washington and the UN...Israel’s intransigent stance has impeded time and again a the peaceful resolution; first with Yasser Arafat, then with Abu Abbas and now with Hamas”

**Statement issued by the Vice President of the Venezuelan Group of the Latin American Parliament, Carolus Wimmer, December 28, 2008**

## **Statements made in the Venezuelan National Assembly**

In a plenary session on January 6, 2009, the National Assembly unanimously approved a condemnation of the “irrational massacre of the Zionist government of Israel against the Palestinian people.” The following are excerpts of minutes of the debate from the National Assembly:

### **The agreement, presented by Congressman Roy Daza in his capacity as president of the Foreign Policy Commission, resolved:**

- “To condemn categorically the irrational massacre that the Israeli Government is committing against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, situation that violates all the International Human Rights Conventions and the most elementary rules of International Law for a pacific coexistence.”
- “In view of the failure of the Security Council of the United Nations in condemning the Israeli invasion, as a result of the veto imposed by the government of the United States of North America, it is essential that the international community takes steps to obtain the immediate withdrawal of the troops and the cessation of the bombings. We also raise the urgent need of revising the rules of the UN and its security organisms, due to their obvious failure.”
- “To state the conviction of the members of this parliament that to end this permanent holocaust of the Palestinian people it is necessary to put an end to the occupation of the Palestinian territories, revoke the siege of the Gaza Strip, dismantle the Israeli settlements in those territories and solve the issue of the Palestinian refugees, in order to be able to guarantee peace in that region.”

### **Debate:**

- The president of the Foreign Policy Commission, Congressman Roy Daza, when expressing his repudiation of what he considers a massacre, a genocide against the Palestinian people, mentioned the number of deceased as a consequence of the conflict in the Gaza Strip...He considers that we are witnessing the genocide of the Palestinian people, a massacre, for that reason he deems the world must express its condemnation on these facts. He requested a minute of silence for the children, women, men and elderly.
- Congresswoman Marelis Perez Marcano (Monagas) expressed her deep sorrow for the attacks to the Palestinian people, describing the Israeli government as fascist and criminal, not being satisfied with murdering the population but applying selective methods to annihilate the political leaders of Hamas.
- Congresswoman Laura Valls (PPT: Patria para Todos – A Homeland for Everyone/Carabobo), recalled that the Hamas movement won the elections and represents a majority in the Palestinian National Assembly. “Nevertheless, the powers that call themselves democratic refuse to have any relations with Hamas.” She says this is not a war but a massacre, because there is no proportion between the most powerful army in the world, the Israeli, and an unprotected community

such as the Palestinian. The PPT proposes that the Palestine flag be fluttered during a month in this venue.

- Congressman Fahd El Gatrif assures that the State of Israel has declared the Gaza Strip a hostile organization, suspended 90 percent of the industrial activity, with unemployment of 50 percent, and prevented access to electricity, water and medical services. “It is a territory of 360 kilometers, with a million and a half inhabitants, how can they be patient after undergoing the German holocaust.” He ended by mentioning the title of a book “Gaza Strip, world-wide shame”.
- Congressman Carlos Escarrá (Aragua) ... [Israel’s] expansionistic effort has driven it to try to extend its borders, but the occupied will never kneel down. He said as well that the massacre is condemnable and its only objective is to gain control of the oilfields in the Middle East. One must denounce the international Zionist rightists that want to seize the world, counting on the unconditional support of the North American empire for the financing and weaponry used against the Palestinians. The Agreement must be a condemnation of the massacre and against Israeli expansionism, as well as a rejection of the rightist Zionism and the empire of the United States of North America, placed against the humble Palestinian people.
- Congresswoman Desiree Santos Amaral declared that all men and women of good will in the world must pronounce themselves on the Israeli holocaust against the Palestinian people and tell the world that it is enough of so many innocent deaths. She said a way should be found for the Venezuelan people to go out and protest against the Israeli holocaust, participating in all the rallies, and to support to the Government of President Chávez in all the actions programmed against the attacks of the Zionists.
- Congressman Edgar Lucena (PCV/Táchira) informed that his political organization condemns the extermination to which are being subjected the Palestinians by the Zionist State of Israel...He proposes that the National Assembly exhorts the people of Venezuela to stop buying products from the transnational companies that finance the State of Israel; that the National Assembly exhorts the National Executive to offer the necessary support to the international humanitarian mission of Venezuelan health workers. He also proposed that the National Executive suspends diplomatic, military, economic, commercial and cultural relations with the Zionist State of Israel; that the National Assembly designates a deputy commission to travel to the Gaza Strip and deliver the Agreement to the people of Palestine.
- Congresswoman Iris Varela (Táchira) indicated that the State of Israel was manufactured to disturb the peace of the Middle East, where the empire’s only interest is to protect its economic resources by means of a warlike policy.
- Congresswoman Aurora Morales added that there is no stronger weapon than the humanity of the people. Next she wondered which sector caused the financial and banking crisis that will harm everybody and she herself answered that it was the Zionist lobby, which reinforces the State of Israel as spearhead to interfere everywhere in the world, “is a dirty hand used by the U.S.” She asserts that this lobby has an objective in the new Middle East: it won’t permit an Iraq, an Iran and the Gaza Strip, all of them governments who are against imperialism.

“We call on the people of Israel and on the Jewish people wherever they live and don’t become the aggressor of the same acts you were victims during so many years in the Holocaust. We ask that they raise their voices against that genocidal country. What is occurring in Palestine is not a war. We have to be clear, this is a disproportionate aggression in which the Israeli Defense Forces attack Palestinians with chemical weapons prohibited by the international community.”

**President of the National Assembly, Cilia Flores, January 8, 2009**

# Anti-Semitic Expressions at Anti-Israel Rallies

A number of anti-Israel rallies were held in Venezuela during Israel's recent military operations in Gaza. While the largest demonstrations were held in Caracas, protests were also staged in other large cities like Maracaibo, Maracay, San Felipe, Puerto La Cruz, Barquisimeto and Merida.

Many of the rallies were co-sponsored by government officials. All the rallies contained anti-Semitic references comparing Israel's military actions to those of the Nazis during the Holocaust and using Nazi imagery to portray Israel's policies. These rallies typically left behind anti-Semitic graffiti on synagogue walls, city plazas, Jewish-owned businesses and the Israeli Embassy building.

Chronology of anti-Israel rallies in response to Israel's operation in Gaza:

### **Merida, January 9, 2009**

Leftist-Revolutionary Youth Groups gathered to protest against Israel's actions against the Palestinians and one of the organizers, José Cárdenas Peña from Frente de Fuerza Socialista, called on "other Latin-American governments to follow the example of President Chávez and expel the Jewish ambassadors who are carrying out a massacre on Palestinian families."

### **Caracas, January 9, 2009**

A Palestinian flag was hung at the Venezuelan National Assembly to protest the situation in Gaza and convey solidarity with the Palestinian people. Saul Ortega, the first vice-president of National Assembly said during the ceremony that the legislative branch wants to "ratify our militant solidarity with the brotherly people of Palestine, which is being massacred by the criminal fire for the Zionist army." The National Assembly accused the United States of colluding with the President of Israel, Shimon Peres and the Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmer,t for the killings in Gaza.

### **Puerto La Cruz. January 8, 2009**

Hundreds of people allegedly marched in an anti-Israel rally led by the governor of the State of Anzoátegui, Tarek William Saab, and participants called for ending the bloodshed in Palestine.

### **Caracas. January 8, 2009**

Approximately 15 masked people sprayed graffiti on the main Sephardic synagogue, stating "Bolivar, We are present in the Palestinian Rebellion," "Long Live a Free Palestine," "Islam Patrimony of all" and a Star of David equated to a Swastika.

### **Caracas, January 8, 2009**

There was a march ending at the Bolivar Plaza in downtown Caracas. Speakers at the rally included Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro; Minister of Culture Roberto Hernandez Montoya; President of the National Assembly Cilia Flores; as well as other members of Congress. In that rally, Congresswoman Flores stated that Israel was using chemical weapons against Palestinian civilians.

### **Caracas, January 8, 2009**

Allegedly 5,000 people participated in a violent march organized by several social and political organizations, including the Venezuelan Communist Party and the United Socialist Party, which ended in front of the Israeli Embassy. Protesters carried pictures of Hassan Nasrallah, Bashar El-Assad, Mahmoud Ahmadineyad, Ismail Haniyeh and Chávez, praising them as the “real heroes,” while Tzipi Livni, Ehud Olmert, George Bush and Condoleezza Rice were accused of being the “real terrorists.” Others called for a boycott of Israeli and U.S. products, for countries to stop sending gas to Israel and for putting an end to all the educational and cultural agreements with Israel until the invasion of Palestine ends.

Protesters burned Israeli flags, threw shoes at the embassy building, and painted graffiti on the walls of the building, stating “Israel Assassins,” “Boycott Israeli products,” and painted a picture of a rat with the word “ISRATEL” next to it.

Additionally, some protesters acted out what they believed Israel’s actions to be, portraying a bloody Palestinian child as the victim of an Israeli soldier who was dressed as a Nazi officer.

### **San Felipe, January 7, 2009**

A rally in San Felipe was organized by the Free and Alternative Community Media Association (ANMCLA) along with Revolutionary movements of the State of Yaracuy. In a speech, ANMCLA’s coordinator, Kamal Hazan, expressed his repudiation of the massacre perpetrated by the government of Israel to the people of Palestine.

### **Barquisimeto, January 7, 2009**

City officials condemned Israel’s aggression and publicly stated its rejection of “the attacks of the Palestinian people at the hands of the Zionist State of Israel, that uses terrorism of state tactics by massacring indefensible civilians in Gaza with the blessing of the U.S.”

### **Caracas, January 6, 2009**

A Palestinian Solidarity rally was staged at the Sheik Ibrahim Mosque. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nicolas Maduro and the Interior Minister Tarek William Saab each addressed the rally. The Minister of Foreign Affairs condemned the Holocaust but asked that the Jewish people condemn the “Palestinian holocaust” committed by the “Zionist Israeli elite.” The Minister of Interior linked the Venezuelan Revolution to that of the Palestinian plight and said “...You should know that here we are all willing to offer our lives, if needed, but the bombs and rifles will not quiet us down...Long live Palestine! Long live Hugo Chávez, long live the Revolution!”

### **Maracaibo, January 6, 2009**

The Communist Party of Venezuela and a number of government entities organized a pro-Palestinian rally at which people shouted “Down with the imperialism! We are life! We are Palestine! Zionist Israelis, get out of Palestine!”

### **Maracay, January 3, 2009**

The rally was organized by local Arab-Venezuelan leaders. The spokesperson of the Palestinian community, Fares Asfour Rodriguez, denounced what he called the systematic genocide perpetrated against the Palestinian people by the Zionist entity of Israel. Asfour asked President Chávez to break relations with the State of Israel and said

“...a Revolutionary government can not have relations with bloodthirsty genocidal people...who bombard cities and kill children”

**Caracas, December 29, 2008**

A small anti-Israeli rally was staged in front of the Israeli Embassy in Caracas where Nazi imagery was commonly used as well as the propagation of the myth that Jews were responsible for the death of Christ. The rally was organized by the Foro Itinerante de Participación Polular (FIPP, The Traveling Forum for Popular Participation).

# **Statements from NGO's and Political Parties**

## **Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV)**

January 13, 2009

The Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) reiterated on Monday its call to boycott economically the products of national companies identified with bar code 729. The Secretary General of the organization, Oscar Figuera, made the following statement: "This it is a boycott of the products of the Zionist and transnational companies that finance the State of Israel and, therefore, of their policy of massacre and genocide against the Palestinian people. The PCV reiterates its call to the economic boycott"

## **Foro Itinerante de Participación Popular (The Traveling Popular Participation Forum – FIPP), Hindu Anderi, January 6, 2009**

The Traveling Forum communiqué, subscribed by diverse organizations and popular movements, raises among other topics the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador from Venezuela, the rupture of economic relations with that country and the cancelation of petroleum shipments to the Zionist government.

*The text of the communiqué:*

GENOCIDE IN GAZA...

STOP THE ZIONIST HOLOCAUST AGAINST THE ARAB PEOPLE

"Nowadays, near a million and a half civilians in Palestine are prisoners of the Israeli army and are being deprived of food, fuel and electricity in the Gaza Strip, turned into a gigantic concentration camp only comparable to AUSCHWITZ, the extermination camp in Nazi Germany.

"Behind the Zionist crime hide the political interests of the candidates of the parties that will dispute the government of Israel in the next elections. Whoever kills more people or supports the genocide attack against the Palestinian civilians has a greater option of winning or of staying in power, whatever the case. ....

It is inconceivable that those who call themselves descendants of the victims of Nazism in Europe commit today the same atrocities, becoming the executioners and involving themselves in the extermination of the original people of Palestine. Peace for the Palestinian people cannot be the peace of the tomb.

## **Movimiento al Periodismo Necesario (Movement of the Necessary Journalism – MPN), January 6th, 2009 - Source: periodismonecesario.com**

MPN, a group of allegedly 500 alternative journalists issued a statement condemning Israel's actions in Gaza. Their statement was prominently featured in official news outlets such as Telesur and the Venezuelan National Radio. At the end of their statement they say "Out with Zionist Jews from Palestine!" and "Yes to the boycott of Jewish, Zionist businesses!"

# Web Sites and Official Government Media

Opinion articles appearing in official government and Web sites popular with Chávez followers echoed the anti-Semitic canards of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, by spreading conspiracy theories and myths of Jewish financial influence, Jewish control of U.S. foreign policy, Jewish responsibility for the death of Christ, Jews as double agents of the State Israel. The sited openly called for the boycott of Jewish-owned businesses in Venezuela as well as multinational companies believed to be owned by Jews or doing business with Israel.

**The following are selected examples from Web sites, radio and television programs and other media in Venezuela:**

**Title:** JUANES: Why don't you sing for Palestine?

**Author:** Hindu Anderi

**Name of Media Outlet:** Radio Nacional De Venezuela (RNV)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Official government media outlet

**Date:** January 12, 2009

“The extermination and ethnic cleansing plan undertaken by Israel has no justification whatsoever. There is no possible reason to excuse the use of the phosphorus bomb, which affects mainly the children, whom represent the majority in Gaza, a space turned not so much into a Ghetto but into a massive extermination camp. ...”

“Tel Aviv, recipient of incalculable amounts of money originating in the Zionist companies, which handle the world capital, invests it in finishing off the people of Palestine.

“And we ask ourselves: Where are Juanes, Bosé, Montaner, Vives and so many other hypocrites who extol the peace of the tombs. Surely preparing a substantial and lucrative concert, sponsored by the Jewish Zionist lobby. In addition to taking care that the money, washed with the blood of the children of Palestine, continues feeding their bank accounts. Juanes, your peace does have borders after all!”

**Program:** De Primera Mano (From First Hand),

**Commentator:** Vladimir Acosta

**Name of Media Outlet:** Radio Nacional de Venezuela (RNV)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Radio

**Date:** January 19, 2009

“It is evident that the arrogant fascist, Nazi, Israeli, assassins lost this war, that was not a war...I insist on what I have been insisting for a while. That Jews, whoever is Jewish because they have a Jewish mother, or they have Jewish family members, or are Jewish through religion, or for whatever reason; you can't continue to be neutral. Either you are Jewish and you stay quiet, or you support this assassin State [of Israel], or you are an accomplice of Zionism, or you are an accomplice of these war crimes, or you condemn and reject these war crimes. And if you are Jewish you are even more obligated to do it because the State of Israel pretends to represent all Jews and makes all Jews appear as defenders of this indefensible policy....”

**Program: La Hojilla (The Razor Blade)**

**Commentator:** Mario Silva

**Name of Media Outlet:** Venezolana de Television (VTV)

**Type of Media Outlet:** TV

**Date:** January 13, 2009

In this TV program, Mr. Silva referred to a student rally in opposition to Chávez's proposal for an amendment to increase the presidential term limits. "There are two students, one is Diego Aaron Scharifker, and the other David Smolansky Urosa . . . . Scharifker and Smolansky are last names of Hebrew origin, Jewish last names, you see the problems right now, not only with Palestine, there are sectors of power, I am not saying it is the whole Jewish community, but there are sectors of power of the Jewish community, sectors of power that are very disgusted with the position of the President of the Republic in his defense of the sovereignty of Palestine.....this man Scharifker, you will see him from now on, he will be very well known, because he will be utilizing all the media outlets...."

**Title:** Israel must be judged for ethnocide

**TV Program:** Despertó Venezuela (Venezuela Awakened)

**Name of Media Outlet:** Venezolana de Television (VTV)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Official government media outlet

**Date:** January 19, 2009

Hindu Adneri was interviewed in this program and stated of Israel's actions in Gaza: "It was an attack against an ethnic group, a nation, and that's the intention of Israel, to finish off that entire people... If Cuba has suffered a blockade for more than 40 years, why can't we blockade Israel?"

**Title:** State Institutions will continue impelling actions against massacre in Gaza

**Author/Media Outlet:** Agencia Bolivariana de Noticias (Bolivarian News Agency, ABN)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Newswire service

**Date:** January 15, 2009

The institutions of the Venezuelan State, as guarantors of the human rights of the citizens, will continue to promote cultural, social, recreational and educational actions in rejection of the aggression of the Israeli government against the Palestinian people and the unjustified massacre in the Gaza Strip.

Thus maintained on Thursday the Vice-minister of Integral Protection, Marycarmen Moreno, during the development of activities of cultural exchange between members of the Misión Niños y Niñas del Barrio (Boys and Girls of the Neighborhood Mission), and representatives of the Palestinian community in Venezuela, event that took place at the Museum Square in Caracas. . . .

The vice-minister said that this type of activities have, in essence, an educational nature and promote a true social awareness. "Solidarity is a stronghold so that our children know that nobody can remain silent before the injustice done anywhere in the world. (...) In spite of their short age, they understand and know that there is no good reason for killing a human being but, particularly, not a child", the public official said.

On the other hand, the president of the Idena, Litbell Diaz, stated: "This aggression cannot be called a conflict or a war because war is when two similar forces face each other and that is not the case. This is a genocide perpetrated by the Government of Israel and we, as an entity responsible of guaranteeing human rights, declare our rejection and are developing actions of solidarity with the Palestinian community."

**Title:** The Nazis of the Millennium

**Author:** Mariadela Linares

**Name of Media Outlet:** Aporrea.org

**Type of Media Outlet:** News and opinion website

**Date:** January 4, 2009

"...Let's hit them where it hurts them the most: in their pockets. You don't have to kill anyone; you only need to stop buying from them. If citizens worldwide start a silent boycott against Jewish businesses, history will change. Let's do it!"

**Title:** Obama, Israel, Sarkozy, Uribe, Jewish Zionism, the Vatican

**Author:** Javier Monagas Maita

**Name of Media Outlet:** Aporrea.org

**Type of Media Outlet:** News and opinion website

**Date:** January 6, 2009

"The case of Palestine is not, nor will be the last aberration of the Jewish-Zionist-North American-Israeli imperialism. ..."

"There is nothing new in that aberrant Jewish-Zionist action. It is just an advertising boom that bounces in the communication spheres that take part in the strategy of propagandistic impact to justify themselves and familiarize everyone with the consequences that the world should suffer if it decides to break the bonds of domination with the greedy and selfish capitalist and their exploiter partners. And to see if their real objective, IRAN, falls in the trap."

**Title:** Will we be able to watch the Jews of San Bernardino\* without feeling distrust?

**Author:** Angel V. Rivas

**Name of Media Outlet:** Aporrea.org

**Type of Media Outlet:** News and opinion website

**Date:** January 8, 2009

"Will we be able to watch the Jews of San Bernardino without feeling distrust? Let all the Jews that walk the world go to Israel." (Editors Note: *San Bernardino is a prominent Jewish neighborhood in Caracas*).

"The Jews will never change their ways even if they are in the farthest corner of the world. For reasons that we all know they think the most of themselves at all levels. Since 1947, protected by their American brothers and the clique of schizophrenic traders of the world that only have money and possessions on their minds, the Jews got where they are nowadays killing the true owners of that geography. They are religious fanatics, who however speak against the Muslims. A Jew is not what some imagine. They know how to handle situations with psychological depth. They have been nomads since the invention of the world and, although other people have settled down where their human perception has indicated them, they speak of diasporas, of holocausts, of journeys in the deserts, just to cause pity and to appear before the world as beings persecuted by history."

**Title:** A summon to all the people - Gaza: Another genocide of the capitalist system

**Author:** Martin Guédez

**Name of Media Outlet:** Aporrea.org

**Type of Media Outlet:** News and opinion website

**Date:** January 11, 2009

“Of these 450 great corporations that are the ones that decide the wars, 85% (380) are American, but... of those 380 American corporations at least 75% are controlled by Jew-Zionist capitals.

“So Israel is neither a mere “instrument” of the U.S.A. nor fights a religious battle, but Israel is literally the global capitalism and the U.S.A. little more than the seat of a capital in its final stage, at which it has no religion nor homeland.

“Today it is Gaza but tomorrow —with equal or similar justification— they will undertake their wars and genocides against anyone that represents an obstacle in the development of their hegemonic interests. Today it is Gaza and tomorrow it could be Venezuela. They won’t lack reasons or excuses. They won’t lack Venezuelans who will lend themselves to collaborate delighted with the slaughter of their own people.”

**Title:** Oh! Palestine

**Author:** Richard Jesus Najul

**Name of Media Outlet:** Aporrea.org

**Type of Media Outlet:** News and opinion website

**Date:** January 11, 2009

“... I have the sensation that as a result of World War II, having the Jews lived through that tremendous massacre and being the United States their “benefactor”, the United States almost had the moral obligation of taking in the surviving Jewish population — even though the US might not have considered it acceptable because of the costs it would imply. That’s the origin of the idea of placing them in what once was Jewish land. The U.S.A. and the allies solved a problem, but not out of humanitarian reasons. Nevertheless, the Jews saw this as a convenient solution. Afterwards the Jewish people have been used for the purposes of the United States, since they became its operational base in the Middle East, and the results are there for all to see. For that reason the US has not truly supported peace either. On the contrary, they have encouraged the hatred of the Arab nations towards Israel as a means to stay in the Middle East.

**Title:** How can we support Palestine against the artificial estate of Israel?

**Author:** Emilio Silva, docent at the public Bolivarian University of Venezuela

**Name of Media Outlet:** Aporrea.org

**Type of Media Outlet:** News and opinion website

**Date:** January 20, 2009

Without being a Palestinian, when someone with sensibility (particularly someone revolutionary) learns about the atrocities of the Zionist Jews in a country that doesn’t belong to them, but they took away from their real dwellers... A situation like the one suffered by the people of Palestine demands acts, activities and proposals of a profoundly radical type and leading to an awareness in order to move and mobilize the Venezuelan people.

\_. A bombardment to the media: newspapers, radio, television and Internet about the terrorism perpetrated in Palestine by the Zionist Jews and their Euro-American allies since 1918 and till today. ...

\_. Denounce publicly, with name and surname, the members of Jewish power groups with a presence in Venezuela, indicating the businesses they own in order to boycott them. For instance, don't go anymore to the Sambil shopping mall in Caracas, Maracaibo, Valencia, etc... It belongs to the Zionist Salomón Cohen, who is getting still richer ...

\_. In that respect, bearing in mind that these capitalist people are better hurt through their pockets ... it isn't a good idea to buy their products or visit their businesses, and it isn't either going to those supermarkets, restaurants, etc that have ties with them or belong to them (as Locatel and Carabobo dairy products), or wherever are sold their Kosher foods...

\_. To include in the boycott the transnational enterprises related to the Zionist regime of Israel. For example, Citröen, Nestlé, McDonald's (o McShit), Adidas, Nike, Zara, Revlon, General Electric, Coca Cola, Walt Disney Pictures, IBM, etc.

\_. To dispute the existence, in Venezuela, of educational institutions only-for-Jews, as if they were something apart from our population, least if they can't accept the existence of a State inside the State. ...

\_. To summon publicly every Jew found in the streets, squares, shopping malls, etc and force them to take position, screaming at them slogans in favor of Palestine and against the abortion-state of Israel. It won't be an immature gesture of psychological aggression but a questioning act against the indifference, complicity, sympathy or support those people might feel towards the monster-state of Israel.

\_. Nationalize the companies and confiscate the property of the Zionist Jews whom support the excesses of the Nazi-fascist state of Israel, and donate those properties to the Palestinian victims of the present-day holocaust. ..

**Title:** The Genocide

**Author:** Rafael Rodriguez Olmos

**Name of Media Outlet:** El Mundo

**Type of Media Outlet:** Privately owned newspaper

**Date:** January 9, 2009

“...Hardly two years ago, had a similar barbarism taken place when the Zionist Jews literally disintegrated Lebanon, under the accomplice eyes of Big Brother and the European countries. Only president Chávez had the dignity to pronounce against that disaster. Today, once again, it is Hugo Chávez the first in the world to speak categorically about the issue when ordering the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador...”

**Title:** The anti-Semitic barbarity

**Author:** Roberto Hernandez Montoya

**Name of Media Outlet:** Ultimas Noticias

**Type of Media Outlet:** Privately owned newspaper

**Date:** January 10, 2009

“Today holocaust means also ‘great slaughter of human beings.’ A collateral damage of the Nazi Holocaust is that you cannot say nowadays: “Once I saw a Jew with his hair in a mess, but he combed it in a minute!”, because the Zionist machinery calls you anti-semitic Nazi fundamentalist terrorist Chávez follower prepare to die. … The genocide in Gaza is one of the most disgusting forms of the anti-Semitic barbarity, ironically practiced by Semites.”

**Title:** What is the balance of the Zionist-Israeli agresión in Gaza?

**Author:** Humberto Gómez García

**Name of Media Outlet:** La Hojilla Impresa (The Razor Blade print version)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Printed newspaper

**Date:** January 22, 2009

“…The cease fire is a positive outcome for the people; the efforts to mobilize should not stop, emphasize the economic boycott to Zionism, rid Venezuela of the Israeli capitals, nationalize their companies, put pressure on MERCOSUR to sever relations with Israel, accuse as war criminals the Israeli leaders in International Tribunals, pressure International organizations to force the Zionist government to pay the cost of reconstructing Gaza…”

# Venezuelan Cyberspace: Online Reader Comments

Israel's operation in Gaza prompted a barrage of anti-Semitic comments on mainstream and government related Web sites. The posts spread age-old myths about Jewish control of finances and economic interests and conspiracy theories about the Jewish Lobby controlling the United States and its policies. Holocaust references abounded -- comparing Israel's actions toward Palestinian civilians to those of the Nazis, or to send the message that "Hitler did not finish the job" in annihilating the Jewish people. The comments included calls to boycott Jewish and Israeli businesses and openly questioned Israel's right to exist.

**Title:** If Hamas did not Exist

**Name of Media Outlet:** Venezolana de Television (VTV)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Official Venezuelan TV Station

**Date article was published:** January 3, 2009

## **Comments:**

by Franco David Flori on January 6, 2009

Holocaust 2009

Definitively we are living a new era of what could be called "holocaust", since we are witnessing the exterminating action of the people that think different from USA-Israel. What can be expected from the people that sold to the Romans, for gold coins, the one supposed to be their "savior"? Today we see the same strategies applied during World War II, to finish off a people because I want their lands, because they are a pain in the neck, helped by mercenaries such as the USA that in the middle of a world-wide crisis consider the trade of weapons as a business. It is time the countries of the world give them a bit of their own medicine.

by ALBERTO MEDINA on January 5, 2009

NOBODY DARES

Israel is spiritual not literal it is obvious that the Bible very clearly says that the chosen people were the Jews, but that was a conjuncture, all those who worship Jehovah are espiritual Israelis and the literal Jewish people are not worshippers of Jehovah God, so don't think yourselves untouchable, because apart from the Jews other religions (look it up in history) also went to the Nazi ghettos, and by chance Israel nowadays applies the same that was applied to them in Germany, but more shamelessly and to achieve a piece of land. That is ethnic cleansing.

**Title:** Venezuela expels Israeli ambassador

**Name of Media Outlet:** Venezolana de Television (VTV)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Official Venezuelan TV Station

**Date article was published:** January 6, 2009

## **Comments**

by EPACO on January 7, 2009

"ISRAEL does not exist, today there is only PALESTINE occupied by the fascist Zionism, a monstrosity similar to FASCIST NAZISM. ...

“We have nothing against the Hebrew people. BUT WE ARE perennial FIGHTERS against the modern imperialist fascist Zionist ideology. Unfortunately, all Zionists are Jewish.”

by Anonymous, January 7, 2009

“But I tell you a very effective secret that requires everyone’s sacrifice and the measurement of our moral and ethical levels: the best and most effective way to neutralizing a Zionist Jew is through his wallet, so let’s make a sacrifice and refuse to buy their products at least for a week. LET’S SAY NO TO: SAMBIL, COCA COLA, NESTLE. JOHNSON & JOHNSON, REVLON, NESCAFE, MAGGI, KITKAT, HUGGIES, LUX, BRAUN, LISTERINE, PRINGLES, DOVE, GILLETTE... Those are some of the trade marks produced by them. It is time to prove our double moral!

by Anonymous January 7, 2009 - 12:17

#### **“ZIONISTS, TERRORISTS PAR EXCELLENCE**

“Watch out! Besides committing terrorism against the Palestine humanity, the Zionists also commit world-wide financial terrorism from Wall Street. ... The Zionist mentality, honoring its expansionist plan, obstinately and intentionally tries to make life impossible for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. It is well known that one of the reasons for Israel to oppose and refuse to allow that the legally chosen government of Hamas governs that region, is that the Zionists want to deny Hamas the ownership of the Mediterranean beaches and keep them to fulfill the ambition of the real estate Jewish investors. This Zionist terrorism is not only seen in Palestine, it is also visible in Wall Street, where they commit FINANCIAL TERRORISM.”

**Title:** The people of Venezuela repudiate the Israeli government because of the holocaust in Gaza

**Name of Media Outlet:** Venezolana de Television (VTV)

**Type of Media Outlet:** Official Venezuelan TV Station

**Date article was published:** January 8, 2009

#### **Comments**

by Anonymous, on January 9, 2009

War in Gaza

I write to comment the following, something to remember: the earth always turns. In the future it will be cheaper for Israel if the world is destroyed as the prophecy says in 2012, since if that does not happen, and the united states withdraws its support as a result of the conflicts in the Balkans with Brazil and Argentina. That day the revenge of the Arab and European countries will be more brutal than the one carried out by the Nazis. Hopefully the Orthodox Jews will realize they are not God’s favorites and that we all are equal.

Reading papers and interpreting words left by the Egyptian oppression, applying them to the present time is not progress. Since the moment Jesus died till the Romans decided on Christianity, the world has stopped. We are in the past.

**Title:** Chávez denounces Israel as “a murdering and genocidal Government”

**Name of Media Outlet:** Noticias 24

**Type of Media Outlet:** Mainstream Venezuelan private news portal

**Date article was published:** January 6, 2009

**Comments:**

**SociaListo Listo said on January 5, 2009**

Hurry up to expel the Israeli ambassador and let's expropriate Hebraica to turn that club into a model of a popular social club that includes the excluded. The Hebraica belongs to everyone... tomorrow at 10 a.m. at the door of Los Chorros. We are going to expropriate that club of genocidal Jews. Let's expropriate the Hebraica Club in los chorros and build there the headquarters of UNEFA (Polytechnic National University of the Venezuelan Army). Expel those Jews from Venezuela.

**La Revolucionaria said on January 5, 2009**

“What is happening with the Palestinian people is nothing more than an undercover retaliation of the Zionist empire against Chávez, that is to say, against Venezuela, because it dared to put a stop to the abuses and crimes of the “owners” of the Sambil in La Candelaria, whom as everyone knows are Jewish and members of the Mossad and we hit them where it hurts! Now they try to hurt Chávez murdering our weak friends because they know what awaits them in Venezuela. Cowards! ... I call the Venezuelan people to act categorically against the Zionist mafia that operates in Venezuela. Expel them now!”

**perrito said on January 5, 2009**

I call on all young people of the PSUV [the official government party] to join their brothers of Hezbollah and Hamas to make up the Venezuelan brigade of suicidal martyrs and attack the Jewish districts of Petare, La Charneca, Catia and El Valle.

**YAYO said on January 5, 2009**

Enough of declarations. There is the need to apply a blockade to the Israelis, as simple as that. Do not buy products or anything made by the Jews, to such effect let's publish a list. We have to hit them where it hurts the most, in their wallet, after all, the Jews have no nationality. They are Jewish.”

**el magallanero said on January 5, 2009**

That's how it is done Chávez! Keep firm against those Israeli genocidal Jewish Zionists you should expel them all from Venezuela.

**Title:** In pictures, Anti-Jewish paintings in Caracas

**Name of Media Outlet:** Noticias 24

**Type of Media Outlet:** Mainstream Venezuelan private news portal

**Date article was published:** January 15, 2009

### Comments

**Hamas** said on January 15, 2009

“Hurray... Chávez ... Get out Jews, traitors who sold Christ....”

**CojoJudiosPorSuCu** said on January 15, 2009

“All those that do not support the Palestinians are sons of a bitch. The only ones that do not support them are the damn Jews that sold Christ. And if they are not Jewish they are bootlickers of the Jews that let their buttocks be held by gay Jews. As they all are ... We will get you abortions and we are going to break the Star of David in your buttocks...”

**hahahaha** said on January 15, 2009

“how funny... but buddy, the Jews are too damned...”

**Hurray the Führer** said on January 15, 2009

“I would support their acts if not because I hate the Communists as much as I hate the Jews. Besides, they offend what truly represented Nazism when they use the swastika and compare it with the revolting Star of David. By the way, the true swastika had its arms pointing to the right, not the left, you ignorant Indians.”

**himmler** said on January 15, 2009

“Damn Jews I wish Hitler had finished them off when he had the opportunity”

# International Reaction: Chávez Embraced by Radical Islamists

Although it is not the first time that President Chávez was embraced by radical Islamists, the current conflict in Gaza has heightened the perception of Chávez's heroism by the terrorist organizations Hamas, Hezbollah as well as their Iranian sponsors. Radical Islamist supporters have praised Presidents Chávez's actions and called for other world leaders to follow his footsteps.

This is hardly surprising given the close nexus between President Chávez and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, who have sought to integrate their countries ideologically and commercially over the past couple of years. Throughout the recent Gaza conflict, Ahmadinejad applauded President Chávez's response vis-à-vis Israel, even proposing a joint International Summit on Gaza with the sole objective of condemning Israel.

Praise for Chávez and his anti-Israel actions echoed across the Arab and Muslim world:

- Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah addressed a crowd of supporters on January 7: "Yesterday, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez announced that he would expel the Israeli ambassador in Venezuela. He, of course, did this in order to show his support for the Palestinians. Venezuela is very close to America, it is a neighbor of America. This is Chávez. He did this because of his humanity, his sense of revolution, and, in this way, he dealt a severe blow to those who are now hosting the ambassadors of Israel in their capitals and do not have enough courage to even think about telling them to leave. Today, Arab leaders need to take lessons from this Latin American leader. They have to learn how to show support for the people of Palestine."
- On January 20, President Ahmadinejad sent letters to President Hugo Chávez and Evo Morales for their support of the Palestinian people, according to the Iranian press. The letter to Morales reportedly stated that severing relations with Israel was an important step to rid the region of Zionist ties. The Islamic Student Society of Teheran University invited the Venezuelan and Bolivian presidents to travel to the Iranian capital to celebrate the Palestinian "victory."
- In anti-Israel rallies in several Arab and Islamic countries such as Yemen, Jordan, Palestinian territories and Lebanon, President Chávez was hailed as a hero for expelling the Israeli ambassador and for severing relations with the State of Israel. In Lebanon, a street is reportedly being named after Hugo Chávez.
- A delegation of Venezuelan congresspeople visited Beirut, Lebanon from January 16-18 to participate in the *Forum for the Support of the Resistance with the Oppressed People*. The Venezuelan Congressman Julio Moreno declared: "This is an act of solidarity with the oppressed people, because where the boot of the Empire arrives there is misery and death of innocent lives." During the inauguration of the Forum, Sheik Naim Kassem, Hezbollah's deputy leader declared "resistance is the path for our liberation and not the UN Security Council and its resolutions that seek to make us quit and bury the Palestinian question." In the closing statements of the Forum, one of the Venezuelan congressmen, Carolus

Wimmer, declared that they will request the expulsion of the State of Israel from the United Nations. He also said “this is a historic conference where people of the world reject the imperialist and Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people and applaud the decision of Venezuela to sever relations with the terrorist State of Israel...We will seek to bring justice the ones responsible for the massacre against the Palestinians and will request an oil boycott against the terrorist State of Israel.”

# Anti-Semitic and Nazi Imagery

Anti-Semitic and Nazi imagery was commonly used in anti-Israel rallies, in cartoons and defaced on synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses. These images depicted Israelis as Nazis and equate Jewish symbols such as the Star of David with the Nazi Swastika. Offensive phrases included “Jews assassins,” “Jews Dogs” “David, I S\*\*t on your Star”. Calls to boycott Jewish businesses were also spray painted on city walls.

## Incidents



“Get out Jews”  
Tiferet Israel Synagogue in Mariperez, Caracas  
January 31, 2009



Tiferet Israel Synagogue in Mariperez, Caracas  
January 31, 2009



Tiferet Israel Synagogue in Mariperez, Caracas  
January 31, 2009 (AP Photo)

## Cartoons



Title "Gaza..."  
Published in **Revista Encontrarte**  
Date: January 17, 2009.  
Magazine distributed by the Venezuelan Ministry of Culture



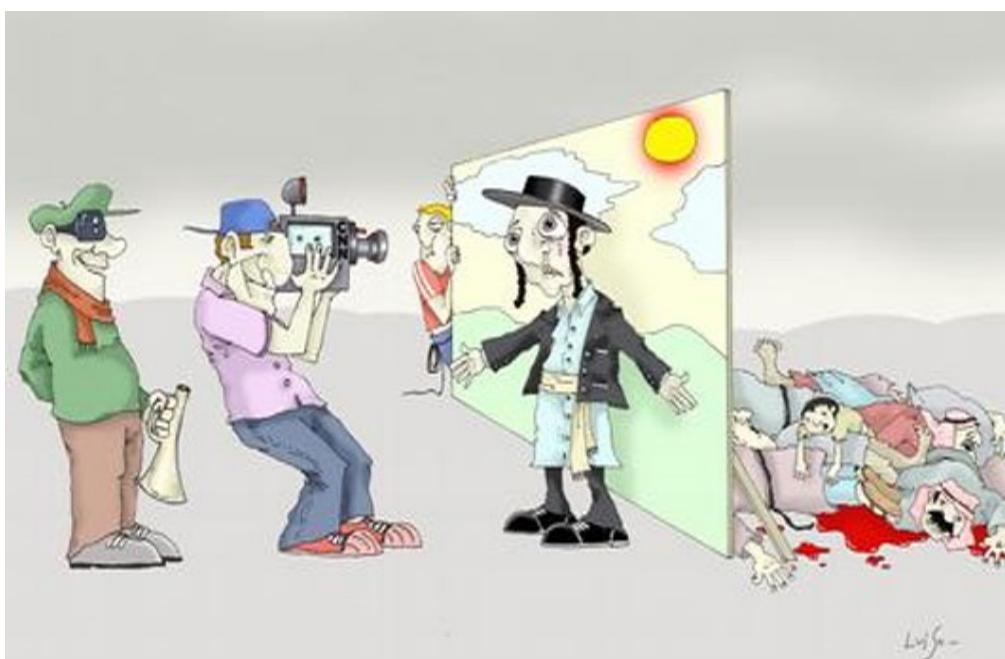
Title: Gaza

Published in **TELESUR TV.net**

Date: January 13, 2009

Cartoonist: Varela

Venezuelan Official News Channel that broadcasts through satellite to Latin America



Title: "Press Coverage"

Published in **TELESUR TV.net**

Date: January 21, 2009

Cartoonist: Liso

Venezuelan Official News Channel that broadcasts through satellite to Latin America



The world is shouting: "Assassins! Get out of the Palestinian Territory"

Published in **Diario Vea**

Date: January 7, 2009

Cartoonist: Ruben



Hitler is saying: "These Zionists are way ahead of my game!"

Published in **Diario Vea**

Date: January 9, 2009

Cartoonist: Ruben

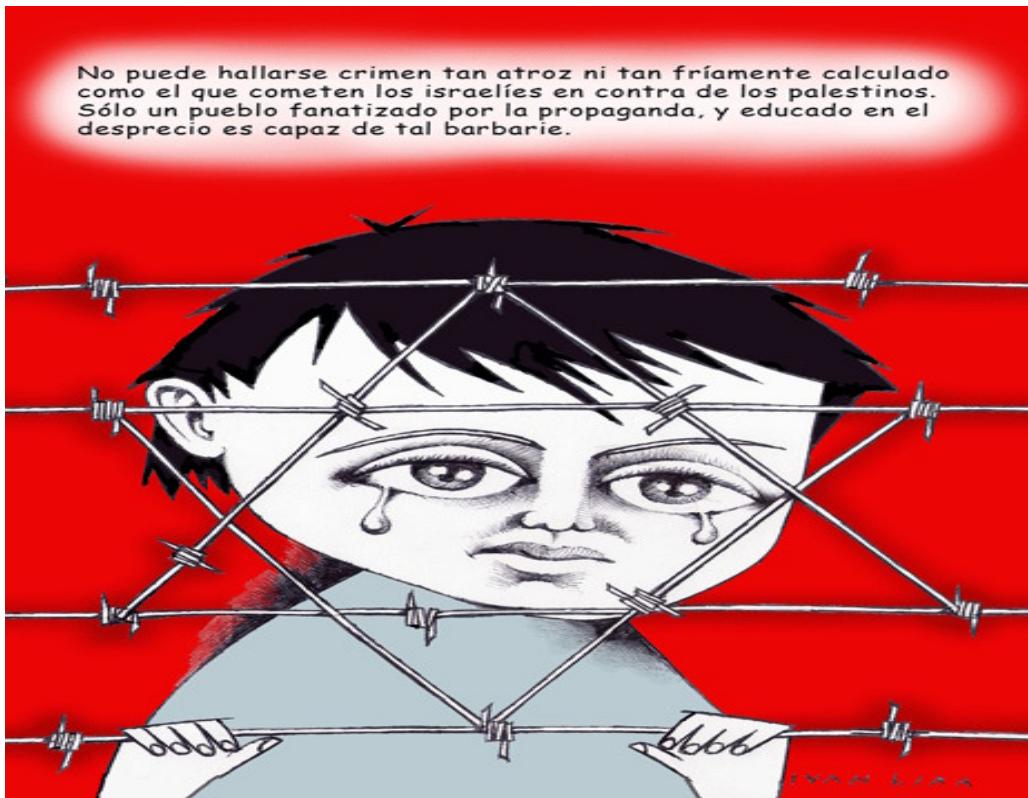


Title: "NO to the Palestinian Genocide"

Published in **Revista Encontrarte**

Date: January 17, 2009.

Magazine distributed by the Venezuelan Ministry of Culture



Headline: "You can't find a more horrendous or coldly calculated crime as the one committed by the Israelis against the Palestinians. Only a people fanaticized by propaganda and educated in despise are capable of such barbaric acts."

Published in **Revista Encontrarte**

Date: January 17, 2009.

Cartoonist: Ivan Lira

Magazine distributed by the Venezuelan Ministry of Culture

## Graffiti



Appeared on January 2, 2009, at the Jewish Center in Maracaibo, Sociedad Israelita de Maracaibo.



"Jews Assassins"

Appeared on January 2, 2009, at the Jewish Center in Maracaibo, Sociedad Israelita de Maracaibo.



“Zionist Jews Assassins”

Appeared on January 7, 2009 on the building which houses Israeli Embassy in Caracas.



“Patrimony of Islam”

Appeared on January 8, 2009 on the walls of the Synagogue Tiferet Israel in the Mariperez Neighborhood of Caracas.



“Zionists Assassins”

Appeared on January 9, 2009 at businesses known to have Jewish owners in downtown Caracas in front of the Legislative Palace.



“Jews Assassin Dogs” and “Terrorists”

Appeared on January 13, 2009 at Public Plaza, “Bellas Artes,” in downtown Caracas.  
Published by Noticias24.com



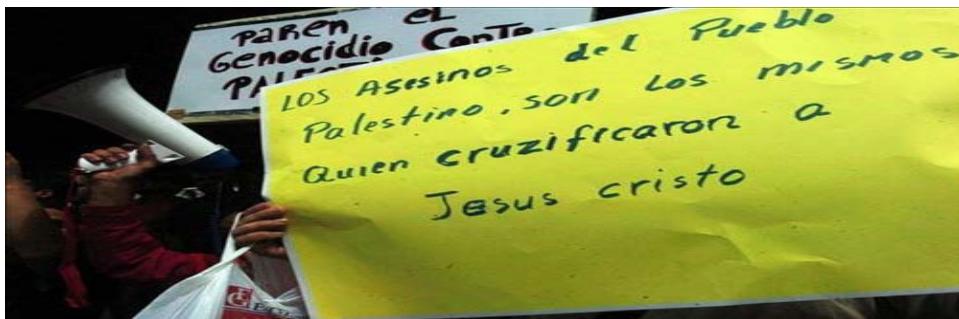
“David I S\*\*\* on your Star”

Appeared on January 15, 2009 at Public Plaza, “Bellas Artes,” in downtown Caracas.  
Published by Noticias 24.com



Appeared on January 24, 2009 at a park named “Las Ballenas” in Maracay, State of Aragua. Published by online forum Noticierodigital.com by Carlos Salas

## Rallies



“The Assassins of the Palestinian people are the same that crucified Jesus Christ”

Published by Noticias 24.com

Caracas, December 29, 2008



Published by Noticias 24.com

Caracas, December 29, 2008



“Auschwitz in Palestine – Stop the Holocaust in Gaza”

Published by Noticias 24.com

Caracas, January 8, 2009



Poster with pictures of Bashar Al-Assad, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Hugo Chávez, Hassan Nasrallah, and Khaled Mashal.

“With Chávez we all govern. Long Live Chávez, Long Live Hamas; Palestine: Venezuela is with you”

Published by Noticias 24.com

Caracas, January 8, 2009







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