

# **Israel's Dilemma and Obama's Policies**

**By Samuel L. Blumenfeld**

Israel has taken a great deal of flack over the way it handled the attempt by a Turkish sponsored flotilla to break the Israeli blockade against Gaza. The reason for the blockade is very simple: to prevent Iran and other friends of the Hamas regime from supplying Gaza with weapons that could be aimed at Israeli cities.

When the Israelis left Gaza five years ago, after uprooting almost 10,000 Jews who had settled there and created highly productive communities, farms, and businesses that employed hundreds of Palestinians, they naively thought that Gaza would become a peaceful, prosperous enclave of Palestinian enterprise. But when Hamas staged a coup against the Fatah ruling party, and took over the government of Gaza, it decided that the primary purpose of Gaza was to wage a holy war against Israel in order to destroy the Jewish state.

Thus, Hamas began to lob thousands of missiles against towns in Southern Israel. When the residents in these towns pleaded with the Israeli government to do something to stop those constant attacks, the Israelis took action and launched its heavy assault on Gaza, targeting Hamas facilities, which were largely destroyed. That some innocent civilians were killed was unavoidable. But every attempt was made by the Israelis to minimize the harm to the civilian population.

Despite this, Israel was criticized for its actions by most of the international community, which seems to always forget that Israel is the only member of the United Nations threatened with genocide by another member. Thus, the new Hitler of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, President Amindejad of Iran is permitted to speak at the General Assembly as if advocating genocide against Jews is a perfectly normal policy for a sane government to pursue.

At the same time, relations between the Obama administration and the Netanyahu government in Israel have deteriorated to such an extent that friends and supporters of Israel have become alarmed. The threat from Iran continues to grow, and Turkey, which Israel once considered a friend, has turned its sight eastward, joining Syria and Iran in a new antagonistic policy toward Israel. Meanwhile, Iran is arming its Hisballah proxies in Southern Lebanon, and the world sits idly by as preparations for a war against Israel are in the making.

What should Obama do? First he should condemn Turkey for sponsoring its provocative attempt to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza. Second, he should call for the expulsion of Iran from the UN since it threatens genocide against a fellow member. Of course, murderous communist states have been members of the UN since its very beginning. But openly advocating genocide ought not to be tolerated by the international community.

Third, Obama should persuade the new democratic government in Iraq to end its state of war with Israel and develop normal relations with the Jewish state. Turkey and Iran are trying to persuade the Shiite government in Bhagdad to join them in a coalition against Israel. But five thousand Americans didn't die so that Iraq could join the Jihad against Israel.

Fourth, the President should also persuade Afghanistan to develop normal relations with Israel. If Obama is serious about bringing peace to the nations of the Middle East, he ought to encourage normal relations between the Islamic states and Israel.