

KILLING THE FIRST AMENDMENT

ATTACKING ACADEMIA FOR TRUTH

BY RACHEL ANN HAART

A drama of consequence festers on the West Coast of the United States involving a Professor of Political Science at *Foothill College* in Northern California and the Anti-Defamation League, (ADL). At issue: the First Amendment and our ability as Americans to openly debate the truth.



Professor Leighton Armitage, a California native possess the credentials and passion to teach political science with courses focusing on *Contemporary Foreign Governments* and *American Government and Politics*. His credentials include a Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate in *Political Sciences* from the University of California system and an additional Bachelors from France and Masters from Germany.

Given Professor Armitage's area of expertise, any student reporter writing an article on politics will ask about the Middle East. We are currently involved in a war there. Understanding what caused it and the hate directed at Americans represents sane and logical thinking, not to mention, responsible journalism. Though it seems new journalism rules are in place. According to the ADL and its supporters, *the truth* is anti-Semitic. His crime? He stated the truth about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict rather than the AIPAC (*American Israeli Public Affairs Committee*) approved version for US consumption.

When asked about the Israeli treatment of Palestinians in an interview for the student paper the *Foothill Sentinel*, Dr. Armitage replied, "*And what are they doing with Palestinians, every day? They're killing them. They're walling them in; they're essentially doing the same thing that was done to them. . . . It's exactly what Hitler did to the Jews.*"

A simple Lexus Nexus or Google search brings up hundreds of articles by reputable news agencies substantiating the professor's statement, including *Ha'aretz Daily*, the *BBC*, *The London Guardian*, *CNN International*, the *Associated Press* and *Reuters*. Entire award winning documentaries confirm his statement including those of internationally respected investigative journalist John Pilger's "*The Issue is Still Palestine*," plus "*People and the Land*" and "*Gaza Strip*". Hundreds of books document his statements including "*The Gun and the Olive Branch*" by David Hirst and "*The Flowers of Galilee*" by Israel Shamir. Because these show and document Israeli atrocities against civilians, these books and films are labeled anti-Semitic. They are not. What they are is shocking.

The ADL and its supporters say Dr. Armitage is anti-Semitic for citing Israeli atrocities. Judge for yourself based on the facts: is Dr. Armitage promoting hate speech, racism and anti-Semitism, or if it is simply the truth the ADL and its supporters do not want you to hear?

STATEMENT ONE: "*And what are they doing with Palestinians, every day? They're killing them*"

Facts: Between September 28, 2000 & January 27 2004,

- Israeli forces killed 2,796 Palestinians.

Of these, 638 were children, 352 of which were under the age of 15.

These deaths occurred through:

- **LIVE AMMUNITION--1696 Deaths**
Including 5.56mm (223 caliber) bullets, 7.02mm bullets, 9mm bullets, 50 caliber bullets, 500mm bullets, 800mm bullets;
- **SHELLING--591 Deaths**
Includes tank fire, bombs, missiles from helicopter, and F-16;
- **RUBBER-COATED METAL BULLETS--3 Deaths**
- **PREVENTION OF MEDICAL TREATMENT--83 Deaths**
- **TEAR GAS--16 Deaths**
- **OTHER--407 Deaths**
Includes explosions, being hit by car or stabbed, or having a heart attack after being attacked or unknown.

The killing of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers and settlers (which account for 90% of the deaths) averages 2.3 Palestinians killed by Israeli's every day and a Palestinian child killed every 4-days since Ariel Sharon invaded Temple Mount, sparking the 2nd intifada in 2000.

MEDICAL PERSONNEL are also targeted by Israeli forces, a violation of the 4th Geneva Convention and International Law. Since September 2000, 465 medics have been injured and 27 killed. Thirty-eight ambulances have been totally destroyed including one shown live on CNN International where an IDF tank plowed into and over an ambulance in route to the hospital, crushing to death the doctor and patient inside. They did not stop to render aid. Additionally 31 infants and 105 patients died while being held at checkpoints trying to reach hospitals. Even in life threatening situations, medical personnel are denied passage.

In the Month of **JANUARY 2004**
the Israeli Army:

- Killed 33* Palestinians; 10 were children
- Injured 657* Palestinians by army fire (IOA); 211 of which are children
- Detained 783* Palestinians
- Demolished 444 Palestinian homes and 108 industrial sites
- Destroyed 1150 Dunums (4 Dunams = 1 Acre) of Palestinian Agricultural lands
- Uprooted 8480 fruit trees
- Decimated 203 vehicles

[Palestinian Council for Peace and Justice](#)

**Numbers reflect only Military actions and exclude settler/civilian attacks on Palestinians. These stats are included in the numbers below.*

Month	Palestinians killed	Palestinians injured	Palestinians arrested	Israelis killed	Israelis injured
Jan-03	1068	1063	5	15	15
Feb-03	82	833	926	6	6
Mar-03	104	979	857	20	66
Apr-03	74	793	851	0	0
May-03	73	877	768	9	20
Jun-03	72	789	991	23	74
Jul-03	11	280	316	1	0
Aug-03	33	799	652	23	122
Sep-03	37	634	650	16	70
Oct-03	67	898	848	26	57
Nov-03	38	429	394	3	17
* Dec-03	58	770	824	5	15
Jan-04	35	667	796	15	23
Thru February 15, 2004	37	325	297	0	4
Total	1,789	10,136	9,175	162	489

*Two of the Israeli's killed in December 2003 were Israeli Peace activists shot by IDF forces

world hates us need look no further than Palestine. It is American dollars that fund genocide. It is American missiles blowing up city streets and apartment buildings crowded with civilians. It is American tanks and bulldozers that crush civilians to death with the irony being, we gave/sold these weapons to Israel on the condition they could not be used to target civilians. To do so is a violation of the US Constitution and international law. The fact these policies are unconstitutional should enrage Americans. Intentionally targeting civilians *is* a war crime: six hundred and thirty eight children killed by the Israeli military, three-hundred and fifty-two under the age of fifteen.

American apathy, blind loyalty to a favored nation and political commitment to these policies cause the hate, and now terrorism on our own soil. But the ADL and its supporters do not want you to discuss this. If you do or bring it up, you got it! You too can be labeled "anti-Semitic" or a "Self-hating Jew", added to their hit lists and face the consequences. Dr. Armitage's statement, "*And what are they doing with Palestinians, every day? They're killing them*" is true and correct. It is not anti-Semitic, racist or hateful. It is simply the truth.

But what about all of those Israelis the Palestinians are murdering?

A side-by-side comparison¹ over the past fourteen months illustrates how significantly one-sided and biased the US Media is this issue. Should our journalists attempt to report equitably, the ADL and its supporters scream "anti-Semitic". Because of this threat, journalists do not report the whole story. Those who do are labeled anti-Semitic and blackballed from mainstream media.

Americans trying to understand why the Muslim

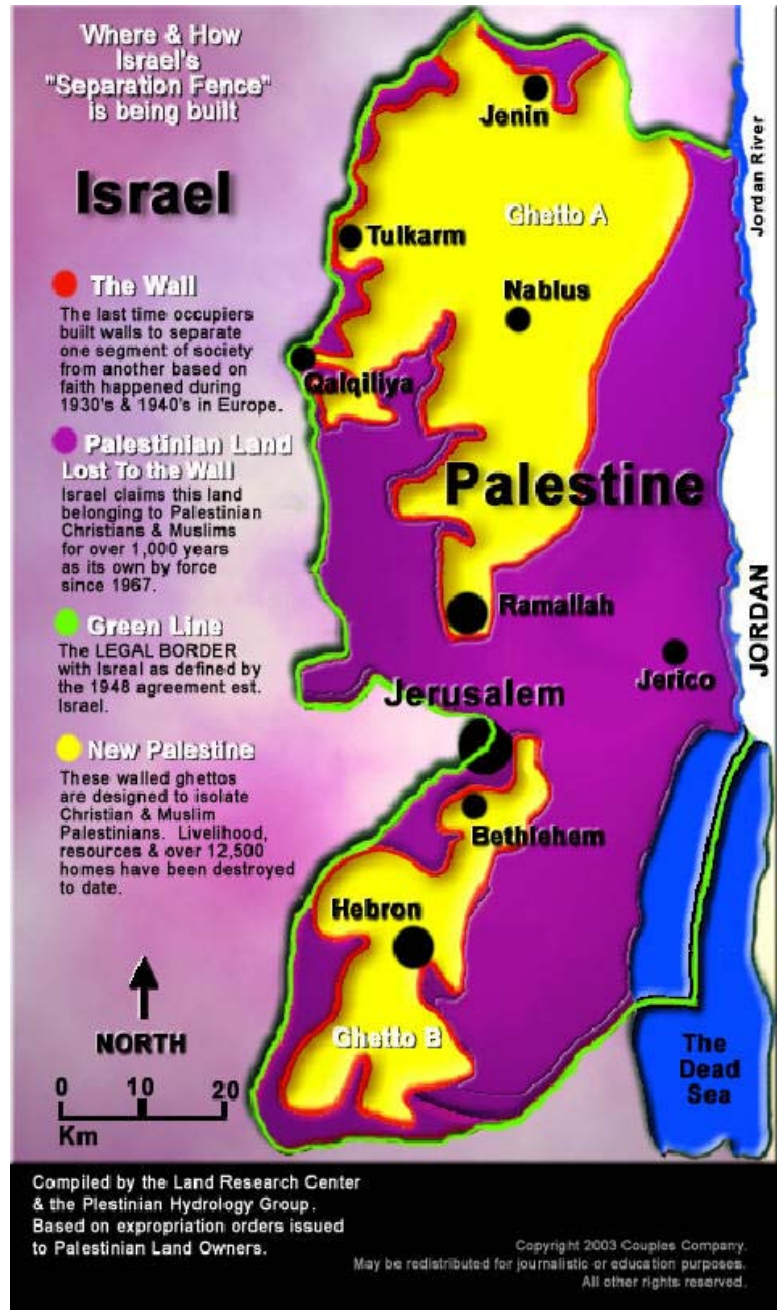
¹ Stats compiled from Georgia, USA based [Al-Jazeera](#) confirmed by several additional sources on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Death and injuries are directly related to the occupation and do not include car accidents, general medical deaths or causes not relating to the occupation. Death and injury statistics between different reporting agencies will differ by criteria. Some only include direct deaths caused by Military engagement and others will include deaths caused by settlers, civilians and police agencies. This graph uses the same criteria for both Israeli and Palestinian deaths, including friendly fire incidents, settler and civilian attacks against other civilians on both sides in skirmishes relating to the occupation.

STATEMENT TWO: "They're walling them in"

Facts: The Warsaw and Krakow ghettos are famous examples of walls built around societies to imprison the inhabitants based upon faith, deny access to food, water and employment while preventing freedom of movement. Walls are cages; a state of siege on a population designed to kill slowly through starvation, disease and forced desperation. Whether the cell is a 6X9 concrete room with bars or hundreds of square miles is irrelevant. It is still a prison. Ask any survivor of the holocaust. Here a picture is worth a thousand words. As you can see, the Israeli's are "walling in" the Palestinians.

Israel's argument for this wall suggests it is needed as protection from the Palestinians. The death and injury statistics dispute this. Based on the numbers, Israel does not need protection from the Palestinians, but the Palestinians certainly need protection from the 4th largest army in the world with over 600 weapons of mass destruction and the most advanced technology available courtesy of the USA and Britain. The Palestinians do not and have never had an army. They are militia.

Between January 1, 2003 and February 15, 2004, 1,789 Palestinians have been killed compared to 162 Israelis making it 11:1. Eleven Palestinians killed for every Israeli killed? Obviously the Israelis need protection from the Palestinians.



FEBRUARY 19, 2004: The Swedish government along 44 other countries, the Red Cross and Amnesty Inter-national today found Israel is violating international laws by building wall on Palestinian land. Support for this wall is championed by 70 members of the US Congress and Senate, led by Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) despite the fact its construction violates the values and objectives stated in the US Constitution and its amendments.

AMNESTY International stated that the "Constructing the Wall inside the occupied territories is a violation of the International Law, and is considered part of the series of violation of Human rights, therefore the International Law should look into it". The statement mentioned that 90% of the Wall is constructed on Palestinian lands and that it separates the people and families from each other, adding that the separation wall also bans thousands of Palestinians from accessing the basic services such as medication services, schools, food and work places.

Dr. Armitage's statement, "*They're walling them in*" is true and correct. It is hardly anti-Semitic.

STATEMENT THREE:

"They're essentially doing the same thing that was done to them...IT'S EXACTLY WHAT HITLER DID TO THE JEWS."

Facts: Ariel Sharon publicly advocates his solution for the "Palestinian Problem": DEPORTATION. Members of the Israeli government have referred to Palestinians and Arab Israelis as "vermin" and "sub-human". Sharon along with *70 US Senators and congressman* advocate and support building walled ghettos for Muslims and Christians, a policy directly against the US Constitution!

During the summer months, food and water is withheld from Palestinians for days at a time; curfews, some going for months are imposed, barring Christians and Muslims from medical care, employment and basic freedoms. In Israel, Palestinians and Israeli Arabs of Christian or Muslim decent are prohibited from working on Jewish property or owning property previous owned by Jewish inhabitants meaning 90% of Israel is off-limits to Christians and Muslims. Selected neighborhoods proudly post, "JEWISH ONLY" signs and the state strongly discourages mixing "Jewish blood" with the Asian workers brought in to do the work the Arabs once did or even carrying on relations with Sephardic Jews, the second class citizens in Israel. Sephardic Jews are Semitic. Palestinian Christians and Muslims are Semitic. Semitic refers to Arabic origins and the six ancient languages of the area. The majority of Israelis are not Semitic. They are Caucasian and European.

Israel currently employs chemical weapons to biologically devastate sustenance and livelihood against the Bedouin Araqib tribe near Beer Sheva. This is the third time in 2-years. The current attack began January 15th, 2004 by spraying powerful herbicides on their crops, killing them. Rather than gas the inhabitants, they are killing their crops, poisoning their food and destroying their flocks with chemical weapons, in addition to razing the homes of over 2,000 people to force them off the land they've lived on for centuries to make room for Israeli settlers. Though the Bedouin account for 25% of the population in this part of Israel, they control only 2% of the land. Rather than compensate the owners of the land, the Israelis choose to force them off, violating international law. This action falls under Crimes Against Humanity in the Rome Statues, specifically ethnic cleansing. Two hundred million dollars is allocated to this task, much from US grants.

Contrast this with Hitler's Germany and treatment of the Jews. The same elements are there: ideas of deportation, forced occupation, displacement and the seizing or destruction of property without compensation, forced starvation and destruction of livelihood, building walled ghetto, racial supremacy, two-tiered legal system, limitation on civil liberties, public beatings, humiliation, dehumanization, persecution, military might targeted at civilian populations, racial

purity laws either overt or implied, the requirement of papers and designation of faith on ID cards, not to mention license plates with different colors for Jews and Gentiles to make them easy to identify at checkpoints. And these are just a few of the similarities. Even the most militant Israelis, (accounting for approximately 25% of the population) compare themselves to Nazi Germany as this January 25th, 2004 article illustrates:

JEWISH SETTLERS: 'WE CONTROL AMERICA'

Al-Khalil, Jan 25 - Jewish settlers in Al-Khalil told Palestinians that 'we are the strongest, we control America from Los Angeles to New York and the stupid Americans know it'.

The exchange happened during a violent brawl when dozens of settlers tried to prevent Palestinians from using a road outside the Ibrahimi mosque in Al-Khalil on Saturday.

The settlers, some of whom carried automatic rifles, said they would massacre the Palestinians sooner or later if they didn't leave 'Eretz Yisrael' (the land of Israel).

Upon hearing this, one young Palestinian retorted: "*So you want to do to us what Hitler and the Gestapo did to you many years ago?*"

"This is exactly what we will do to you. Call us Nazis, call us Gestapo, we don't care. And the world won't help you. Because we control America," replied the settlers.

A few minutes later, the settlers began physically assaulting the Palestinian youths and a serious scuffle ensued, lasting for half an hour.

Eventually, three Israeli army jeeps arrived and crack Israeli soldiers assaulted and physically beat the Palestinians for daring to '*speak to the settlers in this way*'.

At least five Palestinians were briefly detained. The settlers of Al-Khalil have been described by many Israeli writers, intellectuals and even army officers as 'a Gestapo-Like Mafia'. [IRIB PERSIAN NEWS PAGE](#)

This article is not an isolated incident; it is just the most recent. Israeli paper [Ha'aretz Daily](#) and numerous other publications including the [BBC](#), [The London Guardian](#), [CNN International](#) and [Counter Punch](#) regularly report such incidents and sentiments. Dr. Armitage's statement, "*They're essentially doing the same thing that was done to them...It's exactly what Hitler did to the Jews*" is accurate. The word "exactly" is open to debate but the sentiment behind it, that there are strong correlations between Zionists and Nazis is accurate. It is not anti-Semitic. It is terrifying.

Hitler used as justification for actions the 1915 genocide of Armenians by the Turks, which they still deny, in which women were burned alive and entire families tortured and slaughtered; others endured a trial of tears, much like our own American Indians, before they were massacred. He reasoned nobody remembered that. Why would anyone care or remember the Jews, Catholics, mentally ill, homosexuals, handicap, gypsies and communists? Hitler banked on apathy, ignorance and propaganda that intimidates those who speak out to cover his tracks.

Afterwards with 12-million dead, in Hitler's Holocaust, (*Total fatalities for World War II are: 60-million people killed-- 41-million civilians and 19-million military personnel*²) the world swore, never again would this happen. By censoring public debate, circumventing the First Amendment

² *Christian Science Monitor, February 2004*

rights of Americans to discuss truthfully the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through apathy, ignorance and propaganda induced fear, it is occurring again.

History will hold US responsible. Denial failed to exonerate the Germans. What makes Americans think we are different? Our culpability is equal to Israel's in creating this new holocaust. We pay for it. We promote it. We vote for it and through denial, we allow it. When those brave enough speak, we mentally castrate them with vile accusations of *anti-Semitism* or *self-hating Jew* allowing us to return to ignorance and passive acceptance. The truth though not convenient, is not anti-Semitic.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Armitage represents the latest victim of the ADL's clandestine war on First Amendment. To date the ADL and its supporters have effectively silenced journalists, professors, peace activists, US Presidents and politicians placing us as a nation on very dangerous ground. The irony is, we the American public allow it. The ADL and its supporters are powerless without American consent. The time has come to withdraw that consent. Assisting Dr. Armitage provides an excellent starting point.

Dr. Armitage is not alone, nor the first professor to endure the targeting of the ADL and its supporters. The list remains long with casualties including academic truth, justice, freedom and most importantly the forfeiture of American values, credibility and morals here and overseas. Their campaign to promote historical revisionism as it happens endangers America's future; Keeping America ignorant is in the ADL's best interests, but it is not in America's best interests. We can stop it.

Americans have the power to insure Dr. Leighton Armitage and others stating the truth remain the last casualties of historical censorship. By censoring what Americans hear, think and discuss through the defamation of our teachers, journalists and politicians, the ADL and its supporters are preventing Americans from knowing and understanding the truth and atrocities we support.

Protesting the incursion of this special interest's agenda on the American mind is not anti-Semitic. Their agenda, promoting ideas and policies of apartheid, oppression and racism are anti-American and these policies violate the US Constitution. Laws exist to deal with those who lie. People should not be terrorized and defamed when they tell or teach the truth. Nobody, not the government, individual or a special interest lobby has the right to censor the truth in America.

A SOBERING COMPARISON

How do the statistics stack up in American casualties based upon percentage of population?

Population of Palestine: 3,000,000 · Population of Israel: 6,000,000 ·
Population of the United States: 300,000,000

JANUARY 1, 2003 THRU FEBRUARY 15, 2004

PALESTINIANS

1,789 deaths in Palestine is equivalent to:

178,900 AMERICANS KILLED.

This is equivalent to 435 Americans killed every day.

10,136 injuries in Palestine is equivalent to:

1,013,600 AMERICANS INJURED, roughly the entire population of Portland, Oregon.

This is equivalent to 2,466 Americans injured every day.

ISRAELIS

162 deaths in Israel is equivalent to:

8,100 AMERICANS KILLED

This is equivalent to 19 Americans Killed Every Day

489 injuries in Israel is equivalent to:

24,450 AMERICANS INJURED

This is equivalent to 59 Americans injured Every Day

YouAreTheSolution.com, coming in March 2004 is dedicated to empowering individual Americans and persons world wide affected by American policies by providing the proactive tools, support and guidance necessary to becoming part of the Solution rather than part of the Problem. The first issues we will be targeting are:

Please join us in March

RACHEL ANN HAART is a journalist and commentator dedicated to covering Middle East issues, human rights and US policies under or inaccurately reported in the US Media. She is the co-founder of You are the Solution.. She can be reached at URTheSolution@hotmail.com