

Oral Evidence on Israel and Palestine by EST

I am a Christian by religion, born in Nazareth, Israel to Arabic-speaking Christian parents and brought up in Kufur Yasief, the hiding place of Josephus Flavius.

Persecution for Christians in Israel and Palestine is not on the scale it is in Egypt, but it is there nonetheless. It must be added that there is a growing number of Jewish-background, and Russian Christians in Israel, who suffer more persecution from the Jewish state and people.

Most Arabic-speaking Christians in Israel, as in greater Syria, are of mixed blood and my genetic profile shows that I am:

Middle East (Aleppo)	64%
Europe South	24%
Caucasus	8%
European Jewish	4%

This emphasizes the genetic mix of Arabic-speaking Christians from Israel/Palestine.

Christian Arabs in Israel/Palestine live in a climate of fear and therefore hypocrisy. Pressure on Arabic-speaking Christians to tow the Muslim Arab nationalist line is so great, that we are even afraid of complaining about injustices against us.

We suffer:

- At the hands of Jews, because we are seen as:
 - Arabs: and so enemies, and primitive.
 - Christian: and so gentiles. WE are often blamed, by association, for the European holocaust.
- At the hands of Muslims because we are Christian, and "infidels." We are often punished for "western" bias towards Israel.

Christian Arabs are persecuted by 4 groups:

- The Israeli State
- Jews
- Muslims
- Christian Zionists

Persecution by the state of Israel

The Israeli state officially does not distinguish between Christian and Muslim.

The Jewish 'nation state' law (June 2018) simply discriminates against the Arabs of Israel regardless of faith:

1. Only Jews have the right to self determination
2. Arabic has been downgraded from an official state language to a language with "special status."

Israeli citizenship is discriminatory:

- *Jus sanguinis* (citizenship by descent) for Jews only.
- *Jus soli* (citizenship by place of birth) For Arabs.

- No citizenship for non-Jews by family reunification (e.g. Israeli Christian marrying a Syrian Christian)

In reality, it has been worse. Palestinians displaced during the 1947-8 war, were never allowed to return to Israel, despite being born in Palestine. Every Israeli Arab family has been hurt by this law. This means that Christians/Arabs born to displaced Palestinians, have no right of citizenship. Whereas any Jew anywhere in the world, can have Israeli citizenship. This affected two of my paternal uncles who were holidaying in Lebanon when the state of Israel was declared.

Israel has somewhat improved its treatment of Christian Arabs over the years. Church schools are almost as well treated as Jewish schools; not quite. The state is trying to exercise greater control over church schools, who incidentally are the best performing schools in Israel.

However:

1. infrastructure remains poor, compared with Jewish infrastructure
2. Employment opportunities are reduced because of the conscription issue.
3. The Israeli government would not shed a tear if Christian Arabs were to be struck dead by a plague of some kind:
 - a. The attack on Kufur Yasief by the Druze April 1981
 - i. Killed 3 people
 - ii. Damaged a church
 - iii. Burnt down 85 houses, 17 stores, a few workshops and 31 cars
 - iv. The police refused to intervene
 - v. To date, no arrests have been made.
 - b. The growth of the Muslim Arab Mafia
 - i. Affecting a church's legal advisor
 - ii. Unopposed by the Jewish state.¹

Basically, Israel is allowing pressure to mount on the Christian minority and is not exercising its responsibility to defend its Christian citizens.

The Jewish state supports the acquisition of ecclesiastical land on the West bank, by dishonourable means.² Between 2009 and 2017, 53 mosques and churches had been vandalised. Only 9 indictments have been filed.³

"According to Yesh Din, over 85 percent of investigations into violence committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinians are closed without indictments and only 1.9 percent of complaints submitted by Palestinians against Israeli settler attacks result in a conviction."⁴

Persecution by Israeli Jews

¹ Ram Oren, "Taking on Arab Crime Lords," *Haaretz*, Jun 15, 2011

² Nir Hasson, "Greek Orthodox Church Quietly Selling off Israeli Assets at Fire Sale Prices," *Haaretz*, 14.10.2017

³ Yotam Berger and Nis Hasson, "53 Mosques and Churches Vandalized in Israel since 2009, but only 9 Indictments Filed," *Haaretz*, 24.09.2017.

⁴ Lily Leach, "Jewish extremist arrested in Dawabsha murders case to be released in two weeks," *Ma'an News Agency*, MAY 17, 2016

The old European Colonialists have simply been replaced by European Jewish supremacists, whose supremacy is partly due to their European and partly to their Jewish heritage. These attitudes are reflected in the treatment of Arabs, on a daily basis. This is worst amongst the religious Jews who despise Israeli Arabs (Christian and Muslim alike) for their ethnicity and their faith. The terms “dirty Arab” or “do not behave like an Arab” are widely used. Jews may refuse to enter a building or a taxi because it displays the cross. Some won’t even use the plus sign because it resembles the cross.

The "Talmud" promotes both disrespect and intense hatred of the Christians, even violence against the Christians: For example,

“The Jews are called human beings, but the non-Jews are not humans. They are beasts.”

Talmud: Baba mezia, 114b

“The Akum (non-Jew) is like a dog. Yes, the scripture teaches to honour the dog more than the non-Jew.”

—Ereget Raschi Erod. 22 30

“[May] all the Christians perish instantly.”⁵

Jews call Christ Yeshu, which stands for “May his name perish and be wiped out for ever.”

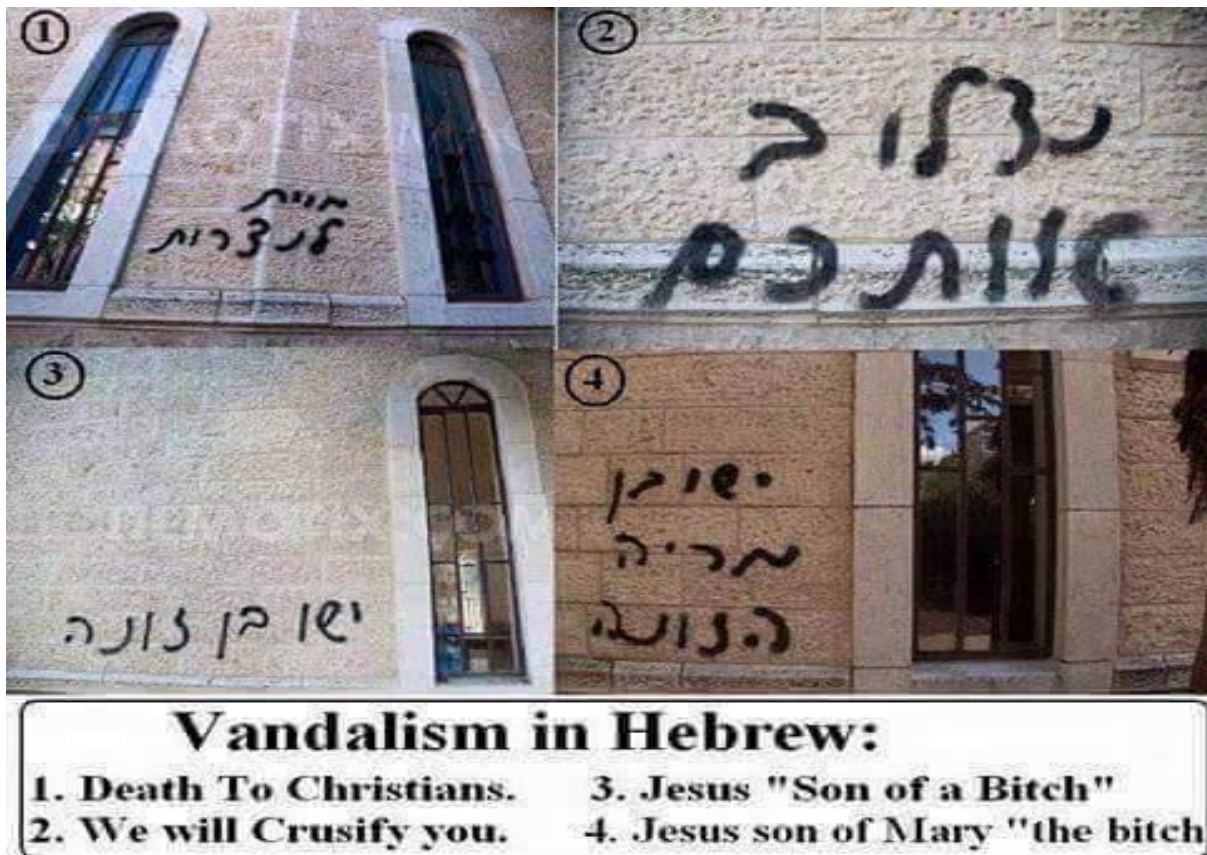
Maimonides recommended the antithesis of the Good Samaritan. And when he mentions the name of Christ he writes “may his bones be ground to dust”

These texts are taught in some Jewish schools, in the “democratic” country of Israel.

These are the sorts of attitudes which inspire:

- Jewish youth to pronounce profanities against Jesus as the son of a prostitute, which you sometimes see graffitied on church doors/walls (see images below).
- Jesus represented as a monkey by Jewish comedians.
- Jews to burn churches.
- Jews to spit on priests every year during the Via de le Rosa Procession at Easter time.

⁵ Israel Shahak, *Jewish History, Jewish Religion*, (AAARGH Internet, 2005), p. 78.



Gopstein, leader of an extreme right Jewish racist group, has justified the burning of churches. He was arrested. The Judiciary could not outlaw his organization.⁶ In 2017, he was remanded to house arrest for 5 days.⁷

Gopstein declared that "Christians are blood-sucking Vampires who should be expelled from Israel."⁸

A religious Jew burnt down an Arab house in the West Bank and in the process killed an infant.⁹ Yet he was only jailed for 6 months.¹⁰

Persecution by Muslims

There are only 120,000 Christian Arabs left in a population of 5 million population. Muslims treat Christian Arabs as Zionists because they do not advocate violence against the Jews. This is probably the second worst type of persecution, for two reasons:

1. Muslims are fellow Arabs
2. Muslims claim to honour Jesus and Mary.

⁶ Robert Tait, "Burning of Christian Churches in Israel justified, far-Right Jewish leader says," *Telegraph*, 06.08.2015

⁷ Jacob Magid, "Jewish radical to be charged for incitement," *The Times of Israel*, 13 November 2017.

⁸ Sharon Pulwer, "Jewish Extremists' Leader: Christians Are "Blood Sucking Vampires" Who should Be Expelled From Israel," *Haaretz*, 22.12.2015.

⁹ Lack Khoury, Chaim Levinson and Gili Cohen, "Palestinian Infant Burned to Death in West Bank Arson Attack; IDF Blames 'Jewish Terror,'" *Haaretz*, Jul 31, 2015.

¹⁰ TOI STAFF, "Jewish extremist Meir Ettinger to be freed from prison," *The Times of Israel*, 17 May 2016.

However, Muslim Holy Scripture is hostile towards Christians. This includes the trilogy of the Qur'an, hadith and Sunnah (life of Muhammad). Hostile Qur'anic verses are widely displayed in Acre (Akko) for instance on street corners.

Muslim apologists have been trying to whitewash Islam in the Western Media with:

- misleading translations (interpretations) of the Qur'an,
- quoting the Qur'an selectively
- Quoting the Qur'an out of context.

Christian cities such as Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem have been targeted for Muslim takeover. They have been bled dry of their Christians. The most effective methods are:

1. Verbal abuse.
2. Mockery: The Church of the Holy Sepulchre called the church of rubbish (Church of Qimamah [stench] instead of Church Qiyamah [resurrection])
3. Accusing Christians of being traitors and Zionists
4. Name calling such as: Sunday, worshippers of the cross and Mushrikun or Kuffar
5. Boycotting Christian businesses.
6. Physical attacks/the Muslim Mafia
7. Hanging on Church walls offensive Qur'anic verses which reprove Christians for the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.
8. Abusing Christian good will
9. Cheating: Muslims from neighbouring villages registering on the Nazareth electoral role, giving false addresses, so as to boost the Muslim vote.
10. We have not had a Christian mayor in Nazareth for 7-8 years.
11. General pressure: I was told by two boys to move my car because their father needed to park his truck, in a public place. Had I refused, it would have ended in violence.
12. Pressure on Christian girls to wear the Hijab.
13. Pressure to support militancy against Israel.
14. Pressure to sell land.
15. Pressure to give daughters in marriage.
16. Targeting Christian ecclesiastical property. Suing the Episcopal Church using false evidence of transfer of land to two Muslim families.
17. Displaying Qur'anic verses on the walls of churches, such as the church of the Annunciation, Nazareth, directly condemning central Christian dogma. (see images below)¹¹

¹¹ Lisa McQuery, Threatening Islamic Sign in Nazareth Thwarts Peace in the Hearts of Christians, Linga, January 9, 2015. Online: <https://en.linga.org/christian-news-in-the-holy-land/article-1231.html> [Accessed: 03.04.2019]



The Dome of the Rock Mosque carries inscriptions castigating Christians for their faith in the divinity of Christ and His sonship. It stands taller than the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but a perfect copy of it, bearing inscriptions accusing Christians of faking the Scriptures:

Why is the West so quiet in the face of the Muslim provocation we have faced for 1400 years?

Persecution By Christian Zionists: Abdication of the Christian Duty of Care: Jesus said love one another as I have loved you.

- My grandmother lost some 30 acres of land near Affula to the Zionists, by underhanded means. Christian Zionists think I should keep quiet.
- I have been called a communist for Criticising Israeli injustice towards Israeli Arabs.
- I have been accused of supporting Hamas against Israel, by an evangelical American blogger.
- Millions of Christians visit the Holy Land; The vast majority never make contact with local churches.
- They annually donate hundreds of millions of dollars to the Jewish state, who is doing nothing about the emigration of Christians out of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
- We need an international fund for the repatriation of the Christians of the Middle East. That is where Christian money should be invested.
- Israel is not a poor country. But the Christians of the Middle East are perishing in refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and elsewhere.

What can the Foreign Office Do?

1. Apply pressure on Israel, appealing to Israel's claim to democracy and reminding its leaders that her survival has always depended on the Christian West.
 - Demand that Israel bans racist text from Jewish schools. The Talmud should be cleansed.
 - Take tough action, long term imprisonment, and withdrawal of privileges from racist leaders.
 - Stop acquiring Christian land by deceitful means.
 - Improve Arab town/village infrastructure.
 - Give equal opportunities to Arabs of Israel.
 - Protect the Christian minority
 - Fight the Mafia in Nazareth and stop its spread to other Christian towns/villages.
 - Israel could become a partner in the effort to repatriate the Christians of the Middle East.
2. Apply Pressure on Saudi Arabia, Qatar and their Muslim neighbours to stop financing extremist groups who promote verbal violence and supremacy towards Christians. Stop the ingress of Muslims into Christian centres, such as Bethlehem and Nazareth. If we Christian Arabs are not permitted to enter Mecca, then they must voluntarily exclude themselves from Nazareth and Bethlehem.
3. Establish an International Fund for the repatriation of Christians of the Middle East, because:
 - a. It is only just that people who were forced out, should be helped to return to their homelands.
 - b. They would be natural allies to the West.
 - c. They would be brotherly to the Muslim majority.
 - d. They would bring investment to the Middle East.

- e. They would encourage trade with the West.
- f. They would be good neighbours to Israel.

Thank you for caring to listen.