

## MaozNews No. 15

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The **website** ([www.TheMaozWeb.com](http://www.TheMaozWeb.com)) is now up and running. Downloads will be available by the end of March, with new ones added from time to time. Watch our **Breaking News** page, updated almost daily.

Please help us get the word out: recommend our **website** and **MaozNews** to friends.

The following link is for those interested in the real story about the holocaust:

[http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i\\_video/main500251.shtml?id=2274705n](http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=2274705n)

### Arab Israeli Army Recruits Increases

Based on an article by Yoav Stern, Haarets 10/10/2008

The number of Israeli Arab recruits to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) increased dramatically in the first nine months of 2008. The army refused to provide accurate figures, but the number of recruits is estimated to have increased by 50 to 100 from the beginning of the year, bringing the total number of recruits in 2008 to some 300. The rate of non-Bedouin Arabs' recruitment has also increased in recent years, and an officer in the IDF's Human Resources Branch said he hoped that, in 2009, recruitment figures will reach 350.

In 2007/8 the IDF prepared a plan to encourage Bedouin to join the army, and assist them after their discharge. This includes lectures in schools and help in directing discharged soldiers to studies and employment. "The intention is to improve the initial impression they get. They must leave the army with a direction in life," said Colonel Ramiz Ahmed, head of the population directorate in the IDF's Human Resources Branch.

Ahmed explains that the drop in recruitment in recent years cannot be attributed to events or the political atmosphere. While recruitment rates dropped after the October 2000 events – several days of protests in northern Israel during which 12 Israeli Arabs and one Palestinian from Gaza were killed – later, enlistment rose again. Toward the end of the intifada in 2004, the rate plummeted again and continued doing so until the end of 2007, Ahmed added.

The law exempts non-Druze Arab citizens from compulsory military service. However, many of them have been recruited over the years to the professional army, especially as trackers. From the mid-80s, Bedouin were drafted as per their request into a six-month compulsory service, after which they joined professional army. Since 1991 they have been volunteering for a three-year compulsory service before joining the professional army. This was encouraged in the 1980s and 1990s by former Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who believed it would strengthen Arab youngsters' affiliation to Israel.

Most of the Arab recruits are placed with the desert reconnaissance brigade posted at the Lebanese border and near the Gaza Strip. Most of the combatants are Bedouin, but some of the officers are Jews and Druze. Other recruits are trained as trackers. The IDF has decided to open additional units to Bedouin soldiers, and today a Bedouin major is serving in the Air Force. The army is also acting to increase discharged soldiers' options to buy land. The government recently decided to reduce the development costs of plots in Druze and Arab villages by 25 percent.

Arab activists, political leaders and the Islamic Movement object to recruiting Arabs. In many cases the decision whether to serve is made by the person involved and his father. "I've had cases in which youngsters joined despite their father's objection. I had a soldier who used to change out of his uniform in the Be'er Sheva mall before returning home, and put them on again on his way to the base," a tracker officer said.

The Bedouin tribes' ongoing struggle with the state over their lands does not deter the youngsters from joining the IDF. They believe that military service will give them a better standing vis-a-vis the authorities. Many of them see military service as a way of improving their social and economic situation. Master Sergeant Camal Atrash served three years, left the army and has now returned for professional service.

Bedouin officers emphasize their commitment to the State of Israel. Second Lieutenant Amir Juamis, 27, of Beit Zarzir, joined the army at the age of 26 after his brother was discharged. His father was wounded in the first war in Lebanon, and another was wounded in Gaza in 2002. He joined as a combatant, trained as an officer and now commands a military team. "I feel like an Israeli citizen and it's my duty to serve and contribute to the state. This is also the Bedouin's state," he said a few weeks ago.

Asked about how he feels fighting with his people on the other side of the border, he said: "a terrorist is a terrorist. Islam doesn't say you have to kill. He comes to kill here and can kill a Jew or an Arab. It's my duty to prevent that."

### The Political Scene

Israel's elections ended in a tie between the two largest parties but a significant leaning toward the political right. No less than 33 parties vied for a seat in Israel's 120-seat House of Representatives (the Knesset). Twelve were successful:

**Kadimah**, 28 seats, the party of incumbent Ehud Olmert, who resigned from his party's leadership following police recommendations to indict him for corruption. Foreign Minister Mrs. Tsipi Livni was elected to replace him. Kadimah has conducted negotiations with the Palestinian Authority in an effort to arrive at a peace agreement and is open to some territorial compromises.

**The Likud**, 27 seats, led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who affirms a strong disavowal of territorial compromise with the Palestinians.

**Yisrael Beiteinu**, 15 seats, led by Avigdor (Yvet) Liberman, who demands that Israeli Arab citizens be put to a test of loyalty, proposed to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities and called for a "transfer" of Israeli Arabs to the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority, even if this means territorial concessions.

**Labor** 13 seats, Led by Former Prime Minister Ehud Barak. Labor represents the original founders of the State and calls for a mildly socialist economy. Labor is open to some territorial compromise with the Palestinians.

**Shas**, 11 seats is led by religious leader Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef, whose decisions are supposedly guided by a higher wisdom, not subject to appeal. Shas traditionally represented religious Jews from the Arabic-speaking countries. The party now seeks to broaden its appeal, and opposes territorial compromise.

**United Torah Judaism**, 5 seats, represents the rest of the religiously Orthodox community and has no clear stance on the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

**Nation Union**, 4 seats represents a segment of Israeli settlers in the West Bank. Compromise of any kind with the Palestinians is unacceptable to members of this party.

**Hadash**, 4 seats, formerly the Israel Communist Party. Most of its support comes from Arab voters.

**United Arab List**, 4 seats.

**Merets**, 3 seats, a highly liberal party.

**Jewish Home**, 3 seats, differing from the National Union only in its membership and its leader.

**Balad**, 3 seats, the second of the Arab parties.

A majority of 61 is necessary to form a government. Following elections, the President is authorized to ask one of the party leaders to undertake that task. Each of the parties marked in blue recommended that President Shimon Peres call Netanyahu to the task, giving him a clear majority (65 out of 120 seats).

Mr. Netanyahu is reticent to form a government exclusively made up of right-wing parties whose policies vacate negotiations with the Palestinians of all meaning, and therefore threaten to radicalize the Middle East conflict still further. He made strenuous efforts to bring Kadimah into his Government, offering prominent ministerial portfolios and other political inducements. Mrs. Livni expressed her unwillingness to provide the proposed Government with a fig leaf behind which it can hide. She is willing to bring her party into Government only if the platform on which that Government was formed would accept the principle of a separate State for the Palestinians.

Gaza Palestinian rocket firing into Israel following Israel's evacuation of the Gaza Strip has persuaded many Israelis that negotiations with the Palestinians are to no purpose. Mrs. Livni has been negotiating with Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas and believes that, unlike Hamas which took over Gaza, he is a reliable partner.

### Israel's Population

Israel's population stands at 7,337,000 people, including 5,542,000 Jewish Israelis (75.5 percent) and 1,477,000 Israeli Arabs (20.1%). The figures, published by the Central Bureau of Statistics, listed another 318,000 Israeli residents, which include some 200,000 foreign workers, for which an exact number is not available. Population has grown by 1.8 percent since last 2007.

The report also shows that Israel's population is young compared to western nations. In 2007, 28.4% of Israelis were under 14, as opposed to only 17% in western countries. Likewise, 9.8% of Israel's population was aged 65 and over, as opposed to 15% in the West. For every 1,000 women in Israel there are 978 men. The population of men 36 years and younger is larger than of women, though the numbers are reversed when comparing the sexes from age 37 onwards. For every 1,000 women at age 75, there are 672 men at the same age.

The statistics indicate a greater percentage of single men and women among the Jewish population, particularly the young. There is a growing trend to marry later. In 2006, 76% of Jewish males 20–29 years old were not married, compared to 73% in 2000. 60% of women were single in 2006, compared to 54% in 2000.

Among Jews, 38.5% (2.2) million originate from a Europe or North America. 15% of Jews, numbering 871,000, are of African origins while 11.9% are from Asian countries. A total of 34.6% of Jews are native born whose parents were also born in the country.

Half of the Jewish population in the country resides in the center region, with 20.7% living in the Tel Aviv district. Less than 10% of the Jewish population lives in the north. On the other hand, 45% of the Arab population lives in the north and 11% in the south.

53% of all residents in the north are Arab Israelis. The median age of Israelis continued to climb, with its 2007 figure reaching 28.7 years of age.

### Kill Jeremiah

An important seal impression was found in Jerusalem's ancient City of David, in a dig conducted on behalf of the Shalem center (a Jerusalem research institute) and the City of David Foundation, under the academic auspices of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



(Based on an article by [Nadav Shragai](#), Haaretz Correspondent)

Israeli archaeologists unearthed a seal impression belonging to a minister of the Judean King, Zedekiah, dating back 2,600 years. The seal impression (bullae) carried the name of Gedalyahu ben Pashur. According to the Book of Jeremiah, Gedalyahu served as minister to King Zedekiah (597–586 BCE). The bulla was found intact a few meters away from where another bulla of yet another of Zedekiah's ministers, Yehukiah ben Shelemiah, was unearthed three years ago.

Both ministers are mentioned in the Bible (Jeremiah 38 1–4) as demanding, with two other ministers, the death of Jeremiah for preaching that the besieged city should surrender to Babylon. Both bullae, each measuring 1 cm in diameter, were found by an excavation team led by Prof. Eilat Mazar of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem among the debris of destruction from the First Temple period.

Excavation in the City of David, just outside the walls of the Old City, has proven, in recent years, to be a treasure trove for archeologists. "Only rarely do archeologists come across findings of significant figures in history, which help lift the dust of history and bring the biblical story to life in such a tangible way," Mazar said.

This is not the first time seals were unearthed at the City of David site. In 1982, the Israeli archeologist Yigal Shiloh discovered a cache of bullae in a nearby site, including one with the name of Gemaryahu ben Shaphan – mentioned in the Bible as a minister and scribe during the reign of King Jehoiakim (608–597 BCE).

## Soli Deo Gloria

Baruch is writing a **series of lessons in the book of Romans**. This is to be presented toward the latter part of May in Hamburg, Germany, where he has been invited to teach a seminar organized by a local Pentecostal church undergoing reformation. Baruch is **teaching** a similar series on alternate Wednesday evenings to a local Church in Israel. He has also been **invited to preach** in another local church in Haifa, where he and Bracha attend each month as they visit Bracha's mother.

In July and part of August, Baruch is scheduled to teach and preach in the north of **Scotland**. Meanwhile, he continues in his studies and in writing a commentary on **Micah** while two others of his books are being prepared for the press. It has been decided to produce the Old Testament in the **Modern Hebrew translation of the Bible** in five volumes rather than four. Editorial work on Volume Four (Psalms) has long passed the half-way mark, with Psalms 1–106 in the hands of the control groups and the editorial process of the remaining psalms proceeding apace.

## Personal News

In January of this year Baruch and Bracha celebrated **40 years of marriage**. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, Bracha will celebrate her **60<sup>th</sup> birthday**. We give God thanks for these years of divine mercy, faithfulness and blessing to her and to us both.

We have recently learned that our 9-year old granddaughter, **Noam**, is diabetic. Her mother noticed something was wrong and insisted the child be examined. The sugar level in her blood was 400 (the normal is 100). She was rushed to hospital, where her sugar level was brought down to normal. The child will now have to adopt a new lifestyle, particularly with regard to foods and to medication.

Tamar, our youngest daughter, is scheduled to **give birth to a son** on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Your prayers for her and the child's health will be appreciated. Bracha plans to travel to the USA to assist Tamar for a month and spend another visiting our daughters.

TAX-deductable **support for our ministry** should be written to the order of Berean Baptist Church and posted to **Berean Baptist church, P.O. Box 1233, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48480–3233**, earmarked "**for the Maoz Ministry (Soli Deo Gloria)**", or "**for Maoz Support**". Direct bank transfers may be made to **Franklin Bank, 24725 West Twelve Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48034 USA, Routing Number 241271957 Berean Baptist Special Account No. 567495976**.. Please inform Max Sharp at Berean Baptist Church by email of the details of the transaction (date, transfer number, sum and designated purpose). All contributions are tax deductible. Receipts are sent at the end of the calendar year or at the donor's request. Please do not send contributions directly to us.

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As necessity arises, we reserve the right to use for the ministry funds sent for personal use.