



Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

Action and Impact
in Israel and around the World



Annual Report 2017

Report on Jerusalem Center Projects, Social Media Campaigns, Analyses, Reports, and Conferences – in Israel and Internationally

Amb. Dore Gold, President

Message from the President, Amb. Dore Gold

The year 2017 saw a major expansion of Jerusalem Center activities globally and within Israel.

A “think tank” has several vital functions. It is an incubator for ideas, a forum for opinions, and a resource for reporters, analysts, and government planners. In 1977, just as the Carter administration took office, the Brookings Institution in Washington published a report that served as the administration’s policy playbook. The era of “think tanks” was formally born. Today, Israel has followed the American model with think tanks taking part in the policy debate.

At the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, which I have headed since I left the UN in 1999, we are well aware of this diplomatic and academic responsibility. But located in beleaguered Israel, the Jerusalem Center also serves as a defense vehicle in the war of ideas. We research the words and actions of Iran and its proxies, follow trends in the Arab world, focus on the actions and factions of the Palestinian leadership, and expose the mendacity of the BDS movement. We also see the Jerusalem Center as an important conduit to reach the international media who are fed a steady diet of fake news and canards by Israel’s detractors.

The Jerusalem Center has been on the front lines of Israel’s own internal discourse on issues of diplomacy and national security.

Over the last year, our outreach and output have increased dramatically. Our studies on Palestinian funding of terror became a major pillar for legislative actions in Congress. We defended the

Balfour Declaration in London and Jerusalem against critics who seek Israel’s delegitimization.

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Our expert analysts have delved into some of the most important topics in the Middle East and shared their information with counterparts in Europe, the United States, Asia, and even the Arab World. Accordingly, the Jerusalem Center greatly expanded its information conveyance throughout social media – in videos, podcasts, Facebook, Twitter, and the conventional Web-based articles, blogs, and analyses.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dore Gold". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

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Support for Relocating the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem

Dore Gold's Testimony to Congress on Moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, November 8, 2017

Jerusalem Center President Dore Gold testified before the House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on November 8, 2017, discussing "Moving the American Embassy to Jerusalem: Challenges and Opportunities." Excerpts follow:

It is my view that President Donald Trump has made a commitment in that regard and I believe he will stand by what he has said. The United States will evaluate the timing and circumstances for executing that decision in accordance with its interests.

The embassy question is a subset of a much more important issue: the need for Western recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. That recognition is vital for several reasons. On a political level, the denial of recognition helps fuel the dangerous fantasy, popular in the Middle East, that Israel is impermanent and illegitimate. On a religious and cultural level, the denial of recognition helps fuel the dangerous fantasy that Jews have no connection to Jerusalem and Israel – that their presence is an imposition because the land is not their homeland.

"You move the embassy, you create a box of realism for our neighbors. Israel is not going to give up Jerusalem. Somebody better digest that."

Protecting Jerusalem's holy sites is a responsibility that the State of Israel assumed in law back in 1967, when Jerusalem was re-united after the Six Day War. Only a free and democratic Israel will protect the holy sites of all the great faiths in Jerusalem. Let me stress, to the extent that the U.S. reinforces Israel's standing in Jerusalem, it is reinforcing core American and Western values of pluralism, peace, and mutual respect – and it is reinforcing the position of the only international actor that will protect Jerusalem's holy sites.



Jerusalem: Asserting Israel's Case for its Ancient Jewish Birthright

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Jerusalem's unification – and in response to UN resolutions that sought to deny the Jewish connection to Jerusalem – Amb. Gold created an original presentation of 3,000 years of Jewish history in Jerusalem, with the assistance of Israel's finest, state-of-the-art, multi-media technology. This exciting sensory experience brings sacred sites and ancient documents to life while telling the story of the Jewish people's unbreakable connection to Israel and Jerusalem through the ages.

In the presentation, Gold offered compelling visuals of archaeological treasures, rare documents, vintage photos and clandestine film footage that bring the historical record to life, offering irrefutable evidence of the Jewish people's persistent ties to Jerusalem.

Amb. Gold has presented the multi-media display to the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federations of North America in New York and the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, as well as the Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies in London, the UK's oldest think tank.

Visuals of archaeological treasures, rare documents, and vintage photos offer irrefutable evidence of the Jewish people's persistent ties to Jerusalem.



Exposing the Palestinian Authority's Payment of Salaries to Terrorists and Their Families

The Palestinian Authority's legislation and allocations of monthly salaries and benefits to imprisoned and released terrorists and to the families of "Martyrs" amount to \$300 million annually. This financial reward demonstrates the PA's institutional commitment to sponsoring terror against Israel.

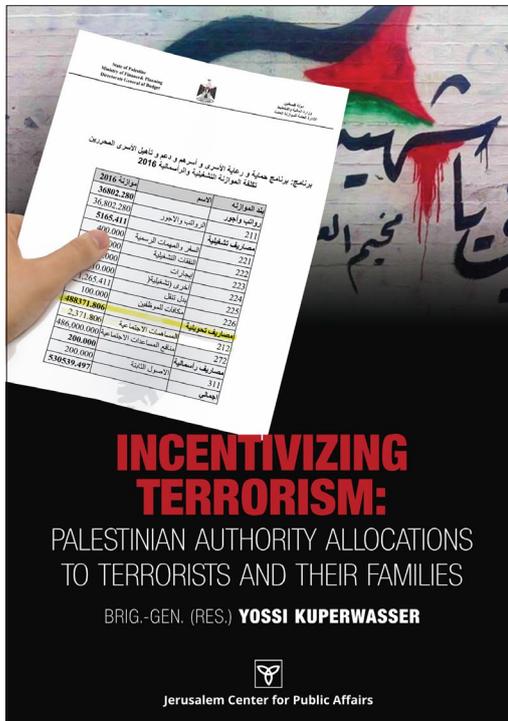
The salary payments to terrorists from all Palestinian terror organizations, including Hamas and those who carried out terror attacks after the Oslo agreements came into effect, are made according to Palestinian Authority legislation that refers to the terrorists specifically as "fighters."

The Jerusalem Center's ground-breaking expose on the PA grants to terrorists was covered around the globe.

The U.S. Congress is moving to pass the "Taylor Force Act," legislation named after the West Point graduate who was murdered by a Palestinian terrorist in Tel Aviv on March 8, 2016, which would cut U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority until it stops payment to terrorists. Jerusalem Center research provided critical data to the legislation's drafters.

The Jerusalem Center at the Knesset

The Jerusalem Center's experts have testified in the Knesset to present the facts before Israel's lawmakers.



Jerusalem Center study cited in the *Wall Street Journal*, published in both English and Hebrew



Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser testifying before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

Defending the Balfour Declaration in the British House of Commons

Proving the Balfour Declaration's Historical Significance in the Face of Detractors Seeking to Delegitimize Israel

The stated purpose of the Balfour Declaration, published on November 2, 1917, and the circumstances under which it was published are generally known. The most common explanation was that Britain and the Allied Powers were moved by idealism and their interests. At a critical point in the First World War, the British cabinet needed to secure world Jewish support for the Allied cause and hoped at the same time to keep both the United States and Russia on their side. With time, however, the world's understanding of the Declaration has become the subject of bitter controversy and revisionist interpretation. In fact, the Palestinian Authority of today went so far as to call it a "crime."



The Balfour Declaration is important because it recognizes the historical bond of the Jewish People to the Holy Land, a bond which existed long before the Declaration. It contains the world's recognition of the historical rights of the Jewish People to a National Home. What was significant was its public and formal recognition and its subsequent incorporation into international law.

In Jerusalem

The Jerusalem Center also hosted a one-day Balfour Conference in Jerusalem and devoted its most recent volume of the *Jewish Political Studies Review* to the Balfour Declaration.



Lessons from Israel's Response to Terrorism: A Message for Europe

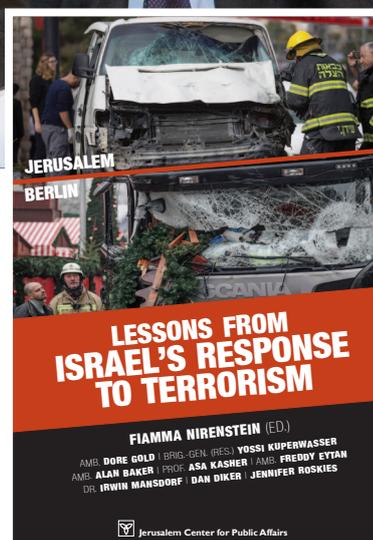
Effective solidarity among states has become a prerequisite for ultimately succeeding in the war of the West against jihadist terrorism. Yet, in the aftermath of the Islamic State's brutal attacks in Paris during 2015 that left 129 dead, a discussion began in the international media of whether the terrorist attacks against Israelis could be compared with the newest jihadist assault on European capitals.

Recent events have challenged the European definition of terrorism. A cohesive military strategy is needed for the West, the Arab states that are threatened, and Israel. It stands to reason that, just as all three face similar threats, the models developed in Israel for dealing with terror merit attention in Europe and beyond.

In its studies and meetings with European parliaments and diplomats, the Jerusalem Center has encouraged joint planning and intelligence sharing.



Fiamma Nirenstein, Jerusalem Center Fellow and editor of our recent study on terrorism, presented her book in the Italian Parliament in Rome, March 15, 2017.

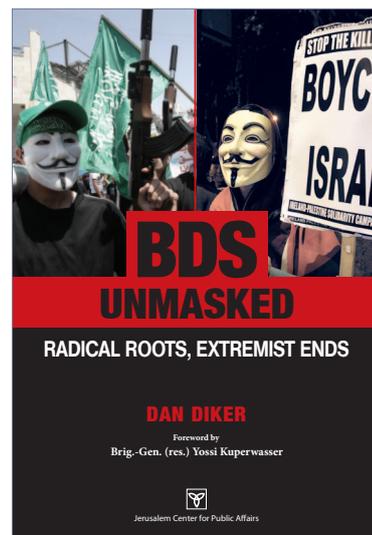
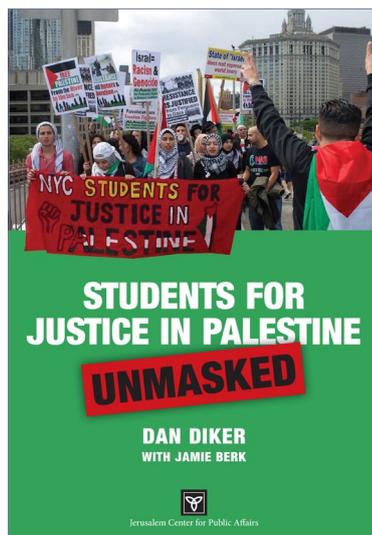
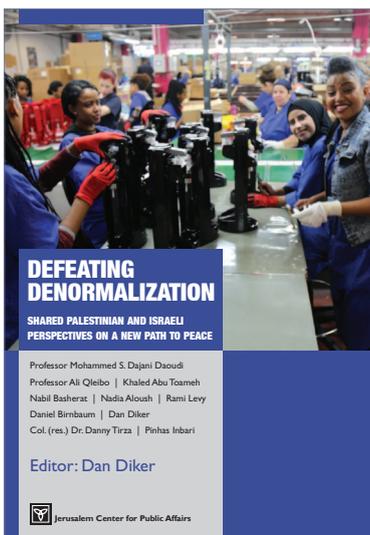


Exposing the Methods and Strategies behind the BDS Campaign against Israel

BDS is commonly misunderstood in the West. Many believe it is a progressive, nonviolent boycott movement to establish a Palestinian state in the disputed West Bank. This is a deception. The BDS leadership's publicly stated goal is to delegitimize and isolate Israel internationally with the strategic objective of causing its implosion.

There is a sharp point of intersection between anti-Semitism, BDS, and the delegitimization phenomena. Whereas historically anti-Semitism was based on religious and later racial arguments against individual Jews that are now proscribed, today's anti-Semitism is based on national arguments against the existence of the Jewish state.

BDS activists accuse Israel of practicing apartheid, a charge fiercely rejected by South Africans who are helping Israel in the war against BDS in South Africa. The Jerusalem Center works closely with these activists. Dan Diker leads this research project.



Pro-Israel activists from South Africa, Luba and her daughter Cassie Mayekiso, at the Jerusalem Center, June 2017.

Iran's Nuclear Program, Ballistic Missiles, and Military Expansion in the Middle East

Beyond Iran's threatening nuclear program, its behavior in the Middle East has become far more dangerous. Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and its auxiliary "local" forces, Hezbollah and the Houthis, for instance, are dominating Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon and expanding Iranian hegemony with no clear end point.

Jerusalem Center papers by Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon Shapira have exposed the scale of Iran's Shiite networks. In 2014–15, his research first disclosed "Hezbollah Syria," and the goal of Iran to deploy the IRGC near the Golan Heights.

Iran is testing new generations of missiles, despite the fact that the UN Security Council prohibited this type of activity. The Iranian navy is regularly moving throughout the Middle East region, from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, and has even visited the Mediterranean. Lt. Col. (ret.) Michael Segall monitors Iran's growing naval role.



Iran's long-range ballistic missiles have ranges that could hit anywhere in the Middle East and Israel, even parts of Europe.



Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, a senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), receives the blessing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei after the defeat of ISIS in Syria and Iraq.



The Palestinians and the Peace Process

The Jerusalem Center's team of diplomatic, security, and research experts has decades of experience reporting and analyzing the peace process and its players. Arabic- and Persian-speaking experts maintain close touch with the Arab/Muslim world, following developments in Tehran, Baghdad, Riyadh, Ramallah, Beirut, Amman, Cairo, Damascus, and Gaza. Their analyses appear in English and Hebrew on the Jerusalem Center's websites, and reactions from the Arab world mean that the material is read on the other side of Israel's borders. The team members are interviewed by Arab media frequently.

The Jerusalem Center team on the Palestinian issue includes Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D. Halevi, Yoni Ben Menachem, and Pinhas Inbari.

Beyond the major study on Palestinian payments to terrorists, recent analyses include these topics researched by the Jerusalem Center's experts:

- The PA-Hamas Negotiations
- The Terror Tunnels from Gaza
- Hamas' Alliance with Iran
- Abbas' Political Battles Escalate
- Palestinians' View of Jerusalem's Temple Mount
- Is There a Palestinian Partner?
- Who Are the Palestinians?
- Abbas vs. Trump
- The Jews: One of the World's Oldest Indigenous Peoples
- Palestinian "Pay to Slay" Grants to Terrorists



Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh (left) embraced by Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei



Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Istanbul, December 13, 2017, denouncing the American recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital

The Jerusalem Center's Experts Meet the Broadcast Media



Col. (ret.) Dr. Jacques Neriah, author of *Between Rabin and Arafat: A Political Diary*, served as Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Deputy Head for Assessment of Israeli Military Intelligence. He explains to **Israel Public Television** historic decisions made in Rabin's office.



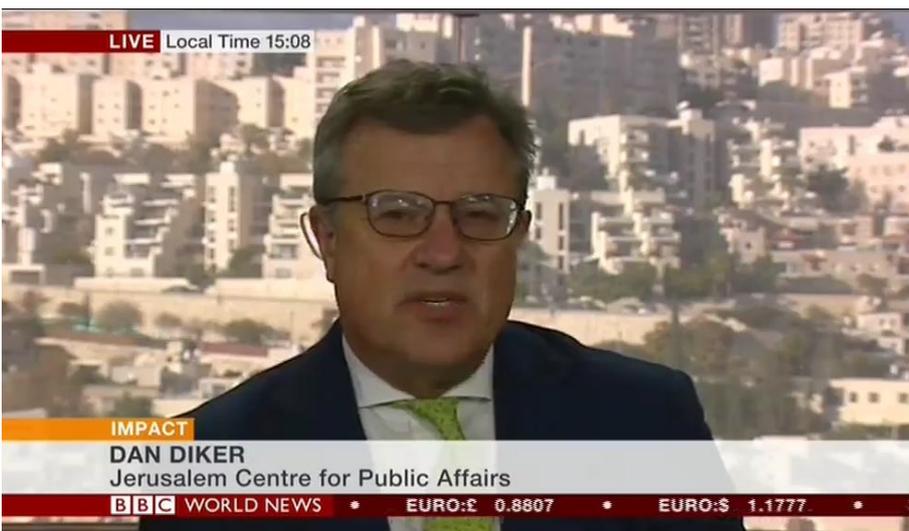
CNN's Fareed Zakaria interviews **Amb. Dore Gold** on President Trump's Jerusalem decision, December 11, 2017.



Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Kuperwasser, former head of the IDF Intelligence Research Division, explains to **Israel Public Television** how Israel successfully captured the *Karine-A* ship 15 years ago.



Amb. Dore Gold discusses a terrorist attack in the Sarona Market in Tel Aviv with Sean Hannity, Fox News, April 23, 2017.



BBC interviews **Dan Diker**, Director of the Center's Political Warfare Project, on President Trump's announcement on Jerusalem, December 7, 2017.



Amb. Alan Baker, a former Legal Adviser to Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told *Al Jazeera* the Palestinians' membership application to Interpol was "just a political PR move" on the part of the Palestinians. "Because they're not interested in negotiating (with Israel), they're trying to achieve the end result, which is a state," he said.

The New York Times

Preparations for Trump's Visit Expose Political Rifts in Israel

"For a long time, Israel's priority has been the Iranian threat," said **Dore Gold**, a former director general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a longtime adviser to Mr. Netanyahu. "The shift that the Trump administration has made in wanting to block Iranian hegemonialism is significant for Israel."

– *New York Times*, May 21, 2017

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Stop American Aid to the Palestinians until the Terror Ceases

By David Aufhauser and **Sander Gerber** (Jerusalem Center Fellow)

– *The Wall Street Journal*, January 27, 2017

The Washington Post

Israel Wants Trump to Stop Palestinian Payments to Prisoners and Families of "Martyrs"

Yossi Kuperwasser, a former top intelligence officer and Israeli army general, who now works as a scholar at the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, said the Palestinian government allocates \$300 million a year for these payments, which is about 7 percent of the annual budget.

– *The Washington Post*, May 23, 2017

THE JERUSALEM POST

What Goes for UNESCO Goes also for the UN

By Alan Baker

The entire UN human-rights assistance machinery has now been formally and officially recruited and financed to streamline the harassment and persecution of Israel.

– *The Jerusalem Post*, November 2, 2017

ADVANCING JEWISH THOUGHT Mosaic

The Story of the Liberation of Jerusalem a Century Ago

By Lenny Ben-David

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Jerusalem's unification in the Six-Day War. It also marks the 100th anniversary of a fierce World War I battle that saved the city from destruction.

– *Mosaic*, May 22, 2017

HAARETZ הָאָרֶץ

Think Tanks in the Battle of Ideas (Hebrew)

By Dore Gold

– *Haaretz*, December 4, 2017

Special Events

The Jerusalem Center participates in a **Knesset Commemoration of President Sadat's Visit to Jerusalem 40 years ago.**

Dore Gold in discussion with a government minister, member of the Knesset, and journalists.



Discussion on the **changes in Washington after the 2016 elections** between Professor Alan Dershowitz and Dore Gold.



The Jerusalem Center's President Dore Gold received the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Scholar-Statesman Award in November 2017 along with former Israeli ambassadors to the United Nations Dan Gillerman, and Ron Prosor. Presenting the awards was the Washington Institute's executive director, Robert Satloff.

From left to right: Robert Satloff, Dore Gold, Dan Gillerman, and Ron Prosor



The Jerusalem Center's *Jewish Political Studies Review* is the first and only journal dedicated to the study of Jewish political institutions and behavior, Jewish political thought, and Jewish public affairs.

Academic Publications

JEWISH POLITICAL STUDIES REVIEW

Spring 2017, Volume 28, Numbers 1 & 2

100 Years Since the Balfour Declaration

Guest Editor: Ambassador Dore Gold

The Historical Significance of the Balfour Declaration
Dore Gold

The Historical Paths to the Balfour Declaration
Andrew Roberts

Israel as a Strategic Asset of the West
Richard Kemp

In Photos: The Story of the Liberation of Jerusalem a Century Ago
Lenny Ben-David

Is the Balfour Declaration a Legally Binding Document?
Ruth Lapidot

Chaim Weizmann and the Balfour Declaration: "A Unique Act of World Moral Conscience"
Joel Fishman

The Peel Commission Report of 1937 and the Origins of the Partition Concept
Shaul Bartal



Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

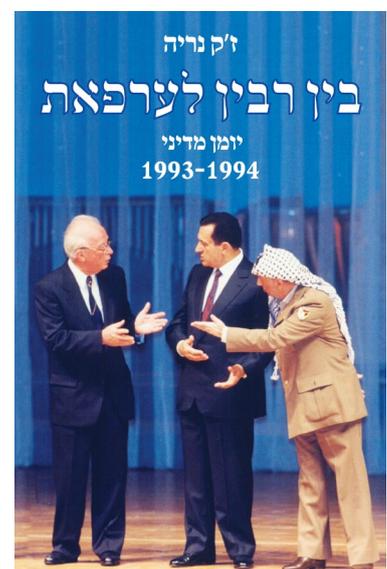
The most recent edition, Spring 2017

Between Rabin and Arafat: a Policy Advisor's Diary, 1993-1994 (Hebrew)

Jacques Neriah

Col. (ret.) Dr. Jacques Neriah, a special analyst for the Middle East at the Jerusalem Center, served as foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and deputy head for assessment of Israeli Military Intelligence.

His new book provides an insider's view on Rabin's decision-making during the Oslo process. It also details the effort the prime minister made to achieve peace with Jordan, as well as the dilemmas he faced from U.S. pressure to reach an agreement with Syria.



Expanding the Pro-Israel Case in Social Media

Extensive Use of Videos, Twitter, Facebook, the Daily Alert, and Podcasts

The Jerusalem Center's Internet flagship is the website jcpa.org. Jerusalem Center websites serve as platforms for analyses in the form of blogs, *Jerusalem Issue Briefs*, YouTube presentations, Twitter, Facebook, the *Daily Alert* news digest (dailyalert.org), and a new podcast feature, "Jerusalem Talks: Expert Analysis."



The Jerusalem Center's Podcast



"Diplomatic Dispatch" is a new video series of briefings by the Center's president, Dore Gold, on strategic issues that Israel faces today. It is produced by the Center's Institute for Contemporary Affairs, founded jointly with the Wechsler Family Foundation. The most recent video was seen by more than 55,000 viewers. The Center's overall YouTube monthly viewers number 84,000.

Page views for all Jerusalem Center websites in November 2017 totaled 1,311,248 for the month, from 228,639 unique visitors. The Jerusalem Center's Daily Alert Israel News Digest includes a daily email newsletter to subscribers, a website, a mobile version formatted for cellphones, an RSS web feed, an archive of all back issues since 2002, a searchable database of 68,000+ articles, and a news ticker.

- English Website – jcpa.org
- Daily Alert – dailyalert.org
- Hebrew Website – jcpa.org.il
- French Website – jcpa-lecape.org
- German Website – jer-zentrum.org
- YouTube Channel – youtube.com/TheJerusalemCenter
- Facebook – facebook.com/jerusalemcenter
- Twitter – [@jerusalemcenter](https://twitter.com/jerusalemcenter)
- Wiki – Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs
- Podcast – soundcloud.com/jerusalemcenter

The Jerusalem Center's Experts Team



Ambassador Dore Gold,
President



Chaya Herskovic, Director
General



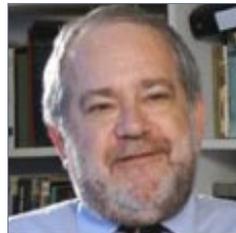
Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yossi
Kuperwasser, Director of the
Project on Regional Middle
East Developments



Ambassador Alan Baker,
Director of the Institute for
Contemporary Affairs



Col. Dani Tirza



Lenny Ben-David, Director of
Publications



Ambassador Freddy Eytan



Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Dr. Shimon
Shapira



Fiamma Nirenstein



Col. (ret.) Dr. Jacques Neria



Nadav Shragai



Dan Diker, Director of the
Political Warfare Project



Lt. Col. (ret.) Jonathan D.
Halevi



Yoni Ben Menachem



Dr. Harold Rhode



Pinhas Inbari



Lt. Col. (ret.) Michael Segall



Ambassador Zvi Mazel



The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs is a leading independent research institute specializing in public diplomacy and foreign policy. Founded in 1976, the Center has produced hundreds of studies and initiatives by leading experts on a wide range of strategic topics. Dr. Dore Gold, Israel's former Ambassador to the UN and Director-General of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has headed the Jerusalem Center since 2000.

Jerusalem Center Websites

English: jcpa.org
Hebrew: jcpa.org.il
French: jcpa-lecape.org
German: jer-zentrum.org

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