

stabbing them and by running them over—raises yet again the disquieting question: has the Obama administration's fecklessness about confronting Palestinian incitement of terror served to enable it?

In the last few weeks alone, the Palestinian Authority has posted cartoons of an Israeli pulling down his pants and preparing to "rape" an Arab woman representing a Muslim holy site. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas praised the Palestinian shot while attempting to assassinate an Israeli as a "martyr" who was destined for heaven. A new hit song on Palestinian social media calls for listeners to "destroy, annihilate [and] blow up" Israelis. Al-Quds University has created the "Martyr Ibrahim Al-Akhari Tournament" to honor the man who recently murdered two Israelis and injured 13 others by running them over with his car.

Despite the fact that American taxpayers provide \$500 million to the Palestinian Authority annually, the Obama administration has failed to use that leverage to pressure the recipients of American aid to stop its incitement. Though then-U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton warned back in 2007 of the need to "stop the propaganda to which Palestinian children are being exposed," the administration has declined to demand that the Palestinians cut it out.

It is bad enough that the president has not lifted a finger to pressure the Palestinian Authority to put an end to incitement to murder. Even worse, his administration has conducted itself in a way which, however unintended it may be, has effectively green-lighted anti-Israelism of the most vicious sort—which in turn fuels the kind of violence that has left European Jews fearful for their lives and Israelis reeling.

This has included years of publicly derisive treatment of Israel that has conveyed to Israel's enemies and others that it stands alone, encouraging the conclusion that attacks on Israel—political and physical—have no consequences as far as the United States is concerned.

Earlier this month the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, told the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs that Israel deserved credit for having gone to "extraordinary lengths to limit collateral damage and civilian casualties" in trying to defend itself from Hamas rocket attacks from Gaza. Dempsey's praise placed the administration's scornful, damaging criticism of what were obviously unintended deaths of civilians in Gaza during this summer's wholly defensive war in stark relief.

Whether by giving interviews witheringly critical of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at particularly sensitive moments or by using obscenities to castigate him, the White House has encouraged the impression that Israel is a fair target for those who wish it ill.

The administration's scornful treatment of Israel has registered deeply with Israel's enemies, who have been encouraged to believe that America's ally is being cut loose. And it has registered with particular force in the Middle East, where the intensity of anti-Semitic incitement has grown steadily.

No serious person can claim that the administration wants an upsurge of terror. But it is hard to deny that it bears a share of responsibility for it.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING THE ELIJAH MOMENT CAMPAIGN

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, we have recently returned from the

Thanksgiving holiday, when Americans from all walks of life come together with family and friends to express gratitude for our good fortune and great blessings. The weekend following Thanksgiving was devoted by many to holiday shopping—a good opportunity to support local businesses but also too often a spectacle of commercialization that threatens to obscure the true meaning of the holiday season.

Today, I would like to honor the work of two Connecticut community leaders for their laudable efforts to remind us of the holiday's true meaning. Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford and Pastor Greg Doll of Noroton Presbyterian Church in Darien have together launched the Elijah Moment Campaign. Named after a figure in Jewish tradition who appears spontaneously to help those in need, this interfaith campaign seeks to encourage simple acts of kindness between friends and strangers alike. Each recipient of an act of generosity goes on to "pay it forward" by helping someone else. Even seemingly minor gifts like buying a stranger's cup of coffee, as occurred en masse during a campaign-organized kindness event at a Stamford Starbucks last week, can motivate significant acts of charity and promote a prevailing spirit of benevolence.

I am grateful to Rabbi Cohen and Pastor Doll for coming together to remind us, in their words, that "an act of generosity as simple as a kind word can transform a fleeting moment into an eternal one." The simplest acts of giving highlights the strong connections we all share, even as divisive rhetoric at home and violent acts abroad threaten our solidarity and safety. I honor and admire the spirit of the Elijah Moment Campaign, and I encourage all to do the same.●

##### RECOGNIZING GLEN HURT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Glen Hurt, who will retire as the Mansfield city mayor after more than 25 years of public service to the community as a city council member and mayor.

As city mayor, Glen is credited with improving the city's fire and police departments, upgrading Mansfield's waste and sewer systems, bringing a new grocery store to the community and helping build a new city senior center in 2004. Glen's commitment to public service led him to serve on the boards of the Solid Waste District and Area Agency on Aging.

I applaud Glen for his outstanding contributions and achievements as city mayor. We are all grateful for his dedication, leadership, and eagerness to serve honorably during his years of service to the city of Mansfield and the State of Arkansas. My staff and I have enjoyed working with Mayor Hurt on the projects important to Mansfield. I am truly grateful for his years of honorable service and dedication to com-

munity and wish him continued success in his future endeavors and many years of good health to enjoy with his granddaughters.●

##### TRIBUTE TO AL FELDSTEIN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an outstanding public servant of Western Maryland, Al Feldstein, who will be retiring at the end of this year after 42 years of public service. As Appalachian Regional Commission, ARC, State Program Manager for Maryland, Al has played a critical role in the success of countless projects and initiatives aimed at advancing economic progress and improving the lives of the residents of Maryland's three Appalachian counties. His passion for his community is boundless, and his careful stewardship of public resources has consistently set a high standard to which we can—and should—all aspire.

An exemplary leader in public service, Al's positions as grants administrator with Tri-County Council for Western Maryland and ARC State program manager at the Maryland Department of Planning enabled him to realize the importance of investing in Federal, State, private, and local economic development projects. He was committed to creating conditions for economic growth, many of which strengthened parts of the Appalachian region by constructing and improving basic public infrastructure.

Under Al's leadership, several rural counties in Western Maryland have benefited from carefully targeted ARC investments in economic development—including the financing of high-speed telecommunications infrastructure to increase local and regional connectivity and affordability. These accomplishments have leveraged far greater support for workforce development and job creation in a region that continues to battle economic distress, high unemployment rates, and severe educational disparities.

ARC's regional development roles—as advocate, knowledge builder, partner, investor, and catalyst—underlie the commission's strategy to invest in people, basic infrastructures, and job creation and retention. ARC helps create economic opportunities by making its funds available for seed capital, gap funding, and investments in innovative programs. Although the Appalachian region has not fully achieved socioeconomic parity with the rest of the Nation, greater involvement in the region—not only through funding but also public service like Al's—will continue to help Appalachia's communities take advantage of emerging economic opportunities and diversification.

Knowing that accomplishing the four goals of ARC's strategic plan requires intense collaboration and civic engagement, Al was steadfast in working to achieve these objectives: to increase job opportunities and per capita income, strengthen the capacity of Appalachia's citizens to compete in the