



INTERVIEW: Orthodox Rabbis on Condemning Israel's War

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Glenn Greenwald (GG): Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss and Rabbi Dovid Feldman are spokesmen for the Neturei Karta Orthodox Jewish movement in America that is a prominent Orthodox sect of Judaism that was founded in Jerusalem back in the 1930s. Both gentlemen have been outspoken in their opposition to the Israeli war in Gaza, even appearing at anti-war protests in the United States, and because there is an attempt to suggest that most Jews or all Jews are in favour of all Israeli actions, including the war, or that somehow it's anti-Semitic to criticise Israeli war actions, we thought that having these two rabbis on to share their religious based perspective, and the reason they're opposed to the Israeli project, was something that our audience would benefit a lot from. Gentlemen, welcome to System Update. It's great to see you both. We are really grateful that you took the time to talk to us tonight.

Rabbis: Thank you.

GG: So let me ask you just to begin, and you can choose whoever goes first, but I'd like you both to answer this just for people who aren't familiar with your background and your directory, can you just talk a little bit about where and how you grew up, when you be in your religious studies and when you became rabbis?

Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss (YDW): Yes, maybe I start first to pray to the Almighty to bestow upon me his truth, his wisdom that I may be worthy of conveying his message. And so we shall all sanctify his name and bring peace to the world. Firstly, we're not only opposed to what is happening since October the 7th, we are opposed to the entire existence of the State of Israel. The ideology behind the State of Israel is Zionism. And Zionism is a corruption of what Judaism is. Judaism is a religion of 3000 years to be subservient to God. And a political nationalist movement started over 100 years ago, 130 and 140 years ago, called Zionism, which is a transformation basically to a nationalism to have a piece of land. And in order to give it legitimacy, this movement is simply incorporating the religion, Judaism, as its backbone, as its facade to claim the right to have the rule over the Holy Land. And that is in

totally a distortion and totally corruption of Judaism, because Judaism does not permit the Jewish people, since the destruction of the temple 2000 years ago, for us to have any Jewish sovereignty in any part of the world and these special prohibitions that we are not to return in mass and large numbers to the Holy Land and to re-establish any type of Jewish nationhood in the Holy Land. Second, we are not allowed to rebel against any nations. We have to be loyal citizens to every country we reside. And, and thirdly, we are not to make any attempt to end the God we decreed exilic existence that we are in since the destruction of the temple. We were told by God that we were not on that high spirituality that's required to be as a nation in the Holy Land, and therefore we were expelled from the land as a nation; as individuals, we can live there, but not as a nation. And therefore the whole concept of Zionism that started with this movement of, namely – I have pictures pictures – Theodor Herzl and David Ben-Gurion, Chaim Weitman, these are people who are purely non-religious, anti-God, anti the religion. And they simply wanted to create a state for their feelings, for their emotions, for their will to have their own nationhood. And this is totally contradictory to the concept of exile. Contradictory that we're not allowed to fear war against another nation, that we should be world citizens in every country. And, so the whole concept of Zionism is really antithetical and contradictory to Judaism. And the rabbinical authorities around the world were in total opposition to this movement of Zionism prior to the establishment of the State of Israel while it was being developed in Europe. And all the Rabbis we put out books called *The Rabbis Speak Out*, where we compiled 130 years of religious Jewish opposition to Zionism. These are the major, the leading authorities from around the world, and each, in their style, spoke up and said that we as Jews are forbidden to try to establish our own nationhood. And they spoke against Zionism, the leaders and the corruption, and that it's not Judaism. Till today, it goes till today, where the state was created and that we are standing in total opposition. And therefore you will find around the world, invariably the very religious communities, because we are religious Jews, we stand in opposition, totally, to the mere existence of the State of Israel. And, there is a lot more to speak about how we're being harassed, murdered by the Zionists. And, me personally, as you asked, my father escaped from the Nazis, when they invaded Hungary, his parents were killed in Auschwitz, as the majority of my family were killed in both Hungary and Poland. My mother's family was from Poland. My father's from Hungary. Oh, bless memory. And my father came to the United States. He was actually a student, a follower of great saintly Rabbis in Europe. One of them was the most outspoken voice against Zionism. His name was Reb Khaim Lazar Shapiro. Oh blessed memory. My father moved to the United States, got married to my mother. I was brought up in a very religious family. That we're anti-Zionists schools that I attended. All these were from European style, Hungarian style schools, and they were all anti-Zionist. So I had the privilege, the blessings of the Almighty, that I grew up in a religious family, very religious. And our teachings were to be Jews and to serve God and not the concept of establishing the state. My mother told me, Oh blessed memory, that in Poland, the people, if a child became a Zionist, they would sit in mourning on this child, as if he would die. So that's basically...

GG: Yeah, no, that's very helpful. That's obviously pretty stark. Rabbi Feldman, I definitely want to delve into even more the religious foundations, as you said, not just for your opposition specifically, the Israeli war in Gaza, but to your opposition to the entire Zionist

project and to kind of understand what those religious and moral foundations are. But I wanted to ask you, to put the same question to you, Rabbi, just in terms of these views that you have, what is the background that led to them? What is the background of your religious studies, of your decision to become a Rabbi? And what was the kind of environment in which you emerged as a Rabbi opposed to Zionism?

Rabbi Dovid Feldman (DF): Yes. Thank you. I grew up in New York in a strongly religious, anti-Zionist family, community. Anti-Zionism was part of my education all my life. I studied in New York, then I studied in London, England for ten years. And then when I came back, in 2000 I became a Rabbi. Now, my religious education is well connected, in other words, a major part of my religious education I received was anti-Zionism.

GG: So let's get into the substance of your views. I think it would actually surprise a lot of people to know that there are a non-trivial number of very religious people, especially, Orthodox Rabbis, who share your views. Probably not a majority, but certainly a non-trivial number. And when I've heard Orthodox Rabbis who are anti-Zionist in the past speak of kind of what went wrong, both in Israel and among the Jewish diaspora when it came to not just being Zionists, but sort of supporting this aggressive militarism that we've seen, I've heard a lot the idea that it's because of the secularism that dominates Israel, both its government and the people who elect them. If that's something that you believe, and if not, you can sort of fill your own views in there, what does that distinction have to do? Why is secularism a cause of Jews in general going so wrong in terms of the traditions of Judaism?

DF: This is a very good point. Basically, it's not the only reason, secularism, that has turned so many Jews to support Israel, there's so much more to it. There was the Holocaust. So many Jewish people were desperate after the Holocaust and not necessarily out of their choice they ended up being in Palestine. But this is a whole story for itself. But what you were mentioning about secularism, definitely, this is a very strong element which has turned so many people who follow Zionism. And the reason for it is quite simple. We need to understand the great difference between Judaism and Zionism. Judaism is a religion, a religion only, no politics to it. While Zionism is a purely political movement, in no way represents the Jewish religion. It happens to be the other way around. Basically, Zionism is an uprooting or a transformation of Judaism from a religion into something totally new, which is nationalism. Now we need to understand that, like, for example, if you take myself, I am an American Jew. I'm Jewish by the religion I follow, and I'm American by nationality. There is no contradiction there. So can be other Jewish people. They can be Canadian Jews, they can be Palestinian Jews, and they can be Moroccan Jews. In other words, the nationality doesn't affect or interfere in their Jewishness. Therefore a Jewish person doesn't have to have a nationality in order to be Jewish. Now, but what happens with people that no longer follow Judaism? You know, regardless of what the reasons might be, we are not here to judge an individual, but if people no longer follow Judaism, they need something to replace this Jewish identity. And unfortunately what Zionism has done to the Jewish people and to the Jewish religion is basically replacing Judaism with something new, something different, and something contrary to what Judaism was for thousands of years. Now, therefore, you'll find

people who insist on identifying with Judaism, which is a nice concept, and they refuse to give up the Jewish identity, which is excellent. But unfortunately, if they drop what Judaism was for thousands of years and they take up something new, they end up adopting Zionism, which is the replacement.

GG: No, that's great. So let me just ask you, Rabbi Weiss and actually, both of you, because I know you're very familiar with the arguments in favour of Zionism. I think it's surprising to a lot of people, you mentioned Theodor Herzl, who's essentially often credited as the father of modern Zionism, as a kind of thought that was only at the beginning of the 20th century, in the first couple of decades and then, of course, the State of Israel was recognised only a very short time after the end of World War two, when Europe saw what was done in the Holocaust. There were huge numbers of Jews in Europe that nobody wanted to take. And it was a way of sort of saying to the Jews, here, you can go here, this is your land now and you don't have to stay in Europe. But the argument was essentially that if you look at Jewish history over centuries, over millennial and especially World War Two, and what happened with the Holocaust, that maybe not as a religious matter, but just simply as a matter of survival, as a matter of pragmatism, Jews need to have their own state where they can live and where they govern, and where they have a military to defend themselves, because history has proven that if they don't have that, they will be extremely vulnerable to persecution and even mass murder. I understand that's not a religious based argument, but why isn't that valid as a kind of pragmatic or survival based argument?

YDW: Okay, well, with the help of the Almighty, I'm very, very happy that you brought this point up, because that goes to the root, the core, of why Zionism is totally unacceptable and totally discredited. Because the Jew is a person who we believe that there is an Almighty, there is a ruler to the world. He gives rewards. He gives punishment. A tsunami, a plague, god forbid, prosperity, everything we believe is controlled by the Almighty. We don't question the Almighty. Judaism is to be subservient to God, to accept his commandments. As Jews we accepted the 630 commandments that were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. That was accepted and respected by the Jewish people throughout the 2000 years of our exile, the destruction of the temple that happened 2000 years ago was not because of our physical lack. We were warned by the prophets Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, they warned the Jews when we were living in the Holy Land and there was a temple, they warned the Jews that we're not on that level of pureness, of holiness that is required to remain as a nation, and we will be rejected and sent into exile and that came about with the destruction of the temple. Now, we do not for one minute think that God is less powerful. God is the same God, the Almighty is the same Almighty, for instance, he created the world until today. But we have changed. We are under an exilic existence and forbidden to re-establish a nationhood. Zionism comes and says: Where was God to protect you by the Crusades, by the Inquisition, and so on and so forth, although they were beforehand, so let's be real, we shouldn't be bringing that subject here. But basically they scorned the religious Jew who looks to God and says: God is our protector, and to him we have a covenant to follow his laws. And if he says that we are forbidden to re-establish a Jewish nation, not only that won't be a protection for us, but that will be detrimental as the Torah warns us, that if we attempt to leave exile, we will be hunted

like animals, God forbid. So Zionism in its root is based on heresy, on blasphemy, a rebellion against God; Saying: Where is God to protect you? We have to have an insurance policy. And so that is the core element of Zionism. And that is why we as Jews and our Rabbis have pleaded with the Jewish people around the world: Do not fall prey to this movement. They may look inviting, they look enticing, we can have a piece of land, people will stop harassing you as Jew, but you can't run away from the hands of God. If you do, at least don't have the audacity to use the identity of the Jewish religion that clearly specifies that says that God warns us, that it God, who is all compassionate, wants us dispersed amongst the nations, and we are forbidden to re-establish our nation, and it will only bring to catastrophe, God forbid, if we will attempt to do such a thing. And as we see, the State of Israel is a quagmire. It is 76 years of death and suffering, of course, to the Palestinians that we are standing by and mourning, just beyond words, watching the suffering in Gaza and so forth, but they've been a death trap for both Jews and Muslims. Since their establishment there hasn't been a year that goes by that there's not more death and suffering, and it's purely because of their establishment of a nation. Every time they'll use an excuse and try to vilify and claim that it's because these people are anti-Semitic, and they're anti-Semitic, and they're totally ignoring that what they're doing is because they're rebelling against God by establishing the state. And that will cause, as God warns us that we should suffer, and that they are exacerbating anti-Semitism and creating a rift between us and the people who are living in. And like I said, they're using emotions. You asked about secularism, they preyed upon the Jews who unfortunately were, as a general rule, distant from God. They were Reform Jews that started like 100 years prior to Zionism. Reform means they're going to change. There was a movement in Europe that started by Moses Mendelssohn – his name should be erased. He was a person who was a scholar, and he decided that he's going to create a new type of Judaism called Reform Judaism, where you don't have to keep all the laws of the Torah and claim that Moses didn't take the Torah from God and it became very popular. So the majority of Jews in Europe became non-religious, and they weren't keeping the Ten Commandments, the Sabbath, kosher, and on and on. And he wanted that the Jews should assimilate amongst the nations, and they should become just, like doctors and lawyers and, and no beards, and look like the other people of the world, and therefore they'll be able to assimilate into society. But that wasn't working. Well, Jews were still being harassed. So Zionism came along and they decided that our solution is not to return to God, but that we are going to make our own nationhood and therefore will protect ourselves. So they decided reform or assimilation is not working, we're going to establish our protection. And the gun, the Uzi, the iron dome, that's going to be our protection. So it is purely blasphemy and heresy, that is the establishment of the state. That's why they also changed the language to Hebrew modern. It's called hybrid modern Hebrew. That's why when they read the Declaration of Independence, I was showing you the picture, the one you showed on your screen, where you're seeing the historic moment of David Ben-Gurion, the first prime minister reading the Declaration of Independence in 1948. Instead of having Rabbis, sages, saying at the dais, almost none of them are covering their heads. A Jew is to cover his head to show that there's a God above him. It's a law. And here that sitting all there, you barely see anybody covering their heads, and certainly no Rabbis and the picture of Theodor Herzl on the top there. And the Declaration of Independence, they didn't even put God's name in. And Theodor Herzl, to put out a book,

Traditional Torah Opposition to Zionism, Theodor Herzl wrote in his own diary, page 14, he wrote: "The way to solve the problem of antisemitism is to speak to the head priest to Vienna to get an appointment with the Pope, to make a mass conversion of all the Jews of Austria to Catholicism. It should be done on a Sunday in the middle of the day, with music and pride, publicly. We are the last generation that held on to the faith of our forefathers. The conversion would be in Saint Stephen's Cathedral". My grandparents died because they were Jewish, as in all the generations, by the Crusades, by the Inquisition, they let themselves be tortured and burned to remain for our religion, because our soul is the basis of our life. And God gave us a clothing called the body. And these guys come along and they throw everything away, and yet they use the facade, the name Judaism, the Star of David, to intimidate, to silence anybody who wants to stop their national goal and to accuse the people who are trying to stop their onslaught on the people of Palestine and on the people of the Jewish community, who are living in Jerusalem, who are pleading that they don't want this, they get brutally beaten. And to the world they say, we are Semites and anyone who are opposing us are anti-Semitic. Although they are brutally and busy beating the Jews who are standing, they are bleeding, we want our religion. We don't want the occupation. These Jews are never militant, we don't carry guns, we don't carry knives. We're simply demonstrating on the streets and brutally attacked for 76 years by this Zionist movement. They prey upon the secular Jews, who don't know their religion. And they prey upon their emotions that they know that we suffered in exile for so long and they say to them: God said that he's going to take the Jews back to the Holy Land. Here's what your grandparents aspired for. Here's what your dream is. We are the culmination of exile, the beginning of ge'ulah, the redemption. So they use the words of the Torah and they prey upon the ignorant of the religion. And they use the emotions to really build their state, and they use it also to entice the Evangelists, the Christians, to support them. Because in the Torah, they count on their ignorance of the Torah, also, it says in the Torah, that the children of Israel have to go to the land of Israel. Totally they ignore the admonitions of the Torah that King Solomon wrote in his prophecy, Shir Hashirim Song of Songs, that Jews are forbidden to re-establish one inch of Jewish sovereignty. We are forbidden to return and master the holy land. We are forbidden to rebel against nations. God foresaw there will be people like Zionists with gardens above time and he saw this will happen and he warned us, do not attempt to re-establish a state. God is all compassionate. There will come a time with his compassion, he will end the exile when all humanity will gather together and serve God in harmony, not become Jewish, but serve God in harmony. And then God will build the temple without any human intervention, and we will all serve God in harmony. That's what we pray and yearn for. And that is why we were never a threat to the Muslim nations that took us in when we were being harassed by the Crusades and inquisitions. They took us in because they knew the Bible, they knew the Jewish teachings, and they knew that we don't aspire to take the land away from them, because that's not Judaism. And then Zionism comes along and destroys all of this and unfortunately breaches the laws of the Torah and tries to establish a state, which they did and they are continually oppressing the indigenous populace, the Palestinian people, in the name of my religion. And Jews around the world are in total opposition. And we take umbrage at this, we are hurt, we are humiliated. This is being done in the name of the religion that clearly states do not rebel against the nation. A Jew is required to show loyalty to the nation where they are living, to show gratitude to the people.

It was the Muslim people who took us in by the Crusades and inquisitions, the Arab and Muslim lands and the Ottoman Empire. We flourished. We flourished in Iran, we flourished in Falastin (Palestina), under the Muslim leadership. And it was never an impediment to peace, the difference of religions. So we don't have a religious conflict, we simply have a movement that has no basis in the Torah, has no support in the Torah, that was opposed by all the religious leaders around the world, the Jewish religious leaders. And till today, the very religious communities oppose it. And they are forcefully establishing their rule. They made a rabbinate. They have the chief Rabbis, and they are simply conning the world into supporting them. And those who dare to differentiate between Judaism and Zionism, they vilify them. They accuse them of being anti-Semitic, which is repugnant and fools and hurts us to hear. The nation of Iran, Islamic Republic of Iran, you have the professors and students in the United States and around the world, who say, we love the Jews, we are friends with Jews, and many are Jews who are protesting and they say: We just simply cannot accept a rebellion against God, this carnage, this horrendous attack on the people of Gaza and this horrendous attack against the Palestinians in general. And so it's an insult to the logic, to the basic common sense that God gave to the humanity to accept the narrative of the Zionists when they are constantly harping and saying that the ones who are opposing them are anti Semitic. And especially when others show you that they are busy attacking the Jewish people who are standing in opposition, who have been standing for 76 years. Of course, the leadership of the Jewish community, the very religious – come to New York, right across from Manhattan, the largest concentration of religious Jews, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, there is not one Israeli flag. The same thing is where Rabbi Feldman worked in London, Stamford Hills, where there is not an Israeli flag. Or you go to Canada, or invariably you go to Jerusalem, the streets of Jerusalem, the very religious communities is anit-Zionist. You can see where they're flying the Palestinian flags over there. You can see their support for the people of Palestine. They get, again, brutally sprayed with skunk water. That's that chemical that destroys their clothing. You see here: Stop the Zionist terrorist massacre in Gaza. They get arrested because they refuse to serve in the Israeli army. Every boy and girl turned 17 is required to serve in the Israeli army.

GG: So that's actually the point I wanted to pick up on. And that's why I'm glad you raised that. And by the way, I wish there was a lot more attention paid to the relative harmony that Jews and Arabs lived in, both in what is now called Israel and Palestine, but also throughout the Middle East and Arab countries, as you referenced, including in Iran, where Jewish synagogues were permitted to thrive and Jewish people were permitted to thrive. And it really became this kind of war-like atmosphere with the creation of the State of Israel and the expulsion that it required. But, Rabbi Feldman, let me ask you, and if you want to address the arguments, the very familiar ones, in favour of Zionism that I mentioned, feel free, but I also like to add into that, just this kind of conflict that Rabbi Weiss was just alluding to, which is the division inside Israel among Orthodox Jews on the one hand, and secular Jews on the other. And this kind of growing resentment and strain on Israeli harmony, where Orthodox Jews, as many people don't know, refuse to fight in the Israeli military. They refuse to be conscripted into it. They're immune from service. And it is kind of left to the non-religious Jews to fight in the Israeli army. Can you explain a little bit about that tension in Israel

between religious views on the one hand and the secular Jews on the other when it comes to things like, fighting in the military and fighting wars?

DF: The difference, and let's call it the fight of the division between the Orthodox, the seriously religious people and the secular, is going on already for the longest time. And when it comes to serving in the military, this is a tension which is going on. But we need to understand, this religious, anti-Zionist community in Israel is not here just simply disagreeing and like, for one simple reason, refusing to serve in the army. We believe that this movement of Zionism as Rabbi Weiss eloquently explained, the movement of Zionism is the most horrific and embarrassing uprooting of our religion. And for us to take part in this and to join this, or to help assist this in any way, is basically the greatest violation of our religion. We would never do that and we would give our lives for this. Therefore, you find people who are so strongly opposed and they do everything they can and they are facing all kinds of intimidation, harassment, night raids, arrests, and this goes on. And they would never join this army.

GG: All right, let me just stay with you, for a second, Rabbi Feldman, and ask, you know, we've been discussing your opposition to Zionism as a project, as an ideology, let's talk a little bit about the specific war that the Israelis are waging right now against the people of Gaza. You could, I guess, conceive of a Zionist state that was basically peaceful, that tried to avoid fighting in alignment with Jewish values and morals, but then you have a war that I think has shocked a lot of people around the world, just in terms of its brutality, its savagery, the level of destruction, the recklessness and seemingly indifference to killing civilians and destroying their infrastructure. What do you think about the Israeli war in Gaza? And do you see that as almost an inevitable extension of Zionism itself?

DF: What we're witnessing now in Gaza, what we are seeing, this is horrific, this is terrible. It's shocking to many people. And it should be. And therefore, we find so many people who didn't realise until now, what is going on. They wake up now and they realise how wrong and how bad all of this is, how criminal this is. But we have to understand, this didn't start just now. It's just that more people are realising now what has been going on already for decades. This is criminal not only for the past couple of months. This is criminal from the very beginning. Now, in addition to all what was explained before, how anti-Jewish all of this is, how contrary to Judaism this is, this is criminal. And we also have to be very, very clear, this is not only crimes in international law, these crimes being committed, as I said, not only now, but going on already since the very beginning of Zionism is a violation of Judaism; killing and stealing, oppressing an entire people, all what was done from the very beginning is a true violation of Judaism, is criminal. And finally, people are waking up and seeing what is going on. This was the intention of Zionism in the first place. Now, supposedly this was supposed to be like the land without a people, for the people without a land, being peaceful and not harming anyone. But this was not the reality. And from the very beginning they had an intention of overtaking the rule of the land, erpressing [blackmailing] or expelling, making room for the new Zionist movement to settle. This was criminal from the very beginning.

GG: Rabbi Weiss, let me ask you that same question about your views of the Israeli actions in Gaza and then specifically as well about this argument that, look, we were attacked on October 7th in a very brutal and violent way, and therefore we have no choice but to go after the people who did that, destroy their capacity to attack us in a similar way again. What do you make of the war itself and that specific justification for it?

YDW: Right. Well, with the help of the Almighty, I just wanted to clarify that when we're talking about the beginning, in 1947, there was a declaration before the United Nations by the real chief Rabbis of the Jewish community that was existing there for hundreds of years. His name was Rabbi Dushinsky. Blessed memory. And he pleaded with the United Nations, in 1947, the United Nations ratified the State of Israel in 1948. He then pleaded to the committee that was there from the United Nations. He said: "We furthermore wish to express our definite opposition to a Jewish state in any part of Palestine". This continued after he passed on, and then another chief Rabbi, then another, and you can see the crowds in the streets of Jerusalem, and you can see the crowds in the streets when Netanyahu came to visit President Obama in this picture or whenever he came. In other words, the Jews around the world, again, clearly do not accept this concept of the existence of the state. Now, Zionism, not that I'm trying to answer for the ones who are supporting it, but as you said, they come along in order to build their legitimacy. So they claim first that God gave them the land, as Netanyahu always – his hypocrisy, they're not religious. They don't keep the Sabbath, but they will go to the United Nations and to the Congress always make statements about that the Bible, how God gave us the land and on and on, which, of course, as I say, they are repugnant, they are repulsive, ignoring the words of the Torah, the authorities of the Torah. But then they use fear mongering, they use panic. They tell the world, they told the Jewish world that, you know, we just suffered through Hitler and the Palestinians, Muslim-Palestinians, are haters of the Jews, and they ought to be equated or actually conflated with the Nazis, and therefore they want to destroy and kill the Jews, that you simply had to protect yourselves. And they have the most expensive PR firms, they have an endless well of money, and they therefore use that money to re-educate, to tell the Jews that the narrative of us, our coexistence with Muslims has totally disappeared. It doesn't exist. What it is, is Muslims against Jews, Palestinians against Jews. And they're going to swallow the Jews alive if the land is given to them. So first, of course, as Rabbi Feldman said, the narrative is that it was a land without a people. But when people start questioning that, and they say there is full of people who are opposing what's happening, what's going on, what is the turmoil in Palestine and in Israel, so then they start saying, well, it's because it just happens to be some backward people, camel-riding Bedouins or whatever, and they're simply the haters of Jews. They don't countenance other people and then therefore they'll hate the West also, they hate the Christians. And these people are not human. So they dehumanise these people and they tell the Israeli citizenship, they tell the people there, you should know that you have to fear for your lives. If they're going to come back to rule or any path, they're going to murder you. They're going to throw you into the sea. So they use panic, they use fear mongering. And in that manner and dehumanisation of the Palestinian people. So again, I'm not going to answer for the evil with the terrible satanic attack on Gaza. But the approach is that we have to protect ourselves because if not, we'll be overrun by these people who are inhumane and

they're going to murder us. That's their tactic. They use it. And we never accuse the Zionists. We accuse them of being evil, of satanic, but we accuse them of not being astute and not being successful in their missions. So what they're doing is unfortunately, confusing the Jewish people. They bought into their hearts through using fear in the places where they couldn't convince people that they have to have a state. So I thank God, though, as I say, the core Jewish people around the world never buy into what they are saying. We would want that all these hundreds and thousands of Jews around the world to stand on the streets and demonstrate constantly, but unfortunately, not everybody is right to stand up to the Zionist who viciously attacked the ones who opposed them. They murdered Jews, our Rabbis, not from today, but from the 1920s and before that. We had great Rabbis who stood up in opposition and were assassinated by them. We have an ongoing record of that. Maybe the first famous one was Dr. de Haan in the 1920s, he was very close to the king of Denmark. There's a monument in Denmark. He decided to become religious. He went to Palestine and he thought he would be a Zionist. But within a short period, he became aware that the very religious community was anti-Zionist. And he stood in there, to help them. And he said, he's going to go to the Parliament of Britain, and he's going to extricate the Jews from the hands of the Zionist. And the Zionist, at that time was called the Haganah, which today is the IDF, they went and they warned him they're going to kill him, and they assassinated him in the streets of Jerusalem. And that they've been doing this on and on since then, assassinating, besides arresting, killing our Rabbis and threatening their lives. So therefore, it causes that Jews around the world to be afraid to speak up. They get viciously attacked, both physically and accused of being self-hating Jews. People lose their jobs as professors and so forth. We are having in Gaza, the attack is a culmination of the mindset of the brainwashing of the people that is so fearful of the Palestinians that they're going to kill them and they're so successful, the Zionist, at de-humanising the people of Palestine that they're able, and actually successful at this new narrative, that they were able to convince the Western world and the Western leaders that these people are inhumane, the Palestinians. But there could be nothing more repugnant and repulsive and anti-God, and anti-Jewish, than these words of the Zionist, because the Palestinian people were the first amongst the Muslim countries altogether, those Muslim countries, who befriended us. And we flourished for hundreds of years in Muslim countries as Jews, distinctly different religions. And we flourished amongst them. That we were embraced and given a safe haven for hundreds of years. There were no human rights groups to protect us. Yet we flourished in all these Arab countries. So to vilify them and say that they are evil and they are anti-Semitic, the ones who are the personification of antisemitism, is Zionism in this state. In fact, the new edition of the dictionaries should have the definition of anti-Semitism: Zionism and the State of Israel. They posed a hate of Jews and exacerbation of antisemitism, a view of Jews as, inhumane, committing genocide. And it is all purely, the diametric opposite of what Judaism is and what Jews around the world who are hurting are feeling and crying with the people of Palestine and our voices are not heard. And when the students who get up on the campuses throughout the United States and in Europe, many thousands and thousands of them are Jews, and a lot of them are being led by Jews, they're simply removed from their positions. They're thrown out of schools. And there are laws with ingenuity being developed, as such a concept of democracy, and they skirt the issue of democracy and accuse anybody who speaks up against the Zionist onslaught,

against Zionism, as being anti-Semitic. Again, it's an insult to intelligence and it should not be accepted. And we plead with the world leaders that they should please respect as you would respect the Pope and the priests when it comes to Christianity and the Imams and I those [inaudible] when it comes to the issues of Islam, you should respect the voice of our Rabbis who stood from day one in Palestine and those communities and pleaded with the leadership of the United Nations. And while living throughout the world, the very religious communities, like we are in New York, the very religious ones to give their lives for the religion, we have a private schooling, it cost us fortunes, we give a lifestyle religion, these are the ones, invariably, who are opposed to this occupation. We are opposed to what's happening in Gaza. Respect that and they should stop, desist the assistance to the Zionists in their murder, mass murder and the torture of the people of Gaza. We plead with them, respect our voice, respect the voice of humanity around the world who are pleading and do not be ensnared in this Zionist intimidation that you will be accused of being anti-Semitic.

GG: Rabbi Feldman, I just want to pick up on everything that Rabbi Weiss just described. In particular, everybody knows that essentially the functional definition of anti-Semitism, which is a very important term, but the functional definition of it has distorted it so much that it basically means anyone who criticises the State of Israel or certainly who opposes the idea of Zionism – in fact, they'll say that anti-Zionism just is an inherently anti-Semitism – everybody who questions or opposes Israel is accused and vilified that way. If you're a Jew and you do that, the attacks are even more intense. I can attest to that. But I can only imagine what people like the two of you have to endure, because you are religious figures and leaders of the Jewish people, Rabbis and scholars in Judaism, and yet you have extremely vocal but very eloquent and well-founded opposition to what the State of Israel is doing in the name of Judaism. What are the kinds of attacks that you've endured as a result of your moral position that you speak out on so much?

DF: Well, there are all different kinds of intimidation and attacks that we receive. It's difficult to list them, but we are physically attacked in our activities many times, we are threatened many times, and we are accused not of anti-Semitism, because everybody knows we are Jewish, but instead of anti-Semitism, we would be blamed that as self-hating Jews. But, as was said before, people need to understand that this conflation of anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism is not only wrong because Judaism and Zionism are not the same, the State of Israel does not represent all Jews, and certainly does not represent the Jewish religion, but this conflation is evil. It's not only evil and it's dangerous. It's evil towards the Palestinian people. It's evil towards people, who deserve freedom. Freedom of speech. Silencing people is unjust and harming the suffering people of Palestine by silencing the world, Palestine deserves our voice. Palestine deserves people to stand up for them. Silencing this is assisting these crimes. But I have to say that this is not only affecting the Palestinian people, it's not only affecting the people in the free world, it is affecting the Jewish people as well. Because when you conflate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, you're making a statement. This makes a statement saying that all Jews are behind this State of Israel, and God forbid, all Jews support all these crimes. This ends up making a statement that all Jews are accountable to all what is taking place. And this ends up being dangerous for Jewish people as well. Now we have to

overcome this propaganda, and we have to, for the sake of everyone, we have to stop this. We have to overcome this. We have to stand up for what is right. We have to stand up for humanity, including the suffering people of Palestine and including the Jewish people.

GG: Well, I have to say, I really respect what the two of you are doing, as well as people who are like you and who share your view. It's very obviously an act of conscience and moral conviction and religious belief. And I know it can't be easy for you to say the things you're saying. And I also really appreciate your taking the time to have this incredibly illuminating conversation. You both did an amazing job of explaining the foundations of your views, and I think in a way that I think our audience will find very educational and illuminating. So I want to thank you both in general and for coming on the show tonight, and I hope to see you back soon.

Rabbis: Thank you. Thank you for having us.

GG: Absolutely, have a great evening.

GG: Thanks for watching this clip from System Update, our live show that airs every Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. eastern exclusively on Rumble. You can catch the full nightly shows live or view the backlog of episodes for free on our Rumble page. You can also find full episodes the morning after they air across all major podcasting platforms, including Spotify and Apple. All the information you need is linked below. We hope to see you there.

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