

Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

The Hour Is Late

By Stephen Meehan raptureready.com

It is O’Dark Thirty, and we have just slipped into this undisclosed airbase within the enemy’s territory, under the cover of darkness, with our jumbo jet’s exterior lights turned off to try to elude the bad guy’s detection. This airfield in Afghanistan is a beehive of activity, as is usual, when we fly in to drop off needed hardware and supplies. The early morning hours and the blackness of night makes no difference to the combatants waging the war, nor to those engaged in fighting off their advances.

F-16s go thundering down the runway, with a deafening roar of their engines ripping open the quietness of the still air, while their afterburners cut a swath of bright light through the thick dark of the early morning. Unmanned drones are taking off and landing repeatedly during our three to four hours on the ground, in their attempts to pinpoint the position of the extremists out in the surrounding mountainous terrain.

Helicopters are constantly on the move, coming in and going away from the base, flying personnel and equipment to remote locations. Aerostats are tethered 1500 feet above the airfield, collecting data, using cameras and sensors, to feed information back to the base about the local weather and unusual activity being sensed in the surrounding region. Even the base’s anti-rocket and mortar defenses are continuously in a state of readiness to shoot down anything that poses a threat to the base and its inhabitants.

But in spite of all the hardware that is on this base to fight the bad guys, and all the efforts of those involved, all the training that has gone on, all the sorties being flown, and all the money being spent to try to thwart the enemy’s advances—I’m left wondering after departing these bases whether or not we are making any difference at all there or even globally to stem the onrushing tide of terror and violence. Are we even making a dent? Are we slowing down the enemy and his encroachments?

The same line of questioning and wondering can be applied in the spiritual sense also. It is O’Dark Thirty in the Church Age and to the build-up to the soon arrival of the oncoming darkness of the Tribulation period. The enemy is waging an unrelenting war in the battle for souls. He has honed his craft of deception over the centuries and is pulling out all the stops to influence, coerce, entrap, deceive and mislead millions into a Christ-less eternity.

Is the Church—the Body of all believers in Christ—even making a dent in the advancement and encroachment of the evil enveloping the world? Have some of its troops, as it were, gone AWOL and are sitting on the sidelines as the enemy’s forces gain more ground and establish strongholds in all theaters of operation?

As Christians, we are soldiers for Christ. We have been commissioned to advance the gospel of Christ and to make disciples in all nations:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19).

We have an enemy who doesn’t, of course, want this kind of activity to prosper. In fact, he wants the opposite. He knows that he is a defeated foe and that he will wind up in the lake of fire. His main driving force, in the time that

he has left before his date with destiny, is to thwart God's ambitions for Man and the gospel of Christ, and to take as many of God's creation with him to this horrific and eternal abode.

We are fighting in his territory; we are behind enemy lines in all regions of the globe. He has been described as the "god of this world":

"Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

His title deed to the planet was acquired through obfuscation, when he conned the first of God's created beings known as man, with the first of his deceiving tactics to be used on these new creatures. He has had centuries to perfect his craft in beguiling humanity and to wreak havoc across the globe. Millions have fallen prey to his devices, and in these end times, he has ratcheted up his fervor to snuff out the light of Christ's saving gospel.

We can plainly see, throughout the world, the devastation he is leaving in his wake; it will only get worse, much worse, with the onset of the final seven years before the return of Christ to the earth. He has his minions, a demonic force—up to a third of the angels followed Lucifer's rebellion to God—positioned at key points globally, to carry out their master's plan. They fight an unconventional style warfare, using deception and spiritual wickedness:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

They don't tire; they don't seek a truce; don't call for a peace treaty; are not interested in drawing up demilitarized zones of no conflict; nor any other device normally used during periods of conventional battles. Theirs is an all-out war with the aim of destroying as many souls as they can possibly achieve. They take no prisoners in the usual sense, except for to gather as many humans as possible and to have them imprisoned in the same final abode that they will ultimately find themselves existing.

For the Christians, who have been blood bought by the cross of Christ, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, but have a huge target on our backs to warrant special attention by these enemy forces. They don't want us to draw nearer to the Lord, nor especially carry out the Great Commission in winning souls to Christ. We can't move about stealthily in this endeavor; they know what we are up to and try to impede us at every step. Spiritual landmines and improvised explosive devices are ever laid before us in an attempt to stop us in our tracks from spreading forth the gospel.

Unlike rocket propelled grenades and stinger missiles, the enemy of our souls uses "fiery darts" to dissuade us and cripple our service to the Lord. These darts include deception, discouragement, illness, troubles and whatever else the enemy can find in his quiver to trip us up and to keep us out of the battle for winning souls and increasing Christ's kingdom. Although unseen when fired, these darts have been extremely effective and have caused many casualties. The enemy knows exactly when to deploy them and they never miss their mark. How we react to these weapons of warfare, though, determine how successful we will be in carrying out our orders.

The Bible talks about what kind of countermeasures we can implement in this never ending battle, or at least on this side of eternity. Ephesians 6 details the contents of our "mobility bags" (a military term for a bag that carried items for wear and other essentials needed at a moment's notice for a rapid, unannounced deployment) necessary for an effective defense against the enemy's onslaught:

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.” (Ephesians 6:10-18)

How well we wield these provisions of the Lord to fight off the enemy’s attacks will determine how effective we are in our service to Jesus. Many have used those countermeasures wisely and have influenced many souls to accept Christ and His gospel for their salvation. Others, maybe not so much and fell by the wayside, suffering crippling blows and were rendered less effective in the battle, or got out altogether.

For the students of Bible prophecy, we can see and sense that the end is near for this parenthetical period of the Church Age, and know that Daniel’s prophesied last seven years of Tribulation will soon be upon us. Which means, the Rapture of Christ’s Church is extremely near. The hour is very late; it won’t be long at all until our mission is complete. The Church Age will have concluded.

How well have we done? How well are we doing?

Looking around at the landscape, we see evil advancing in every quarter. Every facet of society and every corner of the globe seems to be inundated with mayhem and chaos. Confusion reigns in the halls of government; corrupt politicians have replaced strong leaders. Climate Change, in political correct speak, we are being told, presents a greater danger than Islamic Extremism.

America, where a large percentage of the population claim to be Christian, placed a relatively unknown person in the White House, reelected him, and has suffered for the change that he promised to bring about. The further moral decline of the nation has been his legacy, complete with the promotion of homosexual and transgender rights, along with instances of race-baiting from him and his administration, and his seemingly never-ending support for all things Islamic. And this from a guy who also claims to be Christian.

You would think that the larger population of those who identify themselves as Christians would have a louder, and more effective voice in derailing the aims and ambitions of the small minority who have negatively influenced the law of the land.

The strong position and a force for good in the world that America once had is waning due to the policies of the current regime in power, and is instead being methodically weakened to move in lockstep to the whims of those who seek a globalist agenda. An agenda to take away sovereignty from individual nations. For those of us who love this country, this erosion of this country is sickening to observe. Clearly, the enemy is getting his agenda accomplished in America.

Churches that once held true to biblical teachings are falling into apostasy, and leading their flocks away from scriptural truth to adopt teachings that conflict with the Holy Word of God. Prosperity gospels, emergent movements and other errors have replaced the gospel that Christ and His apostles taught, spread and died for. Mainline churches are also finding themselves being lured along the ecumenical road to Rome, accepting and being coerced by Roman Catholicism as a legitimate form of Christianity; and nothing could be further from the truth.

Roman Catholicism has to be Satan’s masterpiece in his counterfeit offering of Christianity. Many who would identify themselves as a Christian have been deceived into believing that theirs is the true church of Christ. And yet, once sound Christian denominations are being enticed to “Go Home to Rome” in the Pope’s ecumenical drive to bring all under their control. How has the influence of true Christians during this Church Age not hampered or slowed down this development?

The enemy has also used his other false religion of Islam to wreak havoc throughout the world. He has become very adept at using religion to deceive millions; it has to be his favorite form of deception! We all know about the destruction and the killing of innocents that this religion has wrought, and yet, we are told by the Western world leaders that Islam is a religion of peace. Has the Christian influence stemmed the tide at all of this slow moving tsunami? It doesn’t appear to be so.

The list could go on and on about the advancements being made by Satan's forces. The world's condition is deplorable and looking bleaker by the day. We can't fathom how utterly horrible life will become once the Tribulation period is underway—but we are now seeing glimpses of what must lie ahead.

Presently, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is still indwelling the Body of Christ—the Church, and is holding back the all-out-evil that will arise during the final seven years before Christ returns. But with each passing day we become even more cognizant of the evil that has replaced good.

The enemy is out there; he is lurking. He is seeking to devour:

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8). Be on guard. equip yourself with the whole armor of God. Our role is to advance the gospel, not to save the planet. While I don't like seeing what is happening in the world and especially here in America, we also know that this is not our final home and that our mission is to carry out the commission Christ has tasked us with in bringing people into His Kingdom.

The world is imploding and exploding all around us, and while it can be disheartening to observe, we know that the condition of life and of the world will only worsen as the Tribulation hour draws near. And when it does occur, you don't want to be here.

In spite of the worsening condition of life on this planet and the apparent lateness of the hour, with the short time we have left before that call of “Come Up Hither”, the Church needs to remain focused and win as many souls to Christ by the spreading of His gospel. Now is not the time for some R&R. A lot of unknowing people are going to be thrust headlong into a seven-year period that even Christ said, if it were not cut short, even the very elect would perish.

Millions will be saved during that time, but life as we know it, will become extremely difficult—unparalleled since the foundation of the world. Those who become Christians during those dark days will be martyred for their faith. A global holocaust will ensue, to exterminate all those who refuse the mark of the beast.

We must be about the Father's business. We have to be a part of Christ's commission. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can rescue souls from the clutches of the enemy.

The enemy and his forces are out there; we can't elude their detection. Part of the armor of God didn't include a cloak of invisibility. Those who remain in the battle for souls have been targeted and are squarely in the crosshairs. They're not using night vision goggles to watch us, nor infrared sensors to check our every movement.

They are furious with our attempts to save souls for Christ, and if you are actively engaged in the soul-saving operation, chances are extremely high that you will come under attack. Anything and everything at their disposal will be used to sideline your effectiveness.

But, we have the Lord on our side and He is ready to fight our battles for us. We can stay strong in the Lord and there are no chinks in His armor, if we implement them properly. There are still 2/3s of the angelic force left who remained loyal to God after Lucifer's rebellion, and I'm no math major, but that is a higher number than those who chose to side with the enemy of our souls.

We also have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to comfort us, guide us and seal us until the day of redemption. I'd say those are pretty good odds that we can withstand the evil in the present day. We may get harassed and bruised during the battle, but our victory and outcome are secure.

Let us stay involved until that trumpet blasts. It won't be very much longer. End time signs are swirling about us. The Gog/Magog coalition is already in view. All nations, including America, are turning their backs on Israel. Even mainline Christian churches are distancing themselves from the Jewish people through divestments and boycotts.

Apostasy is fully underway, and a harlot church is coalescing before our eyes, seeking new members to join her. Nations are paving the path for the Antichrist, and it is only a matter of time before he rears his ugly head.

Do all for the glory of Christ.

U.S. and Europe Say Assad May Have Kept Some Chemical Weapons

BY COLUM LYNCH, DAVID KENNER AUGUST 23 foreignpolicy.com

Damascus promised to destroy its entire arsenal, but the world's chemical weapons watchdog suggests Assad may have squirreled some away.

The world's chemical weapons watchdog has repeatedly found traces of deadly nerve agents in laboratories that Syria insisted were never part of its chemical weapons program, raising new questions about whether Damascus has abided by its commitments to destroy all of its armaments, according to a highly confidential new report.

The discoveries of precursors for chemical warfare agents like soman and VX at several undeclared facilities, including two on the outskirts of Damascus, underscored what a 75-page report by the director-general of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) describes as a troubling pattern of incomplete and inaccurate Syrian disclosures over the past three years about the scope of the country's chemical weapons program.

Those gaps have confounded the inspectors' attempts to verify whether or not Syria has fully abandoned its chemical weapons program, fueling suspicions by the United States and other Western powers that the government may be seeking to retain a limited capacity to use the nerve agents and other lethal toxins against the rebels working to unseat Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

In a confidential two-page summary of the report, OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu writes that the majority of 122 samples taken at "multiple locations" in Syria "indicate potentially undeclared chemical weapons-related activities." Many of Syria's explanations for the presence of undeclared agents, he added, "are not scientifically or technically plausible, and ... the presence of several undeclared chemical warfare agents is still to be clarified."

The incomplete and sometimes misleading assertions by the Assad government have shaped the often rocky relationship between foreign inspectors and their Syrian counterparts, bedeviling international efforts to determine whether or not Damascus has abided by its obligation to destroy its chemical weapons. Assad promised to eliminate his stores in 2013 to avert promised U.S. airstrikes against regime targets.

The findings of the OPCW's Declaration Assessment Team report — which is marked "highly protected" — contrast sharply with Assad's public insistence that Syria's chemical weapons have been largely eliminated. In the summer of 2014, the chemical weapons watchdog confirmed that all of Syria's declared stockpile had been removed from the country.

The OPCW's conclusions could also pose political challenges for U.S. President Barack Obama, who has pointed to the deal as proof that diplomacy can often work better than overwhelming American firepower in stemming the spread of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. The president has emphasized that he is "very proud" of his decision not to launch airstrikes against the Syrian regime after it used the chemical agent sarin on civilians near Damascus, killing more than 1,400 people. Obama had previously said the use of such weapons was a "red line" that would bring an American military response but instead signed onto a Russian-crafted deal with Assad designed to eliminate the weapons. Secretary of State John Kerry said in 2014 that the agreement meant the administration had successfully "got 100 percent of the chemical weapons out" of Syria.

But U.S. and European officials who have studied the July 4 OPCW report are expressing growing alarm that Damascus may have hidden key parts of its once secret chemical weapons program. Those worries have intensified in recent weeks, as the world's chemical weapons watchdog voiced concern that top Syrian officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, have provided the OPCW's scientists with conflicting explanations about the presence of chemical warfare agents at sites the government hadn't acknowledged to be part of its chemical weapons program. The lapse suggested that Syria maintained a network of chemical weapons sites far greater than it has acknowledged.

"The new information presented by the Syrian Arab Republic during recent consultations does not resolve the outstanding issues" surrounding the country's chemical weapons program, Uzumcu wrote in the summary, which was shared with the U.N. Security Council. "In many instances, such new information presents a considerable change in the narrative from information provided previously — or raises new questions. In some cases, this new

information contradicts earlier narratives.”

Uzumcu wrote that gaps in his agency’s understanding of Syria’s chemical weapons capabilities have “increased steadily over time.” Unless Syria dramatically steps up cooperation with his agency, the former Turkish diplomat warned, the OPCW is unlikely to ever conclude that Syria has destroyed its whole program.

The OPCW report also found that the Syrian government has failed to provide sufficient access to senior leaders in its chemical weapons program or to adequately account for 2,000 aerial bombs that Syria acknowledges were designed to deliver mustard gas. Syrian officials claim the bombs were converted into conventional explosives and dropped on enemy targets in 2013 as part of Syria’s civil war, but Uzumcu wrote that the lack of physical evidence makes it impossible to “verify that said bombs were repurposed and consumed.”

As far back as August 2014, a team of OPCW chemical weapons experts met behind closed doors with Syrian officials to learn about the history of the country’s once secret chemical weapons program. The inspectors were in for a bitter surprise: Syrian officials claimed that they had destroyed the records out of “fear that some sites related to the chemical weapons program might fall under the control of armed groups,” the report found.

In his confidential summary, Uzumcu wrote that the “lack of original documentation has been a major barrier in corroborating much of the information provided by” the Assad government while the watchdog’s lack of access to senior Syrian officials from the weapons program “precluded the Secretariat’s understanding of [its] full scope and activities.”

U.S. officials and their European partners have gone even further. During a July 12 OPCW public session, Washington’s representative to the organization, Kenneth Ward, accused Syria of engaging “in a calculated campaign of intransigence and obfuscation, of deception, and of defiance.” The U.S. diplomat said samples of undeclared chemical warfare agents taken by the OPCW are “indicative of production, weaponization, and storage of [chemical warfare] agents by the Syrian military that has never been acknowledged by the Syrian government.”

The United States and other Western powers are weighing whether or not they can use the report’s findings to make the case that Syria is in violation of a U.N. demand, issued in Resolution 2118, that the country fully cooperate with international inspectors. Those governments could make the case that the Security Council should impose penalties on Syria for failing to fully comply with its disarmament obligations, but they would likely face intense pushback from Russia.

U.S. efforts to challenge Syria’s alleged activities have been constrained by Russia, one of Assad’s closest allies. Last month, Moscow blocked a U.S. initiative in the OPCW’s Executive Council to express “grave concern” over Syria’s conduct and call on Uzumcu to bring the watchdog’s full report to the attention of the U.N. Security Council, which has the power to sanction countries whose actions threaten international peace and security. Uzumcu went ahead and shared a redacted copy of the report, plus the two-page summary, with the 15-nation council. Still, the report’s findings are unlikely to persuade Russia to agree to punish Syria for its uneven and incomplete cooperation with the OPCW.

“I think the fundamental question for the United States, and also for the OPCW, is — have we come to the end of the road in terms of our ability to pursue a reasonably cooperative process with the Syrian government?” said Rebecca Hersman, the director of the Project on Nuclear Issues at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “If we have, then it’s incumbent for the OPCW Executive Council and director-general of the OPCW to report to the Security Council their concerns with Syrian compliance.”

The United States and other Western powers have also claimed that the true scope of the program has been obscured, in part, by the Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC), a top secret branch of the Syrian Defense Ministry that Western powers believe has been at the center of Damascus’s chemical weapons program for decades. The White House claimed in August 2013 that officials linked to the SSRC were preparing chemical weapons munitions just days before the Syrian government allegedly attacked the Damascus suburbs of Ghouta with sarin, killing more than 1,400 people. French intelligence maintains that a small part of the SSRC, called Branch 450, managed the chemical weapons program. The unit, according to a French intelligence assessment released in September 2013, is “composed solely of Alawite military personnel ... [and] distinguished by a high level of loyalty to the regime.”

But Syria has long denied that the SSRC — which runs numerous laboratories and facilities throughout the country — was involved in its chemical weapons program. OPCW inspectors began scrutinizing the center after realizing that none of the chemical weapons facilities declared by Syria “seemed to have appropriate capabilities to enable development of a chemical weapons program.”

In May 2014, and again this January, OPCW inspectors paid visits to one of the center’s research and development facilities, Institute 3000. They collected multiple samples with traces of pinacolyl alcohol, a chemical precursor for the production of the nerve agent soman. The Syrian government initially denied the presence of soman. But two years later it confirmed the findings and offered a number of explanations for the presence of the agent, including one account suggesting the head of the SSRC ordered limited research on the material that was unrelated to chemical weapons work.

The OPCW report cast doubt on that claim, saying it was not “technically or scientifically plausible” because pinacolyl alcohol “does not have any other use for peaceful purposes, especially in the present context.” Asked for further explanation, the Syrian government said the SSRC head, who had previously worked at a Syrian chemical weapons facility, had set up special teams to conduct experiments with tiny samples of warfare agents for defensive purposes only, according to the report.

The investigators also found significant gaps in Syrian declarations on other chemical agents, including sarin, ricin, mustard gas, and VX. During a September 2015 visit to an undeclared SSRC-run facility in the village of Jamraya, which lies to the north of Damascus, inspectors discovered trace amounts of DIPA ethanol and DIPAE sulfonic acid, chemicals that are closely associated with the nerve agent VX. Although the United States, Britain, and France have long been aware that Syria has been withholding information about the center’s role in its chemical weapons program, they initially sought to avoid a confrontation with the regime over it, fearing that it might provoke Damascus into halting the destruction of its declared chemical weapons stockpile. But with peace talks stalled, Western diplomats have little reason to downplay concerns over Syria’s chemical weapons activities.

It’s not only the Syrian government’s undeclared chemical weapons stockpile that has nonproliferation experts worried. The OPCW also faces a decision over a separate investigation into a series of chlorine gas attacks over the past year, for which the United States has blamed the Syrian government. Such attacks would be in violation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 2235, which threatened action under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter — possibly including economic sanctions or military force — if chemical weapons attacks continued in Syria. The team of investigators established by that resolution, known as the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), is planning to publish its findings this week on who conducted the attacks, which could pave the way for further Security Council action and potentially set the stage for a new confrontation with Russia, which will have to decide whether or not to allow the council to punish its ally.

Massive Soros Funding Behind Efforts to Tar Israeli Democracy, Leaks Show

by TheTower.org Staff | 08.16.16

A cache of confidential documents from the Open Society Foundations (OSF), released after the George Soros-funded philanthropic network was apparently hacked, provides extensive details of the hedge fund mogul’s secretive efforts to spend millions of dollars annually to create an “echo chamber” of “organizations highly critical of the Jewish state,” Tablet Magazine’s Liel Leibovitz reported this week.

OSF has funded multiple organizations over many years that deny Israel’s right to exist or seek to delegitimize the Jewish state, often by advancing anti-Semitic language and themes, as part of a deliberate strategy.

Typical of the Soros grantees, Adalah, a self-described “non-profit, non- sectarian Palestinian-run legal center,” received over \$2 million and frequently slanders Israel with false accusations of committing war crimes and lobbies governments to break or downgrade diplomatic ties with the Jewish state. Adalah was also involved in crafting the platform released by a network of groups affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement, which charged Israel with carrying out a “genocide” against Palestinians. The libel was strongly condemned by a panoply of Jewish organizations, with Anti-Defamation League CEO Jonathan Greenblatt calling it “repellent and completely inaccurate.”

Another OSF grantee is I’lam, a Palestinian media center based in Nazareth. In a 2014 publication about Israel’s

founding, which it called the Palestinian “Nakba”—literally meaning “catastrophe”—I’lam made the discredited claim that Israel was guilty of ethnic cleansing and that “the practical meaning of the Nakba undermines the moral and ethical foundation of Zionism and, hence, of the State of Israel.” OSF also approved grants to the New Israel Fund, a New York-based organization that has been widely criticized for acting as a clearinghouse for funds delivered to anti-Israel causes.

One leaked document explains how OSF worked to undermine Israel’s legitimacy through its Arab Regional Office (ARO). According to the report, the ARO was motivated in part by “a particular shift in political dynamics particularly in the US reflected by the publication of the Walt and Mearsheimer article ‘The Israel Lobby’ in Spring 2006 which pointed out the lobby’s role in, among other things, influencing the Iraq invasion.” The ARO was also encouraged by what it mistakenly perceived as a rise in support for boycotting Israel. In fact, investment in Israel has nearly tripled since the boycott campaign was launched by Palestinian groups in 2005.

As Leibovitz reports, instead of funding groups who seek to bolster peaceful relations between Israel and the Palestinians, Soros “took a much less democratic approach and instead focused exclusively on exerting outside pressure on the Israeli government,” by mainstreaming organizations and fringe voices that further anti-Semitic themes and seek to undermine the basic legitimacy of the Jewish state. The office’s objectives were spelled out in the ARO report:

1. Local groups are capable of more frequent and effective international advocacy in the US and EU, particularly by Palestinian voices.
2. A dedicated advocacy platform is formed to provide Palestinian and Israeli groups with access to technical resources and knowhow to develop D.C. advocacy.
3. Enhance the capacity and effectiveness of EU advocacy through direct support to local groups and advocacy platforms alike.
4. Civil society actors are better equipped and positioned to rapidly respond to emergencies, and grave violations or concerns for human rights.

The OSF thus created an echo-chamber, or, in Leibovitz’s words, “an enclosed system of like-minded partisans that appears sufficiently diverse in scope,” which “is often able to amplify its messages and lend them credibility.” At the same time, OSF purposely and often deliberate effort hid and downplayed its extensive involvement in the network. “For a variety of reasons,” one OSF document read, “we wanted to construct a diversified portfolio of grants dealing with Israel and Palestine, funding both Israeli Jewish and PCI (Palestinian Citizens of Israel) groups as well as building a portfolio of Palestinian grants and in all cases to maintain a low profile and relative distance.”

One example of how the echo chamber worked was during the Second Intifada in 2002, when Adalah and other Soros-funded groups falsely accused Israeli forces of massacring Palestinian civilians in Jenin. As the charge came “from a plethora of well-funded Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, all geared exclusively towards communicating with European and American government and lobbying groups, these false accusations were reported extensively in the international media and were widely considered factually true,” Leibovitz wrote.

The leak of the confidential OSF documents comes soon after officials from two NGOs and a United Nations organization were exposed for aiding the Gaza-based terrorist group Hamas. Israeli authorities charged Mohammad el-Halabi, the top Gaza official of the Christian charity World Vision, with funneling millions of dollars from the charity’s coffers to Hamas, and indicted Waheed Borsh, an employee of the United Nations Development Program, over his efforts to aid the terrorist group.

The strategy outlined in the OSF reports provides greater details into the anti-Israel strategy coordinated among the radical left. A document uncovered by NGO Monitor last year showed that the international charity Oxfam funded the Israel-based NGO Breaking the Silence and called on the group to “conduct interviews with ‘as many’ soldiers as possible who will testify regarding [Israeli] ‘immoral actions’ that violate human rights.”