Alfred Bader

Crifting

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FILE 5

Refugees Eca. 20167



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

The World's Hot Spot

Here's my bet about the future of Sunni, Shiite, Arab, Turkish, Kurdish and Israeli relations: If they don't end their long-running conflicts, Mother Nature is going to destroy them all long before they destroy one another. Let me point out a few news items you may have missed while debat-

ing the Iran nuclear deal.

On July 31, USA Today reported that in Bandar Mahshahr, Iran, a city adjacent to the Persian Gulf, the heat index soared to 163 degrees "as a heat wave continued to bake the Middle East, already one of the hottest places on earth. 'That was one of the most incredible temperature observations I have ever seen, and it is one of the most extreme readings ever in the world,' AccuWeather meteorologist Anthony Sagliani said in a statement.

"While the temperature was 'only' 115 degrees, the dew point was an unfathomable 90 degrees. ... The combination of heat and humidity, measured by the dew point, is what makes the heat index — or what the temperature actually feels like

outside."

Then we saw something we've not seen before: An Iraqi government was sacked over its failure to deliver air conditioning. Two weeks ago, the prime minister, Haider al-Abadi, abolished all three vice-presidential posts and the office of deputy prime minister and proposed sweeping anti-corruption reforms after weeks of street protests over the fact that the government could supply electricity for air-conditioning for only a few hours a day during weeks of 120-degree temperatures.

As The Times's Anne Barnard reported

As The Times's Anne Barnard reported on Aug. 1, the heat issue in Iraq "has even eclipsed war with the Islamic State. The prime minister . . . declared a four-day weekend to keep people out of the sun . . . and ordered an end to one of the most coveted perks of government officials: round-the-clock power for their air-condi-

tioners...

"Several thousand people — workers, artists and intellectuals — demonstrated Friday evening . . . in the center of Baghdad, chanting and carrying signs about the lack of electricity and blaming corruption for it. . . . Some men stripped to their shorts and lay down in the street to sleep, a strong statement in a modest society. . . . The protest was unusual in that it did not appear to have been called for by any ma-

jor political party.

On Feb. 19, 2014, The Associated Press reported from Iran: "The first cabinet decision made under Iran's new president, Hassan Rouhani, wasn't about how to resolve his country's nuclear dispute with world powers. It was about how to keep the nation's largest lake from disappearing. Lake Oroumieh, one of the biggest saltwater lakes on earth, has shrunk more than 80 percent to ... (nearly 400 square miles) in the past decade, mainly because

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of climate change, expanded irrigation for surrounding farms and the damming of rivers that feed the body of water, experts say.

"'The lake is gone. My job is gone. My children are gone. Tourists, too,' said Mozafar Cheraghi, 58, as he stood on a dusty platform that was once his bustling teahouse."

Francesco Femia and Caitlin Werrell run the indispensable Center for Climate and Security in Washington that tracks these trends. They noted that the South Asia scholar Michael Kugelman recently observed "that in Pakistan more people have died from the heat wave than from terrorism this year. We would emphasize that there shouldn't be a competition between 'terrorism' and 'climate stress,' but that the resources spent on the former vastly outstrip the latter."

They added, "A 2011 study from the U.S.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found strong evidence that winter precipitation decline in the Mediterranean littoral and the Middle East from 1971 to 2010 was likely due to climate change, with the region experiencing nearly all of its driest winters since

1902 in the past 20 years.

Finally they noted: "The social contract between governments and their publics is being stressed by these extreme events, and that matters are only likely to get worse, given climate projections for many of these places... Governments that are responsive to publics in the face of these stresses are likely to strengthen the social contract, while those who are unresponsive are likely to weaken it. And for the most part, we're seeing inadequate responses."

Indeed, see Syria: Its revolution was preceded by the worst four-year drought in the country's modern history, driving nearly a million farmers and herders off the land, into the cities where the government of Bashar al-Assad completely failed to help them, fueling the revolution.

All the people in this region are playing with fire. While they're fighting over who is caliph, who is the rightful heir to the Prophet Muhammad from the seventh century — Sunnis or Shiites — and to whom God really gave the holy land, Mother Nature is not sitting idle. She doesn't do politics — only physics, biology and chemistry. And if they add up the wrong way, she will take them all down.

The only "ism" that will save them is not

The only "ism" that will save them is not Shiism or Islamism but "environmentalism" — understanding that there is no Shiite air or Sunni water, there is just "the commons," their shared ecosystems, and unless they cooperate to manage and preserve them (and we all address climate change), vast eco-devastation awaits them all.



Yechiel Bar-Chaim

Mon, Nov 2 4:47 AM

to 'Alfred Bader Fine Arts'; Isabel@baderfamily.com cc Daniel Bader; abunoyo@gmail.com

The project to help asylum seekers who came to Israel as unaccompanied minors

1 file attached ^



Dear Alfred and Isabel,

During the time we spent together in Milwaukee, Alfred asked me about one project in particular, "What is happening to the asylum seekers in Israel?" He was referring I believe to the project to help those young persons who came to Israel from Africa as unaccompanied minors and who eventually studied in Israeli boarding schools. The echo from your own experience as a youth is unmistakable.

I then asked those implementing the project for a special report which is attached. I think it tells a remarkable story of brave and determined individuals and also of a society that, although often harsh and indifferent to the suffering of others, can also turn around and open its heart and its institutions to these very same persons with amazing energy, concern, and generosity.

The report is four pages long. Perhaps what would most interest Alfred are the short biographies of two participants found on page three?

Please remember that without your help this project would never have begun. Not only did you approve an initial monetary gift, but twice you set aside more funds as a financial guarantee --- in case the organizers could not raise the rest. You provided them with a safety net so they could proceed with confidence. Otherwise the project would have stalled, which it most definitely has not.

I'm tremendously proud and grateful that all of us could play a helpful role in such dire circumstances.

Warmest regards,

Yechiel



From: Yechiel Bar-Chaim

Sent: Friday, April 1, 2016 12:00 PM **To:** Dr. Alfred Bader; Dr. Isabel Bader

Cc: Dan Bader

Subject: Once more at Jedlicka

Dear Alfred and Isabel,

Today I spoke once more to severely disabled pupils at Jedlicka Institute here in Prague.

It was a motivational speech, built around the Latin expression 'per ardua ad astra'. I related that overall theme to the life of Tomas Garrigue Masaryk and to Alfred's life story as well.

I then introduced them to the Feuerstein approach to developing their ability to think.

They were very receptive. A number of the pupils have severe speech impairments, but that did not stop them from asking many questions. We spent nearly two hours together.

Here is a photo of me and the translator at the very beginning of the presentation when they gave us flowers.

Hope you faring well this spring? Will you vote in the important Wisconsin Democratic primary?

Shabbat shalom,





Unaccompanied Minors Project - November 2015 Update

Over the last few months, the Unaccompanied Minors Project has been gaining momentum and has reached many new achievements, including the following highlights:

- We began a **National Service pilot program** for some of the project participants.
- We opened an ongoing workshop on the subject of employment and financial management.
- Some participants were accepted to **academic study programs**.
- We launched a public awareness campaign about the issues of unaccompanied minors in Israel and met with a number of Members of Knesset (MKs).
- We assisted the participants in completing their asylum application forms
 (RSD) and accompanied them to interviews at the Ministry of Interior.
 Some of our participants were summoned to the detention center in Holot
 and we helped them submit appeals and cancel the summons.

As of today, we are in touch with approximately 120 unaccompanied minors, 65 of whom are directly guided by the project. The participating young participants are ages 18-23, and are from the following countries of origin: Forty-one from Eritrea, 18 from Darfur, Sudan, two from Nigeria, one from Somalia, one from Guinea, one from Ethiopia, and one from Sierra Leone. Geographically, the participants are located throughout Israel in Sdeh Boker, Ayanot, Rishon LeTzion, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Netanya, Petach Tikvah, Rosh HaAyin, Haifa, and Kiryat Shmonah. Everyone rents apartments and works.

National Service: At the beginning of September we began a National Service pilot program in cooperation with the Association for Volunteerism, which runs parallel to the institutionalized National Service program. Under the auspices of the pilot program, 13 participants in the UAM project volunteer every day (40 hours a week) in various settings: nursing homes, day care centers, and centers for children with special needs and youth at risk. The pilot program is in Jerusalem where the volunteers live together in two apartments. This innovative and one-of-a-kind program is highly important as it enables participants to truly express their devotion to the State of Israel and Israeli society, while also gaining various important life skills that will prepare them for their future as independent adults.



Employment Workshop: The aim of this workshop series is to help the young adults plan and build their futures in their communities and adult lives. It includes components that prepare the young adults for the employment world by teaching them how to handle financial matters. In the workshop that took place in July 2015, there were 15 young adults from throughout the country who participated. The group met in Tel Aviv each week (a total of 13 meetings), and due to the success of the program, we have extended it to the end of December.

Academic Studies: Three participants in the project began their semester of studies—one at Sapir College and two at IDC Herzliya. We are guiding them and assisting them throughout their studies by helping them find scholarships, private tutors and more.

Public Campaign: In July 2015 we launched the facebook campaign "**Giving Young People Life**". The campaign includes two main components:

- a) **Video clips** featuring the personal stories of four participating youths, which portray the varied backgrounds of the youths. The videos are disseminated by way of the project's facebook page, which is also updated with photos, information and background on the project.
- b) Visits to the Knesset, in which the young adults had personal meetings with MKs and participated in committee meetings. We visited the Knesset several times during the summer months and were able to network with MKs and their consultants. In these meetings, the young adults shared their personal stories and told the MKs about a number of simple legislative actions that would help to improve their lives in Israel. We were very warmly welcomed. Aside from the value of addressing the problems confronting unaccompanied minors, the visits to the Knesset may be seen as a vital outcome of the project. It would not be an exaggeration to say that, for many MKs, the meeting with these young adults was their first encounter with asylum seekers in Israel. These meetings were a step in the right direction with regard to the relationship between MKs and the community of asylum seekers in Israel. The unaccompanied minors may be seen as ambassadors for the asylum seeker community at large. It is now much less feasible for MKs to ignore the needs of young adults who studied in the Israeli education system, speak Hebrew and are culturally Israeli.



Summons to Holot Detention Center and Submitting Asylum

Applications: Over the last few months, there have been changes in the criteria for detaining asylum seekers in the Holot Detention Center and some of the UAM participants were summoned there. In response, we assisted them in submitting appeals on the grounds of their studies and have so far succeeded in canceling all of the summons. Furthermore, we helped most of the participants write and submit their asylum applications (RSD).

Some personal stories of current participants:

Binyamin, 21 years old, from Darfur. Binyamin fled from Sudan alone at age nine, and entered Israel at age 14 following a journey through Chad and Egypt. Upon entering Israel, he was imprisoned for several months and then released to Tel Aviv. In Tel Aviv, Binyamin began studying Hebrew in a school in Jaffa and moved into a shelter. After several months, he moved to a boarding school in the center of the country where he studied for two years. At age 17, Binyamin decided to leave the boarding school and transferred to a school in Tel Aviv with a high academic standing in order to realize his dream of studying at university. He finished high school with partially complete matriculation exams and, with our help over the last year, Binyamin worked to improve his grades and take the university entrance exam. He was registered at IDC Herzliya and accepted to the Government Studies program where he began studying this month. With the help of good people, Binyamin was granted a full scholarship for his studies, and today we are trying to help find private teachers to help him with his studies.

Yonathan, 19 years old, from Eritrea. Yonathan left Eritrea at age 12 because he would have been drafted into the Eritrean army. At age 13, he was kidnapped from a refugee camp in Sudan and taken to the Sinai by human traffickers. He was imprisoned there for three months and was tortured throughout. His captor demanded that his family pay a ransom that they could not afford. Upon realizing this, his captor sent him to the border of Israel and Egypt where he was picked up by Israeli soldiers. After receiving medical treatment, Yonathan was transferred to a prison where he remained for a year and learned Hebrew. Upon his release from prison, he went to a boarding school in Ben Shemen where he studied for four years. Yonathan has been involved in the UAM project for more than a year now. He has participated in all the activities and groups, contributed to the public campaign and met with MKs. In addition, Yonathan is one of the young adults who is serving in the National

Center for International Migration & Integration מרכז להגירה בינלאומית ולקליטה Registered Association

Service pilot program and has thus moved to Jerusalem where he volunteers in a school for children with special needs.

The stories of Binyamin and Yonathan are testimony to the fact that with the help of good people, dreams, even miracles can come true. The physical and mental journeys these two youngsters and their peers have covered are unfathomable. It is the combination of incredible will power on behalf of these youngsters, and the dedicated support of the people who accompany them in their next journey into adulthood, which has made these dreams come true.

These achievements could not have been reached without the generous support of Dr. Alfred Bader, and for this we are forever grateful. We are now at a critical point in the program, having made important strides in empowering these youngsters as ambassadors of the entire asylum seeker community in Israel. We now have a unique opportunity to integrate these young adults into Israeli society and to promote their acceptance among the Israeli people. We will gladly update you as the project progresses and we look forward to our continued partnership in making the world a better place – for all people.