THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE for Palestinian Human Rights

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BULLETIN

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We believe a fundamental responsibility of all who govern, at least those in a civilized country, is to protect and enhance the human rights of all those who are governed. In that context, the brutal and cynical oppression of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is intolerable. It is a justice issue which cannot be overlooked by a moral people.

Yet that issue has been overlooked, by the United States, for decades. It took the uncivilized brutality of October 8, 1990 to lead our country to even consider censuring Israel. Sadly, the primary motivation may be, say many, to not alienate the Arab world; a world which perceives clearly the hypocrisy in our (1) decrying Iraq's illegal invasion of another state while remaining silent about Israel's occupation of South Lebanon, the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem and (2) not following our own commitment to make our financial assistance to other nations dependent on their respect for human rights.

One does not need a degree in Middle East studies to know the motivation of Shamir and his cohorts - to retain, even expand, the territories now held by illegal annexation or occupation. Fortunately, President Bush and Secretary Baker seem to support the pre-1967 borders as valid. Therefore, in the October 8 issue of the Hebrew newspaper *Davar*, Amir Oren concludes that Shamir perceives Bush as the greatest threat to the Land Of Israel (which includes lands now held and Jordan as well). Shamir would like, says Oren a war in Iraq, "...an exhausting battle that can erode the stature of the American president and reduce his chances of being re-elected..."

War, the ultimate violation of all human rights, is very possible. Articles in the Jerusalem post are screaming for American action (read war) says one AAPHR correspondent. As a sidenote, that paper indignantly rejects the idea that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in the US is trying to promote quick military action; which, observes that Middle East expert, means "...that this is just what they are doing."

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