



Dimensions

❖ JOYCE S. ANDERSON Special to the Jewish Times

Concealed Loaded Guns in Our National Parks!

The history of this controversial subject is somewhat ironic. It first shot into headlines when the Reagan administration adopted restrictive legislation in 1981 for wildlife refuges, and in 1983 for national parks. Licensed permit holders were required to keep their guns unloaded and stowed away. Ronald Reagan, former governor of California, pictured on horseback in the movies or on his ranch, often had a gun cradled in his arms. Yet, he launched the laws that kept guns under control in our national parks and wildlife refuges for a quarter of a century.

In the years after the federal regulations were adopted, 48 states passed laws allowing legal possession of concealed weapons.

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However, the federal restrictions prevailed until the last days of the Bush administration. Then, George W. Bush, former governor of Texas who also rode his ranch on horseback, instructed the Secretary of the Interior to lift the 25-year ban on licensed possession of loaded concealed weapons in national parks and wildlife refuges. On December 5, 2008, days before the end of the Bush second term in office, the key statement was issued. An Assistant Secretary for the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Lyle Laverty, said, "America was founded on the idea that the federal and state governments work together to serve the public and preserve our natural resources. The Department's final regulation respects this tradition by allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons in federal park units and refuges to the extent that they could lawfully do so under state law."

Criticism was immediate. Bill Wade, president of the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees, said, "This regulation will put visitors, employees and precious resources of the National Park Service at risk. We will do everything possible to overturn it and return to a common-sense approach to guns in national parks that has been working for decades." The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence was in strong agreement: "The Bush administration's parting gift for the gun lobby to allow hidden weapons in our parks threatens the safety of these national treasures and those who visit them. We urge the proper authorities to use common sense and stop this senseless rule." In sharp contrast, The National Rifle Association (NRA) applauded the decision: "We are pleased the Interior Department recognizes the right of law abiding citizens to protect themselves and their families while enjoying American's National Parks and wildlife refuges."

During the first week of January, 2009, a lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court to stop enforcement of the new regulation allowing loaded, concealed firearms in national parks. The lawsuit was filed by the National Parks Conservation Association and the Coalition of National Park Service Retirees. Another suit was filed in federal court by the Brady Campaign to strike down the new ruling. This suit included school teachers who were cancelling or curtailing trips to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty and the National Mall in Washington D.C. – all covered by the National Parks ruling. According to the lawsuit, the Department of the Interior, "adopted the gun rule with unwarranted haste, without following procedures required by law... The new regulation is an affront to the National Parks' missions and purposes and a threat to the National Parks' resources and values, which must be held unlawful and set aside."

On March 19, 2009, a federal judge agreed and blocked the Bush policy of lifting the ban on concealed, loaded weapons in National Parks and wildlife refuges. The Obama administration accepted the court decision and said the Interior Department

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A View of the Absurd

❖ JACK ENGELHARD Special to the Jewish Times

Hillary's Kiss

Back, several years ago, when Hillary Clinton kissed Suha Arafat, well, some of us thought of it as just a "fem thing," you know, sisters of the world unite and all that. You must remember this – right after Suha (falsely) accused Israel of poisoning Arab children, Hillary offered Suha a big fat smooch of consolation. (Google and Wikipedia have the photo.)

Was it just a fling, or is it True Love?

Must be true love because Hillary, traveling as Secretary of State in pantsuits, makes it clearer every day that she will not rest until, peace by peace, all of Israel is declared a Jew-free zone. Only a few days ago, Hillary insisted that

"settlement expansions [must] cease. This is our position. We intend to press that point."

Shucks – people do change after they get in office. Beware the politician who sobers up after bingeing on campaign promises. Hillary the Candidate spoke of "our deep and lasting bonds between the United States and Israel." Hillary the Secretary of State suddenly stopped being so pleasant, citing Israel's "actions" as "unhelpful." What happened between then and now? Then, she needed dollars and support.

Now, free at last to speak her true mind, Hillary is back kissing Suha. Who is Suha? This is a woman who was married to the most fertile killer of Jews since Adolph Hitler and though Hitler (for some reason) never won a Nobel Prize for Peace, Yasser Arafat did. Yasser Arafat died a very rich man. He got rich the old-fashioned way; through theft.

The "international community," including the United States, poured BILLIONS into Yasser Arafat's coffers and while some of this loot was distributed among his people, this Nobel laureate kept several billion for himself, for his cronies and naturally, for his wife. Today, Suha suffers for her people in Paris.

We don't know exactly how much money she got, but according to some estimates, she manages to go shopping on the Champs Elysees at about \$10 million a month. Other reports have her living splendidly in Libya. Either way, your tax dollars at work, Mr. and Mrs. America!

Hillary was supposed to be different from her predecessor Condoleezza Rice. While the rest of the world was going to hell, Condi was fixed on Israel, or rather, on how to dismantle Israel. She kept spreading the news that Arabs must stay, Jews must go. Hillary's message is the same, except that Hillary is even more urgent and hysterical about this.

When it comes to Israel (and it always comes to Israel) neither Hillary nor her boss, Barack Obama, trouble themselves with diplomatic niceties. They go directly to Al Capone/Chicago Speak, like this. "He [Obama] wants to see a stop to settlements – not some settlements, not outposts, not 'natural growth' exceptions."

That's right, it's time to get tough on the Jews and persuade them that as Gaza goes, so must all of Israel go – to the dogs of Hamas. Call it, if you will, Gangster Politics.

[Hillary before the election: "Let me be clear. I know Senator Obama will be a good friend of Israel."]

Yesterday it wasn't "the settlements." No, it was the "apartheid." Before that it was "the occupation." Get the trick? It always has to be SOMETHING to "Get Israel." Sometimes it works. The minute he arrived home from the White House, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began the "peace process" of dismantling some two dozen outposts. That is still not good enough, of course.

We just heard Hillary say that it is "unhelpful." We know, therefore, what Hillary and Obama have

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