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Sweden did assist Jews in evading the Nazis, taking in Jews who were spirited out of the country by the courageous Danes. The Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, is a hero for saving thousands of Jews from concentration camps. During the same period, however, his fabulously wealthy and influential family was profiting prodigiously by sales of war materiel to Germany. Not only that, the Wallenberg family kept its distance from their heroic relative and was curiously inactive, even counter-productive, in efforts to find Raoul, who had disappeared during the war.

Despite claiming purely humanitarian motives for helping Jews, there's little doubt that the reason the government felt it necessary to aid the Jews was to cover up what it had done to help the Germans. (Before the war, the government had immigration

policies to keep Jews out.) Even after Germany was clearly losing the war and its threat against Sweden had disintegrated, the Swedes continued to lean towards the Germans and to aid their war effort. By continuing its tradition of "neutrality," Sweden escaped the destruction that combatants suffered from warfare, protected its economy, and obtained the prestigious and critical position of a nation of mediators, peacekeepers, and skilled diplomats. (see the entire article on Swedish neutrality at www.college-prep.org.)

Sweden's Muslim population is approximately 4 percent (400,000); almost all its Muslims live in the country's three largest cities. Ever since the preparations for the partition of Palestine began after WWII, Sweden has been a huge proponent for a Palestinian state. In recent decades Sweden has become one of the largest donors per capita to the Palestinian people.

According to Gerald M. Steinberg,

who heads NGO Monitor and is a professor of political science at Bar Ilan University, the recent article in "Aftonbladet" is the result of a long campaign of anti-Israeli demonization, based on manufactured "evidence" repeated by Palestinian "eyewitnesses." In a recent article in the Jerusalem Post, Steinberg wrote, "Applying the strategy adopted at the NGO forum of the 2001 UN Durban conference, the well-financed network of radical non-governmental organizations (NGOs) plays a major role in this demonization, and the Swedish government is a major source of funding. Expressions of modern anti-Semitism and blood libels are the logical results of this activity." NGO Monitor reports that Sweden currently finances over twenty NGOs actively supporting the Palestinian cause. These organizations characteristically accuse Israel of "genocide," "ethnic cleansing," and "apartheid," and some compare Israeli military and political officials to Nazis. These claims are based on "research"

reports that routinely quote Palestinian "testimonies," taken and repeated without question. (www.jpost.com.)

One of my friends asked me, "When did the Swedes start hating us? What did we do to Sweden?" That's a hard question to answer. I wouldn't go so far as to say that all Swedes hate Israel. But the Swedish government and a significant proportion of Swedish citizens want Israel to disappear. They blame Israel for the "occupation" without regard to the Jews' 4,000 year history in the Land of Israel, without regard to the Arabs' refusal of a Palestinian state alongside of a Jewish state in 1947 (UN Partition Plan for Palestine), and without regard for the fact that the Palestinians still choose to try to replace Israel rather than build a state next to it.

Stephen Kramer resided and worked in the Atlantic City area until 1991, when he moved to Israel with his wife, Michal Langweiler, and two sons. He can be reached at Sjk1@jhu.edu.

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