

News Release

For immediate release

Britain appeasing Islamist enemy that seeks to destroy it

Jerusalem, January 4 2007 – Outspoken Daily mail columnist Melanie Phillips, in a talk at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, warned of the growing threat of Islamic fundamentalism in Britain.

Phillips was the keynote speaker at a symposium this week at the university entitled “Islam, Britain and the Terrorist Threat.” The British journalist and commentator on British society and Israel affairs was one of the speakers on a panel that included Prof, Robert Wistrich, head of the Vidal Sassoon International Centre for the Study of Antisemitism, and Isi Leibler from the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs.

Talking to a packed audience about her recently published book, *Londonistan*, Phillips said that she wrote the book as a warning because “Britain is in denial. Most people are blind to the nature and scale of Islamic fundamentalism.” *Londonistan* was a term of abuse coined by the French for a Britain that had allowed itself to become the European hub of Al Qaeda. To Phillips, however, the term *Londonistan* is also “a state of mind – when people not only seek to appease but come to believe and absorb the ideas of the enemy that intends to destroy them.”

“This is a war, but it doesn’t fit our definition of a war,” she said. According to her, the British security service is now monitoring some 30 terrorist plots by British Muslims against the British state. Successive generations of Muslims have failed to integrate into Western society and have so sought to colonize the societies in which they live. In her opinion, this is due to the lack of an overarching culture in Britain into which minorities can integrate. Multiculturalism has left immigrants and minorities abandoned, and young Muslims stranded between the traditions of their parents and the drug, alcohol and sex-saturated decadence that passes for western civilization. They perceive their aggression as legitimate defense and the West’s defense as aggression. Phillips coins this clash of communication and perspectives a “dialogue of the demented” – and one that has led to heightened Judeo-phobia in Britain.

Referring to the alarming rise in anti-Jewish sentiment in Britain, Phillips cited opinion polls that found that nearly half of the Muslims in the UK think that 9/11 was a conspiracy between the US and Israel; almost a quarter say the 7/7 bombings can be justified because of the war of terror; 46% think the Jewish community is in league with the Freemasons to control the media and the police; and 37% think the Jewish community in Britain is a legitimate target as part of the ongoing struggle for justice in the Middle East. According to Phillips, however, the western liberal mind refuses to accept these ideas as extreme, and believe that it is a racist act to condemn minorities, whatever they may say – a result of the West’s iron orthodoxy of multiculturalism and minority rights.

“Appeasement,” she said, “is a great British export. The greater the terror, the greater the self-flagellation of its victims.” Meanwhile, she said “Muslims are often the most numerous victims of Jihad worldwide.”

Since the publication of *Londonistan*, there has been somewhat of a shift in public thinking – particularly since the transatlantic airline bomb plot, which woke many people up to what is happening. However, while Tony Blair’s government has admitted that their policy of appeasement has been a disaster, they are still unsure as to what to do next.

“Terror,” says Phillips, “is not the biggest threat we face – but rather the ideology that drives it. “The principal battleground is the world of ideas. The Islamists understand this. They understand that if they can hijack the human mind, they have an army; and if they can hijack the minds of their victims, they will win. They understand that psychological warfare – hysteria, paranoia, demoralization – is their most effective weapon. And the liberal West does not understand that.”

Phillips believes that only if we stop deluding ourselves and take necessary action for our survival will we stop “sleepwalking to defeat”. Muslims should be able to practice their faith, gain sustenance from their faith and form communities in Britain, as other religions in the UK do, but not in conflict with the ideology and values of the West.

Prof. Wistrich echoed Phillips’ gloomy analysis of the threat facing Britain. “Londonistan shows,” he said, “how London has been turned into a hub of jihad, and a training ground for Islamic terror.” He said that the Muslim community has grown twelve-fold in the last 30 years. Meanwhile, there has been no transmission of any meaningful heritage in the UK – and the constant apologetic attitude [by the British] is not something that can be respected. “British culture has been flattened, hollowed out and made vacuous. Into that vacuum, Islamic martyrdom has considerable appeal.”

Isi Leibler called Londonistan “one of the most important political exposés of our time.” At the same time, however, he insisted that it is white, indigenous, educated Britons – and not Muslim immigrants – who are the main propagators of antisemitism in Britain. He said that the situation now is much worse than in the pre-WWII years. “In the 1930s, at least the liberal, left-wing groups defended Jews against anti-Semitism – now, this is no longer the case.” He was particularly scathing of Jewish leaders in Britain who, he said, are burying their heads in the sand and are at best only issuing polite and timid appeals to the current state of affairs. Multiculturalism, he believes, is serving as a Trojan horse for Islamization to hijack the West, seeking to control the state and impose their way of life on society.

For more information, or for press contact with students, faculty or spokespersons from HU, please speak in the first instance to Jason Caplin, Communications Manager, on +44 (0)20 7691 1471 or email jason.caplin@bfhu.org.



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