

[Home](#)

---

[Archive](#)

---

[Links](#)

---

[Contact Us](#)

---

[Webmaster](#)

---

## **The Timmerman Controversy**

*This letter from a Rabbi Joel Timmerman, a Reformed Jew, was first published six months ago and received little comment at the time. As tbrnews has expanded its viewers, this letter has received considerable attention...and the fury of much of the non-Reformed Jewish community.*

*The original letter is reprinted and followed by a second letter from the Rabbi.*

"I think the strongest anti-Semitism sometimes exists among Jews. To this day a German Jew often hates Russian or Polish Jews. There are German-Jewish clubs around this country that did not allow Russian or Polish Jews when they first started. Some have relented a little, but not all. I'm sure that when Hitler started, many German Jews didn't mind what he did to other Jews. They didn't expect him to turn on them. Isn't it ridiculous? But if anti-Semitism can exist among Jews, why shouldn't it exist among others?"

--Kirk Douglas (né Issur Danielovitch, son of Russian-Jewish immigrants) as quoted in *The Ragman's Son. An Autobiography*, Pocket Books: New York, 1989, p.23

### The Silent Jew- An Open Letter

by Rabbi Joel Timmerman

Yesterday, I watched with sadness the Columbia tragedy unfold on my television screen and my heart went out to the families of the dead. But later in the day, I had a telephone call from a friend with a bitter comment.

He said that the first few hours of the media coverage of the tragedy dealt with the background and career of an Israeli guest cosmonaut, Colonel Ilan Ramon, and little mention was made of the backgrounds of the American crew.

Another friend, a Jew, called me to say: "Just look at that on the TV! Why CNN is spending all their time talking about an Israeli war hero. Weren't there any Americans on board?"

Of course there were Americans on board and this is the subject of my open letter.

There are several millions of Jews living in the United States. The bulk of us are Reformed Jews. Nearly all of us consider ourselves to be Americans. We and our children are proud to have served in the American military and even prouder to be citizens of the one nation that has welcomed refugee Jews, fleeing from European persecutions, and permitted them free access to American society.

A much smaller percentage of American Jews are Zionists. They view themselves as Jews first, Israeli's second and, perhaps, Americans third. Their complete allegiance is to the state of Israel and not to America. They send money to Israel and, when they have access to it, military and commercial secrets. They are the Pollards of this country. They do not represent the rest of us at all.

The State of Israel has always been a Zionist state. It was born in violence and hatred. Jews, mostly from Poland, invaded the Palestine area, killing and maiming anyone who stood in their way: Arabs, British soldiers, civilians and even high UN officials. Bombings, bank robberies, arsons and mass murder attended the birth of this state. One man, Menachim Begin, blew up a hotel full of people and was later made Chief of State!

The Zionists have fastened themselves onto the instruments of power in the United States, feeling, rightly, that American soldiers, and most importantly, money, will nurture their state and protect it from their many enemies.

Instead of making efforts to co-exist with their neighbors, Israel has constantly attacked the impoverished Palestinian Arabs and killed as many of them as they could. The IDF has had no problem murdering Arab men, women and children. It has had no problem destroying the homes and businesses of the reviled Arabs and their sole, stated aim, is to drive the Arabs out of their homes so that Jews can take them over.

How redolent this is of the attacks by the Nazis, the Poles and the Russians in recent times past! It is true that the abused child becomes the abusing parent and Israel has in truth become the National Socialists of the Middle East.

The Zionists have infiltrated the American government to a remarkable degree. They have gained an astonishing hold in the American mass media. CNN, Time Warner, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Newsweek and Time magazines and a host of other media giants are either owned outright by Jews or are under the control of Jews.

These mighty organs daily pour out a great stream of pro-Israel commentary while Jewish organizations such as the ADL and various other pressure groups, make constant, threatening demands on a subservient American legislative entity.

The fact that there are many Jews in America that view such blatant and ruthless manipulation with horror is never reported in the media.

We are the silent Jews although we outnumber the loud ones twenty to one. Our views, those of tolerance and moderation, are never seen in the media but the frantic, fanatic views of the hysterical Zionists receive daily, slavish attention.

The American public is not stupid but it has no voice to express its concerns. Faked opinion polls, pious statements about Israel as “America’s best ally” can be seen daily in all the major branches of the media.

Believe me, Israel is not America’s best ally. Through the Israel lobby, American leaders and legislators do as they are told. The consequences of refusal or worse, opposition to Zionist demands is orchestrated oblivion. Furious because President Harry Truman blocked the sale of weapons of destruction to the rampaging Zionists in 1948, Jewish money backed Thomas Dewey. An assassination attempt was launched by the Stern Gang against Truman but failed.

The British, the United Nations and the United States eventually let the Zionists have their murderous way in Palestine because they grew tired of the constant acts of savage terrorism which seemed to inspire the terrorists to even greater infamies.

These miserable, vicious and ideological creatures have *nothing* to do with the great majority of American Jews. We deplore their savage, manipulative behavior because we know from bitter experience that eventually the American public will become aroused and infuriated. When that dismal day comes, and it will come, all the rest of us will be held to account for the savage brutes like Sharon and his butchers. We will become the eternal victims of a population enraged by the ruthless and self-serving manipulations of a small, detestable handful of chronic fanatics. We will, at last, lose the respect of our colleagues, our neighbors and our friends and again, the eternal wandering will begin.

Note here that Israel is afraid of Saddam Hussein. He has attacked Israel before, just as Israel has attacked him even earlier. Why should valuable Jewish youth be sacrificed in a war with Iraq when expendable American youth can accomplish the same thing? Perhaps, and I have learned this from a close friend in the Israeli Ministry of Defense, Israel and America

can also attack Saudi Arabia and thereby gain military control of two major oil producing areas.

The American President is not an intelligent or reasonable man but those who control him are and they, and the Israeli lobby can see that if both America and Israel can wrest control of oil from the Arabs, both countries will be better off...from the Zionist world view. Jews can make money from the captured oil fields and some of this can be stuffed into the pockets of America's notoriously corrupt legislators...and bureaucrats.

This is a suicidal, very short-term policy. By catering to American religious fundamentalists, Jewish groups and the oil industry, Bush is digging the grave, not only of his own erratic and fanatic administration but also of very loyal American Jews.

The President may be a stupid man but his handlers are not but they are all so myopic that they cannot see that they are rushing in haste towards the top of a very high cliff.

If only it were the guilty, the stupid and the vicious that would plunge down to their deaths, nothing would be lost and much gained but they will drag with them tens of thousands of completely innocent people.

Joel Timmerman  
Director, Holocaust Survivors Association  
New York

### **Fiction becomes fact: Comments on the Holocaust**

by Rabbi Joel Timmerman

Every day I come face to face with Jewish survivors of the Holocaust. I am not speaking here of thirty five year old librarians who had a grandmother who died after WWII having spent the war years in Portugal.

Here I speak of Jews of Europe who had been rounded up by the Germans, the French, the Italians, the Greeks, the Hungarians and on and on and shipped to infamous concentration camps like Auschwitz.

Members of my extended family also were in such camps. I had a total of thirteen relatives on both sides of my family in prison camps.

Of these, one died of a heart attack, eight of typhus and the rest were released at the end of the war when the camps were overrun so I believe I can say that I have some personal family experience with this terrible matter.

I find it very difficult to write this but in my fifteen years in dealing with actual survivors, I have never found a single case where any Jew was gassed in a Nazi camp.

Many, in fact most, who died succumbed to typhus and our own records, and those of both the Germans and other countries indicate very clearly that the total number of Jews who died was far, far below the six million figure invented after the war.

The fanatics who are attempting to inflict their will on the rest of the world through the medium of outrageous persecution are doing legitimate survivors, and the Jewish community as a whole, a terrible disservice.

It is not enough that perfectly innocent Jews were uprooted from their homes, shoved into cattle cars and dumped into terrible camps. It is not enough that tens of thousands of these Jews died miserably of typhus. This is not dramatic enough for the many 'foundations,' 'leagues,' and 'associations' that can be found all over the world, each loudly proclaiming to be the best representative of many, many Jews to whom these hucksters demand large sums of money be paid...by the Germans, the Swiss, the Russians, the Italians and so on.

This outrageous fiction will eventually collapse and then those who genuinely suffered will be called liars and extortionists.

In actual fact, and I have figures on this, the large sums of money gathered in by the hucksters remain with the hucksters. The aged and pathetic survivors I work with get so little money that many of them have to go on public assistance while the heads of these organizations have expensive offices, travel first class, eat in the best restaurants, drive expensive cars and glory in the power they have over American politicians and the media.

They are not interested in the old and dying and they have expanded the categories for survivors to the point where fifteen year old boys are now so listed!

What is needed is a housecleaning and a return to the truth.

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