

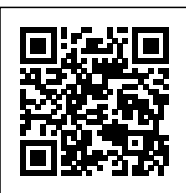
# THE ADL'S "TASK FORCE ON MIDDLE EAST MINORITIES": A CON JOB?

Posted on July 8, 2020 by Keghart



Credit: Hrag Vartanian and Jewcy.com

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**By David Boyajian**, Massachusetts, 24 June 2020

Hardly anyone — Jewish or otherwise — believes that the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) genuinely cares about the welfare of Christian, Muslim, and other non-Jewish minorities in the Middle East.

After all, contrary to its claim to be a civil/human rights champion and "secure ... fair treatment for all," the ADL is essentially a *political* organization.

So when it launched its so-called "[Task Force on Middle East Minorities](#)" (TFOMEM) in late 2018, I suspected a political con job.

TFOMEM says it will spotlight "human rights offenses committed against minority communities in the Middle East."

That sounds bizarre given that the ADL has itself committed human rights offenses against minorities and others right here in America.

### **Spying on Minorities**

In 1992-3, police raided ADL offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The ADL had a "private spy operation that authorities alleged crossed the line into illegal territory," [reported](#) the L.A. Times.

ADL operatives were surveilling [hundreds](#) of minority, civil rights, labor, and media organizations and associated individuals. Among the targeted minority groups: NAACP, Asian Law Caucus, Latin American Support Committee, Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, Filipino Organization Committee, and Young Koreans United.

ADL spy Tom Gerard was a rogue San Francisco police officer linked to Latin American death squads. His undercover ADL sidekick, Roy Bullock, called themselves "the kings of garbage" for scouring people's trash for private material.

ADL agents spied on American opponents of Apartheid in South Africa and passed information to its government — hardly the conduct of a civil/human rights organization.

Narrowly escaping indictment by the San Francisco D.A. — who was reportedly under political pressure — the ADL still had to pay \$50,000 to the city.

The ADL also settled civil rights lawsuits brought by victims of its snooping.

### **ADL Genocide Hypocrisy**

In friendlier days, Israel and Turkey recruited the ADL and organizations such as the American Jewish Committee to deny/diminish the [Armenian Genocide](#) committed by Turkey from 1915-23.

These Jewish organizations and Israel also colluded with Turkey to defeat Armenian Genocide

Disgusted by the ADL's genocide/Holocaust hypocrisy, in 2007-8 a dozen Massachusetts cities and the umbrella Massachusetts Municipal Association expelled the ADL's sanctimoniously-named *No Place for Hate* program. This made national and international headlines.

The ADL has never apologized to Armenians. ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt's 2016 acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide came in a mere blog post and only after decades of deceit.

The ADL, promised Greenblatt, "would support" (not will support) an Armenian Genocide resolution in Congress. That alleged "support" apparently came only in a belated letter three years later, one day before the resolution was already assured of passage.

Just as *No Place for Hate* is a fig leaf for the ADL's *domestic* political agenda, TFOMEM appears to be a smokescreen for the ADL and Israel's *Middle East* political agenda.

That agenda: Weaken *Israeli adversaries* such as Iran, Syria, Shiite Muslims, and Turkish President Erdogan by any means possible.

TFOMEM will help by telling Americans that Israel's adversaries, among their other wrongdoings, mistreat minorities.

### **Revealing Press Releases**

TFOMEM's three press releases since its launch are revealing.

Two welcomed Congressional resolutions on the plight of minorities in war-ravaged Syria and Iraq. That aligns with Israeli policy. Tel Aviv seeks to topple Syrian President Assad who is aligned with Iran and Hezbollah, the anti-Israeli Shiite militant organization. Majority-Shiite Iraq is an Israeli target too.

TFOMEM's third press release tried to bewitch American Christians by condemning Iran's "arrest of over 100 Christians." Fewer Christians will be fooled, however, after the ADL's attack on Christian Armenians.

Tel Aviv seeks, of course, to destabilize Iran by stirring its minorities, which include Arabs, Azeris, Bahais, Kurds, and others.

### **An Awkward Event**

I attended a TFOMEM panel presentation at Tufts University, "Restoring Armenian Heritage in Turkey: Displaced Stakeholders of Sacred Heritage Sites," on September 25 of last year. It focused on three renovated Armenian churches in eastern Turkey — Armenians call it Western Armenia — and a Greek monastery.

Tufts was probably chosen because of its longtime relationship with Greater Boston's Armenian American community and Armenia.

Also discussed was the 2007 assassination by a Turkish extremist of Hrant Dink, an ethnic Armenian journalist and Turkish citizen.

The presentation contained little new for the Armenian Americans who comprised half of the some thirty attendees.

The panelists were [Tugba Tanyeri Erdemir](#), PhD, an archeologist/historian and TFOMEM's Coordinator; [Cly Wallace Aramian](#), MA, a communications/public affairs specialist and Tufts graduate; and [Elizabeth H. Prodromou](#), PhD, a Greek American political scientist at Tufts and human rights advocate.

Despite her last name, Aramian is not even a token Armenian. Her former husband is Armenian.

Erdemir is an ethnic Turk and Turkish citizen, like her husband and fellow TFOMEM member Aykan Erdemir, PhD. A noted author on Turkey's mistreatment of minorities and indigenous non-Turks, he's a senior director at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a pro-Israel think tank.

He served in Turkey's parliament from 2011-15 as a member of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) founded by Kemal Ataturk, who continued the Armenian Genocide after 1918.

Israel and CHP despise President Erdogan and want to topple him and his Justice and Development Party (AKP). Israel hopes a post-Erdogan/AKP Turkey would restore the countries' warm relations.

Might hostility to Erdogan/AKP, rather than human rights considerations, partly explain why the ADL invited the Erdemirs into TFOMEM?

### **Other Members**

TFOMEM members change but include two Iranian Jews, undoubtedly because Iran is an Israeli target.

One is Sharon Nazarian, PhD, Senior ADL VP for International Relations. She reportedly opposes "racial hatred." Perhaps she'll look into the ADL's record on Armenians.

The other is Marjan Keypour Greenblatt, MA, wife of Jonathan Greenblatt who authored the ADL's half-baked blog post referenced above.

Other members include a Christian Egyptian Copt and several Muslims. But no Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, or Palestinians.

The other Christian is Rev. Johnnie Moore, a public relations guru, Trump campaign manager, and member of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. When the latter recommended the State Dept. put autocratic Azerbaijan on its "Special Watch List" for religious repression, Moore

was Azerbaijan's [lone defender](#). He has visited Azerbaijan, an Israeli ally, twice.

Israel sells the latter billions in advanced weapons while Azerbaijan sells oil to Israel.

Might these facts, rather than human rights considerations, partly explain why the ADL invited Rev. Johnnie into TFOMEM?

### **Fatally Flawed**

TFOMEM members are surely aware of the ADL's appalling record on minorities.

TFOMEM's non-Jews probably hope, nonetheless, that the ADL's money and muscle can somehow help their ethno-religious compatriots.

Exposing a country's mistreatment of its minorities is certainly noble.

But TFOMEM will ultimately be of little or no benefit to minorities anywhere as long as it's a tool of the duplicitous ADL.

***Much of the author's work can be found at [www.Armeniapedia.org/wiki/David\\_Boyajian](http://www.Armeniapedia.org/wiki/David_Boyajian).***

## Comments



**Vahakn** – 2020-07-09 10:31:21

Why has an organization dedicated to eliminating racism in the US criticizing the UN Human Rights Commission's list of companies doing business with Israeli settlers in illegally-occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Golan Heights? Why did the head of the same organization go to Israel for the celebrations of Trump's illegal move of the US embassy to Jerusalem? What's the connection between eliminating racism in the US and backing Zionist settlers who uproot Palestinian olive trees to deprive Palestinians of their livelihood so they would be forced to leave their homeland? What's the connection between stamping out US racism and celebrating the US relocation of its embassy? The list of ADL donors shows you the connection.