



A BORDER OFFICER walks past a demolished house that was built without a permit, near Yatta in the West Bank in August. (Wisam Hashlamoun/Flash90)

The threat and the betrayal

• By ARLENE KUSHNER

Just days ago, most of us here in Israel participated in the rituals of the Seder, which enfolded an eternal message for the Jewish people:

The Almighty took our ancestors out of Egypt and brought them to freedom. At the foot of Mount Sinai they received the Torah. Our people were then brought to the land of Canaan (Greater Israel), which was given to us for all eternity.

Our history for many generations was a tortuous one. For long periods we were, in good measure, banished from the land. But the Jewish People are back now. Many do not recognize that this is an enduring modern miracle. It was only in 1967 that Judea and Samaria, the heartland of ancient Israel, came back into our possession. We have been slow to fully claim this area, and now we are at serious risk of losing it.

We have known for some time

– in large part because of reports from the Israeli NGO Regavim – that illegal Arab building, funded by the EU, was taking place in the part of Judea and Samaria designated by the Oslo Accords as Area C. The area in which all Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria are located, it is controlled exclusively by Israel, or is supposed to be.

Now we have a powerful exposé from the Israeli NGO Ad Kan, which secured information by sending people undercover as Arab journalists. In a report released on March 24, Ad Kan revealed the PA's grand plan to overtake Area C via illegal construction projects funded in good part by the EU. Some three billion euros have been allocated for construction of a Palestinian state and a capital in Jerusalem.

Ad Kan discovered that the EU "is pushing with all its might," working to build a Palestinian state in contravention of the law and the agreements signed in the Oslo Accords. It uncovered "a well-

oiled mechanism" in which the EU secretly provides money, people and legal knowledge to enact a plan to "isolate Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem and establish a de facto terrorist state in the heart of Israel."

Yisrael Ganz, head of the Mateh Binyamin Regional Council called the findings of the Ad Kan report a "national state of emergency." The EU, he charged, is "fighting the Jewish people and the State of Israel with all its might... What the Europeans did 80 years ago, they are now continuing with huge funding and construction plans to overthrow the entire State of Israel."

We must leave for another day an examination of the EU's motivation. Of paramount concern right now is the question of how Israel's erstwhile leaders are responding to this report. It was released one day after our most recent election.

Once more the election failed to produce a count that would have

resulted in ready formation of a coalition. And so, sadly, what our beleaguered citizenry is presented with, once again, is a political cat-fight. Candidate A won't sit in a coalition with Candidate B, who has only caustic words for Candidate C.

Under any circumstances this scenario would be considered unbearable. A bunch of narcissistic would-be prime ministers are demonstrating that they have lost sight of what is good for the nation.

But under the current circumstances, their behavior might be construed as a betrayal of the nation. We need a solid right-wing coalition that will work together with determination and courage to protect Israel's rights. This is very possible if they will stop their blathering, curb their animosities, and pay attention to what is happening in Judea and Samaria.

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