

read our advertisement, you will see that there is no mention of Semitism. However, if you look at the Bigotry Box on the Feedback page of our website, www.kbrm.org.nz you will see that it is indeed alive and well in New Zealand.

It is very sad indeed that over 60 years after the Holocaust, Jewish people are still facing the same irrational hatred and demonisation that resulted in the murder of 6 million Jews. Anti Jewish hatred is the oldest surviving virus to afflict humanity and unfortunately it has mutated today into an irrational hatred and denial of the Jewish People's right to reclaim their ancient homeland. Jews did not suddenly arrive from nowhere - they have lived continuously in Israel including Judaea from Biblical times - well before the advent of Islam and Christianity.

Had you used the phrase "perceived persecution", because one of the truths I am trying to present is that Israel has no interest or desire to persecute Palestinians. In fact, 1.5 million of them live peacefully in Israel with full citizenship and the same rights. Israel did not choose to drive out the Palestinians. The only reason they left in 1948 is because they made war against Israel when they rejected the UN partition plan. (The number who left, by the way, is not in the millions but a fraction of that.) These are all verifiable facts. The checkpoints and border controls that are usually cited as "persecution" are there for security reasons. They will be taken down if and when the Palestinians accept Israel's right to exist.

You might also like to read a bit more history. The land of Palestine had been part of the Ottoman Empire for hundreds of years when the country was almost entirely owned by Turkish landlords, until Britain took it over as a protectorate after WWI. It was indeed someone's to give. It was populated by both Arabs and Jews. The Jews accepted the UN partition and the Arabs did not. Arab armies and terrorists have been trying to destroy Israel ever since.

You may not know that since 1948 as many Jews were displaced from Arab countries in which they were persecuted and terrorised, and have been absorbed in Israel as Palestinians were displaced in the War of 1948. Sadly, there was no offer of help by the other Arab countries to absorb them.

My wife joins with you in your wish for peace and cooperation between Jews and Arabs, which is what Israel has been yearning for for 61 years. If Israel continuously offers to live in peace with its Palestinian neighbours, it would be hard to do so. So far the Palestinians have rejected every peace overture.