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WINS COMMENTARY
RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM* OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
"THE MYTHS OF ARAB LIBERATION"

The hijacking by the Arab terrorists of the four civilian airplanes and the suffering they inflicted on several hundred innocent men, women and children as hostages have been rightly condemned by spokesmen for civilized mankind as "savage and inhuman acts." As of now, thankfully, there has been no loss of life among the hostages, the only casualties having been the explosion of four multi-million dollar jet planes whose wanton destruction constitutes nothing less than shocking acts of piracy.

But there also have been other casualties not the least of which has been the explosion before the eyes of the world of a series of myths of the so-called Arab Liberation movement.

The most seductive myth of all, skillfully promoted by Arab propagandists and their radical left allies, is that - to use their very words - Israel is a "Zionist, racist, exclusivist state," and they are determined to destroy it and replace it with "a secular, democratic Palestine" in which Muslims, Jews, and Christians are to live as equals. The Arab Liberation movement has just given the entire world a foretaste of what they mean by their "democratic" Palestine, and their demonic version of equality and human rights.

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The fact that these alleged freedom-fighters have created a ghetto on the airplanes in the Jordanian desert, obscenely segregating Jewish persons from their Christian fellow-passengers makes tragically clear and beyond doubt who in the Middle East is racist and exclusivist.

And, finally, these criminal actions have put an end once and for always to the Arab Liberation movement's myths that it is not anti-Jewish but is only opposed to Zionism, an honored term for legitimate Jewish self-determination that they have converted into a vulgar epithet, masking their anti-Semitism. The Arab liberators have disclosed in the sweltering ghetto of the airplane cabins and in their selective ransoming of Jewish lives their Arab model of the Nazi concentration camps, in which Hitler also obliterated the distinctions between Jews and Zionists.

The Arab governments, the Soviet Union, and many among other nations of the world have indulged and cultivated such myths, and have been permissive toward such lawlessness and revolutionary anarchy far too long, and today they bear direct responsibility not only for the victimization of the Jews and Israelis still being held captive but for the human rights of the entire human family which is being held hostage. The time is past due for demythologizing these Arab liberation myths and for outlawing decisively these anti-human acts that they have nurtured and sustained.