

Mitzna: 'We Are Back' For Peace

Gen. Amram Mitzna (IDF-ret.) former chairman of the Israeli Labor Party and current member of the Knesset (parliament), gave this Nov. 1 keynote speech in Boston, Mass., to a conference of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, the U.S.-based Alliance for Justice and Peace. Mitzna also spoke to capacity crowds in Philadelphia and New York—but not one major U.S. newspaper reported his speeches, showing thus the media bias for the pro-war Likudniks. Here is the opening and an excerpt of Mitzna's Boston speech.

I'd like to begin with telling you that just a few hours ago, thousands of people gathered in the Square. And I'm talking about Rabin Square in Tel Aviv. I remind you that it is eight years since Rabin was assassinated by extremists for the Jewish organizations in Israel. And I think that we should do the same as the people in the Square did. Let's stand up for one minute of silence. . . .

Rabin was assassinated . . . after he was so brave to change his mind and to understand that the reality in the Middle East is not what we thought. . . .

In 1987, 20 years had passed since the war in '67, and many people in Israel thought that it is possible to continue to occupy—then 2.5 million Palestinians, now 3.5 million Palestinians—and we did it so easily, without any real problems. But the Intifada in 1987 showed that it is over. And Rabin, I think, as Begin before, realized that instead of fighting the Palestinians, and losing everything we have, we will have to reach the idea of “Two States for Two Peoples.” Instead of fighting, let's negotiate. Instead of occupying . . . let's see what kind of concessions that we have to make—painful concessions—if we want to live as a Jewish and a Democratic state.

He was assassinated, and for the last eight years . . . we went “off-road.” I think that the Geneva accord—the Geneva Initiative—the Geneva Agreement is a sign that we are back, talking about “Two States for Two Peoples,” with a just conclusion to the conflict. . . .

Now it is very important that the Jewish communities in the United States will raise their voice. . . . and you are not alone—it is in Israel also that the right-wing . . . are much stronger. But now we have an agenda. . . . I believe we were so brave in wars and in combat, we are able to be brave in taking risks in peace attempts and peace initiatives.—*Michele Steinberg*