

Wyatt Reed on visiting ruins of Tehran synagogue bombed by Israel

The Grayzone's Wyatt Reed recalls what it was like to visit the ruins of the Rafinia synagogue in Tehran, Iran after it was bombed by Israel this March, and describes visiting active synagogues in the city during worship services. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

#Max

You also documented a lot of U.S.-Israeli crimes, including one of the most revealing Israeli crimes. The most revealing Israeli crime, in my opinion, was the Israeli total destruction of the Rafina Synagogue in Tehran, one of the major active synagogues in Tehran. I didn't actually visit it, but I walked by it on my way to interview Hamein Sameah, who is the Jewish member of parliament in Iran's Majlis. Let's take a look at your report.

#Wyatt Reed

Most people have no idea that there are synagogues in Iran, but you know who does? Israel. That's who carried out the missile attack that leveled the synagogue behind me just a couple of weeks ago during Passover. In fact, as you can see, the entire synagogue was completely leveled. Israel blamed it on, quote-unquote, collateral damage. But Israel actually has a long history of carrying out attacks on synagogues itself. In the early 1950s, they targeted a number of synagogues in Iraq as part of an operation by Israeli intelligence meant to coerce the local Jewish population into moving to Israel. And it succeeded. So...

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You're suggesting that Israel did this deliberately in order to compel the total exodus of the Jewish population of Iran. That would be my takeaway as well, just given the history of Israel. But did you talk to any Iranians who also saw it that way?

#Wyatt Reed

I think most Iranians who are familiar with Israel's tactics see it that way. I was able to visit a synagogue myself, and as you did, see that Iranians who are Jewish are able to participate in their

spiritual life freely and without any kind of coercion that continues to endure during wartime. So, I mean, you could probably speak a little better to this, just the sort of state of Jewish life in Iran, but my impression, having visited another synagogue in Tehran, was that despite the Israeli attacks on this Jewish center of life, you know, for most Jews in Iran, life goes on. They are unbowed. They are continuing to go about their lives, and they're continuing to worship in freedom.

Much to the apparent chagrin of the Israeli government. So, you know, not having delved terribly deeply and not having worshipped alongside them as you did, but just interacting with them, it seemed that, you know, things were kind of normal there, as normal as they can be in wartime. And, you know, I was impressed by that. Not having seen that before, you know, it's surprising. It is surprising, even if you know that it exists, it is surprising to go into a synagogue and see all the staples of Jewish worship being enacted there. And the reading of Torah scrolls, something that was kind of a sacred moment being shared with us. It was impressive.

#Max

Yeah, I mean, what you're documenting there is the Zionist war on Judaism across the Muslim world, or the Muslim-majority world — the religious war that Israel's waging. And Zionism has a long history of attacks on Jews. I don't think that's well known. We're going to talk later about this freakout in the U.K. over a mentally disturbed man who stabbed two Jews, but also stabbed his Muslim roommate. And no one mentions that he stabbed his Muslim roommate in London. And this has caused just like a national meltdown. They're making new laws under Keir Starmer to shut down, to criminalize phrases like "globalize the intifada."

I don't know if me saying that will cause the stream to be demonetized or banned in the U.K., but there was hardly any coverage in the West of the bombing of the Rafina synagogue. And very few people in the West know about the long history of Zionist attacks on Jews. The worst attack — no one knows about the worst attack, or one of the worst attacks — the bombing of the Patria in Haifa port. In the port of Haifa in 1940, the Zionist Haganah, which became the IDF, bombed a ship filled with 1,500 Jewish refugees from World War II Europe who were trying to avoid extermination and killed 250 of them. And they blamed it on the British.

In order to try to compel the British to lift their White Paper policy of limiting Jewish immigration, because it was colonization that was causing conflict in Mandate Palestine, they were seeking to push out the indigenous Palestinian population. And the crime was exposed as a Haganah operation, a false flag, which they attempted to blame on the British to change British policy. Two hundred fifty Jews were killed, and they're all listed. If you go on the Holocaust Memorial Museum's website, they're listed as victims of the Holocaust. Pretty amazing. So I thought that was a really significant thing. And the fact that you brought in the bombings of Jewish targets in Baghdad by the same Zionist underground — well, the same Zionist movement. Actually, it was Israel at that point — yeah.

#Wyatt Reed

Yeah, well, and this comes as the sort of pre-Israel formations — not just the Haganah, but the Irgun — all of these sort of terrorist Jewish groups were attacking not just Jewish locations, but British locations, civilian and government installations. Operation Susannah, not just in Iraq but in Egypt — they were targeting American institutions and installations. They targeted basically everyone who they perceived as preventing the formation of a Zionist state. And they were rewarded for these vile terrorist attacks with Israel, with the creation of a nation of Zionists. And instead of being punished, they went on to become the prime ministers and leaders of this terrorist state.

#Max

It's a great point, you know. The bombing of the King David Hotel — another deadly terrorist attack on the Brits. You think Keir Starmer is operating from a place of enthusiasm as he cowers before the Zionist movement and Israel? Right now, no, he's operating from a place of fear, with the King David bombing hovering in the background.