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To be a light unto the nations means that Israel must lead the global struggle for the survival of Western civilization

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THE FIRST NON-JEWISH ZIONIST CONGRESS CONVENES IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

“To be a light unto the nations means that Israel must lead the global struggle for the survival of Western civilization.”

**– Sagiv Asulin
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COVER



HUNDREDS OF Jewish and Christian leaders gathered in Nashville this week to build an international civic alliance. (Photos: Hadar Perlmutter)

‘To be a light unto the nations means that Israel must lead the global struggle for the survival of Western civilization’

The First Judeo-Christian Zionist Congress convenes in Tennessee: ‘In Nashville, I expanded Zionism to the nations’

• ALAN ROSENBAUM

For Sagiv Asulin, former senior Mossad official, senior researcher at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs (JCFA), and an expert on Iran and cognitive warfare, the key date that changed his conception of Israel’s position in the world was not October 7, but

October 8 – when anti-Israel protests began on US campuses, and Israel was no longer viewed as the victim of a vicious terror attack but rather as the culprit. “I concluded this was something much deeper than coincidence,” reflects Asulin. “It was a consciousness and influence campaign being conducted by hostile actors – enemies of Israel – together with progressive woke movements.

“Today, we face a very large wave of antisemitism, anti-Westernism, anti-Western values, anti-democracy, and anti-everything the West represents. This wave is occurring across Europe and within the US, using Israel, Zionism, and Judaism as tools to harm the entire Western world. In 1897, Theodor Herzl established the First Zionist Congress in response to a huge wave of antisemitism

in Europe. In 2026, I conceived the idea to establish a non-Jewish Zionist Congress to confront this wave.” One hundred and twenty-nine years after the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, hundreds of Jewish and Christian leaders, public figures, cultural personalities, and influencers gathered this week in Nashville, Tennessee, for what was defined as the first



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To be a light unto the nations means that Israel must lead the global struggle for the survival of Western civilization



ISRAELI INFLUENCERS panel at conference (L to R): Jeremy Awakens, Talia Yosef, Inbal Ann Bouskila, Matan Peretz, Debra Lea, Asif Elkayam, and Yechiel Jacobs.

'In 1897, Theodor Herzl established the First Zionist Congress in response to a huge wave of antisemitism in Europe. In 2026, I conceived the idea to establish a non-Jewish Zionist Congress to confront today's wave of antisemitism and anti-Westernism'

Judeo-Christian Zionist Congress. Nashville, located in the heart of the "Bible Belt" in the southern US and known for its large Christian Evangelical population that supports Israel, was selected as the site for the Congress.

"When we planned the Congress," explains Asulin, "we held meetings with major Christian organizations that unite tens of millions of people, such as the Southern Baptist Church and the Assemblies of God, and many of them are based in and around Nashville."

The historic event, titled "The Eighth Front: The Battle for Western Civilization," was not merely another conference in support of Israel but a declaration of a

much broader arena of struggle.

The Judeo-Christian Zionist Congress was Asulin's first step toward translating this understanding into organized civic action. It was not another public diplomacy event – which he openly states Israel has failed at dramatically – but an attempt to build an international network of influence in which all friends of Israel – Jews and Christians alike – are partners.

OVER TWO DAYS, discussions in the conference hall ranged from antisemitism and anti-Western sentiment on campuses to digital narratives, from public diplomacy to the role of culture and sports in shaping public opinion. American politicians, media figures, opinion leaders, Christian leaders, and academics all took the stage.

Among the participants were several figures well known to the American public: Emmy Award-winning actress Patricia Heaton; former secretary of education Betsy DeVos; author and media personality Eric Metaxas; international author and commentator Joel Rosenberg; and Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-Tennessee).

The event also featured prerecorded video messages from President Isaac Herzog and Haim Bibas, chairman of Israel's Federation of Local Authorities. Participants did not come merely to

SAGIV ASULIN, organizer and initiator of the Judeo-Christian Conference, speaks to attendees.





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Top/bottom L: PRO-PALESTINIAN protesters outside Columbia University's New York City campus, Nov. 2023; an on-campus protest encampment, April 2024. (Photos: Shutterstock)

TENT ENCAMPMENT at Emerson College, April 2024. (Shutterstock)

express solidarity but to engage in strategic discussions that concluded with a plan of action.

The initiative was conceived and founded by Asulin, together with attorney Calev Myers, strategist Maor Avigal, former senior IDF Unit 504 officer Marco Moreno, and Dr. Dan

Diker, president of the JCFA. For them, the Congress was not a one-time event but the expression of a strategic outlook – the understanding that the struggle over Israel and the Western world as a whole is not conducted solely on the battlefield but in the arena where narratives, values, and legitimacy are shaped.

The goal of the Congress was to forge a values-based international civic alliance that will operate in the arenas of education, culture, academia, sports, social media, and more, countering anti-Israel and anti-Western campaigns funded by enemies of Israel and the West in cooperation with progressive movements that seek to undermine the State of Israel's right to exist, harm Jewish

communities worldwide, and erode the West from within.

ASULIN'S PATH to this field was unanticipated. He has devoted most of his professional life to addressing classic threats to Israel's national security, foremost among them Iran. After leaving the Mossad, Asulin joined the JCFA, where he explored the strategic relationship between Israel and the US, the American Right, Evangelical Christians, their importance in supporting Israel, and the significance of this support for the Western world.

"I understood that the major gap – and the problem – we face in the Western world today, since October 8, is that we are losing the Right in the US, our most supportive circle for many years," says

Asulin. "This is due to an influence campaign that has been operating very effectively for perhaps 15 years – in Europe as well as the US. We are losing our strongest supporters and the Judeo-Christian base of Western civilization. From that realization, we concluded that action was required – and that is how the Congress came into being."

Attorney Calev Myers, co-founder and chairman of the Judeo-Christian Zionist Congress, observes, "This is a historic moment. The silent majority is no longer willing to sit quietly and watch from the sidelines as Western civilization is undermined. Today, organizations that officially represent 700 million non-Jewish Zionists around the world are saying, 'Enough! We will mobilize, collaborate,



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invest resources, and wage a determined fight to preserve our way of life.”

Dr. Dan Diker, president of the JCFA, commented on the importance of the Congress: “The first Judeo-Christian Zionist Congress is the most consequential development since Herzl’s Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897. The difference is that the army has grown from non-sovereign Jewish minorities across Europe to a Jewish-Christian army for truth of 800 million people across seven continents.”

ASULIN SHARES that numerous studies have shown a dramatic decline in support for Israel among younger generations in the US, even within the Evangelical camp. “The implications for Israel would be catastrophic,” he warns.

“This initiative is intended to rebuild that connection, expand it, develop it, and engage younger generations. Ultimately, I view the Congress as a top-tier security event to strengthen Israel, Zionism, Judaism, and the Western world as a whole. If we lose the strategic relationship between Israel and the US – which is ultimately based on Judeo-Christian values – it is, in my view, an existential danger to Israel.”

Asulin has worked in arenas where threats are measured in missiles, nuclear capabilities, and proxies. Yet it was precisely from that vantage point, he says, that he came to understand that the most significant threat is not necessarily the one visible to the eye. Wars are decided in the public consciousness as much as on the battlefield.

‘Israel is not the story by itself; we are part of a broader confrontation over values of national and religious identity’

For years, explains Asulin, Israel knew how to define existential threats and build military and intelligence responses. The arena of perception, by contrast, was treated as a matter of public diplomacy rather than a genuine theater of war. The turning point for him came on the day after Oct. 7.

“On the day after the massacre, Israel was still in shock. But on campuses across the US, demonstrations, narratives, and a unified discourse were already emerging – blaming Israel and portraying it through concepts of oppression and colonialism. When you see such a coordinated response so quickly and using such uniform language, you realize there is an infrastructure. This was not a spontaneous eruption but a system that had been operating for years.” Thus, he says, the “October 8 Paradigm” was born.

From this realization, his concept of the “Eighth Front” also took shape – a theater of conflict that does not operate



CONGRESS ORGANIZERS (L to R): Marco Moreno, Asulin, and Maor Avigal.

through military force but through consciousness, narratives, and influence over public opinion. In his view, it is a front in every sense, because it affects the political decision-making space and the freedom of action of states.

Since Oct. 7, Iran and its proxies attacked Israel on seven fronts – Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank, Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and Iran – but this “Eighth Front” is no less significant, in his view.

“Ultimately, legitimacy is a strategic resource. Countries need it in order to act. If you lose it, you lose freedom of action,” he says.

Israel is the front – The goal is the collapse of the West

Asulin notes that this struggle is not directed solely against Israel. “Israel is not the story by itself; we are part of a broader confrontation over values of national and religious identity. An attack on Israel is frequently an attack on the Western model as a whole.”

In his view, anyone who examines reality only through the lens of antisemitism misses the scope of the phenomenon. “Antisemitism is part of the story, but it is not the whole story. We are witnessing a broad anti-Western wave that challenges the very values of the West, national and religious identity, and seeks to quietly take over centers of power and influence in Western societies.

“As I see it, Israel has a historic – even faith-based – role. What does it mean to be ‘a light unto the nations’? Today, it means leading the Western world back

to the international values that Zionism represents – not only for Israel but for the free world, for Western values that are gradually disappearing. This is not only about Israel, antisemitism, or Zionism – it is about the future of the Western world itself. I believe Israel, Judaism, and Zionism have the responsibility to show the way.”

This attempted upheaval, he explains, is being carried out by an anti-Western Islamist axis, led by Qatar, Iran, and Russia in cooperation with left-wing organizations, including progressive and “woke” movements. These are groups that converge around a shared narrative of resistance to the West. According to him, the phenomenon is particularly evident on American campuses, where alliances have formed between progressive student organizations and groups aligned with Islamist narratives. Their shared language is one of oppression, victimhood, and struggle against Western power structures.

“When American students define the US itself as an illegitimate colonial structure,” he says, “we must understand that the discussion is no longer only about Israel. It is about the West itself.”

As someone intimately familiar with the Iranian arena, Asulin points to a troubling similarity to what took place in Iran 47 years ago. “During the Islamic Revolution in Iran, religious leaders joined forces with leftist organizations to topple the Shah’s regime. The results of that revolution – which for nearly five decades has threatened the stabil-

ity of the Middle East and the entire world – are well known. It is no coincidence that many of the same leftists who have been demonstrating against Israel for over two years remained silent when the Iranian regime massacred its own citizens.”

Over the past decade and a half, he says, the Islamist anti-Western axis has established footholds within Western countries themselves. Only in recent years have Western nations begun to internalize the depth of the problem.

Now, the first Judeo-Christian Zionist Congress seeks to turn the tide – not another ad-hoc campaign or isolated initiative but an organized effort to build a broad civic alliance that understands this arena and operates within it.

The goal, he explains, is to forge connections, pool resources, and act in the arenas of consciousness and influence using the same tools their adversaries employ.

For Asulin, the Congress is the first step. He is planning a follow-up conference that will be held in Israel in June, in conjunction with the Federation of Local Authorities in Israel, to further strengthen Jewish-Christian partnership.

“The road is still long, but the understanding already exists – the struggle over consciousness and influence will determine the future of Israel, the Jewish Diaspora, and the entire Western world. That responsibility is ours.”

This article was written in cooperation with the Eighth Front.