

Elevator Pitch: For the sake of Jerusalem

Imagine you are standing in the elevator in the lobby of your hotel to go to the 25th floor. Just before the doors close a man quickly steps in and presses the button for the 24th floor. With a light shock you realize that the man is Mr P, an important politician. Adrenaline races through your veins; this is your chance, you have 2 minutes to pitch the case for the sake of Jerusalem.

You: "Good afternoon Mr P, how are you?"

Mr P: "Good afternoon, I am fine, thank you. How are you?"

You: "I am fine – thank you – albeit concerned"

Mr P: "Oh, about what?"

You: "Jerusalem"

Mr P: "Jerusalem?"

You: "Yes, sir, Jerusalem. Wouldn't you agree that every nation is entitled to a homeland, a place where they can live in safety and peace with their neighbors?"

Mr P: "Of course."

You: "Well, here's the matter. As you know, after the Ottoman Empire was defeated, the Principal Allied Powers granted a national home to the Jewish people in Palestine at the San Remo Conference in 1920. The Mandate for Palestine was entrusted to Great Britain and approved by the League of Nations in 1922. At that time Gaza, the West-Bank and Jerusalem were part of the mandated territory.

Everybody was happy; the Jews hadn't had a homeland for 2000 years and now it was reconstituted with the Old City of Jerusalem as its capital, and the rights of the non-Jewish residents were secured.

After the Brits withdrew in 1947, the UN proposed a smaller territory to establish the State of Israel. The Jews were willing to accept but the Arab nations refused and started war with Israel.

Since 1948 the Arabs have waged multiple wars against Israel, apparently for only one reason: they don't want Israel to exist.

The victims of these wars are the Jewish people and the Palestinians. The Jews have no safe homeland and the Palestinians have become a puppet in the hands of radical Islamic movements and Arab nations.

Throughout history, Jerusalem has been the capital for the Jewish people. It has never played such a role in the Islamic world.

A unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state with the Old City of Jerusalem as its capital will only make things worse. It is a *fata morgana*, especially for the Palestinians. The only solution to the problem is to return to the negotiating table and to keep Jerusalem united - as it is today."

<ping> – 24th floor, elevator doors open

You: "Have a nice day, sir. Thank you for listening and God bless you."