

Professor Navon compares terrorism in U.S. and Israel

by Mosheh Oinounou and Jesse Stanchak

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The United States has already lost the "war on terrorism" by forming a coalition with terrorist-sponsoring nations to strike back against the Sept. 11 attacks, professor Emmanuel Navon told about 30 students in Hillel Thursday.

Speaking on the one-month anniversary of the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, Navon said the United States is powerful enough to fight terrorism independently. The country will only lose ground working with Arab nations he said will privately sympathize with the Taliban cause and terrorism-sponsoring states like Iran and Syria.

He also warned the world not to underestimate intentions of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi-born billionaire suspected of sponsoring the Sept. 11 and other attacks.

"Osama is looking for a lot more than an end to U.S. military presence in the Middle East and peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians," Navon said. "He is looking for a final war with the □infidels□ and an end to the Western way of life."

Navon is the CEO of his public relations firm Navon Consulting and teaches political science at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel.

He drew parallels between Israel's conflict with the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the U.S. war on terrorism.

Navon compared the idea of Israel negotiating with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to President George W. Bush negotiating with bin Laden.

Navon explained that Arafat spouts two different views depending on the language and audience. While Arafat speaks about peace in English to foreign leaders, he incites his own people in speeches in Arabic, Navon said.

The professor read translated passages from speeches Arafat presented in Arabic since the signing of the Oslo peace accords. In speeches to the Palestinian people that Navon read, Arafat called for the continuation of a war with Israel until it is totally destroyed, claimed Jewish people have no historical right to the land of Israel and called Holocaust death totals widely exaggerated to generate sympathy.