

Arabs from Saudi Arabia to Iraq Voice Support for Israel

Ari Soffer [revealed something surprising](#): unlike their elders, young Arabs are increasingly abandoning the paradigm of Israel as the root of all evil. The Arab Youth Survey showed that faith in that doctrine, which has long-dominated the Arab discourse, is being eroded, as a new generation with access to information beyond the “official” channels which dominated life before the social media age takes stock of the challenges it faces – from ISIS to dictatorships to unemployment – none of which have anything to do with Israel.

Just how much those attitudes may be changing was inadvertently discovered by one Israeli Arab, who uncovered a hidden wellspring of support for the Jewish state in those countries and more.

The Muslim-Arab IDF soldier – who identifies only as “M.” due to concerns over his safety – recounted to the *AI Monitor* website how a campaign to encourage other Israeli Arabs to enlist in the IDF led him to his remarkable discovery.

He said he was motivated to begin his online campaign after being angered by [slowly growing movement](#) of Israeli Arabs joining the army.

“I saw the signs that were hung in Arab villages, and I kept track of the Facebook campaign being run by activists of Balad and the other Arab parties under the name ‘TZaHaL ma bistahal’ [‘The IDF isn’t worth it’]. It infuriated me,” he told *AI Monitor*.

“Activists would show up in the main square of Shfaram with bits of rubble, as if the rubble were from Gaza. They carried big signs too, as if they were trying to say, ‘Look

what the army that is calling on you to enlist is actually doing in the Gaza Strip.' Some of the activists would even paint their faces red, as if they were injured, while they tried to relay their message of 'Don't enlist!' to young Bedouin, Druze, Christians and Muslims.

"I decided to respond to them on Facebook, so I made a page called '[one from central Baghdad](#) and another from a woman in Saudi Arabia, many of which can be found [the video from Baghdad](#), I asked the person who sent me the clip what it was that caused him to express support for Israel," he said.

"He responded, 'You'd be surprised. I'm not the only one. There are a lot of young people here who think like me. Everything that is happening to us here in Iraq – the killings, the terrorism, the veritable bloodbath – showed us that Israel has nothing to do with it. There are many young people living in Iraq today who have no religion. They are fed up with the religious wars between Sunnis and Shiites and want to live their lives without religion.'"