

Investigate Sharon's Corruption, War Crimes

by Dean Andromidas

Will Ariel Sharon be going from his newly re-elected post as Prime Minister, to becoming the prime suspect in six criminal investigations, involving violations of campaign finance laws, bribe taking, partnership with organized crime, and crimes against humanity?

On Jan. 27, on the eve of the Jan. 28 Israeli elections, the *Washington Post* published an article detailing the illegal financing of Sharon's 1999 primary campaign through U.S.-based charities. The article revealed only the tiniest fragment of the massive amount of material *EIR* has been publishing in the last two months, on the flow of millions of dollars into the Likud party's and Sharon's coffers from sources spanning U.S. Christian fundamentalists, the Moonies, the Israeli and Russian mafias, and the second generation of Meyer Lansky-linked U.S. organized-crime circles. The *Post*'s article was the first exposé of Sharon's corrupt funding apparatus outside of the LaRouche publications and the Israeli press, although it understated the case, with an article entitled "U.S. Scrutiny of Overseas Charitable Donations Lax."

While for readers of *EIR*, there was very little new in the article, nonetheless it usefully exposed some of the U.S. charities involved in illegal financing of Sharon's 1999 primary campaign for the leadership of the Likud. This case relates to an illegal \$1.5 million loan that Sharon's son received from a British businessman in South Africa. The article mentions the names of the relevant American lawyers and organizations, but fails to inform the reader who these people are; indeed, to do so would show, as *EIR* has done, that the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) has been at the center of Sharon's illegal funding apparatus in the United States.

For instance, New York attorney Arnold Forster is described by the *Post* as one of the directors of a "charity," the American and Israel Research and Friendship Foundation; he also represented Sharon in a libel suit against *Time* magazine. But, as *EIR* has documented, Forster has also been an ADL operative for the last 50 years; in the 1950s, he staged anti-Semitic incidents in order to justify the ADL's existence. He was also an associate of the notorious mob attorney Roy Cohn.

The article mentions First International Resources as having received a grant of \$80,000 from Forster's "charity." First International is identified merely as a "consultancy" in New Jersey, which carried out a poll for Sharon. There's more:

The company was founded by Zev Furst, who was ADL Director of Middle East Affairs and became the first director of the ADL's office in Jerusalem in 1977. In 1980 he formed a partnership with "spin-doctor" David Garth to establish Garth-Furst International. Together they advised the campaigns of Israel Prime Ministers Menachem Begin, Yitzhak Rabin, and Shimon Peres, as well as many other politicians internationally.

Six Investigations

Any one of the following investigations could politically damage or even imprison Sharon:

1. Illegal financing of Sharon's 1999 primary campaign. Although the violation of the election law was not criminal, the subsequent coverup could potentially turn it into Sharon's Watergate. Police investigators are reportedly preparing recommendations for the indictment of Sharon's son Omri, and his attorney and bureau chief, Dov Weisglass.

2. The \$1.5 million loan from South African businessman Cyril Kern, which was used to refund the illegal 1999 donations.

3. The "Greek island affair," in which the Israeli police have recommended the indictment of several Sharon cronies, including his financial backer David Appel and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, a conduit of campaign funds into the Likud. Sharon and his son Gilad are suspected of having taken bribes of as much as \$3.6 million.

4. Cases involving corruption in the Likud, where three indictments have so far been handed down. This investigation should probe how the top Israeli mafia bosses became Likud Central Committee members and kingmakers.

5. The case of the Airports Authority and the public tender won by the Sheleg Lavan security firm, with the help of Tzevet Bitahon. These two security companies, which are reportedly controlled by organized-crime figures, are under investigation for conspiring with the Airports Authority to win a tender to guard six international entry points into Israel. The case could involve Likud Central Committee member Shlomi Oz, an ex-convict and right-hand man of Mousa Alperon, leader of one of Israel's top organized-crime families and also a Likud Central Committee member.

6. The last case, but certainly not the least, is the war crimes case that was taken up by a Belgian court almost two years ago. This is the result of a criminal complaint made by over 30 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, who lost family members in the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon during the 1982 war. Sharon, then Defense Minister, is accused of having ordered these massacres. The case has gone dormant since an appeals court ruled that, since Sharon was not in Belgium, he could not be indicted; but the Supreme Court is expected to overturn the lower court's decision, and new legislation has passed the Senate and now goes to the lower house, to amend Belgium's universal jurisdiction law, in order to allow the case to go forward.