

# The Evangelical Intifada



***How two UK evangelical leaders are responding to the Khomeinists in Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon***

by Joseph Weissman

*Leeds Messianic Fellowship*

# 1. Introduction

Reverend Dr Stephen Sizer is the Incumbent of Christ Church Virginia Water, in the Diocese of Guildford in Surrey. He is described as the world's leading critic on Christian Zionism. He has written two well-received books on the phenomenon of Christian support for the state of Israel, *Christian Zionism* and *Zion's Christian Soldiers*. Sizer's bishop, the Bishop of Guildford Rt. Rev. Christopher Hill (right) wrote of *Zion's Christian Soldiers*:

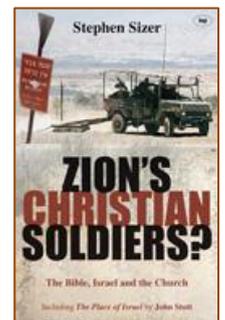


**"We have here a serious biblical challenge, evangelical in character which, nevertheless, challenges certain kinds of fundamentalism, both theological and political."**<sup>i</sup>

Prebendary Dick Lucas enthused about *Zion's Christian Soldiers*:

**"A workmanlike study that confronts many treasured and traditional opinions with frankness and sensitivity."**<sup>ii</sup>

Rico Tice wrote of *ZCS*, upon reading about how Christian Zionists understand the term "Israel":



**"I almost felt like a man who discovers a lump under his arm and then finds on examination that it is malignant and life-threatening."**<sup>iii</sup>

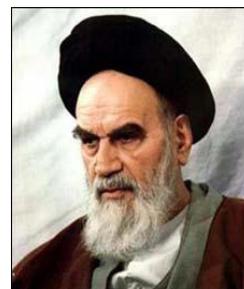
Stephen Sizer's book has been well received by evangelical Christians in the UK, many of whom view his book as a Biblical challenge to uncritical, End Times support for Israel, based on theology coming from the USA.

Sizer's books are published by InterVarsity Press in the UK.<sup>iv</sup> IVP are the publishing wing of the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF), which represents Christian students from across the United Kingdom.

A prominent supporter of Sizer's theology is Dr. Anthony McRoy, a visiting lecturer at the London School of Theology<sup>v</sup> and the Wales Evangelical School of Theology.<sup>vi</sup> This document examines Sizer and McRoy's ties to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and their Mahdist campaign.

## 1. Christians under Khomeini

When Ayatollah Khomeini (right) rose to power following the Islamic Revolution of 1979, he promised to afford the Anglican Church and other Christians in Iran a degree of protection, so long as they allied themselves to the Revolution. However, Khomeini quickly became suspicious of Christians and began pursuing policies against them. Kathryn Spellman writes (p.165):



**"The regime's campaign against the Anglican Church left no Anglican priests in Iran, and church activities were either cancelled or organised secretly."<sup>vii</sup>**

However, Khomeini toned down his rhetoric in 1982. Spellman writes that Khomeini's new-found tolerance of Christians (p.165):

**"... did not include Muslim converts to Christianity or members of the Ba'hai faith who are not recognised in the constitution, and therefore fall into the category of 'unprotected infidels'. It is under this law that apostates have no rights and are subject to capital punishment."<sup>viii</sup>**

Persecution continued after Khomeini's death in 1989. Spellman draws attention to the purging of the Assemblies of God from Iran in the 1980s and 1990s (pp.166-167):

**"the Pentecostal churches faced the assassination of Christian leaders, the official closing of churches, the closing of the Bible Society and the confiscation of Bibles and Christian literature. All foreign missionaries were forced to leave Iran"<sup>ix</sup>**

Most infamously, Bishop Haik Hosvepian-Mehr (right) – the Superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Iran, who campaigned publicly against Khomeinist persecution of Christians – was arrested, disappeared and killed in 1994.



Haik had campaigned for the reease of Reverend Mehdi Dibaj, a Muslim-background believer. Dibaj had been arrested for being an apostate, and for **'insulting the Prophet Mohamed and Ayatollah Khomeini.'**<sup>x</sup>

## 2. Khomeini's Daughter – Zahra Mostafavi

Zahra Mostafavi (right) is a daughter of Ayatollah Khomeini. She is a professor at the University of Tehran, and plays a prominent role in three NGOs in Iran. She is the Secretary General of Women Society Islamic Republic of Iran, the Secretary General Union of Supporting the Palestinian Rights, and the Head of the Society for Defending the Palestinian Nation.<sup>xi</sup> She was also an adviser to the former Iranian President Ali Khatami.<sup>xii</sup>



Mostafavi supports suicide bombing "martyrdom" campaigns against Israeli citizens. Iran's Channel 2 reported on Mostafavi, in April 2005:

**In Tehran, Zahra Shoja'i, Khatami's advisor on women's affairs, Zahra Mostafavi, Secretary-General of the Women's Society, and some female MPs participated in an international convention called "Commemorating the Palestinian Female Martyrdom-Seekers." They praised the women and girls who carried out martyrdom operations and sacrificed their lives for the Palestinian people. The name of the convention was "Daughters of the Olive."<sup>xiii</sup>**

In August 2006, the New York Sun reported on Mostafavi:

**A daughter of Ayatollah Khomeini, Dr. Zahra Mostafavi, sent a letter to Sheik Nasrallah on July 31 that appeared in the Tehran Times. "The jihad you have commenced at present is not to defend a land alone, but the entity of Islam, Quran, and all Muslims. ... The only bitter and heartrending side of the holy jihad is the martyrdom of the Lebanese and Palestinian hero children ... whose martyrdom is moving for every free man," she wrote.<sup>xiv</sup>**

Nasrallah is the leader of the Lebanese terrorist outfit Hezbollah "The Party of God". Taken together, here we read of Mostafavi encouraging women and children to kill themselves, in order to kill women and children in Israel.

In addition, Mostafavi seeks to maintain the legacy of her father, Ayatollah Khomeini, who persecuted, arrested and eliminated many prominent Iranian Christians and people from other minorities.

### 3. Zahra Mostafavi invites Stephen Sizer to Iran

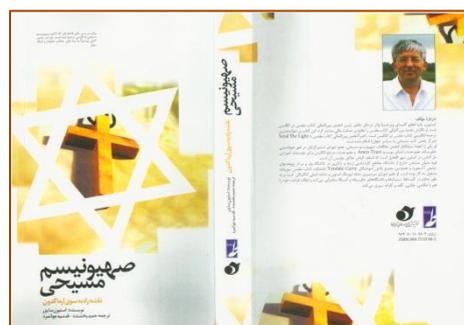
Stephen Sizer wrote on his church website:

**“Dr Zahra Mostafavi is probably one of the most influential women in Iran. [...] In October 2007 she invited me to give a series of lectures on the impact of Christian Zionism in the Middle East.”<sup>xv</sup>**



At the airport in Tehran, Sizer is suspected of bringing missionary material into the Islamic Republic, but confirms that he has been invited by Mostafavi to Iran. Sizer reflects that:

**“the invitation letter from Dr. Mostafavi helps convince [custom officials] that my primary objective is not to plant a church. [...] Dr Sharbaf, who is there to meet me, quietly intercedes on my behalf with the officials. Dropping the name of Dr Mostafavi helps. One customs official even offers help to translate my material into Farsi.”<sup>xvi</sup>**



The Farsi translation of *Zion's Christian Soldiers*, undertaken by institutions working for Zahra Mostafavi

Dr Jawad Sharbaf, who organised Sizer's tour, works for the NEDA Institute, which has previously sought historical advice from French Holocaust denier Robert Faurisson.<sup>xvii</sup>

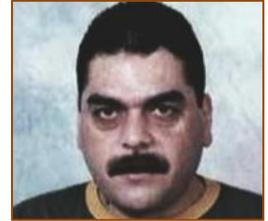
Stephen Sizer comments on the final day of his trip:

**“In the evening, there is a final meal with our host, Dr. Zahra Mostafavi, who is keen to sponsor a Hebrew translation of my book.”<sup>xviii</sup>**



## 4. Stephen Sizer and Hezbollah

Hezbollah is a Lebanese terrorist group that calls itself the "Party of God". In 2008, they demanded the release of Lebanese terrorist Samir Kuntar (right) from Israel prison, as part of a prisoner exchange deal.



Kuntar murdered Danny Haran in front of his two young children, and then murdered Haran's 4-year old daughter Einat by smashing her head with the end of his gun, and then throwing her head against a rock, on a Netanya beach.<sup>xix</sup>

These were Kuntar's victims:



Remains from Einat Haran's skull were found on Kuntar's gun:

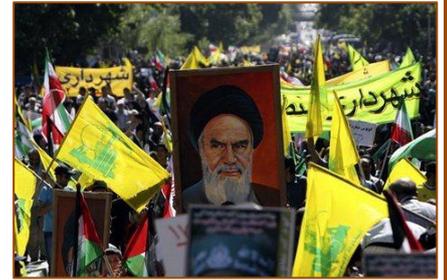


When in prison, Kuntar wrote to Nasrallah promising to continue terrorising Israelis.<sup>xx</sup> When Kuntar was released, Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah gave him a hero's welcome in Beirut.



As mentioned above, Zahra Mostafavi has previously expressed her support for Hezbollah. She has addressed a Hezbollah meeting in Beirut:

**Late Imam Khomeini's eldest daughter Zahra Mostafavi said here Friday at a gathering of the Lebanese Hizbullah Party's ladies that having strong faiths, keeping aflame the holy flames of Jihad, and seeking martyrdom is the only way to defeat the Zionist enemy.**



A Hezbollah rally celebrates Ayatollah Khomeini

[...]

**she said: "The late Imam Khomeini questioned the whole entity and legitimacy of that occupying regime as the initial question on Palestinian issue, presenting the only remedy to the Middle East crisis as total and unquestionable annihilation of Israel."<sup>xxi</sup>**

Mostafavi is a Hezbollah supporter and funder. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is openly fighting to spread the message of Mostafavi's father in the Middle East. It is highly revealing that Rev. Sizer should accept her support, in the way he does.



The room in which Sizer met Mostafavi was adorned with Hezbollah imagery. In this picture, we see Sizer sitting in front of a poster which celebrates the child suicide bomber, who seeks the destruction of Israel. Notice also, the yellow and green Hezbollah flag.

Stephen Sizer has also met Hezbollah clerics in southern Lebanon, including the prominent sheikh Nabil Kaouk (right). Kaouk has previously celebrated the release of Kuntar<sup>xxii</sup>, using this to taunt Israelis.



Kaouk is not simply a spiritual leader who preaches to Hezbollah. Rather, he is the senior commander of Hezbollah forces in southern Lebanon. The room in which Sizer meets Kaouk boasts a yellow Hezbollah flag, with a portrait of Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah hanging from the wall. Hassan Nasrallah has made a series of anti-Semitic, openly Jew-hating comments, including:

**“If [the Jews] all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide.”**

**“If we searched the entire world for a person more cowardly, despicable, weak and feeble in psyche, mind, ideology and religion, we would not find anyone like the Jew. Notice, I do not say the Israeli.”<sup>xxiii</sup>**

Stephen Sizer has also appeared alongside Zahra Mostafavi at a conference in Indonesia, as well as Rima Fakhry of Hezbollah, Sheikh Ali Daamouche, the Hezbollah Foreign Relation Head Officer, and Dr. Mustafa Haj Ali, a member of the Hezbollah Political Council in Lebanon.<sup>xxiv</sup> Holocaust denier Fred Tobin was also present.<sup>xxv</sup>

**Thanks to :**  
Dr. Zahra Mustafawi, H.R. Agung Laksono, Prof. Amien Rais, Dr. Salim Nazzai, Dr. Stephen Sizer, Dr. Alex Awad, Rabi Yisroel David Weiss, Rabi Aharon Cohen, Prof. Dr. Jalaluddin Rakhmat, A.A.Tavakoli, Rania Madi, Adnan Ramadan, Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Mahmoud Diab, Mr. Nur Kholis, Dr. Daud Abdullah, Alltrond Linstad, Dr. Razi Rezvi, K.H.Hasyim Muzadi, Maulana Ikhsan Hindrix, Dr. Masoud Shadjareh, M. Luthfi Zuhdi, Ir. Sayuti Asyathri, Dr. Abdilliah Toha, Prof. Dr. Amany Lubis, Imam Ibrahim Gabriel, Imam Muhammad Al-Asi, Dr. Frederick Toben, Dr. Yon Mahmudi, Sayid Abdilliah Hosseini, Abbas Ali Panjawani, and...

**ALL PARTICIPANTS!!! MAY ALLAH BLESS YOU..**

## 5. Anthony McRoy and Hezbollah

Also attending the conference was the South African Imam Sayid Abdullah Hosseini (right).<sup>xxvi</sup> Hosseini holds to an apocalyptic theology, that says that God will destroy Israel in the year 2022. Stephen Sizer claims that misguided End Times theology is leading to conflict in Israel.<sup>xxvii</sup> Despite this, Sizer was willing to join hands with an End Times Islamic teacher to denounce Israel. This is highly revealing.



Hosseini has also appeared in Iran to deliver a paper at the Second International Conference of Mahdism Doctrine, in 2006. Two years later, Dr. Anthony McRoy delivered a paper at the International Conference of Mahdism Doctrine, entitled “**The solace of the savior and HEZBOLLAH's victory: belief in the MAHDI and JESUS as an encouragement to resistance**”. Dr. Anthony McRoy boasted to participants about how effective suicide bombing can be:

**Hezbollah also used one of its own special types of resistance against the Zionist enemy that is the suicide attacks. These attacks dealt great losses to the enemy on all thinkable levels such as militarily and mentally.**

He triumphantly declared:

**Thus, we can truly say that Hezbollah's victory over the Israeli bombardment in 2006 was the Triumphant Jihad of the Mahdi. The fact of the Mahdi's inspiration of Hezbollah's jihad was hidden from the eyes of the Israelis.**<sup>xxviii</sup>

McRoy has also called Hezbollah a “Lebanese resistance group”:

**The Palestinians have been emboldened by the victory of Hezbollah in Lebanon. The Lebanese resistance group, without the arsenal available to the Israelis, wore the latter down and effectively chased them out of the country. For the first time, Arabs actually beat the Zionist enemy – a ragtag group of lightly-armed guerrillas defeated a nuclear power, just as another group of Muslims humiliated the mighty Soviet army.**<sup>xxix</sup>

## 6. Conclusions

It is scandalous that these events have occurred, and they bring shame to British evangelicals. It is time to confront those who are misusing and distorting theology, and aligning themselves with Khomeinists in Iran and Hezbollah.

Khomeinists are working for war and conflict in the Middle East, but as believers in Jesus Christ we are called to be peacemakers.

British evangelical leaders should be concerned by the events outlined in this article.

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.stephensizer.com/books/zions-christian-soldiers/zion%E2%80%99s-christian-soldiers-reviews/>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.ivpbooks.com/9781844742141>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.stephensizer.com/2008/11/rico-tice-on-zions-christian-soldiers/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.ivpbooks.com/9781844742141>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.ltslondon.org/lecturers.php>

<sup>vi</sup> <http://www.west.org.uk/faculty>

<sup>vii</sup> Spellman, K., *Religion and nation: Iranian local and transnational networks in Britain*, Berghahn Books, 2005

<sup>viii</sup> Spellman, K., *Religion and nation: Iranian local and transnational networks in Britain*, Berghahn Books, 2005

<sup>ix</sup> Spellman, K., *Religion and nation: Iranian local and transnational networks in Britain*, Berghahn Books, 2005

<sup>x</sup> Spellman, K., *Religion and nation: Iranian local and transnational networks in Britain*, Berghahn Books, 2005

<sup>xi</sup> <http://www.islamwomen.org/Englw/ArtcDetails.aspx?id=477>

<sup>xii</sup> [http://www.memri.org/clip\\_transcript/en/657.htm](http://www.memri.org/clip_transcript/en/657.htm)

<sup>xiii</sup> [http://www.memri.org/clip\\_transcript/en/657.htm](http://www.memri.org/clip_transcript/en/657.htm)

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.nysun.com/foreign/islamic-leaders-urge-children-to-be-bombers/38023/>

<sup>xv</sup> <http://www.sizers.org/Persia.pdf>

<sup>xvi</sup> <http://www.sizers.org/Persia.pdf>

<sup>xvii</sup> <http://www.antisemitism.org.il/article/45378/iran-%E2%80%93-dr-jawad-sharbaaf-head-neda-institute-political-science-research-recruits-holoca>

<sup>xviii</sup> <http://www.sizers.org/Persia.pdf>

<sup>xix</sup> [http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x\\_context=7&x\\_issue=11&x\\_article=1507](http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=7&x_issue=11&x_article=1507)

<sup>xx</sup> <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/126375>

<sup>xxi</sup> <http://www.insight-info.com/articles/item.aspx?i=255>

<sup>xxii</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3568651,00.html>

<sup>xxiii</sup> [http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x\\_context=7&x\\_issue=11&x\\_article=1158](http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=7&x_issue=11&x_article=1158)

<sup>xxiv</sup> [http://www.voiceofpalestine.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=59&Itemid=38](http://www.voiceofpalestine.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=59&Itemid=38)

<sup>xxv</sup> <http://www.voiceofpalestine.net/component/content/article/60-about>

<sup>xxvi</sup> <http://muhammadzulifan.multiply.com/journal/item/21>

<sup>xxvii</sup> [http://www.sizers.org/articles/ebook\\_sizer.pdf](http://www.sizers.org/articles/ebook_sizer.pdf)

<sup>xxviii</sup> <http://www.mahdaviat-conference.com/vdcgry9w4ak9y.j5a.html>

<sup>xxix</sup> [http://www.naba.org.uk/CONTENT/articles/Analysis/Intifada\\_Mark2.htm](http://www.naba.org.uk/CONTENT/articles/Analysis/Intifada_Mark2.htm)