

WHAT DO GEDOLEI YISROEL HAVE TO SAY ABOUT “ERETZ HAKODESH”?

“...Generation after generation, the Satan uses every way to entice us, and Boruch HaShem we are still here; and we'll withstand this era also! Bitter will be the end of one who goes with them, and fortunate will be the one who guards himself from them now... It's an איסור גמור to go with the WZO, we have no connection with them...”

MARAN POSEK HADOR RAV MOSHE STERNBUCH, in special video message 4 Nissan 5785

Q. What's the definition of the issur – a [halachic] issur or a problem of Chillul HaShem? A. It's everything – being partners with the secular. I'll say words that are bit too sharp – if the decision would be regarding serving Avodah Zora, would there still be a question? No! This is Avodah Zora; kefir is like Avodah Zora, and even worse! ... *Q. Is there an issur on each individual on voting?* A. Each and every individual. Just like if there would an idea that we have to go serve Avoda Zora, would that be a collective issur or on each individual? The WZO says that Am Yisroel is a nation of secularists, and each individual has to declare that he opposed to that. *Q. People ask – is there an issur to vote?* A. **A very, very, very, very, grave issur!** *Q. They say that there were Gedolei Yisroel זצ"ל, in the previous generations, who permitted [i.e., the clip of Rav Chaim Kanievisky appearing to give support to “Eretz Hakodesh”].* A. They didn't present them with the question in the way they should have. [These Gedolim] were immersed in Torah and Mitzvos, and the question was presented to them incorrectly...

RAV DOV LANDAU Rosh Yeshivas Slabodka, in special video message 25 Adar 5758

Q. Rosh Yeshiva, they're asking, from chutz l'aretz, if it's true that the Rosh Yeshiva supports voting for “Eretz Hakodesh”. A. Many asked me, also from chutz l'aretz. **I told every one of them that they are obligated to heed the psak of Rav Dov, 100%. There is nothing to doubt, there is nothing to discuss.**

RAV MOSHE HILLEL HIRSCH, Rosh Yeshivas Slabodka, in recording released 26 Nissan 5785

For a hundred and twenty five years, every Yid, every household which is Shomer Torah and Mitzvos, understood that this is not for us... we can't be mischaber with them. And then suddenly, five years ago, a few people turned up and made a party, and they want to be mishtatef with the World Zionist Organization. ... They present darkness as light, and sheker as emes. Is there a single גדול בישראל who knows the מצב and supports them? There's not one.

RAV AHARON FELDMAN, Rosh Yeshivas Ner Yisrael, in public drosha at major assifa against “Eretz Hakodesh” held in Beis Midrash Govoha Lakewood, 19 Adar 5785. Also attending were **Rav Malkiel Kotler, Rav Yisroel Neuman, Rav Yeruchem Olshin, Rav Elya Ber Wachtogel and Rav Dovid Schustal.**

In 5770 when some from the fringes of the community began some affiliation with the WZO, **my father-in-law Rabbon Shel Yisroel Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashev voiced his vociferous protest** ... What is there for us to say today, when people who present themselves as Chareidi, out of their desire for funds and jobs, have become partners in the “Eretz Hakodesh” party, and have launched a campaign to incite Chareidim to participate in the elections for the WZO, with the same excuses that the Mizrachi always had...

RAV EZRIEL AURBACH, letter from Shvat 5785

16th Av 5784. I hereby testify that Rabbeinu the Rosh Yeshiva **RAV GERSHON EIDELSTEIN** זצ"ל expressed his displeasure in the actions of Chareidi individuals taking part in the World Zionist Organization and its institutions. He intended to publicize a letter to the public on this, but to our regret the opportunity passed. Signed, **Meir Kessler** (Rov of Kiryat Sefer)
Addition by **Rav Tzvi Yehudah Eidelstein**, Adar 5785: I hereby join with the testimony of Rav Kessler, I because am aware that my father זצ"ל was deeply displeased by these activities...

... the geonim the Chofetz Chaim, the Gerrer Rebbe, Rav Chaim of Brisk, the Chazon Ish, Rav Aharon Kotler, the Steipler, Rav Elazar Menachem Man Shach, and Rav Yosef Shalom Elyashiv, zichronam livracha, forbade joining the World Zionist Organization (WZO). The Chofetz Chaim ruled that it is forbidden to join it even if this means a third of the yeshivos will have to close. Similarly, recently, a ruling forbidding this was issued by Maran Hagaon Rav Dov Landau shlit"a. About five years ago, a party of Chareidim was formed with the declared intention of joining the WZO. ... **We have therefore agreed to publicize our opinion that it is forbidden to vote for any party in the election for the WZO.** ... For this we have gathered and agreed upon on Thursday, the 20th of Adar, 5785.

MOETZES GEDOLEI HATORAH OF AMERICA

To receive all these messages from Gedolei Yisroel, as well as many others, along with in-depth research into the people behind “Eretz Hakodesh”, their goals and what they've been doing over the last five years, visit www.harehbetzba.com or email ukfortorah@gmail.com