

I was watching the Phillies game on television. The crowd began to chant “USA, USA!” It was clear the players did not know why, nor did the announcers at first. Evidently, the news of the killing of bin Laden had been discovered by fans on their iPhones or other devices. Soon the broadcasters were informed, and they announced that the world’s most wanted and notorious terrorist was dead.

I sent a few Tweets to my list of followers after the killing of bin Laden. The first Tweet quoted the Biblical injunction not to rejoice when your enemy dies. The Bible warns us about this because it is such a natural and normal reaction, but I suggested in that Tweet that the day of his death was best used to remember the victims of September 11. Later, I refined my thinking in another Tweet: Today, we mourn the fact that we have so many good reasons to celebrate the death of bin Laden.

I found that many people were conflicted about how to react to the killing of bin Laden. There was a part of them that was glad he had been killed, and another part that wondered if it was right to be happy over the killing of any human being.

For me, this is an important issue. I am glad that something inside of people said that we are not the kind of individuals, nor the kind of society, that holds street parties because of a death. However, we should not ignore the fact that we are not talking about an average human being. We are talking about one of the most evil and vile individuals to ever walk the earth. Did I run around joyously singing “Ding dong, the witch is dead?” No. But I am glad bin Laden was killed, I am proud that it was our military that got him, and I am glad they dumped his body into the sea so that there would be no gravesite to become a shrine. My only personal regret is that he was given any

sort of burial rites at all. I would have been in favor of simply dumping the remains overboard.

Of all the reactions to the killing of bin Laden, the most significant to me were the ones that came from Gaza and the West Bank. From Gaza, the head of Hamas, Ismail Haniya, said “We believe that this continues an American policy that is based on oppression and on the shedding of Arab and Muslim blood. Regardless of the different views in Arab and Islamic circles, we, of course, condemn the assassination or killing of a Muslim *mujahid* and an Arab. We pray for Allah to cover him with His mercy, next to the prophets, the righteous, and the martyrs.”

I too prayed about what God should do with bin Laden, but I am afraid my prayers were far less gracious. They did, however, have the virtue of being just.

One might say that such a reaction is expected from Hamas, but there is a much more moderate group in the West Bank. What did they have to say? Fatah, the governing body in the West Bank, said the following, “The Islamic nation awoke to a catastrophe, the reports of the martyr’s death of the Sheikh, Jihad-fighter Osama bin Laden, in a treacherous manner, by the gangs of heretics and those who stray. The military wings of the Jihad fighters in Palestine and outside of it, who have in the past lost many of their commanders and their men, will not stop.”

These are the people with whom our President and State Department want Israel to make peace. Do they sound like partners in any sort of peace process? It is clearly a rhetorical question.

So we have the moderate Palestinians condemning the assassination of bin Laden in even stronger terms than

Hamas, we have Hamas vowing again today not to give up a single inch of land for a Jewish state, we have bin Laden hailed as a martyr, and Islamists vowing to continue their campaign of terror and dying themselves as long as they can kill Israelis at the same time. Please tell us, Mr. President and Secretary Clinton, where you suggest we begin talking?