

## LETTERS

offers by several Israeli prime ministers or, as now, are refusing to enter into negotiations unless Israel accepts pre-conditions. Forman's failure to appreciate this is disappointing.

MONTY M. ZION  
Tel Mond

Sir, – Reeva Forman talks about her proud *ubuntu*. She tries to apply what she learned to the situation in Israel.

I also grew up in South Africa, but with a proud Yiddish heritage. *Ret nit kein narishkeit* (don't talk nonsense) – one cannot and should not compare the two situations.

On the same page, South African Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein writes that Israel must "move away from the philosophy of David Ben-Gurion" to "promote the cause of truth. I humbly suggest that he starts with his excellent contacts and contributions from the South African Jewish community to make the South African government more even-handed in its policies toward Israel and the Palestinians.

BENNY GLUCH  
Beit Shemesh

Sir, – Reeva Forman is entitled to her opinions. But equating Israelis who lay "claim to the biblical definition of Israel which includes Judea and Samaria" with the Palestinian right-wing fringe, "which calls for the total destruction of the Jewish State of Israel" (and praises and rewards those who cold-bloodedly murder innocent civilians,

from the PA is the least we can do now.

YONATAN SILVERMAN  
Tel Aviv

## Manipulation?

Sir, – Lithuanian Jewish Holocaust survivors (and historians) have seen a lot of manipulation of Lithuanian-Jewish issues by Lithuanian government operatives in recent years, but "Israel has a friend in Lithuania" (Comment & Features, November 24), by two self-styled representatives of Lithuanian Jewry, beats everything.

I never thought I'd live to see this line coming from a Western or Jewish pen (unless snuck in by far-right Baltic revisionist, anti-Semitic historians who know how to court very useful Jews in the West): "The first [issue] is the way [Lithuania] has celebrated its early freedom from the Soviets – the first time – in 1941. That freedom came at the hands of Nazi control – and consequently at the peril of the Jewish community."

No. It was not "at the peril" of the Jewish community. It was the onset of the actual Lithuanian Holocaust launched by barbaric murderers associated with the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF) and other fascist organizations who are now honored by Lithuania's government, even as expensive, extensive and lavish efforts are made to cover it all up with sunflowers, sesame seeds and seasoning.

DOVID KATZ  
Vilnius