

by their *pro bono* Israeli lawyer Larry Dub and Israeli prisoner rights advocate Herut Lapid.

As they began the conversation, which was described to *Hamodia* by Mrs. Pollard in a previously unpublished conversation a decade ago, Eitan told them the only thing he was sorry about was that he did not “finish the job” before leaving the United States.

**When asked what he meant by this, Eitan bluntly replied, “If I had been at the embassy when Pollard came to seek asylum, I would have put a bullet through his head. There would have been no Pollard affair.”**

Stunned, Mrs. Pollard and the others stared at Eitan as he continued:

“The next day, I would have seen to it that the news reports stated that an American intruder had attacked a guard at the Israeli embassy — no mention of any spy affair — and that in the scuffle a gun went off and the American was killed. There would have been no Pollard case. That is the only thing I am sorry about.”

It is telling that, according to the *Washington Post*, “All intelligence work is a partnership with crime,” Eitan once told an Israeli media interviewer. “Morals are put aside.”

“That statement symbolizes the way Eitan looked at life and the way he treated Jonathan Pollard,” a close friend of the Pollards, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told *Hamodia* on Sunday. “Such an attitude towards Israel’s enemies is understandable, but toward one’s own agent is unconscionable.

“Eitan had many opportunities to try to make amends for his evil deeds, but in keeping with the words of *Chazal* (*Eruvin* 19a), which teaches that the wicked do not repent even at the gate of Gehinnom, he chose not to do so,” the friend added.

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After serving 30 years in prison, Jonathan Pollard was granted parole in November of 2015.

Yet he is far from a free man. His very harsh parole restrictions include wearing a GPS monitoring system that consists of a bulky non-removable transmitter installed on his wrist, and two box receivers that are plugged into outlets in his cramped Manhattan studio apartment, which he shares with his wife. Whenever he moves outside the range of the receiver, the transmitter — which is three inches long and two inches wide — acts as a GPS tracker and monitors his location. Were Mr. Pollard to step out of his apartment to *daven* with a *minyan* or get some fresh air on Shabbos or Yom Tov, the battery would quickly drain, forcing him to choose between violating Shabbos or facing rearrest.

The parole restrictions also include a “curfew” that puts him under house arrest between 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. During the daytime, he is only permitted to be in specific parts of southern Manhattan, and is even prohibited from visiting Brooklyn. The restrictions also include the unfettered monitoring and inspection of any computer he touches, including those of any employer who might choose to hire him, which has prevented him from being able to gain employment.



Rafael Eitan

AP Photo/Baz Ratner, File

THE MEDIA  
TURNED EITAN  
INTO A HERO AND  
CONTINUED TO  
BURY JONATHAN  
POLLARD

Since his release on parole, the Pollards have declined all requests for media interviews.

However, the family friend told *Hamodia* that the media coverage of Eitan’s death brought back a flood of memories for the Pollards, who have been shown many of the obituaries that have appeared in various newspapers. This includes Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu eulogizing him as one of “the heroes of the intelligence services of the State of Israel,” and Mossad Director Yossi Cohen saying that Eitan’s “work and his actions will be etched in gold letters in the annals of the state.”

“Jonathan has probably read twenty such obituaries in the last few days,” the family friend says. “He feels that the way the media is handling Eitan’s death symbolizes the way he was treated all these years by the government of Israel.

“This is the man most responsible for Israel’s betrayal of its own agent, and he is the one who had Jonathan thrown out of the embassy. Now Jonathan says he is ‘being thrown out of these obituaries like roadkill ...”

In a series of painful conversations with his friend in recent days, Pollard told him, “This is tragically typical of the government of Israel. Not only how it treats its bona fide agent, but how it treats its soldiers and citizens as a whole. They willingly accept our commitment and devotion, our sacrificing everything we have for the sake of Israel, and then throw us to the wolves when problems arise that threaten their political standing ...”

A legal observer who has been closely following the Pollard case for many years, but who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue, says he found the media coverage troubling.

“They turned Eitan into a hero and continued to bury Jonathan Pollard,” he said.

A week after Rafi Eitan died, Ronen Bergman published in *Yediot Acharonot* the last chapters of thirteen years of interviews with him, including an interview Eitan gave him on the condition that it not be published until after his death.

Bergman writes that Eitan expressed a deep regret over what happened to Pollard and claimed, “We did everything in order to save him.”

Eitan denied that he was the one who told Pollard to come to the embassy, and ended the interview by saying, “Sometimes in quiet moments when I think to myself, I think of the moment when I am going to meet with Jonathan.”

“What are you going to tell him?” Bergman asked.

“I will ask for his forgiveness. I will ask forgiveness for the *gehinnom* that he went through in jail. I apologize from the depth of my heart.”

When Pollard’s friend asked him about Eitan’s statements to Bergman, Jonathan described them as crocodile tears.

“There are two elements to *teshuvah*,” Pollard told him. “One is expressing regret. The other is making amends to correct the evil done to another. Eitan had 33 years to do both and he did neither. Over the years, people asked him about what he told my wife at that meeting in 1998 about his regretting not putting a bullet in my head. He would just smile ...

“What he supposedly told Bergman is contrary to everything he did all these years,” Pollard flatly stated, saying that not only did Eitan refuse to help Pollard, he willfully interfered with efforts that his lawyers in Israel undertook on his behalf.

“Not once did he express regret to me, my wife or anyone close to us,” Pollard insisted.

*Some readers may wonder about the purpose of exposing the shady past of a man only days after his death. The answer is simple: When an intelligence chief who betrayed his own agent is depicted as paragon of courage, not only are justice and historical accuracy victimized, but a dangerous message is sent to the world about who deserves to be revered and who deserves to be remembered in infamy.*

*It is vital that the truth be told so that all can know who our villains are and who our heroes are. ■*