

The Joy Of Giving

As usual, both the people and the government of the United States have outclassed the rest of the world in the speed and scale of their response to human suffering – in this case, that caused by the tsunami in the Indian Ocean. **InstaPundit** notes some of this:

AMAZON.COM is accepting donations for Tsunami relief. The total is currently \$112,000.00, but it's rising very rapidly.

[At the time we are writing this, Amazon.com's customers' donations stand at just under one *million* dollars.]

Jeff Jarvis says that Amazon is already sending more money for tsunami relief than the French government.

[...]

The Everett-based aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln is headed to the Indian Ocean to help with tsunami relief efforts.

[...]

More than 5,000 military personnel of the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group 5 will skip their New Year's holiday on Guam to fulfill a humanitarian mission in Sri Lanka.

Total US aid for the tsunami disaster is expected to run into **billions of dollars**.

Jan Egeland, chief of 'humanitarian aid' for the UN, described the 'rich countries'' response as 'stingy'. The US Government interpreted this as an insult to America in particular, as indeed it was intended to be.

A.E.Brain responds as follows to similar insults to another exemplary donor, Australia:

Like the War on Terror, we're all in this together. In cases like this, we don't worry about what stupid and insulting things various Malaysian government bigwigs have said about us recently, nor even whether today's victims in Aceh were slaughtering Christians and burning

down Churches last week. When Mother Nature throws a tantrum, we save 'em all, and let God sort them out.

However, the country that that romps home with first prize in the no-good-deed-ever-goes-unpunished category is **Israel**. Within hours of the disaster, the IDF who, by sad necessity, are world leaders in disaster relief expertise and technology, put together a rescue package. It consisted of a jumbo jet containing 80 tons of food and medical supplies, plus, crucially, 150 medical and other disaster relief specialists. They were due to fly out to Sri Lanka this morning.

What happened next? Unfortunately, you will not guess, because you can't make this stuff up.

First of all, the Sri Lankan government refused permission for any Israeli relief workers to enter the country. They graciously accepted the supplies, though. So the IDF sent the supplies (who knows where they will end up?) and told the volunteers – 60 military and 90 civilian – who would have set up emergency field hospitals including surgical and pediatric units, to go back home.

The Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* **commented** on these events:

The Vatican newspaper has denounced what it called a decision by the IDF to deny emergency help to disaster victims in Sri Lanka.

Calling for "a radical and dramatic change of perspective" among people "too often preoccupied with making war," *L'Osservatore Romano* singled out Israeli military leaders for declining a request for emergency medical help.

At the time of the non-existent '**Jenin massacre**', *L'Osservatore* got equally excited about Israel's '**aggression that turns into extermination**'. Israel's extraordinary humanitarian actions in the middle of a war were drowned in a tsunami of unmerited hatred.

Update: The Diplomat helpfully distinguishes US aid from UN babble.

Further Update: More **Diplomatic comments** on more unmerited hatred.

Yet another update – Vatican newspaper story was a 'translation error', says **Catholic World News** (they don't say what the error was or who made it):

Vatican, Dec. 28 (CWNews.com) - The Vatican newspaper has denounced a decision by Sri Lanka to reject emergency aid offered by the Israeli government. Sri Lanka declined the Israeli aid because it would have been furnished by a military team.

Calling for "a radical and dramatic change of perspective" among people "too often preoccupied with making war," *L'Osservatore Romano* chastised the government of the

stricken Asian nation for putting unnecessary restrictions on an Israeli offer to furnish medical help.

And still more: The UN is a sham. Indeed. And a scam.

Wed, 12/29/2004 - 07:09 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permalink](#)

Has anyone noticed how many a

Has anyone noticed how many articles on this site are linked back to poor hard-done-by Isreal in some way. I think this tradegy in Asia is awful and you spend the last third of the article feeling sorry for your pet country - it's disgusting!

by a reader on Wed, 12/29/2004 - 14:00 | [reply](#)

Disgust

Different people are disgusted by different things, I suppose. Idiotic, self-defeating hatred causing Sri Lanka to keep out people WHO WANT TO HELP DISASTER VICTIMS is one of the most disgusting things I have heard in a long, long time.

But I can see that, for you, the fact that the website "[Setting the World to Rights](#)" mentions Israel often, is more disgusting. Well, we all have our priorities.

by Blixia on Wed, 12/29/2004 - 17:09 | [reply](#)

Disgusting?

(I tried to edit this entry several times and it kept disappearing. If duplicates appear, I apologize.)

I don't understand this objection at all.

It would be useless to write posts that merely repeat known facts about events.

What's useful to readers is analysis of how some events relate to others; and what truths about how the world works are revealed by reactions to events.

Yes, [The World](#) is interested in Israel. It believes that opinions about Israel often expose an important, pervasive, moral problem that needs to be explored, understood, and solved.

I think that the reader who says "It's disgusting" for [The World](#) to notice, again, how unfairly Israel is regularly treated around the world only helps to support the World's point.

Gil

by [Gil](#) on Wed, 12/29/2004 - 23:07 | [reply](#)

Lileks

I notice that Lileks [comments](#) on the Sri Lanka/Israel incident, too.

He makes a good point:

It's always instructive to see what people revert back to after a tragedy, and how long it takes. But in this case it would be churlish to close the purse. There's the government, and then there's the people. No need here to punish the latter for the idiocy of the former.

Gil

by **Gil** on Wed, 12/29/2004 - 23:08 | [reply](#)

Not Unnoticed

It has not gone unnoticed that among the first to offer a hand to help SE Asia were Jewish service organizations in and across the United States. I applaud those selfless actions of so many. I appreciate the text of the above. It should be noted that some do not understand. It should be noted that such persons and organizations respond to great need anyway. Humanitarian aid says it all. These are people and organizations that care what happens to other human beings.

by a reader on Thu, 12/30/2004 - 22:02 | [reply](#)

Cheap Shots Abounding, UN and Nation States

The UN is neither a scam or a sham. It is toothless in its pronouncements and still a pesky thorn in every leader's side but so be it. All Nation states wish it to be toothless unless it suits their politics. When UN meddling doesn't suit their political interests, say, go away UN don't bother me.

As the UN slogan says, "Its your World". Make of it what you will.

by a reader on Sat, 01/01/2005 - 16:39 | [reply](#)

Not cheap shots

We recommend that the reader read the links we provided to The Diplomad. The allegations made there are neither cheap shots nor related to the ones s/he is countering.

by **Editor** on Sat, 01/01/2005 - 18:00 | [reply](#)

Diplomad is not the subject

The Editor must have misunderstood. Cheap shots are taken all the time at and between the nation states on various subjects. That is the point. Yet the current coalition of the willing includes the United States, France, United Kingdom, India, and the United Nations. That fact of willing participation is neither a sham or a scam.

by a reader on Sat, 01/01/2005 - 23:01 | [reply](#)

Islamofascist Tsunami Charity

I wonder how much the supporters and financiers of islamofascism will contribute to the relief of those suffering from the great tsunami calamity in southeast asia?

The saudi and iranian and other islamo clergy and terrorist psychopathic islamo lunatics will probably see this as a message from allah for everyone to convert to islamo lunacy.

by pilgrim on Sat, 01/01/2005 - 23:34 | [reply](#)
