



THE INSTITUTE FOR ISRAEL & JEWISH STUDIES
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

— *present* —

PROFESSOR ZION ZOHAR

Director and Chair,
President Navon Program for the Study
of Sephardic and Oriental Jewry, Florida International University

— *in a lecture on* —

**A Dangerous “Alliance”: Media,
Academia, and Religious Radicalism in Israel
The Case of *Pulsa DeNura***

Shortly after the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on November 4, 1995, the news media reported that a group of Kabbalists had pronounced a death curse on him in a special mystical ritual called *Pulsa DeNura*. Ten years later the ritual was performed once again — this time against Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon for his decision to withdraw Jews from the Gaza Strip. Six months later Sharon fell into a coma from which he has not yet recovered. In this lecture, Dr. Zohar will explore the origins of *Pulsa DeNura* and how radical, right wing activists have managed to manipulate the media and mislead top scholars into believing that *Pulsa DeNura* is a powerful, authentic kabbalist ritual/death curse.

Thursday, January 31, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.
The Frieda & Milton Rosenthal Auditorium
Schermehorn Hall (Room 501)
Columbia University

— *free and open to the public* —