



MEMO TO PRESIDENT BIDEN

# “Where True Friends of Israel Stand on 5 Critical Issues”

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Facts And Logic About the Middle East

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**Dear President Biden,**

**We are your constituents. We represent more than 35,000 supporters of Israel—Jews, Christians and unaffiliated. Our paid messages clarifying issues in the Middle East—which above all support a strong U.S.-Israel relationship—reach millions of Americans regularly in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* and other mainstream media.**

As your administration sets its priorities for Middle East policy, we want you to be aware of our strong and studied positions on five critical issues.

As you know, there's much at stake, and America can't afford to get it wrong. Many will try to bend your ear to radical positions, but you have promised you will be a conciliator—a leader who will set reasoned, moderate policies.

We urge you to adopt the following strategies in your dealings with Israel and our other Middle East allies . . . as well as our avowed enemy, Iran.

### **Issue #1:**

#### **No fool's deal with Iran: Any new version of the JCPOA with the Islamic Republic must address all major threats.**

Above all, Iran is dedicated to spreading a radical Shiite revolution globally by any means available, including terror, colonization of other states, and—ultimately—nuclear weapons.

The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) fell short on a number of key points:

**No cheating.** First, it failed to prevent Iran's cheating, lacking a robust system of immediate, on-demand inspections. Western intelligence has shown the Islamic Republic has lied and continues to lie about its past nuclear weapons programs and its continued nuclear development.

**No nuclear weapons.** The next Iran deal must insist that Iran agree to a complete, permanent halt to its nuclear weapons program—not a mere delay of several years in its nuclear ambitions. This must include the destruction of all of its precursor materials and technology infrastructure.

**No ICBMs.** Your administration should also ensure that Iran ceases its development of intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, as required by the 2015 UNSC Res. 2231.

**No foreign terror.** Iran must cease attacks and colonization of its neighbors and other forms of invasive terror. It must cease its funding for foreign terrorists, stop its pernicious involvement in regional conflicts and end the violent export of extremist Shiite revolutionary ideology.

**Support by allies and Congress.** Finally, it is vital that the U.S. should involve not just Western nations but also our regional allies most threatened by Iran—Israel and Saudi Arabia—in formulating the next deal. In addition, the U.S. Congress must provide advice and consent on the next deal, which it did not on the last JCPOA.

### **Issue #2:**

#### **America must support and expand the Abraham Accords—the most momentous Middle East peace initiative in 26 years.**

With four peace or normalization agreements signed between the State of Israel and Arab countries, there is unprecedented momentum in the Middle East toward a more peaceful future in one of the globe's most treacherous regions.

The Abraham Accords represent the best possibility for regional peace—including an Israel-Palestinian peace—since the Israel-Jordan peace agreement of 1994.

**This new agreement is not only good for the peoples of that area, but also vital to America's interests.** With Egypt and Jordan, a total of six Arab nations now have full diplomatic relations with Israel—and that number is growing.

Even Sudan, the place where the “Three Nos” of the infamous Khartoum Resolution were cried in 1967—“no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it”—has now become the nation of “Three Yeses.” Sudan now has peace with Israel, recognizes it and is negotiating a deal with it. The symbolic Arab embrace of the conflict with Israel has been nullified in the very place it was most forcefully pronounced.

There is a growing recognition that Jews and Arabs can chart a new course forward together, without being held back by the refusal of the Palestinians to make peace. For too long, Sunni nations were held hostage to the whims of Palestinian leaders who would dictate Arab relations in the region and use them as bargaining chips against Israel.

American allies, such as Israel and the pragmatic Arab regimes in the region, are now officially on the same side and increasingly finding common ground. This clears the path for American diplomats to create new realities that better serve U.S. interests.

**A new robust and open coalition against Iran and its imperial ambitions has emerged in the Middle East, largely brokered by America.** This strengthens the forces of moderation against the forces of extremism, which extend from Iran through Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Palestinian terrorist groups.

Ironically, the original Iran deal brought Israel and the Sunni states together in opposition to the agreement. Now, Mr. President, you have the opportunity to create the greatest era of peace the Middle East has ever known, particularly since its re-formation following World War II.

**Congress should approve any deal with Iran**

### Issue #3:

#### **The U.S. must firmly guide Palestinian leadership to a realistic peace with Israel.**

Even with peace breaking out all around them, the Palestinians—both the Palestinian Authority (PA) in Judea-Samaria (aka the West Bank) and Hamas in Gaza—continue to reject peace negotiations with Israel. Nor have either of these fierce enemies—of each other—moved toward reconciliation. Both also still cling to their determination to defeat and eliminate the Jewish state.

The PA—most abhorrently—continues to pay sizeable monthly stipends and pensions to convicted terrorists, including murderers, in Israeli jails. These “pay-to-slay” payments are proportionate to the number of Israelis murdered and the havoc wrought, and consume a considerable amount of the PA’s budget.

This, coupled with pervasive and vicious anti-Israel and antisemitic propaganda starting in the schoolhouses of the Palestinian territories, belies any claim of desire for peace by the corrupt PA leadership—other than a peace built on the grave of Israel.

PA media should likewise be purged of all denial of Jewish history and rights in the Holy Land, and Israel should be restored on all of their maps.

#### **The Biden foreign-policy team must retire the failed and illogical notion that the Israel-Palestinian conflict is about land, borders or the so-called “occupation.”**

Countless offers that would have created a Palestinian state were rejected by Palestinian leaders—never because of the amount of land or the position of a future border.

*Indeed, the issue has never been about a Palestinian state.* If it were, any of several Palestinian leaders could have said yes to numerous Israeli and international offers over the years—whether in 1937, 1947, 1967, 2000 or 2008—and today there would be a Palestinian state and no conflict.

These generous proposals were rejected solely because the Palestinian leadership would have to accept the reality of Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish people. This confirms Israelis’ conviction that the Palestinians cling to their decades-old commitment to *eliminate the Jewish state*.

If your administration wants to unclog the bottleneck that has mired the peace process for more than half a century, it will demand up front that Palestinian leaders state openly and officially that Israel is a Jewish state. There should be no concessions toward the Palestinians—not on U.S. bilateral ties with the PA, nor any movement on the peace process—until this fundamental demand has been met.

These elements—especially acceptance of Israel as a Jewish state and eliminating state-sponsored incitement to terrorism—are the litmus tests for Palestinian seriousness towards ending the conflict and achieving peace with Israel. The con-

### **The U.S. should not fund Palestinians’ pay-for-slay**

flict cannot end—ever—if the Palestinians will not recognize the identity and foundational character of the Jewish state. It cannot end if the murder of Israeli citizens continues and their Palestinian murderers are lionized and incentivized.

### Issue #4:

#### **Continue your assertive and insistent rejection of anti-Semitism according to the IHRA definition.**

Antisemitism is a unique form of prejudice that has permeated all levels of society and rages at both ends of the ideological spectrum, whether far-Right or far-Left. It has been called “the oldest hatred” because it predates almost all others, especially in the West.

The most pernicious and modern isotope of antisemitism poses as anti-Zionism—the denial of the Jewish people’s indigenous rights to a state in their ancient homeland, Israel.

As the anti-Semitism definition adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance notes, this issue has nothing to do with legitimate criticism of the Israeli government’s policies and programs. It has, however, everything to do with singling out the nation Israel as a national pariah, and—by extension—all Jews as unique, dark agents of an evil force.

#### **In fact, it is only considered antisemitism when a person or institution steps into territory whereby they delegitimize, demonize, or subject Israel to double standards—the “Three D’s” formulated by Natan Sharansky.**

This definition has been adopted by some 28 nations, and endorsed by our own U.S. State Department. Your administration should continue to stand against all forms of racism against the Jewish people.

A prime example anti-Semitism is a recent statement by U.S. Representative Rashida Tlaib, one of your Democratic colleagues. Tlaib’s latest accusation—republished by many news media—is that Israel is an apartheid state because it “refuses” to provide Covid-19 vaccinations to Palestinians living in area administered by the Palestinian Authority.

Tlaib’s statement is a lie. Israel has already vaccinated some 100,000 Palestinians who work in Israel. However, under the Camp David accords, Palestinians in the disputed territories are under the exclusive healthcare jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority—including vaccinations. The PA also *refuses any dealings* with the Israeli government.

Like Rep. Tlaib, the new anti-Semites do not proclaim their desire to subject Jews to mass murder or annihilation (aside from the fanatics in Teheran). Rather, their hatred is aimed *against the state of Israel*, which, according to the new anti-Semites is the main violator of human rights in the world. Jews as a people are seen by both the right and left in the U.S. as a pernicious force in this country. In fact, Jews are the target of more hate crimes than any other ethnic group in America.

**We rely on you, Mr. President, to speak loudly from your bully pulpit against the scourge of anti-Semitism.** Your

words are vital to unifying all Americans in the rejection of any form of racism, including antisemitism. Any individual, organization or movement that espouses antisemitism should be rejected by you and your team, even if some of that entity's policies are otherwise praiseworthy.

Those who engage in anti-Semitic acts should be vigorously prosecuted by your Justice Department, and funding appeals by Jewish organization for safety and security measures should be viewed with urgency.

### **Issue #5:**

#### **Restore bipartisan support for Israel in the U.S. Congress and Administration**

It is a bitter irony that even as Israel achieves greater success in the Middle East—peace agreements with Arab Gulf states, recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a halt to U.S. funding of Palestinian terrorism, growing opposition to the hateful BDS movement—so do Israel's enemies grow more vocal in the halls of power in Washington.

By any measure of history, diplomacy or morality, Israel has grown to become one of America's proudest, most reliable and most powerful allies.

Israel and the United States share deeply held moral values based on Judeo-Christian roots. Both countries stand unalterably committed to democratic principles, the rule of law, and civil and religious liberties for all of their citizens.

No wonder the friendship between Israel and the United States and the strength of the alliance runs deep—in economic partnerships, strategic cooperation, military and intelligence collaboration, humanitarian assistance and cultural ties.

All this has resulted from decades of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill and in the White House regarding Israel relations. To be sure, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, there have been conflicts and disagreements between the two countries—but these issues have always been overcome by the great reservoir of goodwill between the parties.

#### **But ominous threats against Israel are mounting in Congress, Mr. President—and in the Executive Branch as well.**

Anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism have become more “mainstreamed” in the halls of the U.S. Congress—especially by the presence of openly anti-Israel, anti-Semitic Representatives Omar and Tlaib, as well as newer members from Georgia, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Green and Sen. Raphael Warnock.

Public opinion polls show a greater partisan rift between Israel's supporters and detractors, although popular support by U.S. citizens for Israel remains wide and rock-steady.

Despite a trend within the “progressive” wing of your party to regard Israel with disfavor, nearly 70% of Americans support the Jewish state (compared to the Palestinian Authority). Indeed, you have long been a staunch supporter of Israel,

including voting in the Senate to relocate the U. S. Embassy to Israel's capital city, Jerusalem, and so much more.

When Rep. Omar made particularly intemperate remarks that were unquestionably anti-Semitic, Congress was unable to pass a straightforward resolution condemning her and her antisemitism specifically. Other members of Congress have hurled the obnoxious and utterly false term, “Apartheid,” to characterize Israel in their polemics.

Members of your administration are advocating a return of funding to the Palestinian Authority, despite its obstinate financial support of terrorists. More progressive members of Congress and your administration have waffled on issues of Israeli aid, diplomatic support for the Abraham Accords and pursuit of further Israeli-Arab détente.

Some elected officials support a return to failed Middle East policies of the past, which did nothing to further the path to peace and reconciliation, but were rather impediments to the parties reaching commonsense solutions. Some of these past initiatives carried a high price in blood and treasure to Israelis and Arabs alike.

**We ask that you rebut the forces in your party who would undermine our bipartisan support for Israel,** and to quash legislative initiatives that scapegoat Israel and benefit its authoritarian opponents. The pro-Israel tone and announcements of your own administration should undercut those who would subvert the American-Israeli alliance, and provide no succor for those who would turn Israel's security into a destructive, partisan issue.



#### **Mr. President, by following the policies outlined here, your Administration can become the greatest Middle East peacemaker of all time.**

These recommendations offer clear pathways for the success of your administration, for our country and for the people of the Middle East. This region has been a tinderbox for far too long, and you now enjoy an momentous inflection point at which you can resolve so many issues that have frustrated progress for Jews and Arabs alike.

Finally, while issues of racism have drawn America's urgent attention, we implore you to include the scourge of anti-Semitism in your efforts to eradicate hate at home and abroad.

With all support for your Administration, we hope you will seize the opportunity to address these issues of self-determination, security for the U.S. and its allies, and peace among all nations.

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