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FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

April 4, 2017

Under the Banner of *Intersectionality*, Zionists are Banned from Feminist and Social Justice Groups

Dear Friend of FLAME:

At a national gay-rights conference, a reception sponsored by a group whose purpose is to promote “LGBTQ connections with Israel” was cancelled due to an outcry by anti-Israel protestors.

Apparently if you support Israel, you can’t be a friend of gay rights, because a doctrine called “intersectionality” holds that because Israel is deemed a “colonial enterprise” by the Left, it cannot be a friend of any form of social justice. This despite the fact that Israel’s cultural and legal values hospitable to LGBTQ people are unmatched in the Middle East and in most of the world.

An Arab-American activist, Linda Sarsour, who was instrumental in organizing events around the world on International Women’s Day, which calls for gender equality and an end to racial and sexual violence, maintains that if you are a Zionist, you can’t be a feminist.

“Is there room for people who support the state of Israel and do not criticize it in the movement?” There can’t be in feminism,” Sarsour asserts. “You either stand up for the rights of all women, including Palestinians, or none. There’s just no way around it.”

The fact that Israel grants more rights to women in general and Arab women in particular than any other Arab nation—indeed, more freedom to women than most countries on the planet—is apparently beside the point.

This syndrome is particularly acute on college campuses, where some Jews are questioned because of their possible support of Israel, before they’re allowed to serve in student government. In

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Israel's Settlements: Obstacle to Peace?

Arabs opposed the State of Israel before there were settlements—and they oppose it still today. It's time to clear up 5 false myths about settlements.

The U.S., as well as some American media and politicians, claim Israel doesn't want peace, since Jews build houses in disputed territories of Judea and Samaria (i.e. the West Bank). But the facts reveal settlements to be a misconception. What's much greater obstacle to any peace is...

What are the facts?

Palestinian Arabs have violently fought Israel's existence since the Jewish state's founding and only much later cited Israel's settlements as an obstacle to peace. When Israel withdrew its settlements in Gaza in 2005, it was rewarded with a warhead war by the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas. Five major misconceptions underlie criticism of Israeli settlements.

Myth #1: Palestinians "own" these lands. In fact, Jews are indisputably the indigenous people of Palestine (including Israel, Judea and Samaria), who have lived in the region for millennia and ruled it as a state, providing Arab settlement by 1,000 years. Palestinians have never had a state nor possessed public land in the region. Thus, the idea of "Palestinian lands" is false. In fact, both people can live claim in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). It is a disputed territory.

Myth #2: Jews have no right to live in the disputed territories. Jews and Arabs have lived together for hundreds of years in Palestine. The only exception is during 19 years of British rule, when Jews were evicted from the West Bank. Today, some two million Arabs live on full citizens of Israel, and some 400,000 Jews live in Judea and Samaria. Yet Palestinians insist that no peace with Israel is possible so long as Jews live among them. In 2013, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas stated that "in the final resolution, we would not see the presence of a single Israeli—civilian or soldier—on our lands." Why should Abbas, who accuses Israel of "apartheid," issue a racist ban on Jews? Why should Arabs be welcomed in Israeli society—as they are—when Jews would be forbidden from living with Palestinians in the West Bank?

Myth #3: Israel is increasing new settlements in Judea and Samaria. In December 2014, President Obama's signed national security advice Ben-Berak complained to PLO's Hady Woodfield of "tens of thousands of settlements being constructed" by Israel. *But just no new settlements are under construction in Israel, and Israel has created no new settlements in over 20 years.* The number of settlements, plus illegal outposts, now totals just 210. While the number of settlers on living in established settlements has increased by 355,000 since 2005, the number of settlers living out of Israel's anti-Arabic separation barrier has since 2009 increased by only 20,000. Less than 1% of the population in the disputed territories, Judea, Israeli communities take up only 2% of the land of the West Bank. *Almost all the settlements are located on land not previously occupied, used or privately owned by individual Palestinians.*

Myth #4: Israel's settlements are illegal under international law. Most who assert Israeli settlements are illegal cite the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." However, Britain has settled its people into the Middle East, Turkey has settled Turks into Turkish-occupied Cyprus, and China has settled Chinese into occupied Tibet. *The Israel has never transferred any of its people into the West Bank. All settlements in Judea and Samaria have been voluntary, undertaken by private Israeli citizens. Why does the world focus on Israel—which has not broken this—while allowing other nations to violate it liberally?*

Myth #5: The Palestinians would make peace if settlement building stopped. In 2009, Israel's new settlement activity for 10 months to entice the Palestinians to negotiations sponsored by the U.S. The Palestinians refused. Indeed, Israel has made numerous land-for-peace offers to the Palestinians, most recently in 2009 and in 2010, in which the Palestinians would have received more than 90 percent of the disputed territories, plus land swaps—plus a capital for Jerusalem. *But the Arabs turned these down. They refuse to accept Israel as a Jewish state and insist on "right" of the 5 million descendants of Arab refugees from 1948 to "resettle" in Israel, which would swamp Israel demographically.*

Israel has a standing offer to resume negotiations with the Palestinians with preconditions. *But the Arabs refuse, citing Jewish settlements as an obstacle. One thing is certain: Settlements were never made to peace in 1948—what Israel was given and their were none—and they're not the obstacle today.*

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Facts and Logic About the Middle East

PO Box 2000, Columbia, SC 29202
James Sternman, President
Shirley Wolf, Executive and President Emerita

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many cases, intersectionality dictates that Zionists are simply not welcome in any social justice groups—that the two values are considered mutually exclusive.

Like most anti-Semitic attitudes, intersectionality's anti-Zionist bias is based on hate, not facts. First, Zionism is categorically not a colonial movement, but is rather a liberation movement of the Jewish people, which enabled them to return to their homeland, where they have had a continuous 3,000-year presence. Second, Jews—and Zionists—have been on the forefront of every major social justice movement in U.S. history, from civil rights and feminism to gay rights and civil liberties.

This week's FLAME *Hotline* featured article comes from Alan M. Dershowitz, Professor Emeritus of Harvard Law School, who deconstructs the scourge of intersectionality. He notes that the premise of intersectionality is invalid on its face—racism in America, for example, has no conceivable connection with Israel's opposition to the Islamist terrorist group Hamas.

But Dershowitz digs even deeper into intersectionality, showing how this mock-academic construct is not just anti-Semitic, but, equally troubling, it's anti-American.

If you have children in college or know any college students—or if you're simply a feminist or you oppose racism or support Israel—I think you'll find this article enlightening. You'll be outraged, I believe, to see how intersectionality aims to co-opt gender and racial equality and other social justice movements and exclude all but far-Left activists . . . and especially exclude those who support Israel.

Finally, I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's current *hasbarah* campaign to expose five despicable media myths about Israel's settlements in Judea and Samaria.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson
President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

PLEASE HELP US!!

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial *hasbarah* messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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P.S. You've no doubt often read in the *N.Y. Times* and other mainstream media of "Israeli settlements on Palestinian land" or "settlements regarded as illegal by the international community." Yet these objective-sounding phrases represent malicious propaganda—disguised lies told so often that millions of Americans believe them. In order to make Americans—especially college and university students—aware of this media treachery, FLAME has just begun publishing a new position paper: "[Israeli Settlements: Obstacle to Peace?](#)" This paid editorial, exposing the five greatest myths about the settlements, is appearing in magazines and newspapers, including college newspapers, with a combined readership of some 10 million people. In addition, it is being sent to every member of the U.S. Congress and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate now](#). Now more than ever we need your support to ensure that the American people and the U.S. Congress end our support of blatantly anti-Semitic, global jihadist organizations.

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The Bigotry of "Intersectionality"

By Alan M. Dershowitz, Gatestone Institute, March 29, 2017

What do the terrorist group Hamas and the anti-violence group Black Lives Matter have in common? What does the democracy of Israel have in common with the anti-Semitic Ku Klux Klan? What does the Islamic Republic of Iran, which throws gays off rooftops, have in common with gay rights activists? What do feminists have in common with radical Islamic sexists who support the honor killing and genital mutilation of women? Nothing of course. Unless you subscribe to the pseudo-academic concept of intersectionality.

Intersectionality—the radical academic theory, which holds that all forms of social oppression are inexorably linked—has become a code word for anti-American, anti-Western, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic bigotry. Nowhere has adoption of this radical paradigm been more pronounced than on college campuses where, in the name of "identity politics" and "solidarity," intersectionality has forced artificial coalitions between causes that have nothing to do with each other except a hatred for their fellow students who are "privileged" because they are white, heterosexual, male and especially Jewish.

Students at the University of Illinois (UIC) recently took to social media to express their distress after flyers were plastered around campus calling for the "end of Jewish privilege." The flyer stated in bold letters that: "ending white privilege starts with ending Jewish privilege." The posters had outlines of silhouettes with Stars of David printed out, and an arrow pointing to them with the accompanying caption "the 1%." Although some of the posters identified Black Lives Matter as sponsors, it is not clear whether they were distributed by extreme right wing groups using hard-left anti-Semitic tropes or by hard left anti-Semites. In some respects, it does not really matter because many on the hard right and hard left share a disdain for Jews, their nation state and so called "Jewish privilege."

The very concept of "privilege"—the idea that white people benefit from certain privileges in Western society, compared to non-whites living in the same social, political and economic environment—has a long and complex history in the United States. The subjugation of black Americans, and other non-whites, is an endemic problem that requires far-reaching legislative and grassroots action. By attributing this domestic social problem to so-called "Jewish privilege," radicals are engaging in traditional economic anti-Semitism; attributing far-reaching societal problems to Jewish status, occupation or economic performance.

This practice resembles the vile, anti-Semitic propaganda of the 1930s, when splashed across *Der Stürmer* was blaming Jews—and so called disproportionate Jewish wealth—for Germany's losing WWI and the country's subsequent economic downturn. Canards about Jews' controlling world finances—first promulgated by the Tsarist forgery, *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*—was anti-Semitic back then and it is anti-Semitic today, whether espoused by the extreme left or right. There is no more evidence that Jews are responsible for economic or social inequality in contemporary America, than there is for Jews being

responsible for any of the other crimes that formed the basis for traditional blood libels.

Indeed, Jews disproportionately support racial equality and other liberal causes. Most successful Jews, like most successful people of other religions and ethnicities, earned this success by hard work, not special privilege. I certainly did not begin life with any privilege—despite finishing first in my class at Yale Law School, I was rejected by all 32 of the law firms to which I applied.

The linking of unrelated "victimizations," despite their tenuous connections, is reflective of a broader trend in hard-left politics, whereby increasingly, radical activists demand that the demonization of "Zionists"—often used as a euphemism for Jews—be included, indeed featured, in the package of causes that must to be embraced by anyone claiming the label of "progressive." Lumping seemingly disparate groups under the "umbrella of oppression" leads to the forming of alliances between causes that at best, have nothing to do with each other, and at worst, are averse to one another's stated mission. Their only common feature is that to join, they must demonize the nation state of the Jewish people.

Some intersectional feminists involved with the recent Women's March on Washington, for example, purport to be natural allies with anti-Israel Muslim groups that tolerate, if not accept, the "honor killings" and genital mutilation of women. Similarly, Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP)—an organization that calls for "an end to violence against civilians, and peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East"—invited Rasmieh Odeh, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and convicted terrorist, to appear as a speaker at its national conference later this month. The idea of Odeh—a terrorist who quite literally has blood on her hands—speaking for a Jewish organization that claims to propagate peace, flies in the face of logic. Fortunately, Odeh is being deported for perjuringly failing to disclose her murder conviction. Perhaps peace-loving members of JVP will have to applaud her on Skype.

The following are among many examples of radical leftists conflating unrelated grievances. Consider the linking of our government's handling of the Flint water crisis to the "severe" water crisis in Gaza. Black Lives Matter activists have visited Gaza to express solidarity with the terrorist group Hamas, and with Palestinians oppressed by so-called racist Israeli self-defense measures. While Black Lives Matter claims to disavow violence in securing its political objectives, many of its most

prominent members are far more eager to criticize the "Israeli genocide of Palestinians" than to criticize Hamas for using rockets to target Israeli civilians.

During a recent interview on PBS's Charlie Rose program, Jonathan Haidt—social psychologist and Professor of Ethical Leadership at New York University's Stern School of Business—had this to say about the conflation of various left-wing causes under the banner of intersectionality:

"...There is a good kind of identity politics, which is, you know, if black people are being denied rights, let's fight for their rights, that's the good kind. But there is a bad kind, which is to train students, train young people to say let's divide everybody up by their race, gender, other categories. We'll assign them moral merit based on their level of privilege, which is bad, and victimhood is good. Okay, now let's look at everything through this lens. Israel, the Palestinians are the victims. So therefore, they are the good and the Jews or the Israelis are the bad... [T]here is one totalizing perspective. All social problems get reduced to this simple framework. I think we are doing them a disservice. I think we're actually making students less wise."

There is a certain irony of many feminists and gay-rights activists refusing to condemn the sexism and homophobia in the Arab world. Increasingly, they try and force other progressives to adopt a "No True Scotsman" worldview, in which they are made to feel that to be a "true progressive," one must embrace a wide variety of so-called hard-left causes, regardless of how unrelated they may be—as long as they also condemn Israel.

The essence of anti-Semitism is the bigoted claim that if there is a problem, then Jews must be its cause. Hitler started by blaming Jews for Germany's economic downturn. Today, many hard-left activists explicitly or implicitly blame Jews and Zionists for many of the evils of the world. All decent people must join in calling out intersectionality for what it is: a euphemism for anti-American, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bigotry. Exposing and condemning "intersectionality" for the bigotry that it represents is critical to ensuring that those repressive extremists, who falsely claim the mantle of progressivism, are not able to hijack important liberal causes in support of their own bigoted agenda.

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PO Box 3460

Berkeley, CA 94703

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