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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

September 5, 2017

Given the United Nations' Lack of Accountability —and Anti-Israel Obsession—Should the U.S. Cut Its Funding?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

As a defender of Israel, you know how easy it is to curse the United Nations. No wonder so many pro-Israel advocates cheered last March when President Trump announced his intent to cut 50% of U.S. funding to the U.N.

But Mr. Trump's objection to the U.N. was not focused on Israel alone. We Americans now spend some \$10 billion in hard-working-taxpayer dollars a year to support the world body, and there are dozens of reasons to question the U.S. investment.

The White House has targeted so-called peacekeeping missions, such as the one in South Sudan, as areas of waste. It also objects to state sponsors of terrorism and dictatorships, such as Iran, being placed in positions of power in various U.N. agencies. Finally, Mr. Trump wants to cut funding for programs that run counter to his domestic issues, such as the U.N. Population Fund (abortion) and the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change.

But surely the most egregious offenses committed by the United Nations and its agencies are those against our ally, Israel. Indeed, most of these travesties bear the stain of blatant anti-Semitism.

- The U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and the Tomb of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah) in Hebron to be Muslim sites, despite their centrality in Jewish history and tradition. UNESCO also termed the sites part of "occupied Palestine" and falsely accused Israel of "aggression and illegal measures taken against the freedom of [Muslim] worship."

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Exit the U.N. Human Rights Council

The U.S. should leave this anti-Semitic group, which devotes every meeting to condemning Israel, while ignoring the world's most heinous human rights crimes

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is composed of 47 nations, mostly 2/3 of which, like Saudi Arabia, China, Cuba, Egypt and Jordan, are aggressive dictatorships. Its 2017 agenda, the Middle East's only democracy, rights news dissemination, and other reports combined.

What are the facts? Richard Lakin, an Israeli school teacher who founded a school for Muslim, Christian and Jewish children, was shot in the head by Palestinian terrorists who looted a bus full of innocent children. Lakin's murder was publicized in a report by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The U.S. Human Rights Council never condemned Lakin's killing or the Palestinian Authority (PA)—nor has it condemned hundreds of other terror attacks against Israel or the PA's acts of incitement that provoke them.

Given the misstatement of millions of people by dozens of countries worldwide, why is Israel consistently and unfairly singled out for the criticism?

Democracy group officials—aggression ignored, Israel is a champion of freedom, governing its citizens—including its 20 percent Arab population, women, LGBTQ and religious minorities—all rights of speech, assembly, the rule of law and government services, including its military. For other nations on earth, after such Israel freedoms, and in the Middle East, only Israel does.

The since its founding in 2006, the United Nations Human Rights Council has condemned Israel 11 times—more condemnations than those of all other countries combined, including Syria, Sudan, North Korea and Iran. In 2016 alone, UNHRC Council voted on nearly 100 resolutions against Israel (over North Korea and Syria combined). No wonder: Israel is the only nation that has a standing UNHRC agenda item that is not in its constitution.

What explains this inequity? First, there is the predominant religion in more than 120 UNHRC member nations, which is majority Muslim (and a coalition of Muslim leaders)—though the Jewish nation of Israel precedes Muslims in Palestine by more than 1,300 years. These states openly oppress Israel—its liberation movement of the region's indigenous Jewish people. What's more, Muslims make up large voting majorities in many other member countries, such as India, China and the U.S., which also almost always support claims of Israel's aggression to Palestinian terrorism. Second, while India maintains the world's largest military occupation in Kashmir, Turkey illegally occupies half of Cyprus, and Russia has brutally annexed Crimea from Ukraine, these incidents receive no publicity whatsoever by UNHRC.

Today Israel remains the only democracy in Arab lands in 192—hardly that one part of the so-called Kingdom of David will have never followed in another state—yet Israel is often

condemned as a violator by UNHRC every time every year. Why? When the U.S. killed hundreds of innocent civilians in an air strike in 2001 in Iraq, the UNHRC took no action. When Israel's Arab 15th anniversary anniversary air strike on Beirut hotels in 2006, UNHRC was silent. In 2014, when Israel refused to accept thousands of Israeli attacks on its civilian centers launched by the terrorist group Hamas, Israel was condemned by the United Nations Human Rights Council for the excessive use of force. Why?

What is the root cause? There can only be one explanation. When the Israeli state is targeted for wrongdoing, one American, which the world's most "aggressive civil rights organization" are accused, but it's a double standard. As one of America's strongest allies, it violates U.S. interests, against Israel to such an extent.

Why should the U.S. leave UNHRC? It is the only body to be the subject of criticism and religious bias, and any state that supports or retains membership in UNHRC is isolated. But Israel is also the world's most ardent supporter of U.S. diplomatic positions and the United States' strongest ally in the Middle East. As the region's strongest military power, Israel serves as a self-defense defender of America and Iraq against terrorism—especially in its border against terrorist groups like ISIS, Hezbollah, al Qaeda and Hamas. For these reasons, American involvement in UNHRC stands in direct opposition to U.S. interests—and it openly supports an organization that condemns U.S. values.

The United Nations Human Rights Council is a corrupt agency that attacks states of the world's most aggressive human rights violators—most of which are all democracies. How can UNHRC be an impartially and fairly conducted organization, when one of America's strongest allies, in which UNHRC is a member, is its U.S. member.

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IF YOU SUPPORT PUBLISHING FLAME'S BOLD PR MESSAGES,

• The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA) is the bloated organization whose only charter is to provide services to about 750,000 "refugees," most of whom fled their homes during Israel's War of Independence in 1948. This agency is distinct from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, which handles all the world's other refugees. Since the UNRWA uses a perverted definition of "refugees"—including all *descendants* of the original Arab refugees—the agency is now responsible for some *five million* "refugees," a number that multiplies every year. UNRWA also employs members of the Hamas terror group in Gaza, and its schools have hidden terrorist armaments and are documented hotbeds of vicious anti-Semitic teaching and jihadist incitement. (See FLAME's position paper on [U.N. School for Terror here](#).)

• Finally, and most offensively, the U.N. Human Rights Council (UNHRC), has issued more resolutions against Israel than all other nations combined, including Iran, North Korea, Syria and Sudan. Indeed, the Council's meetings includes a permanent agenda item dedicated to Israel's "offenses" against the Palestinians. (For more on this notorious organization, please see the P.S. to this letter.)

This week's FLAME *Hotline* featured article, below, is by Claudia Rosett, an investigative reporter who specializes in U.N. abuses. While Rosett's brief piece (from March of this year) lends a skeptical perspective to the issue of U.N. funding, she pleads most passionately for *critically questioning* the cost and benefits of the U.N. to the United States, which for decades has been neglected.

I think the facts in this letter and Rosett's op-ed will help raise your skepticism about so much American funding going to support such an unaccountable organization. While cutting the U.S. contribution by 50% may be excessive, certainly the admirable efforts of U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley to enforce fairness with the threats of U.S. withdrawal or funding cuts are on target.

Finally, while we're on the topic of U.N. abuses, I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's latest *hasbarah* campaign demanding that the U.S. exit from the UNHRC.

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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FLAME'S WEEKLY HOTLINE E- NEWSLETTER



FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

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P.S. Did you know: While the U.N. discriminates against Israel in many ways, the organization's most outrageously unjust agency is the U.N. Human Rights Council, long a harbor for oppressive regimes to pass judgments on other nations, and above all against Israel. The Middle East's only democracy and truly a light unto nations in so many ways, Israel suffers more condemnations by the UNHRC than all other nations together. In just the last year, the UNHRC passed twice as many resolutions against Israel as against North Korea and Syria combined. In order to make Americans—especially college and university students—aware of this injustice, FLAME has just produced and will soon publish a new position paper: "[Exit the U.N. Human Rights Council](#)." This paid editorial will appear 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.

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline at no charge every week. If you're not yet a subscriber, won't you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively tell the truth about Israel? Just go to [free subscription](#)

What America Really Needs to Do About the UN

By Claudia Rosett, PJ Media, March 14, 2017

This week brings fresh reports that the Trump White House wants to slash funding to the United Nations, possibly by as much as 50%. That would be a wise move, and if that's what actually happens, it would be a good start and a welcome signal—the first from an American president in many years—that it is

time for the UN to stop treating Washington as a moronic sugar-daddy. It is way past time for the UN (and Washington itself) to stop treating U.S. tax dollars as a multi-billion-dollar annual entitlement for the bigots and thug governments that so amply populate Turtle Bay. It is time for the U.S. to stop shelling out roughly \$10 billion per year for the benefit of a UN in which, for instance, the member states have just elected—I'm not kidding—the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, *Iran*, as head of the largest voting caucus at the UN assemblies in Vienna.

But behind any move to slash UN funding loom a number of questions. What, precisely, might America hope to achieve? Where can this go? If the aim is to reform the UN, is that even possible?

These are among the questions I address in a Broadside pamphlet published this week by Encounter Books, on "What To Do About the UN."

The usual defense of the UN is that it may be "imperfect," but "it's all we've got"—a refrain that tends to be accompanied by prescriptions for reforms that either won't stick, or won't work at all.

My argument is, if the UN is all we've got, then it is way past time to come up with something else.

And while it happens fairly often that columnists here and there (myself included) will call for defunding the UN, replacing the UN, supplanting the UN, and so forth, there is very little in the public domain that actually explores, in serious ways, in detail, with the benefit of real expertise, exactly how America might divorce itself from the UN, and avail itself of arrangements more appropriate to the 21st century.

In the elite circles of Washington and New York, there has long been an implicit taboo on any serious call for the U.S. to shrug off the UN. It's time to end that taboo. It is time for a real debate. It is time for some of those with the know-how, resources, and genuine goodwill toward future generations, to take a serious, in-depth look at the opportunity cost to America of cleaving to the UN. What possibilities are we passing up, in order to maintain this multilateral morass? Is the UN really the best we can do? Could we please start asking these questions not as a rhetorical flourish, but as serious questions?

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