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# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

September 26, 2017

## President Trump's Blast at Iran in His U.N. Speech Was Welcome, But Will He Back It with Action?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Before we consider the President's remarks about Iran in his U.N. speech last week, let me take a moment to wish you a *Shanah Tovah*—a happy Jewish New Year. In the face of formidable challenges currently confronting the United States and Israel, may this coming year be a blessing to you, your family, America, and the Jewish State.

In Mr. Trump's U.N. speech, we at FLAME were encouraged by his deservedly harsh criticism of the Islamic Republic as a nation that "speaks openly of mass murder, vowing death to America, destruction to Israel and ruin for many leaders and nations in this room."

Of the Iran Nuclear Deal, the President vowed that "we cannot abide by an agreement if it provides cover for the eventual construction of a nuclear program"—which the deal specifically does. He capped these comments calling the deal "an embarrassment."

Finally, President Trump said "Iran's government must stop supporting terrorists, begin serving its own people, and respect the sovereign rights of its neighbors."

This rhetoric is a refreshing change from the last administration, which tolerated Iran's aggression in missile development and its building of terrorist military infrastructure in Iraq, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon, all for the sake of doing the Nuclear Deal—essentially an approved pathway for Iran to acquire nuclear arms in 10 or so years.

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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 20% of which, like Saudi Arabia, China, Cuba, Egypt and Jordan, are aggressive dictatorships. In contrast, the Middle East's only democracy, after more democratic than all other regions 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 mother was stabbed to death by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The U.N. 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 mistreatment of millions of people by dozens of countries worldwide, why is Israel consistently and unfairly singled out for vilification? Demagogic agitators—oppression 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 vote and government service, including its military. From other nations we seek after such Israel freedoms, and in the Middle East, only Israel does. Yet since its founding in 1948, 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 twenty resolutions against Israel (one North Korea and Syria included). No wonder: Israel is the only nation that has a standing UNHRC agenda item dedicated to its condemnation. What explains this injustice? First, there is the predominant religion in more than 120 UNHRC member nations, which routinely consider Israel a violator of Muslim faith—though the Jewish nation of Israel pre-dates Muslims in Palestine by more than 1,300 years. These states openly oppress Muslims—the fundamental tenet of the region's indigenous Jewish people. What's more, Muslims make up large voting minorities 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 France has illegally occupied Chinese New Guinea, none of these nations has been so publicly condemned by UNHRC. Today Israel remains the only democracy in the Middle East to be so vilified—and that's not part of the so-called "Kingdom of David" but rather a result of its Jewish state—yet Israel's nation To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: [www.factsandlogic.org](http://www.factsandlogic.org)

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Facts and Logic About the Middle East  
P.O. Box 3482, Berkeley, CA 94703  
www.factsandlogic.org  
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**IF YOU SUPPORT PUBLISHING FLAME'S BOLD PR MESSAGES,**

The question now is, what will the Trump administration do concretely to blunt the negative effects of the Nuclear Deal *and* restrain Iran's headlong dash to military hegemony in the Middle East—Israel's neighborhood-and beyond? It won't be easy or cheap—and it most likely won't be popular with a lot of our European allies.

In recent FLAME *Hotline* issues, we've highlighted the imminent danger Iran poses to Israel as the Islamic Republic continues building a "land bridge" from its national territory in the east, through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon to the Mediterranean Sea—bringing the world's most belligerent state sponsor of terrorism right to Israel's northern borders.

In this week's *Hotline* (below), we feature a short, but pithy opinion piece by the editorial board of the *Washington Post*—written a few days before the U.N. General assembly—which praises Israel's devastating attack several weeks ago on a Syrian weapons depot used to manufacture chemical and other weapons.

The *Post* expresses hope that Israel's bold, definitive use of force will inspire President Trump to consider similar measures to halt Iran's march west through sovereign—though unstable—nations, in its effort to colonize a broad swath of the region.

The op-ed calls on Mr. Trump to recognize the huge threat Iranian schemes in Syria pose to the U.S . . . and to Israel. We couldn't agree more. ISIS is a dramatically lesser—and daily decreasing—problem in the Middle East compared with the burly, well-funded, expansionist Iran.

We hope the *Post* editorial—and the support of FLAME and voters like you—help fortify the President for difficult steps he must take against Iran in the coming months.

I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's long-running hasbarah campaign to stop the U.S. Congress from funding Palestinian terrorism. If you haven't yet, please email and call your U.S. Senators to encourage their vote for the Taylor Force Act. Go right now to the U.S. Senate directory and choose your state: Your Senators, as well as their email address and phone numbers will appear. Please use both—it's one thing you can do to support Israel today.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

## 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: By subsidizing the corrupt Palestinian Authority (P.A.) with aid of some \$450 million taxpayer dollars a year, the U.S. is also funding the P.A.'s program of paying salaries to Palestinian terrorists who have killed innocent Americans and Israelis? In order to make Americans—especially college and university students—aware of this Palestinian practice of rewarding jihadi assailants and murderers with U.S. funds, FLAME has recently been publishing a new position paper: "[U.S. Funds Palestinian Terrorism](#)" This paid editorial has appeared 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](#)

## Israel's strike in Syria should be a wake-up call for Trump

By [Editorial Board](#), *Washington Post*, September 14, 2017

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Benjamin Netanyahu says he's looking forward to meeting "[my friend](#)" President Trump next week at the United Nations. But the warm feelings might not be wholehearted. Israel's leaders are deeply disturbed these days by what they see as a mounting threat from Iran and its proxies in Syria—and by the reluctance of the Trump administration to do anything about it.

The gulf between the two allies was made clear last week when, on the same day Israel carried out an audacious [bombing raid](#) on a Syrian military facility, Mr. Trump [declared](#) at a news conference that "we have very little to do with Syria other than killing ISIS." From Mr. Netanyahu's point of view, that's exactly the problem. The Israeli leader has [spoken out](#) in recent weeks against Iran's steps toward "turning Syria into a base of military entrenchment," including the construction of sites to build sophisticated guided missiles for possible use against Israel and its attempt to consolidate control over a land corridor stretching across Syria to Lebanon. He has objected to [a cease-fire](#) brokered by Russia and the United States in southern Syria that, Israel says, allows Iranian-backed forces to hold on to positions too close to Israel's border. And he [has said](#) that the international deal limiting Iran's nuclear activities should be scrapped or revised.

Throughout the Syrian civil war, Israel has quietly carried out [strikes](#) to stop Iran's principal proxy in the region, the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, from acquiring advanced weapons and to prevent Iran's forces from advancing too far south. [According to](#) Israel's Air Force chief, there have been close to 100 such missions. But the Sept. 7 attack was something new. It [targeted](#) not a warehouse or convoy but one of the Syrian missile production facilities Mr. Netanyahu referred to, on a base that also was [reportedly](#) used for the manufacture of chemical weapons and the barrel bombs used by the regime of Bashar al-Assad against civilians.

If it slows the production of those deadly weapons, Israel's attack will have done a service for humanity as well as itself. It also should have served as a wake-up call for the Trump administration. Mr. Trump has been slow to recognize that the United States has vital interests in Syria beyond eliminating the Islamic State—and that those interests don't coincide with those of Russia, which has been working in tandem with Iran.

By expanding into Syria, Iran is escalating what is already a major threat to Israel. Since the [war](#) between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, Tehran has supplied its client with an arsenal of up to 150,000 rockets, [according to](#) Israeli sources. Adding precision missiles to that, as well as a [new front](#) along the Golan Heights, could make another war inevitable—one that could become a direct conflict between Israel and Iran.

We don't believe the Trump administration should rupture the nuclear deal, which has restrained Iran's dangerous stockpiling of enriched uranium. But the United States should be taking its own steps to block the Iranian "entrenchment" in Syria that Mr.

Netanyahu spoke of. Diplomacy might achieve some of that, but military steps should not be ruled out.

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PO Box 3460

Berkeley, CA 94703

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