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FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

January 02, 2018

Reality Check: The Palestinians Don't Have— Because They Don't Want—Peace with Israel and a State of Their Own

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Over Shabbat dinner on Friday with a Jewish couple—two dear friends and supporters of Israel—I asked their opinion about Donald Trump's declaration that Jerusalem is Israel's capital.

Their response was imminently reasonable. They expressed ambivalence, saying they feared the move compromised the ability of the U.S. to act as an honest broker in peace talks with the Palestinians.

We argued respectfully for a good half hour—I of course maintained that Mr. Trump's action was just the dose of honesty the Palestinians need—then we called an armistice in the interests of dessert.

Yet in reflection, I realized that the whole discussion of the President's announcement was essentially bizarre—in which reality was clouded by a false veneer of reasonableness.

It was my fault—in fact, I had asked the wrong question. To ask about Trump or Jerusalem only confuses the matter, because it's not about either.

A better question I could have asked my friends would have been, "Why do you think the Palestinians don't want a state?"

But the best question—cutting directly to the chase—would have been, "Why do the Palestinians refuse to recognize the Jewish state of Israel?"

The answer to that—demonstrated over the last 68 years in so many

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

We Must Stop Iran Now

Iran, the greatest source of global terror, threatens the U.S., Israel and most of the world. It will soon acquire nuclear weapons. How can we stop this outlaw regime?

Iran is becoming a regional stability in the Middle East—increasingly supported by Shiite Iran's ally, Turkey, terror groups Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. It also helped the Syrian dictator Assad slaughter millions of his citizens and is attempting to establish an ally's proxy within a number of Arab's borders with Syria. Wharzi says, Secretary has increased U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf. Scores of Syrian in recent years. Finally, we no longer have the other alternative. Turkey and—home of more than 60 million Jews and the 1.3 billion of most Muslims and 1.4 billion of the world's population.

Neither the U.S. nor the Europeans have a coherent strategy to prevent Iran's conquests.

The U.S. and Europe's inaction are giving Iran the time to develop its nuclear weapons. Iran's continued threats against the United States are giving Iran the time to develop its nuclear weapons. Iran's continued threats against the United States are giving Iran the time to develop its nuclear weapons.

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ways—is that they cannot and will not accept the *existence* of Israel.

When my friends expressed skepticism about Trump's Jerusalem action, inherent in that answer was the assumption that there is a peace process, that there is a chance for peace, that there are two parties who want peace.

This assumption is patently false, and we must not allow it to continue—in the media, in Congress, in the U.N., on college campuses and in our homes with our friends. Because if you believe that recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital matters one way or the other, you also believe it's possible to hurt or help the peace process.

There is no peace process—and never will be until the Palestinians accept their defeat and their position as supplicants . . . as losers of the numerous wars Israel fought against them and their belligerent Arab brethren.

Which brings us to this week's FLAME Hotline featured article—on ten myths, misconceptions and lies about the Israel-Palestinian conflict. This piece, by AJC CEO David Harris, provides hard facts proving incontrovertibly that the Palestinians don't want peace with Israel—and have never wanted it.

I hope you'll forward this short, simple, compelling email to friends, family and fellow congregants to help them understand why any reference to a peace process or to land "Palestinians hope to make part of their future state" are all based on false premises—on lies.

I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's latest hasbarah campaign to urge the President and U.S. Congress to back up their rhetoric on Iran with definitive action. I hope you agree with and will support this message.

Best regards,

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

BOLD PR MESSAGES, 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. As you know, Iran has become the largest state sponsor of global terrorism and the most dangerous enemy of the U.S. What's worse, the Islamic Republic continues to spread its jihadist tentacles throughout the Middle East, and now has armed forces on Israel's borders in Syria and Lebanon. No wonder FLAME has created a new editorial message—"[We Must Stop Iran Now](#)"—which is about to start running in mainstream 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, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on—and take actions against—Iran's threat to our country, Israel and the entire world.

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](#).

Ten Critical Facts about the Israel-Palestinian Conflict that Should Change the Narrative

By David Harris, *Huffington Post*, December 25, 2017

In all the discussion about this decades-long conflict and the quest for a solution, some basic facts are too often missing, neglected, downplayed, or skewed.

Not only does this do a disservice to history, but it also contributes to prolonging the conflict by perpetuating false assumptions and mistaken notions.

Consider:

Fact #1: There could have been a two-state solution as early as 1947. That's precisely what the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) proposed, recognizing the presence of two peoples—

and two nationalisms—in a territory governed temporarily by the United Kingdom. And the UN General Assembly decisively endorsed the UNSCOP proposal. The Jewish side pragmatically accepted the plan, but the Arab world categorically rejected it.

Fact #2: When Israel declared independence on May 14, 1948, it extended the hand of friendship to its Arab neighbors, as clearly evidenced by its founding documents and statements. That offer, too, was spurned. Instead, five Arab armies declared war on the fledgling Jewish state, seeking its total destruction. Despite vastly outnumbering the Jews and possessing superior military arsenals, they failed in their quest.

Fact #3: Until 1967, the eastern part of Jerusalem and the entire West Bank were in the hands of Jordan, not Israel. Had the Arab world wished, an independent Palestinian state, with its capital in Jerusalem, could have been established at any time. Not only did this not happen, but there is no record of it ever having been discussed. To the contrary, Jordan annexed the territory, seeking full and permanent control. It proceeded to treat Jerusalem as a backwater, while denying Jews any access to Jewish holy sites in the Old City and destroying the synagogues there. Meanwhile, Gaza was under Egyptian military rule. Again, there was no talk of sovereignty for the Palestinians there, either.

Fact #4: In May 1967, the Egyptian and Syrian governments repeatedly threatened to annihilate Israel, as these countries demanded that UN peacekeeping forces be withdrawn from the region. Moreover, Israeli shipping lanes to its southern port of Eilat were blocked, and Arab troops were deployed to front-line positions. The Six-Day War was the outcome, a war that Israel won. Coming into possession of the Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, Sinai Peninsula, West Bank, and eastern Jerusalem, Israel extended feelers to its Arab neighbors, via third parties, seeking a "land for peace" formula. The Arab response came back on September 1, 1967, from Khartoum, Sudan, where the Arab League nations were meeting. The message was unmistakable: "No peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, and no negotiations with Israel." Yet another opportunity to end the conflict had come and gone.

Fact #5: In November 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat broke with the Arab rejectionist consensus. He traveled to the Israeli capital of Jerusalem to meet with Israeli leaders and address Israel's parliament and speak of peace. Two years later, underscoring the lengths to which Israel was prepared to go to end the conflict, a deal was reached, in which Israel—led, notably, by a right-wing government—yielded the vast Sinai Peninsula, with its strategic depth, oil deposits, settlements, and air bases, in exchange for the promise of a new era in relations with the Arab world's leading country. In 1981, Sadat was slain by the Muslim

Brotherhood for his alleged perfidy, but his legacy of peace with Israel, thankfully, has endured.

Fact #6: In September 1993, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) reached an agreement, known as the Oslo Accords, offering hope for peace on that front as well, but eight months later, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat confirmed the suspicions of many that he was not honest, when he was caught on tape in a Johannesburg mosque asserting that this agreement was nothing more than a temporary truce until final victory.

Fact #7: In 1994, Jordan's King Hussein, following in the footsteps of Egyptian President Sadat, reached an agreement with Israel, again demonstrating Israel's readiness for peace—and willingness to make territorial sacrifices when sincere Arab leaders come forward.

Fact #8: In 2000-1, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, leading a left-of-center government and supported by the Clinton administration, offered a groundbreaking two-state arrangement to Arafat, including a bold compromise on Jerusalem. Not only did the Palestinian leader reject the offer, but he shockingly told Clinton that Jews had never had any historical connection to Jerusalem, gave no counter-offer, and triggered a new wave of Palestinian violence that led to more than 1,000 Israeli fatalities (proportionately equivalent to 40,000 Americans).

Fact #9: In 2008, three years after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon unilaterally withdrew all Israeli soldiers and settlers from Gaza, only to see Hamas seize control and destroy another chance for coexistence, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert went even further than Barak in extending an olive branch to the Palestinian Authority. He offered a still more generous two-state proposal, but got no formal response from Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's successor. A Palestinian negotiator subsequently acknowledged in the media that the Israeli plan would have given his side the equivalent of 100 percent of the disputed lands under discussion.

Fact #10: At the request of the Obama administration, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to a ten-month freeze on settlement-building in 2010, as a good-faith gesture to lure the Palestinians back to the table. Regrettably, it failed. The Palestinians didn't show up. Instead, they have continued to this day their strategy of incitement; attempts to bypass Israel—and face-to-face talks—by going to international organizations instead; denial of the age-old Jewish link to Jerusalem and, by extension, the region; and lifetime financial support for captured terrorists and the families of suicide bombers.

Isn't it high time to draw some obvious conclusions from these

facts, recognize the many lost opportunities to reach a settlement because of a consistent "no" from one side, and call on the Palestinians to start saying "yes" for a change.



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