

- The U.S. has fully supported every Israeli air attack on Iranian assets in Syria.
- The U.S. has not only vetoed every one-sided U.N. resolution against Israel in the last year—and shamed European nations voting for them—but this week the U.S. also proposed a U.N. resolution calling Hamas to account for its unwarranted missile attacks on Israeli civilians (though the resolution was vetoed by Kuwait).
- The U.S. recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which the U.S. Congress mandated in 1995 (but which only the Trump administration has finally agreed to). Guatemala and Paraguay have already followed suit.

In short, say whatever you will about President Trump—vote for whomever you choose in the next election—it's indisputable that this White House has been the most supportive administration of Israel in decades.

As the balance of power swings, and more countries, like the Arab Gulf States, begin to support the U.S. and Israel's high-pressure strategy on Iran, the European Union states will be smart to join our fight against the world's largest jihadist nation.

Such is the analysis in this week's FLAME *Hotline*-featured article (below) by Melanie Phillips, astute and outspoken columnist at the Jewish News Syndicate and *The Times of London*.

Phillips believes the actions of the U.S. and Israel are effectively isolating Iran and exposing as greedy and cowardly those nations that persist in supporting the Islamic Republic. She believes the E.U. countries will ultimately be called to heel.

I hope you'll forward this hopeful perspective to friends, family and fellow congregants to help them understand why tightening pressure on Iran by both Israel and the U.S. is a strategy we should support.

I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes one of FLAME's latest hasbarah campaigns to directly 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

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. 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 now 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](#).

Europe Makes an About-Face on Israel

So, what's changed? Well, first of all, the situation on the ground.

By Melanie Phillips, Jewish New Syndicate, (May 31, 2018)

A strange, startling and deeply unfamiliar sound was heard this week. A Trump tweet imploding, perhaps? Kim Jong-Un finally destroying his nuclear arsenal? A distant rumble from the Hawaii volcano?

No. It was the sound of the European Union and United

Nations loudly supporting Israel against attack.

In the heaviest onslaught since 2014, southern Israel was attacked from Gaza this week by Islamic Jihad and Hamas launching dozens of rocket and mortar attacks, as well as bursts of machine-gun fire. An Israeli kindergarten was hit, although no one was hurt. After Israel pummeled terrorist targets, Egypt brokered a truce.

What was striking was that the Israel-averse European Union, United Nations, France, Italy, Germany and Ireland criticized the Gaza attackers and expressed support for Israel.

France declared that its commitment to Israel's security was "unwavering." Germany said the targeting of Israeli civilians was "malicious," and that it was "Israel's right to preserve its security, defend its borders and respond proportionately to attacks."

Yet two weeks earlier, when Israel defended itself against the attempt by Hamas to storm the Gaza border and murder Israeli civilians, those same European nations and the United Nations grossly misrepresented what happened as the killing of unarmed civilians in "peaceful protests," despite the vast majority of those killed by Israel being Hamas terrorists.

So what's changed? Well, first of all, the situation on the ground.

When Hamas began its weekly riots at the Gaza border fence, some took this as the sign of an inevitable escalation to all-out war. Yet on May 14—the day of the heaviest onslaught that provoked the E.U. criticism—Hamas abruptly called off its invasion. Whatever the reason, the decision was taken to cool it.

Then suddenly, Islamic Jihad-aided and abetted by Hamas-launched its missile onslaught. It was clear this did not enjoy wide support. Russia didn't want it. Egypt didn't want it. The Gulf states will tolerate nothing that gets in the way of their tacit alliance with the United States and Israel against Iran. Even Hamas reportedly got cold feet over the scale of the attack.

So who wanted it? Step forward the Islamic Republic of Iran, backers of Hamas and patrons of Islamic Jihad. And why did Iran want it? Because the regime is distinctly rattled.

America's withdrawal from the nuclear deal has thrown it into

disarray. The United States is threatening to impose condign sanctions. The Iranian rial is in freefall. The recent [speech by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo](#) extended U.S. policy way beyond curtailing Iran's nuclear activities.

Iran, he said, must stop supporting Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, support disarming Shi'ite militias in Iraq and withdraw from Syria. The United States would work to counteract its cyber activities, track down its operatives and proxies and "crush" them.

Israel is now destroying more and more Iranian assets in Syria with U.S. backing.

Moreover, a wedge is being driven between Russia and Iran. Russia needs stability in the region to safeguard its interests. The last thing it wants is for Israel to be drawn further into Syria. So Russia is trying to keep Iranian forces away from Israel's northern border and has said the Islamic Republic should pull its forces out of Syria once a political settlement is reached.

Galvanized by the new U.S.-led dynamic, the Iranian people are continuing to revolt. There's now a Twitter hashtag in Farsi calling for regime change, as well as another that reads: "Thank you Pompeo." If this escalates, the Iranian people can bring down the regime.

In the space of a few months, therefore, it has gone from being an unstoppable regional force to scrabbling to survive. So in desperation, it is playing two of its remaining cards.

The first was using its proxies in Gaza to unleash the missile barrage against southern Israel. The second is its urgent wooing of the European Union to persuade it to defy the American call to impose global sanctions.

At this moment, the European Union chooses to back Israel against the Gaza missile barrage-the same European Union that all but ignored the missile barrages that led to the 2014 Gaza war in which, of course, it denounced Israel for finally defending itself.

When it came to the Gaza border riots, however, the European Union was not united in its condemnation of Israel. The Czech Republic Foreign Minister Martin Stropnický said rushing the security fence should be regarded as a form of terrorism.

Earlier, Hungary, Romania and the Czech Republic had blocked an E.U. statement condemning the U.S. embassy

move while other countries, including Slovakia, Greece and Poland, reportedly also expressed reservations. On Monday, European foreign ministers discussed Gaza at their monthly meeting but failed to issue a statement, a sign they didn't agree.

But the real reason for the E.U.'s surprising change of tone is surely that the presence in the White House of President Donald Trump has changed everything.

America backed Israel strongly over the Gaza riots. While eight E.U. members lined up at the United Nations to call on Israel to refrain from using "excessive force" against "peaceful protests," the U.S. ambassador Nikki Haley said the violence came from those who rejected the existence of the State of Israel. "Such a motivation—the destruction of a United Nations member state—is so illegitimate as to not be worth our time in the Security Council, other than the time it takes to denounce it."

The European Union is beginning to grasp that the implicit criticism of those who fail to join the United States in supporting Israel carries consequences. President Trump has made it clear that he expects European and other countries to support him in imposing sanctions against Iran. If they don't, they will have to choose: trade with Iran or trade with America. They can't do both.

Meanwhile, Italy is politically imploding and threatening the whole E.U. project. The financier George Soros has said the European Union is now facing an existential crisis.

Is the E.U. going to choose this moment to get up America's nose still further? Hardly. So it was presumably anxious to demonstrate to Trump that, despite its earlier sanitizing of Hamas as "unarmed protesters," it was really against Hamas after all.

If so, such declarations won't cut it. For the world has reached a tipping point, and Iran is key. To avoid a truly terrible conflagration, the Iranian regime has to be brought down.

Israel, the United States, the Gulf states and the Iranian people are behind such a strategy. Astoundingly, Britain and the European Union stand with the regime against them. They must now decide if they will join the attempt to defeat the forces of evil—or else suffer the consequences.

FLAME

Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

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