

# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

## Media declare Arab protests peaceful, despite Molotov cocktails, pipe bombs, mortars and arson.

Dear Friend of FLAME:

The hostility of many media toward Israel is so intense that they are willing to look violence in the eye in Gaza and call it peaceful.

Such was the black-is-white description the media have been shoveling at us for the past few weeks until, seemingly, Arab violence became so pronounced and constant that the media could no longer deny it.

Even in the face of mounting Arab use of Molotov cocktails, pipe bombs and arson kites against Israeli soldiers, CNN with no trace of shame claimed riots on the Gaza border were "mostly peaceful." Over the last few weeks, the Arabs have raised the ante by launching missiles and mortars at Israeli civilians in villages many miles from the borders.

Likewise, the motivation behind the riots: NPR and many other media tried to convince us that the Arabs were protesting *either* the Gaza blockade (only Israel's role in it, not Egypt's or the Palestinian Authority's, apparently) *or* President Trump's relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

The only problem with those explanations was that the Arabs kept insisting The March of Return really was a march of return—an attempt to "repatriate" millions of Arabs into Israel by tearing down the fences and overrunning Israel's border.

Since the media (and Israel's European "friends") could no longer deny either the violent means or the nefarious goals of the riots, their tone changed. Now the media and the Europeans began demanding "restraint" and "proportionality"

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## THIS MONTH'S AD APPEARED IN PUBLICATIONS REACHING 10 MILLION READERS

**YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...**

**Palestinian Mythology**

Palestinian Arabs claim full ownership of the Holy Land, denying any Jewish connection or rights—all based on deceptive lies, all easily proven false.

In this era of “fake news,” it’s often hard to tell truth from fiction. Indeed, Palestinians have long based their claims to the Holy Land on a series of lies—lies that have been repeated over and over again, and accepted as facts by the Arab and international press.

What are the facts?

Every ethnic group has the right to exist as a sovereign nation—but such a nation must be based on facts, principles, and the traditions of the land it inhabits. The Palestinian interpretation is that since we should ignore the historical record, we can claim the entire land of the Holy Land as our own. This is a lie. The truth is that the Palestinian narrative and today’s most intense conflict by definition is between the two peoples of the Holy Land: the Jews and the Arabs. The Jews are the original inhabitants of the land, and the Arabs are settlers who arrived after the Jews, and left in the lands of present-day Israel, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) just over 2,000 years ago.

1. Palestinians are indigenous to the Holy Land: *Falsie*. Palestinian leaders often claim Palestinians are the “indigenous” people of the Holy Land. In reality, the Jews have been in the Holy Land for over 2,000 years ago. This claim has no basis in archaeological or genetic testing. Nearly all cultures move their lineage in and out of the Holy Land over time. The Jews are unique in that they have maintained their unique language, culture or religion—excepting periods of assimilation—since the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Koran itself affirms conclusively that the Jews were the first people to inhabit the Holy Land, and the Quran also affirms that the Jews were the first people to settle the Holy Land. Biblical records, and the Koran itself affirms conclusively that the Jews were the first people to settle the Holy Land 3,500 years ago—the arrival of the Arabs—and have lived in the lands of present-day Israel, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) just over 2,000 years ago.

2. Israel occupies Palestinian land: *Falsie*. Mr. Abbas and his supporters claim that Israel “occupies” Palestinian land. In truth, the Palestinians have never had a state, nor have they had sovereignty over any land in the Middle East. Instead, they have been a displaced people since the 1948 United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the public Palestinian land in the disputed territories. Nonetheless, Israel has given back more land to the Palestinians than any other democracy in history. Moreover, the vast majority of the disputes are between Israel and the Arabs—in exchange for peace, Israel has given up over 70% of its territory to the Arabs.

3. Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian people: *Falsie*. Palestinian leaders commonly refer to Jerusalem as “the capital of the Palestinian people.” In reality, the Jews have been in Jerusalem for over 2,000 years of Jewish history and Judaism’s continuity to Judaism. Indeed, history shows King David founded the city in the 10th century BC, before the advent of Islam. Jerusalem is a vital city in the Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament. Moreover, the Jews have never had an Arab capital, and the name of the city’s former ruler, Saladin, is Arabic.

4. Palestinians have a right of return to Israel: *Falsie*. According to the UN, “right of return” means the right of refugees to return to their pre-existing place of residence if that place is still available. This message has been published and paid for by FLAME.

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FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

on Israel's part.

Now, presumably, if an Arab throws a pipe bomb, cuts through the border and runs toward an Israeli kibbutz waving a knife and yelling "Allhu Akbar," Israel is supposed to arrest him—either before or after he kills an Israeli citizen.

Or if Hamass terrorists shoot rockets at Israeli elementary schools and miss their target, Israel should launch missiles that likewise don't hit any Hamas targets?

If this absurdity were not grounded in journalistic and political policies more biased and unfair against the Jewish state than against any other nation on earth, it would be humorous. As it is, Israel's treatment by the media and the Europeans is simply disgraceful—a *travesty*.

This week's FLAME *Hotline*-featured article (below), by commentator Evelyn Gordon, provides a sterling example of this prejudice. Gordon unwraps the non-story of the Arab baby Layla, who apparently died of tear gas inhalation close to the Gaza border in the midst of the riots.

The hand-wringing liberals in the media and Europe quickly joined Hamas in accusing Israel of child murder. However, a Gazan doctor soon clarified that the child had congenital heart disease, which was exacerbated by tear gas being used to quell the Arab rioters.

Gordon then neatly turns the story on its head, pointing out that even if the child had died solely from the tear gas—as the bleeding hearts had believed—Israel would have been blameless. Israel was only trying *non-violently* to control the rioters, as the liberals insist it should.

The real question—which the Israel haters never asked—is, "what the heck was a baby doing on the front lines of a violent riot atop an international border?"

I hope you'll forward this expose to friends, family and fellow congregants. It will help them understand how the media and many liberals contort themselves so grotesquely to impugn Israel's integrity in the face of a terrorist attack on its sovereignty.

I hope you'll also quickly review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's latest hasbarah campaign—exposing Palestinian lies intended to dispossess Israel of its rights to a state in the Holy Land. I also hope you agree with and will support this message.

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah, 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**

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HOLD A LIGHT ON THE WORLD

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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Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. As you may have read, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and other Palestinian leaders spread blatant lies in the U.N. and other forums almost daily—about Jewish history in Jerusalem and the Holy Land in general, about Palestinian origins, Palestinian refugees and many other factual matters. No wonder FLAME has created a new editorial message—"Palestinian Mythology"—which is about to run 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](#).

## Baby Layla Shows What's Wrong with Israel's PR

**A true outrage.**

By Evelyn Gordon, *Commentary*, June 1, 2018

**If there's one thing Israel advocates agree on, it's that Israel lost the PR war** over May 14's violent demonstrations in Gaza. Everybody from the [U.N. Security Council](#) to a New

York public [high school](#) mourned the 62 Palestinians killed as innocent victims, even though 53 [belonged](#) to terrorist organizations. And with Hamas planning another demonstration on Tuesday, a battle has been raging over whether the PR war is inherently unwinnable or if Israel's public diplomacy was simply incompetent.

The correct answer is both. And nothing better illustrates this than the story of the Palestinian baby allegedly killed by Israeli tear gas.

Israel's critics immediately seized on the death of 8-month-old Layla Ghandour as proof of its malfeasance. As the *New York Times* [wrote](#), "The story shot across the globe, providing an emotive focus for outrage at military tactics that Israel's critics said were disproportionately violent." The *Times of Israel* [noted](#) that "Her funeral was filmed and featured on global TV news broadcasts and newspaper front pages."

**Soon afterward, however, a Gazan doctor suggested** that she most likely died of a congenital heart defect rather than anything Israel did (a theory later apparently accepted even by Gaza's Hamas-run Health Ministry, which last week [removed](#) Ghandour from its list of people killed by Israel).

What happened next was surreal: The doctor's explanation was immediately seized on and disseminated worldwide by both official Israeli spokesmen and Israel supporters overseas as if it somehow mattered whether Ghandour was killed by tear gas or a congenital heart defect. In other words, Israel and its supporters implicitly accepted the view of the anti-Israel mob. Had the baby truly been killed by Israeli tear gas, presumably Israel could legitimately have been considered culpable.

What they should have pointed out instead is that Ghandour's story proves just how dishonest all the critics accusing Israel of disproportionate force are. After all, ever since the weekly demonstrations along the Gaza border began in March, these critics have claimed that they don't deny Israel's right to protect its border. They merely demand that it restrict itself to nonlethal crowd-control measures rather than resorting to lethal force. As the *New York Times* put it in an April [editorial](#), "Israel has a right to defend its border, but in the face of unarmed civilians it could do so with nonlethal tactics common to law enforcement."

**For now, leave aside that "unarmed civilians" lie.** The more important point is that tear gas is exactly the type of

nonlethal crowd control measure commonly used by law enforcement agencies. So if Israel's critics meant what they said about its right to defend the border by nonlethal means, the death of a baby during a violent demonstration along the border might be a tragedy, but it wouldn't be Israel's fault. It would be the fault of the relatives who deliberately brought her into the heart of that violent demonstration, despite knowing Israel was using crowd-control measures to keep protesters from breaching its border.

Instead, Israel's critics treated Ghandour's death as proof of Israel's evil. In other words, they effectively declared that Israel had no right to defend its border by any means whatsoever—even with non-lethal means like tear gas—unless it could somehow achieve the impossible feat of guaranteeing that no Palestinian would ever be killed under any circumstances. And if the only way Israel can win the PR war is leaving its border completely undefended, that war would indeed be inherently unwinnable; at least, among this portion of its critics.

But many people do understand that leaving a border undefended against angry mobs isn't a tenable option. If Israeli public diplomacy had been even minimally competent, it would have made clear that this is the logical implication of blaming Israel for Ghandour's death.

**Critics might retort that even tear gas shouldn't be used** against completely peaceful demonstrators. But as the *Times*' story makes clear, Ghandour wasn't in a peaceful demonstration when she died. She had been deliberately taken from a peaceful one into a violent one.

On May 14, as in all the preceding weeks, there were actually two demonstrations taking place. One, which was largely peaceful, was hundreds of meters from the border fence. The other, which was right up against the fence, was anything but peaceful. Members of terrorist organizations threw bombs, Molotov cocktails, and slingshot-propelled rocks at soldiers. They flew incendiary kites across the border to set Israeli fields ablaze ([to date](#), some 300 of these kites have ignited 100 fires, destroyed more than 3,000 acres of wheat and caused millions of shekels worth of damage). They vandalized the fence and tried to break through it. These are the "demonstrators" Israel targeted with measures ranging from tear gas to, when necessary, live fire, as evidenced by the fact that 53 of the 62 killed belonged to terrorist organizations.

Baby Layla was taken to the nonviolent protest by her 12-

year-old uncle, who mistakenly thought her mother was there. Upon discovering his mistake, he responsibly kept her in the nonviolent section until late afternoon, when she began crying. Then, wanting to hand her off to an older relative, he "pushed forward into the protest in search of her grandmother, Heyam Omar, who was standing in a crowd under a pall of black smoke, shouting at Israeli soldiers across the fence," the *Times* reported. Panicked by Layla's crying, he deliberately brought her into the most violent part of the protest, where Israel was exercising its legitimate right of self-defense and where no baby should ever have been. And she died.

**But even if it was Israeli tear gas that killed her,** Israel cannot be held culpable for her death unless you start from the premise that it had no right whatsoever to defend its border against violent attacks of the type launched during this protest, even by the most nonlethal of means. That, of course, is precisely what many of Israel's critics do think. And this is the point that Israel and its advocates should have been hammering home.

# FLAME

Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

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