

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

August 21, 2018



Enough is Enough: UNRWA Must Be Abolished and Replaced

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Few U.N. agencies have proven as corrupt and useless to the progress and wellbeing of the world's peoples—especially Palestinian Arabs and Israelis—than UNRWA. Unfortunately, the U.S. has been the single largest financial supporter of the UNRWA organization

UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) was created as one of two UN agencies dealing with refugees in the wake of World War II and the decolonization conflicts in the late 1940s.

Faced with many millions of displaced Germans expelled from eastern Europe in 1945, Jews and others who had no home to return to, and Indians fleeing in both directions during the partition of the British Colony into India and Pakistan, and so on, the UN established the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Its task was the sheltering and relocation of these hordes of refugees around the world. And it largely succeeded.

But the UN, at Arab insistence, had also set up an agency, UNRWA, to aid the 650,000 Palestinian Arabs displaced after the Arab nations' unsuccessful invasion of Israel following its creation. This is the only refugee population that has its own UN agency.

UNRWA was unique in other ways. Rather than attempting to resettle its refugees in foreign countries, UNRWA specifically prevented them from doing so, keeping them in permanent, squalid camps. Even those refugees in Jordan, who were granted Jordanian citizenship by King Hussein, are still "refugees" under UNRWA, and unable to lead normal lives there.

But it gets worse: the UNHCR, successful in handling 70 years of refugee tragedies around the world, defines the "refugee" as someone

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Peace with Palestinian Dictators?

Governments of the Palestinians' two ruling dictatorships are in shambles—and at war with each other. How can Israel possibly achieve peace with them at this time?

Neither the Palestinian Authority in Judea Samaria (the West Bank) nor the Islamic terror group Hamas in Gaza has held elections since 2006, and the two factions are battling one another in a vicious power struggle. How will you recognize the Jewish state or accept Israeli offers of peace?

What are the facts?

While Israel, with the United States, made generous land-for-peace offers to the Palestinians in 2001 and 2008—and left the entire Gaza Strip to the Arabs in 2005—neither of the two major Palestinian groups has accepted Israeli offers... or even the right to exist. What's more, both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas governments are in obvious, expanding practice renouncing a better tomorrow was. Could these warring Arab factions reconcile—and accept Israel as their neighbor—if it's impossible to imagine a peace agreement among them?

Radicalized Palestinian Movement Following Israel's repudiation of five attacking Arab armies in 1967, Arab in Palestine formed the autonomous Palestine Liberation Organization, under Egyptian Yasser Arafat. Arafat inspired the First Intifada, a terrorist guerrilla effort against Israel, which ended with the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords. Under these accords, the Palestinian Authority (PA) would rule over Arab parts of Gaza and Judea Samaria, while Israel would control the remaining parts until the Israeli-Arab conflict was resolved through peace negotiations. After Israel's complete withdrawal from Gaza, terror group Hamas was Palestinian legislative elections in 2006, then seized control of Gaza from the PA. Since 2007, Hamas has ruled Gaza as an Islamic fortress, and the PA and Hamas remain tense enemies to this day.

The Palestinian Authority-Social Dictatorship. While governed in Judea Samaria, the Palestinian Authority has always been secular. Following Arafat's death in 2004, Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the PA for a five-year term, yet has held the grip of power ever since. Today's Palestinian Authority is rife with corruption, its economy is effectively bankrupt, it suffers from unemployment of 20%, and without foreign subsidies it would collapse. Despite its charter under the Oslo Agreement to make peace with Israel, the PA has remained dedicated to wresting all of the Holy Land from Jewish control. It has never recognized Israel as a Jewish homeland and has demanded that all Arab refugees from Israel's War of Independence in 1948—as well as those few million descendants of those refugees—be "returned" to Israel, thus denying the Jewish state demographically based—under the sponsorship of President Bill Clinton in 2001 and George W. Bush in 2002—of the Palestinians about 90% of Judea-Samaria, as well as a significant portion of Jerusalem, in return for peace. Yasser Arafat turned down the last offers, and Mahmoud Abbas rejected the second since 2014. Abbas has refused to negotiate with Israel.

Hamas-Islamist Dictatorship. An offshoot of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood—which also opposed al-Qaeda, Hamas is a fundamentalist Islamic organization. Its charter calls for the conquest of all Palestine—including present-day Israel—and the establishment of an Islamic state. Because of Hamas' brutal use of suicide bombings and rocket attacks on Jewish civilian populations, it has been declared a terrorist organization by the U.S. State Department and the European Union. While Hamas was power after Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006, it has refused to reject violence, and in fact took violent control of Gaza. Today Hamas rules Gaza brutally, according to strict Sharia law. Hamas has benefited from war against Israel, most recently in 2014. Because of Hamas' allegiance to Gaza is currently under sanction from Egypt, Israel said the Palestinian Authority. While the PA and Hamas have made many attempts at reconciliation, all have failed, and relations between them remain poisonous. The people of Gaza suffer an unemployment rate of 40%, just five hours of electricity daily and a dysfunctional economy. Hamas routinely invades Israel's territorial support from land and Turkey, much of which is used to sustain the terror group's war against Israel.

In order to bring an Israel-Palestinian peace, all parties must sincerely want it and be capable of carrying out a plan for reconciliation. It's clear that today's Palestinian dictatorships lack the ability to make peace among themselves, humbly govern their people or commit to peace with Israel. While Israeli pragmatism, Palestinian leaders still pray for Israel's destruction.

While Israelis pray for peace, Palestinian leaders pray for Israel's destruction.

FLAME
Facts and Logic About the Middle East
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IF YOU SUPPORT PUBLISHING FLAME'S BOLD PR MESSAGES, PLEASE HELP US!!

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

forced to flee his or her native land. For prolonged UNHCR efforts, the number of refugees dwindles.

Not so for UNRWA: all descendants for all generations are considered refugees. Their number has thus grown to over five million, rather than the 20,000-30,000 still alive from the original 1948/9 population.

UNRWA does not make any effort to resettle or relocate its permanent refugees and keeps them in a perpetual stateless situation. UNRWA runs the schools, whose presentation of history is essentially that of the PLO or Hamas.

In other words, UNRWA is perpetuating the ongoing Israeli/Arab problem, not trying to create any sort of reconciliation or dignified existence for its wards.

Further, UNRWA schools and clinics in Gaza are routinely used by Hamas as armories and launch sites, and senior Hamas figures hold management positions in UNRWA.

The United States, led by UN Ambassador Nikki Haley, has cut back on its \$300,000,000 support for UNRWA's massive \$1.3 billion budget.

She and other American leaders, such as Senior Advisor to President Trump Jared Kushner, are increasingly calling for an outright end to UNRWA. The UNHCR would take over its mission and convert it to one of problem resolution rather than aggravation and perpetuation.

Israel detests UNRWA for obvious reasons. But Israeli leaders are wary of suddenly having responsibility for millions of Palestinian Arab "refugees."

In this week's featured article, "Time for UNRWA To Go," Morton A. Klein and Daniel Mandel of the Zionist Organization of America argue that not only is UNRWA a sham organization whose activities do not help the Palestinians, but it actually does harm to the Palestinian cause and the cause of peace. They also assert that only the United States can lead the world toward abolishing this corrupt agency, while paving a constructive path to peace.

I hope you'll forward this incisive perspective to friends, family and fellow congregants to help them understand why pressure on the American government and Israel to abolish UNRWA is a strategy we should support for the eventual peace of the region.

I hope you'll also visit FLAME's new [Facebook page](#), as well as read the P.S. below, which highlights a FLAME *hasbarah* message on the jihadist, anti-Semitic curriculum that UNRWA schools use to teach more than 500,000 Palestinian children in Gaza, Judea-Samaria,

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 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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Jordan and Lebanon.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen

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

P.S. FLAME has been publishing messages about the destructive influence of UNRWA for several years, particularly the agency's role in indoctrinating Palestinian school children about the glory of jihad, martyrdom and murdering Jews. It's the reason FLAME created the editorial message —"[U.N. School for Terrorism](#)"—which has run in mainstream magazines and newspapers, including college newspapers, with a combined readership of some 10 million people. In addition, it was sent to every member of the U.S. Congress. 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 support current efforts to defund and shut down UNRWA.

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](#).

Time for UNRWA to Go

It is past time for two things to happen: The disbanding of UNRWA and its mandate, and the assumption of its duties by the UNHCR.

By Morton A. Klein and Daniel Mandel, *Jerusalem Post*, April 30, 2018

Palestinian Arabs have occupied everyone's attention in recent weeks as a result of the rioting and disturbances on the Israeli/Gaza border. Yet few wonder why the refugees, on whose explicit behalf these days of rage have been launched, are there at all. Most refugee problems are dealt with in a matter of months or at

most years, yet few pause to consider why a Palestinian Arab refugee problem still exists after 70 years.

The reason is actually simple: from the outset, the Arab world has resisted their resettlement. As a result of this concerted opposition, the international community has fallen in line and long ago discarded the goal of their resettlement.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the relief agency charged with overseeing the Palestinian Arab refugees of the 1948-9 Arab/Israeli war, is a perfect reflection of this fact. While other refugee relief organizations seek to resettle the refugees in their charge quickly, UNRWA does not: it seeks to maintain and sustain them in their current predicament—in large, sprawling refugee camps, many of which have essentially become towns and cities, in the West Bank (Judea/Samaria), Gaza and neighboring Arab countries.

UNRWA exists in its current form only because it operates under a mandate that uniquely defines as "refugees" not only Palestinian Arabs who fled the fighting and chaos during the 1948-9 war—which would be in accord with the standard definition of "refugee" as applied in all other cases—but also successive generations of their descendants.

Thus, Palestinian Arab refugees and their millions of descendants under UNRWA care live in limbo, prohibited from living and working in the economy of the wider society in which they are located. UNRWA-run camps are thus entering their eighth decade of existence, housing sometimes the third- or even fourth-generation descendants of the refugees they were originally built to serve temporarily.

UNRWA also serves to perpetuate the conflict that created the refugees by permitting their radicalization and irredentism. To receive an education in UNRWA camp is to be raised to accept the fabricated Palestinian Arab narrative of original Israeli aggression and deliberate dispossession of Palestinian Arabs. A seething determination to return to and eliminate Israel has been the social consequence.

Indeed, the abortive 2000, 2000-1 and 2008 American-endorsed peace offers that encompassed the creation of a Palestinian state within almost the entirety of the West Bank and Gaza were most likely rejected by the Palestinian Authority (PA) for the simple reason that PA leadership could not sign off on any peace plan that encompassed Israel's continued existence and survive.

All this stands in stark contrast to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the international body that

deals with all refugee problems other than the Palestinian Arab one. UNHRC observes a universal definition of refugee status, one that applies solely to those who actually fled their country during hostilities, civil war, natural disaster or other disturbances. UNHCR works to resettle refugees quickly and to dismantle the temporary refugee camps housing them. Nor does it count as refugees subsequent generations of descendants of refugees.

This has immense practical ramifications: in literally all other cases other than the Palestinian Arab one, the number of refugees shrinks over time, chiefly through successful resettlement. In contrast, in the Palestinian Arab case, their numbers continue to expand ceaselessly.

Thus, instead of the Palestinian Arab refugees officially numbering 30,000—the approximate number of original refugees still alive today—their number, according to UNRWA, is some 5.3 million.

Accordingly, if all major refugee problems of the past century have been solved through resettlement rather than repatriation, then it needs to be understood that UNRWA is a central component of the problem rather than of the solution regarding Palestinian Arab refugees.

It is past time for two things to happen: the disbanding of UNRWA and its mandate, and the assumption of its duties by the UNHCR.

Such a huge administrative adjustment can occur only if becomes the policy of the United States that it should occur. No other country has either the clout or will to propose this outcome and to persuade and, if necessary, pressure friends and foes into supporting it. No other country has the ability to firmly place this proposal on the international agenda. And no peace agreement worthy of the name can be achieved one day without the disbanding of the UNRWA system of maintaining and entrenching a hostile, unsettled and irredentist population as a permanent impediment to peace.

Short of this occurring, the current situation, with the "refugees" continually growing in number and determined on Israel's elimination, no Israeli/Palestinian Arab peace can be expected at any time.

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Facts and Logic

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PO Box 3460

Berkeley, CA 94703

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