

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

October 16, 2018



Israel owns the Golan Heights: Time for the U.S.--- and the world---to recognize it

Dear Friend of FLAME:

For the sake of the security of Israel—and that of the entire Middle East—America must follow through on its speculated readiness to recognize the 1981 Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights.

Having endured 22 years of Syrian assaults from the Golan Heights, Israel repelled Syria from its Golan base of attacks during the Arab invasion of Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

With the exception of a Syrian attempt at an armored re-invasion—successfully repelled by Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War—peace has reigned on the Golan Heights since then. Despite offers to negotiate a return of the Heights to Syria during many Israeli governments of all parties, Syria refused to make a deal—and thus give up its permanent state of war with the Jewish State.

Israel certainly demonstrated its sincerity in permanently settling its frontier issues by resolving its dispute over the Sinai peninsula with Egypt's Anwar Sadat in 1979. In an unprecedented move, Israel relinquished all of the southern territory it acquired from Egypt during the Six-Day War. The Sinai was vastly larger than Israel itself, and, in return, Israel secured just a luke-warm—but a permanent—peace with Egypt.

But the brutal Assad dynasty of Syria has rejected all approaches by Israel for over 50 years. Now that President Bashar Assad of Syria has shown his true colors through his bloody conduct in the Syrian Civil War, the idea of him as a peacemaker with Israel is absurd. And Iran's increasing military involvement in Syria makes such a scenario horrific in its implications for Israel and peace.

No reasonable person can expect that a post-Civil War Syrian regime

HOME

SUBSCRIBE

DONATE

PR FOR ISRAEL

HOTLINE ARCHIVE

ABOUT

CONTACT US

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

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 State group (ISIS) in Gaza has held elections since 2006, and the two factions are battling one another in a vicious power struggle. How will we 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 chronic, expanding practice of recruiting a bitter terrorism war. Could these warring Arab factions reconcile—and accept Israel as their neighbor—it's impossible to imagine a peace agreement among them.

International Palestinian Movement Following Israel's repudiation of five attacking Arab armies in 1967, Arab is in Palestine formed the autonomous Palestine Liberation Organization, under Egyptian Yasser Arafat. Arafat launched the First Intifada, a terrorist guerrilla effort against Israel, which ended with the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords. Under these accords, the Palestinian Authority (PA) was created from Arab parts of Gaza and Judea Samaria, while Israel had committed the remaining parts to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

After Israel's complete withdrawal from Gaza, terror group Hamas was able to be reached through peace negotiations. After Israel's complete withdrawal from Gaza, terror group Hamas was able to be reached through peace negotiations. After Israel's complete withdrawal from Gaza, terror group Hamas was able to be reached through peace negotiations.

The Palestinian Authority's Secular Dictatorship While grounded in Muslim values, 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, and he 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 warring 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 some five million descendants of those refugees—be "returned" to Israel, thus denying the Jewish state demographically. Israel—under the sponsorship of President Bill Clinton in 2001 and George W. Bush in 2002—offered the Palestinians about 90% of Judea-Samaria, as well as a significant portion of Jerusalem, in return for peace.

Islamic State In 2006, Yasser Arafat turned down the last offers, and Mahmoud Abbas has rejected the second State 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 harshly, according to strict Sharia law. Hamas has benefited from war against Israel, most recently in 2014. Because of Hamas' intelligence, CIA is currently under sanctions from Egypt. Israel said the Palestinian Authority. While the PA and Hamas have made some 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 regularly 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, let alone give their people any chance to peace with Israel. [Pray for Israel's destruction.](#)

This message has been published and paid for by FLAME.

FLAME
Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 3483, Berkeley, CA 94703
©2018 FLAME. All rights reserved. FLAME is a non-profit organization. FLAME is not affiliated with any religious or political organization. FLAME is not responsible for the content of any links or images on this page. FLAME is not responsible for the content of any links or images on this page.

To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: www.factsandlogic.org

DONATE NOW

IF YOU SUPPORT PUBLISHING FLAME'S BOLD PR MESSAGES, PLEASE HELP US!!

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

—backed by Iran—will treat the Golan Heights as anything other than a launchpad for renewed attacks against Israeli targets around the Sea of Galilee target below—just as they did before 1967.

As Michael Doran, former member of the U.S. National Security Council, recently said:

"The last 70 years serve as a laboratory of real life, and the results [of the experiment conducted therein] are incontrovertible: when in the hands of Syria, the Golan Heights promoted conflict. When in the hands of Israel, they have promoted stability."

And Doran adds,

"American diplomacy is most effective when based on reality."

Reality, indeed, was recognized by President Trump when he recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital recently. Regardless of one's opinions about the Middle East and the current administration in Washington, the reality is this: Jerusalem is, was, and will always be Israel's capital.

The president's decision wasn't really a decision about Jerusalem. Rather it was an acknowledgment that, in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was nothing more than a deal-killer and provided another excuse for Palestinian intransigence.

Like the Jerusalem decision, American recognition of Israel's Golan Heights sovereignty will help to remove from post-Syrian Civil War diplomacy an issue that will simply kill any chance for the resolution of difficult conflicts between Israel and its neighbors.

In this week's featured FLAME *Hotline* article (see below), Richard Kemp, past Commander of British Forces in Afghanistan, and Rafael Bardaji, former Spanish National Security Advisor, detail the potential threats to Israel and to world peace of the return of the Golan Heights to Syria. Emphasizing Iran's growing military presence in Syria, they offer a chilling picture of Iranian guns on the Golan Heights looking down on their arch-enemy Israel. And they offer suggestions as to how American leadership can eliminate that threat.

I hope you'll forward this article to friends, family and fellow congregants to help them understand why the Golan Heights must never leave Israeli control and how American recognition of Israeli sovereignty there will forestall such a disaster in the future.

I hope you'll also quickly visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's recent *hasbarah* campaigns exposing the root cause of Palestinian

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.

DONATE NOW >



SUBSCRIBE FREE

**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.

SUBSCRIBE NOW >

peace-making failure—their dueling dictatorships in Gaza and the West Bank. I hope you agree with and will support this message.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen

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

P.S. You've probably read about the new peace plan expected from the Trump administration, possibly coming in the next few months. We at FLAME believe such a proposal—no matter what its tenets—will be a mistake, if for no other reason than that the autocratic governments of both Palestinian factions are currently unequipped and unsuited to be Israel's partners in peace. That's why FLAME has created a new editorial message—"[Peace with Palestinian Dictators?](#)"—which is running in mainstream magazines and newspapers, including college newspapers. In addition, it will be 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 the true obstacle to peace, which is the lack of a credible Palestinian peace partner.

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](#).

In the name of peace, it is time to accept Israel's possession of the Golan Heights

By [Rafael Bardaji and Richard Kemp](#), *The Telegraph*, October 3, 2018

The Golan Heights were a launch-pad for aggression against Israel from the rebirth of the state in 1948 until captured by Israel in a defensive war in 1967. Even today, territory adjacent to the Golan is used to threaten Israel. It is time for the international community

to recognise Israel's possession of the Golan Heights as legitimate and necessary. Such a bold move would do much more than just support Israel's security—it would also advance peace and regional stability.

The Golan Heights, bordering Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, dominate the Jordan Rift Valley which contains the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan River. The Heights were allocated by the British and French governments to the French Mandate of Syria in the 1920s and were transferred as part of the newly independent state of Syria in 1946. When the administrative line between the British and French Mandates was drawn in 1923 no consideration was given to defence against aggression from either territory.

The picture has of course changed immeasurably since then. Vulnerability of Israel to occupation of the Heights by hostile forces is proven by recent history and re-affirmed by events from the start of the civil war in Syria until today. This vulnerability remains even with the advent of modern warfighting technology.

As part of the Arab League, Syrian forces launched an invasion of northern Israel across the Golan Heights in June 1948. After the 1949 armistice, there were years of sporadic attacks against Israel from the Golan Heights, including cross-border raids by Fatah and shelling of civilian communities by the Syrian Army. Syria intensified its artillery fire against Israel on the outbreak of the Six Day War in 1967. Israel then seized a major area of the Golan Heights to protect its citizens and its territory. During the 1973 Yom Kippur War by Arab states against Israel, the Syrians re-took part of the Golan—vital ground for offensive operations against Israel—but were subsequently thrust back.

In 1981 Israel effectively annexed the area of the Heights under its control, a move that was condemned by the international community. The international community still does not recognise Israel's possession of the Golan Heights as legitimate and frequent calls have been made, including by the UN, to restore the territory to Syria.

It is a commonly held view that Israel's possession of the Golan Heights is illegal under international law. But this position is not tenable. It is illegal to hold onto territory acquired through wars of aggression, but Israel gained the Golan Heights during its defence against aggression launched from the Golan. Under the UN Charter defensive war is not illegal and throughout history countries have retained territory gained in their own defence.

Recognition by the international community would not encourage wars of aggression but, on the contrary, would deter them. Returning the Golan Heights to Syria would not only

endanger Israel and against their will consign the 25,000 Druze living there to the depredations of President Assad; but it would also send the message that an aggressor has nothing to lose as there is no territorial price to pay for its violent actions.

Western support for Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights would equally extract a price from Assad—albeit a comparatively small one—for the war he has waged against his own people in which millions have suffered and perhaps half a million died. In this, the West has plenty of words but few tools at its disposal. Rejecting Assad's claim on the Golan Heights is one of them, especially as he now seems set to retain virtually all of the status quo ante even after the monstrous war crimes he has committed.

But such a move by the West would be much more than just a rap on the knuckles, it would also be an expression of the new reality. In the past Israel offered Syria the Golan Heights in exchange for peace, with all approaches rejected. Many Western experts and governments naively viewed Assad as a potential partner for peace with Israel. The events of the last seven years have proven beyond all doubt that he is nothing other than a murderous despot who must not be given any opportunity for further aggression.

This is really the crux of the issue: Western action now could make a concrete contribution to preventing conflict in the future.

Syria is now and will remain for the foreseeable future under the domination of Iran. Through both actions and words, we know the Iranian ayatollahs are intent on aggression against the Jewish State. They are establishing a land corridor from Iranian territory through Iraq and Syria to Israel's border and plan to link their forces in that area with Hezbollah's strong offensive forces, including 100,000 rockets, in southern Lebanon. They have positioned their own forces and their proxies where they can threaten Israel and are intent on building these up and maintaining them in position for the long-term.

The Syrian government, as the civil war dies down and when it reconstitutes its forces with Russian assistance, will itself threaten Israel at Iran's behest; and Hezbollah and other Iranian proxy militias will also continue to do so. If these—or any other—malignant entities gain possession of the Golan Heights the threats of cross-border indirect fire could well escalate, leading to the deaths of Israeli civilians and forcing Israel into an overwhelming response that would cause significant bloodshed. This would potentially draw southern Lebanon into a conflict that could easily explode into a regional war.

Israel's possession of the Heights on the other hand is never likely to translate into offensive action against anyone. Israel has only

ever fought on the defensive and its government sees neither Syria nor Iran as targets for aggression.

Iran, Syria and other entities proclaim Israel's occupation of the Golan as an excuse for conflict. Iran and its clients in the region including Hezbollah, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, count on a weak Western response to their aggression, with appeasement and judgments of moral equivalence serving repeatedly to encourage their violence. The other side of the coin is that unequivocal rejection by the West of this excuse would reduce the prospects of conflict.

We understand President Trump is now [considering some form of recognition](#) of Israel's legitimate and necessary possession of the Golan. We strongly support this proposal and encourage all other Western nations that are genuinely interested in the cause of peace to do the same.

The logo for FLAME, featuring the word "FLAME" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a flame icon integrated into its top curve.

Facts and Logic
About the Middle East
PO Box 3460
Berkeley, CA 94703

Copyright 2017 FLAME. All rights reserved.