

Primary among these foes, of course, is the Middle East powerhouse, nuclear aspirant and global sponsor of terror Iran, which threatens Israel on virtually a daily basis and makes belligerent military gestures on Israel's borders through its sponsorship of Syria and the terror groups Hezbollah and Hamas.

While Jordan and Egypt have over the decades signed peace treaties with Israel and maintain a cool peace, Turkey under Recep Tayyip Erdogan has stepped into the breach, fiercely threatening Israel diplomatically and even violently few years ago with an armed flotilla attempting to challenge Israel's defensive blockade of Gaza.

Despite the massive military forces aligned against Israel by Iran and Turkey, as well as hundreds of thousands of missiles aimed at Israel from her borders by Hezbollah and Hamas, Western media only thinly report the story of Israel's daily struggle with these major existential threats.

Rather, the media overwhelmingly prefer to focus on Israel's attempts to manage its conflict with two groups of Palestinians—those living in Judea-Samaria (the West Bank) and their arch enemies, the Palestinians living in Gaza under Hamas. Like Iran, Syria and Hezbollah, both these groups also are sworn to Israel's destruction.

Indeed, the media embrace Israel's struggle with the Palestinians, because Israel is clearly better funded and armed than these groups. Israel is portrayed by the media as the mighty Goliath in this narrative, seeking to crush the poor, helpless Palestinian David.

So, we see that in this fake, sentimental story, Israel is no longer the underdog of decades past, but has become the oppressor.

Of course, the media ignore the facts of this conflict—granting the Palestinians land they never owned, as well as accusing Israel of "occupying" its own ancient homeland and preventing local Arabs from attaining the statehood they have themselves refused to accept for some 70 years.

Typically, this Sunday's *New York Times* features a propaganda piece packed with unsubstantiated accusations of Israel's occupation of "Palestinian territory," "violations of international law," and refusal to allow Palestinian refugees a "right" to return to homes they left 70 years ago and for which they have no legal rights.

In short, the media have no interest in portraying Israel as the only rule-of-law democracy and Western ally in the Middle East, struggling to defend itself against a deadly array of Islamist forces—including Iran, Syria, Turkey, Hezbollah and the Palestinians—all of whom are attempting to destroy the Jewish state. No.

Rather the media—chief among them the *New York Times*—focus on a perverse, unsubstantiated (and patently untrue) micro-story of Palestinian suffering at the hands of Israel.

In truth, Israel is no less an underdog today than it was in 1948. It struggles under a constant international diplomatic barrage at the U.N., daily attempts to violate its borders via land and sea by designated terror groups, murderous attacks against its civilians, and bellicose threats from an imperialist nation with one of the world's largest armies—and is

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on the threshold of acquiring nuclear arms.

For pro-Israel activists, our mission is clear: We must help shift the narrative. Israel is the underdog—the David of this story—standing up against the most determined, hate-filled and fiercely armed collection of enemies in the world. The Palestinians are not victims—they are part of this evil axis.

Please forward this FLAME Hotline to your friends, family and fellow congregants, so they, too, can help us tell the true story of Israel's struggle against the Islamist Goliath.

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* campaign asserting the near-impossibility of distinguishing anti-Zionism from classic, racist anti-Semitism.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. We may never defeat anti-Semitism or its equally twisted twin, anti-Zionism—but we have an obligation to fight them with every ounce of our being. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[Anti-Zionism is Racism](#)." I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running this month—for the first time in the *New York Times*. It exposes slander of Israel and opposition to Israel's existence by BDS activists, members of Students for Justice in Palestine and even a few politicians as racist calumnies. These lies need to be called out, and FLAME's new position paper does it boldly. In addition to running in mainstream media, this editorial 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](#). 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.

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Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

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