

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

February 19, 2019



Why Ilhan Omar is dead wrong about why the U.S. loves Israel

Dear Friend of FLAME:

When newly elected Minnesota Representative Ilhan Omar accused U.S. elected officials of being influenced by Jewish lobby money, she got it horribly wrong on two big counts.

First, attempting to malign organizations like AIPAC (or FLAME, for that matter) for trying to influence American opinion and legislative outcomes is flat-out anti-Semitic. Influencing public opinion and the votes of legislators is called *politics*—and it's practiced by U.S. lobbying groups ranging from the NRA and Planned Parenthood to unions and hundreds of industry associations.

All these organizations raise and spend money to effect their agendas, but Omar made the mistake of a) attacking *Jewish* organizations and no others for this all-American practice (a double standard, which itself is *prima facie* anti-Semitic) and b) employing a classic anti-Semitic trope—the idea that "Jewish money" is dirty money, illegitimate money, the money of a nefarious cabal.

Omar's second mistake was that her premise is factually false: She seems to believe that U.S. love of Israel is solely or primarily the result of Jews twisting Americans' minds, brainwashing us so we support something we should logically hate.

But the truth is, the U.S. loves Israel for many powerful emotional and material reasons that far surpass the influence of AIPAC or FLAME or any of dozens of other Israel advocacy groups. In fact, the primary strategy—and supreme virtue—of these groups is that they fight lies by the media and people like Ilhan Omar. They in fact simply *tell the truth* about Israel.

Consider Israel's overwhelming popularity among Americans—an astounding 74% of us view the Jewish state favorably, a 17-year high point. This cannot be simply because of lobbying groups. Indeed, this approval stands in defiance of the daily carping of mainstream media, like the *New York Times*, against Israel, to say nothing of rising support among the left, including Ilhan Omar, for the hideous anti-Israel Boycott,

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Recognize Israel's Golan Heights Rule

It's time to affirm Israel's Golan Heights sovereignty—protecting U.S. interests and preventing Iranian and Hezbollah terrorists from overrunning the Middle East.

Since almost its 21-year commanding position on the Golan Heights in 1967, Israel has been the victim of a steady stream of anti-Israel attacks. In 1987 and 1988, the UN Security Council passed resolutions demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1987, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) ruled that Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights is illegal. In 1988, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 435, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1989, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 497, declaring Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights null and void. In 1990, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 541, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1991, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 598, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1992, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 607, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1993, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 619, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1994, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 630, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1995, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 641, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1996, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 654, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1997, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 664, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1998, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 678, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 1999, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 687, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2000, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 694, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2001, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 701, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2002, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 711, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2003, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 726, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2004, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 744, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2005, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 754, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2006, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 768, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2007, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 786, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2008, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 803, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2009, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 817, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2010, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 833, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2011, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 848, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2012, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 867, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2013, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 883, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2014, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 904, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2015, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 924, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2016, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 942, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2017, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 967, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2018, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 990, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In 2019, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1011, demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Recognizing Israel's Golan Heights sovereignty would be a powerful form of justice.

This message has been published and paid for by FLAME Facts and Logic About the Middle East 414 5th Ave. New York, NY 10017 James Hoffmann, President Dennis J. Frutkin and President Emeritus

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IF YOU SUPPORT PUBLISHING FLAME'S BOLD PR MESSAGES,

Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

What then explains the strong support of Americans and the U.S. Congress for Israel? Two main reasons emerge—one of which rests on deep-seated shared cultural values, and another that is grounded in U.S. diplomatic and military interests.

Above all, Americans love Israel because *we see ourselves* in the aspirations of the Jewish people and the values that drive them. Americans and Jews are largely people of the Bible, both of which groups still honor the values of the Old Testament. No wonder that by far the largest bloc of Israel supporters in the U.S. is *evangelical Christians*.

But Americans also love Israel because Israel so emulates America. Israel is a feisty start-up nation, borne of a fierce war of independence against overwhelming odds, just as the U.S. was. Israel is also a proud beacon of democracy, civil liberties and the rule of law—the only such nation in the Middle East—just as the U.S. has exemplified for the rest of the world.

But Israel's value to the U.S. stretches far beyond emotional identification to concrete material benefits that America receives from its relationship with the Jewish state. In fact, the U.S. is the world's largest investor in Israel—and we receive outsize value and returns for that investment.

In fact, though Israel is the second largest beneficiary of American security aid, it receives no economic aid. (Afghanistan is the single largest beneficiary of both U.S. economic and security aid.)

While some voices complain about the \$3.3 billion in American military aid Israel receives annually, the reasons for and rewards of this investment for the U.S. are compelling. Here's the short list (and there are many more):

- Unlike most beneficiaries of U.S. aid—including European states and Japan, as well as Middle Eastern countries, like Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria—no American troops have ever been stationed in Israel.
- Israel invests all the security aid it receives with American defense contractors, purchasing existing weaponry or funding development of advanced weapons the U.S. can also utilize (such as the two Iron Dome missile defense installations the U.S. recently purchased from Israel).
- Israel is reputed to be "America's aircraft carrier in the Middle East," providing superior military might—including the most powerful air force in the region—fully supportive of U.S. security interests.
- Israel has kept Syria, Iran and Lebanon in check, contributing mightily to stability in the region and keeping deployment of U.S. troops to a minimum. Indeed, Israel has missiles that can blanket the Middle East and reach as far as Russia.
- Israel's intelligence service is unparalleled in the Middle East and assists the U.S. and European nations in gathering secret information about our mutual enemies (such as exposing Iranian nuclear weapon plans and assassination plots in Belgium). Israel also jointly (with the U.S.) developed the Stuxnet malware that infiltrated Iran's nuclear

PLEASE HELP US!!

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid 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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weapons facilities in 2010.

In short, if Israel's value is judged objectively, the U.S. doesn't need lobbying or PR efforts to justify its 70-year love of Israel. Unfortunately, Israel is not judged objectively. Bias—often anti-Semitic—clouds too many assessments of Israel in the media and increasingly in the halls of Congress, as Omar's anti-Zionist outburst demonstrates.

Indeed, it behooves Israel's supporters to be activists—speaking out in letters to the editor, swelling the crowds at pro-Israel rallies, and donating financially to organizations that hammer away, day in and day out, delivering the truth about Israel to the general public and our elected representatives.

Please forward this FLAME Hotline to your friends, family and fellow congregants, so they, too, can understand Israel's value to the U.S.—and why Americans love Israel—so they, too, can help us tell Israel's true story.

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 need for Israel to maintain its sovereignty over the strategically critical Golan Heights on the border of Syria.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. After Syria used its control over the Golan Heights to attack Israel with thousands of rockets and sniper bullets—then belligerently invaded Israel in 1967—the Jewish state defeated Syria and ejected it from the Heights. Syria has refused to negotiate peace in exchange for the Golan Heights for all these decades. No wonder Israel annexed this strategically important territory in 1981. Today, the Golan Heights gives Israel the ability to protect Middle East security against Iran, Hezbollah and Syria. It's time for the U.S. and the world community to affirm Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[Recognize Israel's Golan Heights Rule](#)." I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running last month—including in the *New York Times*. It supports efforts by bipartisan members of Congress to officially recognize the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. 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](#). Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on Israel's critical role in protecting U.S. interests in the region—as well as protecting itself.

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About the Middle East

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