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# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

April 02, 2019

## How to Defeat the False Anti-Zionist Narrative: Tell the Truth

Dear Friend of FLAME:

As a new wave of anti-Zionist argument sweeps through American society, it's critical that supporters of the Jewish state examine our positions and fortify them. While the anti-Zionist trend is today mostly limited to the far left wing of the Democrat party, it is potent, growing and worrisome.

We should worry—and fight back—for two reasons:

First, anti-Zionism—opposition to the existence of the world's only Jewish state—is anti-Semitism, which is a form of racism. There's simply no such thing as an acceptable level of racism, particularly when it's part of an effort to destroy the primary refuge of world Jewry.

Second, at the core of this anti-Israel mythology is a sentimental, archetypal sympathy for a hapless underdog—Palestinians, who are deemed worthy—against a mighty oppressor—Jews, who are held to be usurpers. Both are false assumptions, but powerful nonetheless.

In fact, Arabs, of whom Palestinian Arabs are a small, relatively undistinguished cohort, have for the last 120 years sought to colonize and ethnically cleanse every inch of the Middle East and violently decimate its small, struggling and increasingly successful Jewish population.

Indeed, Palestinians are members of a behemoth force—some 1.8 billion Muslims, who are the majority population in 52 states, and 420 million Arabs, who control 22 of those states. Almost all have opposed and waged brutal war on a relatively tiny number of Jews—now only about 6.8 million—who have been scraping out a nation in their ancient, dry, stony homeland for 3,000 years, millennia before the Arabs or Muslims arrived.

In short, the current anti-Zionist narrative—believed and nurtured even by well-meaning liberal American Jews—is precisely backwards. This popular story—a fantasy, actually—focuses on a small group of Palestinian Arabs on a small patch of the Holy Land, where they are represented as noble victims.

Rather than heroes of the historical narrative, Arab nations are in fact largely villains who

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

**What Does BDS Really Want?**

Media often report that the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement is a "protest against Israeli occupation of the West Bank"—but facts prove otherwise.

Some mainstream press and politicians whitewash the BDS position, representing it as legitimate criticism of Israeli policy toward Palestinians. The truth is, BDS is aimed openly against the very existence of Israel—and advocates anti-Semitic measures to destroy the Jewish state.

**What are the facts?**  
The U.S. Senate recently passed a landmark bill—the Countering BDS Act—repealing the rights of access to public companies that discriminate commercially against Israel. While the ACLU, who usually defend presidential candidates opposed this Act, saying it violated free speech rights, the rationale ignores the fundamental nature of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. In fact, BDS is not willing to do with political speech, and everything to do with commercial discrimination against a religious and ethnic group. BDS is a well-articulated Jewish national self-determination. Imagine these media and politicians objecting to an act of Congress aimed to protect the existence of a religiously Jewish or mostly Jewish country that is approved by its citizens solely for religious or racial reasons.

The act does not—and despite media misrepresentation—this is precisely the intention of the BDS movement.

**BDS doesn't just criticize Israeli policy, it opposes the state of Israel.** BDS does not simply question Israel's "occupation" of its Jewish biblical homeland, neither does the "West Bank." Rather, BDS opposes Israel's occupation of the entire Holy Land. The BDS signers say this, "Palestine don't" lie from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean sea—meaning the entire state of Israel. Indeed, BDS founder, Omer Rabinovitch states, "If the occupation ends, would we have support for BDS? No, it wouldn't—no." Why do the media neglect this alarming fact?

**BDS doesn't criticize any other nation for its treatment of Palestinians.** While BDS attacks Israel exclusively for its inhumane policies in the occupied territories and Gaza, it does not criticize and vilify any other nation or ethnic group. It ignores the plight of Palestinians in Syria. It makes no objections to brutal discriminations against Palestinians in Arab Emirates, where for 70 years Palestinians have been prohibited from leaving their shanty towns, avoiding its state preferences and even owning land. This double standard proves that BDS is not a Palestinian support group—it's an anti-Semitic, anti-Israel group, bent on the destruction of the only Jewish state. Why do journalists fail to reveal that BDS doesn't criticize Hamas or the PLO for their vital oppression of Palestinians, Israeli-Palestinians?

It's an entire agenda to defame the world's only Jewish state into the 51st Muslim-majority nation. While the U.S. constitution protects free speech, it also prohibits discriminations against ethnic, religious and racial groups. For this reason, the Countering BDS Act is legal, ethical, and politically appropriate, especially since Israel is by far the United States' strongest Middle East ally.

The demand that the Countering BDS Act is a violation of the open speech doctrine, was flawed. The Countering BDS Act already has hundreds of Jews that prepare economic discriminations based on ethnic, religious, and racial identity. Indeed, this objection appears no more than a hypocritical excuse created by Israel's enemies to justify their opposition to the world's only Jewish state.

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have made little social, cultural, political or economic contribution to the region or the world. They, including the Palestinians, are steeped in petty tribalism and corrupt dictatorships, stagnant, unproductive economies and ineradicable misogyny and homophobia. Their primary value-add over the past century has been a pernicious brand of jihadi terrorism characterized by suicide bombing.

Yet mystifyingly this group is favored by the left over Israel.

While the narrative we read in the *New York Times* and hear from "progressive Jews" speaks disapprovingly of Israel's "occupation" of Palestinian land, in fact, no Arab nation—let alone a group calling itself Palestinian—has ever legitimately possessed the Jewish homeland from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. (The only exception being Jordan, which illegally captured Judea and Samaria in a war of aggression in 1948 and lost it back to Israel in 1967.)

In sum, there's no such thing as public "Palestinian land," except in Arab dreams and propaganda of the progressive left.

In truth Israel, with U.N. approval, has occupied the state of Israel since 1948. It occupies its Biblical homelands of Judea and Samaria—which includes 2.7 million unaffiliated Arabs—since its defeat in 1967 of six invading Arab armies attempting to destroy the Jewish state and drive its Jewish inhabitants from the land entirely.

Let us now correct the prevailing narrative in mainstream media and progressive circles: Israel occupies land it is legally entitled to occupy—the State of Israel—and according to international law, legally occupies Judea and Samaria until a peace with the Arab inhabitants is forged.

As part of the anti-Zionist narrative, the *New York Times* and its leftist followers consistently place the burden of such a peace—and establishment of a Palestinian *state* as well—solely at Israel's door. They also usually neglect to mention that Israel has in recent years made several generous offers to the Palestinian Arabs of both peace and land for a state, which the Arabs have spurned every time.

As false and unfair as this anti-Zionist narrative is, we pro-Israel advocates soldier on. Fortunately, you might say (and grimly), we are used to it. As we often remind ourselves in Yiddish: *Es ist schwer zu sein a Yid*—it's hard to be a Jew. Our history of being treated unfairly is long and well known. But it's precisely our ability to survive—and ultimately, thrive—in the face of injustice that characterizes a key aspect of Jewish greatness.

How else to explain the extraordinary achievement of Israel—the heroic birth of the Jewish state from ashes and its meteoric rise in just 70 years to become one of the world's most vibrant democracies, an economic miracle and a top-20 global military power?

One critical thing we've learned—or should have learned—about surviving this unrelenting injustice is, you don't take it lying down. *You fight back*. You tell the truth insistently to all who will listen.

One additional truth that supporters of Israel must strive to tell is this: Israel's stunning accomplishments don't make it an oppressor, any more than the failure of Arab political, social, cultural and economic structures make Palestinians a victim. Indeed, Israel's

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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success should make us—and even the progressive left—admire and support the Jewish state all the more.

If the facts are known, respected and considered rationally—independent of false sentimentality and false attribution of victimhood—there's little question about the righteousness of Israel's cause.

In talking with friends, family and colleagues, I urge you to condemn the new anti-Zionism rising among the progressive left. Clarify the undeniable historical truth that Arabs have opposed and tried to destroy Jewish settlement in the Holy Land for more than a century. Emphasize that the Palestinians have rejected every offer of peace and still refuse to accept the Jewish state.

I hope you'll also quickly visit FLAME's lively new Facebook page and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's most recent hasbarah campaign—on whitewashing misrepresentations made by the media and, alarmingly, by some politicians, about the insidious Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. While the Combating BDS Act overwhelmingly passed the Senate (by a vote of 77-23) in February—*without support from any Democratic Senator running for President*—some media and politicians, as well as the ACLU, opposed the bill based on its alleged infringement on free speech. Yet this representation is a lie, since BDS does not merely criticize Israel's policies toward Palestinians, but rather opposes Israel's very existence. This is not a free speech issue, but a thinly veiled hate speech issue. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[What Does BDS Really Want?](#)" I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running this month. It exposes the true motives of BDS supporters and explains why they are anti-Semitic at heart. It will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence 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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