

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

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Israel Supporters Who Despise Netanyahu Miss the Point

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu is a lightning rod for anger from both American Jews and other left-leaning Americans.

Those who despise Mr. Netanyahu for who he is (a ruthless politician) or what he has not done (forge a peace with the Palestinians, forbid Jewish settlement in Judea-Samaria, aka, the West Bank, sanction Reform services at the Kotel), miss the big point.

Not only is Netanyahu about to become (in July) Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister, but in his last three consecutive terms he has also has presided over one of the most extraordinarily positive periods in Israel's history.

- **Israel's economy is booming:** The standard of living continues to rise for most Israelis, and the country has become a global commercial powerhouse, particularly in technology.
- **Security is tightly under control:** Few Israelis have died at the hands of terrorists or in battle in recent years, and both Palestinian dictatorships are more or less contained.
- **Israel for the first time** enjoys civil (if not warm) relations with most Arab nations.
- **Mr. Netanyahu has effected** closer diplomatic and trade ties with China, India, the U.S., Russia, Japan and Brazil, as well as a handful of African and other Latin American nations.

• **Israel is the 13th happiest country** in the world according to the UN World Happiness Report—ahead of the UK, the US, France, Spain and Italy—and is the 10th healthiest country worldwide (the US is 35th), and its people enjoy the #1 healthiest diet in the world.

Yet MSNBC's "Morning Joe" host Joe Scarborough recently lamented, "Some of us don't understand why [Israelis] would keep reelecting Netanyahu. I certainly don't . . . Because you think they would want a lasting peace, and he is certainly not ever going to do that."

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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.

What are the facts?

The U.S. Senate recently passed a landmark bill—the Combating BDS Act—imposing the right of access to punish companies that discriminate commercially against Israel. While the ACLU, the ACLU's, who usually defend free speech rights, the national press, 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 well known to Jewish national self-determination. Imagine these media and politicians objecting to an act of Congress meant to protect the existence of a religiously Muslim or Jewish think country that is represented by its citizens solely for religious or racial reasons.

Yes, an Israel does—and despite media misrepresentation—this is precisely the intention of the BDS movement.

BDS doesn't just criticize Israel policy, it opposes the state of Israel. BDS does not simply question Israel's "occupation" of its Jewish biblical homeland, neither does it call for the "return of the Jewish people to the Holy Land." BDS is not a religious or ethnic group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group.

BDS doesn't criticize any other nation for its treatment of Palestinians. While BDS attacks Israel exclusively for its religious policies in the disputed territories and Gaza, the movement does not criticize any other nation or ethnic group. It ignores the plight of Palestinians in Syria. It views no objection to brutal discrimination against Palestinians in Arab countries, where for 70 years Palestinians have been prohibited from having their religious temples, including in their own countries, and even owning land. This double standard proves that BDS is not a Palestinian support group. BDS is 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 brutal oppression of Palestinians, Israeli-Palestinian

enjoy full equality under law and more civil liberties and economic opportunity than Arab neighbors in the Middle East. By contrast, Palestinians living under the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in Jordan-Syria suffer make request corporations and the systematic discrimination of Muslims and Arabs. Palestinians under the Hamas rule of Gaza group Hamas in Gaza suffer even worse, living in a virtual police state, whose merger intentions are limited to occupying Israel.

Political criticism is legal. Commercial-based racial discrimination is not. Like any democracy, Israel welcomes valid criticism—especially since the country, at just 70 years old, is a thriving, dynamic, and growing nation. BDS is not a political group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group.

BDS doesn't seek policy changes—it seeks the end of the only Jewish state.

But the BDS movement does not seek policy changes. As the BDS website, BDS is not a political group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group. BDS is not a religious or ethnic group.

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

Scarborough ignores what most Israelis cannot ignore. Not only has Netanyahu made their lives better, but he's also made them *safer*. And security for Israelis—unlike for comfortable Americans—is their number one issue.

Israel is encircled by vicious enemies who demonstrate their desire to destroy the Jewish state—and kill Jews—*every day*: Lebanese terror group Hezbollah and blood-thirsty, civil-war-wracked Syria to the north, Palestinian terrorist regime Hamas to the south, the implacable Jew-hating, terrorist-rewarding Palestinian Authority to the east, and hateful, ICBM-equipped Iran, now occupying Syria and hovering like a black cloud over all of Israel.

Despite the naïve belief of American liberals—including, apparently, Joe Scarborough—Israelis don't see a single Palestinian leader who has the desire or power to negotiate a "lasting peace" with them.

What average Israelis do see and hear are Palestinian leaders who outrageously insist that Jews have no historical rights to a state in the Holy Land *and* that Arabs own the entire territory from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea (in other words, all of Israel and Judea-Samaria).

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas recently affirmed to PLO delegates that Israel "constitutes a colonialist enterprise that has nothing to do with Judaism." Secretary-general of the anti-Israel group, The International Coalition for Supporting Jerusalem and Palestine, Mohammed al-Adlani, flatly rules out peace negotiations, claiming that "normalization [with Israel] is tantamount to defeat."

Worse, Palestinian leaders swear undying enmity toward the Jewish state.

In other words, American Jews and American leftists who object to Prime Minister Netanyahu care little for his accomplishments, but rather cite disagreement with his positions on several issues in which they have very little direct stake (such as forging an immediate peace with the Palestinians, no matter its existential dangers, and opening the Kotel to mixed-gender prayer).

In truth, the Netanyahu haters' animus seems to be rooted in emotion, rather than substance. One can only conclude that the American left's dislike of Binyamin Netanyahu is similar to that they feel for Donald Trump—not so much based on actual issues as on a gut revulsion to the person or personality. Indeed, Mr. Netanyahu's close professional friendship with President Trump could alone account for most of the left's disdain of the Israeli Prime Minister.

Next time you hear Americans knocking Binyamin Netanyahu, I suggest that you patiently and calmly ask them which of the Prime Minister's accomplishments they disagree with most—the economy, national security or global diplomacy?

I urge you to point out that as Americans, we're hardly in a position to harshly condemn—let alone hate—a leader whom Israelis themselves have elected five times as Prime Minister—this latest time with a near record level of Knesset members for his Likkud party. Remind them that unless we know what it's like living under terrorist guns *day and night*, as Israelis do, it's hard to say whom we'd vote for.

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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Just as there are few atheists in the foxholes, there are also few progressive liberals.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to 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, 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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