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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

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## While Hamas Bombs and Kills Israeli Citizens, the UN, Democratic Presidential Candidates—and Most of the World—Snore

Dear Friend of FLAME:

When Megan McCain appeared on Seth Meyers' talk show last week, he upbraided her for criticizing the anti-Semitism of U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar. Omar has been guilty of numerous anti-Semitic remarks since her election, as well as appearing at a fundraiser for the Hamas- and Muslim Brotherhood-associated Council for American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

Meyers justified his criticism of McCain because Omar is a "minority," has "issued apologies" for several of her comments, and has received "death threats."

Despite Omar's tepid expression of regret for some of her comments, her overall unrelenting anti-Semitism seems not to bother Meyers—a Jew no less. Omar gets a pass because she's a minority? As for death threats, hundreds of Congress members receive them daily.

How forgiving would Meyers have been toward a Republican member of the House who uttered a series of racist comments about black Americans?

Omar, true to form, has now recently blamed the Israeli victims of Hamas missile attacks for a "cycle of violence," ignoring the fact that these cycles always begin with Hamas firing rockets at Israeli civilians—launched by people hiding behind Palestinian human shields—both of which acts are certifiable war crimes. Omar also mentioned Israeli "occupation" as a cause of the violence.

Of course, as Omar should know, Israel does not occupy Gaza. Israel left Gaza fully to the Palestinians in 2005, and Gaza's people are now brutally ruled 100% by Hamas, long designated a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the E.U. What's more, Israel has only ever attacked Gaza in self-defense.

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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.

Some mainstream press and politicians view the BDS position, represented in an aggressive criticism of Israel policy, as a means to pressure Israel. The truth is, BDS is aimed against the very occupation of the West Bank and the Jewish state.

**What are the facts?**

The U.S. Senate recently passed a landmark bill—the Combating BDS Act—affirming the rights of states to provide economic and diplomatic support to Israel. Several presidential candidates opposed this Act, saying it violates free speech rights. The bill also clarifies the fundamental nature of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

In fact, BDS has nothing to do with political speech and everything to do with commercial discrimination against a religious and ethnic group—Jews—and an attempt to Jewish national self-determination. Imagine those words and problems applied to an act of Congress aimed to protect the existence of a religiously Muslim or racially black country that is opposed by its citizens solely for religious or racial reasons.

Yes, an Israel-based media outlet misrepresents this precisely the nature of the BDS movement.

**BDS doesn't just criticize Israel policy, it opposes the state of Israel.** BDS doesn't target anyone Israeli, "occupation" of its Jewish biblical homeland, Judea-Samaria (the "West Bank"), either. BDS opposes Israel's occupation of the entire Holy Land. The BDS agenda says all "potential" death tolls from the Israeli army include the Palestinians as well as the entire state of Israel. Indeed, BDS founder, Omar Barghout admits, "If the occupation ends, would he not support for BDS? No, it would be no." Why do the media neglect the damning fact?

**BDS doesn't criticize any other nation for its treatment of Palestinians.** While BDS attacks Israel exclusively for its defensive policies in the disputed territories and Gaza, the movement does not criticize any other nation or ethnic group. It ignores the slaughter of Palestinians in Syria. It views no objection to brutal discrimination against Palestinians in Arab-Egyptian, where for 70 years Palestinians have been prohibited from leaving their original homes, practicing in many professions and even owning land. This double standard proves that BDS is a Palestinian support group—and it is an anti-Semitic, anti-Israel group, based 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-Palestinians enjoy full equality under law and more civil liberties and economic opportunity than do the anywhere in the Middle East.

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

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 work in progress. Israel's legal system has multiple avenues for redress, including the National Council of Jewish Policy, which vigorously debates such issues, which are reported by a free press.

But the BDS movement does not seek policy changes. As the BDS website, Israel and public speeches make clear, the entire agenda is dedicated to ending the only Jewish state into the 21st Muslim majority nation. While the U.S. constitution protects free speech, it also prohibits discrimination against ethnic, religious and racial groups. For this reason, the Combating BDS Act is legal, ethical and politically appropriate, especially since Israel is by the United States' own Middle East ally.

The United States already has hundreds of laws that prevent economic discrimination based on ethnic, religious and racial identity. Indeed, this objection appears to have been a hypocritical attack launched by Israel's own Jewish opposition to the world's only Jewish state.

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But perhaps even more egregious than Ilhan Omar's hate speech, and Seth Meyers refusal to condemn it, is the silence of much of the world in the face of Hamas's latest round of murderous aggression.

Indeed, when Hamas begins another belligerent war—this latest launch of some 650 rockets is its fifth against Israel since 2008—by bombing Israeli kindergartens and homes and killing innocent civilians, one could reasonably expect an outcry by world bodies, individual nations and politicians.

Terrorist Hamas is a staunch ally of Iran and has sworn itself to Israel's destruction. It is the enemy of the U.S., all Western nations and, increasingly, Arab states.

Yet the UN has failed to criticize Hamas—in fact the General Assembly has condemned Israel's defensive response . . . without even mentioning Hamas's deadly barrage of missiles. To their credit, the E.U. and member Germany have admonished Hamas on this occasion, but no other members, like Britain, France or Italy have said a word.

More telling perhaps is the silence of the American left—of the 21 Democratic candidates for President, only three (Hickenlooper, Booker and Bennet) have condemned Hamas's violence. No comment has come even from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, usually reliable supporters of the Jewish state.

We seem to be nearing the situation in which Israel, the United States' strongest, most reliable ally in the Middle East, has become a dangerously charged third rail for the left.

Thankfully, the U.S. administration—President Trump, Secretary of State Pompeo, Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and U.S. Special Representative Jason Greenblatt—have all raised forceful criticism of Hamas and unreserved support of Israel's right to defend itself.

While many politicians, celebrities and liberal pundits expressed hand-wringing dismay at the mass shootings of Jews in Pittsburgh and Poway synagogues—as well as solidarity with Jews beset by right-wing anti-Semitism—their sympathy often seems to disappear when the Jews of Israel are attacked with weapons of mass destruction by Islamist anti-Semites.

Anti-Semitism is the scourge of the Jewish people, whether it comes from the likes of white nationalists or ultraleft politicians or Middle East jihadis. If someone refuses to stand up against all forms of anti-Semitism—from any quarter—their sympathy is hollow and false. Their sincerity is empty.

Next time you hear a friend decrying right-wing anti-Semitism, remind that person of equal hate toward Jews coming from the left—right here in the U.S.—as well as from Palestinian terrorists who murder Jews (or try to) most every day in Israel.

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

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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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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