

SUBSCRIBE TO THE FLAME HOTLINE DONATE TO FLAME

# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

August 21, 2019



## Brouhaha over Omar-Tlaib Non-Visit to Israel Distracts from the Real Problem: Anti-Semites in Congress

Dear Friend of FLAME:

The botched Middle East trip of U.S. Representatives Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib has provided pundits and mainstream media endless fodder for blame: Donald Trump, Israel's U.S. Ambassador Ron Dermer, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are all targets.

Clearly the Omar-Tlaib non-visit to Israel has been fraught with missteps—Trump's coarse tweets; a premature statement by Dermer saying the two would be allowed in; the appearance of Netanyahu vacillating on whether to accept them. But no mistake: Omar and Tlaib are the anti-Semitic stars of this fiasco.

### First, Israel had every reason and every right to ban Omar and Tlaib:

- Both Congressional members are anti-Semites—and let's not mince words: That means racists. Evidence: Both Congresswomen continue to employ anti-Semitic tropes regarding Jewish dual loyalties, Jews paying off U.S. politicians and half a dozen more (see next bullet).
- Both legislators support the hateful Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement: BDS is clearly anti-Semitic, since it denies the right of Jews—unlike any other ethnic group—to self-determination and a nation state in their ancient homeland.

Because BDS stands for Israel's destruction, the movement has been overwhelmingly condemned in bipartisan votes by both houses of Congress. In addition, Israeli legislators recently passed a law barring supporters of BDS from entering Israel, which Israel has every right to enforce.

- Omar and Tlaib reportedly intended to visit Al Aqsa Mosque atop the Temple Mount, the scene of dozens of spontaneous riots, many violent, in the past. Surely the notoriety of these two members of the U.S. Congressional "Jihad Squad" provide enough incendiary fuel to spark another conflagration.

In short, if you support the "rights" of Tlaib and Omar to visit Israel, you're giving aid and comfort to racists who were preparing to demonize Israel and

HOME

SUBSCRIBE

DONATE

PR FOR ISRAEL

HOTLINE ARCHIVE

ABOUT

CONTACT US

**THIS MONTH'S AD APPEARED IN PUBLICATIONS REACHING 10 MILLION READERS**

**YOU OBSERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH.**

**What is "Palestinian Territory"?**

Mainstream media often refers to "the Palestinian territory" yet there is no such legal entity. The land—Judea, Samaria—is disputed and awaits a peace agreement.

The phrase "occupied Palestinian territory" implies that Israel control over the ancient Jewish homeland. It isn't. Israel's presence in Judea, Samaria and the West Bank is based on Biblical treaty provisions, agreements with the Palestinians and international law.

**What are the facts?**

Israel is a sovereign state of 7,646,000 Jews. It is the only Jewish state in the world. It is the only state in the world that is a democracy. It is the only state in the world that is a free market economy. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the United Nations. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the World Trade Organization. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Group of Seven. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the G20. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the BRICS. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the African Union. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Arab League. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Turkey. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Azerbaijan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Uzbekistan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Tajikistan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Kyrgyzstan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Kazakhstan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Turkmenistan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Bangladesh. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of India. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of China. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of Russia. It is the only state in the world that is a member of the Islamic Republic of the United States of America.

To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: [www.factsandlogic.org](http://www.factsandlogic.org)

**DONATE NOW**

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

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial help hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide

possibly endanger Israeli police and other citizens.

### **Second, many civilized countries bar "dangerous" actors from entry:**

- In 2005, the U.S. State Department prevented then Indian regional official Narendra Modi (now India's Prime Minister) from entering the U.S. to address Indian-Americans at Madison Square Garden.
- The U.K. once banned Israeli politician and future prime minister Menachem Begin from visiting, and it has forbidden entrance by another Israeli member of parliament, Moshe Feiglin, because he was, British officials declared, "fostering hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the U.K."
- The U.S., under the Obama administration, barred entry to a right-wing member of the Israeli Knesset, [Michael Ben-Ami](#), in 2012. We find no record of Democrat objections to this action. Likewise, surely, no elected Democrat would complain if a Hungarian white supremacist were banned from visiting the U.S.—he would after all rightly be termed a "racist." Yet members of the House majority caucus are livid about Israel banning two anti-Semitic Representatives.
- Just this year, the U.S. justifiably refused admittance to Palestinian Omar Barghouti, founder of BDS.

If you criticize President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu for wanting to prevent Omar and Tlaib from visiting Israel—as Democratic Presidential candidate [Joe Biden](#) did in a tweet last week—without holding President Obama to the same criticism (which Biden, his then-Vice President, failed to do), you are hypocritical.

### **Third, no country should be criticized for barring entry to those who would destroy that country.**

Surely we can agree that free speech, even in the most liberal democracies, is not protected for foreigners—especially those hostile to those democracies. Yet despite the openly anti-Israel sentiments expressed by Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, Israel was willing to allow to their visit under certain circumstances.

- Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib had every opportunity to visit Israel on an organized trip with 41 of their Democratic colleagues from the House of Representatives several weeks ago, but they spurned the invitation. That trip would have allowed them to visit both Israel and Judea-Samaria, where their colleagues met with Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas.
- Tlaib's and Omar's Middle East trip was sponsored by Miftah, an organization that supports BDS, approves of suicide bombings against Israeli civilians and reportedly has ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a designated terrorist organization.
- After Israel denied Tlaib's visa for the Miftah trip, she asked for "humanitarian" permission to visit her Palestinian grandmother and committed to avoiding pro-BDS and anti-Israel activities. Once Israel granted that permission, Tlaib backtracked and decided she could not accept those conditions.

While no country is obligated to permit its enemies to enter, Israel showed uncommon willingness to host Tlaib and Omar. But Israel was understandably

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.

**DONATE NOW** >>



**SUBSCRIBE FREE**

**FLAME'S WEEKLY  
HOTLINE E-  
NEWSLETTER**



FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW** >>

not willing to support an [anti-Israel propaganda tour](#) on its own soil.

**Fourth, the House of Representatives should expel Tlaib and Omar.**

The U.S. Constitution provides that "Each House [of Congress] may [punish its members](#) for disorderly behavior and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member."

House Republican Steve King was justifiably censured by Democrats and his fellow Republicans for controversial comments he made about white supremacy, [which were considered racist](#). King lost all his committee posts, including a senior position on the Judiciary Committee.

Surely the drumbeat of anti-Semitic comments by both Tlaib and Omar, as well as their support of the blatantly [racist BDS movement](#) qualify them for the harshest possible punishment from their Congressional colleagues. (If they were white supremacists, would they be spared?)

I hope in your conversations with friends, family and colleagues you'll explain why attempts to turn attention away from these disgraceful politicians by attacking President Trump or Prime Minister Netanyahu are diversionary tactics distracting from the [moral cancer](#) afflicting the House of Representatives.

In addition to keeping the focus on the despicable characters of Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib, 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 new *hasbarah* campaign—a refutation of the myth of "Palestinian territories."

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. Critics of Israel, from *The New York Times* to BDS and the United Nations, usually base their condemnation of Israel on accusations that Israel's settlements (or its "occupation of Palestinian territory") are illegal. These accusations are false and deserve to be exposed once and for all. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called ["What Is 'Palestinian Territory'?"](#) I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which will begin running in national media this month. It provides a plain-English explanation of the legal issues surrounding Israel's historical and entirely legal presence in its Biblical homeland. This piece 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.

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline at no charge every week. If you're not yet a subscriber, won't you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively tell the truth about Israel? Just go to [free subscription](#).

# FLAME

Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

PO Box 3460

Berkeley, CA 94703

Copyright 2019 FLAME. All rights reserved.