

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

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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.

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About the Middle East

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