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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

May 5, 2020



What apartheid? Israeli Arabs reject Palestinian identity—and overwhelmingly identify as Israelis

Dear Friend of FLAME:

An Israeli mother posts on her Facebook page a photo of Muslim-Israeli and Jewish-Israeli healthcare professionals dancing together at a Hadassah Hospital staff function and writes the caption, “How dare anyone call my country an apartheid state? If Jews are so horrible to Muslims, why do they work here, send their children to Israeli schools and dance with us? These Muslims are happy and thriving in Israel.”

Indeed, a new poll by the Jewish People Policy Institute provides proof that most non-Jewish Israelis identify with Israel—not the Palestinians—and are content living there. Here are some facts:

- A massive majority—85%—of non-Jews in Israel feel *comfortable* being themselves in Israel
- Fully 23% of non-Jews in Israel identify as *Israeli* (up from 5% in 2019), and 51% identify as *Arab Israeli* (up from 48% last year)—that’s 74% who have a positive Israeli identity.
- A paltry 7% of non-Jews in Israel identify as *Palestinian*—down from 18% just last year.
- Some 91% of non-Jews *disagree* that to be a “real Israeli,” you must be Jewish

If Arab Israelis are increasingly assuming an Israeli identity, how can proponents of BDS accuse Israel of being an apartheid state?

First, the Israel haters *don’t* say that the Arab Israelis are second-class citizens—because that’s indisputably false.

Rather, it’s because, strangely, instead of supporting the right (and responsibility) of the Palestinian people to determine their own destiny, the BDS crowd holds Israel responsible for Palestinian destiny.

The BDSers argue that Israel—and the Trump peace proposal—want to isolate

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**YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...
Keep the Pressure on Iran**

America's greatest enemy is reeling from sanctions and a botched coronavirus response. We can best help the Iranian people by speeding regime change.

What are the facts?
Iran is the largest source of terrorism, it attacks U.S. military assets, and it poses a nuclear threat to the world. The Islamic Republic also violated U.S. law, and after cheating on the Iran Deal, it set out to acquire nuclear weapons. Iran has the world's largest stockpile of enriched uranium, enough to produce a nuclear warhead in 18 months. While the people of Iran deserve transparency and their dissent should not be suppressed, Iran's nuclear program is a threat to the world's stability.

Iran is the greatest enemy of the United States. Iran has attacked the U.S. with missiles, drones, and ships. It has threatened to attack U.S. naval vessels and has been accused of attacking U.S. aircraft carriers. Iran has also been accused of attacking U.S. oil tankers and has been accused of attacking U.S. diplomatic facilities.

Iran attacks on arms treaties and is still developing WMDs. Iran violated the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and while negotiating the Iran Nuclear Deal, it hid the development of nuclear weapons. Iran has also been accused of developing nuclear weapons. Iran has violated U.S. sanctions banning development of conventional ballistic missiles.

Iran supports global terrorism, and its proxies kill Americans. Iran consistently supports U.S. enemies, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Islamic State. Iran has regularly attacked U.S. diplomatic facilities and has regularly attacked U.S. naval vessels.

Iran's human rights record is deplorable. It suppresses dissent, it persecutes its citizens, and it has killed thousands of its own people. Iran has also been accused of supporting terrorism.

Iran has violated international law. Iran has violated international law by attacking U.S. naval vessels and by supporting terrorism.

Iran is a threat to the world's stability. Iran's nuclear program is a threat to the world's stability, and its support for terrorism is a threat to the world's stability.

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the Palestinians into small areas, either disconnected from one another or linked only by narrow land bridges.

This argument is absurd, of course.

The United Nations, Israel and the U.S. have proposed a completely integrated Palestinian state in 97% of Judea-Samaria (the West Bank), plus Gaza—with a capital in Jerusalem—numerous times. However, the Palestinians have rejected this opportunity for sovereignty *every single time*.

As geopolitics have changed dramatically since Israel's last peace proposal in 2008—with the growth of al Qaeda and ISIS, Hamas' violent seizure of Gaza, the Syrian civil war, plus Iran's takeover of the Lebanese terror group Hizbollah and its increased imperialism in the Middle East—Israel's willingness to risk allowing yet another avowed enemy on its borders has understandingly vanished.

But that is precisely the threatening option Israel faces from terrorists supported by the Palestinian Authority in Judea-Samaria or by thousands of missiles launched by Hamas in Gaza.

Both these groups obstinately refuse to recognize the Jewish state and both have continued their incitement to terrorist violence against Israeli civilians for decades.

In the meantime, in recent years, Israelis have increasingly expanded or established new communities in Judea-Samaria, their ancient Jewish homeland. Today some half a million Israelis live in these disputed territories.

Remember, these are not "Palestinian territories"—the Palestinians have never had sovereignty over an inch of the Holy Land.

Jewish communities in Judea-Samaria help create more living space for Israel's rapidly growing population, now over nine million. They also increase Israel's security, which has always been precarious—even life-threatening. Current borders leave Israel with a narrow geographical "waist" of just nine miles in width between the Mediterranean and Jerusalem's eastern city limits—making it virtually indefensible.

In short, the arc of recent Middle East history—and Palestinian recalcitrance—have simply forced previous offers of a Palestinian state—in all of Judea-Samaria, connected with Gaza—to be taken off the table. Past offers will not be repeated.

At the same time, Arabs living within Israel have grown comfortable with the equality, liberty, professional opportunities and prosperity they enjoy as Israeli citizens. Who would not?

Israel has become one of the most successful nations on earth, let alone among those only 72 (or even 100) years old. For most Arabs living in Israel, it's a dream come true—with advantages unattainable anywhere in the Middle East or in most other parts of the world.

Israel's two-million-plus Arab citizens are simply the most economically successful and politically free Arabs on earth. As they further embrace their Israeli identity, their lot only continues to improve.

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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On the other hand, Israel's neighboring states (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen, Turkey) and non-state entities, like Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, have either disintegrated or become increasingly belligerent . . . or both.

In short, Israel does not owe the Palestinian Arabs a state, especially when over decades—after billions of dollars of international aid—they have failed to build a political and economic infrastructure capable of supporting one. Especially when they have rejected every offer from Israel and the U.S. of land for peace. Especially when they continue to promote Israel's destruction.

If the Palestinians are left with an ever-diminishing territory—or discrete enclaves—in Judea-Samaria, this is not apartheid. Rather, it's the natural result of shrinking possibilities due to one fact only: The failure of Palestinian leaders to seize many generous opportunities history has presented to them.

I hope that as you discuss Israel's relationship to its Arab citizens with friends, family and colleagues, you'll emphasize the high level of satisfaction the overwhelming majority of Arab-Israelis feel toward their country. Please also clarify that there is no apartheid in Israel, and that Palestinian rulers are solely responsible for their statelessness on territory they control.

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—which argues for maintaining strong sanctions against our enemy, Iran.

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. Some leftist European and American politicians have recently proposed easing sanctions on Iran as a humanitarian gesture in the face of Covid-19's devastating attack on the Islamic Republic. However, this would be an egregious mistake, just as tough U.S. sanctions are pressuring Iran to back off its imperialistic adventures across the Middle East—especially since U.S. sanctions do not restrict Iran from acquiring humanitarian medical supplies. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[Keep the Pressure on Iran](#)" I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in the *Sunday New York Times* and *Washington Post*. It lays out the many dangers that Iran poses to the U.S., Israel and our other allies in the region and spells out why in fact we should consider *increasing* sanctions on Iran. 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

committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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](#).

The logo for FLAME, featuring the word "FLAME" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The letter "A" is stylized with a white flame shape above it.

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