

SUBSCRIBE TO THE FLAME HOTLINE DONATE TO FLAME

FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

September 15, 2020



New opportunity opens for the Palestinians: Will they seize peace and prosperity . . . or let it slip away again?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

The recent normalization agreement between the State of Israel and the United Arab Emirates has brought unprecedented hope and the promise of peace and stability in the Middle East.

It has also postponed the application of Israeli sovereignty to parts of Judea and Samaria, ostensibly to give the Palestinian leadership a window of opportunity to come to the table to arrive at a final status agreement with Israel.

Yet, the clock is ticking, and the perpetual question looms: Will the Palestinian leadership remain locked in its over 100-year war of violent rejectionism against Jewish statehood? Many fear Palestinian leaders will again fail to grasp the opportunity for peace and force their people to suffer for their obsession with ending the Jewish state.

With more and more normalization steps taking place every week—such as Bahrain now recognizing Israel and Saudi Arabia officially letting Israeli commercial planes fly over their territory, plus the possibility of more Arab nations signing peace agreements in the coming months—there is great optimism that Middle East conflicts can be resolved.

This change in Arab attitudes toward Israel increases the pressure on the Palestinians to act. With every Arab gesture of acceptance of Israel's existence, Palestinian political leverage diminishes. If peace in the Middle East no longer depends on an Israel-Palestinian resolution, why should the world put energy into it—especially since the Palestinians always refuse?

This is a momentous time to put disagreement aside and look to the future, bringing peace, stability and security to the region. The stage is set for the Palestinians to make a commitment. Israel is waiting at the table and the Arab world is desperate to usher in a full regional peace.

Unfortunately, Palestinian leadership is once again rebuffing all attempts by the U.S., the wider Arab world and the international community to finally bring

HOME

SUBSCRIBE

DONATE

PR FOR ISRAEL

HOTLINE ARCHIVE

ABOUT

CONTACT US

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

YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

What's Stopping a Palestinian State?

Over 72 years, Israel has offered land for peace and a Palestinian state. The Palestinians have rejected all offers. How much longer should the world wait?

What are the facts?

Only a tiny fraction of the world's national groups have nation states. Both Kadhafi and Chavez agree to establish a nation in Israel. In 1977, members of the United Nations Security Council, the UN and the Arab League, rejected Israel. Thus, the failure of the Palestinians to achieve nationhood was not accidental. Creation of a state requires powerful strategy, unity and leadership. Sadly, these qualities have eluded the Palestinians, preventing them from seizing multiple opportunities for nationhood.

Palestinians embrace a "passive" strategy. As noted in the 1984 Charter of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the Palestinian people are dedicated to the complete "liberation of Palestine" and "elimination of Zionism in Palestine." The Charter states that "Actual struggle is the central strategy." While Palestinian leaders have pledged to give up the "right of return" and the PLO has never done so, Yasser Arafat, the Charter of Hamas, the Palestinian charter group that rules Gaza, states, "Resistance, both conventional and non-conventional, is a duty of every Palestinian." The PLO and Hamas are not unified and a fully sovereign state is established with Jerusalem as its capital" on the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, encompassing all of Israel.

Clearly, a strategy focused solely on destroying Israel is futile, as is one that rejects negotiation. Palestinian leaders hold the double-edged sword to negotiate on each side. Instead, behind the all-out war strategy is fully at odds with public knowledge in the United States, Europe, Asia, and increasingly in the Middle East. It's certainly not the path to peaceful resolution.

Palestinians lack political unity. Palestinian leaders and their people do not share a coherent vision. While both the Arab League and the UN support the idea of Israel, Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Front, and the PLO are not unified. The PLO pursues a more diplomatic approach—sometimes claiming to want peace—though it still rejects any final settlement with financial incentives. What's more, these two factions remain bitter enemies, unable to share governance. While many Palestinians embrace peace and prosperity with Israel, this view is not promoted or shared by their leaders. In short, Palestinian society is splintered with deep divisions, incapable of forming a state.

Palestinians lack courageous leadership. It is said that all Palestinian leaders would make peace with Israel would be killed. This was the fate of assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981, after signing a peace treaty with Israel. But if Palestinian leaders were actively to pursue policies of conciliation with Israel and promote a strategy of peace to prosperity, it's far more likely the Palestinian people would live on. In the meantime, no Palestinian leader has had the courage to negotiate seriously with Israel, despite the generous offers of land for peace, including a return to Jerusalem. Likewise, Palestinians have attempted the recent US billion U.S. peace plan without discussion.

Palestinian society is splintered with disorganization, preventing a state.

Thousands of militant groups in Israel, Syria, and throughout the Arab world, including Hamas, and the PLO, are active in Israel. In its country the size of New York, Military experts note that a second full-scale regional conflict, Israel's most recent the Jordan Valley in Judea-Samaria, which borders Jordan, where only the Palestinian line for secure security services, Israel has long designated the Jordan Valley for future application of sovereignty.

How can it be that the world is waiting for the Palestinians?

Like most people who care for the Arab and Muslim world, the Palestinians have failed to master a viable strategy, national unity, or leadership. Had enough to see the disorganization of Palestinian society after 72 years of waiting, the world could have long ago rejected the national aspirations of the Palestinians and refuse to join in.

This message has been published and paid for by

FLAME

FLAME is a non-profit, non-partisan, non-political, non-religious organization that publishes and distributes information about the Middle East. P.O. Box 1000, Berkeley, CA 94701-1000. Phone: 415-863-9999. Website: www.flamehotline.org

To receive free FLAME updates, visit our website: 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

peace and prosperity to their people.

After release of the Israel-UAE deal, the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said that the agreement has bought the Palestinians time and the chance for peace. He said that he is urging the parties to sit and negotiate. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly said he is ready for peace and will meet anywhere, at any time, with all issues on the table.

However, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has called negotiations on the basis of the “Peace to Prosperity” plan a conspiracy, forbidden his people from taking part in conferences that would help the Palestinian economy, and called for “days of rage” in response.

Yet time is growing short for Palestinian leaders. History is calling them to act now to transform their people’s future. If the Trump Administration loses power—or its interest in this issue—the “Peace to Prosperity” plan will be swept away, and another Palestinian generation will continue to suffer.

What’s more, the wider Arab world is becoming increasingly frustrated and impatient. As a prominent commentator wrote last week in the Saudi Gazette: “As a human being, as a Muslim and as an Arab, I am saddened by the situation of the Palestinian who was traded in by his political leaders. I wish him well, and hope that he would wake up from his coma and adopt what is good that serves his interest and his future.”

An Emirati academic wrote in the Abu Dhabi-based “The National” newspaper that: “The UAE-Israel accord is a win for every Muslim.”

These are just two of many examples of the change in attitude to peace with Israel in the wider Arab and Muslim world. More and more people are embracing the change of desert winds in favor of normalization and warmer relations with the Jewish State.

Other taboos are being broken as well. A Muslim majority state, Kosovo, will open an embassy in Jerusalem, fully recognizing Israel’s sovereignty in its capital city. Serbia will become the first European nation to open an embassy in Israel’s capital, and Malawi has stated that it will become the first African nation to open a diplomatic mission in Jerusalem.

Perhaps the greatest reflection of the sea change in Arab sympathies toward Israel was the flat-out rejection by the Arab League of several resolutions proposed by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas condemning the UAE for striking a peace with Israel.

The Palestinians need to see in the UAE-Israel deal, the normalization with Israel by Arab and Muslim states, and the currents in the region, as an opportune time to negotiate. The leverage they have held is slipping away quickly. Supporters of the Palestinian cause in the U.S. would be well advised to counsel the Arab group to act now, while some opportunity remains.

Unfortunately, Palestinian leaders don’t offer much hope. As senior Palestinian Authority leader Hanan Ashrawi made clear recently, in reaction to the normalization process: “The Palestinians are willing, generation after generation, to continue their struggle.” This amply demonstrates that their leadership sees no urgency and appears unprepared to move an inch from its maximalist and

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.

[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 >](#)

rejectionist stand.

Why do Palestinians leaders persist in their failed strategy? After refusing an overly generous peace offer by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert in 2008, Abbas thought he could afford to do so, because, as he told the *Washington Post*, he believed that “in the West Bank we have a good reality.” This confidence today, however is misplaced. The wall of obstruction that Palestinian leadership has built carefully over decades with the help of fellow Arab leaders is clearly crumbling.

While the Middle East moves forward without them, billionaire Abbas and his multi-millionaire cronies are squandering perhaps a final opportunity—and it is their people who will continue to suffer.

I hope you’ll help friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives understand that the Palestinians are being left behind *primarily* by their leadership’s pathological rejectionism, but *also* by a realization in the wider region that Arab nations have much to gain from Israel—through improved economic options, security, high-tech innovations and water and agricultural technology.

Emphasize that this moment could also be a shining reality for the Palestinians . . . if they would seize the rapidly closing window of possibility.

I hope you’ll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME’s lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME’s new hasbarah campaign—which explains the sad, but true reasons Palestinians continue to fail at forming their own nation state.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. Some American and European politicians argue that Israel’s intention to apply sovereignty to the militarily critical Jordan Valley would inhibit formation of a Palestinian state. Nothing is further from the truth. The Palestinians don’t have a state—despite numerous offers of land for peace by Israel—because the Arab group simply hasn’t mustered an adequate strategy, political unity or leadership. They’re simply unable to say yes. To clarify this point, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[What’s Stopping a Palestinian State?](#)” I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specific reasons the Palestinians have failed to create a sovereign state and why it’s time for the world—and Israel—to move on. 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 icon above it.

Facts and Logic
About the Middle East
PO Box 3460
Berkeley, CA 94703

Copyright 2020 FLAME. All rights reserved.

[Unsubscribe](#)