

# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

February 23, 2021



## Strip Ilhan Omar of membership on all House Committees for anti-Semitism

Dear Friend of FLAME:

In recent weeks there's been a lot of media and Capitol Hill support for removing Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia from various Congressional committees for her past comments—including the [anti-Semitic assertion](#) that Jews used space lasers to start California wildfires and her sharing of other beliefs held by QAnon.

One can debate the merits of Greene's case, but House members should ensure that the issue of anti-Semitism and removal of Congressmembers from committees is handled fairly. If Greene is to be condemned for anti-Semitism, surely other elected officials should [also come under the microscope](#), starting with Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, who was recently named Vice Chair of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights.

Omar has previously made very problematic—even flatly anti-Semitic—comments in her past, from many of which she has [never distanced herself](#).

In 2019, Omar was named Anti-Semite of the Year by Stop Antisemitism, an organization that works to hold anti-Semites accountable and create consequences for their bigoted actions by exposing the threat that they present to all Americans and showing how their ideologies conflict with American values, morals, and principles. The organization provided [six reasons why](#) Omar deserved the dishonor and placed her *above* notorious anti-Semites like hate-preacher Louis Farrakhan and white supremacist Richard Spencer.

Stop Antisemitism's list included accusing American Jewry of possessing dual loyalty; alleging that Jews buy their influence with money, infamously stating "It's all about the Benjamin's"; accusing Israel of having hypnotized the world; supporting the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign against Israel; submitting a resolution in the House of Representatives comparing [boycotting Israel to boycotting the Nazis](#); and having her anti-Semitic statements endorsed by infamous neo-Nazi David Duke.

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### No Fool's Deal with Iran

Any new agreement with Iran must halt its development of weapons of mass destruction and its sowing of terror against the U.S. and our Middle East allies.

*While the Biden administration wants to engage with Iran, it must understand the extent of the 2015 deal, which allowed Iran to show, grow & push to a nuclear bomb, and failed to stop Iran's development of long-range missiles and its intelligence against Israel and Arab Gulf states.*

**What are the facts?**

As the world's greatest exporter of terror—and militarily anti-American—Iran stands as one of the greatest threats to our United States and the global community. This danger is underscored by Iran's threats and outright attacks on its Middle East neighbors, as well as its ballistic missile program. Nations in the Middle East fear Iran's growing nuclear arsenal. The profile in the recent Iran's increasing drive to develop its nuclear weapons. While it makes perfect sense to bring Iran to heel and curb its imperial aspirations, any U.S. strategy to do so must address the full scope of Iran's threats.

**Why the Iran Deal is a bad idea.** The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) left Iran on four key points. First, it failed to prevent Iran's cheating, lacking a system of immediate, on-demand inspections. Western intelligence showed the Islamic Republic had not done its part: nuclear weapons programs and its continued nuclear development. Second, Iran continued to work hard to build its nuclear arsenal. In 2015, Iran's "Significant Other" from the U.S. to stop its nuclear development, but only did so with full knowledge of Iran's nuclear program. Iran's nuclear program is still active. Iran has already tested its nuclear weapons. Iran's nuclear program is still active. Iran has already tested its nuclear weapons. Iran's nuclear program is still active. Iran has already tested its nuclear weapons.

**How to persuade Iran to make a deal.** Experience shows that Iran will respond to pressure. Greatness, honor and the right to use the negotiating advantage earned by new realities in the region. Current negotiations between Iran and Israel have already stopped. Measures taken to deter Iran's nuclear program and nuclear tests have been taken. Iran's nuclear program and nuclear tests have been taken. Iran's nuclear program and nuclear tests have been taken.

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Facts and Logic About the Middle East  
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The organization also mentioned Omar's refusal to retract or regret many of her anti-Semitic comments or repudiating the backing she receives from the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), which is connected to the Muslim Brotherhood.

Omar has stood by many of these comments, even when she was called out on them by her own Democratic leadership. When Rep. Nita M. Lowey politely asked her to retract her anti-Semitic trope on accusing Jews of dual loyalty, Omar responded, "I should not be expected to have allegiance/pledge support to a foreign country in order to serve my country in Congress or serve on committee."

The backlash to these and other comments Omar has made was so strong that in March 2019, the House passed a resolution condemning anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred. However, even this vote was politicized by Omar and other far-Left Democrats who did not want to focus on anti-Semitism, even though there had been a significant rise in hate attacks on Jews in the U.S.

It should be remembered that only a few months before, a mass murder of 11 Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh had been perpetrated, and another attack on Jews took place in Poway, California shortly after the vote.

Interestingly, Omar is far weaker on issues closer to home, often displaying her rank hypocrisy. In July 2019, Omar was asked at a conference of the Muslim Collective for Equitable Democracy, whether she was willing to make public statements condemning female genital mutilation (FGM). Rather than make the statement, which should be easy for most Americans in the 21st century, Omar attacked the questioner and called the question "appalling."

It is an issue Omar should not take lightly: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a disproportionate number of girls at risk of FGM in the United States live in Omar's Fifth Congressional District in Minnesota, which includes the largest Somali diaspora in the United States.

Furthermore, in October 2019, Omar was the only Democrat representative to vote against a bill to impose sanctions on Turkey over Erdogan's invasion and occupation of northeast Syria, and their attacks on U.S. Kurdish allies in the region, as well as abstain on a separate bill to recognize the Armenian genocide. For someone so vocal about Palestinian statehood and so-called "human rights abuses" by Israel, Omar showed a hypocritical lack of solidarity with the Armenian struggle for recognition and the Kurds' long and bloody battle for independence.

In other words, Omar's commitment to human rights and national rights is subjective and tribal. She is happy to accuse Israel and the Jewish people for all manner of invented aspersions, but ignores similar offenders when it suits her agenda. She will not even stand up for those in her community who suffer under a repressive mutilation.

How can Omar thus continue as the Vice Chair of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights? If she continues in this position, she will use it to continue spreading hate against the Jewish State and the Jewish people, while excusing atrocities closer to home.

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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Any member of the media or the House of Representatives who believes Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene should be penalized by loss of House committee membership for anti-Semitic comments cannot cast a blind eye on Rep. Ilhan Omar, whose transgressions are arguably more offensive—and certainly more frequent—than those of Greene.

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that regardless of Greene's outcome, it's time to remove Omar from all her House committees—including the Budget Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee.

Anti-Semitism is anti-Semitism, regardless of party affiliation or ideology. There needs to be one standard for all elected officials.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—which exposes the dangerous folly of the U.S. trying to entice Iran back into the failed “Iran Deal” of 2015.

Best regards,

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

P.S. The Biden administration and many members of Congress seem determined to reengage with Iran over the coming year—and some reports indicate a willingness to return to the failed “Iran Nuclear Deal” without preconditions. As you know, this would be disastrous—for the U.S. and for Israel and our other allies in the Middle East. The Iran Deal gave the Islamic Republic a roadmap to nuclear weapons and did nothing to check their jihadi activities, including development of long-range ballistic missiles. To warn Americans of this danger, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[No Fool's Deal with Iran](#).” I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specifically the protections any new Iran deal must provide. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. 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 Biden stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Iran, Israel and the entire Middle East.

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