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# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

March 30 2021



## Israel trounces BDS in the marketplace, but its struggle in the public square continues

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Certainly, Israel's struggle against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement over the last decade has been a most bitter PR battle—one that both angers and animates supporters of the Jewish state. After all, BDS freely slanders Israel, wins student-body votes on U.S. campuses and has garnered the support of several outspoken U.S. Representatives.

Yet over the last year, Israel has never been less isolated, and the amount of *foreign investment* in the country and its people has been massive. Indeed, each investment into Israel can be seen as a victory over BDS.

Case in point: Israeli companies in 2020 attracted a record-breaking \$9.93 billion in investments globally, mostly from the U.S. That figure was up 27% over 2019.

The investments have focused on Israeli advances in cyber-security, financial tech, smart mobile, digital healthcare, ecommerce, transportation and coronavirus care, pharmacology, measurement-and-testing, agri-tech, foodtech and artificial intelligence.

“The impressive investment figures are remarkable at the time of global crisis,” said Start-Up Nation Central (SNC) CEO Professor Eugene Kandel. “They indicate the global investors’ trust in the maturing ‘Start-Up Nation.’”

This economic support of Israel flies in the face of the worldwide Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against the State of Israel, launched in 2005. While BDS adherents on the progressive Left claim the movement is merely a protest against Israeli policies toward Palestinians, BDS leaders are more candid.

The BDS slogan says it all: “Palestine will be free from the river to the sea”—in other words, all of Israel. Movement co-founder Omar Barghouti has admitted, “If the occupation ends, would that end support for BDS? No it wouldn’t—no.” Just last May Barghouti clarified that “There won’t be any Zionist state like the

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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 negotiate with Iran, it must understand the terms of the 2015 deal, which allowed Iran to enrich uranium to 5% and to develop a nuclear reactor, and failed to stop Iran's development of long-range missiles and its intelligence against Israel and Arab Gulf allies.*

**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 the United States and the global community. This danger is underscored by Iran's threats and outright attacks on its Muslim Arab neighbors, as well as its ballistic missile program. Nations in the Arab Gulf are fearful of the profits in the region's economy driven to fortify its defenses with 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 range of Iran's incidents.

**Why the Iran Deal is a deal breaker.** The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) did not end Iran's long game. First, it failed to prevent Iran's cheating, lacking a system of immediate, on-demand inspections. Western intelligence doubted the Islamic Republic had had about its past nuclear weapons programs and its continued nuclear development. Second, Iran continued to work hard to build its nuclear arsenal, as well as its ballistic missile program. Third, the U.S. is to step up its collaborative efforts in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Iran also continued to threaten Israel, from its Syrian border, attack U.S. vessels in the Gulf of Oman and recent missile strikes against a World War II oil refinery. Third, the JCPOA did nothing to stop Iran's technological missile program, which will allow it to attack nations thousands of miles from Tehran with nuclear missiles. Finally, most tragically, the JCPOA failed to halt Iran's nuclear weapons development, but only allow it—with full reliance of restrictions after 15 years—only just come to power.

**Plans to persuade Iran to make a deal.** Experience shows that Iran will respond to pressure. Great deal. But the deal can only win the negotiating advantage earned by new realities in the region. Current negotiations are based on Iran's already admitted inactivity. Measures taken to deter Iran's nuclear and missile arms have increased the pressure. Both Israel and the U.S. have increased cyberattacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, and by the elimination of its enrichment in its new reactor, such as the construction of more advanced Major General Gholam Reza Asgari, and the material of Iran's nuclear program. Brigadier General Michael Vukobratovic. In addition, Iran since 2017 has

attacked over 100 Iranian and Hezbollah military targets in Syria. Israel has also put Israeli jets on standby in alliance with Gulf Arab states that also oppose Iran.

These conditions give the U.S. responsibility to leverage its negotiations with Iran. Consequently, we are under very personal pressure to do so. The U.S. should only agree to reduce these conditions to ensure for major, verifiable behavior changes from Iran that are not a deal breaker.

**What the next Iran deal should encompass.** Any agreement with Iran should address the above points. The Islamic Republic is dedicated to spreading a nuclear State revolution globally. Iran's steps will be visible. Thus the next deal should state that Iran agree to a verifiable, permanent halt to its nuclear weapons program. The Biden administration should also ensure that Iran is not developed of conventional ballistic missiles, as required by the 2015 UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Finally, Iran must halt subversion of its neighbors and other forms of terrorism. It must move to ending its foreign terrorism, step in to prevent its regional activities and end the violent export of extreme Shiite revolutionary ideology. Needless to say, the U.S. should involve our regional allies in this process. Iran's deal should be a global mission—such as the Abraham Accords and Iran's current economic and political relations—as well as a deal that truly makes the region and the world a safer place.

**FLAME**  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East  
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FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

one we speak about . . . The Palestinian minority will become a Palestinian majority of what is today called Israel."

It's worth noting, again despite protestations of the ultra-Left, that advocating destruction of the world's only Jewish nation among all the world's nations—and attempts to delegitimize and demonize Israel as BDS does—are *anti-Semitic*.

Good news: This definition of anti-Semitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Association has been accepted by 28 nations and is used by many of them—including the U.S. State Department—to condemn BDS. In addition, some 32 U.S. states have outlawed BDS.

More good news: When it comes to harming Israel through economic boycott, divestment and sanctions—let alone destroying the Jewish state—the BDS movement has failed miserably.

Israel is one of the most economically successful countries on earth. It ranks 30<sup>th</sup> by GDP among all nations, though it is one the world's smallest by area and population. By per-capita GDP, Israel ranks 22<sup>nd</sup>. Its GDP growth rate of 4.87% in 2020 exceeded that of Japan, Germany and the U.S.

Possibly the greatest defeat for BDS this past year was the Abraham Accords, putting to bed the myth that there is a regional Arab-Israeli conflict, and the Jewish State is incapable of making peace with the Arab world. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan have all signed peace agreements with Israel, with many more on the way.

Remember that BDS was built on the foundation of the Arab Boycott, and the anti-Semitic program initiated in 1945 by the Arab League—forbidding its members from any relations with any Jews living in then-Palestine and later the State of Israel. This boycott sanctioned any company that dealt with the Jewish community and Israel, attempting to cripple and destroy the nascent Jewish state.

With key Arab states now formally embracing trade and diplomatic deals with Israel, for radicals in Europe and North America to continue pursuing a BDS boycott policy looks out of touch with the reality of the region and of Arab opinion.

To underscore the failure of both the Arab boycott and BDS, the Abraham agreements have led to huge new investment in Israel from Arab countries. They understand how much Israel and its people have to contribute toward progress and development in the region.

A couple of weeks ago, the United Arab Emirates announced it was setting up a \$10 billion investment fund aimed at strategic sectors in Israel. Through the \$10 billion fund, the UAE "will invest in and alongside Israel, across sectors including energy manufacturing, water, space, healthcare and agri-tech," according to the official press release.

**Despite these triumphs on the global economic battlefield,** Israel still faces threats from BDS in an equally critical arena. Indeed, the fight against BDS is also over the hearts, minds and souls of millions of students, intellectuals, journalists, politicians and the average voter in the West.

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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In 2020, the student bodies at three prominent U.S. universities—Columbia, University of Illinois, Champaign and Tufts—voted to support BDS-style divestment in Israel. Notably, however, no U.S. university has ever divested from investments in Israel as a result of such student initiatives.

What's more, over the years—thanks to campus information campaigns of CAMERA, Stand With Us, AMCHA and my organization, Facts and Logic About the Middle East, the majority of BDS initiatives on U.S. colleges have been defeated. Yet such efforts to overcome lies about Israel on campus is increasingly difficult in the face of the intersectionality movement, which attempts to brand Israel as a colonialist power that oppresses not just Palestinians, but also, by extension, African Americans, LGBTQ people and women.

In addition, the fact that BDS supporters like U.S. Representatives Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar were recently reelected by large margins demonstrates how hating Israel has become normalized in the corridors of power. Also, in early 2020, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights created a list of 112 companies with connections to Israeli communities across the “Green Line,” effectively creating a boycott list of Jewish-owned companies.

Please point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that despite Israel's success in attracting unprecedented economic support for its technology achievements, we clearly have to redouble efforts to defeat BDS lies ceaselessly circulated among college students and academics, as well as artists, intellectuals and Leftist progressives. Our job is far from done.

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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