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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

May 4, 2021



Media spin Palestinian “TikTok Intifada” into baseless slander against Israel

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Many mainstream media have written deceptively about riots or violent events in and around Jerusalem in recent days. These anti-Israel media distorted the story with fantastical headlines like the *New York Times’* “Israelis and Palestinians Clash Around Jerusalem’s Old City: The violence broke out as an extremist Jewish supremacy group marched in the city.”

The anti-Israel media narrative was that some Jewish extremists just decided one day to march around the city looking to attack Arabs. Disgracefully, like the general portrayal of this conflict, the media got the timeline upside down, ignored more than a week of Arab planning, incitement and violence—and used misleading, incendiary terminology only against the Israeli side.

The riots coincided with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which started on April 12, when religious Muslims spend the day fasting and only eat after dark. It is supposed to be a time of peace and personal reflection. Around Damascus Gate—leading from Arab eastern Jerusalem neighborhoods into the Old City—it was anything but.

According to Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), in the days leading up to Ramadan, from April 2 through April 10, state-run official Palestinian Authority TV broadcast a terror-promoting song and accompanying visuals of violence dozens of times. Focusing on influencing the youth, PA TV also broadcast the song during the 4:00-5:00 p.m. time slot for children's programming. The song included violent incitement, with lines like “My brother, throw my blood on the enemy like bullets.”

Night after night from the beginning of Ramadan on April 12, hundreds of Palestinians, some of them hurling fireworks, rocks, and Molotov cocktails, clashed with Israeli police. The riots left dozens of police officers injured, and several more unsuspecting Israeli civilians were brutally attacked by Palestinian

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

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 false observation went to message with Iran, it missed the irony of the *NYT*’s *“Israelis and Palestinians Clash Around Jerusalem’s Old City: The violence broke out as an extremist Jewish supremacy group marched in the city.”* The U.S. should really agree to ending these escalations in return for peace, stability, and change from that serve our vital strategic interests.

What are the facts?
As the world’s greatest sponsor of terror—and militarily anti-Israel—Iran stands at the core of the present threat to the 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 against American assets and allies. Of course, the goal is to bring Iran to heel and curb its imperial aspirations, any U.S. strategy to that end must address the full scope of Iran’s ambitions.

Why the first Iran Deal failed. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) fell short on four key points. First, it failed to prevent Iran’s cheating, leading to a series of international, regional, and domestic intelligence warnings. Second, Iran continued to seek to develop its nuclear weapons program and its continued nuclear development. Third, Iran continued to seek to develop its nuclear weapons program and its continued nuclear development. Fourth, Iran continued to seek to develop its nuclear weapons program and its continued nuclear development.

The U.S. is under zero pressure to make a deal with Iran.
Finally, Iran must halt its nuclear weapons program. The U.S. should really agree to ending these escalations in return for peace, stability, and change from that serve our vital strategic interests.

Blowing Iran does not solve the problem—the next deal that Iran signs. President Biden has the opportunity to make the greatest peace over in the Middle East. He deliberately ignores the facts. He should take advantage of new global realities—such as the Abraham Accords and Iran’s general economic and political isolation—as well as the fact that only makes the region and the world a safer place.

FLAME
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mobs.

One Israeli man, who was out walking his dog in Jerusalem, was badly beaten by a Palestinian mob during rioting and required hospitalization. The man said he was “a hair’s breadth from death” and described the events in the city as “a Third Intifada.”

A day before, an Israeli motorist was attacked and attempted to flee on foot but was caught and violently assaulted. Video showed the Israeli Jew being kicked repeatedly as he lay on the ground. His car was later set on fire.

Why did this pattern of one-sided, brutal violence occur? Is it fair to call attacks on innocent citizens and police “clashes” with Israelis?

Palestinian violence began intensifying following a disturbing online challenge. On April 15, the second day of Ramadan, a Palestinian man attacked two ultra-orthodox Israeli boys on the Jerusalem light rail. The footage of the unprovoked attack went viral on the video-sharing app TikTok. In the days that followed, more and more clips of attacks on Israeli civilians started appearing on the platform.

The alarming development was quickly dubbed the “TikTok Intifada,” a reference to the Arabic term for a violent uprising. “There is a competition for likes and views,” a 15-year-old victim told Israeli media. “A video of an Arab slapping an ultra-Orthodox man will get you both.”

In response to these regular and increasingly violent attacks against any Israeli Jew whom the mob set upon, a fringe group of extremist Jews began patrolling parts of Jerusalem looking to protect Jews from attacks by Arabs.

On April 22, a far-Right group arranged a march to Damascus Gate—a flashpoint of much of the violence—with, according to one of the organizers, Bentzi Gopstein, “Israeli flags and lots of Jewish pride, without fear.” Some individuals in the group shouted anti-Arab and racist slurs at the rioters during the march, and it was this response that the international media chose to focus on to justify the violence and bloodshed instigated by Palestinian demonstrators over the previous nine days.

Unfortunately, the Palestinian leadership, rather than join Israeli leaders in calling for restraint, decided to fan the flames even further. Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh called the violent attacks by the Arab youth’s heroic. “The scenes of heroism emerging from the streets and alleys of the city of Jerusalem tonight of the defenseless Jerusalem youth with willpower and resolve as they stand up to settler attacks, confirm once again the failure of Israeli plans to Judaize the Holy City,” said Shtayyeh

The media ignored these types of incitements and the root causes for the violence in favor of a narrative in which the Jews are at fault. Interestingly, though the *New York Times* coverage correctly cited numerous acts of Palestinian attacks on innocent citizens, they didn’t offer a single example of the “Jewish supremacist” group attacking Arabs.

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid 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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Part of the anti-Israel media narrative is that the month of Ramadan is a holy time for Muslims and one where they should be shown greater sensitivity. However, studies have shown that Jihadi and terrorist attacks around the world generally *increase* during Ramadan. According to Honest Reporting, a media monitoring organization, there is almost always an uptick in Palestinian violence during Ramadan, with historical data indicating a 200-percent increase in terrorist attacks.

This recent conflagration has once again highlighted media bias against Israel. Much of the mainstream reporting on Israel only kicks into gear once Jews defend themselves or attack back.

Articles read by billions around the world falsely portray baseless, unprovoked attacks by Jews on unsuspecting Arabs, when in fact the reverse is true. As in media during the Nazi era, Jews are often tainted by adjectives such as “ultranationalist” or “extremist”—yet these terms are entirely absent from depictions of Arabs who attack and call for bloodshed against Jews.

Please point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that this is how many members of the mainstream media work. Their narrative is almost always that Jews are the oppressors, and the Arabs are the victims. All information and facts to the contrary are ignored or suppressed. This is how many media attempt to turn Israel into an aggressor and a pariah. Coverage of recent Palestinian riots in Jerusalem are merely a microcosm of these attempts.

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 ran in the *New York Times* and *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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