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June 16, 2021



### ***New York Times* front-page photo-collage of dead children repackages anti-Semitic blood libel**

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Though most *New York Times* readers would not likely have realized it, the dramatic, front-page, full-color photo collage of children killed in the recent Hamas-Israel war was a crudely repackaged version of a classic blood libel against the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, after Israel ceased its defensive operations to stop Hamas rocket fire and ensure security for Israel's citizens, the *New York Times* plastered a collage of 67 children's faces who were killed in the recent conflict, under the title "They Were Only Children."

A caption under each photo in the associated article described how each child died. The captions under 64 of the children perversely named Israel to be the cause of their deaths. The truth, of course, was quite the contrary.

Gaza's terrorist-designated Hamas dictatorship, which started the fighting unprovoked by attacking Israeli citizens with thousands of rockets, determined the pace and intensity of the war, as well as the targets of Israeli retaliation.

While the *Times* insinuated that Israel chose to kill these children—and that Israel's actions were unjustified at best and malicious at worst—in fact, every

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one of those 67 children died at Hamas’s hands.

Ever since the Middle Ages, Jews and Jewish communities around the world have been regularly accused of killing innocent non-Jewish children in a bloodlust or in the service of fantastical religious services. Over hundreds of years, such false accusations of murder have come to be known as anti-Semitic “Blood Libel.”

Unfortunately, these numerous ‘Blood Libels’—none of which were backed by a shred of evidence—resulted in oppression, mass murder and expulsion of Jews in various countries in Europe and the Middle East.

Such blood libels were used by the Nazis as propaganda for the genocide of the Jewish people. Even today, there are still many who hold this bizarre obsession with Jews lusting after the blood of non-Jewish children. According to historian Magda Teter, there are many websites and social media pages trumpeting these dangerous lies.

Despite the *New York Times*’ almost daily criticism of the Jewish state—and its decades-long tradition of siding with Israel’s enemies—the front-page photo-collage reinvented an anti-Semitic canard, and clearly crossed a line.

The *Times*’ editors no doubt justified this editorial attack on the morality of Israel and the Jewish people with the excuse that it “puts a human face on the conflict.”

Fair-minded people need to ask why, of all the bloody conflicts raging around the world, only the operation involving self-defense for the national homeland of the Jewish people was singled out for this graphically disturbing treatment.

Hundreds of thousands of people die in violent conflict and war around the world every year—19,444 died in Afghanistan and 19,044 in Yemen in 2020, to say nothing of tens of thousands more in Syria, Somalia and Iraq. Not one of these conflicts was deserving of a *NYT* front-page photo collage.

Moreover, the *NYT* collage project context deceptively hid the context of the children’s deaths. It did not mention the reason these children died.

According to Honestreporting, the context was buried: “Just minutes after the war between Israel and Hamas broke out, a 5-year-old boy named Baraa al-Gharabli was killed in Jabaliya, Gaza,” the opening sentence of “They Were Only Children” dramatically asserts. Only 20 paragraphs later do readers find out

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 White administration wants to negotiate with Iran, it must consider the reality of the 2012 deal: which allowed Iran to keep, grow & push to the nuclear brink, and build up Iran's development of long-range missiles and its intelligence assets in Israel and Iran's 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 the United States and the global community. The danger is underscored by Iran's threats and outright attacks on Middle East neighbors, as well as its efforts to incite against American assets and allies. Of course, the grifts in the event of Iran's continuing drive to build its arsenal with nuclear weapons. While it makes perfect sense to bring Iran to heel and curb its regional aspirations, any U.S. strategy to that end must address the full scope of Iran's conduct.

**Why the Iran Deal failed.** The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) fell short on four key points: First, it failed to prevent Iran from developing a variety of immediate, on-demand weapons. Western intelligence showed the Islamic Republic had had about 10 years to develop its nuclear weapons program and its continued nuclear development. Second, Iran continued to work hard to the Middle East, using its \$12 billion "ingot bonus" from the U.S. to step up its subversion attempts in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Iran also continued its draining bleed from its Syrian proxy, armed U.S. vessels in the Gulf of Persia and the Middle East, against U.S. facilities and oil refiners. Third, the JCPOA did nothing to stop Iran's accelerated missile program, which will allow it to attack various thousands of miles from Tehran with nuclear bombs. Finally, most tragically, the JCPOA failed to halt Iran's nuclear weapons development, but only did so—with full release of restrictions after 15 years—now just seven 9 years away.

**How to persuade Iran to make a deal.** Experience shows that Iran responds to pressure, not love. While that has meant that the negotiating advantage created by new realities in the region, current comprehensive sanctions on Iran have already originated in economy. Moreover, when in distress by Iranian military and nuclear assets have increased the pressure. Both Israel and the U.S. have increased their efforts to Iran's nuclear facilities, aided by the elimination of U.S. involvement in its infrastructure, such as the construction of Iran's atomic reactor, Qom's Qom Nuclear, and the construction of Iran's nuclear program, including Central Military Facilities. In addition, Israel since 2017 has attacked over 100 Iranian and Hezbollah military targets in Syria. Iran has also just increased its military alliance with China. And Iran has also just increased its military alliance with China. And Iran has also just increased its military alliance with China.

**What the next Iran deal should encompass.** Any agreement with Iran should squarely address the general problem. The Islamic Republic is dedicated to spreading a radical Shiite revolution globally. That step will not suffice. Thus, the next Iran deal should mean that Iran agree to nuclear weapons program. The Islamic Republic should also mean that Iran cease its development of conventional ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, as required by the 2015 UN Security Council Resolution 2231. Finally, Iran must halt subversion attempts in the region and cease its efforts to incite against American assets and allies. Iran must cease its funding for foreign terrorism, stop its involvement in regional conflicts and end the violent export of extremist Shiite revolutionary ideology. Needless to say, the U.S. should make no regional allies meet threatened by Iran—Israel and Saudi Arabia—not just Western nations—in formulating the next deal. In addition, unlike the JCPOA, any agreement with Iran should be ratified by Congress.

**Showing Iran how much we care about the problem—the next deal.** President Trump has the opportunity to create a legacy for posterity in the Middle East, by definitively showing Iran how much we care about the problem—the next deal. President Trump has the opportunity to create a legacy for posterity in the Middle East, by definitively showing Iran how much we care about the problem—the next deal. President Trump has the opportunity to create a legacy for posterity in the Middle East, by definitively showing Iran how much we care about the problem—the next deal.

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that Al-Gharabli's tragic death "may have been" caused by a Hamas rocket that fell short.

IDF radar images show that some 15 percent of all rockets launched by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) fell short inside Gaza, unquestionably killing and injuring many Palestinians inside the enclave. Initial research indicates that failed Palestinian rocket launches killed at least nine of the children pictured in Friday's *NYT*. Still, the New York Times absolves Hamas of the responsibility for their deaths.

Furthermore, in an embarrassment to those who put the collage together, some of the photos were of children alive and well, while others were of those who Hamas claimed as part of their terrorist organization, even if they were only 17 years old. One of them, Khaled Qanou, was a member of the Hamas' armed Mujahideen Brigades. This vital information was not mentioned anywhere in the *Times*' disingenuous diatribe.

Finally, the images provide no clarification as to the remarkably low ratio of children's and civilian's deaths in Israel's wars with Hamas. Colonel Richard Kemp, former Commander of British Forces in Afghanistan, notes that a United Nations study showed "that the ratio of civilian to combatant deaths in Gaza was by far the lowest in any asymmetric conflict in the history of warfare."

Kamp states that this ratio was less than 1:1 and compared it favorably to the estimated ratios of NATO operations in Afghanistan (3:1), western campaigns in Iraq and Kosovo (believed to be 4:1), and the conflicts in Chechnya and Serbia (much higher than 4:1).

Kemp argues that the low ratio was achieved through unprecedented measures by the IDF to minimize civilian casualties, including warnings to the population via telephone calls, radio broadcasts and leaflets, as well as granting pilots the discretion to abort a strike if they perceived too great a risk of civilian casualties.

He also states that the civilian casualties that did occur could be seen in light of Hamas' tactical use of Gazan civilians "as human shields, to hide behind, to stand between Israeli forces and their own fighters" and strategic use of them for exploitation of their deaths in the media.

None of this was mentioned in the *New York Times* front-page. It was a deliberate attempt to gain sympathy for the Palestinians and to tar Israel with the "child-killers" image. It met all "three Ds" of anti-Semitism: Delegitimization of

## 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.



Israel, Demonization of Israel and subjecting Israel to Double Standards.

I hope you'll note to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that so many of the modern accusations against the Jewish state are eerily reminiscent of ancient anti-Semitism, whether it is of secret Jewish power, global conspiracies about financial control or the age-old accusation of "child killers." These medieval motifs are sadly alive and well, but must be called out for what they are. They are not criticism of Israel's policies, they are simply old-fashioned, repackaged Jew-hatred.

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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