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Dear Friend of FLAME:

Israel, despite being a Jewish nation—the world’s only—is also a *democracy* that gives every citizen a vote and protects the rights of all equally, regardless of religion or ethnicity. Still, many criticize Israel for its Jewish character, as though this makes Israel inherently unjust to non-Jews.

Each of these nations defines itself according to unique historic unifying principles. Many of these nations are democracies that provide full rights to all, regardless of citizens' background—like the United Kingdom, Argentina, Greece . . . and Israel.

The State of Israel has no written constitution, but defines itself as Jewish and democratic. As the Jewish People, through its foundational books and prophets, created the kernel for modern democracy, there is no inherent contradiction between its Jewish and democratic character.

Non-Jewish minorities in Israel, like Arabs, Druze and Circassians have full, unfettered civil rights—representation in the government, parliament and Supreme Court; equal access to education and all professions; and freedom to live anywhere they please.

However, some critics ignore these realities, attacking Israeli laws such as the Law of Return, the Nation State Law and the Citizenship Law.

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ΕΙΛΑΜΕ is the only organization

immigrate to Israel and receive citizenship. This is based on a long-standing established international principle called *Jus Sanguinis*, which provides a path to citizenship for people who have ethnic, cultural and historic ties with a particular country. For instance, in Italy, nationality may be transmitted perpetually if one can prove an Italian ancestor in their lineage after the founding of the Italian state.

Israel's second law—the Nation State Law—merely enshrines into law the national flag, anthem, days of rest, holidays and symbols of state. It reiterates that Israel is the national homeland of the Jewish People and has a connection with the Jews of the Diaspora.

This conceptualization of a national flag, anthem and symbols is not unique to Israel. An example is the United Kingdom, which is defined as a Protestant country and its flag is based on the Christian cross.

The third law—the Citizenship Law—was passed in 2003, at the height of the bloody Second Intifada, which saw daily terrorist attacks. This law says that anyone who marries an Israeli citizen can receive Israeli citizenship. Since 1963, an estimated quarter of a million Palestinians have become Israeli citizens in this way.

However, as many as 15% of terrorist attacks were perpetrated by Palestinians who took advantage of this law to marry Israelis and gain citizenship. Moreover, statistics also showed that this loophole was being manipulated by many Israeli Arab families to arrange marriages with Palestinians as a way to tilt Israel demographically—from Jewish to Arab.

For these reasons, Israeli lawmakers added a provision to the Citizenship Law that prohibits the automatic right to citizenship for any national of an enemy state or entity, including Iran, Syria and the “Palestinian territories.”

Note that every state has the right to legislate or regulate who becomes a citizen: No state—including the U.S.—is obligated to grant citizenship to those it perceives as enemies. Indeed, many other states have laws and policies restricting citizenship.

Understandably, the State of Israel must take steps that ensure and safeguard itself as a Jewish and democratic state. Ironically, some citizens and residents exploit and try to manipulate Israel's democratic, liberal and free nature in order to harm it.

Israel's national laws are not only *not* unique in the world, but Israel also restrains itself on these issues—to a far greater extent than the majority of nations around the world not considered free or democratic.

Unfortunately—and unfairly—Israel's enemies attempt to delegitimize the Jewish state by implying that it is a unique evil in the world. However, even a cursory knowledge of international legal and constitutional systems easily dispels this inaccurate notion.

Unprincipled critics endeavor to diminish Israel's virtuous Jewish nature in the eyes of the international community by misrepresenting such laws. Their

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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What's more, the international media and hostile NGOs frequently declare that Israeli democracy is "dead" or that it is moving towards an ethnocentric or "apartheid" state—assuming its audience will not be aware of the actual facts.

Nonetheless, for those who value truth over bias, the facts are unequivocal: Israel is one of the most open and liberal democracies in the world—with a fiercely independent media, robust judiciary, strong opposition parties and numerous human rights organizations that operate freely to guarantee rule of law is enforced and that human rights are respected.

In addition, Israel's Declaration of Independence not only defines Israel as a Jewish state, but also as a democratic state based upon the principles of the separation of powers, freedom, and complete equality before the law for all its inhabitants—irrespective of religion, race, gender or nationality.

Above all, note that no nation is required to demonstrate its vitality by destroying itself. Israel's national character—as both a Jewish and democratic state—are not in conflict, despite endless libels.

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that every nation has the right to enact laws that enshrine its specific identity—and to pass laws ensuring its survival and the safety and security of its citizens.

That such universally accepted practices are twisted to attack the Jewish state demonstrates *nothing* about Israel—they rather indict Israel's accusers for their malign, unjust and hypocritical intentions.

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 Ugly Truth About Hamas" and those who support the terrorist group.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

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

P.S. During the war between Hamas and Israel last May, many mainstream media, as well as leftists and a few progressive politicians, opposed Israel's defensive actions against unprovoked missile attacks by the Palestinian terrorist group. Some even actively supported Hamas's aggression. This despite the fact that Hamas is one of the world's most oppressive and warlike ruling parties. To dispel the myth that Hamas is an "underdog" representing legitimate Palestinian interests, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[The Ugly Truth about Hamas.](#)" I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which ran on July 4 in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and other media nationwide. It spells out specifically Hamas's avowed mission to kill Jews and destroy the State of Israel. This piece

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 Hamas, Iran, Israel and the entire Middle East.

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Facts and Logic
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