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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

September 21, 2021



All praise to nations who reject the new anti-Israel hate fest in Durban

Dear Friend of FLAME:

We are in the anniversary month of two events that will live in infamy.

First was the Durban Conference—which promoted the notorious slander that Israel is an apartheid state. The second was the 9/11 suicide bombing of New York's World Trade Center.

Both incidents of course deserve hearty condemnation by every person and nation of conscience. Unfortunately, then—as now, on the eve of the UN's 20th anniversary meeting of the Durban Conference—the sorry event was endorsed by a majority of United Nations members.

In late August and early September 2001, one of the worst spectacles of modern anti-Semitism took place in Durban, South Africa. Held under the auspices of the United Nations, the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR for short) was hijacked by Iran, Arab and Muslim hate groups and anti-Semitic and anti-Israel NGOs.

The governmental conference, which ran Sept. 2-9, was preceded by the nongovernmental organization conference Aug. 27-Sept. 2, witnessed some of the worst hate official hate against the Jewish people since the end of the Holocaust. Jewish participants were verbally and physically assaulted, mobs chanted anti-Semitic slogans, posters lauding Hitler appeared all over and the anti-Semitic forgery—"The Protocols of the Elders of Zion"—was handed out.

At the NGO Forum that preceded the official conference, participants could already see the anti-Semitic influence in the "The NGO Declaration" that was signed by many international NGOs. Even though the document did not single out any other nation or conflict, it called for "a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state . . . the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation and training) between all states and Israel." In other words, Israel was the world's ultimate designated evil and should be separated from all other nations.

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**THIS MONTH'S AD
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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...
Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste
The ice cream maker's attempt to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate in the "Occupied Palestinian Territories" is based on lies and bad faith toward Israel.

While Ben & Jerry's has often been accused of being a company that is not only anti-Semitic but also anti-Israel, it is now clear that the company is also anti-Palestine. The company's attempt to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate in the "Occupied Palestinian Territories" is based on lies and bad faith toward Israel.

Anti-Israel boycotts are inherently anti-Semitic.

Ben & Jerry's director should be held to account.

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Facts and Logic About the Middle East
P.O. Box 10000, New York, NY 10001
www.flamehotline.com

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Amazingly, the rest of the NGO hate fest just got worse. According to participants, conference-goers noticed a ubiquitous flyer with a picture of Adolf Hitler. “WHAT IF I HAD WON?” it asked. “The good things: There would be no Israel and no Palestinian’s [sic] bloodshed.”

The Arab Lawyers Union also distributed pamphlets filled with caricatures of hook-nosed Jews depicted as Nazis spearing Palestinian children, dripping blood from their fangs, with missiles bulging from their eyes or with pots of money nearby. Copies of “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion”—the viciously anti-Semitic text, were available. Calls to the organizers to remove the materials went unheeded. Jewish students who set up booths were surrounded and screamed at.

Many Jewish participants were warned not to be seen in public places because of physical threats to them. When they tried to insert a clause into the final conference document, they were refused and publicly walked out. Eduardo Kohn, the B’nai B’rith International director of Latin American Affairs said: “While we were walking, we received very, very, very rude insults, anti-Semitic insults and the threats of being attacked, I mean attacked physically, attacks that were averted by the guards of the conference, I mean, if we didn’t have the protection of the guards . . .”

Despite the Bush Administration trying to intervene, the die was cast. Even the virulently anti-Israel former Irish Prime Minister Mary Robinson was embarrassed enough by the disturbingly anti-Semitic nature of the final document that she rejected it—which eventually lost her the candidacy for UN Secretary General.

The event even had a connection to 9/11—which took place a few days later and understandably then overshadowed the conference. The Hitler pictures were created by someone who worked for Osama bin Laden. Yousuf Deedat, who printed the flyers, told the media that the bin Laden family was a major donor to his organization, the Islamic Propagation Center.

The Durban WCAR, more than any other event, was behind the propaganda strategy that has predominated in the subsequent two decades—smearing Israel with the “apartheid state” label and formulating the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions program. This was not created by liberals or progressives, but by a combination of actions by the Islamic Republic of Iran, extremist Arab and Islamist groups, and anti-Semitic organizations and individuals. In fact, both Israel and the U.S. ultimately walked out of the governmental conference.

Over the years, a number of follow-up events—instead of dealing with the vital issues of racism, xenophobia and intolerance—have targeted only one people and one nation. Organizers well noted the success of the first 2001 conference—especially the acquiescence of the international community, who in part encouraged it or at least allowed it.

In a few days—on September 22nd—the UN General Assembly will bring together world leaders for a one-day meeting in New York to mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Preliminary announcements assure it will be another anti-Semitic and anti-Israel celebration of hate. Thankfully, a record 31 countries, thus far, have said they

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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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.

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will *not* attend, including the U.S. A State Department spokesperson said the US “remains deeply committed to combating antisemitism at home and abroad. Furthermore, the United States stands with Israel and has always shared its concerns over the Durban process’s anti-Israel sentiment, use as a forum for antisemitism and freedom of expression issues.”

Fourteen EU member states—Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Belgium, Greece and the Netherlands, as well as Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, and the UK—have also dropped out.

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that these nations—especially the U.S.—should be congratulated for taking this moral stance against hate and anti-Semitism. It is growing increasingly difficult, especially in Europe, for leaders to stand by Israel and the Jewish people. Indeed, where are the Scandinavians, Poles, Romanians, Swiss and Spanish—to say nothing of Israel’s Arab partners in the Abraham Accords?

However, the dissenters have made the honorable decision, knowing full well that the new conference will not meet the lofty goals of combating racism it originally heralded when first held. Instead, this event will again become a dangerous place, where one nation will again be intentionally targeted by enemies of the West in an attempt to ensure its ultimate destruction.

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 “Ben & Jerry’s Bad Taste” and those who support boycotts of the Jewish state.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson

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

P.S. As you know, Ben & Jerry’s recently announced that it would cease its contract with its Israeli affiliate because the affiliate refused to stop selling the company’s ice cream in the ancient Jewish territories of Judea and Samaria. This move, championed by the company’s anti-Israel board chair, is just the latest attempt to boycott the Jewish state—joining the BDS movement—which some 35 U.S. states consider illegal and anti-Semitic. To clarify this issue for the American people—including many Jews—FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called “[Ben & Jerry’s Bad Taste](#).” I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run soon in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and other media nationwide. It spells out why Ben & Jerry’s should be held to account for this attempt to delegitimize the State of Israel. 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 fighting anti-Semitic actions by individuals, politicians and commercial companies.

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About the Middle East
PO Box 3460
Berkeley, CA 94703

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