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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

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## Democrats can no longer tolerate the Squad's anti-Israel hatred

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Many left-leaning Americans claim that when they attack the State of Israel, they are merely criticizing the Israeli government or some of its policies. However, a look at their comments over time show that they are kidding no one.

A sad example is former Governor of Vermont and chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Howard Dean. Dean is famous for a Tweet in 2018 where he wrote “It’s Netanyahu that is the problem for Democrats, not Israel.” Last week, however, he slanderously called Israel an “apartheid state.”

However, far more egregious and hypocritical are the so-called “Squad”—a group of Congressional Democrats known for ultra-left views who take every opportunity to attack the Jewish state, all the while claiming to be supporters of human rights.

A couple of weeks ago, the Squad—comprised of Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of NY, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts and Cori Bush of Missouri, forced funding for the Iron Dome defense system out of a bill to keep the United States government funded.

The Iron Dome system, we should all understand—and the Squad also understands—has one objective: To save Israeli lives, Jews and Arabs alike, from *unprovoked* missile attacks.

Iron Dome has no offensive capabilities—its sole purpose is to shoot out of the sky thousands of rockets Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups aim at Israeli civilian communities.

This system is a remarkable feat of modern technology developed in Israel in cooperation with the U.S. According to a Congressional Research Service report from 2015 “The system is designed to intercept and destroy rockets and artillery shells fired from distances of 2.5 miles to 43 miles away and whose trajectory would take them to an Israeli populated area.”

Iron Dome has been so effective at saving lives that in 2014 President Barack

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**YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...  
Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste**

The new Israeli-made milkshake and sorbet flavors of Ben & Jerry's "Occupied Palestinian Territories" are based on lies and bad faith toward Israel.

While Ben & Jerry's has often been accused of antisemitism, this new line of flavors is a blatant attempt to defame the Jewish state and its people. The flavors are based on the "Occupied Palestinian Territories," a term used by the United Nations to refer to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is a gross misrepresentation of the facts, as these areas are not occupied by Israel, but rather, they are occupied by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Ben & Jerry's has a long history of supporting the Israeli people and the Jewish state. In 2018, the company donated \$1 million to the Jewish National Fund, a leading Jewish philanthropic organization. Ben & Jerry's also has a long history of supporting the Israeli military and its efforts to protect its citizens from terrorism.

The new flavors are a clear attempt to defame the Jewish state and its people. They are based on lies and bad faith toward Israel. Ben & Jerry's should be ashamed of this new line of flavors and should stop supporting the Israeli people and the Jewish state.

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Obama procured the Iron Dome defense system for the U.S. to counter short-range missile threats. NATO and other friendly nations have also expressed an interest in purchasing the Iron Dome system to protect civilians and armed forces.

With that in mind, perhaps the Squad's initial squeezing Iron Dome funding out of a government spending bill might be seen as cynical politicking. However, even when Congress voted on the funding separately, the group of five and their colleagues voted against the bill to save Israeli civilian lives.

The Iron Dome Supplemental Appropriations Act passed 420-9, showing remarkable bipartisan support for Israel's defense. Ocasio-Cortez voted present, but then in a great act of showmanship proceeded to cry for the cameras after the vote. She then wrote to supporters, apologizing for not voting "no" on the measure and explicitly stating that she opposed "the substance of the Iron Dome supplemental bill."

Thankfully, the leadership of the Democratic Party condemned the Squad and their antics. In the debate surrounding the bill, there was a heated exchange on the House floor as moderate Democrat Ted Deutch, of Florida, slammed Tlaib, who labelled Israel an apartheid state.

"I cannot, cannot allow one of my colleagues to stand on the floor of the House of Representatives and label the Jewish Democratic State of Israel an apartheid state," Deutch said. "I reject it. When there is no place on the map for one Jewish state—that's antisemitism, and I reject that," he added.

We can learn much from this debacle. First, that Israel's right to defense has extremely strong bipartisan support. Overwhelming majorities from both parties rallied to vote in favor of ensuring that Iron Dome missile stockpiles do not dwindle after the latest series of rocket attacks by Hamas during Operation Guardian of the Walls in May.

We who feel discouraged at times by Democrats' policies toward Israel should take notice. We should *always* give credit for support of the Jewish state, regardless of party sympathies.

Second, the Squad and their fellow travelers do not care about human rights, at least not human rights of Israel's seven million Jewish and two million Arab civilians. These legislators are literally trying to ensure the Jewish state is left undefended, so Hamas rockets will meet their marks on Israeli cities and towns. No other conclusion is possible.

If the Squad's goal is met, it could lead to hundreds of Israeli civilian casualties in the next conflict. Moreover, because the Iron Dome is so effective in deflecting terrorist rockets it gives Israeli decision-makers more leeway to not respond with overwhelming force— particularly with a ground invasion.

More deaths on the Israeli side would also increase pressure and justification for the Israel Air Force to target Hamas and Islamic Jihad positions, perhaps with greater Palestinian civilian casualties. Thus, the Squad are also placing more Palestinian lives in peril.

All of this is of no concern to the Squad. Their rabid anti-Israel and anti-Semitic comments over the years have demonstrated that their hatred for the Jewish state

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is greater than all other considerations. All Americans of conscience should understand clearly the Squad's agenda. As Mr. Deutch made clear, the Squad's positions on Israel cannot be defined as anything other than antisemitism.

Republicans should—and do—regularly attack the Squad for this hate, but it is even more important that their fellow Democrats do so. We have long suffered their calls promoting BDS and insinuations about Israel and Jews, but the voting against the funding of a system that saves lives has to be a clear red line.

Please indicate to your friends, family, colleagues and elected representatives that we can no longer regard this issue as “fringe,” and the Squad as a mere nuisance to be catered to because of “politics.” Their anti-Israel hatred cannot be tolerated—and should cause their removal from all positions of authority in the Democratic Party and Congress. They need to be called out by their colleagues for what they are . . . and face consequences for their bloodthirsty 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 “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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