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# FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

November 16, 2021



## Jewish Democrats need guts to condemn Israel's enemies in their party

Dear Friend of FLAME:

An Israel supporter wrote to me recently asking why one of my recent articles focused only on “left-wing” anti-Semites and neglected “right-wing” anti-Semites.

The question itself reveals a painful conflict for many Jewish Democrats—as most American Jews are—who take offense when members of their party are accused of slandering Israel. Logically, they feel that if Democrats are criticized, then *they* as Democrats are criticized.

**No surprise that American Jews embrace the Democrat Party** and its traditional liberal values—support of civil liberties, protection of minorities (ethnic, sexual and racial), abortion and immigrant rights. Jews inherently sympathize with those who struggle against iniquity, because we have suffered from centuries of bigotry and unequal treatment. It's part of our DNA.

By the same token, most American Jews also wholeheartedly support Israel as the homeland and refuge of our beleaguered people. For decades the Democratic Party made it easy for Jews to support all their liberal values—and Israel—with no conflict. Indeed, for decades Democrats in Congress and the White House have been among Israel's most vocal and steadfast advocates.

Unfortunately, in recent years, Democrats in high office have made this political calculus more challenging for Jewish Americans. Israel no longer enjoys unqualified support of the Democratic party—and many elected (and rank-and-file) Democrats currently express strong, even hateful opposition to the Jewish state.

**For many American Jews, Israel is a peripheral issue.** Among all their political concerns Israel may rank five or six . . . or ten—important, but *not* paramount. It's fair to say that most Jewish Democrats are not going to vote for a

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**YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...**

### Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste

The ice cream maker's intent 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 "left-wing" company, it was exposed by its own Executive Vice President, David Dreyer, as a company that is "pro-Israel" and "pro-Jewish." Dreyer, who has been with the company since 1985, said that the company's "values are rooted in the Jewish people's struggle for freedom and justice." He also said that the company's "mission is to create a better world for everyone."

**What are the facts?**

Ben & Jerry's has been accused of being a "left-wing" company, but it is not. In fact, it is a company that is "pro-Israel" and "pro-Jewish." Dreyer, who has been with the company since 1985, said that the company's "values are rooted in the Jewish people's struggle for freedom and justice." He also said that the company's "mission is to create a better world for everyone."

**Why is Ben & Jerry's boycotting Israel?**

Ben & Jerry's has been accused of boycotting Israel, but it is not. In fact, it is a company that is "pro-Israel" and "pro-Jewish." Dreyer, who has been with the company since 1985, said that the company's "values are rooted in the Jewish people's struggle for freedom and justice." He also said that the company's "mission is to create a better world for everyone."

**Anti-Israel boycotts are inherently anti-Semitic.**

Anti-Israel boycotts are inherently anti-Semitic. They are based on the idea that the Jewish people are responsible for the Holocaust and other atrocities. This is a lie. The Jewish people are not responsible for the Holocaust. They are a people who have suffered from centuries of persecution and who are now fighting for their right to self-determination.

**Ben & Jerry's directors should be held to account.**

Ben & Jerry's directors should be held to account for their actions. They have been accused of being anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. They have also been accused of being dishonest and of covering up their actions.

**FLAME**

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Republican just because the Democrat candidate is hostile to Israel—assuming that candidate also supports racial justice, women’s rights and fighting climate change.

Yet of course it’s not necessary for Jewish Democrats to leave their party—or vote Republican—just because increasing numbers of Democrats are abandoning their loyalty to the Jewish state.

But if you’re a Democrat and you say you support Israel, you needn’t ask why pro-Israel advocates criticize leftist anti-Zionists who are Democrats. Unlike right-wing anti-Semites, it’s leftists whose influence is increasing in Congress, who control academia, entertainment and many mainstream media. But yes, of course, left or right, there’s no such thing as an acceptable anti-Semite.

**Because if you support Israel, you oppose all who oppose Israel.** You certainly don’t excuse them because they’re leftists or Democrats. You also don’t make excuses for them—such as saying that you, too, oppose Israel because you don’t like the duly elected Israeli Prime Minister.

If you’re a Jew who supports Israel because it’s the one and only homeland and refuge of our people, then you speak out against all who betray Israel’s interests, even those—*especially those*—within your party.

As a lifetime Democrat and passionate Zionist, I left my party when I realized the party had left me. During Barack Obama’s second term. I understood that despite Obama’s lip service to Israel—as well as much tangible support—the party had turned a corner.

This was painfully clear in the waning days of Obama’s tenure, when his administration orchestrated the notorious U.N. Security Council Resolution that condemned Israeli settlements “in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem,” and called them illegal under international law. U.S. Ambassador Samantha Powers then abstained from voting on the measure, failing to veto it and allowing it to pass.

Suffice it to say, the accusations in that resolution were lies. There are *no* “Palestinian territories.” There is *no* “East Jerusalem.” Israel’s communities in its ancient heartland of Judea and Samaria are simply, factually *not* illegal under international law.

**Likewise, if you’re a Zionist, you support those who support Israel, regardless of party affiliation.** This is clearly a bridge too far for many Jewish Democrats, who cannot stomach the thought of cheering the action of any Republican (especially if his name is Trump) on any issue—even if that politician clearly advances Israel’s interests. We see this syndrome no less from some Republicans, who will not praise a Democrat’s good deeds for Israel.

No one says that if you love Israel, you must leave the Democrat Party or even that you must vote for a Republican. But it does say that if you are a Jew who supports the existence of the one and only Jewish state—unfairly attacked as it is regularly by the U.N., Arab armies, radical Islamists, woke intersectionalists, and increasingly, Democrat members of Congress—you stand up, you protest. You

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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roundly, loudly condemn them.

In other words, if you are a Jewish Democrat who believes in the legitimacy of the Jewish State of Israel—who believes its survival is critical to the survival of our people—you don't play party politics. You take consistent, principled stands—irrespective of party.

That's what U.S. Representative Ted Deutch (D) did several months ago when he called out fellow Congressperson Rashida Tlaib for defaming Israel—a staunch U.S. ally—after Tlaib falsely accused Israel of being an “apartheid state.” As Deutch said, “When there's no place on the map for one Jewish state, that's anti-Semitism.” Would that Senator Majority Leader Charles Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had the same fortitude in dealing with fellow Democrats in the “Squad.”

**Because if you're a Zionist—Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu or atheist—Israel is bigger than the Democratic or Republican Party.** It takes guts to stand up and chastise a politician in your own party at a townhall meeting or on the House floor when he or she is lying about Israel. But that is the price of courage. That's the price of protecting the Jewish people . . . and it's the price of Israel's future.

Ask yourself: Do you have the courage to do what Representative Ted Deutch did? Will you tell fellow Democrats—at a cocktail party or social justice rally, over dinner, in your workplace—that something is rotten in your party, because it fails to condemn Israel's anti-Semitic enemies in its midst? Yet that kind of principled action—that kind of courage—is the true test of support for the Jewish people and our precious homeland.

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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