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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

November 23, 2021



The Israel Genocide Lie: Why do Israel's critics keep repeating it?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Last May, while Israel defended itself against 4,500 unprovoked Hamas missile attacks from Gaza, a star of the *Hulk* movie, Mark Ruffalo, accused Israel of genocide.

Several weeks later, Ruffalo wisely retracted his tweet, saying the accusation is “not accurate, it’s inflammatory, disrespectful & is being used to justify antisemitism here & abroad. Now is the time to avoid hyperbole.”

Just two months ago, a student at George Mason University told Vice President Kamala Harris that Israel is involved in “ethnic genocide”—to which Harris infamously responded that “your voice, your truth, should not be suppressed and it must be heard.”

Unlike the Vice President, Ruffalo responded appropriately and honestly: The accusation of genocide against Israel is indeed “inaccurate.” Ruffalo, however, was wrong when he called such statements “hyperbole.” Hyperbole is when you *exaggerate* the truth.

But there’s simply no version of the truth that justifies saying Israel commits genocide. It’s false, it’s dishonest.

So, what is genocide?

Genocide is a legal term defining “acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group.”

The Jews of Europe are perhaps the best-known victims of genocide. Germany’s Third Reich intended to eliminate the Jewish people and specifically targeted them—rounded up and killed six million of us—strictly for the “crime” of being Jewish.

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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 refused to allow access to its Israeli affiliate, it was exposed by an owner of the Israeli affiliate who has been a vocal critic of the company's "Occupied Territories" in a multi-part video. According to the video, the company's intent to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate is based on lies and bad faith toward Israel.

What are the facts?

Ben & Jerry's has refused to allow access to its Israeli affiliate, it was exposed by an owner of the Israeli affiliate who has been a vocal critic of the company's "Occupied Territories" in a multi-part video. According to the video, the company's intent to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate is based on lies and bad faith toward Israel.

Why is Ben & Jerry's intent to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate considered anti-Semitic?

Ben & Jerry's has refused to allow access to its Israeli affiliate, it was exposed by an owner of the Israeli affiliate who has been a vocal critic of the company's "Occupied Territories" in a multi-part video. According to the video, the company's intent to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate is based on lies and bad faith toward Israel.

Anti-Israel boycotts are inherently anti-Semitic.

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

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Likewise, the Armenian genocide: Ottoman Turks targeted Armenians with the intention of reducing their population in the Ottoman Empire so as to prevent Armenians from ever forming a state. An estimated 600,000 to 1.5 million Armenians were killed during World War I.

More recently, East Timor, with a population of 650,000, was invaded by Indonesia in 1975. A truth and reconciliation commission concluded that in 25 years—between 1974 and 1999, when East Timor gained independence—approximately 18,600 people were killed and another 84,200 deaths were caused by the Indonesian military’s use of “starvation as a weapon to exterminate the East Timorese.”

While many other modern incidents have been termed genocide, they all have in common the intentional murder or physical displacement of a national, ethnic or religious group.

Since Israel’s founding, an estimated approximately 20,000 Palestinians have been killed in military conflicts—mostly wars or terror attacks initiated by Palestinians against Israel. Of these, an estimated 4,000-5,000 Palestinians died as non-combatants involuntarily exposed to battle, usually as human shields.

One thing is clear: Combatants killed in attacks that their own forces initiated are not examples of genocide. Nor are unintentional civilian casualties of such battles.

So, what are Israel’s critics referring to when they accuse the Jewish state of genocide?

These critics can produce *zero evidence* that Israel has ever had a plan or intention to eliminate the Palestinian people.

Nor do critics produce evidence that Israel has ever intentionally killed innocent Palestinians. To the contrary, Israel assiduously—famously—avoids harming civilians during its battles with Hamas and other terrorists.

In addition, Israel annually donates thousands of tons of medicines, food and other essential goods to sustain the lives of Palestinians in Gaza—despite regular attacks on Israel from Gaza by Hamas. Thousands of non-Israeli Palestinians also travel to Israel every year to receive free medical care.

Critics can cite no instances in the last 70 years in which Palestinians have been forcibly, illegally removed from any private land they owned.

Some Palestinians, however, have been removed by Israeli courts from lands seized from rightful Jewish owners or public lands that individual Palestinians simply “squatted” on with no deeds. Palestinians also claim to “own” vast tracts of land on which they have never had sovereignty and to which they have no international legal rights.

While it’s true that approximately 750,000 Arabs left Israel during Israel’s 1948 War of Independence—which was ignited by invading Arab armies—at least half of these people fled of their own free will. Others were removed by Israel

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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for their own safety or because they were suspected enemies. (Some 156,000 Arabs chose to remain in Israel during this war and over the decades have thrived.) An estimated 850,000 Jews were expelled from Arab countries in the aftermath of Israel's War of Independence.

In fact, dislocation of populations has taken place in all major military conflicts worldwide. In World War II, millions of Europeans were displaced. Between 10-20 million people were displaced when India and Pakistan became independent in 1947.

When dislocation occurs as a side consequence of war—rather than as a goal of the conflict—it is *not* considered genocide.

Most importantly, over the last seven decades, the numbers of all Palestinian Arabs have grown dramatically—and with no interference from Israel .

The Arab population of the British Mandate of Palestine in 1948 was about 1.3 million. Today, the Palestinian population within the same region is about 6.8 million—of which some two million are Israeli Arab citizens.

Such robust population growth *alone* repudiates accusations of genocide.

Most puzzling, given the preponderance of facts that disprove both any intention or active campaign by Israel to conduct genocide against the Palestinians, why do Israel's enemies insist on repeating this false and inflammatory accusation?

Two reasons explain the contradiction:

First, anti-Zionists—those who oppose the existence of the Jewish state—cannot convince rational people that Israel is evil by simply telling the truth. The truth is, Israel has been trying to make peace with the Palestinians ever since the nation's birth—73 years ago. The truth is, the Palestinians have greeted every peace offer from day one with thousands of terrorist and missile attacks on Israeli civilians, killing some 3,500 innocent Israelis.

Yet anti-Zionists attempt to persuade by telling dramatic lies of apartheid, colonization, slaughter of children, stealing land, ejecting families from their homes. Though none of the accusations is true, the gullible—and fellow anti-Zionists—are quick to join the chorus.

Second, anti-Zionism is by definition anti-Semitic. Anti-Zionism is a denial of the right of Jews to establish a state in their ancient homeland. False accusations of genocide are attempts to delegitimize the Jewish state and demonize Jews. These tactics—delegitimization and demonization—are cornerstones of anti-Semitism according to the globally accepted IHRA definition.

Please emphasize to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that there can be no rational reason to lie about the Jewish people and the world's only Jewish state. In short, anti-Semitism is a form of hate. If you hear someone accuse Israel of genocide, you may safely assume that person is either misinformed . . . or anti-Semitic.

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.

As of today, more than 15,000 Israel supporters receive the FLAME Hotline [at no charge](#) every week. If you're not yet a subscriber, won't you join us in receiving these timely updates, so you can more effectively tell the truth about Israel? Just go to [free subscription](#).



Facts and Logic
About the Middle East

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