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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

January 25, 2022



Media and politicians hide anti-Semitic motives of Texas synagogue terrorist

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Think about it. An armed Muslim terrorist walked into a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas. He demanded the release from federal prison of an avowed Jew-hater and enemy of Israel.

Could there be any doubt that this was a hate crime—an open act of anti-Semitism?

Though acts of anti-Semitism are by far the majority of religious-based hate crimes in the U.S., President Biden, the FBI and numerous news organizations initially claimed bewilderment and attributed *no particular motive* to Malik Faisal Akram for choosing Congregation Beth Israel to create a hostage drama.

While some officials and media have slowly come to acknowledge the anti-Semitic nature of Akram's hostage-taking, few have yet fully linked it to the anti-Zionism underlying his act.

The events at this synagogue show once again the chasm between reality and the reactions of our leaders and the media.

Time and again, Western leaders and the press utterly miss the point of—or deliberately conceal—the truth behind attacks on the Jewish community.

FBI special agent Matthew Desarno, in charge of the bureau's Dallas office, weighed in right after the 10-hour standoff: "[The perpetrator] was focused on one issue, and it was not specifically related to the Jewish community."

The reality is that enemies of Zionism are also enemies of all Jews—even Jews as far away from Israel as those in Colleyville, Texas.

The synagogue near Fort Worth was commandeered by a Pakistani-British

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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 answer the facts of Israel publicly, it was exposed by an Israeli scholar, Father Sam, who has been the target of Ben & Jerry's "Palestinian" campaign. It is a matter of public record, attempting to disprove the Jewish state, itself an anti-Semitic act.

What are the facts?
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Why is Ben & Jerry's intent to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate in the "Occupied Palestinian Territories" based on lies and bad faith toward Israel?
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Anti-Israel boycotts are inherently anti-Semitic.
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Ben & Jerry's directors should be held to account.
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BOLD PR MESSAGES,

The terrorist had traveled thousands of miles to force the release from federal prison of a fellow Pakistani Muslim, Aafia Siddiqui.

Siddiqui, a Pakistani “heroine” known as “Lady al-Qaeda,” is married to the nephew of the 9/11 al-Qaeda mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

She was sentenced to 86 years in a Texas federal prison for attempting to murder American soldiers and agents in Afghanistan in 2009. Among her papers were maps for dirty-bomb attacks in New York and plans for other lethal terrorist schemes.

Siddiqui attributes her prosecution to shadowy “Jewish forces” that, she claims, really control America. She pleaded in vain at her trial that all potential jurors undergo genetic testing to assure that none had even a drop of Jewish blood.

Upon conviction in U.S. federal court, she insisted, “This is a verdict coming from Israel and not from America.”

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) has held fundraisers in support of Siddiqui’s legal efforts to be set free from her supposed American/Zionist oppressors.

Just two months ago, CAIR’s Executive Director, Zahra Billoo, paid tribute to her, while condemning “Zionist synagogues” and the American Jewish community in general.

The head of CAIR’s Dallas-Fort Worth chapter is also Siddiqui’s lead attorney. CAIR is just one among many Islamist front groups that champion Siddiqui’s cause on the web.

After hostage-taker Akram demanded the release of Siddiqui, President Biden said: “I don’t think there is sufficient information to know about why he targeted that synagogue . . . why he was using anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli comments.”

It’s clear why this Muslim terrorist chose a synagogue as the target for trying to secure the freedom from prison of a kindred spirit. Both had loudly proclaimed their hatred of Israel and contempt for the Jewish people.

Part of the pathology shared by Siddiqui and her would-be liberator Akram is the belief that the Jews control America—indeed, the world.

Thus, Akram ordered Colleyville rabbi to call and appeal to a leading rabbi in New York City, who, Akram believed, could order the release of his terrorist “sister” with no problem.

Unfortunately, the misleading reactions of our leaders and media to such incidents have become almost routine. Consider other recent examples:

In 2008, a 10-man group of Pakistani murderers, dispatched by an anti-Hindu, anti-Israel Islamic terror group, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, launched a series of attacks in Mumbai the commercial capital of India. They killed 164 people at carefully

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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The Mumbai targets included the leading hotels frequented by the wealthy Indian elites—*not* the top tourist hotels run by American chains like Hilton.

Mumbai is a target-rich city with its population of over twenty million. Yet two of the ten attackers were dedicated to an assault on a nondescript six-story building housing the Jewish Chabad center of Mumbai.

Seven people—including the rabbi and his wife—were brutally tortured and murdered by the terrorists.

Why did the terrorists commit 20% of their manpower to a miniscule Jewish center?

At the time, the *BBC* and the *New York Times* both described the Chabad house incident as “an accidental hostage scene”—as if the terrorists had just taken a wrong turn and inadvertently wound up at Chabad.

At trial the next year, the sole surviving terrorist in the attack testified that the Chabad house had been specifically targeted early in the planning.

On Chanukah in 2019, the JC Kosher Market in Jersey City, NJ suffered an armed terror attack by two devotees of the Black Hebrew Israelites, a passionately anti-Semitic and anti-Israel cult.

Four people were murdered, including one of the owners, two Chasidic customers, and an Ecuadoran clerk.

The reaction of the New Jersey State District Attorney? “We do not know the suspects’ possible motives.” (Jersey City’s mayor, however, immediately condemned it as an anti-Semitic hate-crime.)

The predominant media reaction (including by the *New York Times*) was that this was just a bloody robbery-gone-wrong—despite the anti-Semitic social-media postings of the terrorists. Those posts included denunciations of the “phony” Jews and the illegitimacy of the Jewish claim to Israel.

In attack after attack on synagogues and other Jewish institutions, our leading media and top government officials avoid or deny the obvious—that intense anti-Semitism is a core belief of those who hate Israel. Conversely, anti-Zionism is a root cause of lethal anti-Semitic acts.

Please point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that the war against terror and fanaticism—whether in Texas, Mumbai, Jersey City, Pittsburgh or Poway—must include a battle against anti-Semitism and its fraternal twin, anti-Zionism.

Even if politicians and the mainstream media seek to evade this truth, supporters of Israel need to make clear that the safety of Jews and of the Jewish state are under existential threat.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to

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,

Ken Cohen

Editor, 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](#).



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