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February 8, 2022



Absurdity undermines Amnesty International's evil accusation of Israel apartheid

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Amnesty International's now-infamous February report accused Israel of being an apartheid state. The document exceeds even that organization's standard of perfidy in its false accusations against the Jewish state.

Surely, the leaders of Amnesty International know that the apartheid regime in South Africa, until its overthrow in the 1990s, bears no resemblance to Israel, past or present.

Indeed Amnesty’s 211-page report has to present a new definition for “apartheid,” fulfilling the joke about how to become a champion archer: “Shoot the arrow first, and then paint the target around wherever the arrow hits!”

In this case, Amnesty first presents a ream of lies and distortions about the state of Israel, and then defines apartheid to be whatever it falsely accuses Israel of doing.

“Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians is a cruel system of domination and a crime against humanity,” said Amnesty’s report.

In reality, it's a compilation of unsubstantiated allegations by NGOs whose agendas are not to reform Israel, but to destroy it.

The facts, of course, manifestly repudiate the libels. One thing is clear: Amnesty's definition of apartheid for Israel bears no relation to South Africa's discriminatory practices under its apartheid regime.

Israel's justice for its minorities is ensured by its open and independent judiciary—including many Arab judges throughout the land and Arab justices on the Supreme Court of Israel. Active Arab participation in the democratic politics,

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The Amnesty International report, noting the inherent right of Jewish people to move to Israel, says that under Israeli apartheid, “Palestinian citizens of Israel are [only] granted citizenship rights based on residence in Israel . . . This unequal and separate [between Jewish and Palestinian] citizenship structure has resulted in stark discrimination against Palestinian citizens in several ways.” No mention is made that comparable citizenship laws apply in Mexico, Finland, Greece and a host of other nations.

“I hate to use the argument that if Israel were not a Jewish state, nobody in Amnesty would dare argue against it, but in this case, there is no other possibility,” said Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid.

Consider the differences between South Africa’s old regime and Israel:

Black residents of South Africa were disenfranchised, having no vote or role in their national governance or justice system. In stark contrast, Israeli Arabs are fully enfranchised, electing representatives to local governments and the Knesset.

Blacks had no control over the governance of the country in which they were a considerable majority. In Israel’s vibrant democracy, Arabs sit in the government and in the Cabinet. In fact, the United Arab List party is arguably the critical linchpin in Israel’s ruling coalition.

Blacks were forbidden, under apartheid, to attend white schools, use white “public” facilities, or mingle with white citizens in commercial, social or educational settings. Israeli Arabs participate fully and freely in the richness of Israeli society.

In fact, Israel’s Arab citizens enjoy more prosperity and civil rights than do all Arabs living in the Middle East’s Arab nations. Yet Amnesty *does not* issue reports condemning these repressive Arab nations.

Given the horrors suffered by South Africa’s black majority for decades under its white racist government, for Amnesty to call free, democratic Israel “apartheid” is to insult the true victims of apartheid.

Amnesty International was originally an organization founded in England in 1961 to defend political prisoners-of-conscience in the world’s most vile nations. In recent decades, it has changed direction to promote anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, as it does in this specious report.

Almost every page of the Amnesty report’s 27-page Executive Summary makes mention of Israel’s founding in 1948, emphasizing an original sin in Israel’s very creation. The report is not just a phony indictment of current events in Israel it essentially attacks the existence of the Zionist state.

“Amnesty’s argument is that the State of Israel is from its founding illegitimate, not that settlements are a bad thing,” according to Elliot Abrams, writing in the Council on Foreign Affairs.

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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(BDS)—along with an arms embargo, the right-of-return for *descendants* of 1948 refugees, and a plea for an apartheid indictment by the International Criminal Court.

Beyond that, Amnesty's call for an end to the Palestinian Authority's security cooperation with Israel would certainly seriously damage the safety of both Arabs and Jews in Israel.

In its 61-year history, Amnesty International has pronounced the "apartheid" verdict on just one other nation: Myanmar—citing its violent suppression of that country's Rohingya minority.

No other country in the world has been accused by Amnesty as an apartheid state: Not China with its oppressed Uighurs; not Iran with its beleaguered Christians and Sunnis (and Jews!); not Saudi Arabia (with its marginalized Shiites) . . . and certainly not the Palestinian regimes in Ramallah and Gaza, which are pledged to eradicate all Jews and have decimated their Christian populations.

Only by inventing a bizarre, new definition of apartheid could anyone conclude that Israel in any way deserves Amnesty International's apartheid accusation

Strolling the streets of Tel Aviv, visiting Israeli college campuses, seeking care at Hadassah Hospital, dining out at Israel's superb restaurants, or watching the spirited assertiveness of Arab Knesset members—all of these routine aspects of daily Israeli life underline the absurdity of Amnesty's report about Israel's reality for Arab and Jew alike.

Please point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that the State of Israel —like all democratic societies—can improve in myriad ways. Israel, through its participatory structures and guaranteed freedoms, continues to make progress in eliminating injustice and inequality in all areas and for all groups in its society.

Emphasize that to the extent the Palestinian Authority's and Hamas' Arab residents outside Israel have constraints placed on them, it is because so many Arab terrorists have murdered Israelis and have wrought havoc for decades —under incitement by their own leadership. Any nation—even Israel—has as its first duty the protection of its citizens.

Finally, it is worth noting that the vast majority of Israel's Arab citizens declare in polls that there is nowhere in the Middle East that they would rather live than Israel.

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 "The Israel Genocide Slander." and the anti-Semites who make this false accusation.

Best regards

Ken Cohen

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

P.S. Whoopi Goldberg's comments recently about the Holocaust underscored perhaps the greatest "public relations" problem Israel faces: Lies, slander and misinformation. One of the greatest of these falsehoods is the accusation of genocide against the Jewish state. Last May, actor Mark Ruffalo tweeted that Israel commits genocide. A college student in a public forum told Vice President Harris that Israel commits "ethnic genocide." I think you'll agree that the only antidote to these lies is the truth. To clarify the outrageous accusation of genocide by Israel, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[The Israel Genocide Slander](#)." I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which is slated to run soon in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Orlando Sentinel* and other media nationwide. It spells out why the State of Israel does not and has never committed genocide—and why accusers should be branded anti-Semites. 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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