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May 17, 2022



## ***Harvard Crimson* sophomorically endorses BDS and the destruction of Israel**

Dear Friend of FLAME:

By its recent editorial endorsing of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, the *Harvard Crimson*—the most renowned student newspaper in the world—has taken the editorial position that Israel must be obliterated.

Unfortunately, the editorial is riddled with errors, omissions and breathtaking superficiality—belying Harvard University’s reputed academic excellence.

For starters, Harvard’s elite student editors hid the fact that Omar Barghouti, founder of the BDS movement, has repeatedly stated, “Definitely, most definitely, we oppose a Jewish state in any part of Palestine,” adding that Palestinians have a right to “resistance by any means, including armed resistance.” That last phrase is Palestinian-speak for “the terrorist murder of Israeli Jews.”

Nor did the *Crimson*'s editors quote the favored slogan of the Harvard chapter of the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC), which proclaims its goal is a Palestinian state "from the (Jordan) river to the (Mediterranean) sea." This objective aligns with Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas maps and flags that depict no trace of a nation called Israel.

The *Crimson* op-ed extols and endorses the Harvard PSC throughout, with no dissent whatever from its central and explicit call for the annihilation of the Jewish State.

The editorial glowingly describes the recent PSC-sponsored Israel Apartheid Week’s “colorful” banners festooning Harvard Yard. We don’t know if the *Crimson* staff were equally smitten with the banners accusing Israel of “Racism, Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy and Apartheid,” as well as the Israel-less maps and the murals depicting Jews as Nazis, brutally assaulting and murdering Palestinians.

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The *Crimson*'s Editorial Board was at pains to deny it is antisemitic, but it is impossible to read their full-throated endorsement of the BDS movement in any other way.

In this case, anti-Zionism is most certainly also antisemitic. If you deny the self-determination of a three-thousand-year-old indigenous people returning to their ancient homeland to form the world's only Jewish state, where no other state existed—and that's the only state in the world you demonize and delegitimize—that's an egregious double standard, and that's antisemitic.

Former Harvard President Lawrence Summers called on “all members of the Harvard community, including its current leadership, to make clear their righteous opposition to BDS's antisemitism . . . and those organizations that support it.”

Harvard President Lawrence S. Bacow has declined to condemn the editorial or its antisemitism.

Alan Dershowitz, the noted Harvard Law professor, describes the editorial as “ignorant, discriminatory and deceptive.” As one example, he cites the editorial's assertion that, just this year, “Israeli soldiers have killed nearly 50 Palestinians,” . . . without mentioning that most of these casualties were killed while they “were engaged in terrorism against Israeli civilians.”

The *Crimson* editorial also claims that Israel is “assault[ing] the West Bank's sovereignty.” In fact, the West Bank—and Palestinian Arabs in general—have *never* exercised sovereignty *anywhere*. What's more—maybe the students aren't aware—the Oslo Accords treaty with the Palestinians gives Israel security control over most of Judea and Samaria (the West Bank).

Historically, the Palestinians' lack of sovereignty is not Israel's fault. The *Crimson* never mentions that—on multiple occasions—Israel has offered land for an independent state to the Palestinians. Also not noted: These generous Israeli offers were rejected, usually with massive outbreaks of Palestinian terror attacks, like the Second Intifada.

Likewise, the *Crimson* editorial never explains—once the BDS movement's and maximalist Palestinian wishes come true—how a “democratic and free Palestine” could be achieved “from the river to the sea” without a wholesale elimination of its current majority-Jewish population. There will be just two ways to do this: mass expulsion or mass murder.

Where exactly do the *Harvard Crimson* geniuses imagine millions of Israeli Jews will go to assure that “The State of Palestine” has a *Palestinian* majority in its democracy? All the signs are—to understate matters—troubling. Yet again, the *Crimson* screed neglects to address these key facts related to resolving the Palestinians' “Jewish problem”:

- Hamas, the ruler of Gaza, is pledged in its Charter to the extermination of all Jews.

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 PA, which governs a large tract of land in Judea and Samaria, already prohibits Jews from land ownership or residence anywhere in the territories that it governs, and already pays generous bounties to terrorist Jew-killers and their families in the Pay-for-Slay program.
- Hamas and Fatah, the PA's ruling faction, will, of necessity, be required to (1) expel Israeli Jews, or (2) kill most Jews in the newborn State of Palestine.

With bold *chutzpah*, the *Crimson* editorial quotes Emma Lazarus' description of "people yearning to breathe free," and applies it to the Palestinian people—as if the BDS movement were a ship sailing past the Statue of Liberty into Ellis Island. Under the corrupt and autocratic leaders of the Palestinian people, freedom will remain a distant vision for the Palestinians, even as they are dancing on the graves of Israelis.

Indeed, over the decades of leadership by the PA and Hamas, the only Palestinian Arabs in the area who have "breathed free" and enjoyed full civil rights are those who live in Israel—a liberal democracy with a judiciary that energetically protects *all* people under its sovereignty.

Why should Harvard's president join 66 faculty members, one brave *Crimson* editor and many prominent Harvard alumni in repudiating the *Crimson's* endorsement of BDS?

Because the *Harvard Crimson* isn't just *another* student paper.

Its past editors-in-chief include future Presidents John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt, and its list of writers and editors overflows with key influencers in America and abroad. The *Harvard Crimson* staff today is a future Who's Who of American leadership in government, journalism, education, and industry.

To paraphrase: *What happens in the Harvard Crimson doesn't stay in the Harvard Crimson* . . . rather, it reverberates through elite intellectual ranks of American society for decades.

Alumni, faculty, Harvard trustees, and responsible public figures should demand that the *Crimson*—and Harvard, its parent university—retract this disgraceful attack on the Jewish state . . . and its Jewish citizenry.

Please express to your friends, family, colleagues, and elected representatives that all people of goodwill must actively rebut the *Crimson*, its antisemitism *and* its anti-Zionism, and work to nullify the vast damage that can result from its ignorant, dishonest, and sophomoric endorsement of BDS.

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 further exposes "[The Israel Genocide Slander](#)" and the antisemites 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 ran in the *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 antisemites. 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 antisemitic actions by individuals, politicians and commercial companies.

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Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

PO Box 3460

Berkeley, CA 94703

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