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## Palestinian Nakba Day mythologizes a catastrophe of self-destruction

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Last week's annual Nakba (Catastrophe) Day events in Ramallah, Gaza and around the world, purport to lament the birth of Israel in 1948.

But in reality, Nakba Day simply recharges a mythical history of victimhood in which “Palestinian Arab land” was ripped from its people’s hands by blood-thirsty Jews. In actual fact, the catastrophe was of the Palestinians’ own making, characterized then as now by a steadfast refusal to accept a Jewish state or any of the many offers of land and a nation in exchange for peace.

Not only does Nakba Day fetishize hateful vengeance against Israel and Jews, but it also condemns the Palestinians to a past, present and future of indelible victim identity. The combination leaves them with little to show for the last 74 years—since Israel’s birth—except bitterness and diminished opportunity to pursue a felicitous destiny.

Nakba Day's fundamental premise is fiction. It blames Israel for Palestinians' losing their chance for land and nationhood, which was in fact caused by Arab states' rejection of the 1947 UN Partition Plan dividing the territory into two states, one Arab, one Jewish. Unlike the Palestinians, Israel's founders grudgingly, but wholeheartedly, embraced the offer.

Thus, Palestinians' casting of blame for their stateless dispersion should not rest on Israel, but elsewhere: On their allies—the defiant (and inept) Arab armies—and on the Palestinians' own underestimation of Israel's passionate will to survive . . . and on the UN itself.

Despite the specious Palestinian narrative, Israel's War of Independence was not to seize private or public Arab land. After all, there was never an Arab state in Palestine, and Israel had methodically purchased and negotiated possession of most of the land in its future country. Rather, its War of Independence was

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defensive—against armies of five Arab invading nations and the fifth column of local Palestinian Arab resistance.

In fact, the Palestinian state could have been established on the original date of the “Nakba.” But Jordan, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states invaded Israel—with a bogus claim of “fraternal support for the Arab cause,” as Jordan’s King Abdullah put it.

Instead of deciding the disposition of land on the battlefield, if the Arab League and the Palestinian Arabs had just said “Yes” to the UN plan, Palestinian Arabs would now be looking forward to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their State of Palestine.

But their answer was a resounding “No!” Local Palestinian Arabs launched a bloody guerrilla campaign against pre-state Jewish communities. Palestinian Arabs were reassured by the Arab invaders that Israel’s death would follow in a few weeks.

In the fog of guerrilla war and real war that accompanied Israel’s establishment, many Palestinians fled, and some were no doubt displaced by Israeli army actions. Arab armies lost the war to destroy Israel, but they drove out or killed any and all Jews residing in the areas they retained—now known as “the West Bank” and “Gaza Strip.” (Later, the Arab states expelled almost all of *their* Jewish citizens—not in “the fog of war” but in the antisemitic deportation of hundreds of thousands of Jews.)

Once the UN’s post-war armistice lines were drawn, the *true* Palestinian “Nakba”—the catastrophic betrayal—arrived.

King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan and King Farouk of Egypt double-crossed the Palestinian Arabs, and their armies swallowed up what was to have been the Palestinian state.

Abdullah also abrogated the UN’s plan to establish Jerusalem as an “international city” and annexed it to Jordan.

In short, what *could* have been the world’s first-ever “Palestinian State” in 1948/49 was not *Israel’s* fault: It was stolen by kleptocratic Jordanian and Egyptian monarchs.

What followed made the catastrophe a long-term problem, because the despicable Arab League had even worse plans for the many Palestinian Arab exiles.

It shoved them into horrific refugee camps to cultivate a perpetual zealotry for Israel’s destruction and add bitter suffering to the Nakba-myth. No other World War II-era refugees suffered this fate of continuous homelessness and despair.

The UN established UNRWA to serve the Palestinian Arab camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Gaza. Other than Jordan, *no* Arab state offered naturalized citizenship and resettlement to the Palestinian refugees. Equally ironic, no national movement of Palestinians ever arose against their Arab oppressors—only against the 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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Arabs remaining in Israel, on the other hand, were given full Israeli citizenship, and today serve in the ruling coalition in the Knesset, sit on the Supreme Court, and prosper in business, academia and all phases of Israeli life.

It was in 1998 that Yasser Arafat, the master terrorist who headed the PLO and the Palestinian Authority until his 2004 death, declared the first “official” Nakba Day.

At the time, it seemed like a strange provocation coming just a few years into the 1995 Oslo Accords peace-process. But it was clearly a harbinger of Arafat’s strategy for the coming years: Shortly after Arafat’s third Nakba Day, he launched the blood-drenched Second Intifada on Israel.

Arafat wasn’t honoring the *real* 1948: He was creating an Orwellian hate-fest to propagate his terrorist vision into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Instead of affirming the truth of Israel’s founding and the craven betrayal of the Palestinian Arabs by their brethren, world governments, the UN and the media seem cruelly committed to reinforcing—and often paying for—the obsessive and self-destructive actions and myths of the Palestinians and their inept, woebegone leadership.

Tragically, for both Israeli and Palestinian alike, Nakba Day tells most Israelis that no peace with Palestinians is possible through a land-for-peace treaty about the “territories.”

As long as Nakba Day is central to Palestinians, Israel knows that its Six-Day War victory, and its borders are not the key issues.

For Palestinians, the war whose results must be undone is the Israel War of Independence in 1948. The rejectionist ideology of Nakba Day won’t go away without 1948 Israel also going away. The core of the Palestinian problem isn’t Ramallah, Gaza and Jenin: it’s Tel Aviv, Haifa, Eilat, and yes—Jerusalem.

Please express to your friends, family, colleagues, and elected representatives that it is the Palestinians’ responsibility to sue for peace—unconditionally renouncing their resentful myths and their hateful, delusional dreams of a Middle East without Israel.

Emphasize that once Palestinians accept Israel as a permanent Jewish neighbor (and even partner!), they are likely to be surprised and satisfied by Israel’s generosity of spirit in sharing a peaceful Middle East.

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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