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June 28, 2022



It is time for Western powers to terminate UNRWA: Stop the hate and start anew

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Both the United States and the European Union have previously withheld hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) because of the organization's blatantly antisemitic and anti-Israel educational materials.

Despite the fact that UNRWA has made no changes in its curriculum, both the U.S. and the EU have now restored their funding.

Clearly, it's time to rethink UNRWA and stop its malign, self-perpetuating activities.

UNRWA's founding in 1948/49 seemed innocent enough. Its charter was to support thousands of Arab refugees who fled or were displaced during Israel's war of independence against invading Arab armies.

But the real nefarious purpose of the agency soon became clear. For 73 years UNRWA has functioned not to end the suffering of Arab refugees, but to *perpetuate* it—not to foster peace between Jews and Arabs, but to promote Israel's *destruction*.

While the number of Arab refugees from Palestine in 1949 was originally about 750,000, today UNRWA claims it serves more than five million descendants of the original group—the world’s only people categorized as refugees who never lived in their forebearers’ homeland. Millions of these pseudo-refugees are citizens of other countries.

Perhaps equally perverse, UNRWA has maintained a huge school system serving Palestinians in Gaza and Judea and Samaria (the “West Bank”), one of whose primary purposes for decades has been to indoctrinate Palestinian school children on the fundamentals of antisemitism and violent jihad against the Jewish state.

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No wonder that in 2021 both the United States and the European Union informed UNRWA they were withholding hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to the agency's schools until their textbooks were cleansed of hate.

Yet both the U.S. and the EU have rapidly increased funding for UNRWA with no reports of any changes in the agency's educational content.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken last June told the Senate Appropriations Committee the U.S. was conditioning a renewal of aid on reform of UNRWA's textbooks. "We're . . . determined that UNRWA pursue very necessary reforms in terms of some of the abuses of the system that have taken place in the past, particularly the challenge that we've seen in disseminating in its educational products anti-Semitic or anti-Israel information," he promised.

Nonetheless, since the U.S. cut payments of \$360 million to UNRWA in 2018, the Biden Administration has already ramped up payments to UNRWA by more than \$200 million in 2021.

Last September, the European Parliament's budget panel on Tuesday approved an amendment to withhold 20 million euros from UNRWA if immediate changes are not made to the curriculum taught in its schools, which includes anti-Israel rhetoric and incitement of violence.

Yet just a few days ago, the EU restored funding to UNRWA by some \$230 million, raising their total contribution to the organization to \$320 million.

Both the U.S. and the EU claim their renewed funding of UNRWA is due to "humanitarian concerns" and avoiding a "fiscal crisis" at the organization, whose budget has been about \$850 million. Some 50% of UNRWA's budget funds its educational programs.

But there is nothing humanitarian about training children to hate Jews. There is nothing humanitarian about keeping a people perpetually dependent on international welfare, with no horizon of hope except for a futile dream of extinguishing Israel and its people.

Likewise, it does generations of descendants of Palestinian refugees no service to educate them to murder their neighbors and perpetuate a culture of victimhood.

Make no mistake: The evil perpetrated by UNRWA over 70 years is not benign. UNRWA is a terror collaborator with Hamas in Gaza. UNRWA allows its schools and hospitals to be used as missile launching pads—with its students as human shields—and its schools are bases for Hamas terror tunnels into Israel.

UNRWA's teachers' unions are run by Hamas. Teachers proudly indoctrinate their kids with hatred of Israel and Jews, using textbooks and wall maps with no sign of a neighbor called "Israel." Summer camps teach jihad, and paramilitary training creates Hamas' soldiers of tomorrow.

The U.S. and the EU know that something is rotten in UNRWA—and have known it for decades.

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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They know that instead of reducing the suffering of descendants of Palestinian refugees, UNRWA perpetuates it. They know UNRWA textbooks openly and stridently promote antisemitism---and they have righteously insisted UNRWA reform its educational content. Yet the Palestinians and UNRWA refuse to stop the hate.

In the face of this blatant recalcitrance, unprincipled Western officials actually renew UNRWA funding.

In 2018, President Trump totally cancelled American support for UNRWA, due to corruption in UNRWA's operations and the hatred in UNRWA's curricula for nearly 500,000 Palestinian children.

But that judgment was reversed by President Biden. Unfortunately, the renewed aid was not coupled to a demand that UNRWA be reformed or replaced.

Some argue that terminating UNRWA would lead to a humanitarian disaster. Fortunately, there are humanitarian solutions to this corrupt, self-perpetuating business model.

First, a coalition of UNRWA funders should redirect all UNRWA funding to a new, time-limited agency, which funders directly supervise.

Second, the Palestinian governments—Fatah in Judea and Samaria and Hamas in Gaza—should administer the civic institutions currently operated by UNRWA. The new, temporary international agency would *audit* the operational entities, and *enforce* strict anti-hate and anti-corruption rules.

International aid would be phased out on a set schedule as responsibility evolves locally. Many advocate a Palestinian state: This aid would provide seed funding for badly needed, self-governing institutions.

As for UNRWA activities in other countries (Syria, Lebanon and Jordan), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees must demand Palestinian patriation into the countries where they have now lived for generations as “refugees.” The same formulas that have been used countless times on behalf of refugee populations over the past century can be applied.

It is time for the outcome of Israel's 1948 War of Independence to be acknowledged by all. Abolishing UNRWA is step one.

Please express to your friends, family, colleagues, and elected representatives that the \$8 billion that America has spent on UNRWA since 1949 has been counterproductive, and the funding must be cut off.

Explain, too, that only with responsibility for actual civic governance can Palestinians hope to build a viable and sustainable society.

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—“The Palestinian Catastrophe”—which exposes the false narrative of

“Nakba Day,” commemorating Palestinians’ missed opportunity for independence.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, President

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. U.S. Representative and “Squad” member Rashida Tlaib has introduced a bill that would make Palestinian Nakba (“Catastrophe”) Day a national observance. The resolution promotes the false narrative that Israel’s statehood in 1948 prevented Palestinian Arabs from achieving independence. I think you’ll agree that truth is the only antidote to this lie. FLAME’s new *hasbarah* message called “[The Palestinian Catastrophe](#)”—shows it was in fact Arab refusal to accept the U.N. proposal of two states for two peoples that created the problem. I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which is scheduled to run in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times* and other media nationwide. It spells out how it was actually Arab states who stole the land designated for Palestinians. 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
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