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Democrats are increasingly abandoning Israel: Will American Jews continue to follow them?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Support of Israel by all rights should be—and has for decades been—non-partisan. But evidence shows Democrats increasingly are abandoning Israel's cause—outright opposing Israel and openly supporting the Palestinian war on Israel.

This trend poses a tough, soul-searching question for pro-Israel Democrats: Will the Party's decision to abandon Israel exact a political cost by driving Israel-supporting Democrats—especially Jews—to abandon the party?

Just a few weeks ago, the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) adopted two anti-Israel resolutions, which are slated to become part of the party's platform coming into November midterm elections.

First, the party passed “A Resolution in Support of Human Rights in Israel/Palestine,” whose title already shows bias, since there is no such political entity as “Palestine.” Also, since the vote resolved to sanction Israel for alleged human rights violations, it appears the state’s Democrats assert Israel is guilty.

Second, the NCDP passed a “Resolution for an Independent Investigation of the Killing of Shireen Abu Alekh,” while the Palestinian Authority was still refusing to turn over the bullet that killed the al Jazeera journalist, though this Palestinian obstruction was *not* mentioned in the resolution.

These two resolutions and one other—"Resolution to Commemorate May 15 as Palestinian Nakba [*Catastrophe*] Day"—which was tabled—were put forward by NCDP party operatives who have deep anti-Israel histories.

To give a sense of proportion, the words “Israel” or “Israeli” are *mentioned 41 times* in the NCDP’s Final 2022 Resolution Report, yet there are no mentions of inflation, Iran, guns, assault weapons or gas prices.

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The problem is not limited to North Carolina. In fact, some 57 Democrat members of the House of Representatives in May sent a letter to Secretary of State Blinken and FBI Chief Wray demanding an investigation into Alekh's death. The Democrats' letter focused on Israel's potential fault, with no mention of the Palestinian terror spree that precipitated the tragic incident.

In addition, Representative Rashida Tlaib and other ultra-left House members—all Democrats—have introduced a resolution to make Palestinian Nakba Day a national observance, lamenting Israel's declaration of independence in 1948. In truth, the anniversary marks Palestinian refusal to accept a Jewish state in the Holy Land and the offer of territory for a Palestinian state—but that is *not* the Democrats' intention.

Nor is the trend isolated to radical Democrats. Several polls over the past year have exposed a marked weakening of support by the party's members for Israel. Tellingly, while Americans' support for Israel is today at about 55%—higher than 20 years ago—it is down among Democrats and up among Republicans.

According to a recent Pew Research Center report, "Republicans and those who lean Republican are more likely to express a favorable view of the Israeli people (78%) than of the Palestinian people (37%). Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, on the other hand, similar shares express favorable views toward both groups (60% and 64% respectively)."

Similarly, last year's Economist/YouGov poll reported that "[A]lthough 22% of Democrats regard protecting Israel as a 'very important' U.S. goal overall, fully 61% of Republicans do so."

Finally, a 2021 Quinnipiac College survey found that 74% of Republicans sympathize with Israelis and only 8% with the Palestinians. Among Democrats, 43% favor Palestinians and only 22% favor Israelis.

Let's say that plainly: Facts show more Democrats support the Palestinian cause than the Israeli cause.

Clearly, Democrats are leaving Israel—and Israel supporters—behind. According to the *Washington Post*, ten years ago, Democrats expressed their sympathies with Israelis over Palestinian Arabs by a margin of 2-to-1.

No wonder strong supporters of Israel are incredulous that some 70% of Jewish American voters continue to identify with or lean Democratic.

Nonetheless, as former National Security Advisor Elliott Abrams notes, the contradiction for pro-Israel Democrats looks to be permanent. "Whatever is being done to maintain—or better, to recover—Democratic support for Israel is not working."

That is to say, efforts by rank-and-file Democrat Israel supporters—let alone by bipartisan organizations like the American Israel Public Affairs Committee or partisan Political Action Committees like the Democratic Majority for Israel—are failing.

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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For many Jewish Democrats this is no surprise: They readily admit that support for Israel does not rank high enough among their political values—on abortion, climate change, gun control—to sway them from party loyalty. That is, they are more Democrats than they are Jews.

However, here's what these pro-Israel Jewish Democrats fail to face: The problem is not simply that their party no longer heartily supports *one item of many* on their wish list of causes.

Rather, they need realize that that much of Democratic support for the Palestinians is rooted in opposition to Zionism—a core value of Judaism. As such, anti-Zionism—antagonism to the self-determination of the Jewish people for a nation in their indigenous homeland—is fundamentally antisemitic.

Anti-Zionists don't simply oppose certain policies of Israel: Rather they support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement and efforts of Palestinians to destroy the one and only Jewish state. These are antisemitic.

Enemies of Israel oppose its right to defend itself wholeheartedly against terrorist attacks. Against all factual evidence, they slanderosly accuse Israel of apartheid, genocide and ethnic cleansing. These are antisemitic assertions.

In short, Democrats who support Palestinians over Israelis—and who support legislation and resolutions opposing the Jewish state—are in essence expressing opposition toward the Jewish people. They oppose a fundamental tenet of Judaism—Zionism—which, bottom line, is antisemitic behavior.

When seen through this lens, perhaps some pro-Israel Democrats will be forced to conclude that supporting Israel is indeed more important than fighting climate change or other less momentous issues than the survival of the Jewish people.

Please point out to friends, family, colleagues, and elected representatives that facts show Democrats are slowly, but certainly abandoning support for Israel. This trend is rooted in anti-Zionism, which is fundamentally antisemitic.

Explain, too, that such antisemitic actions are not just a threat to Israel, but also threaten the Jewish people. Thus, Jewish Democrats face a serious decision: Continue to support a party that opposes one of the core values of their Jewish peoplehood . . . or abandon the party that is abandoning them.

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.

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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