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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

August 2, 2022



Palestinian Police States Torture and Kill Thousands of Palestinians—U.S. Media and Politicians Yawn

Dear Friend of FLAME:

A young man from Balata in the Palestinian-controlled West Bank told Human Rights Watch that officers in the Palestinian Authority’s (PA) notorious Jericho prison subjected him to electrical shocks, once tied a cord around his penis, and he witnessed PA officers dislocate the shoulder of another detainee when they beat him with a chair while his hands were bound behind him.

Though the Palestinian dictatorships torture and murder Palestinian political dissidents incessantly—and these crimes are well documented—neither the American press nor politicians show signs of caring.

While others’ perceived misdeeds—like the killings of journalists Jamal Khashoggi and Shireen Abu Akleh—spark months of media coverage and even Presidential indignation, the murder of a prominent Palestinian blogger by Palestinian police last year barely drew a yawn.

Indeed, when it comes to corruption and anti-democratic behavior, the Palestinians seem Teflon coated—nothing sticks. Media coverage is minimal, political costs are zero.

In fact, President Biden just announced hundreds of millions of additional dollars to fund the brutal Palestinian dictatorship in the West Bank.

By contrast, in recent months, the President has lashed out numerous times at Saudi Arabia for its murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, saying he regards the Arab nation as a pariah state. The *New York Times* has written about Khashoggi’s killing more than a dozen times and continues to follow the story four years later.

The President also publicly lamented and demanded a “transparent accounting” of the death of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was killed this year in crossfire during a gunfight between Palestinian militants and Israel’s defense forces. The *New York Times* has covered Akleh’s death—implying but never

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

The Palestinian Catastrophe

Palestinians mourn Israel's birth with Nakba Day, but the real catastrophe then, as now, is their failure to share the land—and seize the chance to form a state.

Throughout U.S. Representative have proposed legislation to name Palestinian Nakba ("Catastrophe") Day a national observance for the victims of the Nakba. The bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives. A Jewish state was established in 1948 and in two states for two people. Unfortunately, the United States...

What are the facts?

The annual Nakba Day protests to lament Israeli's attack on 1948. But actually, Nakba Day represents a political history of victimhood in which "Palestinian Arab land" was stolen by colonizing Jews. In fact, the catastrophe was the Palestinian own making, specifically their refusal to accept a Jewish state or any of many Israeli offers of land—and a nation—the peace.

Not only does Nakba Day present hatred against Israel and Jews, but it also condemns the Palestinians to victim identity. It is a day when with Israeli Jews for the last 74 years—since Israeli birth—except bilateral and even has opportunity to create a state today.

Nakba Day's fundamental purpose is to force a blame Israel for Palestinian's loss of their chance to acquire land and nationhood, which was in fact caused by Arab state rejection of the UN Partition Plan. Partition Plan, dividing the territory into two states—one Arab, one Jewish. Unlike the Palestinians, Israeli founders gradually but firmly embraced the UN offer.

This Palestinian's calling of blame for their situation depends should not rest on Israel, but on the anti-Jewish hatred Arab writers—and on Palestinian's own rejection.

Despite the misleading Palestinian narrative, Israeli's right of independence was not to state Arab land. After all, no Arab state ever existed in Palestine, and Israeli had purchased and negotiated possession of most of the land in its future country. Further, the UN Partition Plan was different—against anyone of the Arab Jewish rejection of the UN Partition Plan.

In fact, the Palestinian state could have been established on the original date of the "Nakba." But Jordan, Egypt, Syria and other Arab states would have been established on the "Nakba" day. The UN Partition Plan was not to state Arab land, but to state Jewish land. Israel's right of independence was not to state Arab land, but to state Jewish land.

When Arab states lost the war to defeat Israel, they demanded a full withdrawal to areas they captured—none known as "the West Bank" and "Gaza Strip." Later, Arab states were not to state Arab land, but to state Jewish land.

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Expected news that Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, once the UN's post-war committee was set down, the new Palestinian Nakba—the state's birth—was King Abdullah of Trans Jordan and Israel of Egypt and their states combined. It was said that could have been the result of the "Palestinian state." What Palestinians lost in 1948 was not Arab land, but it was taken by Jordanian and Egyptian countries.

The catastrophe was neither long term, because the Arab long pushed hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arab into equalized refugee camps, adding order to Israeli domination and better reflecting to the Nakba myth. No other World War II era refugees suffered such depots.

The UN established UNRWA to serve Palestinian Arab camps (temporarily) in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Gaza, yet it still exists. Other than Jordan, no Arab state has offered citizenship and resettlement to the Palestinian refugees. Simply stated, no national movement of Palestinians ever arose against their Arab oppressors—only against the Jews.

Arabs' resulting in Israel, however, were given Israel citizenship, and today enjoy democratic freedoms, professional success and their well-being knowledge.

Historically, Nakba Day is only Israeli's last to peace with Palestinians (it possibly is a last desperate cry). As long as the UN Partition Plan, the Palestinian, Israel knows that its 1947 support of the UN Partition Plan and its Jordan are not the day's issue. Another, the problem is Israel's existence.

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proving that Israel was responsible—more than eight times so far in recent months.

Yet when Palestinian police dragged blogger and political activist Nizar Banat from his family's home in June 2021 and brutally beat him to death, Mr. Biden has issued no statement. Nor, apparently, did he mention the matter when visiting Palestinian President Abbas in Bethlehem last month. The *New York Times* gave the Banat murder a scant three articles.

Banat's treatment was horrible, but not unique. Torture is long-term, rampant and cruel in territories governed by brutal Palestinian regimes—the PA and Hamas—but Palestinian torture is simply not judged newsworthy by mainstream media or of political note by most elected officials.

For example, just last month Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a report detailing thousands of cases of torture by the PA and Hamas. Unsurprisingly, the *New York Times* has neglected to cover the report. Indeed, it hasn't reported on Palestinian torture at all since 2018.

The HRW report said that the PA's various security services and Hamas' Internal Security agency "have used tactics that include taunting, threats of violence, use of solitary confinement, beatings, including lashing and whipping of the feet of detainees, and forcing detainees into painful stress situations, including using cables or ropes to hoist up arms behind the back."

HRW concludes such torture practices, which are widespread and have continued for many years, "amount to government policy and may amount to a crime against humanity."

The annual report of the Committee of Families of Political Detainees called 2021 "the black year of the PA's suppression of freedoms," citing 2,578 violations against Palestinians at the PA's Jericho prison. The report said prisoners experienced "the worst psychological, verbal and physical torture inside the PA prisons." Neither the *New York Times* nor any national media covered this report.

In 2021, the Independent Commission for Human Rights, an independent Palestinian organization, reported it received 252 complaints of torture and ill treatment and 279 complaints of arbitrary arrest against the Palestinian Authority. It received 193 complaints of torture and ill treatment and 97 of arbitrary arrest against Hamas in Gaza. No coverage of this report appeared in the *Times* or any national media.

The human rights firm, Shurat Hadin Israel Law Center, has filed complaints about such Palestinian torture and other human rights violations with the International Criminal Court (ICC), but the court declined to investigate. According to Shurat Hadin leader, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the ICC and Western nations believe "hundreds of people murdered and tortured to death by the PA aren't worth one Jamal Khashoggi."

Two main reasons support this conspiracy of silence on the part of the media and politicians regarding Palestinian torture and human rights abuses.

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First, the West—its press and governments—are heavily invested in the myth that the Palestinians deserve and can manage political independence. For this reason, they simply ignore the brutal authoritarian nature of the PA and Hamas—their lack of elections, civil rights and rule of law. Highlighting the cruelty of these regimes would emphasize the blatant contradiction that the Palestinians are, among the world’s many stateless peoples, especially worthy of their own nation.

Exposing the Palestinian police states would also give the lie to the assumption that the Palestinian people support their corrupt, treacherous governments.

Second, when it comes to the Middle East, the media are not interested in violations of human rights in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, Iran or, of course, the Palestinian territories. Rather, they are interested only in opportunities to “catch” Israel committing supposed transgressions.

Thus, when Palestinian children are killed during Israel’s retaliation from an unprovoked Hamas missile attack . . . that’s front-page news. That fact that the Hamas missile was shot from a launcher placed next to the children’s school—a war crime—will be buried on page 31.

Thus, when journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed during a gunfight between Israeli armed forces and suspected terrorists, the assumption by many media and politicians—with no proof whatsoever—was that Israel was guilty of murder.

Please explain to friends, family, colleagues and your elected officials that the disenfranchised Palestinian people deserve humane treatment and legal justice . . . and it’s time their corrupt leaders were held to account for continuing gruesome torture and murder of their citizens.

Emphasize, too, that slandering Israel and blaming the Jewish state for the Palestinians’ lack of civil liberties is misplaced: The dictatorial Palestinian leaders should be exposed for the tyrants they are, and Western nations should cease funding them until basic civil liberties and rule of law are established.

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 recently ran in the *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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