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September 14, 2022



## Israel One of the World's Strongest, Most Successful Democracies, New Report Confirms

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Israel's enemies need little excuse to criticize—and more often condemn—the world's only Jewish state. Their baseless accusations of apartheid, genocide, slaughter and European colonialism seemingly respect no requirement of proof or rules of evidence.

Thus, despite Israel's superb record of civil liberties, elections, rule of law applied to all citizens, and equal opportunity at all levels of society, the country receives outsized doses of vitriol for its alleged lack of democratic values.

Such condemnation, of course, is rarely fact-based, but rather springs from ignorance and, in too many cases, irrational bigotry toward Israel. These attacks are usually targeted at presumed treatment by Israel of its Arab citizens . . . as well as, especially, non-Israeli Arabs living in surrounding disputed territories.

In stark, refreshing contradiction to unsupported accusations against Israel, the new [“Democracy Index 2021”](#) by EIU—the Economist Intelligence Unit—ranks Israel as the 23<sup>rd</sup> most successful democracy in the world, scoring it higher than the United States, Spain, Italy and some 139 other nations.

The index ranks countries according to 51 criteria, covering each nation's performance according to its 1) electoral process and pluralism; 2) functioning of government; 3) political participation; 4) political culture; and 5) civil liberties.

Israel's 2021 ranking shows consistent improvement in its democratic processes compared with the first such report in 2006, when the Jewish state ranked only 47. In the current report, Israel was lauded for its inclusion of an Arab party in today's ruling government coalition.

No surprise, since Israel's robust democracy has a vibrant electoral tradition, stable governing institutions, high political participation among its citizens, a

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vigorous, even boisterous political culture, and broad, equal civil liberties for all its citizens.

Unfortunately, even as Israel's democracy improved in the past year, the EIU noted that democracy globally actually deteriorated. This was due to the Covid-19 pandemic, causing "an unprecedented withdrawal of civil liberties," including "a huge extension of state power over large areas of public and personal life."

In contrast to Israel, the next highest ranking Middle East nation was Tunisia, which only reached 75<sup>th</sup> place—and then not as a democracy, but as a "hybrid regime." The territory of Palestine was ranked as a frankly "authoritarian" regime in 109<sup>th</sup> place.

Like all countries in the index, Israel's performance in the EIU evaluation was based on the health and performance of democratic institutions among its citizens.

While critics often unfairly blame Israel for a lack of democratic freedoms in Judea and Samaria ("the West Bank") and Gaza, they ignore the fact that the Oslo Accords give governance responsibilities of Palestinians in those territories almost entirely to their respective dictatorships—the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Unfortunately, neither of these Palestinian governments holds regular elections, supports basic civil liberties—like freedoms of speech, assembly and religion—or enforces rule of law. Neither respects women's equality, and both violently persecute members of LGBTQ and religious minorities.

Anti-Israel commentators also usually neglect to acknowledge that Palestinians have been waging terrorist war against Israel's existence since the state's birth in 1948. Much of Palestinian suffering results from Israel defending itself against these unrelenting attacks, as well as the Palestinian refusal to accept offers of land for peace and a state of their own.

Israel is often also faulted for passage of its "nation-state law" in 2018—which declares that the country exists to fulfill the Jewish people's "right to self-determination." This attack, however, is a red herring, attempting to discredit a statute that in no way limits Israel's democratic liberties.

Note that this law does not infringe on the rights of individual Israelis, including its two million Arab citizens. Like many other nation states, it merely formalizes symbols of its people—in this case the *Jewish* people—such as the flag, national anthem, and holidays.

Note, too, that while the nation-state law declares Hebrew to be the national language, this is not different than in the United States, in which English is the mother tongue. Nor does Israel's nation-state law establish any official religion—unlike some seven European countries that declare state religions in their very constitutions.

All of this is to point out that Israel can be a proud nation of the Jewish people

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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FLAME's Hotline e-newsletter keeps you up to date on the most important pro-Israel advocacy issues and features our choice of the week's most informative and thought-provoking article on Israel and the Middle East. If you only subscribe to one pro-Israel news service, make it the FLAME Hotline.

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while still cherishing and implementing one of the most diverse and freest democracies on earth. In fact, some would argue that it is precisely Jewish values that fortify and help guarantee Israel's robust democracy.

Please point out to friends, family, elected representatives—and in letters to the editor—that no matter what slanderous accusations Israel's enemies employ, the Jewish state *objectively* remains one of the strongest and most successful democracies on earth. Tiny Israel provides political freedoms and economic opportunities unmatched by the overwhelming majority of the world's nations.

Emphasize, too, that the suffering and political plight of the Palestinians has little to do with Israel and is in fact almost entirely the result of authoritarian governance by its terrorist dictatorial regimes and their obstinate refusal to make peace.

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.

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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