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FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

November 15, 2022



As you read this, anti-Israel forces are stepping up attacks on Israel's new newly elected government—even before it starts serving.

Just as the far left insisted democracy would crumble if the “wrong” American candidates were elected last Tuesday, now they’re claiming the Israeli people have also elected “undemocratic” legislators.

The U.S. State Department already threatened to boycott several new Israeli ministers it doesn’t like. President Biden snubbed and delayed congratulating Benjamin Netanyahu on his historic election victory for nearly a week.

Yet the American government has no problem supporting—and meeting with—the famously corrupt Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, who was elected 18 years ago to a 4-year term and who pays salaries to all terrorists who murder innocent Jews.

Biden’s diplomats also saw no conflict trying to negotiate a dangerous “nuclear deal” that would gift billions of dollars to Iran—the world’s greatest sponsor of global terrorism and Israel’s most vicious, Jew-hating enemy.

As antisemitic and anti-Zionist assaults multiply, what can lovers of Israel do to defend the Jewish state against bias and slander?

I hope you agree: The only solution for Israel supporters is to battle back—fight this “war of words” with a courageous barrage of *truth*.

Let me ask you this: If you and I *don’t* fight back . . . who will ?

Please join me in defending Israel: Together I know we’ll

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THIS MONTH'S AD
APPEARED IN
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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Democracy Thrives in Israel

A new report ranks the Jewish state as one of the world's strongest, most equitable democracies—despite baseless falsehoods about its oppression of Palestinians. While critics accuse Israel of apartheid, genocide and rights violations, they offer little convincing evidence. In the contrary, Israel has a superb record of civil liberties, elections, rule of law and equal opportunity of all levels of society, making it the world's 2nd most successful democracy.

What are the facts? Israel receives critical condemnation for its alleged treatment of Arab-Israeli citizens, as well as Palestinian Arabs living in overcrowded displaced territories. In Arab contrast to such poorly supported accusations, the new "Democracy Index 2021" by EIU—the Economist Intelligence Unit—ranks Israel as one of the most thriving democracies in the world, scoring it higher than the United States, Spain, Italy and some 100 other nations. The index ranks countries according to 31 criteria, covering such national performance according to 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 ranked for its inclusion of an Arab party in a coalition ruling government coalition. No surprise, since Israel robust democracy has a vibrant elected legislature, stable governing institutions, high political participation among its citizens, a vigorous, even free press, vibrant political culture, and broad, equal civil liberties for all its citizens.

Understandably, even as Israel's democracy improved in the past year, the EIU ranked 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 were Middle Eastern regimes, the highest ranking of which was Tunisia, ranking only "5th place"—and then not as a democracy, but as a "hybrid regime" (the territory of Palestine was ranked as an "authoritarian" regime in 108th 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 Accord gave governance responsibilities of Palestinians in these territories almost entirely to their respective counterparts—the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Understandably, neither of these Palestinian governments holds regular elections, respects basic civil liberties—like freedom of speech, religion, assembly and religion—or enforces rule of law.

Neither respects minority equality, and both violently persecute members of UNRWA and religious minorities.

Arab-Israeli commentators usually reject to acknowledge that Palestinians have been violating their rights against Israeli settlements since the state birth in 1948. Many of Palestinian suffering results from Israel's defending itself against these unprovoked attacks, as well as to protect Palestinian citizens from multiple threats from Israel for peace and a state of their own.

Israel's "nation-state law" has also been unfairly attacked. The law declares that the country exists to fulfill the Jewish people's "right to self-determination." This criterion, however, is not barring attempting to develop a state that in no way limits Israeli democratic liberties. Note that this law does not restrict the rights of individual Israelis, including its one million Arab citizens. Like many other nation states, it merely defines symbols of its people—in this case the Jewish people—such as the flag, national anthem, and holidays.

Some, too, that while the nation-state law declares Hebrew to be the national language, 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 religion in their new constitutions.

In short, Israel can be a proud nation of the Jewish people while still cherishing and respecting one of the most ethically diverse and freest democracies on earth. In fact, some would argue that it is precisely Jewish values of compassion and justice that help fairly and help guarantee Israel's robust democracy. No matter which democratic assessment Israel scores, despite the world state objectively remains one of the strongest and most successful democracies on earth, providing political, freedom and economic opportunities unmatched in the majority of the world's nations. Moreover, the suffering and plight of the Palestinians has little to do with Israel and is almost entirely the result of Palestinian oppression for its concrete declared regime and their ultimate refusal to make peace.

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AND PAID FOR BY

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IF YOU SUPPORT
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Dear Friend of FLAME:

Antisemitic thuggery in the U.S. has hit an all-time high. Last week's American elections will put at least two additional anti-Israel Representatives—"Squad members"—in Congress.

But even *before* the U.S. elections, U.S. politicians and media—such as Senator Robert Menendez, Rep. Brad Sherman, and *NY Times* writer Tom Friedman—were attacking new Israeli legislators.

Outrageously, members of the Biden administration itself have indicated they won't meet with several new Israel elected officials if they're given cabinet positions.

But let's back up a second: As you must know, the latest Israeli elections were an inspiring triumph of democracy in action.

A record 71% of voters turned out. In a tumultuous election, they elected 120 members to the parliament—Israel's Knesset.

As a supporter of Israel, you can be proud of Israel's democracy—even as antisemites are spreading more Jew-hatred and anti-Israel slanders on American streets and campuses.

Remember: Israel's new legislators represent a wide spectrum of Israeli society—from Arabs and leftists to the secular, religious and right-wingers. They may not agree on everything, but all are dedicated to making the Jewish state more just, more inclusive, safer and more prosperous.

Why then, just as Benjamin Netanyahu begins negotiations to form a new government, are American leftists piling on with poisonous threats and accusations?

Why are they—and members of the Biden administration—criticizing several new Knesset members and threatening to black-ball them . . . even before they have begun their work?

We friends of Israel are used to such abuse. But we don't have to take it lying down.

The truth will set us free.

Good news: FLAME has already begun to fight back against the haters.

As you know, FLAME has a 33-year reputation for hard-hitting, outspoken editorials that defend Israel—with the truth—in mainstream media.

Now we're at it again with FLAME's largest-ever "Israel truth campaign."

PLEASE HELP US!!

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 WEEKLY
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FLAME HOTLINE
THE ONLY PRO-ISRAEL NEWS SERVICE

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.

SUBSCRIBE NOW »

FLAME just published a new editorial message in mainstream media that refutes many of the lies that Israel's enemies here in the U.S. tell about the Jewish state.

- The lie that Israel is not a democracy
- The lie that Israel is an apartheid state
- The lie that Israel commits genocide
- The lie that Israel mistreats its two million Arab citizens
- The lie that Israel oppresses Palestinians outside of Israel

Best of all, this editorial—titled “Democracy in Israel Thrives”—defeats these slanders with the hard fact that Israel is now ranked one of the strongest, most vibrant democracies on earth.

That's right: The Economist Intelligence Unit just named Israel the world's 23rd most successful democracy—ahead of the U.S., Italy and Spain and 139 other nations!

Thanks to your support, our ad ran two weeks ago, on October 30, in the Sunday *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Miami Herald*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Post* and *Mercury News*.

This editorial will go a long way toward defeating the falsehoods of U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Kanye West and other enemies of Israel in the “war of words” we're currently fighting.

This message reached some 7 million influential readers. It cost over \$150,000.

(Click here to read FLAME's new editorial on Israel's thriving democracy.)

Click here to support FLAME's media messages with a donation.

Last month, Google employees called Israel an Apartheid state, demanding that Google cancel a \$1.5 billion contract for services to Israel—a blatant BDS effort. But FLAME fought back.

FLAME immediately ran our recent ad—“The Israel Apartheid Lie”—in Google's backyard: The message ran in Silicon Valley's *Mercury News*.

This editorial demolished the high-tech employees' slander and called them out for their antisemitism.

Just a few days ago, Google announced that the Israel contract is continuing without delay.

In October 2021, FLAME published an outspoken media ad calling Israel supporters to reconsider the purchase of Ben & Jerry's and Unilever products:

Ben & Jerry's Bad Taste: The ice cream maker's intent to ban sales and operations of its Israeli affiliate in the "Occupied Palestinian Territories" is based on lies and bad faith toward Israel.

This editorial ran in the *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle* and *Orlando Sentinel*, reaching hundreds of thousands more Americans. It cost FLAME \$50,000 to run.

As you know by now, Ben & Jerry's parent Unilever has agreed to sell its B&J operation in Israel to its Israeli partner, ending a year of struggle by Israel advocates like you, me . . . and FLAME.

FLAME's efforts—and those of other advocates—were supported by thousands of individual donations.

The result: Ben & Jerry's managers were repudiated: Israelis are now free to buy B&J ice cream.

My point is simply this: While no single action can defeat antisemites and other enemies of Israel . . . by working together, thousands of supporters—like you and I—can help us win!

Won't you help FLAME continue its support of Israel by making a donation today?

Let me give you several more examples of how FLAME—and supporters like you—fight back:

Last May, when Hamas launched more than 4,500 missiles against Israel—and national media were condemning the Jewish state for defending itself—FLAME published an outspoken editorial in mainstream media *exposing the evil* of the Gaza terror group.

Our message reached nearly 5 million *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* readers. (Read "The Ugly Truth About Hamas" here.)

FLAME also told the truth in national media about the perverse United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) . . . whose primary obsession is *condemning Israel*—the only democracy in the Middle East.

Good news: In 2018, the United States finally resigned from the organization.

FLAME also told the truth about the corrupt United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)—which *incites Palestinians against Israel* and prolongs the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Good news: In 2018, the United States stopped funding this organization.

(Unfortunately our struggle continues: In 2021, the current U.S. administration rejoined UNHRC and re-funded UNRWA.) With your help, we will keep fighting.

Click here to support FLAME's media messages with a [donation](#).

Like you, I've been an avid supporter of Israel for many years.

I'm motivated by both anger and passion.

But I'm sustained—year after year—by *hope*.

Because I've seen us win many battles—from the new U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, to the generous U.S. investment in Israel's safety, to winning the battle against giant Unilever.

Together we can do it.

According to a February 2022 Gallup Poll, a powerful majority of Americans —55%—support Israel.

In fact, this support for Israel is actually *higher* than 20 years ago.

Truth is, Americans support Israel because people like you—and FLAME—keep hammering the truth about the Jewish state.

We *refuse* to accept the lies. We *refuse* to stay silent.

We fight harder than our foes.

Obviously, we can take *momentary* comfort from U.S. support of Israel—but we cannot rest.

Our enemies—like the Squad (and their allies) in the House of Representatives, like Students for Justice in Palestine, like the management at Ben & Jerry's —won't relent. They keep punching.

(In fact, Ben & Jerry's' management is *hopping mad* about Unilever quashing their BDS shenanigans.)

That's why, if you love Israel, I pray you'll help FLAME keep punching back.

I hope you've seen and approve of our hard-hitting editorial positions exposing defamatory accusations against Israel . . . in the media, on campus, in the U.N. and on American streets:

“The Palestinian Catastrophe”

Several members of the House of Representatives have introduced a bill to make a national holiday of Palestinian Nakba (“*Catastrophe*”) Day, to lament Israel's founding. Our latest editorial ad tells the truth: Palestinians don't have a state because they have refused every offer from the U.N. and Israel to share the Holy Land with the Jewish people.

This editorial ad recently appeared in such media as the *New York Post*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, *Houston Chronicle* and *Orlando Sentinel*. (Cost: Almost \$120,000!)

[“No Fool’s Deal with Iran”](#)

This op-ed, which appeared in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* Sunday editions, exposes the flaws in the first 2015 Iran Deal and holds the Biden Administration to account as it tries to entice Iran back into a worse deal. Our ad demands that any future agreement block Iran’s quest for nuclear weapons, as well as Iran’s attempts to spread terrorist jihad globally.

[“The Israel Genocide Slander”](#)

Vice President Kamala Harris missed the chance on a college campus to condemn one student’s lie that Israel commits genocide—but FLAME printed the truth about this demonization in mainstream media. In fact, Israel strenuously avoids killing any innocent people, even when Hamas uses them as human shields.

Click here to support FLAME’s media messages with a [donation](#).

These pro-Israel editorials reached millions to ensure Americans continue their support of the Jewish state.

In addition to mainstream media, FLAME also publishes outspoken *hasbarah*—clarifying messages of truth—on Facebook, other social media and sent weekly to members like you, reaching hundreds of thousands more people.

In recent weeks, these FLAME *Hotlines* have struck back at Israel’s enemies on current breaking topics such as these:

- [“American Politicians Jump into Israel’s Elections: Do They Welcome Israeli Opinions on Their Candidates?”](#)
- [“Ukraine and Putin Remind Israel: You’re on Your Own”](#)
- [“How SJP’s Antisemitism and Violent Harassment Threaten Jewish Students”](#)
- [“Palestinians’ New Threat Against Israel Proves Only Their Fading Influence”](#)
- [“Whoopi’s Denial of Holocaust Racism is Anti-Semitic and Anti-Israel”](#)

Despite the despicable attacks from extremists on the left and right, from mainstream media and even members of Congress—you and I have grown accustomed to the constant *struggle* against Israel’s antisemitic enemies.

We know that Israel’s survival is precious and can’t be taken for granted.

Good news: We at FLAME also know how to defend Israel . . . and how to fight back.

Won’t you help us continue publishing these powerful, persuasive messages of truth about Israel with a membership [donation](#)—which qualifies you for a 2022 [tax deduction](#)?

FLAME’s hundreds of messages defending Israel—all of which you can see at

FLAME's [PR for Israel](#)—provide powerful support for Israel, but as I'm sure you can imagine, telling the truth about Israel via such paid editorial messages in mainstream media is costly.

Are you ready to join us? Here's the double payoff for making a donation to FLAME:

First, you help tell the truth about Israel in the media—something that's sorely needed if we're to maintain vital U.S. financial and political support of the Jewish state.

Second, you can celebrate the new Jewish year—it's now 5783!—and Hanukkah with even more satisfaction, because you have done a *mitzvah* for Israel—a generous, heartfelt good deed.

That's why, if you're angry about terror attacks in Israel, the United States and worldwide, *and* if you've ever bemoaned Israel's "bad PR," I urge you to help FLAME with your financial support at this time. Just go to [donate](#) to help now.

Please remember that the overwhelming majority of FLAME's financial support comes from individuals just like you. One by one, Jews, Christians and unaffiliated alike contribute generously to this noble cause—to help ensure that Israel survives.

So whether you give \$1,000 or \$500 or \$100 . . . or even \$50 or \$36 or \$18—every donation is important—every dollar you contribute helps us keep defending Israel and telling the truth about the inspiring Jewish nation.

Best of all, of course, your donation is tax-deductible.

Won't you act now to make your donation online? Just go to [donate now](#).

Thanks in advance for your generosity and your continued support of FLAME's good work.

Jim Sinkinson ,
President, FLAME

P.S. We at FLAME usually focus, as we should, on the challenges Israel faces in the world—the unfair treatment the Jewish state receives at the hands of the U.N., continuing rocket, gun, car and knife attacks by Arab terrorists, and the existential threat that confronts Israel from Iran. But what we must not forget is the amazing success story that Israel represents for Jews, for the United States and for civilization itself. It's inspiring! To clarify, celebrate and publicize the good news about Israel, FLAME published a *hasbarah* message—“[Why Israel Matters](#)”—in media reaching 10 million readers. I hope you'll review this powerful position paper and pass it on to all your contacts who will benefit from this message. If you agree that FLAME's bold—but costly—brand of public relations on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support our

publication of such outspoken messages. Please consider giving donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To start or renew your membership online, just go to [donate now](#). Now more than ever we need your support to ensure that Israel gets the support it needs—from the U.S. Congress, from the President, and from the American people.



Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

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