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FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

December 22, 2022

Did you see? *New York Times* attacks Israel again. Not for what Israel did—but what the *NYT* fears it will do.

This is truly a “war of words”—between those who love Israel and those who oppose the Jewish state.

If we want to hold the support of the American people for Israel, we have to win this war—by telling the truth. That’s what FLAME does.

We also know that to protect the Jewish people and the Jewish state we have to keep fighting back fearlessly—as FLAME has for 33 years.

Just yesterday, I sent you proof: Claims by the *Times* that Israel’s new government threatens democracy . . . are simply lies. Rather, Israel is a bastion of liberal, progressive values—a global oasis of freedom and opportunity for all its citizens.

Earlier this month we also raised the alarm about the UN declaration of *Palestinian Nakba Day*—which condemned Israel’s birth as a “catastrophe.” Yet FLAME was ready: Our editorial—“[The Palestinian Catastrophe](#)”—tells the truth: It is Palestinian refusal to accept offers of land for peace that caused their catastrophe in 1948 . . . and tragically continues it today. FLAME ran this message in 7 major daily newspapers nationally..

I hope you agree: The only solution for Israel supporters is to fight back—win this “war of words” with a bold ongoing campaign of *truth*.

Here’s my question for you: Who will fight back . . . if not you and I?

**Please join me in defending Israel and the Jewish people:
Together I know we’ll succeed.**

Just go to [donate now](#) to contribute.

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**THIS MONTH'S AD
APPEARED IN
PUBLICATIONS
REACHING 10 MILLION
READERS**

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 some accuse Israel of apartheid, genocide and rights violations, they offer little convincing evidence. In the contrary, Israel has a superb record of civil liberties, education, rule of law and equal opportunity of all levels of society, ranking it the world's 21st 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 occupied territories. In fact, contrary to such poorly supported accusations, the new "Democracy Index 2022" by EIU—the European 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 170 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 lauded for its inclusion of an Arab party in its ruling government coalition.

No surprise, since Israeli robust democracy has a vibrant electoral tradition, stable governing institutions, high political participation among its citizens, a vigorous, even bipartisan political culture, and broad, equal civil liberties for all its citizens.

Unfortunately, even as Israeli robust democracy has a vibrant electoral tradition, stable governing institutions, high political participation among its citizens, a vigorous, even bipartisan political culture, and broad, equal civil liberties for all its citizens.

Understandably, even as Israeli robust democracy has a vibrant electoral tradition, stable governing institutions, high political participation among its citizens, a vigorous, even bipartisan political culture, and broad, equal civil liberties for all its citizens.

In contrast to Israel were Middle Eastern regimes, the global ranking of which was, however, ranking only "on the edge" 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.

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

Jewish values help guarantee Israel's democracy

Not only, but while the nation-state law declares Hebrew to be the national language, this is not different from the United States, in which English is the mother tongue. Nor does Israeli nation-state law establish any official religion—unlike some seven European countries that declare state religion in their many constitutions.

In short, Israel can be a proud nation of the Jewish people while still cherishing and supporting 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 Israeli robust democracy. No matter which democratic assessment Israeli citizens employ, the Jewish 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 Arab leadership processes that have generated de facto regimes and their obstacles refusal to make peace.

FLAME

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DONATE NOW

**IF YOU SUPPORT
PUBLISHING FLAME'S
BOLD PR MESSAGES,**

Dear Friend of FLAME:

I'm fuming mad : In a new op-ed, the *New York Times* claims it's long been a "strong supporter" of Israel . . . even as it slides a knife of betrayal into Israel's back—condemning its new government as a "threat to the future" of the Jewish state and putting *democracy* in jeopardy.

The *Times* levels this accusation before Israel's new ruling coalition has even formed—let alone provoked "a new round of Arab-Israeli violence," as the *Times* cynically predicts it will.

The *Times* even blames new Prime Minister Netanyahu for choosing to form his new government with "radical far-right parties"—though they know full well that Netanyahu could not possibly create a coalition without the democratically elected leaders of these parties.

Most infuriating—and *preposterous*—the *Times* warns Israel against undermining "the possibility of a two-state solution."

Does the *Times* actually believe Israel's *future* government is preventing peace—rather than 73 years of Palestinian rejection of every peace proposal by the U.N., the U.S. and Israel herself?

The *Times* is just one of a dozen mainstream media—and enemies in Congress—telling lies about Israel . . . and whose lies FLAME refutes day in and day out.

My friend, let me be candid with you: Those of us who truly support Israel . . . stand with Israel no matter who is elected to office—because Israel is one of the world's strongest democracies.

We trust democracy . . . we trust Israel . . . and we trust the Israeli people.

Do we stop supporting America because "the bad guys" got elected this time? No! We love our country . . . and we love Israel . . . because they are fundamentally heroes of civilization.

Outrageously, it's fair-weather friends like the *New York Times*, who turn against the Jewish state (and the United States) when *their* party loses the election. They claim *democracy* is dying!

Here's the truth: The *New York Times* does not support Israel. Like the Palestinians—and increasing numbers of ultra-leftists—they oppose Israel.

That's why the *Times* publishes editorials that criticize Jewish nationalism and oppose a Jewish state. They publish demeaning news stories about Israel . . . full of lies and half-truths. They hire Middle East journalists with scandalous histories of antisemitism.

No: The owners and scores of reporters at the *New York Times* are *not* Zionists. Despite their smarmy, superficial claims of being "strong supporters of Israel," their actions prove they are anti-Zionists.

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.

DONATE NOW »



FLAME'S WEEKLY HOTLINE E-NEWSLETTER



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 »

The truth will keep us free.
Good news: FLAME has already begun to fight back against the haters.

As you know, FLAME has a three-decade 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."

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 just a few weeks ago, 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.

In September, Google workers 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 later Google announced that the Israel contract is continuing without delay.

In July 2021, Ben & Jerry's announced plans to boycott Israel—falsely claiming the Jewish state occupies "Palestinian Territories."

FLAME quickly published an outspoken media ad refuting the B&J claim and called Israel supporters to reconsider purchasing 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:

In May 2021, 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—and the safety of Jews in America—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
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