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FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

December 28, 2022



Many Jews and non-Jews miss the point of Chanukah.
It's *not* about miracles, it's really about fighting back.

We should be inspired by the Maccabees, who *refused* to stop struggling against the enemies of the Jews.

Today our brothers and sisters in Israel are fighting against terrorists, as we American lovers of Israel are fighting a vicious “war of words.”

We have to fight fearlessly to protect the Jewish people and the Jewish state. . . by defeating our enemies’ lies— with the truth.

Just yesterday, I sent you a new alert: FLAME refuted the blood libel by media and other haters that Israel slaughters Palestinian children—proving that the real kid killer is the Palestinian death culture, which teaches children to hate, terrorize and kill Jews.

Last month we also fought back against Squad member Rep. Rashida Tlaib, who proposed that Congress recognize *Palestinian Nakba Day* —condemning Israel’s birth as a “catastrophe.” FLAME’s editorial—“The Palestinian Catastrophe”—tells the truth: It was Palestinians’ rejection of land for peace that led to their catastrophe in 1948 . . . and continues it today. FLAME ran this message in 7 major daily newspapers nationally..

I hope you’ll join with me and thousands of Israel supporters in this fight—to win this war of words with an outspoken campaign of truth.

Let’s allow the lights of Chanukah—and Christmas—to point our way.

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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 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, democracy, 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 occupied territories. In stark contrast to such poorly supported accusations, the new "Democracy Index 2022" by EIU—the Economist Intelligence Unit—ranked 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 51 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 2022 rating 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 Israel'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 vigorous, even bipartisan 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 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's 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 dictatorships—the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Unfortunately, neither of these Palestinian governments holds regular elections, respects basic civil liberties—like freedom of religion—and

Jewish values help guarantee Israel's democracy

Jewish people—such as the flag, national anthem, and holidays—declare Hebrew to be the national language, this is not different from 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 religion in their very 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 Israel's robust democracy. No matter which democratic accusation Israel's enemies 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 authoritarian processes in the corrupt dictatorships and their obstinate refusal to make peace.

FLAME

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

Please help FLAME shine the bright light of truth for Israel —today.

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

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Don't you agree: It's a crying shame in this holiday season—celebrating love, peace and hope—that we're forced also to stand our guard as warriors for truth about Israel?

Unfortunately, the battle rages on. Our enemies don't stop. Neither can we.

As I survey Israel's challenges, I see two problems that demand our attention *immediately*:

1) We must oppose incessant attacks by leftist media—and even Jewish organizations—on Israel's new, democratically elected government.

First, let me be blunt regarding the results of Israel's recent elections: Those who love Israel—and who respect Israel's vibrant, world-class democracy—should *publicly support* Israel's government, no matter who is elected.

I have dear friends—American lovers of Israel—who for years have despised Binyamin Netanyahu. That's fine. Many Israelis feel the same way.

But we are all, still, whole-hearted Zionists. That is FLAME's message.

Our opinions about Israel's government—now and in the future—are best shared among ourselves, not broadcast to the greater world, which needs no *additional excuse* to hate Israel.

Our position toward Israel's government should be one of critical support. Above all, we support Israel, we honor Israel's robust democratic process, we respect the *choices* of Israeli voters.

We should ask ourselves why Israelis—who live under the threat of murderous terrorist attacks *daily* and who risk the lives of their children to defend the Jewish state—why they elected the people they did. We should know and trust . . . there was a good reason, a heartfelt reason.

Of course, FLAME vehemently opposes the anti-Zionist drumbeat of the *New York Times*, which condemns Israel's new government as a “threat to the future” of the Jewish state and putting *democracy* in jeopardy—even before it takes office.

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.

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.

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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?

For more on this topic, see FLAME’s outspoken *Hotline* position paper: [New York Times Attacks Israel Again, Accuses New Government Before It Starts](#)

I also hope you will join FLAME in opposing actions such as the letter signed by leftist American rabbis, pledging that they will *ban ministers* in the new Israeli cabinet from speaking at their synagogues and in their communities.

Such outrageous positions resemble nothing more than the ban at UC Berkeley Law School of speakers who support Israel and Zionism. It is Woke cancel culture at its worst.

Boycotting is not a Jewish value. Boycotting fellow Jews—especially elected representatives of the Jewish state—is a *shande* (shameful)!

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

2) We must also fight back against truly frightening anti-Zionist antisemitism taking over American college campuses.

As you know, antisemitism—mostly in the form of anti-Zionism— rages increasingly on campus.

A shocking new report by the AMCHA Initiative reveals that threats to students’ Jewish identity doubled in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Many radical professors, students and even some Jewish organizations are trying to rip Zionism from the fabric of Judaism, using cancelation, shame and blame as their weapons.

These “progressives” reject the globally accepted definition of antisemitism, which holds that attempts to demonize or delegitimize Israel are clear signs of hate against the Jewish people.

The radicals’ rejection of this definition is based on the falsehood that Zionism is *not* an integral value of Judaism—therefore their anti-Zionism does not constitute antisemitism.

That’s a lie: Anti-Zionism *is* antisemitism

To see FLAME’s latest *Hotline* report on this growing threat to Israel in higher education, please go to [When Will American Universities Put a Stop to Skyrocketing Attacks on Jewish Identity?](#)

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, as well as Chanukah and Christmas—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* (clarifying) 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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