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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

March 14, 2023



***New York Times'* blatant antisemitic coverage should repulse truth-loving advertisers and readers**

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

The *New York Times* has rarely been good for the Jews or the Jewish state, despite the paper's nominally Jewish ownership since 1896.

At best, the *Times'* coverage of Jews and Israel reeks of misinformation and half-truths. At worst, its coverage is openly biased and hateful.

A recent study confirms blatant anti-Israel bias on the part of the paper. It shows the *Times* consistently omits or minimizes critical details about the threats Israel faces. The *Times* also contains disproportionately negative content about the Jewish state and dramatically understates crimes committed by Palestinian terrorist groups against Jews and Israel.

This research was conducted by veteran Israeli journalist Lilac Sigan, in collaboration with International Communication and Public Diplomacy expert Professor Eytan Gilboa of Bar-Ilan University.

Findings of the study shouldn't surprise anyone, given the *Times'* decades-long record of anti-Jewish bias, underreporting the events of the Holocaust and most recently singling out the Hassidic Jewish community in New York for criticism of education in its yeshivas.

The *Times'* obsessively cynical tradition of attacking and misrepresenting the Jewish people and their state certainly fits the IHRA definition of antisemitism. It demonizes and works to delegitimize Israel, while applying double standards against the Jewish state to which it holds no other people—certainly not to Palestinians murdering innocent Israeli civilians.

Should the *Times* or any mainstream medium report on Blacks, Muslims or trans people as it does Jews and the Jewish state, a nationwide protest would arise to cancel the paper. In fact, the *Times'* nefarious track record should be a toxicity-warning alert to advertisers and readers alike.

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

Demand Justice for Jewish Students

New report shows skyrocketing attacks on students' Jewish identity—rooted in anti-Zionism, a modern disguise for classic antisemitism. It's time to fight back.

Despite rising campus attacks on Israel, most Jewish students and support the Jewish state. But anti-Zionism based in the classroom and public square forces many students to hide their Jewish identity. Greater enforcement of Title VI anti-discrimination laws promises a cure to this injustice.

What are the facts?

According to a new report by ANCHIA Institute, bullying and intimidation of Jewish students on university campuses spiked in the last year, while attempts to censor Zionism increased. In 2021, CAIR in Israel's Jewish identity trips to Israel increased nearly 20-fold. Reinforcement of Jewish persecution in 1980s Nazi Germany, now 90% of U.S. Jewish students say they hide their Jewish identity, according to a 2021 poll by the Brandeis Center for Human Rights.

While discrimination against most ethnic minorities is strictly outlawed on campus, university administrators have generally failed to protect Jewish students from attacks against them. Furthermore, a spike of complaints recently filed with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) now demand action under Title VI anti-discrimination statutes. Currently, George Washington University, City University of New York, University of Vermont, University of Illinois and University of Southern California are among schools facing OCR investigations for alleged antisemitism violations.

Not surprisingly, the ANCHIA report registered pro-Palestinian groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), for responsibility in targeting Jewish students. Indeed, the report found that anti-Zionist groups like SJP were the largest overall contributors to attacks on Jewish identity. Despite their pattern of making antisemitic hate, to date only a single chapter of SJP has been permanently shut down on a U.S. campus—at New York's private Yeshiva University. The ban was upheld in court.

ANCHIA report also noted the contribution of non-Jewish Jewish anti-Israel groups and individuals to the assault on Jewish identity. One such group is Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), which uses its Jewish identity as cover for antisemitism.

Bad enough that Jewish students are targeted for persecution by their peers, but even worse when university faculty support the persecution. No wonder, according to ANCHIA, that universities with faculty who support the BDS movement were three to seven times more likely to suffer attacks on Jewish identity. In fact, ANCHIA found that "twenty percent of threats to Jewish identity took place at events supported by academic faculty."

Sadly, without federal intervention, there's little hope universities will stop antisemitic attacks. Tragically, Jewish students who lost their Jewish identity in educational can seldom rely on their schools' harassment policies to protect them. There is no one to blame but the antisemitic mob on campus. They deserve justice.

Attacks against Jewish students represent an assault on the American social fabric and our democracy. Higher education administrators should be alerted by their figures to the danger of antisemitism, especially in the face of discrimination targeting anti-Zionism. Schools that fail to respond face the risk of being shut down by the Department of Education. If you should be persecuted aggressively under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Enforcement must be early, prompt and swift. Jewish students deserve better than the current hostile environment on campus. They deserve justice.

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FLAME is a non-profit, nonprofit organization to promote the movement of antisemitism and reporting on antisemitism in the United States and to make the world a more just and equitable place for all.

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Tragically, the *Times* gives Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, more bad press than even Iran—a genocidal Islamist dictatorship currently engaged in a brutal crackdown on its own people, who are protesting their despotic rulers. Indeed, the Sigan-Gilboa study found that last year the paper published 20 negative opinion pieces against Israel compared to just 13 for Iran.

The *Times* repeatedly uses libelous terms in describing the Jewish state. The Sigan-Gilboa study noted that the words “Israel” and “apartheid” appeared together 39 times during 2022, while the words “Israel” and “colonialism” appeared together 16 times. In contrast, the words “ Hamas” and “terrorist organization” appeared together only 13 times.

The *Times* claims that the majority of Palestinians killed in 2022 were non-involved civilians, though the Israeli military asserts that most were combatants. The paper also repeats the common lie that Israel’s presence in Judea and Samaria is illegal under international law, when in fact, Israel has a stronger legal claim to this territory than any nation or group on Earth, especially the Palestinians.

However, the *Times* blatant anti-Jewish bias is not just derived from sins of *commission*—it is equally remiss in its *omission* of critical facts. Start 65 years ago, when the *Times* regularly glossed over horrors of the Holocaust. In her book, “Buried by the Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper,” author Laurel Leff notes that between 1939-1945 the paper published approximately 1,200 news items related to the fate of the Jews, only 26 of which appeared on the front page, and only six times were Jews identified in headlines as Nazi victims.

The *Times* rarely mentions the names of the armed groups responsible for the bulk of the terrorist activities against Israelis. Iranian-backed terrorist groups Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad merited only eight mentions in headlines by the paper in all of 2022. Hamas and Hezbollah were mentioned in a negative sense only once, while Islamic Jihad garnered negative mentions twice.

By comparison, 192 headlines mentioning Israel in 2022 held a negative or critical tone. Overall, 53% of the *Times*' news coverage of the Jewish state was negative during the first 10 months of 2022. However, when Benjamin Netanyahu was re-elected as Israel’s Prime Minister in November last year, this figure rose to 68%.

Indeed, once Israelis elected a new, right-wing government, the *Times*’ anti-Israel machine went into overdrive. On Feb. 5, 2023, a *New York Times* front page article and web headline proclaimed, “In West Bank, Settlers Sense Their Moment After Far Right’s Rise.”

The *Times* used this article to paint “the settler movement,” “settlers,” “settler-activists,” and “settler leaders” as international criminals responsible for the conflict with the Palestinians, and for “an unusually intense wave of settler violence against Palestinians and their property.”

But if the *Times* wanted to tell a balanced version of the truth, it would have

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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explained that violence perpetrated by Israeli “settlers” in Judea and Samaria pales in comparison to Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israelis.

While annually Palestinians experience on average some 300 attacks on their property and 100 attacks on individuals, Israelis every year endure an average of 5,000 Palestinian terrorist attacks designed to kill them. However, the *Times*’ deceptive journalism gives readers the impression that the Palestinians bear no responsibility for the conflict.

Even more outrageous, the *Times*’ bias against Israel and the Jews is often explicit and openly antisemitic. This was the case in 2019, when the *Times* published a cartoon depicting then-US President Donald Trump wearing a kippah (*yarmulke*) and blind, being led by a guide dog with a Star of David around its neck and the face of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Most recently, the *Times* ran a series of articles alleging educational malpractice among Hassidic yeshivas. One of these articles suggested that the Hasidic schools find “ways of tapping into enormous sums of government money,” adding that “city and state officials have avoided taking action, bowing to the influence of Hasidic leaders who push their followers to vote as a bloc and have made safeguarding the schools their top political priority.”

The implication of this kind of reporting is that Jews behave differently than auto workers or teachers using their political influence. Such content simply rehashes the age-old antisemitic trope: Jews have an insidious agenda that they secretly promote by unfairly pulling levers of power.

I urge you in conversations with friends, colleagues, family—and in letters to the editor—to emphasize that as long as the *New York Times* persists in telling half-truths and perverse lies about Israel and the Jewish people, it deserves openly to be branded antisemitic. Advertisers have no business supporting it and truth-loving people have no reason to read it.

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* (explanatory article)—“Democracy Thrives in Israel”—which exposes false claims that Israel deprives Arab Israeli citizens and Palestinian Arabs of their rights.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, President
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. You’ve surely seen headlines describing increasing attacks on Jewish students—in the classroom and in the public square—by radical anti-Zionist students, as well as faculty members. So far, university administrators have failed to prevent this kind of antisemitism on campus. At the heart of this discrimination, Israel’s enemies outrageously claim that Zionism is not part of being Jewish. No wonder more and more Jewish students are hiding their Jewish identities on

campus. I think you'll agree that we supporters of Israel need to speak out. FLAME's new hasbarah—explanatory message—“[Demand Justice for Jewish Students](#)” tells how new law suits based on Title VI anti-discrimination laws are putting pressure on college administrators to protect Jewish students from such attacks. I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME intends to publish in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Miami Herald*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times* and *San Jose Mercury News*. 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](#).

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