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Palestinians suffer the greatest political and economic oppression from fellow Arabs. (Is that a problem?)

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

Palestinians are one of the most downtrodden ethnic groups in the Middle East, suffering from political and economic hardship—overwhelmingly at the hands of their fellow Arabs.

Palestinians living in most Arab countries are treated as second-class citizens often restricted to living in squalid refugee camps . . . and most are simply not granted citizenship at all.

For example, some half a million Palestinians have been consigned to refugee status in Syria since they emigrated there upon Israel's independence. Another nearly half a million Palestinians live as refugees in Lebanon. Both groups are denied citizenship, both are restricted from professional employment, and neither receives government benefits.

In Jordan, about two million Palestinian residents are registered as refugees, more than 600,000 do not hold citizenship, and about 370,000 live in Jordanian refugee camps.

Of course, Palestinians living in any Arab nation are subject to severe limitations on civil rights, low standards of living and diminished economic opportunity that are endemic to the region.

Palestinians living under the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip don't fare better—they endure the same political abuses and economic depression found in other Middle East dictatorships.

Ironically, despite regular press attacks on Israel for its treatment of Palestinians, the best place in the Middle East to be an Arab of Palestinian descent is Israel. Indeed, Arab Israelis are first-class citizens who enjoy broad civil rights equal to those in Western countries. Likewise, Arab Israelis can take full advantage of one of the world's strongest economies and highest standards of living.

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The shame is that Western media coverage obsessively focuses on alleged offenses of the Jewish state, while ignoring the cruel, inequitable treatment almost universally suffered by Palestinians in Arab countries. Similarly, Western media show almost no interest in the impressive economic and professional accomplishments of Israel's Arab citizens.

Palestinians have been disenfranchised or banished in many Arab nations.

Arab countries, with the exception of Jordan, have refused to give Palestinians citizenship, depriving them of many rights and privileges that nationals enjoy. They are instead treated as foreigners who can be expelled at will.

Accordingly, Arab states have orchestrated mass expulsions of Palestinians. The largest of these took place following the 1991 Gulf War, when Kuwait expelled some 200,000 Palestinians because PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat supported Saddam Hussein's invasion of their country.

Both Jordan and Lebanon have expelled Palestinian guerrillas for bad behavior at various times.

Despite such deportations, no protest movements ever arose to defend these Palestinians.

In Jordan, where Palestinians comprise the majority of the population, the Jordanian parliament is rigged to deny them democratic power. The Hashemite rulers—installed by the British—also slaughtered an estimated 15,000 Palestinians during the 1970-71 Black September rebellion.

As a justification for excluding Palestinians from participation in Arab societies, leaders of Arab nations have disingenuously claimed they want the Palestinians living among them someday to return to their “homes in Israel.”

Again, no international outcry has ever been mounted to condemn this refusal to resettle their Arab Palestinian brethren.

Perhaps the worst treatment of the Palestinian people occurs where they are ruled by Palestinian masters—namely leaders of the PA in Judea and Samaria (aka the West Bank) and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Both ruling groups are dictatorships, which have cancelled elections since 2006. PA President Mahmoud Abbas is now in the 18th year of his four-year term. Both dictatorships have full administrative and civil control over their citizens, yet both deny them civil liberties, such as free speech, freedom of assembly, rule of law and the right to vote.

In addition, the Palestinians face severe economic inequality. In Lebanon, Palestinians like 25-year-old Nirmeen Hazineh live in slumlike refugee camps surrounded by segregation walls and barbed wire. Hazineh is a sociology graduate, but is not allowed to practice in that field.

Indeed, Palestinians living in Lebanon are banned from 39 professions, including areas of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and law. They are also prohibited from

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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owning property. The poverty rate among Lebanese Palestinians is 93%.

Yet, media criticism of Lebanon for its unjust rule over Palestinians is virtually non-existent.

The same can be said for the Hamas dictatorship in the Gaza Strip, where 65% of the population lives below the poverty line and 60% of the workforce is unemployed.

None of this has stopped Hamas from confiscating foreign aid intended to improve the lives of ordinary Gazans. Hamas also heavily taxes its impoverished population and uses most of its funds to enrich its leaders and buy weapons to launch terror attacks on Israel.

Clearly, the greatest enemies of the Palestinians are their Arab brethren.

While the media, NGOs and politicians constantly clamor for Israel to stop its “occupation,” never did they agitate for Jordan to give the Palestinians independence between 1948-1967, when the Arab Hashemites occupied that territory.

In fact, when Jordan lost “the West Bank,” after its failed invasion of Israel in 1967, the Arab nation promptly cancelled Jordanian citizenship for all Palestinians living there, making them again stateless.

Of course, it’s axiomatic that the press and antisemites have no true concern for the plight of the Palestinian people unless they can attack Israel. If the Jews can’t be named and blamed, there’s no story, no motivation, no sympathy.

Likewise, mainstream journalists have little interest in the inspiring achievements of Arab-Israelis. Don’t hold your breath for stories about Israel’s Arab citizens dominating medical professions in Israel or Arab-Israelis’ home-ownership rate exceeding that of Jewish Israelis. Unlikely you’ll see features on Israel’s Arab citizens reaching high ranks in the Israel Defense Forces or having more freedoms than their counterparts anywhere in the Middle East.

Above all, journalists or others dedicated to helping the Palestinian people would do best to expose Arab rulers who are overwhelmingly responsible for the Palestinians’ plight. Indeed, their first target should be those most immediately responsible—the disgraceful Palestinian leaders themselves.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that the real persecution of Palestinians is executed at the hands of fellow Arabs—not Israel. Please also emphasize that it is Israel, and *only* Israel, that provides its Arab citizens the freedoms and opportunities that Palestinians living under the rule of Arab dictators can only dream of.

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 —“Demand Justice for Jewish Students”—which exposes rising attacks on Jewish college students’ identity and how these acts of antisemitism can be defeated.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, Publisher

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 recent 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 recently published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Star Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Newsmax*. 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](#).

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](#).



Facts and Logic
About the Middle East
PO Box 3460
Berkeley, CA 94703

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