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June 27, 2023

Why Biden's billion-dollar gamble on the Palestinians is doomed to fail

Dear Friend of Israel, Dear Friend of FLAME:

With each succeeding day, the Biden Administration's strategy for helping the Palestinian Arabs achieve statehood seems further doomed—and in fact, perversely, it is more likely to destroy that dream.

Since coming to power, President Joe Biden has relentlessly supported the Palestinians, both financially and diplomatically, clinging desperately to the idea of a two-state solution for the Israel-Palestinian conflict—a solution neither side currently supports.

How have the Palestinians responded? By forging stronger ties with America's enemies and ramping up their unyielding efforts to destroy Israel—America's greatest ally in the Middle East. This behavior blatantly contradicts U.S. interests, as well as specific requests the U.S. has made of the Palestinians.

Moreover, despite all of Biden’s massive support, the Palestinian Authority (PA), under 87-year-old President Mahmoud Abbas, is quickly losing control of its territory in Judea and Samaria to terrorists—both rogue groups and those tied to Hamas and Iran.

Such deteriorating circumstances would seem to compel a change in U.S. policy. Clearly, Biden needs to stop coddling the Palestinians and treat them like the enemy they have become. The U.S. needs to insist the Palestinians stop undermining American interests in the region and take concrete steps towards peace with Israel.

In just the last few years, the Biden Administration has given more than one billion taxpayer dollars in aid to the Palestinians. To what end? Has it brought the Palestinians closer to peace or a two-state solution? A recent study by the non-profit group, Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), found that whenever aid to the Palestinians *decreased*, attacks on Israelis also decreased. Conversely, when

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American aid *increased* , terrorist attacks against Israelis increased.

Remember that the PA actively encourages murder of innocent Israelis by paying terrorists and their families generous monthly salaries—a policy known as pay-for-slay. In 2021, the year President Biden took office, the PA spent \$270 million on pay-for-slay.

Note, too, that U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken insists U.S. aid is conditional on the Palestinians reforming their education system—rooting out anti-Israel and anti-Jewish incitement. Yet, the PA continues unabated to indoctrinate its children in Jew hatred with the lie that Israel stole “Palestinian land.” It also actively inspires them to commit acts of terrorism. The puzzle is how the Administration justifies continued aid when this incitement continues.

President Biden has also supported the Palestinians diplomatically in the hopes of encouraging peace. Last year, Biden upgraded America’s relations with the Palestinians by appointing a special representative for Palestinian affairs. He also promised to reopen the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, closed by the Trump Administration in 2019, though he has not yet followed through on that promise.

At the same time, the Biden Administration has ramped up pressure on Israel to stop the expansion of Jewish communities in Area C of Judea and Samaria, where Jews are the majority population.

Last week, the U.S. State Department issued a press statement saying, “The United States is deeply troubled by the Israeli government’s reported decision to advance planning for over 4,000 settlement units in the West Bank (Judea and Samaria).” Tragically, the Biden Administration doesn’t maintain a similar drumbeat of condemnations on the PA’s pay-for-slay policy or its continued indoctrination of Palestinian children to murder innocent Israelis.

Meanwhile, the Palestinians have repaid the Biden Administration for its support with both injury and insult . For example, even though U.S. administrations and Congress have long opposed Palestinian complaints against Israel in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC), Palestinian leadership persists in pursuing them.

Indeed, Biden’s policy of continuing to aid the Palestinians likely contravenes the *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act*, which specifically forbids U.S. aid to the Palestinians if they pursue complaints at the ICC against Israel. Yet no consequences from Team Biden.

Nonetheless, the Biden Administration is being sued by American victims of Palestinian terrorism for violating the *Taylor Force Act*, which prohibits the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government from providing certain types of assistance to the PA unless the PA takes “credible steps” to end acts of violence against Israeli and American citizens—and that it end its murderous pay-for-slay program. But, no change yet in PA policy, and no penalty from the U.S.

Palestinian affronts to U.S. interests also continue in the area of foreign relations. The PA is currently forging a new alliance with U.S.-rival China in the

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form of a “strategic partnership,” signed by the two parties on June 14th. China has also historically been hostile to Israel on the diplomatic stage, consistently backing the Palestinians and condemning Israel’s defensive operations against Palestinian terrorists. China now seeks to challenge U.S. power in the Middle East.

Finally, the PA is quickly losing control of its security responsibilities in Judea and Samaria. Independent terrorist militias in areas of “Palestinian control” are rampaging against Jewish communities, blatantly ignoring President Abbas’ authority. In addition, Abbas’ political nemesis, Hamas, just swept student elections at the Palestinian Bir Zeit University, inside the PA’s jurisdiction, portending an ominous new power balance upon Abbas’ death.

According to the Palestine Center for Policy and Survey Research, 80% of Palestinians want Abbas to resign. In addition, just 28% of Palestinians support the two-state solution preferred by the Biden Administration, while 52% support armed struggle—that is, terrorism—against Israel. The U.S. has issued no admonitions to the PA on these issues.

In short, the Biden Administration’s policy of playing patty-cake with the Palestinians simply provides a free pass for attempts to destroy the Jewish state and act against American interests. This laissez faire attitude doesn’t help the Palestinians, doesn’t help the U.S., and certainly doesn’t help Israel, whose battle against outlaw terrorist forces within Abbas’ jurisdiction seems to be turning into a war.

I urge you in conversations with friends, colleagues and family—and in letters to the editor—to emphasize that instead of coddling the Palestinians, President Biden should withdraw U.S. financial and diplomatic support for them until they agree to begin building reliable state institutions, genuinely pursue peace with Israel and stop damaging American interests.

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,
Jason Shvili, Contributing Editor
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](#).

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