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FLAME HOTLINE

Facts & Logic About the Middle East

October 16, 2023

We have seen the heart of evil.

In an act of savage brutality—with the cold-blooded murders of more than 1,300 Israeli innocents in one day— Hamas has revealed its despicable soul to Americans.

It has also given us the chance to see the true stripes of Hamas's allies here at home, as they strain to invent absurd reasons why the terror group was justified in decapitating babies, executing octogenarians, burning families alive, raping young women and turning a festival into a killing field.

You've surely heard the excuses conjured by Palestinian sympathizers and progressive apologists—ranging from Israel's "occupation" and "stealing land" to "apartheid"—repeating tired slanders that historical facts have long revealed as baseless lies.

Yet as the media broadcast these false accusations against Israel, they hide the real reason for Hamas's bloody belligerence: Islamist jihadi war against an infidel state on Muslim land.

Thus, comparisons of Hamas to ISIS and al Qaeda are accurate. All advocate spectacular killing of Jews and Christians in a conquest for a Muslim world order. This is no conjecture—all three admit this goal.

To help us fight the media lies against Israel: Go to [membership donation](#) now.

Dear Friend of FLAME:

At college campuses all over the U.S., pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathered to "glorify the martyrs." In front of the Sydney Opera House, a mob chanted "gas the Jews, gas the Jews."

All the while, photos depicting blood-soaked bodies of innocent children, families and young people continue to stream across our screens.

If you're like me, trying to follow the news about last week's horrific Hamas invasion and Israel's response has been exhausting . . . and *traumatic*.

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**THIS MONTH'S AD
APPEARED IN
PUBLICATIONS
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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 record of civil liberties, elections, 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 surrounding occupied territories. In stark contrast to such poorly supported accusations, the new "Democracy Index 2023" by EIU—the Economist Intelligence Unit—ranks Israel as one of the world's strongest democracies in the world, scoring it higher than the United States, Spain, Italy and some 170 other nations. The index ranks countries according to 51 criteria, covering each nation's performance according to 1) electoral process and pluralism; 2) functioning of government; 3) political participation; 4) judicial culture and 5) civil liberties.

Israel's 2023 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 ranked for its inclusion of an Arab party to its 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 consensus 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 the 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 10th 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 those 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 speech, assembly and religion—or reference to its own constitution, they offer little convincing evidence. In the contrary, Israeli-based commentators usually reject to acknowledge that Palestinians have been suffering terrorist war against Israel's continuing attacks, as well as obstructive Palestinian refusal to accept multiple offers of land for peace and a state of their own.

Israel's "nation-state law" has also been unfairly attacked. The law declares that the country exists to fulfill the Jewish people's "right to self-determination." This criterion, however, is not binding, attempting to decouple a nation that in no way limits Israeli democratic liberties. Note that this law does not reference the rights of individual Israelis, including its two million Arab citizens. Like many other nation states, it merely formalizes symbols of its people—in this case the Jewish people—such as the flag, national anthem, and holidays.

None, that while the nation state law declares Hebrew to be the national language, this is no different than in 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 improving 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 accusations Israeli 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 governance by its corrupt dictatorships and their obstinate refusal to make peace.

This message has been published and paid for by

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

I made the mistake of listening to MSNBC for a few minutes, appalled at pundits straining to sound logical while explaining why Israel's actions over the years have "created Hamas" and "justify" such bestiality.

Yet the justifications these apologists try to sell unsuspecting audiences are fake.

Despite their focus on such seeming political excuses—occupation, stealing land and apartheid—Hamas is not primarily a political organization with political goals. It is a fanatical Islamist group whose goal is to excise the Middle East of the Jewish state and "reclaim" the entire territory.

Let me share with you a few quotes from the Hamas charter—which has not changed in the group's 18-year history. They irrefutably prove Hamas's evil motives:

"[T]he Palestinian problem is a religious problem and should be dealt with on this basis."

"Palestine is an Islamic Waqf (endowment) land consecrated for Muslim generations until Judgment Day"

"The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight Jews and kill them. Then the Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out, 'O Muslim, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.'"

Surely the Hamas fighters hunting down kibbutz workers and music-festival-goers as they fled through groves and fields to save themselves must have been spurred on by these murderous commandments from their charter.

Note that Hamas also hates Christians: Shortly after the attack on Israel, Hamas co-founder Mahmoud al-Zahar assures fellow jihadis on video that "The entire planet will be under our law—there will be no more Jews or Christian traitors."

Let me ask you: Have you seen any news or analysis in American media about Hamas's sacred mission to conquer the world and eliminate all Jews and Christians ? Of course not.

Won't you please help FLAME expose the lies and reveal the truth in the media with your [membership donation](#) now?

THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HAMAS

Here are five more facts that mainstream media *could* tell you, but they don't:

✓ Hamas does not want peace with Israel and has never proposed peace with Israel.

✓ Hamas opposes a two-state solution.

✓ Hamas opposes the Palestinian Authority and its ruling party, Fatah, in Judea

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.

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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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and Samaria (aka the West Bank).

✓ Israel does not occupy any part of Gaza and does not set rules or laws for Palestinians living in Gaza.

✓ Hamas is an *iron-handed dictatorship* that denies its citizens all civil rights, including the right to vote.

While it's true that Israel and Egypt have imposed a blockade on Gaza—they did so only following more than 10 thousand missile attacks from Hamas on Israeli civilians.

Americans learn these and other such truths in FLAME's editorial ads in mainstream and social media—and you can see hundreds of them at www.factsandlogic.org.

Will you please help FLAME fight the liars and haters
with your [membership donation](#) now?

WHAT'S THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LIES? DID ISRAEL STEAL AND OCCUPY ARAB PALESTINIAN LAND?

First, know this fact: There was never such a thing in history as “Palestinian land”—no country, no sovereignty, no government, no treaties, no borders.

Other important things you should know:

- Israel had two commonwealths over 1,000 years in the land of Israel in biblical times.
- The Romans, Babylonians, Crusaders, Muslims and Turks also controlled this land for periods of time, but the Palestinians have always been subjects of other rulers.
- Israel controlled the region of Gaza, and Jews lived there until 2005, when Israel withdrew completely, hoping for peace with Gaza's two million residents.
- Following Israel's withdrawal and Hamas seizing control in 2008, the terror group has had complete independence, but has chosen to wage war on Israel.

In short, Israel has never stolen Palestinian land, because there never was such a thing. There is no occupation of Gaza—Israel left 18 years ago. The blockade of Gaza was caused entirely by Hamas aggression.

For more information on this topic, I recommend FLAME's editorial ad—which we published in dozens of American media—“ [What Is ‘Palestinian Territory’?](#)”

FLAME tells these truths and dozens more in American media—
but we can only do it with your [membership donation](#).

DOES ISRAEL PRACTICE APARTHEID AGAINST THE

PALESTINIANS?

Another simple fact: Israel has no laws or policies separating people or denying their civil liberties because of race or ethnicity: No apartheid whatsoever.

Indeed, Arab-Israelis enjoy full equality, more freedoms and more economic opportunity than their brethren in any other Middle East nation.

Day-to-day life for Palestinians in Gaza and Judea and Samaria is controlled entirely by their corrupt dictatorships. Since Palestinians are not citizens of Israel, they do not have Israeli citizens' rights.

In short, Israel places no special restrictions on Palestinians or any other Arabs.

Jews, on the other hand, are not allowed to live in Palestinian-controlled territories.

To see how FLAME exposes media slanders on this topic, I recommend FLAME's editorial ad—which appeared in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* —“[The Israel Apartheid Lie](#).”

If you love Israel and care about the truth,
please join FLAME in our fight to defend the Jewish state:
Make your [membership donation](#) now.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS HORROR IN ISRAEL HAVE TO DO WITH YOU AND ME?

My point is this: When thousands of jihadi missiles rain down on Israelis—when terrorists shoot, rape, decapitate and kidnap innocent Jews . . . as they did last weekend, there's little you and I can do to help directly.

But here's where we can make a difference: We can fight the lies and misinformation.

By joining the *information war*—we can defeat the falsehoods and distortions that threaten Israel and the Jewish people . . . just as seriously as do rockets, machine guns and knives.

Today FLAME's messages telling the truth about Israel reach tens of millions of people in top American daily newspapers and through FLAME's powerful Facebook channel.

Won't you please help FLAME fight the liars and haters
with your [membership donation](#) now?

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO SUPPORT ISRAEL TODAY? PLEASE STEP FORWARD AND RENEW YOUR FLAME MEMBERSHIP

So many people say they love and support Israel, but they simply don't know how to get involved. They don't have time or they don't have thousands of

dollars to give.

I understand completely. But consider this: You don't have to donate hours of time, and you don't have to donate \$500 or \$100. You don't even have to donate \$50 or \$25.

You see, FLAME is supported by tens of thousands of members. One by one: We have strength in numbers.

More than 30,000 donors—people just like you, many who make very modest donations, many on fixed incomes—help ensure our good work.

Won't you please step forward today as someone who cares for Israel from the heart . . . someone who recognizes Israel's importance to the United States and the Jewish people?

Go to [membership donation](#) now.

**PLEASE HELP ISRAEL DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST HAMAS—
PLEASE HELP US STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH**

I hope you agree that FLAME's editorial messages, which appear monthly in media reaching more than ten million readers—including college students—must continue educating Americans about these and other issues, such as the antisemitic BDS movement on campus.

I hope you also agree that FLAME's editorials spread the truth about Israel—a truth we can't depend on mainstream media to tell.

Finally, I hope you agree that Israel needs this kind of public relations—someone like FLAME to tell the inspiring story about the Jewish state—its virtues, values and accomplishments . . . and its strategic importance for our own country.

Who supports FLAME? Our media efforts are made possible by more than 30,000 passionate individual donors who love Israel and everything it stands for. They are people who strongly believe Israel deserves a fair shake in the media.

Thousands of our supporters are of the Christian faith, and we of course welcome their devotion and generosity.

Please be assured that FLAME is an educational non-profit organization and extraordinarily thrifty with the funds that you and other supporters contribute to us.

We work out of Spartan offices, much of our work is contributed pro bono and our part-time office-staff payroll is tiny.

By keeping expenses low, we're able to publish our monthly messages in major national magazines and metropolitan and small-town newspapers all across the U.S.

We also send our messages, with convincing cover letters, to all U.S. Senators

and Representatives, the President, Vice President, Secretary of State and all Justices of the Supreme Court.

Won't you step forward— [help us tell the truth](#) about Israel? Please make your [membership donation](#) now.

When you start or renew as a member of FLAME, you join tens of thousands of ardent Zionists who realize [how precious Israel is](#) to the Jewish people—and the world.

Won't you give us your vote of support?

Let me leave you with one thought: The American people must know the truth about these issues—and about Israel's current [war with Hamas](#). No more lies. No more fake stories.

Remember: [The only thing limiting international persecution of Israel is the United States](#). We must continue to protect the Jewish state from her enemies.

When you renew your membership in FLAME, you help us continue telling Israel's righteous and powerful story to influential people all over the U.S.—including college students—and to all members of the U.S. Congress.

Won't you go to [membership donation](#) now, while you have this message front and center?

I hope you agree that FLAME's mission is critical and deserving of your generous support.

Thank you very much, shalom and sincerely yours,

Jim Sinkinson, President,
Facts and Logic About the Middle East

P.S.1 Please consider leaving a bequest to FLAME in your will. Your generosity allows us to sustain and expand our voice in more mainstream media, and it secures our ability to support Israel for many decades to come.

P.S.2 You can play an important role in defending Israel from her enemies—today. This very minute. Please go to [membership donation](#).



Facts and Logic
About the Middle East

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