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in Gaza—demilitarization and radicalization. Under PA rule, rogue armed factions have flourished, which is why Israel almost daily has to conduct military operations in PA territory—disarming terrorists and removing their threat to Israeli civilians.

Finally, the PA cannot be trusted to deradicalize Palestinians—neither those under its direct control in Judea and Samaria, nor in Gaza. In fact, since its inception, PA institutions have served to indoctrinate Palestinians in jihadism, antisemitism and terrorism. Before nominating the PA for the huge task of reforming a devastated Gaza, the United States would be better served helping the PA reform itself and its own people.

**Any future entity that governs the Gaza Strip must agree to peace and security with Israel, including the following:**

1. Recognition of Israel's right to exist as the nation-state of the Jewish people.
2. No “right of return” for the descendants of Palestinian refugees, as granting this would put an end to Israel's Jewish majority, and therefore, the Jewish state itself.
3. No more advocacy for or actions undertaken with the intention of destroying the State of Israel or harming Jews.
4. The Palestinians will only achieve independence through negotiations with Israel.

Even if the PA agreed to these requirements—which it has not and never likely would—there are abundant reasons to disqualify the PA as a champion of Gaza's renewal.

**The PA has never shown it can govern in an orderly fashion using rule of law.** For starters, it shuns democratic processes. There have been no elections since 2006. President Mahmoud Abbas is now in the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the four-year term for which he was elected. The Palestinian parliament has not functioned since 2007. Human rights and civil liberties are flagrantly violated.

PA institutions simply don't work. For example, the Palestinian justice system has so little credibility that PA residents now resort to “tribal” justice to settle disputes, instead of the PA courts—a phenomenon that human rights groups say does not provide for fair trials, discriminates against women, and imposes collective punishment.

Corruption in the PA is rampant. Analyst Joseph Epstein, writing for *Newsweek*, notes that while ordinary Palestinians struggle with unemployment, PA officials live in mansions. Even during cutbacks, the PA found the money to purchase a \$50 million private plane for President Abbas. Abbas's sons, Tareq and Yasser, own a multimillion-dollar business empire, while the average daily wage in the PA is just over \$30.

Epstein argues, correctly, that the PA leadership has learned over the years that by keeping its subjects as underdeveloped and radicalized as possible, they can attract more foreign aid, then embezzle it. In his words, “For the Palestinian cause to remain relevant and profitable, the Palestinians must be as miserable as possible.”

The PA cannot even maintain control of the territory assigned to it by the Oslo Accords. In 2007, the PA lost total control of the Gaza Strip to Hamas. Over the last year or two, the PA has been steadily losing control of Samaria, aka, the northern West Bank. Jenin in particular has largely fallen under the control of armed groups, which have been orchestrating terrorist attacks on Israelis.

With the rampant corruption, dysfunctionality, and lack of accountability that characterize the PA, it's no surprise that just 17% of Palestinians are satisfied with the rule of PA President Mahmoud Abbas and 63% believe the PA is a burden on the Palestinian people.

**Both the PA and Hamas agree on one fundamental principle: Israel must be destroyed.** Like Hamas, the PA promotes the lie that the Jews “stole” Palestine. None of what the PA preaches, whether in its school textbooks or its media, promotes peaceful coexistence with the Jews and Israel.

The PA, like Hamas, encourages Palestinians to hate and kill Jews. It's no accident that the PA and Hamas use the same textbooks to teach children—textbooks that promote the same revolutionary ideology of jihadism, antisemitism and terrorism espoused by both entities. The PA also financially incentivizes the slaughter of Jewish people through its pay-for-slay policy, which provides generous salaries to terrorists who kill Jews—including 661 terrorists who

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participated in the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre.

The only difference between the PA and Hamas is that the former pays lip service to the two-state solution, while the latter openly declares its intention to wipe Israel off the map. In reality, both entities share the same goal: Elimination of the Jewish state. No surprise the PA has rejected numerous offers of peace and statehood by Israel.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that by nominating the Palestinian Authority to govern the Gaza Strip after Israel destroys Hamas, the Biden administration would be condemning the Gazans to a future just as repressive as their present.

Palestinians of Gaza deserve better than tyranny: They deserve democracy and rule of law. They need to shed corruption, unemployment, poverty and a future with no hope for peace because they are taught to hate and kill Jews. Finally, they should be liberated from the endless, futile conflict with Israel that leads only to misery, for both Israelis and Palestinians. In short, the last thing the Gazans need is the PA dictatorship.

Best regards,

Jason Shvili, Contributing Editor

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. The events of October 7 have changed our world forever—and especially the world for Israel and the Jewish people. Likewise, the words “Never Again” will never be the same for us. October 7 has shown us that despite all promises of equity and commitments against hate on campus and on our streets, we can never depend on it. We will likely never be free of the scourge of antisemitism, fueled by the most outrageous slanders. I hope you’ll agree that we opponents of Hamas and its savage massacre—and of all who support Hamas, against all humanitarian values—need to speak out. FLAME’s new *hasbarah*—explanatory message —“**Enemies of Israel Tell Five Big Lies**”—refutes today’s most vicious lies against Israel and the Jewish people. I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME published in the *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. 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** with a donation.

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