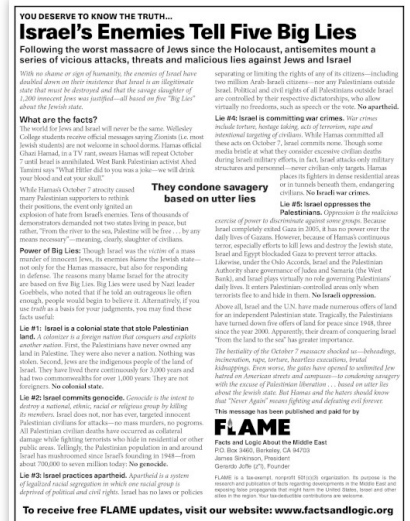


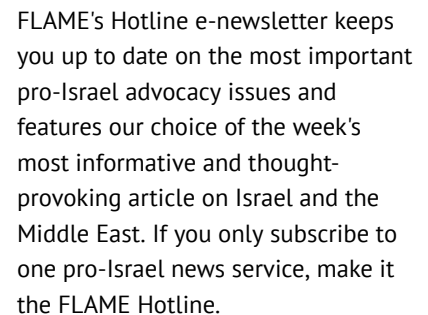
**THIS MONTH'S AD
APPEARED IN MEDIA
REACHING 10 MILLION
PEOPLE NATIONWIDE.**



Why are there still Palestinian refugees after 75 long years?

But two sad, disturbing questions—almost always ignored by the media—loom: Why do more than a million Palestinians still live in refugee camps after 75 years? How could the number of refugees—just some 700,000 in 1948 (and most no longer alive)—magically mushroom to

FLAME'S WEEKLY HOTLINE E-NEWSLETTER



 **DONATE NOW**

**IF YOU SUPPORT
PUBLISHING FLAME'S BOLD**

seven million today?

One thing we know: The world has avoided chronic war refugees because historically the international community, especially the United Nations, as well as neighboring states, have supported and directly taken on refugee resettlement.

Surely no group desires a perpetual refugee existence . . . or do they? Surely no Arab brethren of the Palestinians would decline to help them rise from refugee status . . . or would they? As we examine the Palestinians' plight, we see that decisions made by themselves and other Arab leaders begin to answer those profound questions in strange, troubling ways.

In fact, the Arabs, not Israel, are responsible for creating the Palestinian refugee crisis. They rejected the UN partition plan for Palestine in 1947, because they refused to accept a Jewish state in what they regarded as Arab, Muslim land. Then, they invaded Israel, attempting to destroy the new Jewish state and its Jewish population. *Note that without the Arab attack on Israel, there would be no Palestinian refugees at all.*

During the war, Arab leaders ordered their kinsmen to evacuate, promising they could return after Arab armies had decimated Israel and the Jews. Some Palestinian Arabs also fled after hearing false Arab propaganda about Israeli atrocities. In short, the vast majority of the Palestinian Arab population was not forcibly expelled.

Moreover, some 170,000 Arabs remained in the new State of Israel and received full and equal Israeli citizenship. Many remained because their communities chose not to participate in the war, as was the case with Nazareth and Abu Ghosh. Today, about two million Arab Israeli citizens enjoy the same rights and freedoms as Israel's Jewish citizens.

Virtually all refugee crises in the last century have been resolved through resettlement. More than a million Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust and expulsion from Arab lands, for example, were welcomed by fellow Jews in Israel. Likewise, millions more refugees were resettled in the 20th century, including Germans expelled from Poland, Hungarians from Austria, Latin Americans from Chile, and Bosnians from the former Yugoslavia.

But the Arab states bordering Israel, to which most Palestinian Arabs fled, discouraged Palestinians from permanently resettling within their borders—refusing them citizenship, limiting their employment prospects and confining them to refugee camps. Surprisingly, Palestinian leaders have supported this dead-end strategy, helping them feed the lie that Palestinians have a “right of return” to “Palestine”—a territory they never possessed.

Moreover, the Palestinians and the UN have rewritten the definition of “refugee” for the Palestinians only—to include both the original refugees and their *descendants*—children, grandchildren and offspring without end, now numbering seven million worldwide.

A “right of return” for these “refugees” would swamp Israel, negating its Jewish majority, and therefore, the Jewish state itself.

As long as Palestinians remain refugees, they can collect financial aid from the international community. Each year, for example, countries like the U.S. give over one billion dollars to UNRWA, the UN agency that provides basic services to the Palestinians, including healthcare and education. Over the decades, the international community has donated more than \$20 billion to the Palestinian Authority (PA), though the Palestinian economy remains bankrupt, and most of its people are destitute.

UNRWA was supposed to be a temporary organization set up to resettle Palestinian refugees. But to this day, it has failed to resettle even one refugee. Nevertheless, any attempts to shut UNRWA down are quickly rebuffed by the Arab states and Palestinians.

Nonetheless, many countries have suspended funding to UNRWA following revelations that some of its staff participated in the October 7th massacre. In fact, UNRWA has become a bastion of antisemitism and terrorism, with about 10% of UNRWA's 13,000 Gaza staff belonging to Hamas or Islamic Jihad, according to Israeli intelligence.

Predictably, Palestinian and other Arab leaders have reacted angrily to the suspension of funding to UNRWA, claiming Palestinians will suffer because they will lose “essential services.” Ironically, the very existence of UNRWA services saves the two Palestinian dictatorships—Hamas and the PA—the responsibility of providing sustenance to their own

PR MESSAGES, 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.

DONATE NOW >>

people. It also perpetuates the Palestinians' status as refugees.

Israel has tried to help the Palestinians emerge from refugee status by offering them land and statehood several times since 2000—only to be rejected. Just as in 1947, the Palestinians still refuse to accept the Jewish state. In fact, recent polls indicate that most Palestinians do not support a two-state solution. As Palestinian choices indicate clearly, they prefer to remain refugees than live alongside a Jewish state.

The Palestinians have nurtured a culture in which martyrdom in the service of killing Jews and destroying Israel ranks higher than building a thriving state. Palestinians frequently boast that, “We love death like our enemies love life.” No surprise Palestinians have made little progress in creating a sustainable economy, institutions of governance, or political freedom.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that if the Palestinians want to “free Palestine”—free it from repressive dictatorships, free it from poverty and free it from futile hate for their neighbors, in which they are no longer refugees—they are better served creating a free state at peace with Jewish Israel.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, President

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.



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

ABOUT FLAME

- > FLAME's Purpose
- > FLAME's Leadership
- > FLAME—User Agreement
Privacy Policy
- > FLAME 2017 Financial
Statement
- > FLAME 2021 Form 990
- > Flame Whistleblower Policy

FLAME'S PUBLICATIONS

- > PR for Israel
- > Chairman's Letter
- > Hotline Archive

GET INVOLVED

- > Subscribe to FLAME
Hotline
- > Make a Donation to FLAME

SHARE, EMAIL OR PRINT

