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FLAME **HOTLINE**

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Vehicle used by World Central Kitchen after it was mistakenly attacked by an Israeli airstrike, resulting in the deaths of seven aid workers. Accidents like this are common, as evidenced by numerous such events caused by American forces in warzones, due largely to the "fog of war."

Biden hypocrisy: Blames Israel for aid workers' deaths, despite worse U.S. errors

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

On a dark April 1st night in southern Gaza, a horrible, deadly accident unfolded—one that, though understandable and forgivable due to the "fog of war," was no less tragic.

A World Central Kitchen (WCK) aid convoy delivering food to Palestinians that night was joined by several Hamas vehicles. Later, a couple of armed Hamas terrorists hopped aboard a WCK truck and started shooting in the air. Israel's IDF was monitoring this activity and watched the convoy as it later split up, with the main group entering a hangar. The IDF tried to call both WCK workers and WCK headquarters to clarify Hamas's involvement, but neither answered. When the convoy left the hangar an hour later, the IDF mistook WCK vehicles for those of Hamas and its drone mistakenly attacked them, killing seven aid workers.

While such "friendly-fire" incidents are saddening, they are also common in every war. In 2015, a U.S. Airforce gunship attacked the Kunduz Trauma Center, operated by Doctors Without Borders, killing 42 people and injuring 30 more. Doctors Without Borders called it a

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deliberate breach of international humanitarian law and a war crime.

After the IDF's mistaken killing of the WCK aid workers, President Biden demanded Israel take additional steps to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza and protect aid workers. He also demanded an immediate ceasefire and threatened that <u>U.S. policy on Gaza</u> could change if Israel did not accede to his demands.

Yet the Biden Administration is using this death of aid workers as another excuse to <u>demonize Israel</u>, accusing it of behavior no different from that of the United States in many such incidents. Indeed, the Kunduz tragedy took place while Mr. Biden was Vice President, exposing his hypocrisy in holding the Jewish state to a <u>hypocritical double standard</u>.

Whereas Israel immediately took responsibility for unintentionally killing the WCK aid workers, the Obama administration initially tried to <u>deny culpability</u> for the Kunduz civilian deaths, taking four days for the President finally to apologize.

In short, Team Biden is cynically leveraging the accidental death of the WCK aid workers in an attempt to libel <u>Israel</u> and create an excuse to withdraw American support. The White House is no doubt hopeful such posturing will salvage Mr. Biden's flailing re-election campaign, solidifying support from radical, anti-Israel voters.

Unfortunately, U.S. threats to abandon Israel only make the task of defeating Iran-backed Hamas more difficult and <u>Israel's bargaining power</u> in demanding the release of 138 hostages, including six Americans.

Friendly-fire accidents (FFAs) are regrettable, but common, due to the fog of war. In fact, the U.S. has been involved in numerous FFAs, such as Ghaziabad (Afghanistan 2008), Khair Khana (Afghanistan 2008), Al-Majalah (Yemen 2008), and Kabul (Afghanistan, 2021), which occurred under the Biden Administration and killed 10 Afghan civilians, including seven children. During the first 20 years of the war on terror, the U.S. conducted more than 91,000 airstrikes across seven major conflict zones — Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen—killing 48,308 civilians, according to a 2021 analysis by Airwars, a U.K.-based airstrike monitoring group.

Israel has also made such mistakes, one of which occurred in Gaza, in December last year, when IDF troops mistakenly shot and killed three hostages after <u>misidentifying</u> them as threats. In both this case and that of the WCK workers, IDF investigations concluded that the tragedies occurred due to misidentification, which is common in the fog of war. Nevertheless, the IDF took full responsibility for both incidences and apologized.

Indeed, the most honorable nations admit their errors and apologize. In contrast, others, including the U.S., have not always responded so quickly and forthrightly. In Afghanistan, in 2009, for example, a NATO airstrike targeting Taliban terrorists in the village of Bola Boluk hit a convoy of vehicles, killing at least 27 civilians, including women and children. NATO initially <u>denied civilian casualties</u> but later acknowledged the mistake and apologized.

In another incident, which also took place in Afghanistan, in 2008, a U.S. airstrike hit a wedding party, killing at least 47 civilians, including 39 women and children. The accident occurred when coalition forces were attacking terrorists, but one missile went off course and hit the wedding party. The U.S. military <u>initially denied</u> killing any civilians, but following an investigation by the Afghan government, U.S.-led coalition forces apologized.

By contrast, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad never admit their hundreds of "friendly" misfired missiles and resultant deaths, let alone apologize for them—but we hear <u>nary a complaint</u> from the United Nations, Mr. Biden or "pro-Palestinian" protestors.

Why is President Biden hypocritically blaming Israel for something that all warring nations—including his own administration—have experienced? It all seems part of an ongoing campaign to placate radical, anti-Israel voters—perhaps the same voters who chanted "Death to America" at an Al-Quds rally in Dearborn, Michigan earlier this month. Biden also seeks to appease members of his own party, including 56 Congressional Democrats who have signed a letter calling on the President to halt weapon sales to Israel.

But while Team Biden may win the votes of anti-Israel radicals, he also stands a good chance of losing the votes of the overwhelming majority of Americans who <u>support the Jewish state</u>. Furthermore, the President's actions also inhibit Israel's war efforts to defeat Hamas—one of

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the world's most evil terrorist groups, a proxy of Iran, the mutual enemy of both Israel and the U.S.—and win the return of the hostages, which the U.S. also insists on.

Every civilian death in war is a tragedy. But of course, whenever wars are fought near civilians, many innocents will <u>inevitably</u> be hurt or killed. This is especially true in Gaza, since Hamas uses civilians as human shields, as they did in the case of the WCK convoy, causing the IDF to mistake the aid workers as terrorists.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that Biden's steadfast criticism of Israel plays directly into the hands of America's enemies—Hamas, Iran, and of course, radical, anti-Israel, anti-American extremists in swing states like Michigan, whose votes the President is desperate to win.

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.



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