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FLAME **HOTLINE**

August 20, 2024



Palestinian children wait in food lines because their economies are bankrupt—with unemployment in Gaza usually above 50% and in Judea and Samaria (West Bank) around 32%. Despite \$40 billion in foreign aid, Palestinians have failed to create self-sustaining industries.

Why do Westerners continue to support the failed Palestinian cause?

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

The Palestinian Arab cause is one of the most successful in world history, generating untold political, economic and emotional succor from Western people and nations. Yet ironically, few if any causes—or peoples—are objectively less deserving of such immense support than the hapless Palestinians.

For decades, the support enjoyed by Palestinians from Westerners has exceeded that received by any other cause or group, anywhere in the world.

Palestinian "liberation" is supported by huge protests on campuses, highways and plazas, as well as boycotts against Israeli businesses and scholars. The war deaths of Palestinians are the subject of desperate demands for an Israeli ceasefire. The Palestinians receive billions of dollars in aid from Western countries. Since 1947, they've been offered political salvation by the U.S. and other nations in the form of land-for-peace offers and the promise of a "two-state solution."

Paradoxically, the Palestinians have done virtually nothing to deserve this support. They have utterly failed to prepare themselves for a future living beside their Jewish neighbors in peace. In fact, polls show the Palestinians remain the most anti-Jewish people on Earth. No wonder most of them wholeheartedly supported the October 7th massacre and if elections were held today, would readily vote Hamas into power.

As for an independent state, Palestinians have received many generous offers over the last 75 years, all of which they have rejected. Rather, they have met these offers with war and terrorism. No surprise,

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since polls show most Palestinians *do not* support the much vaunted two-state solution that Westerners doggedly promote. In reality, since the Palestinians' primary enterprise is <u>annihilating Israel</u>, they have little interest in peace, statehood or democracy.

No surprise either that the Palestinians have failed to make priorities of creating state institutions or a prosperous economy, despite infusions of billions of dollars in Western aid.

In short, the Palestinians seem unworthy of support from the U.S. or the rest of the international community. Why, then, do the Palestinians enjoy such persistent Western sympathy and more aid per capita than any other people?

The Palestinians were blessed by settling in region dominated historically by Jews. No people has been so widely persecuted or unjustly condemned in world history as the Jews. Over the millennia, we have seen that groups fighting the Jews, like the Palestinians, usually find abundant supporters.

The Palestinians have also done their best to promote the false myth that they are victims—specifically a people of color fighting for liberation from European settlers, though the Jews are indigenous to Israel. This myth plays especially well with the West's far-left, since it fits the neo-Marxist ideology of critical race theory and alleged sins of "colonial enterprises."

The Palestinians see *no* future living alongside a Jewish state in peace. This is not surprising since, according to an Anti-Defamation League survey, Palestinians are the world's most antisemitic people, with some 92% holding anti-Jewish beliefs. No wonder Palestinians are fed a daily diet of antisemitism in their media, mosques and children's school textbooks. Jews are routinely described as "impure" and "sons of pigs and apes."

Given such ingrained hatred of the Jews, it's perhaps understandable that according to Gallup, some 76% of Palestinians *do not* support a state beside Israel.

Palestinians widely support the Islamist terror group Hamas. A recent poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) confirmed that some 76% of Palestinians expressed *support* for Hamas's October 7th massacre of Israelis. In fact, the majority of Palestinians want Hamas to continue ruling Gaza "the day after" its war against Israel. In their decades-long effort to destroy Israel, most Palestinians also continue to support "armed struggle"—a code for continued terrorism.

The Palestinians have rejected every offer of statehood for 75 years. Middle East Arabs, including those in Palestine, first rejected the 1947 UN partition plan for two states. They preferred instead to launch a genocidal war to destroy Israel, which failed dramatically. Another chance of land for peace arose after Israel repulsed Arab invaders in 1967, but again the Arabs refused to live next to a Jewish state.

Nevertheless, Israel continued to offer the Palestinians statehood in exchange for peace. Israel, with U.S. support, offered the Palestinians statehood three times over a decade—in 2000, 2001 and 2008. But despite offers of more than 95% of Judea and Samaria (aka, the West Bank), the Gaza Strip, and even territory inside pre-1967 Israel, the Palestinians still refused.

Instead, Palestinians have replied with increasingly ruthless terrorism—more suicide bombings, shootings, stabbings, car-rammings, and of course, the October 7th savagery.

The Palestinians have failed to create institutions to support statehood. Their parliament has not functioned since 2007. There have been no elections since 2006, and 88-year-old Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas is now in the 19th year of his four-year term. Today the PA is losing control of territory in Judea and Samaria (aka the West Bank) to terrorist militias. The <u>PA already lost Gaza</u> to a Hamas coup in 2007. As a result of Hamas's current war against Israel, its Gaza dictatorship is now in shambles.

The Palestinians have failed to create a sustainable economy. Despite receiving more than \$40 billion in international funds since signing of the 1993 Oslo Accords, the Palestinian economy is still dependent on foreign aid, still plagued by rampant corruption and high unemployment. Today's most lucrative economic opportunity for young Palestinians? Pay-for-slay—killing Jews in exchange for generous monthly salaries from the PA, which spends nearly \$350 million annually funding this terrorist policy.

While ordinary Palestinians struggle with unemployment and poverty, their leaders get rich. Today, Mahmoud Abbas—a career politician in the impoverished Palestinian Authority—has a net worth of more than \$100 million. Assassinated strongman Ismail Haniyeh died with assets of some \$4 billion. Both the PA and Hamas have learned that by keeping their subjects underdeveloped and radicalized, they can attract more foreign aid, then embezzle it.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that while the Palestinians have attracted massive financial, political and emotional support from the U.S. and Western powers, they have done virtually <u>nothing to deserve</u> this assistance. How much longer can antisemitic and neo-Marxist sympathies sustain them?

If you agree we need to spread this truth, please use your email browser to forward this Hotline issue to fellow lovers of Israel—and encourage them to join us by subscribing to the Hotline <u>at no charge.</u>

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Best regards,

Jason Shvili, Contributing Editor
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. The riots, vandalism and illegal trespassing on American college campuses have sharpened the knives of the Israel haters. It's become clear that the "pro-Palestinian" protesters are purely anti-Israel and support the genocide of Jews "between the river and the sea." Scandalously, we've also seen hard evidence that university administrators are willing to ignore or openly support the antisemitic hate speech and harassment of Jewish students—though they would never permit such behavior against other minorities. I hope you'll agree that we supporters of Jewish students and hate-free campuses need to speak out. FLAME's new hasbarah—explanatory message—"Stop Terrorism on Campus"—calls for four actions to eliminate campus outlaws and to restore rights to all students. Please review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME recently published in the Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, New York Post, Chicago Tribune, Tampa Bay Times, Denver Post and Mercury News. 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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