



While both legacy media and ultra-left activists accused Israel of occupying Gaza and starving its people, the truth is for 18 years before Hamas’s October 7, 2023 invasion, no Israelis had set foot in the territory. Likewise, two million tons of Israeli aid prevented starvation in Gaza.

## Five greatest hoaxes Palestinian supporters mistakenly believe —and why

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Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

The preposterous accusation that Israel’s defense forces used dogs to rape Palestinian prisoners—written by Nicholas Kristoff as a *New York Times* op-ed last week—only dramatizes mainstream media’s campaign to slander and dismantle the Jewish state. In fact, such lies, innuendo and misinformation occur daily these days in reporting on Israel.

No wonder that although for decades a wide majority of Americans supported Israel, recently that trend has reversed. According to a February 2026 Gallup poll, 41% of Americans sympathize more with the Palestinians, versus 36% who sympathize more with Israel.

Like American mainstream media, supporters of Palestinians are mostly “progressives”—leftist Democrats and independents, and young people, ages 20-35. Indeed, the Gallup poll reveals that 65% of Democrats, 41% of independents, and 53% of Americans aged 18-34 side with the Palestinians over Israel.

Specifically, according to polls, the top five reasons most Americans support Palestinians over Israel include 1) humanitarian empathy for victims of the Gaza conflict; 2) perceptions of Israeli occupation and a power imbalance; 3) the cause’s alignment with progressive values; 4) opposition to U.S. foreign policy and aid; and 5) support for a two-state solution.

However well-meaning supporters of the Palestinians may be—and however noble their reasons resound on the surface—the truth is, these justifications are hoaxes: Misinformation, fantasies and outright slanders. In short, progressives who support Palestinians are either at best victims of massive media propaganda or, at worst, themselves authors of anti-Israel slanders, such as the *New York Times*.

**Hoax #1: The humanitarian crisis and civilian suffering in Gaza.** Media would have Americans believe that Israel killed more than 70,000 innocents (mostly women and children) in Gaza *and* caused the starvation of tens of thousands more—adding up to a cruel, disproportionate and unnecessary response to Hamas’s attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

Despicably, such media reports almost never mention that the Gaza War ensued only because the Palestinians started it—as they have started every war with Israel, as part of their 78-year campaign to destroy the Jewish state.

The media also fail to note that the Gazan death toll includes some 35,000 Hamas fighters and represents what experts call the lowest ratio of civilians to fighters—about 1:1—in military history. Finally, while the media hammer unsubstantiated reports of “imminent starvation” in Gaza, they ignore the fact that hunger never reached starvation levels, largely because Israel delivered some two million tons of humanitarian aid to Gazan civilians. They also forget to mention that huge amounts of this aid were stolen by Hamas and sold for a profit on the black market to their own people at exorbitant prices.

**Hoax #2: Palestinians live under Israeli occupation.** The media rarely ever tell Americans historical facts about the land of Israel—especially that the Romans re-named it “Palestine” in 135 CE, hundreds of years before Arabs arrived there. Nor do they clarify that prior to Hamas’s invasion of Israel on October 7, 2023, no Israeli—civilian or military—had set foot in Gaza since 2005. For 18 years, Gazans were self-governing. While Israelis live in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) with Palestinians, none of this territory “belongs” to the Palestinians—it is legally disputed land. In fact, there has never been a country called “Palestine,” nor have the Palestinians ever held sovereignty anywhere. Israel governs part of this territory according to the Oslo Accords, signed by the Palestinian Authority, but the Palestinians rule themselves on all civil and security issues day-to-day in most of this territory. In short, it’s a lie that Palestinians live under Israeli “occupation.”

**Hoax #3. U.S. foreign policy and military aid are biased against the Palestinians.** American media virtually never mention that the United States numerous times has negotiated with the Palestinians and Israel to establish a Palestinian state. In the years 2000, 2001 and 2008, the U.S. presented generous offers to the Palestinians granting them independent territory in almost all of Judea and Samaria, as well as a capital in Jerusalem. More recently, Presidents Obama and Trump offered to help the Palestinians form a state,

but the Palestinians have refused all offers. Instead, they renewed their terrorist campaigns and rocket attacks on Israel and were later joined by the Iranian terrorist proxy group, Hezbollah from Lebanon. U.S. military aid to Israel has been motivated by efforts of jihadists over the decades to attack American military and to destroy Israel. Such aid to Israel is used exclusively for defensive actions.

**Hoax #4. The Palestinian cause aligns with progressive identity-based values.** Ultra-leftists divide the world into “oppressed” people and “oppressors.” Not only do progressives consider people of color (like Palestinians) oppressed, they also consider LGBTQ+ people and women generally to be oppressed. Mainstream media never point out the supreme irony—that Palestinians are some of the least progressive people on earth, since they oppose all non-Muslims (no matter their color) and all LGBTQ people. Palestinian culture also staunchly denies personal and civil liberties to women, treating them as property of men. Studies have also ranked Palestinians as the most antisemitic people in the world.

**Hoax #5. Palestinians’ goal is to form an independent state alongside Israel.** Legacy media never reveal Palestinians’ true political goals, because they contradict the progressive narrative. Ask yourself: Have you ever heard of a Palestinian leader who speaks in favor of two states for two peoples—who demand a “two-state solution”? You haven’t, because the Palestinians—whether radical Hamas or the “moderate” Palestinian Authority—have one goal only: To end the State of Israel. The spoken and published words of Palestinian leaders—both secular and religious—consider Israel an occupier of Muslim land. Indeed, polls confirm the majority of Palestinians reject the two-state solution. Progressives who insist Israel is preventing a two-state solution are perpetuating a hoax.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that American support for the Palestinians is a hoax—a product of both traditional and social media. They parrot the narrative of Israel’s enemies—the lie depicting the Palestinians as an innocent people fighting to free their indigenous land from colonialist Jews. Although this fictional narrative appeals to uninformed progressives, it has no factual basis.

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 at no charge.

Best regards,

James Sinkinson, President

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Surely, you’ve recently read of some celebrity, politician, radical student, foreign head of state or media pundit slander Israel with the “Gaza genocide” lie. Many who spread this lie are ignorant, but most are anti-Israel haters. They care nothing for the truth. The tragedy is, when they utter the Gaza genocide falsehood, too few knowledgeable people—and virtually no media—stand up to refute it. Indeed, when you share the simple facts, the genocide lie crumbles. Upon learning that Israel conducts its war against Hamas terrorists with the highest ethical standards—and that *nothing* Israel does in Gaza fits the definition of genocide—fair-minded people quickly see through the lie. [110words] I hope you’ll agree that we supporters of the Israel-U.S. relationship need to speak out. FLAME’s new *hasbarah*—explanatory message—“**Facts Shatter Gaza Genocide Lies**”—describes what genocide is *and is not* and proves factually that Israel’s tactics in the war are ethical and righteous. It also reveals demographic data showing that the Palestinian population in Gaza is actually increasing. Finally, it notes that those who spread the Gaza genocide lie fit the classic definition of antisemites. Please review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME is about to publish to millions—in leading social media, as well as in the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Tampa Bay Times*, *Denver Post* and *Los Angeles Times*.

This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, the President and Vice President. 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.

