



It's Official: Anti-Zionism Is Antisemitism

Hamas campaign succeeding in convincing many progressive Jewish groups and non-Jews that haters of Israel are haters of Jews.

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By Gary S. Branfman



In the Arab world, utterly antisemitic and anti-Zionist cartoons depicting pigs are part and parcel of the campaign to destroy Israel-USA "imperialism". (Photo: @danielkoren9 via Twitter)



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Hamas' unprovoked assault on Israel's civilian population was designed to instigate a retaliation that would maximize media bias, condemn Zionism, and provoke international Anti-Semitism.

Hamas' major export is terror. Their tag line is "Blame it on the Jews". Like, "Just do it", "You deserve a break today", and "It's the real thing", taglines need not bear any true relationship to the product.

Hamas's TV and social media audience includes their own oppressed Palestinian pawns, the Woke "hearts-in-the-right-place-but-misinformed" Americans, BDS, The Nation of Islam, the alt-right, the alt-left and Black Lives Matter.

Obscured by the smoke and mirrors of lies, deception, and misdirection, Hamas manages to transform humanitarian aid and materials into thousands of missiles and miles of tunnels. The global Covid pandemic provided the perfect segue for the Anti-Semites dream.

Not very original.

When the "Black Plague" infested Europe, tales of Jews pouring poisonous powder into wells circulated throughout Europe. What followed was the massacre of close to 10,000 Jews.

Today, Jews are blamed for the virus itself, the suffering it caused, and the unwillingness of the Palestinian leadership to work with Israel in securing vaccines for their people. Israel was vilified for vaccinating without prejudice, their own citizens first. Citizens who are Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Druze, Samaritan, Baha'i, gay, straight, trans, bi, black and white.

The 1995 Oslo Accords, endorsed by Yasser Arafat, specifically transferred the responsibility of vaccinations in their "territories" to the Palestinian leadership. The pre – existing existing guidelines of the Geneva convention were replaced by this agreement. Jew haters do not allow facts to get in the way of their hatred.

The media somehow missed the fact that Israel voluntarily provided the Palestinian Authority with a gift of 5,000 doses of the vaccine, vaccinated 100,000 non-citizen Palestinians who work in Israel, and set up a free "no questions asked" vaccination center in Tel Aviv for non-Israeli citizens and undocumented workers to get vaccinated.

The "Palestinian Territories" are home to billionaires, and over 200 millionaires. They have adequate finances to reward Palestinians who kidnap Israeli soldiers, murder Israeli civilians and blow-up Israeli school buses. Could they not afford vaccinations for their subjects and soldiers?

Hamas exploited the Palestinians' post-pandemic physical, financial, and emotional misery to feed the flames of fanaticism.

Israel had recently eased social distancing and mask wearing requirements. Yom Yerushalayim, Ramadan, The Nakba and Yom Ha'atzmaut were on the horizon, an annual time when tensions are

high, and massive mobs crowd the Western Wall and Temple Mount.

In order to further ignite Palestinian emotions, their leadership superimposed the false narrative that Palestinians were suddenly being illegally evicted from their homes. They circulated this as a simple issue with a convenient solution:

Blame the Jews.

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FACT: For thousands of years Jews lived in Sheikh Jarrah. In the third century BCE, it was the home of Jewish High Priest Shimon Hatzadik. In 1875 the land bearing his tomb and the surrounding area was purchased by the Sephardic Community Committee and the Ashkenazi Assembly of Israel.

On April 14, 1948, 78 Jewish doctors and nurses were murdered in Sheikh Jarrah. They were on their way to Hadassah Hospital. Later that year, Jordan took control of the region, confiscated the property, and expelled all remaining Jews.

In 1967, Sheikh Jarrah was returned to Israeli control. The Palestinian residents were offered the right to apply for Israeli citizenship. Almost all declined.

In 1972, the Sephardic Community Committee was legally declared the rightful owners of the land.

This reversed any confusion that resulted from it being confiscated by Jordan. In 1982, the Palestinian residents signed a legal agreement that allowed them to remain in their homes provided they pay rent to the legal owners of the property.

Once again, facts never get in the way of Anti-Semitic hate, and "Sheikh Jarrah" became the international woke-cabulary word of the day.

With encouragement from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, nearly 100,000 Palestinians began chanting "SheikhJarrah" and "Bomb Tel Aviv" while stockpiling rocks and weapons within the Al Aqsa mosque.

Shortly thereafter, to the delight of the hell-raising horde, Hamas fired the first round of rockets into Israel. Thousands soon followed. Lebanon briefly joined in the assault.



"Facts never get in the way of Anti-Semitic hate, and "Sheikh Jarrah" became the international woke-cabulary word of the day." (Screencap: Twitter)

FACT: Jews are not colonizers who displaced the indigenous peoples in the region. Jews are the indigenous peoples of the region.

Thousands of years before Jesus' preaching's of peace, and Muhammed's barbaric conquests, Jews inhabited the land. Jerusalem is mentioned 669 times in the Tanach and 146 times in the Gospels. Jerusalem is mentioned in the Koran, never.

Our Patriarch Abraham settled in Hebron over 3,000 years ago. King David reigned over Israel with Jerusalem as its capital from 1010–970 BCE.

Israel is the resting place of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah. The Tombs of Joseph and Samson, as well as Maimonides, Rabbi Akiva and Hillel the Elder are sacred Jewish sites in Israel.

The appeals from Hamas, Hezbollah, Syria and Iran for a Palestinian homeland are directly linked to the annihilation of the Jewish State, the desecration of these sacred sites and the extermination of the indigenous people, the Jews.

The Kurds are a genetically and culturally distinct people and they too want a homeland. The Basque area genetically and culturally distinct people and they too want a homeland. The Tibetans are a genetically and culturally distinct people and they too want a homeland. They all want their own country.

Why does the international community only envision a homeland for those who oppose Israel's existence and promote Jewish extermination?



Jews are not a perfect people, and Israel is not a flawless nation. Arabs who self- identify as "Palestinians" are not inherently evil and Arab countries are not without merit.

Israel, however, is a democracy and there are no Arab democracies in the Middle East. Israeli Arabs and Palestinians have more political rights than any other Arabs in the Middle East. If Israel is an "Apartheid State", how have 89 past and present Arab politicians managed to sneak seats in the Knesset?

If Israel is engaged in ethnic cleansing, they are not very good at it. The population of Palestinian-Israelis has increased five-fold since Israel's declaration of Independence.

In the past, the global community has overlooked Hamas' determination to convert Israel into a Islamofascist theocracy built upon the ashes of dead Jews. Previous bombing raids had resulted in unexplainable cries of sympathy for the plight of the Palestinian and vilification of the country under attack.

Today, Israel solidarity rallies have taken place and are scheduled in New York, New Jersey, Chicago, Florida, Arizona, Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles and beyond. In London, the streets were awash in the Blue and white of Israel's flag. In Berlin, protesters swarmed in front of the Brandenburg Gate to rally in solidarity with Israel. In Australia, the Jewish community staged rallies in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Hamas' claim of a military victory is a fantasy.

What they have succeeded in, is convincing many progressive Jewish groups and non-Jews that haters of Israel are haters of Jews.

They have declared to the world that Anti-Zionism is Anti-Semitism.

To paraphrase Golda Meir, peace will come when the Arabs love their own children more than they hate ours.



Gary S. Branfman, MD studied radio, television, and film at New York City's Queens College. Following a career in communications, he returned to school and became a board-certified plastic surgeon at the age of 38. He is the president of Congregation B'nai Israel in Victoria, Texas.

Dr. Branfman has appeared on various news organizations including "The Stream" on Al Jazeera, CBS evening news with David Begnaud and presently produces the podcast, "Never Again Live" with Meir HaLevi Weinstein.



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Saul Balagura

What Dr Branfman has written so eloquently also happens to be a very accurate description of the situation. Poor are those that don't want to see with their eyes opened.

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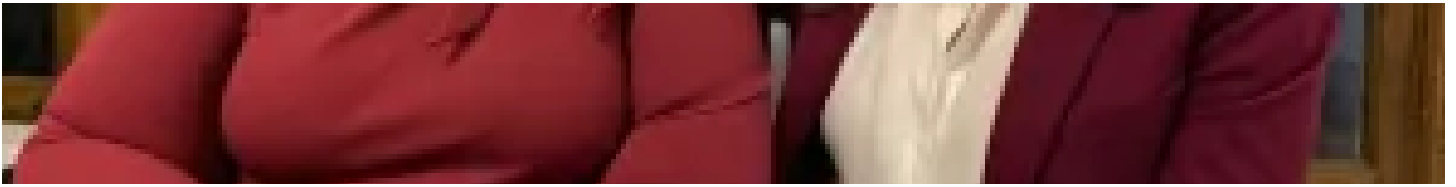
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