

## 5. CRITICIZING ISRAEL IS ANTI-SEMITIC!

Can you criticize the US? Yes, of course. Are you racist if you criticize the US? No, of course not. So why should someone be called anti-Semitic for opposing the actions of a country?

## 6. ANTI-ZIONISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM ARE THE SAME

No, they are not. Zionism advocates for an ethno-Jewish state--a place where only Jewish residents enjoy all of the rights of citizenship. That is what Israel currently is. A place where only Jewish citizens have full rights and others, like Palestinians, are second-class citizens. There are neighborhoods they can't live in, houses they can be thrown out of without warning, they can be subjected to police brutality and arrests without recourse to lawyers or due process. Very similar to the way South Africa operated during the Apartheid years.

Antisemitism is defined as prejudice against and hatred towards Jews.

There is no relation between the two. In fact, it is not only possible but also imperative to condemn both Zionism and Antisemitism because at its core they are the same: both are driven by hatred of another group.

## WHAT IS GENOCIDE?

According to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPCG,) which was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, genocide is defined as acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. These acts include killing members of the group, causing them serious bodily or mental harm, imposing living conditions intended to destroy the group, preventing births, forcibly transferring children out of the group.

Amnesty International has concluded that Israel is indeed committing genocide. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has ordered Israel to stop their Rafah offensive and adopted binding orders that include requiring Israel to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza. So far, Israel has failed to comply. Additionally, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity.



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# Here are some of the lies that just won't go away:

## 1. HAMAS SYSTEMATICALLY RAPED WOMEN

A false claim that was not only repeated by outlets like the NY Times, but also by politicians. Not even the Abdush family--whose relative has become known as "the girl in the black dress," the poster child for the rape lie--publicly coming out and unequivocally stating that it's a lie has stopped the presses.

The truth is there are no witnesses, no DNA or other evidence, and most of all, no victims. Both the Israeli police as well as Pramilla Patten, the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict admit to coming up empty-handed despite attempting to locate victims.

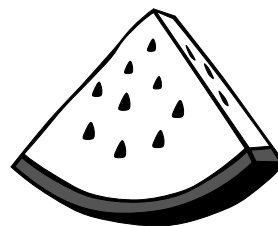
The only evidence for sexual violence in this conflict is being perpetrated against Palestinian prisoners by the Israeli army. And, yes, there is photographic and video evidence as well as eyewitness testimony.



## 2. HAMAS BEHEADED BABIES

This lie made the rounds because David Ben Zion, a Deputy Commander of Unit 71 of the Israeli army and extremist settler leader who incited violent riots against Palestinians in the West Bank prior to Oct. 7th, made the claim during an interview. Of course, there was no proof to be had; yet, it was picked up immediately by pro-Zionist voices.

However, very quickly, this claim was walked back including by Israeli journalists embedded with the Israeli army stating: "During the tour we didn't see any evidence of this, and the army spokesperson or commanders also didn't mention any such incidents."



## 3. ISRAEL DOESN'T COMMIT WAR CRIMES

War Crimes are defined, among other things, as murder, torture, pillage, or intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population, humanitarian aid workers, religious and educational buildings and hospitals. Israel has targeted refugee camps, destroyed or damaged every hospital in Gaza, tortured prisoners, killed over 200 UN aid workers, and starved the population of Gaza by imposing a total siege on the area.

## 4. HAMAS STARTED THIS ON OCTOBER 7, ISRAEL HAS A RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF!

Palestinians have suffered Israeli violence for the past 75 years, whether or not Hamas has launched attacks. The violence must be understood in the context of resistance to a 75-year Israeli occupation, in which Israel was violently established on stolen Palestinian land in 1948. It's known as The Nakba or catastrophe — an ethnic cleansing where Zionist militias murdered over 15,000 Palestinians, expelled 750,000 more, and burned to the ground over 530 villages.

International law is clear and unequivocal that an occupying power, or a power denying a people the right to self-determination does not have the right to use armed force to perpetuate its occupation. By definition, Israel cannot act "defensively" as an oppressor — oppression is an offensive act. Israel cannot "defend" itself against an oppressed people; Israel's use of violence only enforces an oppressive occupation. Conversely, Palestinians resisting their oppression act defensively, as they have been victims of offensive attacks by Israel since its illegitimate inception in 1948.

Israel is occupying Palestinian territories in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and of UN Security Council resolution 242 (1967) and other resolutions. The UN, US and the world have failed to enforce international law or UNSC resolutions, or to take any effective action to end Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine. So Palestinians have every right to keep resisting. On the other hand, Israel has no such right to repeatedly attack Gaza or any other part of Palestine, which it has occupied and tried to control by the illegal use of force, and annex.