

HOW DO WE SPEAK UP?

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Theme: Genesis 12:3 *“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee”.*

Zionism means no more and no less, a belief in the right of Jews to have a state. That state is the State of Israel.

Many of you may or may not be aware of global efforts to attack the State of Israel, delegitimize it and falsely label, bully and stigmatize the Jewish people. This effort is alive, powerful and historic.

There is a movement called Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) that refers to Israel as an apartheid state. This philosophy is actively and heavily advanced on University campuses globally. There is also a drive to punish the state of Israel economically, called BDS or Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions. The premise of this “apartheid” label which gives rise to the BDS drive is that Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians is like the treatment of blacks under South African rule during the apartheid era.

Apartheid is a word that describes the conditions in South Africa that levied state sanctioned racism against blacks in the forms of racial segregation and treating blacks as an inferior class of people, which included: denying voting rights, severe discrimination in acquiring jobs, inferior medical care, segregation in areas of education, public services, and in public social domains like beaches and public events. The scourge of apartheid is mournful, blatant and an affront to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Israel has been branded “Apartheid” because of suffering and poverty in Gaza that relates to the ‘fence’. The Israeli “occupation” of the West Bank and a small area of Hamas-ruled Gaza that is poverty stricken is key to understanding the “Apartheid” label. Israel, in fact, has “occupied” these areas to defend its

borders, regularly attacked by Hamas rocket fire. The so-called “occupation” is not to subjugate Palestinians but to defend the state of Israel from obliteration.

Some facts:

1. When the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was established in 1964 under the leadership of Palestinian lawyer Ahmed Shukheiry at a conference in east Jerusalem attended by Arab foreign ministers, its founding manifesto stated that the purpose of its formation was “to attain the objective of liquidating Israel”.
2. The Hamas charter calls for the obliteration of Israel as does the P.A. Charter, and the Fatah charter.
3. Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian National Authority did his PhD in Holocaust denial
4. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Mohammed Amin al-Husseini—a Palestinian Arab Nationalist-- worked with Hitler with a goal of obliterating the Jewish people.
5. PLO leader Yasser Arafat was a young relative of al Husseini that admired him, trained under him, bore his mission and changed his name from al Husseini to Arafat.

The vast areas land that Israel captured in the 1967 defensive war has been mostly surrendered back, except for a very small percentage for security reasons; yet those groups and individuals that continue to seek the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people continue to attack with lies and with propaganda.

Some more facts:

1. Israel is a haven for persecuted Christians, even from Sudan. 400-thousand Sudanese Christians were murdered for being black and for being Christian by Islamists, yet Israel takes in refugees.
2. Arabs are not only allowed into mainstream society in Israel, but they are also allowed to hold positions in Israel’s Knesset (parliament), as well as high ranking jobs. They are also fully integrated into Israeli society and treated better than by Israel’s neighbors.

3. The crowned beauty queen: 21 year old Miss Israel 2013 ,Yityish Aynaw, is a black Ethiopian.

Israel is not an apartheid state. It is not the state that murders Christians by the droves as we see in neighboring states. It is not a racist state as we also see in surrounding states and in Africa where blacks are still slaves in Mauratania, and people are murdered for being blacks and/or Christians. Israel is a haven for human rights and democracy which is an affront from neighboring Shariah (Islamic law) states.

Israel did not cheat any group out of land. Archeological evidence as confirmed a Jewish root to the biblical heartlands. While we value all of humanity and according to Christian teachings, we care about and embrace all of humanity, we are also responsible for furthering truth. The innocent Palestinian people who are suffering need care, attention and rescuing, not from Israel, but from their own Hamas leadership that uses them to delegitimize Israel.

Who are the Palestinian people? They are settlers from surrounding Arab regions. Here is a little history:

The name "Palestine" was given in the year 135AD following a second Jewish revolt after the ancient revolt and battle of Masada, for the purpose of dishonoring the Jewish presence in the Holy land. Before that date, it was called "**Judah**". In 636 AD during the battle of Yarmouk between the Rashidun Caliphate and Roman empire, Jews of the holy land were uprooted by Ottoman raiders and displaced.

Jews have faced an historic battle for survival and as promised in **Isaiah 11:12** "*And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of **Judah** from the four corners of the earth*".

The drive against Israel in the forms of BDS drives (Boycott, divestment and sanctions) is not in truth and justice. We need to support Israel in every way we can as a nation under attack by a global drive, spearheaded by historic enemies of Israel.