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OUR GREATEST WEAPON IS EXPOSING THE TRUTH. SO WHY DO JEWISH LEADERS FAIL TO DO SO?

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As the president of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), I'm gratified that the Jewish Leadership Project consistently points to the ZOA as a courageous exception to the general failures of mainstream Jewish organizations.

Summary

Anti-Israel and anti-Jewish hatred is based on lies. Accordingly, the Jewish people's greatest weapon in the battle to combat anti-Israel and anti-Jewish hatred is to expose the truth.

Conversely, when Jewish leaders and organizations fail to tell the truth about our enemies' intentions and actions, and fail to combat them, the Jewish community is left defenseless.

Unfortunately, there are countless instances of certain mainstream Jewish leaders and organizations failing to speak the truth, and following useless diversion strategies. Even worse, such Jewish leaders and organizations have praised and promoted harmful acts and actors which should have been condemned, confronted, and fought.

There are several reasons for those mainstream Jewish leaders' failings, including fear; ignorance of history and current facts; and the psychological difficulty of facing the reality of intractable radical Islamist hatred and radical left-wing hatred of Jews. The refusal to face reality leads to the mistaken belief that radical Islamist and leftist hatred will end "if only the Israelis will make more concessions." But, in fact, more concessions lead to more terror. Those Jewish leaders' failures to expose the truth ends up doing grievous harm to the Jewish state and entire Jewish people.

The Best Strategy is to Expose and Combat Antisemitic Lies

The best strategy for combatting antisemitism, and its modern manifestation of Israel hatred, is to expose, counter, and tell the truth about anti-Israel propaganda and lies. This is ZOA's strategy. If other mainstream Jewish organizations had adopted the same strategy, the Jewish people would be in a far better situation today. Sadly, many mainstream groups have instead adopted useless, counterproductive appeasement and diversion strategies, and have ignored or downplayed dangers to our people.

From time immemorial, Jew-hatred has been based on lies. The antidote and the Jewish people's greatest "weapon" is to simply expose the lies and directly spread the truth. Indeed, Judaism teaches that delegitimizers fail when we directly counter those who spread falsehoods. The great prophet Isaiah foretold: "Any weapon whetted

against you shall not succeed, and any tongue that contends with you in judgment, you shall condemn” (54:17).

But, unfortunately, too many Jewish leaders failed to counter the Islamist-Palestinian-Arab propaganda wars against Israel and the Jewish people.

People side with Israel and the Jewish people, and oppose anti-Israel boycotts, divestment, and sanctions (“BDS”) when they learn the truth that the Palestinian Authority (“PA”) pays Arab terrorists lifetime pension rewards of \$400 million a year to murder Jews.¹

People side with Israel and the Jewish people when they learn that the PA glorifies Jew-killers and incites antisemitism in the media and government-controlled mosques and schools, including by accusing Jews of blood libels and naming schools, streets, and sports teams after Jew-killers.²

We also need to impress upon the public that the PA imposes the death penalty for selling land to a Jew;³ that they planned and incited intifadas in which Arabs murdered or maimed 10,000 Jews; that Palestinian Arabs failed to create a state during the 19 years after six Arab nations invaded Israel and seized lands lawfully designated for the Jewish state; and that the Palestinian Arabs refused repeated, over-generous peace offers to create a state on Israel’s lawful land because they didn’t want to sign an agreement to stop attacking the remainder of Israel. Imagine how different our situation would be if the American people knew these easily documentable facts.

People stand with the Jewish people when they learn that the Hamas charter calls for the murder of every Jew throughout the world,⁴ and that Hamas’ leaders give so-called “protestors” maps of the routes to Jewish kindergartens,⁵ and instructions to breach the border in order to “eat the livers” of innocent Jews.⁶

People side with us, when they are informed of the 3,500-year-long history of the Jewish people in Israel, including in Jerusalem and Judea-Samaria; and that there never was a “Palestinian” Arab state; and that a series of binding international agreements guaranteed these lands to the Jewish people (San Remo, the Mandate—which codified the Balfour Declaration, the League of Nations Charter, the Anglo-American Treaty, and the U.N. Charter).

In light of Farrakhan/Black Nationalist antisemitism and deadly attacks against innocent Jews in Jersey City, Monsey, Brooklyn, and elsewhere, it is also essential to tell the truth that Black Lives Matter and its parent organization, the Movement for Black Lives, are antisemitic. It’s important to point out that Farrakhan-supporting BLM leaders incited the vicious 2020 pogrom against Jews in Los Angeles;⁷ held antisemitic “days of rage” in U.S. cities;⁸ and are involved with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and its front groups.⁹

But, unfortunately, many people do not know any of the foregoing facts. Too many mainstream Jewish leaders have failed to say and emphasize the simple truths that would win the ongoing war for hearts and minds. Too many Jewish organizations have failed to use their skill and resources to counteract anti-Israel propaganda lies with these truths. When I speak at synagogues and other fora throughout the United States, many audience members are shocked, and tell me that they’ve never heard any of the facts. Every Jewish organization should be making these truths known.

Examples of the Harm Caused By Mainstream Organizations Ignoring the Truth

The Failure to Expose and Push Back Against President Biden's Hostile Policies Towards Israel

During President Biden's trip to Israel in July 2022, Biden announced numerous policies hostile to Israel. The ZOA objected.¹⁰ But other mainstream groups such as AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (the "CoP") praised Biden's trip or irrelevant aspects of it, while ignoring the raft of dangerous policies Biden pursued.

Strong pushback from the Jewish community could have convinced the administration to change at least some of its dangerous policies. Thus, AIPAC, the ADL and the CoP *should* have joined the ZOA in exposing and opposing these hostile policies, which included the following:

1. Biden called for creating a "contiguous" Palestinian state "on the 1967 lines" with illusory "land swaps mutually agreed to by the Israelis and Palestinians." Abba Eban famously called the 1967 lines the "Auschwitz lines" because they would leave Israel indefensible. President Lyndon Johnson also stated that the 1967 lines would cause more war. These lines would divide Jerusalem in half, subject all of Israel to rocket attacks, and endanger Israel's very existence.
2. Biden increased the amount of U.S. tax dollars that his administration sends to Palestinian Arabs, including the Hamas-allied United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), to more than \$1.5 billion.

3. Biden kept pressuring Israel to allow the U.S. to re-open an illegal consulate for Palestinian Arabs in western Jerusalem. This would promote dividing Jerusalem and undermine Jerusalem as Israel's capital.
4. Biden falsely compared Palestinian Arabs' situation to oppression of the Irish.
5. Biden promoted and pressured Israel to provide "increased access" for Palestinian Arabs to enter Israel from Gaza and Judea-Samaria—shortly after such access resulted in Palestinian Arabs murdering 19 Jews and others.
6. Biden called ordinary Israeli checkpoints, which are necessary for security, "indignities" against Palestinians and otherwise portrayed the terrorists as victims.
7. Biden continued ignoring sanctions on Iran and insisted on continuing negotiations with Iran for a disastrous nuclear deal.
8. Biden encouraged Palestinians to emulate anti-Israel *Al Jazeera* propagandist Shireen Abu Akleh, and falsely claimed that she was telling the "truth."
9. Biden undermined Israeli security and sovereignty by calling for the Palestinian Authority to share control of the Israeli-Jordanian crossings.
10. Biden met with and held a smiling joint press conference with Palestinian Authority/PLO terrorist dictator Mahmoud Abbas, legitimizing and mainstreaming him, despite Abbas' incitement of terrorism and "pay to slay" payments to terrorists to murder Jews and Americans.
11. Biden removed the Israeli flag from his limo when he traveled to eastern Jerusalem, insulting Israel and undermining Israeli sovereignty over Israel's unified capital.

12. Biden falsely claimed that Palestinian Arabs have “deep and ancient roots in this land” in order to try to justify creating a Palestinian Arab terror state on Israel’s land.
13. Biden refused to allow Israeli officials to accompany his visit to an Arab eastern Jerusalem hospital.
14. Biden refused to visit Hadassah Hospital in eastern Jerusalem.
15. Biden pressured Israel to legalize massive illegal Arab building in Area C—the area of Judea-Samaria lawfully under full Israeli administrative control, and Israel’s left-wing interim government acceded to Biden’s demands in key areas.¹¹

Certain Mainstream Jewish Groups’ Failure to Oppose Biden’s Hostile-to-Israel and Antisemitic Appointees and Nominees

Another serious issue is that from the outset of his administration, President Biden nominated and appointed to key positions numerous individuals who had records of extraordinary hostility towards Jews and Israel. For example: Biden’s U.S. Special Envoy to the Palestinians, Hady Amr, stated that he was “inspired by the Palestinian intifada”¹² (the anti-Israel terror wars); White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre helped orchestrate several Democratic presidential candidates’ boycott of a major pro-Israel conference;¹³ Biden’s Senior Director for Intelligence at the National Security Council, Maher Bitar, organized anti-Israel conferences where he taught attendees how to best demonize Israel;¹⁴ and Biden’s Deputy Director of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs, Reema Dodin, legitimized and even encouraged suicide bombings against Jews.¹⁵

The ZOA opposed these appointments; informed and warned the Jewish community about this; and established a “Biden Appointments Watch” webpage with articles about hostile nominees’ and appointees’

records.¹⁶ But, unfortunately, other mainstream groups failed to oppose the Biden administration's raft of horribly antisemitic, anti-Israel appointees and nominees.

Every Jewish group should have joined the ZOA in screaming about and opposing the numerous such horrific appointments. If every mainstream group did so, Biden could not have gotten away with appointing antisemites and Israel-haters. Notably, the nominees needed Senate confirmation: widespread Jewish opposition to hostile nominees could have blocked confirmation and forced President Biden to nominate less problematic officials.

Certain Mainstream Jewish Groups' Failure to Oppose Biden's Pressure to Surrender Israel's Maritime Border and Gas Fields to Hezbollah-Controlled Lebanon

In October 2022, under severe pressure from the Biden administration, Israel's interim Prime Minister Yair Lapid surrendered all of Israel's territorial waters, exclusive economic maritime zone, and gas fields that were demanded by Hezbollah-controlled Lebanon. The deal will enrich Hezbollah with billions of dollars and deprive Israel of her natural resources and defensive maritime line. Israel gained nothing for capitulating to Hezbollah's demands: no recognition and no peace. Lapid knew that the deal was so bad that it could not obtain the legally-required votes. So Lapid pushed the deal through without submitting it to mandated Knesset approval and national referendum.

The ZOA condemned this disastrous deal. Likewise, commentators such as Caroline Glick, and the Protectors of Israel Movement in Israel (*HaBithonistim*), comprised of 12,000 former high-level security and military officials, condemned the deal for endangering Israel's security, harming Israel economically, and enriching Hezbollah.

Sadly, other American mainstream groups praised this unlawful maritime territorial surrender and the Biden administration's role in forcing the surrender down Israel's throat. AIPAC tweeted that it "welcomes" the Lebanon deal and praised the Biden administration for it.¹⁷ The American Jewish Committee (AJC) likewise "welcomed" the agreement and called it an "impressive achievement" negotiated by the U.S.¹⁸ The ADL also "welcomed" the deal and tweeted that it was "grateful" to the Biden administration for making it happen.¹⁹ The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (the CoP) also praised the deal, and falsely claimed that Lebanon recognized Israel's shared border.²⁰ These reactions will only encourage more U.S. pressure on Israel to surrender her sovereign territory to terrorists.

*Certain Mainstream Jewish Groups' Support for
and Failure to Condemn the Antisemitic, Anti-
Israel Black Lives Matter Organization*

Many mainstream Jewish groups' response to the Black Lives Matter organization (BLM) and BLM's intertwined parent organization, the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), was another case in which those Jewish groups offered praise and support when strong condemnation was needed.

The M4BL platform (which has never been abrogated) and BLM/M4BL social media posts continue to promote antisemitic BDS, promote the major BDS group in the U.S., and libelously accuse Israel of perpetrating genocide, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid against Palestinian Arabs.

BLM's Los Angeles leader incited a horrific pogrom in Los Angeles, in which BLM burned, defaced and looted Jewish

synagogues, schools, and businesses. BLM participated in an anti-Israel “day of rage” in multiple U.S. cities. BLM/M4BL collaborated with and held joint demonstrations with anti-Israel groups such as Adalah and “Dream Defenders,” which is intertwined with the Marxist designated terror organization PFLP. (Those groups co-authored the M4BL/BLM platform.) BLM also promoted the agendas of, and held joint events with, PFLP front groups Al-Haq and DCI-Palestine.

The ZOA condemned all these BLM activities, and established a web page (the “BLM Organization Files”) to document the truth about BLM’s antisemitic and anti-Israel activities, including pictures of the schools, synagogues, and Jewish businesses burnt, defaced, and destroyed during BLM’s antisemitic pogrom.²¹

Some mainstream Jewish groups initially condemned the extremely antisemitic M4BL/BLM platform when it was first promulgated in 2016—but, quickly afterwards, ignored or downplayed the platform’s continuing presence and import. They even claimed falsely that the platform was abrogated and then made excuses for it. For instance, the San Francisco JCRC claimed that “not all parties that signed onto the platform were fully informed about the inclusion of anti-Israel language.”²²

Moreover, such mainstream Jewish groups ignored BLM’s antisemitic pogrom and numerous other antisemitic posts and activities, and then supported and promoted BLM instead of condemning it. The ADL, the Reform and Conservative movements, HIAS, and other left-leaning and far-left Jewish groups even signed a full-page newspaper ad supporting BLM, which they co-signed together with extremist Israel-bashing groups—including Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), New Israel Fund (NIF), and IfNotNow.²³ The ADL also disseminated educational materials *promoting* BLM.²⁴

Even worse, several left-leaning groups attacked the ZOA and me personally for telling the truth about the BLM organization. Attacking those who try to help fellow Jews and save Jewish lives depletes the resources which our tiny people desperately need to defend ourselves.

The Failure to Expose and Demand Action against the Squad

Then there's the failure to call out and combat the "Squad" of vicious Jew-haters and Israel-bashers in Congress, including Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez ("AOC"), Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, Cori Bush, Betty McCollum, and others.

The ZOA stood virtually alone in calling for Squad members to be removed from their committee assignments.

Incredibly, ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt *praised* Ilhan Omar, essentially giving her a free pass to defame Jews. In response to an unconvincing "apology" she was forced to make—which was accompanied by yet more antisemitic Israel-bashing—he said: "...[H]ats off to Rep Omar for her honest apology & commitment to a more just world."²⁵

We need to expose and directly combat the antisemitism, blood libels, and dangerous anti-Israel legislation constantly promoted by the squad in the U.S. Congress, because those libels are encouraging increased antisemitic attacks in the U.S. Yet too many establishment leaders fear to displease their "progressive" allies.

I've provided even more examples of these problems later in this essay.

*Fear, Ignorance, and Difficulties Facing Painful
Realities Underlie Certain Mainstream Groups'
Failures to Stand Up for the Jewish People*

The \$64,000 question that I'm often asked is: Why do certain mainstream Jewish groups embrace instead of condemn anti-Jewish and anti-Israel organizations and policies, when this is hugely harmful? Why do certain Jewish groups take positions that are against Jewish interests? There are several reasons.

Fear: The first and primary reason is fear. Professor Ruth Wisse's book *If I Am Not For Myself...: The Liberal Betrayal of the Jews*, published in 1992, explained that frightening, overpowering antisemitism results in several different reactions within the Jewish community. Proud Jews stand up, and fight for their people. Other Jews try to remove themselves from the fray, but help our people when they can without personal risk. And the third group joins with those who oppress the Jewish people. They cast themselves as the "good Jews," who should not be attacked because they oppose so-called "Zionists" or supposed evil Israeli settlers.

It is easy to attack fellow pro-Israel Jews. Standing up against enemies of the Jewish people is much more difficult. At the root of those who attack fellow Jews or fail to stand up to our enemies is overwhelming fear.

Ignorance: The second cause is ignorance. Anti-Israel propaganda lies—including the big lies that Israel is an occupier of her own land and an apartheid state, and that Jewish communities on Jewish land are illegal or an obstacle to peace—are so prevalent that many Jews believe them.

Jewish leaders who do not know Jewish and Israeli history are unable to dispel these anti-Israel lies.

Delusions: Another cause is the psychological difficulty of understanding the painful, intractable nature of certain Jew-hatreds, and the difficulty of coming to grips with our own powerlessness to change this. Psychiatrist Ken Levin’s book *The Oslo Syndrome: Delusions of a People Under Siege* explains that some Jews don’t want to believe the hard fact that Hamas and the Palestinian Arab regime want us to be dead and want to demolish all of Israel, and that there’s nothing we can do to change their desires. So instead of facing reality, some Jews convince themselves if we just give the Palestinian Arabs a state, just give them more money, just lift the weapons blockade and the checkpoints, we’ll have peace. But, of course, we will just create more danger for ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Promoted Appeasement Strategies: The fourth reason is that mainstream groups were encouraged to adopt the counter-productive appeasement strategy discussed below.

The Failed ADL/Reut Strategy (of Agreeing with Israel’s Enemies and Appeasement) Adopted by Certain Mainstream Jewish Organizations

A “secret” 30-page report issued in January 2017 by two leftwing Jewish groups, the ADL and Reut Institute (Reut), revealed and promoted the failed “strategy” used by the ADL and others both before and after the report’s issuance. The report was distributed to select Jewish groups, *not* including the ZOA. The ZOA was only able to read the ADL/Reut report when the vicious anti-Israel website *Electronic Intifada* published a leaked copy.²⁶

The report was entitled *The Assault on Israel’s Legitimacy* and purported to provide a “coherent global Jewish response” to the “delegitimization” of Israel.²⁷

But, in stark contrast to the ADL/Reut report's claimed purpose of combatting delegitimization, the report was a slick piece of Israel-bashing propaganda. It blamed Israel, Jewish communities in Judea/Samaria (which the report calls "settlements"²⁸), and Israel's Rabbinate, Knesset, and administration for the propaganda assaults against the Jewish State, and pushed a left-wing political appeasement agenda, under the guise of combatting delegitimization of Israel. The report aligned with the views of hostile-to-Israel groups including J Street and Ameinu, who were listed among the "experts" consulted for the report.²⁹

For instance, the ADL/Reut report justified and portrayed delegitimization assaults against Israel as reactions to "genuine injustices that require change";³⁰ as reactions to "the mistreatment of the indigenous population—the Arab citizens of Israel";³¹ as "reactions to Israel's military campaigns [in Gaza] in 2009, 2012 and 2014";³² as reactions to the "erosion" of the perception that Israel is a "peace-loving, pluralistic and democratic state (PPD)";³³ and Israel's perceived "lack of commitment" to a "two-state solution" (a euphemism for creating a Palestinian terrorist state on land lawfully designated for the Jewish state).³⁴ The ADL/Reut report also justified boycotting Jews living past the artificial 1949 armistice lines in order to remedy "a loss of trust by liberal Zionists regarding the commitment of the current Israeli government to peace."³⁵

In other words, the ADL/Reut report said in essence that Israel deserves to be delegitimized. Not surprisingly, *Electronic Intifada* gleefully recited the ADL/Reut report's "blame Israel" narrative as "acknowledgements" of Israel's culpability.

The ADL/Reut report made no effort to correct the glaring falsehoods used to justify delegitimization. For instance, the ADL/Reut

report did not explain or advise spreading the truths that the Jewish people are the indigenous people of Israel; that Jews were the largest religious group in Jerusalem since at least the first census in 1840; that the Jewish people have the international legal right to Israel, Jerusalem, and Judea/Samaria; that Israel's Arab citizens receive equal rights; and that the Palestinian Arabs rejected repeated, generous peace offers.

Instead of promoting countering lies with truth, the ADL/Reut report called for emphasizing Israeli "innovation" and "creativity"; forming alliances with left-wing groups, and adopting and promoting those anti-Israel groups' causes; and meaningless jargon such as "focusing their efforts on areas where their attributes create a unique value proposition in the field" and "altering the unfavorable Zeitgeist in which Israel's legitimacy is determined."³⁶

None of the ADL/Reut report's strategies work. Alliances to promote the causes of groups that hate Israel end up strengthening Israel-hatred. Indecipherable jargon about "creating a unique value proposition" is useless.

The big lies that Israel is an "occupier" that "stole Arab land" and "kills Arab children" cannot be answered by saying: "But we're so innovative! There are 13 Israeli Nobel prize winners."

Anyone who believes the lie that Israel kills Arab children doesn't care about Israeli Nobel prize winners and inventions. The answer is the truth, that the PA and Hamas target Jewish children, and Israel goes out of her way to avoid harming civilians when defending herself.

In addition, instead of combatting delegitimization, the ADL/Reut report *legitimized* extreme hostility to Israel by advocating narrowing the definition of "delegitimization" to include only those entities which insist that Israel has no right to exist and must be eliminated. Under this narrow definition, persistent Israel-bashers, blood-libelers, and defamers are not actually "delegitimizing" Israel.

The same sleight-of-hand is often used to claim that vicious antisemites are not antisemitic: The left narrows the definition of “antisemitism” to only include the use of specified “tropes” by their political enemies. Indeed, a 2022 CNN antisemitism special quoted a far-left fringe Jewish leader, Jill Jacobs, who similarly restricted the definition of antisemitism. Jacobs claimed that anti-Zionism is only antisemitism when an antisemitic “trope” (such as Jews wanting money) is involved.³⁷ In fact, anti-Zionism denies the Jewish people’s right to self-determination in the Jewish homeland, and is thus both discriminatory and antisemitic. Anti-Zionism is a major manifestation of antisemitism today. On college campuses and elsewhere, antisemites use the terms “Zionist” and “Jew” interchangeably.

The ADL/Reut report also made the absurd claim that “liberal and progressive groups are probably most effective in engaging with soft critics of Israel, who are often also of similar outlooks.”³⁸ In fact, the progressive Jewish groups who persistently criticize and condemn Israel are *not* “most effective” as advocates for Israel. When critics of Israel are presented as pro-Israel, this *increases* delegitimization.

The ADL/Reut report approach is reminiscent of the cartoon entitled “debate between a Palestinian Arab and a liberal Jew.” The bubble above the Palestinian Arab debater shows him saying: “*Everything is Israel’s fault*” and the bubble above the liberal Jewish debater likewise shows him saying: “*Everything is Israel’s fault*.”

The best and most persuasive advocates for the Jewish state are those who tell the truth about Israel’s rights and the Arab war against Israel, as the ZOA does. Truth is not a political position. The ZOA often speaks to liberal groups, with excellent results. Lies undermine Israel and our people; the antidote is the truth.

More Examples of the Harm Caused By Mainstream Organizations Ignoring the Truth:

It is heartbreaking and dangerous when other mainstream Jewish organizations ignore or downplay the truth about Islamic, Black Nationalist, and left-wing antisemitism, refuse to help, or outright hinder and condemn our efforts to protect the Jewish people. I discussed several recent instances of this earlier in this essay, but there are even more examples.

I encountered this problem even before I became president of the ZOA in 1993, when the ADL dismissively refused my request to help remove anti-Israel falsehoods from textbooks used in my daughter's school and throughout the country. I then initiated my own successful campaign to correct the textbooks.

Since then, at the ZOA, we've had dozens of run-ins with the ADL and certain mainstream groups, that were harming efforts to combat antisemitism. Incredibly, the ADL lobbied *against* anti-BDS laws, falsely claiming that they violated free speech. ZOA testified about and wrote articles pointing out the legality and necessity for such anti-discrimination laws. For years, the ADL refused to condemn so-called "targeted" boycotts against Jews living in Judea-Samaria and Jerusalem.³⁹ After years of pressure from the ZOA, the ADL finally quietly began supporting such laws.⁴⁰ (Sometimes, change is possible.)

In 2014, the Metropolitan Opera performed an antisemitic opera that demeaned American Jews as materialistic and petty, and falsely claimed that Jews were interlopers who brutally drove out Arabs from Israel in 1948.⁴¹ (In fact, the Arab High Command ordered the Arabs to leave to clear a path for them to invade and murder all of Israel's Jews. The Jews urged the Arabs to stay.)

The opera glorified the Palestinian Arab terrorists who hijacked the *Achille Lauro* cruise ship and murdered an elderly, disabled, wheelchair-bound American Jew and threw him overboard.⁴²

The ZOA helped organize massive demonstrations in front of the Met Opera house, attended by thousands of people, 50 organizations, and major speakers. The ZOA also contacted and persuaded the film company AMC to cancel its planned worldwide broadcasts of the opera.⁴³ We probably would have also succeeded in also canceling the Met's 2014 performances—but then the ADL stepped in and wrongly declared that the opera wasn't antisemitic,⁴⁴ thereby giving the Met Opera “cover” to perform this Jew-demeaning travesty.

The 2015 Iran deal was another instance where mainstream groups fell short. The ZOA helped organize huge demonstrations against the deal—including the New York demonstration with 20,000 attendees, but most mainstream groups were absent.

Hope for the Future:

Despite all this, I am hopeful. I am seeing some changes for the better. More and more mainstream groups have signed on to letters to public officials the ZOA has initiated, demanding specific actions to counteract Iranian regime threats, BDS activities, and other issues. We've even occasionally obtained virtually across-the-board support from other mainstream groups, such as for our effort to return to the Iraqi Jewish community Jewish artifacts stolen by Saddam Hussein. Our policy critiques are being heard, and are promoting change. Smaller pro-Israel groups have joined with us and are raising their voices. The Jewish Leadership Project is doing critical work calling attention to this important issue.

Let's continue to work for Jewish leaders and organizations that are unafraid to tell the truth about and combat the real sources of danger to our people.

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² See *Palestinian Media Watch*. <https://palwatch.org>.

³ See Khaled Abu Toameh, "PA: Death penalty for those who sell land to Jews," *The Jerusalem Post*, April 1, 2009. <http://bit.ly/39BMqhp>. See also Jacob Magid, "Palestinian Authority boasts it 'thwarted' major land sales to Jews in Jerusalem," *The Times of Israel*, December 23, 2018. <http://bit.ly/3GAGNAX>.

⁴ See " Hamas Covenant 1988: The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement," *Yale University*. <http://bit.ly/35zKoLE>.

⁵ See Ronen Manelis, "The Truth About Hamas and Israel," *The Wall Street Journal*, May 20, 2018. <http://bit.ly/3Oom3y4>.

- ⁶ Quoted in Abu Toameh, “ Hamas head Sinwar says Gaza protests will continue until border is erased,” *The Times of Israel*, May 30, 2018. <http://bit.ly/3hVz6eh>.
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- ⁸ See Dan Diker, “The Alignment of BDS and Black Lives Matter: Implications for Israel and Diaspora Jewry,” *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*, July 16, 2020. <http://bit.ly/3vLzqiq>.
- ⁹ See *Ibid*.
- ¹⁰ See, e.g., “Biden’s Policies Voiced at Israeli and Palestinian Mtgs. Demanding Israel Return to ‘67 “Auschwitz” Lines, End Checkpoints, Open Jerusalem Arab Consulate—and More—Show Biden’s No Friend to Israel,” *Zionist Organization of America*, July 18, 2022. <http://bit.ly/3UMC0AG>; “Readout of President Biden’s Meeting with President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority,” *The White House*, July 15, 2022. <http://bit.ly/3UTIBKY>; “Remarks by President Biden and President Abbas of the Palestinian National Authority in Joint Press Statement, Bethlehem, West Bank,” *The White House*, July 15, 2022. <http://bit.ly/3Oe1qEX>.
- ¹¹ See *Ibid*.
- ¹² Quoted in “Biden Admin. Disrespects Israeli Sovereignty and International Law By Separating ‘Palestinian Affairs Unit’ Reporting and Elevating ‘Intifada-Inspired’ Hady Amr to Special Envoy to Palestinians,” *Zionist Organization of America*, May 31, 2022. <http://bit.ly/3Gs79VS>.
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