ISRAEL AT WAR

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Social Media Toolkit →

What is going on?!

On October 7, 2023 Hamas attacked Israel. A barrage of rockets were fired at Israeli cities from Gaza, while terrorists infiltrated Israel from land, sky, and sea. This attack led to the greatest number of Jewish deaths in one day since the Holocaust.

The initial attack was followed by days of horrific assaults. Hamas terrorists murdered, raped, mutilated, and kidnapped men, women, children, and the elderly.

Now, an outpouring of vicious libelous material, horrific videos and images, and outright justification for the murder of innocent civilians has circulated across various platforms for the world to see.

This toolkit will provide context and debunk many of these anti-Israel and antisemitic talking points, so you will be prepared for any encounter.

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History Facts & Figures

The Arab-Israeli conflict is not a new one, but as conditions in Israel escalate, being familiar with historical facts is crucial.

Before the establishment of the State of Israel:

From 1517 until 1917, what is now modern day Israel, Palestinian territory, and Jordan were ruled by the Ottoman Empire. You can go back as far as you'd like, but you will never find a "Palestine" ruled by "Palestinians."

In 1917, British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour submitted a letter of intent supporting the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Ottoman-ruled Palestine. The British government hoped that the formal declaration—known thereafter as the Balfour Declaration—would encourage support for the Allies in World War I.

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History Facts & Figures

Continued:

When World War I ended in 1918 with an Allied victory, the 400-year Ottoman Empire rule ended, and Great Britain took control over what became known as the British Mandate for Palestine (modern-day Israel, Gaza, and Jordan).

The Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate for Palestine were approved by the League of Nations in 1922 and later affirmed by the 1936 Peel Commission. Arabs vehemently opposed the Balfour Declaration.

Following World War II, the United Nations approved a plan to partition the land of Israel into Jewish and Arab states in 1947, but the Arabs rejected it.

Following the announcement of Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, five Arab nations—Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon—immediately invaded the region, leading to the Israel War of Independence.

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Past Wars & Land Ownership

Israel remains the only modern nation to have won wars they didn't start, gain territory, only to give that land back to the aggressors in an effort for peace.

Israel War of Independence, 1948:

On May 14, 1948, the British Mandate terminated, and the first Israeli Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, declared Israel's independence. Following the announcement of the independence of the State of Israel, five Arab nations immediately invaded the territory of the former mandate.

This defensive war resulted in Israel gaining more land than they would have had the Arabs agreed to the Partition Plan.

Past Wars & Land Ownership

The Six-Day War, 1967:

In another defensive war, Israel defeated Egypt, Jordan and Syria in six days. Israel took control of the Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, Judea & Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

Israeli control over the Sinai Peninsula ended in 1982 following the implementation of the 1979 Egypt–Israel peace treaty, in which Israel return the region to Egypt in exchange for the Egypt's recognition of Israel as a legitimate sovereign state. UN resolution 242 was accepted by Israel, Jordan, and Egypt, but rejected by Syria, leaving the Golan Heights annexed by Israel.

Israel after the Six Day War (10 June, 1967)

Past Wars & Land Ownership

The Oslo Accords, 1993:

On September 13, 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Negotiator Mahmoud Abbas signed a Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, commonly referred to as the "Oslo Accords," at the White House, under the Clinton administration.

Israel accepted the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians Arabs, and the PLO "renounced" terrorism and recognized Israel's right to exist in peace. Both sides agreed that a Palestinian Authority (PA) would be established and assume governing responsibilities in Area A of Judea & Samaria and the Gaza Strip over a five-year period.

The Second Intifada, 2000 - 2005:

Palestinians launched suicide bombs and other attacks on Israelis in 2000. The resulting violence lasted for years, until a ceasefire was reached. Israel removed the Jews living in Gaza and withdrew all troops by the end of 2005. In 2006, Hamas was elected as the ruling government of Gaza.

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What is Apartheid?

Calling Israel an apartheid state is not criticism, it is a blatant lie. Apartheid was a South African system that denied Black people access to the political and judicial systems in their country, put them in separate and inferior living spaces and educational opportunities, and controlled every aspect of their lives.

Arab citizens of Israel enjoy the same rights as Jewish Israelis, including the right to form political parties and stand for election, opportunities to serve as members of the Knesset, the judiciary, the diplomatic corps, the police, thereby eviscerating claims of racial discrimination, which underlie apartheid.

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Israel's Response

When any country is attacked, it has the right to defend itself. Israel's goal following the October 7 massacre and continued rocket fire, is to eliminate Hamas for the protection of the Israeli people.

Unfortunately, Hamas hides behind Palestinian civilians, making Israel's defensive response all the more complicated. In order to eliminate Hamas, Israel initially cut off resources to Gaza. Resources that Hamas routinely uses to commit further terrorist attacks.

A top priority for Israel is rescuing the hostages who were kidnapped by Hamas and currently remain in Gaza. In order to do so, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) needs to evacuate as many Palestinian civilians as possible from northern Gaza to the south. Hamas, however, has blocked civilian routes, making it impossible for their civilians to reach areas of safety.

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