

J Street Dossier



The Investigative Project on Terrorism

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
J Street’s Organizational Structure.....	9
J Street on Israel and the Palestinian Conflict	11
J Street and the Iran Deal	22
JStreetPAC Activity	23
J Street on the BDS Movement	27
J Street U Activity	28
Campus Partnerships.....	29
Other J Street Linkages and Partnerships.....	35
J Street’s Donors	40

Executive Summary

J Street and its affiliate organizations, JStreetPAC, J Street Education Fund, and J Street U, claim to be “pro-Israel” but routinely adopt anti-Israel positions, provide a platform to Israel “bashers” and offer tacit support to the BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanctions) campaign against the Jewish state. The organization, founded and headed by Jeremy Ben-Ami, is a major supporter of the Iran nuclear deal, engages in anti-Israel activism and partnerships on U.S. college campuses, and collaborates with leading Islamist and other anti-Israel groups in the U.S. to host conferences and other events that espouse virulently anti-Israel rhetoric.

Anti-Israel Positions

J Street disproportionately blames Israel for the absence of peace and for the campaign of terror attacks; the organization often ignores documented public incitement by Palestinian leadership and consistently criticizes Israel’s security actions. As recently as February 2017, Ben-Ami blames Israel’s Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, alone, for “missed opportunities to end Israel’s conflict with neighbors.”¹ Likewise, in an August 2014 column published during Operation Protective Edge -- fought to stop rocket fire from Gaza² -- Jeremy **Ben-Ami**, purports to agree that Israel has the right to defend itself, but quickly **places the onus for violence on Israel**, and implicitly **suggests Israel make a deal with Hamas**:

“It is time for the government of Israel to put forward a bold, comprehensive proposal for resolving the conflict and to propose a ceasefire while this is negotiated... It would also include recognition of the present Palestinian Authority under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas – as established following **the reconciliation agreement among the various Palestinian parties** in April – as the legitimate government of the entirety of Palestinian territory.”³ [emphasis added]

Platform for Israel “Bashers”

J Street conferences and other events provide a platform to Israel “bashers” and feature speakers who present “hard left” or Islamist positions on Israel –Israel is the obstacle to

¹ Tweet by Jeremy Ben-Ami, Feb. 19, 2017, <https://twitter.com/JeremyBenAmi/status/833315902594674689>. See also Tweet by Jeremy Ben-Ami, “So much for those who say block to peace is Arab unwillingness. Kerry offered Netanyahu regional peace plan in 2016.” Feb. 18, 2017, <https://twitter.com/JeremyBenAmi/status/833148850366009344>

² “During Operation Protective Edge (July 8 - Aug 25, 2014), 3,852 rockets hits were identified in Israel.” Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Rocket fire from Gaza and Palestinian ceasefire violations after Operation Cast Lead (Jan 2009),” last updated Feb. 23, 2016, [http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Palestinian ceasefire violations since end Operation Cast Lead.aspx](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Palestinian%20ceasefire%20violations%20since%20end%20Operation%20Cast%20Lead.aspx)

³ Jeremy Ben-Ami, “We need a re-think of Gaza,” *The Hill*, Aug. 22, 2014, <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/215698-we-need-a-re-think-of-gaza>. The cited “reconciliation agreement among the various Palestinian parties” includes Hamas.

peace—but never include others who would air views more centrist, or conservative.⁴ For example, **Ambassador Maen Rashid Areikat**, Chief of the PLO Delegation in Washington, DC, was a speaker at J Street’s 2017 National Conference in Washington, DC, from Feb. 25-28, 2017.⁵ In his speech Areikat noted a “two-state solution means an end to the conflict once and for all. **The Palestinians have accepted 22% of their historical homeland, this constitutes a historic concession, and they (the Palestinians) will not present another concession.**”⁶ [emphasis added]

Arab Joint List leader and Knesset member Ayman Odeh⁷ was also a speaker at the same conference.⁸ Odeh is well known for his anti-Israel extremist rhetoric. When asked during an interview whether it was legitimate for Palestinians to throw rocks at Jews, he responded, “**I always blame the occupation for being guilty. I cannot tell the nation how to struggle, where and which target to throw the rock. I do not put red lines on the Arab Palestinian nation.**”⁹ [emphasis added] In July 2016, Odeh **visited top Palestinian terrorist Marwan Barghouti in prison.**¹⁰ The former head of the Shin Bet has accused Odeh of supporting terrorism.¹¹

Support for the Iran Deal

A **major supporter of the nuclear deal with Iran**,¹² J Street issued a press release in April 2015 jointly with the **National Iranian American Council (NIAC) and the Arab American Institute (AAI)** welcoming the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that purportedly seeks to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.¹³

Since 2012, J Street has received **significant funding from the liberal Ploughshares Fund** to advocate for the Iran nuclear deal.¹⁴ In 2016, J Street received \$220,000¹⁵ and in 2015 it

⁴ Alan M. Dershowitz, “J Street’s hypocrisy must be exposed,” *Ha’aretz*, March 28, 2014.

⁵ “Highlights of J Street’s 2017 National Conference ‘Defending Our Values, Fighting for Our Future,’” Feb. 25-28, 2017, <http://jstreet.org/conference-highlights/#.WLxqmvkrKM8>

⁶ “Palestine’s ambassador to the Conference on J Street: We made a historic concession to accept the state on 22 percent of our land,” Feb. 27, 2017, Translation of article on www.alquds.com website, <http://www.alquds.com/articles/1488223417965468500/>

⁷ https://knesset.gov.il/mk/eng/mk_eng.asp?mk_individual_id_t=938

⁸ Ari Lieberman, “Anti-Israel Hate on Full Display at J Street Confab,” *FrontPageMag*, Feb. 28, 2017, <http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/265950/anti-israel-hate-full-display-j-street-confab-ari-lieberman>

⁹ Stephen M. Flatow, “J Street Cheers a Terror Backer,” *Jewish News Service*, March 6, 2017, <http://www.jns.org/latest-articles/2017/3/2/j-street-cheers-a-terror-backer#.WL214Nrk70=>

¹⁰ Elad Benari, “Arab MK visits archterrorist in prison; Erdan livid,” *Arutz Sheva*, July 10, 2016, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/218748>

¹¹ Dov Lieber, “Ex-Shin Bet chief says top Arab MK supports terrorists,” *Times of Israel*, March 29, 2016, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-shin-bet-chief-says-top-arab-mk-wont-tackle-terror/>

¹² Michael R. Gordon and David E. Sanger, “Deal Reached on Iran Nuclear Program; Limited on Fuel Would Lessen With Time,” *New York Times*, July 14, 2015, https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/15/world/middleeast/iran-nuclear-deal-is-reached-after-long-negotiations.html?_r=0

¹³ Press Release, “Arab American Institute, J Street and NIAC Welcome Iran Framework Agreement,” April 6, 2015, <http://www.niacouncil.org/arab-american-institute-j-street-and-niac-welcome-iran-framework-agreement/>

¹⁴ Ploughshares Fund Annual Reports (2012-2016), <http://www.ploughshares.org/about-us/annual-reports>

received \$576,500 from the Ploughshares Fund.¹⁶ J Street applauds its advocacy efforts on its website in support of the Iran deal: “J Street, building off our extensive advocacy infrastructure and legislating relationships, **ensured that members of Congress in key states understood that American Jews, as well as leading Israeli security experts, backed the Iran deal.** A J Street advocacy campaign during the summer, alongside two major polls showing American Jewish support for the agreement, helped to advance efforts.”¹⁷ [emphasis added]

Tacit Support for the BDS Movement

J Street asserts it opposes the BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanctions) movement,¹⁸ and that the organization is “on the front lines of the battle against it on college campuses.”¹⁹ But the organization invites prominent leaders in the BDS movement to speak at its events. The 2012 J Street Conference, for example, was addressed by **Mustafa Barghouti**,²⁰ a leading figure in the BDS campaign against Israel.²¹

Further, J Street’s policy statement on BDS summarized on its website states: “**We do not oppose boycott, divestment, or sanctions initiatives that explicitly support a two-state solution, recognize Israel’s right to exist, and focus only on occupied territory beyond the Green Line.**” J Street further “**urged the former Obama administration to reiterate the position that the settlements are illegal**” and states it “**is opposed to rhetoric that refers to the Global BDS Movement as a form of terrorism or violence.**”²²

JStreetPAC’s Anti Israel Activity

JStreetPAC endorses and raises funds for many political candidates²³ who side against Israel in Congress.

For example, in 2016, J Street PAC made contributions worth \$3.6 million to its 124 endorsed candidates for Congress, including Reps. Keith Ellison (D-MN) and Andre Carson (D-IN).²⁴

¹⁵ Ploughshares Fund Annual Report, 2016, p. 34,

http://www.ploughshares.org/sites/default/files/resources/pf_AR_2016_pages.pdf

¹⁶ Ploughshares Fund Annual Report, 2015, p. 28,

<http://www.ploughshares.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ploughshares-AR-2015-web-version.pdf>; Bradley Klapper, “Group that helped sell Iran nuke deal also funded media,” *Associated Press*, May 20, 2016, <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/7044e805a95a4b7da5533b1b9ab75cd2/group-helped-sell-iran-nuke-deal-also-funded-media>

¹⁷ The Iran Deal,” <http://jstreet.org/learn/iran-deal-facts/>

¹⁸ J Street Policy on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), <http://jstreet.org/policy/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-bds/#.WLtTXVXytdh>

¹⁹ “Setting the Record Straight: BDS,” J Street Blog, May 13, 2014,

http://web.archive.org/web/20160304095158/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight_2

²⁰ Video is posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kw5UfKIEAYc>

²¹ Video is posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8TbiU0EE4>

²² J Street Policy on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), <http://jstreet.org/policy/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-bds/#.WLtTXVXytdh>

²³ JStreetPAC’s list of supported candidates in 2016 is posted at <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/candidate-directory/> & archived at <http://archive.is/1ULxL>

Ellison is closely tied to several Muslim Brotherhood front groups in the U.S., including the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR).²⁵ In a **2010 audio from a private fundraiser obtained by the Investigative Project on Terrorism**, Ellison can be heard lashing out at what he sees as Israel's disproportionate influence in American foreign policy: **"The United States foreign policy in the Middle East is governed by what is good or bad through a country of 7 million people. A region of 350 million all turns on a country of 7 million. Does that make sense? Is that logic? Right? When the Americans who trace their roots back to those 350 million get involved, everything changes. Can I say that again?"**²⁶ [emphasis added].

Anti-Israel Activism on Campus

On its website, J Street U (J Street's student wing) details Israel's responsibilities, but says nothing about the requirement that the Palestinians refrain from violence, terror and incitement: "We recognize that the ongoing occupation and settlement of the Palestinian territories is politically unsustainable and morally untenable. We envision an Israel that respects and guarantees human and civil rights to all its inhabitants...."²⁷

In February 2016, **Northwestern J Street U withdrew its support of a lecture at the school's Hillel by Palestinian activist, Bassem Eid**, founder and director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. After years of working with B'tselem, the Israeli human rights organization, Eid began to research the torture and murder of Palestinians by other Palestinians. **He opposes boycotting Israel** and focuses on wrongdoings of the Palestinian Authority, rather than on Israel.²⁸

In the summer of 2015, J Street U, J Street's campus arm, elected a new president, **Amna Farooqi**, a Pakistani American who claims to be in favor of Zionism.²⁹ However, critics have pointed to her **social media postings as raising questions about her true positions:**³⁰

"In one tweet from last November, Farooqi asked why Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was 'a d***bag,' while in another she wrote that she 'wonder[ed] what Bibi would say if Palestinians applied his logic to their situation,' quoting him saying that

²⁴ "2016 House Endorsees," J Street PAC, <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/page/2016-house-endorsees/>

²⁵ Steve Emerson, "IPT Exclusive: In Private Fundraiser, Ellison Blasted Israeli Influence Over U.S. Policy," *IPT News*, Nov. 29, 2017, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/5708/ipt-exclusive-in-private-fundraiser-ellison#>

²⁶ Steve Emerson, "IPT Exclusive: In Private Fundraiser, Ellison Blasted Israeli Influence Over U.S. Policy," *IPT News*, Nov. 29, 2017, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/5708/ipt-exclusive-in-private-fundraiser-ellison#>

²⁷ J Street U, The student organizing arm of J Street, <http://jstreet.org/j-street-u/>

²⁸ Nathan Guttman, "Palestinian Activist Threatened for Anti-BDS Stance in Chicago," *The Forward*, Feb. 29, 2016, <http://forward.com/news/334381/palestinian-activist-threatened-for-anti-bds-stance-in-chicago/>

²⁹ Jas Chana, Pro-Israel Org. J Street U Elects Muslim-American President, *Tablet Magazine*, Aug. 20, 2015, <http://www.tabletmag.com/scroll/193011/pro-israel-org-j-street-u-elects-muslim-american-president>

³⁰ Sam Sokol, "Ethnicity less important than ideology in debate over new Muslim leader at J Street U," *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 23, 2015, <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Ethnicity-less-important-than-ideology-in-debate-over-new-Muslim-leader-at-J-Street-U-412989>

Iranian ‘aggression’ must be stopped at ‘all costs.’ ‘Bibi prefers war to diplomacy,’ she posted.³¹

Partnerships with Islamist and Anti-Israel Groups

J Street, and its student wing, J Street U, have partnered with leading Islamist and other groups in the U.S. to host conferences and other events that routinely espouse virulently anti-Israel rhetoric.

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)

J Street U **partnered with the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)** to co-sponsor a November 2011 event at George Washington University titled, “Israel and Palestine: What’s Next?”³² SJP members at the event **proposed a one-state solution** to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. “As the name [SJP] suggests, this organization seeks a just solution for the Palestinian people,” a George Washington student said at the event. **“Justice is the goal and a one-state solution is the means;** will be considered to be the best means for achieving the goal.” Another student noted, **“A two-state solution allows Zionism to continue which implicitly means the denial of Palestinian rights, particularly Palestinian refugees.”** An SJP member said, **“These lands were taken by force”** and thus we have the right to say no.”³³ [emphasis added]

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is a radical student organization with chapters on more than 75 campuses across the country.³⁴ Since its inception, SJP chapters have campaigned for divestment³⁵ from Israel, which the organization categorizes as an apartheid state,³⁶ and accuses of ethnic cleansing.³⁷

Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

³¹ Sam Sokol, “Ethnicity less important than ideology in debate over new Muslim leader at J Street U,” *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 23, 2015,

<http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Ethnicity-less-important-than-ideology-in-debate-over-new-Muslim-leader-at-J-Street-U-412989>

³² “SJP’s ‘Dialogue’ Goes Nowhere,” *IPT News*, Nov. 30, 2011, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3313/sjp-dialogue-goes-nowhere>

³³ “SJP’s ‘Dialogue’ Goes Nowhere,” *IPT News*, Nov. 30, 2011, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3313/sjp-dialogue-goes-nowhere>

³⁴ “Emerging Anti-Israel Trends and Tactics on Campus,” Anti-Defamation League, <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/Emerging-Anti-Israel-Trends-and-Tactics-on-Campus.pdf>

³⁵ <http://www.caldivefromapartheid.com/about/>

³⁶ “Student protest Israel with ‘apartheid wall,’” *The Daily Free Press (Boston University)*, March 2, 2011, <http://dailyfreepress.com/2011/03/02/students-protest-israel-with-apartheid-wall/>

³⁷ Jonathan Terhorst, “Israeli, Palestinian Backers Clash During Campus Rally,” *The Daily Californian*, April 10, 2002, <http://archive.dailycal.org/article.php?id=8263>

On Feb. 26, 2017 **Salam Al-Marayati, President of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)** spoke at the J Street's national conference titled, "Combating Islamophobia" in Washington, DC.³⁸

Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) has followed a consistent pattern of defending designated terrorist organizations and their supporters, opposing U.S. counterterrorism efforts, and spouting anti-Semitic rhetoric.³⁹

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)

In February 2011, **J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami** issued a statement in response to threats⁴⁰ against Jewish Voice for Peace activists: **"J Street is deeply disturbed by recent threats against Jewish Voice for Peace activists in California.** As a community, we will certainly have disagreements when it comes to Israel's and America's best interests -- but when those disagreements turn into ad hominem attacks, threats and violence, it is simply unacceptable. We condemn these actions and call for a civil, constructive community conversation over Israel and the difficult issues at hand."⁴¹ [emphasis added]

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a virulently anti-Israel and pro-BDS organization,⁴² considers itself to be the "'Jewish wing' of the Palestinian solidarity movement. In 2010, the ADL called JVP the "largest and most influential Jewish anti-Zionist group in the United States."⁴³

If Not Now

If Not Now is a newly-constituted anti-Israel front group, several of whose activists have former affiliations with J Street U.⁴⁴ The organization describes itself as **"A movement to end the American Jewish community's support for the occupation and gain freedom and dignity for all Israelis and Palestinians."**⁴⁵

³⁸ "Combating Islamophobia," J Street National Conference – DC, Feb. 26, 2107, *MPAC Press Release*, <http://www.mpac.org/events/j-street-national-conference.php>

³⁹ For greater detail, see IPT Investigative Profile and Investigative Report on the Muslim Public Affairs Council, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/181/the-muslim-public-affairs-council-mpac> and <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/358.pdf>

⁴⁰ "Jewish Voices for Peace Chief Threatened Over Pro-Palestinian Campaign," *Ha'aretz*, Feb. 7, 2011, <http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/jewish-voice-for-peace-chief-threatened-over-pro-palestinian-campaign-1.341779>

⁴¹ "Statement on Recent Threats Against JVP Activists," J Street Press Release, Feb. 8, 2011, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/statement-on-recent-threats-against-jvp-activists/#.WLyGIUrJdg>

⁴² Sean Durns, "J Street's Unreported Pro-BDS Partner -- 'Jewish Voice for Peace,'" CAMERA, http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=2&x_outlet=118&x_article=3028

⁴³ ADL backgrounder on Jewish Voices for Peace, <http://www.adl.org/israel-international/anti-israel-activity/c/backgrounder-jewish-voice.html>

⁴⁴ Alex Kane, "The rise of 'If Not Now' and the collapse of the pro-Israel consensus," *Mondoweiss*, Sept. 10, 2014, <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/09/collapse-israel-consensus/>

⁴⁵ "If Not Now Facebook Page," https://www.facebook.com/pg/IfNotNowOrg/about/?ref=page_internal

If Not Now activist **Simone Zimmerman**, a **strong opponent of Israeli policies in the West Bank and Gaza**,⁴⁶ was hired as the Jewish outreach coordinator for U.S. presidential candidate **Bernie Sanders** but was **subsequently fired after she used profanities in her Facebook posts on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hillary Clinton**.⁴⁷

Arab American Institute (AAI)

In March 2012, the Arab American Institute (AAI), J Street and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace hosted a panel on Capitol Hill "to discuss revitalizing American political efforts in favor of the stalled Arab Peace Initiative as an attainable path to Israeli-Palestine peace."⁴⁸

Panelists include Marwan Muasher, Vice President for Studies - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace & Former Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; **Jeremy Ben-Ami**, the president of the group J Street; Yuval Rabin, Co-Author *or the Israeli Peace Initiative* & son of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Tom Friedman, Columnist *for The New York Times*; and AAI president **James Zogby**.⁴⁹

AAI routinely takes anti-Israel positions. The organization, for example, was a co-signatory to a May 2004 press statement with leading Islamist and anti-Israeli groups, including the **Council on American Islamic Relations**,⁵⁰ **MPAC**, and **American Task Force for Palestine**.⁵¹ The statement titled, "Joint Muslims/Arab-American Statement on Israeli Violence in Gaza," "strongly condemn[ed]" Israel's "indiscriminate killings of innocent Palestinians, including many children," and its "demolition of Palestinian homes."⁵²

⁴⁶ Uriel Heilman, "Meet the Outspoken Critic of Israel Who Is Bernie Sanders' New Jewish Outreach Director," *Jerusalem Post*, April 13, 2016, <http://www.jpost.com/US-Elections/Meet-the-outspoken-critic-of-Israel-who-is-Bernie-Sanders-new-Jewish-outreach-director-451056>

⁴⁷ Jason Horowitz, "Bernie Sanders Campaign Suspends Jewish Outreach Coordinator for Vulgar Remarks About Netanyahu," *New York Times*, April 14, 2016, https://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2016/04/14/bernie-sanders-suspends-jewish-outreach-coordinator-after-reports-of-her-criticisms-of-israel/?_r=0

⁴⁸ "10 Years Later: The Arab Peace Initiative as a Framework or Solving the Palestinian-Israel Conflict," Capitol Hill, March 27, 2012, <http://cdn.livestream.com/embed/aaiusa?layout=4&height=340&width=560&autoplay=false>

⁴⁹ "10 Years Later: The Arab Peace Initiative as a Framework or Solving the Palestinian-Israel Conflict," Capitol Hill, March 27, 2012, <http://cdn.livestream.com/embed/aaiusa?layout=4&height=340&width=560&autoplay=false>

⁵⁰ IPT Profile on CAIR, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/122.pdf> and <http://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/172/the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-cair>

⁵¹ "Joint Muslims/Arab-American Statement on Israeli Violence in Gaza," Press statement issued by American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee, American Muslims for Jerusalem, American Task Force for Lebanon, American Task Force on Palestine, Arab American Institute, Arab American Institute, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Muslim Public Affairs Council, May 20, 2004,

<http://web.archive.org/web/20040905092746/http://www.amjerusalem.org/press/pr-2004-5-20.htm>

⁵² "Joint Muslims/Arab-American Statement on Israeli Violence in Gaza," Press statement issued by American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee, American Muslims for Jerusalem, American Task Force for Lebanon, American Task Force on Palestine, Arab American Institute, Arab American Institute, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Muslim Public Affairs Council, May 20, 2004,

<http://web.archive.org/web/20040905092746/http://www.amjerusalem.org/press/pr-2004-5-20.htm>

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

J Street sided with the extreme left Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) when it issued a strong attack on Israel's Ambassador Ron Dermer⁵³ for accepting an award from the Center for Security Policy (CSP), run by Frank Gaffney, whom the SPLC has designated a "notorious anti-Muslim extremist."⁵⁴

"SPLC had urged Dermer to decline the award, suggesting his acceptance 'not only further legitimizes this organization [CSP], but could be read as an **endorsement of anti-Muslim hate by the Israeli government.**'"⁵⁵[emphasis added]

In a press release J Street stated it was "**outraged** by Israeli Ambassador to the US' Ron Dermer's full-throated defense of CSP, **an Islamophobic hate group**, and by his attack SPLC, a venerable and important anti-bigotry watchdog that has stood against discrimination, racism and anti-Semitism for decades.... By celebrating and defending their work, the **Ambassador has acted in complete opposition to the core values and beliefs of our community.**"⁵⁶

SPLC, once respected for its historical work fighting poverty, discrimination and the death penalty in the United States,⁵⁷ has expanded its focus to counter what it calls, "anti-Muslim extremism."⁵⁸ A recent SPLC online publication, "A Journalist's Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists,"⁵⁹ has been criticized for its demonization of anti-Islamist activists.⁶⁰

J Street's Donors

⁵³ "Ambassador Dermer's Defense of Bigots and Attack on SPLC Are Outrageous," J Street Press Release, Dec. 15, 2016, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/ambassador-dermers-defense-bigots-attack-splc-outrageous/#.WL1nz1UrJdg>

⁵⁴ "Meet Frank Gaffney, Donald Trump's Expert on Muslim Conspiracies," Southern Poverty Law Center Hatewatch, Dec. 8, 2015, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2015/12/08/meet-frank-gaffney-donald-trump%E2%80%99s-expert-muslim-conspiracies>

⁵⁵ "Israeli envoy slams US civil rights group for attacking anti-Islamist activists," JTA, Dec. 14, 2016 <http://www.jta.org/2016/12/14/news-opinion/united-states/israeli-ambassador-attacks-us-civil-rights-group-in-speech-to-right-wing-think-tank>

⁵⁶ "Ambassador Dermer's Defense of Bigots and Attack on SPLC Are Outrageous," J Street Press Release, Dec. 15, 2016, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/ambassador-dermers-defense-bigots-attack-splc-outrageous/#.WL1nz1UrJdg>

⁵⁷ Southern Poverty Law Center, About Us: Our History, <https://www.splcenter.org/our-history>

⁵⁸ Executive Summary, "A Journalist's Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists," Southern Poverty Law Center, Oct. 25, 2016, <https://www.splcenter.org/20161025/journalists-manual-field-guide-anti-muslim-extremists>

⁵⁹ "A Journalist's Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists," Southern Poverty Law Center, Oct. 25, 2016, <https://www.splcenter.org/20161025/journalists-manual-field-guide-anti-muslim-extremists>

⁶⁰ See, e.g., Editorial Board, "Everyone Who Disagrees with the SPLC Is Hitler," *National Review*, Nov. 1, 2016, <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/441671/splc-anti-muslim-extremists-list-scholars-reformist-muslims-hirsi-ali-daniel-pipes>; Lucy Pasha Robinson, "American civil rights group brands atheist writers and UK government anti-terror adviser 'anti-Muslim extremists,'" *The Independent* (UK), Nov. 2, 2016, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/atheists-anti-muslim-extremists-civil-rights-advocacy-group-a7392771.html>; MEF Presents 15 "Useful Infidels" Who Enable Islamists, Middle East Forum, Dec. 27, 2016, <http://www.meforum.org/6450/mef-presents-15-useful-infidels-who-enable>

J Street's political action committee (JStreetPAC) has **received contributions from dozens of Arab and Muslim Americans, as well as from other individuals who engage in anti-Israel rhetoric or are affiliated with organizations that advocate on Palestinian and Iranian issues.** When initially asked about these donations, J Street's Ben-Ami denied they occurred or minimized the number of contributors.⁶¹

These donations raise major questions as to the possible impact they have had on J Street's positions on substantive issues.⁶² It has been reported that **anti-Israel career U.S. Arabists** not only contribute to J Street's PAC, but also sit on its advisory board.⁶³ Donors also include **liberal, anti-Israel financier George Soros**, board members of the **National Iranian American Council (NIAC)**, a pro-Iran lobby group, in Washington, DC,⁶⁴ and the often **anti-Israel Human Rights Watch**. Individuals who have made smaller donations to J Street "include several leaders of Muslim student groups, Saudi- and Iranian-born Americans, and Palestinian- and Arab-American businessmen who also give to Arab-oriented PACs."⁶⁵

J Street's Organizational Structure

J Street, a 501(c)(4) non-profit, and its political action committee, **JStreetPAC**,⁶⁶ were founded in April 2008. The **J Street Education Fund**, created in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. As part of the latter entity, **J Street U** was created to set up chapters on college campuses throughout the United States.⁶⁷

⁶¹ Hilary Leila Krieger, "Muslims, Arabs Among J Street Donors; At least 2 State Department officials also on list, says federal c'tee," *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 14, 2009, <http://www.jpost.com/International/Muslims-Arabs-among-J-Street-donors>; Eli Lake, "Soros revealed as funder of liberal Jewish-American lobby," *Washington Times*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/24/soros-funder-liberal-jewish-american-lobby/?page=all>; Michael Goldfarb, "J Street Exposed," *Weekly Standard*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.weeklystandard.com/j-street-exposed/article/496297>

⁶² The voluminous 2016 JStreetPAC Federal Election Commission report contains recent evidence of who has contributed to the PAC. See, e.g., Federal Election Commission (FEC) FORM 3X: Report for Receipts and Disbursements," filed by J StreetPAC, Oct. 20, 2016, <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/657/201610259034569657/201610259034569657.pdf>

⁶³ "These include Ray Close, contributor to the J Street. [sic] former CIA station chief in Saudi Arabia and then advisor to the head of Saudi intelligence; Lewis Elbinger, contributor to the J Street PAC a State Department foreign service officer who had been stationed in Saudi Arabia but now serves as deputy political advisor seconded to Gen. David Petraeus at CENTCOM; Nicole Shampaine, contributor to J street PAC [former] director of the State Department's Office for Egypt and the Levant; Amb. Ted Kattouf, members of the J Street Advisory Board, former ambassador to Syria and the United Arab Emirates; Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, member of the J Street Advisory Board. former ambassador to Egypt, Tunisia and Bahrain; and Ambassador Philip Wilcox, member of the J Street Advisory Board, former U.S. consul general in Jerusalem and president of the Foundation for Middle East Peace." David Bedein, "Op-Ed: J Street is Anti-Israel, not Pro-Peace," *Israel National News*, May 3, 2011, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/143869>

⁶⁴ Alex Shirazi, "The Shady Family Behind America's Iran Lobby," *The Daily Beast*, Sept. 15, 2015, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/09/15/the-shady-family-behind-america-s-iran-lobby.html>

⁶⁵ Hilary Leila Krieger, "Muslims, Arabs among J Street Donors," *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 14, 2009, <http://www.jpost.com/International/Muslims-Arabs-among-J-Street-donors>

⁶⁶ JStreetPAC, "About Us," <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/about-us/>

⁶⁷ The current list of chapters is posted at <http://www.jstreetu.org/about/who-we-are> Note that the mission statement expresses only Israel's responsibilities: "We recognize that the ongoing occupation and settlement of the Palestinian

J Street states that as a 501(c)(4) entity, it “primarily focuses on nonpartisan education and advocacy on important national issues.”⁶⁸

JStreetPAC describes itself as “the first-ever federal political action committee (PAC) to explicitly promote American leadership to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The PAC’s goal is to demonstrate the depth and breadth of political support that exists for candidates who speak out in favor of a diplomacy-first approach to advancing US interests in the Middle East and promoting peace and security for Israel.”⁶⁹

J Street’s founder and executive director, Jeremy Ben-Ami, worked for the Clinton-Gore and Howard Dean campaigns, was the Communications Director for the New Israel Fund, and was a senior vice president for Fenton Communications from 2004 until 2008 when he left to launch J Street.⁷⁰

Fenton Communications is described as “[o]ne of the first agencies devoted to handling communications efforts for causes, nonprofit organizations, charities, foundations and activists seeking social change.”⁷¹ Its clients have included⁷² Human Rights Watch, MoveOn.org, the Ploughshares Fund, the Qatar Foundation,⁷³ and “Al Fakhoora,”⁷⁴ a Qatar-based pro-Palestinian initiative that participated in the illegal flotilla to Gaza in 2010 and urged action against Israel.⁷⁵ Fenton spearheaded a campaign, One Nation, “to combat negative stereotypes [about Muslims], created an online resource for journalists seeking story ideas and ran a media ‘war room’ to react swiftly to breaking news about the American Muslim community.”⁷⁶ The

territories is politically unsustainable and morally untenable. We envision an Israel that respects and guarantees human and civil rights to all its inhabitants, an Israel that lives at peace with its neighbors along internationally recognized borders, an Israel that reflects the promise of its founding declaration — to be a country ‘based on the precepts of liberty, justice and peace.’”

⁶⁸ JStreetPAC, “About Us,” <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/about-us/>

⁶⁹ JStreetPAC, “About Us,” <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/about-us/>

⁷⁰ Jeremy Ben-Ami, LinkedIn profile, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeremy-ben-ami-9b0a763>

⁷¹ Stuart Elliott, “New Owners for an Agency That Markets for a Cause,” *New York Times*, Dec. 16, 2014, http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/17/business/media/new-owners-for-an-agency-that-markets-for-a-cause.html?_r=0

⁷² <http://www.fenton.com/clients/>

⁷³ Jaimy Lee, “Fenton providing comms support in Qatar,” *PR Week*, Oct. 7, 2009, <http://www.prweek.com/article/1269969/fenton-providing-comms-support-qatar>

⁷⁴ <http://www.fara.gov/docs/5945-Exhibit-AB-20100610-6.pdf>. Fenton Communications reportedly did not renew its contract with Al Fakhoora when it expired in August 2010. Ellen Tumposky, “Obama link firm drops anti-Israel campaign,” *Jewish Chronicle* (UK), July 15, 2010, <https://www.thejc.com/news/world/obama-link-firm-drops-anti-israel-campaign-1.16877>

⁷⁵ Kenneth Timmerman, “The MoveOn/Hamas Nexus,” Powerline Blog, June 19, 2010, <http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2010/06/026566.php>

⁷⁶ <http://www.fenton.com/works/one-nation-changing-perceptions-of-muslims-in-america/> and <http://web.archive.org/web/20160324140521/http://www.fenton.com/works/one-nation-changing-perceptions-of-muslims-in-america/>. See also <http://web.archive.org/web/20091027134315/http://www.onenationforall.org/Site-Credits.html>

“recommended experts” for the One Nation program included American Islamist individuals and organizations, as well as apologists for radical Islam.⁷⁷

J Street on Israel and the Palestinian Conflict

Despite its claim to be “pro-Israel,” many of J Street’s actions and words suggest that the organization’s professed “love” for Israel is conditional upon whether Israel’s government takes its advice for how the country should conduct itself.

J Street defines “pro-Israel” as “...support[ing] Israel’s right to exist, the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination in that state and the right of that state to defend itself.”⁷⁸ However, in practice, J Street sides with the Palestinian narrative most consistently, and substitutes the organization’s judgment for that of Israelis and their government, even regarding national security. It is ironic that J Street claims to be “Pro-Israel, Pro-Peace and Pro-Democracy,” but it usually does not respect the decisions by Israeli voters when they choose a government that does not comport with J Street’s “progressive” ideals. **J Street’s Ben-Ami, highly critical of the Israeli government, substitutes his opinion for that of the Israeli voters:**

“But the truth is that we are really talking about an administration led by people who care about Israel, an administration which really and truly has Israel’s interest at heart. But [the Obama] administration does not see Israel’s best interest as the **Netanyahu government’s policy—the continuation of the occupation and controlling another people, turning Israel into a country which practices a different system of rights for**

⁷⁷ The list of groups, found at http://web.archive.org/web/20080925110537/http://www.onenationforall.org/component/option.com_weblinks/catid,16/Itemid,41/, and https://web.archive.org/web/20070905001819/http://www.onenationforall.org/component/option.com_weblinks/catid,17/Itemid,42/, includes the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR); Islamic Society of North America (ISNA); Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), Muslim Advocates, and Zaytuna Institute. Recommended individual experts include Farhana Khera, Muslim Advocates Executive Director, https://web.archive.org/web/20071107173811/http://onenationforall.org/component/option.com_deeppockets/task_catShow/id,4/Itemid,90/; Dalia Mogahed, <http://archive.is/qqYz3>; John Esposito, https://web.archive.org/web/20071107180037/http://onenationforall.org/component/option.com_deeppockets/task_catShow/id,7/Itemid,93/; Salam Al-Marayati, MPAC Executive Director, <http://web.archive.org/web/20090411235808/http://www.onenationforall.org/content/view/157>; Muqtadar Khan, University of Delaware, <https://web.archive.org/web/20090412140521/http://www.onenationforall.org/content/view/336/105/>; Imam Johari Abdul Malik, Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center, <http://web.archive.org/web/20090411235818/http://www.onenationforall.org/content/view/288>; Imam Sayid Hassan Al-Qazwini, Dearborn’s Islamic Center of America, <http://web.archive.org/web/20090412065847/http://www.onenationforall.org/content/view/214/>; Aminah Beverly McCloud, De Paul University faculty, Director, Islamic World Studies Program, <http://web.archive.org/web/20090412065853/http://www.onenationforall.org/content/view/95/105/>.

⁷⁸ “Setting the Record Straight: Pro-Israel,” J Street Blog, May 13, 2014, http://web.archive.org/web/20160706202406/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight_2 [in response to film by Charles Jacobs et al., “The J Street Challenge.”] The film may be viewed for free at <http://thejstreetchallenge.com/watch-online-for-free/>

different people, a country which invests huge sums in sustaining isolated settlements in the heart of a Palestinian population.⁷⁹ [emphasis added]

To understand what J Street's position is, one must not only review its officials' comments and actions, but also must note what those comments omit. Often, many of their statements appear to take Israel's side, but are conditional, and followed by "but," or "however," thereby limiting or qualifying that agreement. Here are some examples:

J Street disproportionately blames Israel for the absence of peace and for the campaign of terror attacks; the organization often ignores documented public incitement by Palestinian leadership and consistently criticizes Israel's security actions.

As recently as February 2017, Ben-Ami blames Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, alone, for "missed opportunities to end Israel's conflict with neighbors."⁸⁰

J Street always describes the situation between the two sides as **morally equivalent**:

"So let me be clear: the Palestinians are not blameless victims without responsibility for the present situation. We condemn the use of terror and violence by Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other groups against Israeli civilians. We recognize the innumerable opportunities for peace that Palestinian and Arab leaders have missed over the decades. We denounce those in Palestinian society who deny the legitimacy of the national right of the Jewish people to a state in the land of Israel. We cannot countenance the Holocaust denial and incitement to hatred that is too prevalent in Palestinian society. **But a focus in Israel advocacy simply on pointing fingers at the other side runs against a quintessential characteristic of Zionism from its earliest days: the need for the Jewish people to control their own destiny and not depend on others for our rights and freedom.**"⁸¹ [emphasis added]

While J Street purports to "support efforts to hold the Palestinians to their commitments to prevent terror and violence that target Israel and its citizens,"⁸² the **organization says little about incitement** beyond a generic statement, "We believe that President Obama and Members of Congress are correct to—as J Street itself does— call on the Palestinians to fully comply with their obligations to crack down on violence and incitement."⁸³

Even when it expresses sympathy for the victims of a terror attack, **J Street omits clear and unequivocal language about Palestinian incitement**, instead, the organization **often associates**

⁷⁹ Jeremy Ben-Ami, "Obama's policy bolsters Israel," *Ynetnews*, Sept. 11, 2016, <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4876037,00.html>

⁸⁰ Tweet by Jeremy Ben-Ami, Feb. 19, 2017, <https://twitter.com/JeremyBenAmi/status/833315902594674689>. See also Tweet by Jeremy Ben-Ami, "So much for those who say block to peace is Arab unwillingness. Kerry offered Netanyahu regional peace plan in 2016." Feb. 18, 2017, <https://twitter.com/JeremyBenAmi/status/833148850366009344>

⁸¹ "Setting the Record Straight: The Bottom Line," J Street Blog, May 13, 2014, http://web.archive.org/web/20160706202406/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight_2

⁸² J Street Policy: Security, http://jstreet.org/policy/security/#.WL1_HVUrJdg

⁸³ J Street Policy: Security, http://jstreet.org/policy/security/#.WL1_HVUrJdg

the attack with Palestinian “frustration” about “the occupation,” subtly excusing the attack if it occurs in settlement areas.

The following **J Street press releases** illustrate this point:

- (1) “J Street unequivocally condemns the latest deadly attack in Jerusalem against Israelis in which 19-year-old border policewoman Hadar Cohen was killed and two other Israelis wounded... Also deeply concerning was an attack on February 1 by a Palestinian Authority staff sergeant who opened fire on and wounded three Israeli soldiers at a West Bank checkpoint... [T]hough we can understand the frustration of young Palestinians at the conditions of their lives and the lack of apparent hope, there is no justification for terrorism and violence...”⁸⁴ [emphasis added]
- (2) “...These are sadly just the latest examples of the senseless and horrific violence that Israeli civilians have faced over the past several months. Attacking a pregnant woman and a mother in front of three of her children can inspire nothing but revulsion. These attacks lead nowhere but further down the road of suffering and fear. All parties must condemn them unequivocally and do everything they can to bring them to an end.”⁸⁵ [emphasis added]
- (3) “J Street is outraged by terror attacks against Israel over the last twenty-four hours. This morning, five civilians were wounded in a shooting and stabbing attack near an outdoor market in Petah Tikva. The assailant fired indiscriminately at a passing bus before stabbing a passerby... We are also disturbed by the rocket attacks launched overnight from the Sinai. Iron Dome successfully intercepted three rockets, and a fourth thankfully fell in an open area. These attacks once again remind us of the threats faced by Israel on a regular basis...”⁸⁶ [emphasis added; no condemnation of vicious Palestinian incitement]
- (4) “We were devastated to wake up to the news today that one of the deadliest attacks in recent months occurred today in Jerusalem, in which 4 people thus far have been reported dead and 15 others injured. We condemn this terrorist attack in which a truck driven by a man from East Jerusalem rammed into a crowd of officer cadets on a public promenade at a high rate of speed, and then backed up to maximize casualties...”⁸⁷ [emphasis added; no mention attacker was Palestinian; no mention of ongoing incitement]
- (5) “J Street condemns the shooting attack by a Palestinian citizen of Israel which killed two people and wounded seven others in Tel Aviv on Friday. We are horrified at this latest example of senseless and murderous violence against Israeli civilians, which continues to achieve nothing but the further increase of hatred, fear and grief. Our hearts go out to all of the victims and their

⁸⁴ “J Street Condemns Latest Attacks on Israelis,” J Street Blog, Feb. 3, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20160206022355/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/j-street--condemns-latest-attacks-on-israelis-1>

⁸⁵ J Street equates the actions of both sides. “J Street Condemns Horrific West Bank Stabbing Attacks,” J Street Blog, Jan. 18, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20160121164313/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/j-street-condemns-horrific-west-bank-stabbing-attacks-1>

⁸⁶ “J Street Condemns Terror Against Israelis, Affirms Importance of Iron Dome,” J Street Press Release, Feb. 9, 2017, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/j-street-condemns-terror-israelis-affirms-importance-iron-dome/#.WL1fjVUrJdg>

⁸⁷ “J Street Condemns Jerusalem Truck Attack, Mourns the Victims,” J Street Press Release, Jan. 8, 2017, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/j-street-condemns-jerusalem-truck-attack-mourns-victims/#.WL1khFUrJdg>

families, and we hope for the swift recovery of the injured.”⁸⁸ [no condemnation of vicious Palestinian incitement]

Likewise, even when Israel acts to improve its security, J Street places all the responsibility on Israel to decrease Palestinian extremism and improve the Palestinians’ “humanitarian crisis in Gaza,” as if the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have no role to play.

For example, in a 2015 press release criticizing Israel for its proposed action against the families of terrorists, once again J Street makes **no mention of the constant drumbeat of Palestinian incitement**⁸⁹ to commit violence against Israelis:

“We are deeply concerned by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s stated intention to expel the families of West Bank Palestinians who have attacked Israelis to the Gaza Strip. If carried out, such moves would be a clear and **outrageous example of collective punishment**... Like home demolitions of the families of Palestinian terrorists ... such acts of retribution fuel further despair and extremism... Expelling people to Gaza expressly as a form of punishment feeds the perception that Israeli policy toward Gaza constitutes collective punishment and that some in the Israeli government regard the Strip as little more than an open-air prison. **The Israeli government should be giving its attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and aiming to reduce the threat from Hamas extremism** -- not deporting even more people there in a misguided attempt to address security concerns in the West Bank.”⁹⁰ [emphasis added]

In an August 2014 column published during Operation Protective Edge -- fought to stop rocket fire from Gaza⁹¹ -- **Ben-Ami** purports to agree that Israel has the right to defend itself, but quickly **places the onus for violence on Israel**, and implicitly **suggests Israel make a deal with Hamas**:

“Of course, Israel has the right to respond to threats to its civilians from rockets, terror and tunnels with **force proportionate to the threats** it faces. Equally clearly, Hamas, its ideology and its use of terror to achieve its aims, are disgusting and reprehensible. **However**, after six weeks of violence, with 2,000 dead, 10,000 injured, 100,000

⁸⁸ “J Street condemns Tel Aviv shooting attack, concerned by ongoing threat to civilians,” J Street Blog, Jan. 4, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20160408082920/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/j-street-condemns-tel-aviv-shooting-attack-concerned-by-ongoing-threat-to-civilians-1>

⁸⁹ For examples of incitement by Palestinian leadership, see Itamar Marcus & Nan Jacques Zilberdik, “Abbas: We won’t allow Jews’ ‘filthy feet,’” Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, Sept. 17, 2015, http://www.palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=157&doc_id=15714; “Fatah official: ‘The peaceful popular uprising (i.e., terror wave) must be escalated,’” Donia Al-Watan (independent Palestinian news agency), Feb. 22, 2016, http://www.palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=471&doc_id=17387

⁹⁰ “J Street Condemns Proposed Expulsion of Palestinian Terrorists’ Families to Gaza,” J Street Blog, March 2, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20160305101056/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/j-street-condemns-proposed-expulsion-of-palestinian-terrorists-families-to-gaza-1>

⁹¹ “During Operation Protective Edge (July 8 – Aug. 25, 2014), 3,852 rockets hits were identified in Israel.” Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Rocket fire from Gaza and Palestinian ceasefire violations after Operation Cast Lead (Jan 2009),” last updated Feb. 23, 2016, [http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Palestinian ceasefire violations since end Operation Cast Lead.aspx](http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Palestinian%20ceasefire%20violations%20since%20end%20Operation%20Cast%20Lead.aspx)

homeless and incalculable devastation in Gaza, **it should be clear to Israel simply returning fire without a broader political strategy is a formula for deepening not ending the conflict...** Political leadership at this challenging moment requires more than responding to rockets with force – it requires proposing viable political solutions that can be accepted by Palestinian moderates, neighboring countries and the international community. **It is time for the government of Israel to put forward** a bold, comprehensive proposal for resolving the conflict and to propose a ceasefire while this is negotiated... It would also include recognition of the present Palestinian Authority under the leadership of President Mahmoud Abbas – as established following **the reconciliation agreement among the various Palestinian parties** in April – as the legitimate government of the entirety of Palestinian territory.”⁹² [emphasis added; burden is on Israel alone]

This is not a new position by Ben-Ami and J Street:

“There has to be a channel of dialogue with Hamas. 67% of Israelis want Israel to be negotiating with Hamas. It’s a consistent figure. There are 3rd party intermediaries that can be talking to Hamas. I don’t think that the answer is for us to be lobbying Congress that the US talk to Hamas. Hamas and Fatah need to reconcile. There needs to be a unified Palestinian negotiating position, a negotiating body. Otherwise, who is Israel speaking to?”⁹³ [emphasis added]

And, when asked whether Israel should be negotiating with Hamas, Ben-Ami stated:

“That's up to Israel to decide. The one thing I feel very strongly about is that we should not, as a Jewish community or as a U.S. government, prevent Israel from negotiating with Hamas. And in fact, if there is a Palestinian unity government, and you keep hearing rumblings about this, that we shouldn't prevent the Israelis from dealing with a unity government that brings the Palestinians back together, **because if we're really going to have peace, there has to be unification.**”⁹⁴ [emphasis added]

And even when Israel defends itself, Ben-Ami and J Street criticize its methods:

“We support the Israeli Defense Forces when it acts, as it must, to defend Israeli communities surrounding Gaza from the threat of rocket attacks, and we condemn those rocket attacks unequivocally. **We question, however, the purpose of the ongoing Israeli blockade of Gaza. It is both morally wrong and militarily ineffective.** The blockade does little to prevent rockets and other weapons from making their way to

⁹² Jeremy Ben-Ami, “We need a re-think of Gaza,” *The Hill*, Aug. 22, 2014, <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/215698-we-need-a-re-think-of-gaza>. The cited “reconciliation agreement among the various Palestinian parties” includes Hamas.

⁹³ Event titled, “From Washington to Jerusalem: How Can Jewish and Muslim Americans Bring Peace to the Middle East?” Georgetown University, April 14, 2010.

⁹⁴ Jeffrey Goldberg, “J Street's Ben-Ami On Zionism and Military Aid to Israel,” *The Atlantic*, Oct. 23, 2009, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2009/10/j-streets-ben-ami-on-zionism-and-military-aid-to-israel/28935/>

Gaza, while imposing what amounts to collective punishment on the entire civilian population.⁹⁵ [emphasis added]

Similarly, a February 2016 blog post by a J Street Mikva Fellow,⁹⁶ excerpts with approval a *New Yorker* article critical **of the amount of money Israel spends to guard against Hamas tunnels** as excessive, noting, “the building cost of *an entire tunnel* by Hamas is estimated to be no more than a hundred and twenty thousand dollars.”⁹⁷ [emphasis in original].

Compare **the tone of these J Street writings, listed above**, directed to Israel, with that of a press release “in response to President Abbas’ speech,” below, and note the absence of outrage over Abbas’ comments:

“It was **deeply irresponsible** of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to **falsely claim** that 13-year old Palestinian Ahmad Manasrah—who had stabbed Israeli civilians in Jerusalem—had been “executed,” when he was, in fact, alive and being treated in an Israeli hospital. We reiterate our call on President Abbas—as we have on leaders of both sides—to take all necessary steps to de-escalate tension and to curtail terror and other violence.”⁹⁸ [emphasis added]

Despite Palestinian incitement and violence, J Street blames Israel at least equally. At worst, J Street is merely “disappointed” in Palestinian leadership.

In a blog post after the ambush and murder of an Israeli couple in front of their four children, and the stabbings of two others in the Old City of Jerusalem, J Street wrote:

“At this time when leaders on both sides are called upon to act responsibly to restrain violence and calm the situation, we are **deeply disturbed** that **both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are stoking tensions** by playing to their own political bases and blaming the other side. The result has been, and will be, more violence and perhaps even the eruption of a third Intifada – with catastrophic consequences for civilians on both sides. Indeed, even **today we have seen two Palestinian teenagers killed in clashes** with Israeli security forces and hundreds have been wounded including at least 36 hit by live ammunition fired by IDF

⁹⁵ “J Street statement on Israel-Hamas ceasefire,” Dec. 18, 2008, http://jstreet.org/press-releases/j-street-statement-on-israel-hamas-ceasefire/#.WL8wI_Jq04M

⁹⁶ “The [J Street] Mikva Family Fellowship is a unique one-year opportunity for a highly-qualified recent college graduate to gain in-depth experience in political organizing, legislative and policy developments in Congress, community organizing, and advocacy work around US efforts to help secure a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.” The J Street Mikva Family Fellowship, <http://web.archive.org/web/20160304095203/http://jstreet.org/mikva> .

⁹⁷ Benjy Cannon, “Don’t Forget About Gaza,” J Street Blog, February 29, 2016, http://jstreet.org/blog-dont-forget-about-gaza_1/#.WLyPxFURJdg, quoting Ruth Margalit, “The Tunnels of Gaza’s Next War,” *The New Yorker*, February 27, 2016, <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-tunnels-under-gaza> .

⁹⁸ “J Street Responds to President Abbas’ Speech,” J Street Blog, Oct. 15, 2015, http://web.archive.org/web/20160321071546/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/j-street-responds-to-president-abbas-speech_1

forces trying to restore order. We are deeply **disappointed** with the stance taken by the Palestinian leadership. Abbas and his fellow leaders have been slow to condemn the murders of civilians and have even, in some cases, **appeared** to justify them....

Netanyahu's response, including hurling accusations at Abbas, threatening an "all-out war" to quell the violence, vowing to speed up **collective punishments like the demolition of the homes of accused terrorists without due process** and increased administrative detentions and banning Palestinians from the Old City of Jerusalem, **will not solve the crisis and will likely make it worse...**⁹⁹ [emphasis added; Netanyahu's behavior is worse than Abbas', according to J Street]

Early in its existence, **J Street was accused of supporting the notorious UN Goldstone Report**¹⁰⁰ which inaccurately and falsely indicted the IDF for committing "war crimes" in the 2009 Gaza War. Furthermore, it was reported that J Street attempted to facilitate Judge Goldstone's meeting with members of the US Congress.¹⁰¹ In minimizing the organization's involvement, Ben-Ami stated that "his staff had made 'two or three' such phone calls to US politicians and relayed their response onward. However... his organization decided not to become involved because of Israel's attitude toward Goldstone."¹⁰²

Opposition to David Friedman, nominee for ambassador to Israel

In a December 2016 op-ed in the *Washington Post*, Jeremy Ben-Ami argued that **David Friedman, President Donald Trump's nominee for ambassador to Israel, was "unfit to serve"** in that position. He criticized Friedman's idea that the two-state solution is an "illusion," and instead argued that **"a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an existential necessity if Israel is to remain a Jewish homeland and the expansion of West Bank settlements risks Israel's security and its democratic character."**¹⁰³ [emphasis added] Ben-Ami also criticized Friedman alleging "[h]e has **actively worked to prevent the creation of a Palestinian state on the West Bank** as president of an American nonprofit that raises money, with U.S. taxpayer support, to expand the West Bank settlement enterprise."¹⁰⁴ [emphasis added]

In his questioning of Mr. Friedman during his confirmation hearing, Sen. Marco Rubio stated:

⁹⁹ "J Street Condemns Murders, Appeals for Responsible Leadership," J Street Blog, Oct. 5, 2015, http://web.archive.org/web/20160323071409/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/j-street-condemns-murders-appeals-for-responsible-leadership_1

¹⁰⁰ Gil Shefler, "J Street under fire after attempting to aid Goldstone," *Jerusalem Post*, Oct. 3, 2010, <http://www.jpost.com/International/J-Street-under-fire-after-attempting-to-aid-Goldstone>

¹⁰¹ Eli Lake & Ben Birnbaum, "Israel lobby aided Hill visits for U.N. report author," *Washington Times*, Sept. 29, 2010, <http://archive.is/r4Beo>

¹⁰² Gil Shefler, "J Street under fire after attempting to aid Goldstone," *Jerusalem Post*, Oct. 3, 2010, <http://www.jpost.com/International/J-Street-under-fire-after-attempting-to-aid-Goldstone>

¹⁰³ Jeremy Ben-Ami, "Trump's nominee for ambassador to Israel is unfit to serve," *Washington Post*, Dec. 19, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/trumps-nominee-for-ambassador-to-israel-is-unfit-to-serve/2016/12/19/5b6ffa08-c543-11e6-bf4b-2c064d32a4bf_story.html?utm_term=.6b629e8c2076

¹⁰⁴ Jeremy Ben-Ami, "Trump's nominee for ambassador to Israel is unfit to serve," *Washington Post*, Dec. 19, 2016, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/trumps-nominee-for-ambassador-to-israel-is-unfit-to-serve/2016/12/19/5b6ffa08-c543-11e6-bf4b-2c064d32a4bf_story.html?utm_term=.6b629e8c2076

“Let me begin by saying I find this whole process to be unreal. This sort of ordeal you're being put through to account for all the words, in particular given some of the groups that have been ratcheting all this up. This group J Street, that, for example, a few years ago **invited the chief Palestinian negotiator Erekat** to address their conference, **a person who has justified the murder of Jews as self-defense**, as a person as they invited to speak at the conference.”¹⁰⁵

In response, Ben-Ami facetiously invited the senator to J Street's 2017 conference: "Note to @marcorubio. If you want to hear from Saeb Erekat, you can hear him at the J Street conference again this year."¹⁰⁶ PLO negotiator Saeb Erekat reportedly has supported terror attacks by organizations and "lone wolf" terrorists.¹⁰⁷

J Street efforts to hurt Israeli settlements

In a December 2016 article, Joel Pollack, Senior Editor-at-Large at *Breitbart*, accused J Street's Jeremy Ben-Ami and his organization of **"pressuring the U.S. Treasury to investigate Jewish charities — and only Jewish charities — whose beneficiaries may have included Jews living across the 1949 armistice line, i.e. in East Jerusalem or the West Bank."** "J Street's crusade against Jewish charities was part of the Democratic push that seems to have triggered the IRS scandal, which targeted, among other organizations, a group called Z Street that was set up to offer an alternative to J Street."¹⁰⁸

In contrast to J Street's purported anti-boycott policy, **Ben-Ami appeared to suggest imposing a boycott on charity funds** going to recipients beyond the "Green Line." He reportedly stated in his address to the attendees at the 5th J Street conference in March 2015, "'We plan to challenge Jewish communal institutions to **remember the physical and symbolic significance of the 'Green Line.'**... Do the Jewish institutions that you give money to, does your money stay within the Green Line?' he asked. He also **encouraged the activists, including more than 1,000 students, to replace maps of Israel in Jewish institutions with maps that clearly delineate the West Bank.**"¹⁰⁹[emphasis added]

J Street leaders claim they want to provide an airing of all views, as part of their "big tent," however, their actions say otherwise. Most of the speakers at J Street events are highly critical of Israel and its policies.

¹⁰⁵ Transcript, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Full committee hearing to consider the nomination of David Friedman to be U.S. ambassador to Israel, Feb. 16, 2017.

¹⁰⁶ Tweet by Jeremy Ben-Ami, Feb. 16, 2017, <https://twitter.com/JeremyBenAmi/status/832279505045684224>

¹⁰⁷ Refael Levi, Israel National News, June 25, 2015, "Erekat: PA Should Promote 'National Struggle' of Terrorism," <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/197259>

¹⁰⁸ "Joel B. Pollack, "In Attacking David Friedman, J Street Condemns Itself," *Breitbart*, Dec. 20, 2016, <http://www.breitbart.com/jerusalem/2016/12/20/attacking-david-friedman-j-street-condemns/>

¹⁰⁹ Sam Sokol & Herb Keinon, "Ben-Ami at J Street conference: Keep donations within the Green Line," *Jerusalem Post*, March 23, 2015, reprinted at <http://www.pressreader.com/israel/jerusalem-post/20150323/282179354574717>

J Street conferences¹¹⁰ generally feature speakers who present only “hard left” or Islamist positions on Israel – Israel is the obstacle to peace -- but never include others who would air views more centrist, or conservative.¹¹¹

Some examples from the recent **2017 J Street conference** illustrate this point:

- **Ambassador Maen Areikat**, Chief of the PLO Delegation in Washington, DC, addressed J Street’s 2017 National Conference in Washington, DC, from Feb. 25-28, 2017.¹¹² In his speech Areikat noted a “two-state solution means an end to the conflict once and for all. **The Palestinians have accepted 22% of their historical homeland, this constitutes a historic concession, and they (the Palestinians) will not present another concession.**”¹¹³ [emphasis added] He warned against “**taking emotional steps such as moving the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, because that would be explosive...we need a Jerusalem open to all religions. Jerusalem has a special place. Therefore, no one recognizes it as a Palestinian or Israeli capital.**”¹¹⁴ [emphasis added] Areikat concluded his speech saying, “**Palestinians will not accept less than an independent continuous and sovereign state, which is completely in accordance with Palestinian national rights and an end to the Occupation completely.**”¹¹⁵ [emphasis added]
- **Arab Joint List leader and Knesset member Ayman Odeh¹¹⁶** was also a speaker at J Street’s 2017 conference. At the event Odeh was reported to have “**implicitly called for the rejection of Zionism.**”¹¹⁷ He also denounced the leadership of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu: “**[President Donald] Trump and [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu have cemented their power in the same way regimes have throughout history: with the language of fear and a slow-burning hate, by turning us against one another instead of reminding-us of our shared values and our mutual interests.**”¹¹⁸ [emphasis added]

¹¹⁰ See, e.g., conferences’ schedules of speakers: March 21-24, 2015, https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.jstreet.org/images/J_Street_5th_National_Conference_Program.pdf; 2010, <http://web.archive.org/web/20100705144117/http://conference.jstreet.org/schedule>

¹¹¹ Alan M. Dershowitz, “J Street’s hypocrisy must be exposed,” *Ha’aretz*, March 28, 2014, <http://archive.is/RjNHc>

¹¹² “Highlights of J Street’s 2017 National Conference ‘Defending Our Values, Fighting for Our Future,’” Feb. 25-28, 2017, <http://jstreet.org/conference-highlights/#.WLxqmvkrKM8>

¹¹³ “Palestine’s ambassador to the Conference on J Street: We made a historic concession to accept the state on 22 percent of our land,” Feb. 27, 2017, Translation of article on www.alquds.com website, <http://www.alquds.com/articles/1488223417965468500/>

¹¹⁴ “Palestine’s ambassador to the Conference on J Street: We made a historic concession to accept the state on 22 percent of our land,” Feb. 27, 2017, Translation of article on www.alquds.com website <http://www.alquds.com/articles/1488223417965468500/>

¹¹⁵ “Palestine’s ambassador to the Conference on J Street: We made a historic concession to accept the state on 22 percent of our land,” Feb. 27, 2017, Translation of article on www.alquds.com website <http://www.alquds.com/articles/1488223417965468500/>

¹¹⁶ https://knesset.gov.il/mk/eng/mk_eng.asp?mk_individual_id_t=938

¹¹⁷ Ari Lieberman, “Anti-Israel Hate on Full Display at J Street Confab,” *FrontPageMag*, Feb. 28, 2017, <http://www.frontpagemag.com/fpm/265950/anti-israel-hate-full-display-j-street-confab-ari-lieberman>

¹¹⁸ Eric Cortellessa, “At J Street confab, top Arab MK takes aim at Israel’s ‘unreliable’ Labor Party,” *Times of Israel*, Feb. 27, 2017, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/odeh-tells-liberal-american-jews-that-israels-labor-is-no-opposition-at-all/>

Jeremy Ben-Ami denied the March 2017 report in *Ha'aretz*¹¹⁹ that he refused to shake Odeh's hand at the conference, tweeting¹²⁰ instead: **"we hold MK Odeh in high regard, are grateful for his appearance and look forward to continuing to have a strong working relationship with him..."**¹²¹ [emphasis added]

Odeh is well known for his anti-Israel extremist rhetoric. He has justified the right of Palestinians to "struggle" against Israel.¹²² When asked during an interview whether it was legitimate for Palestinians to throw rocks at Jews, he responded, **"I always blame the occupation for being guilty. I cannot tell the nation how to struggle, where and which target to throw the rock. I do not put red lines on the Arab Palestinian nation."**¹²³ [emphasis added] In July 2016, Odeh **visited top Palestinian terrorist Marwan Barghouti in prison.**¹²⁴ Barghouti is currently imprisoned in Israel for his role in planning suicide attacks and continues to incite terrorism from his jail cell.¹²⁵ The former head of the Shin Bet has accused Odeh of supporting terrorism.¹²⁶

- **PLO negotiator Saeb Erekat, "a person who has justified the murder of Jews as self-defense,"**¹²⁷ spoke at the 2015 and 2017 J Street conferences.¹²⁸
- In March 2015, then-White House Chief of Staff, **Denis McDonough**, delivered a keynote address at a J Street event and stated: **"We will look to the next Israeli government to match words with actions and policies that demonstrate a genuine commitment to a two-state solution. And, like every administration since President Johnson, we will continue to oppose settlement activity since it undermines the prospects of that peace...** In the end, we know what a peace agreement should look like. The borders of Israel and an independent Palestine should be **based on the 1967 lines** with mutually agreed swaps. Each state needs secure and recognized borders, and there must be robust provisions that safeguard Israel's security. **An**

¹¹⁹ Chaim Levinson, "Israeli Arab Leader Angers J Street by Criticizing Labor Party; J Street denies president refused to shake Aymen Odeh's hand after lawmaker accused Zionist Union of failing to take steps to stop violence in a Bedouin village," *Ha'aretz*, March 5, 2017, <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.775406>

¹²⁰ <https://twitter.com/JeremyBenAmi/status/838828958724550657>

¹²¹ Jeremy Ben-Ami, "Setting the Record Straight on MK Odeh's Appearance at the J Street Conference," March 6, 2017, J Street Press Release, <http://jstreet.org/setting-record-straight-mk-odehs-appearance-j-street-conference/#.WL7xQVUrJdi>

¹²² Stephen M. Flatow, "J Street Cheers a Terror Backer," *Jewish News Service*, March 6, 2017, <http://www.jns.org/latest-articles/2017/3/2/j-street-cheers-a-terror-backer#.WL214NlrK70>

¹²³ Stephen M. Flatow, "J Street Cheers a Terror Backer," *Jewish News Service*, March 6, 2017, <http://www.jns.org/latest-articles/2017/3/2/j-street-cheers-a-terror-backer#.WL214NlrK70>

¹²⁴ Elad Benari, "Arab MK visits archterrorist in prison; Erdan livid," *Arutz Sheva*, July 10, 2016, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/218748>

¹²⁵ Ido Ben-Porat and Tova Dvorin, "Barghouti Sentenced to Solitary Confinement for Incitement," *Arutz Sheva*, Nov. 12, 2014, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/187374>

¹²⁶ Dov Lieber, "Ex-Shin Bet chief says top Arab MK supports terrorists," *Times of Israel*, March 29, 2016, <http://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-shin-bet-chief-says-top-arab-mk-wont-tackle-terror/>

¹²⁷ Sen. Marco Rubio, Transcript, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Full committee hearing to consider the nomination of David Friedman to be U.S. ambassador to Israel, Feb. 16, 2017. See also Refael Levi, *Israel National News*, June 25, 2015, "Erekat: PA Should Promote 'National Struggle' of Terrorism," <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/197259>

¹²⁸ "Note to @marcorubio. If you want to hear from Saeb Erekat, you can hear him at the J Street conference again this year." Tweet by Jeremy Ben-Ami, Feb. 16, 2017, <https://twitter.com/JeremyBenAmi/status/832279505045684224>

occupation that has lasted for almost 50 years must end.”¹²⁹ [emphasis added: the onus is on Israel]

- **J-Street Conference 2015 speaker Marcia Freedman suggested that there should not be a Jewish state**, but a "Jewish homeland" where Jews are a "protected minority" within an Arab Palestinian state.¹³⁰ One commentator described this presentation: "The moderator didn't challenge her, and as far as I could tell neither did any other panelists. Isn't it interesting that at a conference that claims to be "pro-Israel, pro-peace" and that hammers away at how it wants a two state solution, there is no objection to this one-state solution where Jews are "protected" by people who want to kill them?"¹³¹

Other examples of J Street partnering with or providing a platform to Israel "bashers," include the following:

- On Oct. 19, 2016, J Street's founder and President Jeremy Ben-Ami spoke at a town hall event **alongside Maen Rashid Areikat**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, The General Delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United States. According to the event announcement, the discussion sought to "share ideas and identify common goals in order to achieve two states for two peoples."¹³² The men also spoke the following day at the World Affairs Council of Northern California in San Francisco,¹³³ where **Areikat reportedly alleged the "current Israeli government's policy is pushing towards the creation of a system of racial segregation in the occupied Palestinian territories."**¹³⁴ [emphasis added]
- Some of the invitees to J Street's second national conference in Washington, DC, in January 2011 **were leaders of the anti-Israeli Sheikh Jarrah Solidarity Movement.**¹³⁵ The event also honored Sheikh Jarrah activist Sara Benninga, where she condemned the "blatant injustice and discrimination" committed by the Israeli government against **Palestinians.**¹³⁶ Since the event, the Sheikh Jarrah website has been taken down but the organization continues to have a Facebook page by the name "Sheikh Jarrah-Fighting for

¹²⁹ Video posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3JiMRfPdRw>

¹³⁰ Video posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9hUYMRSSMI> ; Elder of Zion, "J-Street Speaker Calls for Destruction of Israel – to Applause (VIDEO)," *Algemeiner*, March 27, 2015, <https://www.algemeiner.com/2015/03/27/j-street-speaker-calls-for-destruction-of-israel-to-applause-video/>

¹³¹ Elder of Zion, "J-Street Speaker Calls for Destruction of Israel – to Applause (VIDEO)," *Algemeiner*, March 27, 2015, <https://www.algemeiner.com/2015/03/27/j-street-speaker-calls-for-destruction-of-israel-to-applause-video/>

¹³² "J Street at Seattle Town Hall: Partnering for a Peaceful Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," Town Hall Seattle, WA, Oct. 19, 2016, <http://jstreet.org/event/j-street-seattle-town-hall-partnering-peaceful-solution-israeli-palestinian-conflict/#.WLxirvkrKM8>

¹³³ "J Street at the World Affairs Council of Northern California: Partnering for a Peaceful Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," Marines' Memorial Theater, San Francisco, CA, Oct. 20, 2016, <http://jstreet.org/event/j-street-world-affairs-council-northern-california-partnering-peaceful-solution-israeli-palestinian-conflict/#.WLxi0fkrKM8>

¹³⁴ "Ambassador Maen Areikat concludes a visit to the State of California," Oct. 23, 2016, Translation of article on PLO Website, <https://goo.gl/Qmotuw>

¹³⁵ "J Street to Hold Second National Conference in Washington," J Street Press Release, Jan. 7, 2011, http://jstreet.org/press-releases/j-street-to-hold-second-national-conference-in-washington_1/#.WLzBFvkrKM8

¹³⁶ "Sheikh Jarrah activist Sara Benninga honored @ J Street's 'Giving Voice to Our Values' conference," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuM90j6tRB0>

Jerusalem.”¹³⁷ According to an archived page from the Sheikh Jarrah website, **“The struggle in Sheikh Jarrah is a political one in which an Israeli settlement organizations, with the support of the Israeli authorities, are trying to expel the Palestinian residents and replace them with Jewish settlers.** However, the framework that is being used most frequently to further this goal is the Israeli legal system. As such, it is important to explain what is going on in this context, especially since the evictions have been approved by the various courts in Israel, including the Israeli Supreme Court, thus giving the Jewish settlement an appearance of legality.”¹³⁸ [emphasis added]

The J Street annual conferences have not included speakers who opposed the Iran nuclear deal, for example, yet have included cheerleaders for it, like **Trita Parsi, the founder and president of the National Iranian American Council (NIAC).**¹³⁹ Even worse, some critics assert that J Street has misrepresented the facts and expert opinions about a possible military strike on Iran: **“... J Street has expressed opposition to any use of military force against Iran,** even as a last resort in preventing Iran from developing or even deploying nuclear weapons.”¹⁴⁰

J Street and the Iran Deal

A major supporter of the nuclear deal with Iran,¹⁴¹ J Street issued a press release in April 2015 jointly with the National Iranian American Council (NIAC) and the Arab American Institute (AAI) welcoming the framework agreement.¹⁴²

J Street insists it has always supported the US imposition of sanctions,¹⁴³ but, as it does with so many of its policy statements, **J Street qualifies that position.** “However, once the interim deal was announced and talks to pursue a longer-term agreement commenced, we felt it best for Congress to wait until the talks concluded before taking action that could derail them.”¹⁴⁴

A few months earlier, in January 2014, J Street signed on with **NIAC, AAI and other partners including Americans for Peace Now, CODEPINK,**¹⁴⁵ **Islamic Society of North America (ISNA),**¹⁴⁶

¹³⁷ “Sheikh Jarrah-Fighting for Jerusalem,” <https://www.facebook.com/pg/sjsolidarity/about/>

¹³⁸ “The Legal Struggle in Sheikh Jarrah,”

<https://web.archive.org/web/20121210121935/http://www.en.justilm.org/what-is-our-struggle-about/sheikh-jarrah-solidarity/the-legal-struggle-in-sheikh-jarrah>

¹³⁹ “Is Iran diplomacy working?,” J Street Conference, Oct. 26, 2010, Breakout Session,

<http://web.archive.org/web/20100705144117/http://conference.jstreet.org/schedule>

¹⁴⁰ Alan M. Dershowitz, “Guess Who’s Not Speaking at the J Street Conference?,” Gatestone Institute, March 20, 2015, <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/5424/j-street-dershowitz>

¹⁴¹ Michael R. Gordon and David E. Sanger, “Deal Reached on Iran Nuclear Program; Limited on Fuel Would Lessen With Time,” *New York Times*, July 14, 2015, https://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/15/world/middleeast/iran-nuclear-deal-is-reached-after-long-negotiations.html?_r=0

¹⁴² Press Release, “Arab American Institute, J Street and NIAC Welcome Iran Framework Agreement,” April 6, 2015, <http://www.niacouncil.org/arab-american-institute-j-street-and-niac-welcome-iran-framework-agreement/>

¹⁴³ “Setting the Record Straight: Iran,” J Street Blog, May 13, 2014,

http://web.archive.org/web/20160706202406/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight_2

¹⁴⁴ “Setting the Record Straight: Iran,” J Street Blog, May 13, 2014,

http://web.archive.org/web/20160706202406/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight_2

¹⁴⁵ “CODEPINK and the Arab-Israeli conflict,” NGO Monitor, http://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/codepink_and_the_arab_israeli_conflict/

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP),¹⁴⁷ MoveOn.org, Muslim Public Affairs Voice, and Muslims for Progressive Values “to warn that Senate passage of new Iran sanctions would critically endanger the possibility of a diplomatic resolution to the nuclear standoff with Iran, increasing the likelihood of a nuclear-armed Iran and an unnecessary and costly war. We call on you to not cosponsor S.1881 (the “Nuclear Weapon-Free Iran Act of 2013”) and strongly discourage Senate consideration of new Iran sanctions while negotiations proceed.”¹⁴⁸

And on its own, J Street asserted its opposition to more sanctions:

“[U]nilaterally ratcheting up sanctions aimed at forcing Iran to accept even more stringent terms would be viewed by our negotiating partners and the world as violating the terms of the JPOA and a gratuitous step. Far from forcing Iran to make additional concessions, it would likely result in less pressure on Iran as the multilateral sanctions regime orchestrated by the United States collapsed. Iran’s program would again be unrestrained and unmonitored, putting us back on the path to military confrontation or a nuclear-armed Iran.”¹⁴⁹

Therefore, after the agreement was made, J Street announced:

“J Street strongly supports the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreed by Iran, the United States and five major world powers on July 14, 2015. We worked tirelessly to ensure the agreement was not rejected by Congress, because **we believe that it blocks all of Iran’s paths toward developing a nuclear weapon** and is underpinned by a robust regime of international monitoring and inspections.”¹⁵⁰

JStreetPAC Activity

JStreetPAC was formed “to explicitly promote American leadership to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,” as a complement to J Street’s goal to have the US impose a solution on the parties.¹⁵¹ To this end, **J Street’s actions toward Israel in the political arena often appear punitive, rather than constructive, holding it to a different standard than it does for Palestinians.** In contrast to statements about Israel and its government, there are no J Street press releases asserting that the Palestinian leadership has a moral responsibility to end its incitement and terror. However, **J Street consistently demands that Israel retreat to the Green**

¹⁴⁶ IPT Profile The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), <http://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/178/the-islamic-society-of-north-america>

¹⁴⁷ Jewish Voice for Peace, NGO Monitor, Jan. 15, 2015, http://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/jewish_voice_for_peace_jvp/

¹⁴⁸ Press Release, “72 Organizations Warn Senate Against New Iran Sanctions,” Jan. 14, 2014 <http://www.niacouncil.org/72-organizations-warn-senate-against-new-iran-sanctions/>

¹⁴⁹ J Street, “Our policy on Iran,” <http://web.archive.org/web/20160320053541/http://jstreet.org/policy/pages/iran-understanding-the-p51-agreement>

¹⁵⁰ J Street Policy: “Get the facts on Iran,” <http://jstreet.org/policy/iran/#.WLyZ7VUrJdg>

¹⁵¹ JStreetPAC, “About Us,” <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/about-us/>

Line unconditionally, despite Palestinian behavior. J Street actions include pushing legislation linked to its obsession with settlements, and financing some politicians who express anti-Israel positions.

For example, in 2015, J Street posted a petition to encourage signers to “[s]tand with President Obama and **tell Members of Congress to oppose or amend legislation that upends America's longstanding opposition to Israeli settlements that are undermining the democratic future of Israel** and chances for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”¹⁵² [emphasis added]

JStreetPAC endorses and raises funds for many political candidates¹⁵³ who side against Israel in Congress. The PAC determines who it will support as follows: “Finance Committee interviews candidates for federal office about their views on issues related to American policy toward Israel and the Middle East to judge whether they align with JStreetPAC’s policies... The JStreetPAC Board then votes on all endorsees. In deciding which candidates to endorse, **the Board solely takes into account the views of candidates on issues that are of concern to the JStreetPAC.**”¹⁵⁴ [emphasis added]

Once again we see a discrepancy between the pro-Israel support J Street claims to advance, and its actions.

For example, **in 2016, J Street PAC made contributions worth \$3.6 million to its 124 endorsed candidates for Congress, including U.S. Reps. Keith Ellison (D-MN) and Andre Carson (D-IN).**¹⁵⁵ Ellison is closely tied to several Muslim Brotherhood front groups in the U.S., including the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR).¹⁵⁶ **In a 2010 audio from a private fundraiser obtained by the Investigative Project on Terrorism, Ellison can be heard lashing out at what he sees as Israel's disproportionate influence in American foreign policy: “The United States foreign policy in the Middle East is governed by what is good or bad through a country of 7 million people. A region of 350 million all turns on a country of 7 million. Does that make sense? Is that logic? Right? When the Americans who trace their roots back to those 350 million get involved, everything changes. Can I say that again?”**¹⁵⁷ [emphasis added].

In November 2016, J Street issued a press release **condemning hate attacks against Rep. Ellison** following announcement for his candidacy for the DNC Chair. The press release referred to Rep. Ellison as a **“true friend of the Jewish people,”** and added that “[h]is support for a two-state

¹⁵² This petition, “opposing Israeli settlements in territory under its control beyond the Green Line,” demonstrates J Street’s conditional approval of Israel on the organization’s terms, regardless of Israel’s voting public’s wishes. <http://act.jstreet.org/sign/stand-with-president-obama-on-settlements?akid=s20687..Ji7xTM>

¹⁵³ JStreetPAC’s list of supported candidates in 2016 is posted at <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/candidate-directory/> & archived at <http://archive.is/1ULxL>

¹⁵⁴ “About Us,” JStreetPAC, <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/about-us/>

¹⁵⁵ “2016 House Endorsees,” J Street PAC, <https://donate.jstreetpac.org/page/2016-house-endorsees/>

¹⁵⁶ Steve Emerson, “IPT Exclusive: In Private Fundraiser, Ellison Blasted Israeli Influence Over U.S. Policy,” *IPT News*, Nov. 29, 2017, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/5708/ipt-exclusive-in-private-fundraiser-ellison#>

¹⁵⁷ Steve Emerson, “IPT Exclusive: In Private Fundraiser, Ellison Blasted Israeli Influence Over U.S. Policy,” *IPT News*, Nov. 29, 2017, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/5708/ipt-exclusive-in-private-fundraiser-ellison#>

solution, opposition to settlement construction and advocacy for US leadership to help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are supported by the majority of American Jews. It is Ellison and other members like him – not their critics – who give voice to this substantial constituency of pro-Israel, pro-peace Americans on Capitol Hill.”¹⁵⁸ [emphasis added]

Further, in a speech at a synagogue in New York, J Street’s director, **Jeremy Ben-Ami**, stated:

“I just have to jump in for his defense. **I think that there’s nothing troubling about his record.** I think that **the witch hunt that is going on on Keith Ellison** is reminiscent of the witch hunt that goes on every single time somebody who has dared to criticize the policies of the government of Israel steps forward and has a potential to hold position in this country. **And the ADL and other organizations come after them** until they’re driven out of the competition for that job and I think it’s a very bad tendency of our community.”¹⁵⁹ [emphasis added]

In a December 2016 interview on MSNBC, Ben-Ami continued to defend Ellison and attack his critics:

“One is on a personal basis that I think it’s **really unfair against Keith Ellison who is one of the most tolerant and open minded people that many of us know** and who has done a great deal not only in his home community but also nationally to promote dialogue and cooperation across Jewish and Muslim lines. So, just on a personal level I think it’s been unfair and misguided...But I think more importantly **this is part of a pattern where people who stakeout positions that are not necessarily in line with old guard pro-Israel advocacy get attacked for being anti-Semitic or anti-Israel in an effort to try to shut down the criticism of the policy.** It’s a way to avoid the debate about underlying issues to say well if you’re taking these positions you must be an anti-Semite or anti-Israel and that’s not true.”¹⁶⁰ [emphasis added]

Interestingly, perhaps demonstrating an anti-Israel animus, Rep. **Ellison opposed House Resolution 293, “Expressing Concern Over Anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic Incitement within the Palestinian Authority,”** in 2015, “because any resolution that attacks one side while ignoring the other can only further tension and violence.”¹⁶¹

Rep. Carson has received contributions from Islamist sources for his congressional campaigns and is a frequent speaker at events sponsored by Muslim Brotherhood groups in the U.S.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁸ “Hateful Attacks Against Representative Keith Ellison Are Unacceptable,” J Street Press Release, Nov. 16, 2016, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/hateful-attacks-representative-keith-ellison-unacceptable/>

¹⁵⁹ Philip Weiss, “ADL is leading ‘witch hunt’ against Keith Ellison over Israel comments, J Street exec says,” Mondoweiss, Dec. 2, 2016, <http://mondoweiss.net/2016/12/witchhunt-comments-tendency/>

¹⁶⁰ All in with Chris Hayes, MSNBC, Dec. 7, 2016, <http://www.msnbc.com/transcripts/all-in/2016-12-07>

¹⁶¹ Congressional Record, 114th Congress, 1st Session, Issue: Vol. 161, No. 162 — Daily Edition, [Page H7363](https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2015/11/2/house-section/article/H7360-1), Nov. 2, 2015, <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-record/2015/11/2/house-section/article/H7360-1>

¹⁶² Daniel Pipes, “André Carson, Islamists’ Choice for the House of Representatives,” *National Review*, Oct. 7, 2014, <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/389811/andr-carson-islamists-choice-house-representatives-daniel-pipes>

It is curious, too, that in August 2014, “[e]leven lawmakers backed by ... J Street either voted against or refused to vote in favor of increased funding for Israel’s Iron Dome missile defense system”¹⁶³ [emphasis added] while the country was embroiled in a military action to defend its civilians.¹⁶⁴ Yet J Street funneled a total of \$92,387 to those candidates who would not vote in favor of the Iron Dome.¹⁶⁵

But J Street claims it “continue[s] to urge Congress to support Iron Dome and other security initiatives vital to protecting Israelis.”¹⁶⁶

Previously, another candidate supported by J Street,¹⁶⁷ Maryland’s Donna F. Edwards, “voted ‘present’ - rather than ‘yea’ - on a near-unanimous resolution endorsing Israel’s right to defend itself against Gaza rocket attacks. She was one of 20 House members to vote against a 2013 bill strengthening sanctions against Iran, which Israel considers an existential threat. Unlike the vast majority of her colleagues, Edwards did not sign on to letters designed to pressure the Obama administration on Iran sanctions, Syria sanctions, Egypt policy, the peace process and resolving differences with Israel quietly - all efforts backed by AIPAC and like-minded groups.”¹⁶⁸

Furthermore, showing its true colors, JStreetPAC targeted some candidates for defeat in the 2016 election, despite their strong pro-Israel record, due to their opposition to the Iran nuclear deal:

"Mark Kirk was one of the chief detractors [of the Iran deal] and time and time again offered sanctions that would have disrupted that diplomacy," said Ben Shnider, national political director at the liberal pro-Israel group J Street. "Ron Johnson was one of the most belligerent critics of that deal." Shnider oversees JStreetPAC, which has rounded up more than \$100,000 in contributions for the campaign of former Sen. Russ Feingold, who is seeking to regain his Senate seat from Johnson, who defeated him by five percentage points in 2010. Shnider said the PAC expects to bundle a similar amount of contributions for whoever wins the Illinois Senate Democratic primary, where the

¹⁶³ Adam Kredo, “J Street Endorsees in Congress Refuse to Support Iron Dome Funding for Israel,” *Washington Free Beacon*, Aug. 21, 2014, <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/j-street-endorsees-in-congress-refuse-to-support-iron-dome-funding-for-israel/>

¹⁶⁴ “During Operation Protective Edge (July 8 - Aug 25, 2014), 3,852 rockets hits were identified in Israel.” Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Rocket fire from Gaza and Palestinian ceasefire violations after Operation Cast Lead (Jan 2009),” last updated February 23, 2016, http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Pages/Palestinian_ceasefire_violations_since_end_Operation_Cast_Lead.aspx

¹⁶⁵ Adam Kredo, “J Street Endorsees in Congress Refuse to Support Iron Dome Funding for Israel,” *Washington Free Beacon*, Aug. 21, 2014, <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/j-street-endorsees-in-congress-refuse-to-support-iron-dome-funding-for-israel/>

¹⁶⁶ “J Street Condemns Terror Against Israelis, Affirms Importance of Iron Dome,” J Street Press Release, Feb. 9, 2017, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/j-street-condemns-terror-israelis-affirms-importance-iron-dome/#.WL1fjVUrJdg>

¹⁶⁷ http://web.archive.org/web/20150315030455/http://donate.jstreetpac.org/our_candidates

¹⁶⁸ Rachel Weiner, “In Senate bid, Rep. Donna Edwards faces scrutiny over her views on Israel,” *Washington Post*, May 1, 2015, https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/in-senate-bid-rep-donna-edwards-faces-scrutiny-over-her-views-on-israel/2015/04/30/0d74997e-eac7-11e4-9767-6276fc9b0ada_story.html

frontrunner is Rep. Tammy Duckworth.¹⁶⁹ [emphasis added]

J Street on the BDS Movement

J Street asserts it opposes the BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanctions) movement,¹⁷⁰ and that the organization is “on the front lines of the battle against it on college campuses.”¹⁷¹ Further, J Street states:

“We appear at public events with people who promote boycotts and divestment, almost always to carry the argument against them, because we believe in free and open debate. The best antidote for ideas one doesn’t like is to present other ideas, not to prevent them from being heard. And, shocking as it may seem, **we have invited people we disagree with on this issue to speak at our own events... Just because we support the right of pro-BDS individuals and groups to be heard does not mean that we support BDS.”¹⁷² [emphasis added].**

The 2012 J Street Conference was addressed by Mustafa Barghouti,¹⁷³ a leading figure in the BDS campaign against Israel.¹⁷⁴

But as it does with other positions it takes, J Street qualifies its “opposition” to BDS, in its extensive policy statement, amounting to J Street appearing to support any effort to get Israel to retreat to the Green Line:

“We do not oppose boycott, divestment, or sanctions initiatives that explicitly support a two-state solution, recognize Israel’s right to exist, and focus only on occupied territory beyond the Green Line. These kinds of initiatives are different than those advocated and initiated by the Global BDS Movement. It is critical to maintain the distinction between boycott and divestment efforts which work against the interests of Israel, and initiatives which are limited to opposing the occupation. While we do not oppose these initiatives, we do not support them, either.” [emphasis added]

...

“J Street has urged the Obama Administration to reiterate the position that the settlements are illegal. We believe that the actions of the U.S. government should line up with this long-standing policy of opposition to settlements, and we will advocate for it to maintain and enforce that policy through its actions. Further, we will oppose

¹⁶⁹ "Kirk, Johnson Targeted by Liberal Groups for Iran Votes," *Congressional Quarterly News*, Feb. 4, 2016

¹⁷⁰ J Street Policy on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), <http://jstreet.org/policy/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-bds/#.WLtTXVXytdh>

¹⁷¹ “Setting the Record Straight: BDS,” J Street Blog, May 13, 2014, http://web.archive.org/web/20160304095158/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight_2

¹⁷² “Setting the Record Straight: BDS,” J Street Blog, May 13, 2014, http://web.archive.org/web/20160304095158/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight_2

¹⁷³ Video is posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW5UfKIEAYc>

¹⁷⁴ Video is posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8TbiU0EE4>

legislative efforts at the state and federal level which, by blurring the distinction between Israel and the territory it controls over the Green Line, acts to contravene that longstanding policy.”

...

“Further, **J Street is opposed to rhetoric that refers to the Global BDS Movement as a form of terrorism or violence.** Such attacks oversimplify and misrepresent a **complicated phenomenon**, and they trivialize the horrific acts of actual terrorism and violence which Israel has faced and continues to face.”¹⁷⁵

J Street U Activity

On its website, J Street U details Israel’s responsibilities, but says nothing about the requirement that the Palestinians refrain from violence, terror, and incitement:

“We know that the fates of both peoples are intertwined. Advocating for Israel necessitates advocating for Palestinian statehood, and we defend and support the right of both the Jewish and Palestinian peoples to sovereignty and security in democratic, self-governing states. We recognize that the **ongoing occupation and settlement of the Palestinian territories is politically unsustainable and morally untenable. We envision an Israel that respects and guarantees human and civil rights to all its inhabitants**, an Israel that lives at peace with its neighbors along internationally recognized borders, an Israel that reflects the promise of its founding declaration — to be a country ‘based on the precepts of liberty, justice and peace.’”¹⁷⁶ [emphasis added]

Actions by a J Street U chapter seem to go beyond J Street’s asserted policy on BDS.

In February 2016, **Northwestern J Street U withdrew its support of a lecture at the school’s Hillel by Palestinian activist, Bassem Eid**, founder and director of the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group. After years of working with B’tselem, the Israeli human rights organization, Eid began to research the torture and murder of Palestinians by other Palestinians. **He opposes boycotting Israel** and focuses on wrongdoings of the Palestinian Authority, rather than on Israel.

In justifying J Street U’s withdrawal of support, the chapter co-president stated:

“We found some of the things he said troubling and **not in line with our core values**,” said Jacqueline Soria, co-president of Northwestern J StreetU. She noted Eid’s comment that Americans do not have a role in solving the Israeli – Palestinian conflict, which runs

¹⁷⁵ J Street Policy on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), <http://jstreet.org/policy/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-bds/#.WLtTXVXytdh>

¹⁷⁶ J Street U, The student organizing arm of J Street, <http://jstreet.org/j-street-u/>

counter to J Street's agenda of encouraging U.S. government involvement. **Eid, she said, also "spoke exclusively about Palestinian responsibility" without talking about Israel's role.**¹⁷⁷ [emphasis added]

J Street U's 2015 Controversy

In the summer of 2015, J Street U, J Street's campus arm, elected a new president, Amna Farooqi, a Pakistani American who claims to be in favor of Zionism.¹⁷⁸ However, critics have pointed to her social media postings as raising questions about her true positions.¹⁷⁹

"In one tweet from last November, Farooqi asked why Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was 'a d***bag,' while in another she wrote that she 'wonder[ed] what Bibi would say if Palestinians applied his logic to their situation,' quoting him saying that Iranian 'aggression' must be stopped at 'all costs.' 'Bibi prefers war to diplomacy,' she posted.

"Zionist Organization of America President Morton Klein accused Farooqi of supporting BDS, referencing a tweet in which she posted 'I don't oppose any form of nonviolent Palestinian protest, including BDS,' although she since placed the statement in quotation marks making it unclear if she was speaking for herself or quoting a third party.

"'If she is quoting someone else's belief, it means she is endorsing that belief or she wouldn't quote it without condemning it,' Klein said. By appointing someone who uses such language, 'J Street has relinquished any tenuous claim they had to call themselves pro-Israel [and] pro-peace.'"¹⁸⁰

Campus Partnerships

J Street, and its student wing, J Street U, have partnered with leading Islamist and other groups in the U.S. to host conferences and other events that routinely espouse virulently anti-Israel rhetoric.

¹⁷⁷ Nathan Guttman, "Palestinian Activist Threatened for Anti-BDS Stance in Chicago," *The Forward*, Feb. 29, 2016, <http://forward.com/news/334381/palestinian-activist-threatened-for-anti-bds-stance-in-chicago/>

¹⁷⁸ Jas Chana, Pro-Israel Org. J Street U Elects Muslim-American President, *Tablet Magazine*, Aug. 20, 2015, <http://www.tabletmag.com/scroll/193011/pro-israel-org-j-street-u-elects-muslim-american-president>

¹⁷⁹ Sam Sokol, "Ethnicity less important than ideology in debate over new Muslim leader at J Street U," *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 23, 2015, <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Ethnicity-less-important-than-ideology-in-debate-over-new-Muslim-leader-at-J-Street-U-412989>

¹⁸⁰ Sam Sokol, "Ethnicity less important than ideology in debate over new Muslim leader at J Street U," *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 23, 2015, <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Ethnicity-less-important-than-ideology-in-debate-over-new-Muslim-leader-at-J-Street-U-412989>

Students for Justice in Palestine

Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is a radical student organization with chapters on more than 75 campuses across the country.¹⁸¹ Since its inception, SJP chapters have campaigned for divestment¹⁸² from Israel, which the organization categorizes as an apartheid state,¹⁸³ and accuses of ethnic cleansing.¹⁸⁴

At a February 2014 event sponsored by the Georgetown University chapter of the **Students of Justice in Palestine (SJP)** to “**raise Awareness for Israeli Apartheid Week**,” then-J Street U co-president Elijah Jatovsky was quoted saying, “**The conditions in the West Bank are oppressive and brutal, and the ongoing conditions ought to offend anybody who believes in democratic principals (sic).**”¹⁸⁵ [emphasis added] He, however, objected to using the term “apartheid” to describe Israel saying, “We believe it oversimplifies a very complex issue into zero-sum, good versus bad issue.”¹⁸⁶

J Street U **partnered with the Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)** to co-sponsor a November 2011 event at George Washington University titled, “Israel and Palestine: What’s Next?”¹⁸⁷

SJP members at the event **proposed a one-state solution** to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. “As the name [SJP] suggests, this organization seeks a just solution for the Palestinian people,” a George Washington student said at the event. “**Justice is the goal and a one-state solution is the means**; will be considered to be the best means for achieving the goal.” Another student noted, “**A two-state solution allows Zionism to continue which implicitly means the denial of Palestinian rights, particularly Palestinian refugees.**” An SJP member said, “**These lands were taken by force**” and thus we have the right to say no.”¹⁸⁸ [emphasis added]

In October 2014, J Street’s student group at the University of Maryland (“J Street at UMD”) signed a petition along with the **Students for Justice in Palestine at UMD** condemning the publication of advertisements in the University of Maryland’s student paper, *The Diamondback*, “**that whitewashes the documented human rights violations of Israel.**” [emphasis added] The petition said, “**These ads are anti-Arab, Islamophobic propaganda.**” [emphasis added] It added, “One ad, published in the September 30th, 2013 edition of the paper, begins by denying

¹⁸¹ “Emerging Anti-Israel Trends and Tactics on Campus,” Anti-Defamation League, <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/israel-international/Emerging-Anti-Israel-Trends-and-Tactics-on-Campus.pdf>

¹⁸² <http://www.caldivestfromapartheid.com/about/>

¹⁸³ “Student protest Israel with ‘apartheid wall,’” *The Daily Free Press (Boston University)*, March 2, 2011, <http://dailyfreepress.com/2011/03/02/students-protest-israel-with-apartheid-wall/>

¹⁸⁴ Jonathan Terhorst, “Israeli, Palestinian Backers Clash During Campus Rally,” *The Daily Californian*, April. 10, 2002, <http://archive.dailycal.org/article.php?id=8263>

¹⁸⁵ Ryan Thomas, “SJP Brings Focus to Apartheid,” *The Hoya*, Feb. 28, 2014, <http://www.thehoya.com/sjp-brings-focus-to-apartheid/>

¹⁸⁶ Ryan Thomas, “SJP Brings Focus to Apartheid,” *The Hoya*, Feb. 28, 2014, <http://www.thehoya.com/sjp-brings-focus-to-apartheid/>

¹⁸⁷ “SJP’s ‘Dialogue’ Goes Nowhere,” *IPT News*, Nov. 30, 2011, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3313/sjp-dialogue-goes-nowhere>

¹⁸⁸ “SJP’s ‘Dialogue’ Goes Nowhere,” *IPT News*, Nov. 30, 2011, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/3313/sjp-dialogue-goes-nowhere>

the existence of the Palestinian people—it characterizes all Arabs as a monolithic group of people with no cultural, historical, or linguistic distinctions. So, it follows, the Palestinian people don't exist —therefore **Israel really is a land without a people for a people without land**. Except that, inconveniently for the FLAME's [Facts and Logic About the Middle East] narrative, Palestinians *have* lived on that land for centuries, and are in fact a distinct people with a rich culture." [emphasis added] According to the petition, advertisements were paid for by FLAME, described by SJP as a "far-right think tank."¹⁸⁹

Other signatories to the petition included the **Muslim Students Association (MSA)** and a group called, "Israel Apartheid." MSA is the most visible and influential Islamist student organization in North America. Through conferences and events, publications, websites and other activities, MSA disseminates and promotes militant Islamist ideologies.¹⁹⁰

In September 2014, **the local chapters of SJP, Hillel and J Street at Occidental College** in Los Angeles, CA, co-hosted "**a candlelight vigil mourning the lives lost**" in the **July 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict**. "The collaborative event served as an introduction to SJP... the purpose of which is to advocate for human rights and a peaceful resolution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.... "We wanted to start SJP because we felt there was a lack of voice for Palestine on issues such as human rights and advocating for an end to the occupation."¹⁹¹

The **Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine (SPJP) chapter at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, PA.**, co-hosted a discussion on the Israel-Gaza conflict with **J Street U** in September 2014. "We are co-hosting a discussion with J Street tonight at 7:30 in Kohlberg 116. Everyone is welcome," Swarthmore SPJP tweeted.¹⁹²

Despite J Street's opposition to the global BDS movement as an "inappropriate way" to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a J Street spokesperson said that the organization's policy against BDS does not prevent it from partnering with pro-BDS groups. "Our policy in terms of co-sponsorship is pretty consistent. **We do not support BDS, but we do not have any problem with co-sponsoring programs with organizations that do,**" Jessica Rosenblum, J Street's director of media and communications, told *JNS.org*. [emphasis added] "We sponsor programs

¹⁸⁹ "Petitioning Diamondback Advertising Board: Stop Publishing the Flame Advertisements," Nov. 8, 2014, <https://www.change.org/p/diamondback-advertising-board-stop-publishing-the-flame-advertisements>

¹⁹⁰ IPT Dossier on Muslim Students Association (MSA), <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/84.pdf>

¹⁹¹ Margaret Su, "New student group advocated for justice in Palestine," *Occidental Weekly*, Sept. 23, 2014, <http://www.theoccidentalweekly.com/news/2016/01/01/new-student-group-advocates-for-justice-in-palestine/2883733> (archived Jan. 1, 2016).

¹⁹² Sean Savage, "Swarthmore events elucidate J Street co-sponsorships with pro-BDS groups," *JNS.org*, Sept. 8, 2014, <http://www.jns.org/latest-articles/2014/9/5/swarthmore-college-events-shed-light-on-j-streets-co-sponsorships-with-pro-bds-groups#.VtXXxubqO1s>

with SJP or even AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee) when our interests align, and don't when our interests don't align," Rosenblum added.¹⁹³

In addition to co-sponsoring events with SPJP, the J Street U chapter at Swarthmore has also rushed to the Palestinian student group's defense when it faced criticism for its anti-Israel stance. In a letter to the editor of Swarthmore's *Daily Gazette*, **J Street U defended an exhibit displayed by SPJP in the school's science center "which brings to light various barriers to education that Palestinian children in the occupied territories face on a daily basis."**¹⁹⁴ [emphasis added]

"We hope, then, that one would not presume SPJP's exhibit is anti-Semitic knowing only that it supports Palestinian human rights and opposes an occupation that necessarily limits them. Whether you find it objectionable, challenging, intriguing, informative, or all of the above, we hope that you will bring it up at the community discussion so that we can try to understand and learn from your perspective, just as we are currently trying to understand and learn from SPJP's perspective," J Street U wrote in the letter.¹⁹⁵

Jewish Voice for Peace

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), a virulently anti-Israel and pro-BDS organization,¹⁹⁶ considers itself to be the "'Jewish wing' of the Palestinian solidarity movement." In 2010, the ADL called JVP the "largest and most influential Jewish anti-Zionist group in the United States."¹⁹⁷ "JVP's strategy, as stated by JVP Executive Director Rebecca Vilkomerson, is to create 'a wedge' within the American Jewish community to generate the impression of polarization over Israel. The JVP tactic is to dilute support for Israel in the Jewish community, toward the goal of reducing or eliminating the United States government's economic, military, and political support for Israel."¹⁹⁸ Additionally, JVP accuses its pro-Israel critics of using charges of anti-Semitism to shut down the debate.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹³ Sean Savage, "Swarthmore events elucidate J Street co-sponsorships with pro-BDS groups," *JNS.org*, Sept. 8, 2014, <http://www.jns.org/latest-articles/2014/9/5/swarthmore-college-events-shed-light-on-j-streets-co-sponsorships-with-pro-bds-groups#.VtXXxubqO1s>=

¹⁹⁴ "Op-Ed: J Street U Responds to SPJP's Installation," *The Daily Gazette* (Swarthmore College), May 2, 2014, <http://daily.swarthmore.edu/2014/05/02/op-ed-j-street-u-responds-to-spjps-installation/>

¹⁹⁵ "Op-Ed: J Street U Responds to SPJP's Installation," *The Daily Gazette* (Swarthmore College), May 2, 2014, <http://daily.swarthmore.edu/2014/05/02/op-ed-j-street-u-responds-to-spjps-installation/>

¹⁹⁶ Sean Durns, "J Street's Unreported Pro-BDS Partner -- 'Jewish Voice for Peace,'" CAMERA, http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=2&x_outlet=118&x_article=3028

¹⁹⁷ ADL backgrounder on Jewish Voices for Peace, <http://www.adl.org/israel-international/anti-israel-activity/c/backgrounder-jewish-voice.html>

¹⁹⁸ Jewish Voice for Peace, NGO Monitor, Feb. 20, 2017, http://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/jewish_voice_for_peace_jvp/ and NGO Monitor, July 8, 2013, http://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/driving_a_wedge_jvp_s_strategy_to_weaken_u_s_support_for_israel_by_dividing_the_jewish_community/

¹⁹⁹ Jewish Voice for Peace, "Stifling Dissent: How Israel's Defenders Use False Charges of Anti-Semitism to Limit the Debate Over Israel on Campus," Fall 2015, https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/JVP_Stifling_Dissent_Full_Report_Key_90745869.pdf

In February 2011, **J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami** issued a statement in response to threats²⁰⁰ against Jewish Voice for Peace activists: **“J Street is deeply disturbed by recent threats against Jewish Voice for Peace activists in California.** As a community, we will certainly have disagreements when it comes to Israel's and America's best interests -- but when those disagreements turn into ad hominem attacks, threats and violence, it is simply unacceptable. We condemn these actions and call for a civil, constructive community conversation over Israel and the difficult issues at hand.”²⁰¹ [emphasis added]

After Brandeis Hillel announced it would exclude JVP from its umbrella group,²⁰² J Street U Brandeis issued the following statement, omitting any criticism of JVP's extreme positions, putting the burden on Hillel, to smooth things over:

“Just as Hillel provides a home for Jewish student groups without consideration to their denomination, it should also be a place where Jewish student groups of all political persuasions are welcomed and engaged. **While J Street U and JVP strongly disagree about many issues related to the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including the BDS movement, we nonetheless believe that they should be a part of the Jewish communal conversation.**”²⁰³ [emphasis added]

“Fostering the open and vigorous exchange of ideas is a fundamental Jewish and American value that has generated volumes of human ingenuity, and has kept our religion alive and thriving over the millennia. Furthermore, we believe it would be the greatest testament to Hillel's strength if it brought all Jewish organizations– from JVP to ZOA and everything in between–into conversation with one another, because doing so would highlight Hillel's ability to be a great unifying factor in an ever-fractious American Jewish community.”²⁰⁴

IfNotNow

If Not Now is a newly-constituted anti-Israel front group, several of whose activists have former affiliations with J Street U.²⁰⁵ The organization describes itself as **“A movement to end the American Jewish community's support for the occupation and gain freedom and dignity for**

²⁰⁰ “Jewish Voices for Peace Chief Threatened Over Pro-Palestinian Campaign,” *Ha'aretz*, Feb. 7, 2011, <http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/jewish-voice-for-peace-chief-threatened-over-pro-palestinian-campaign-1.341779>

²⁰¹ “Statement on Recent Threats Against JVP Activists,” J Street Press Release, Feb. 8, 2011, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/statement-on-recent-threats-against-jvp-activists/#.WLyGIUrJdg>

²⁰² Sue Fishkoff, “Brandeis Hillel excludes a controversial group on Israel, generating debate,” JTA, March 14, 2011, <http://www.jta.org/2011/03/14/news-opinion/united-states/brandeis-hillel-excludes-a-controversial-group-on-israel-generating-debate>

²⁰³ “J Street Brandeis Responds to Brandeis Hillel's Decision on JVP,” <http://web.archive.org/web/20160329200036/http://www.jstreetu.org/street-cred-blog/j-street-brandeis-responds-to-brandeis-hillels-decision-on-jvp> and Ariel Wittenberg, “JVP rejected from Hillel umbrella organization,” *The Brandeis Hoot*, March 11, 2011 <http://www.thebrandeishoot.com/articles/9864>

²⁰⁴ “J Street Brandeis Responds to Brandeis Hillel's Decision on JVP,” March 29, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20160329200036/http://www.jstreetu.org/street-cred-blog/j-street-brandeis-responds-to-brandeis-hillels-decision-on-jvp>

²⁰⁵ Alex Kane, “The rise of ‘If Not Now’ and the collapse of the pro-Israel consensus,” *Mondoweiss*, Sept. 10, 2014, <http://mondoweiss.net/2014/09/collapse-israel-consensus/>

all Israelis and Palestinians.”²⁰⁶ [emphasis added] It justifies the “liberation” of the Palestinian people by Jewish history: “Just as Moses was commanded to return to Egypt and fight for the liberation of his people, we too feel called to take responsibility for the future of our community. **We know the liberation of our Jewish community is bound up in the liberation of all people, particularly those in Israel and Palestine.** The bush burns bright but is not consumed – the fire is not a mechanism of destruction, but rather a force of inspiration and transformation.”²⁰⁷ [emphasis added]

If Not Now activist **Simone Zimmerman**, a **strong opponent of Israeli policies in the West Bank and Gaza**,²⁰⁸ was hired as the Jewish outreach coordinator for U.S. presidential candidate **Bernie Sanders** but was **subsequently fired after she used profanities in her Facebook posts on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hillary Clinton.**²⁰⁹

In an August 2016 article in *Tablet Magazine*, **Daniel May, former Director of J Street U and founding member of If Not Now**, called on American Jewish leaders to learn from the Black Lives Matter movement:

“While American Jewish leaders will use the platform to distance themselves from Black Lives Matter, the movement provides a lesson for how we will eventually reconcile our commitments and rescue our moral integrity. For just as racial justice in this country is unimaginable without a more profound reckoning of the legacy of slavery than we have been able as a nation to summon, **the conflict in Israel and Palestine will never advance so long as Jews deny the cost of Zionism. The Jewish nation’s independence was won only through the dispossession of another nation. Recognizing this does not require disavowing Israel any more than recognizing that America was founded upon white supremacy requires disavowing the United States.** But it does require facing painful truths. The only choice more painful will be to continue to look away.”²¹⁰ [emphasis added]

Further: **“This position [in the West Bank and Gaza] has become untenable. The expansion of settlements, the rightward drift of Israeli politics, the biannual assaults on Gaza, and the festering and aggressive racism that permeates any society that administers a 50-year occupation has led many to conclude that Israel is engulfed in a moral crisis of its own.** And despite the immense difference in context, to Americans

²⁰⁶ “If Not Now Facebook Page,” https://www.facebook.com/pg/IfNotNowOrg/about/?ref=page_internal

²⁰⁷ “If Not Now: About Us,” <https://ifnotnowmovement.org/about-us/>

²⁰⁸ Uriel Heilman, “Meet the Outspoken Critic of Israel Who Is Bernie Sanders’ New Jewish Outreach Director,” *Jerusalem Post*, April 13, 2016, <http://www.jpost.com/US-Elections/Meet-the-outspoken-critic-of-Israel-who-is-Bernie-Sanders-new-Jewish-outreach-director-451056>

²⁰⁹ Jason Horowitz, “Bernie Sanders Campaign Suspends Jewish Outreach Coordinator for Vulgar Remarks About Netanyahu,” *New York Times*, April 14, 2016, https://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2016/04/14/bernie-sanders-suspends-jewish-outreach-coordinator-after-reports-of-her-criticisms-of-israel/?_r=0

²¹⁰ Daniel May, “The Problem Isn’t Black Lives Matter. It’s the Occupation,” *Tablet Magazine*, Aug. 15, 2016, <http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/210838/the-problem-is-the-occupation>

who stand in a tradition of our own struggle for justice, the similarities are striking.”²¹¹
[emphasis added]

In April 2016, If Not Now **partnered with the liberal Jewish Voices for Peace to support “BDS Haggadahs and Liberation Sedars”** during the Jewish Passover holiday. (The Haggadah is a Jewish text used during the Passover Seder). The anti-Israel effort was celebrated in major cities in the U.S. and publicized on social media with hashtags #LiberationSeder and #IfNotNow.²¹²

Other J Street Linkages and Partnerships

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

The Southern Poverty Law Center, once respected for its historical work fighting poverty, discrimination and the death penalty in the United States,²¹³ has expanded its focus to counter what it calls, “anti-Muslim extremism.”²¹⁴ According to the SPLC: “Ever since the Al Qaeda massacre of Sept. 11, 2001, American Muslims have been under attack. They have been vilified as murderers, accused of conspiring to take over the United States and impose Shariah religious law, described as enemies of women, and subjected to hundreds of violent hate crime attacks.”²¹⁵ A recent SPLC online publication, “A Journalist’s Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists,”²¹⁶ has been criticized for its demonization of anti-Islamist activists.”²¹⁷

Yet J Street issued a strong attack on Israel’s Ambassador Ron Dermer²¹⁸ for accepting an award from the Center for Security Policy, run by Frank Gaffney, whom the SPLC has designated a “notorious anti-Muslim extremist.”²¹⁹ “SPLC had urged Dermer to decline the award, suggesting

²¹¹ Daniel May, “The Problem Isn’t Black Lives Matter. It’s the Occupation,” *Tablet Magazine*, Aug. 15, 2016,

<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/210838/the-problem-is-the-occupation>

²¹² Miriam Elman, “Anti-Israel activists hijack Passover, turn it into Palestinian liberation event,” *Legal Insurrection*, April 21, 2016, <http://legalinsurrection.com/2016/04/anti-israel-activists-hijack-passover-turn-it-into-palestinian-liberation-event/>

²¹³ Southern Poverty Law Center, About Us: Our History, <https://www.splcenter.org/our-history>

²¹⁴ Executive Summary, “A Journalist’s Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists,” Southern Poverty Law Center, Oct. 25, 2016, <https://www.splcenter.org/20161025/journalists-manual-field-guide-anti-muslim-extremists>

²¹⁵ Executive Summary, “A Journalist’s Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists,” Southern Poverty Law Center, Oct. 25, 2016, <https://www.splcenter.org/20161025/journalists-manual-field-guide-anti-muslim-extremists>

²¹⁶ “A Journalist’s Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists,” Southern Poverty Law Center, Oct. 25, 2016, <https://www.splcenter.org/20161025/journalists-manual-field-guide-anti-muslim-extremists>

²¹⁷ See, e.g., Editorial Board, “Everyone Who Disagrees with the SPLC Is Hitler,” *National Review*, Nov. 1, 2016, <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/441671/splc-anti-muslim-extremists-list-scholars-reformist-muslims-hirsi-ali-daniel-pipes>; Lucy Pasha Robinson, “American civil rights group brands atheist writers and UK government anti-terror adviser ‘anti-Muslim extremists,’” *The Independent* (UK), Nov. 2, 2016,

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/atheists-anti-muslim-extremists-civil-rights-advocacy-group-a7392771.html>; MEF Presents 15 “Useful Infidels” Who Enable Islamists, Middle East Forum, Dec. 27, 2016, <http://www.meforum.org/6450/mef-presents-15-useful-infidels-who-enable>

²¹⁸ “Ambassador Dermer’s Defense of Bigots and Attack on SPLC Are Outrageous,” J Street Press Release, Dec. 15, 2016, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/ambassador-dermers-defense-bigots-attack-splc-outrageous/#.WL1nz1UrJdg>

²¹⁹ “Meet Frank Gaffney, Donald Trump’s Expert on Muslim Conspiracies,” Southern Poverty Law Center Hatewatch, Dec. 8, 2015, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2015/12/08/meet-frank-gaffney-donald-trump%E2%80%99s-expert-muslim-conspiracies>

his acceptance ‘not only further legitimizes this organization, but could be read as an **endorsement of anti-Muslim hate by the Israeli government.**’”²²⁰ [emphasis added] Dermer also defended other anti-Islamist activists labeled by SPLC,²²¹ including “Daniel Pipes, President of the Middle East Forum, Maajid Nawaz, a British activist who runs a counter-extremism organization, and Ayaan Hirsi Ali, a Dutch-American activist who decries the treatment of women in Islam.”²²² In his speech, “Dermer accused the SPLC, in naming Ali and others to its list of extremists, of defaming ‘erudite scholars and courageous reformers who are trying to enlighten us about ideologies that threaten our way of life.’”²²³

Incredibly, **J Street sided with SPLC** over Ambassador Dermer, stating it was:

“**outraged** by Israeli Ambassador to the US’ Ron Dermer’s full-throated defense of the Center for Security Policy (CSP), **an Islamophobic hate group**, and by his attack on the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a venerable and important anti-bigotry watchdog that has stood against discrimination, racism and anti-Semitism for decades.... By celebrating and defending their work, the **Ambassador has acted in complete opposition to the core values and beliefs of our community.** Incredibly, he went even further in his speech, attacking the SPLC for daring to label Gaffney’s organization a hate group, and for asking Dermer not to accept their award. Right now, when American Jews are deeply worried about the rise of white nationalism and hate crimes in this country in the wake of the election of Donald Trump, **it is remarkable that Dermer would stand with the champions of hate while criticizing a group that plays a vital role in defending Muslims, Jews, African-Americans and other vulnerable minorities.**”²²⁴ [emphasis added]

Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)

²²⁰ “Israeli envoy slams US civil rights group for attacking anti-Islamist activists,” JTA, Dec. 14, 2016 <http://www.jta.org/2016/12/14/news-opinion/united-states/israeli-ambassador-attacks-us-civil-rights-group-in-speech-to-right-wing-think-tank>

²²¹ The SPLC list of “anti-Muslim extremists” includes Steven Emerson, Daniel Pipes, Brigitte Gabriel, David Horowitz, Ryan Mauro, Maajid Nawaz, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Walid Shoebat and Robert Spencer. “A Journalist’s Manual: Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists,” Southern Poverty Law Center, Oct. 25, 2016, <https://www.splcenter.org/20161025/journalists-manual-field-guide-anti-muslim-extremists>

²²² “Israeli envoy slams US civil rights group for attacking anti-Islamist activists,” JTA, Dec. 14, 2016 <http://www.jta.org/2016/12/14/news-opinion/united-states/israeli-ambassador-attacks-us-civil-rights-group-in-speech-to-right-wing-think-tank>

²²³ “Israeli envoy slams US civil rights group for attacking anti-Islamist activists,” JTA, Dec. 14, 2016 <http://www.jta.org/2016/12/14/news-opinion/united-states/israeli-ambassador-attacks-us-civil-rights-group-in-speech-to-right-wing-think-tank>

²²⁴ “Ambassador Dermer’s Defense of Bigots and Attack on SPLC Are Outrageous,” J Street Press Release, Dec. 15, 2016, <http://jstreet.org/press-releases/ambassador-dermers-defense-bigots-attack-splc-outrageous/#.WL1nz1UrJdg>

The Islamist **Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)** has followed a consistent pattern of defending designated terrorist organizations and their supporters, opposing U.S. counterterrorism efforts, and spouting anti-Semitic rhetoric.²²⁵

On Feb. 26, 2017 Salam Al-Marayati, President of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) spoke at the J Street's national conference titled, "Combating Islamophobia" in Washington, DC.²²⁶

In April 2010, J Street co-sponsored an event with MPAC at Georgetown University's Saudi-funded Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center.²²⁷ The event titled, "From Washington to Jerusalem: How Can Jewish and Muslim Americans Bring Peace to the Middle East?" featured MPAC President Salam al-Marayati and J Street's Jeremy Ben-Ami as speakers.²²⁸

At the event, Ben-Ami expressed his support for negotiations with Hamas: "There has to be a channel of dialogue with Hamas. 67% of Israelis want Israel to be negotiating with Hamas. It's a consistent figure. There are 3rd party intermediaries that can be talking to Hamas. I don't think that the answer is for us to be lobbying Congress that the US talk to Hamas. Hamas and Fatah need to reconcile. There needs to be a unified Palestinian negotiating position, a negotiating body. Otherwise, who is Israel speaking to?"²²⁹ [emphasis added]

MPAC's Al-Marayati alleged Israel engaged in "ethnic cleansing" against Palestinians: "'I think the difference starts with the narrative. The Muslim community has a diametrically opposed narrative on Palestine-Israel from many members of the Jewish community. So our narrative is one of a group of people who were displaced, whether it was ethnic cleansing that was the history of an injustice we've been trying to address for quite some time, even before 1948."²³⁰ [emphasis added]

Al-Marayati further claimed that there's a "major human rights atrocity committed against the Palestinian people." He also faulted the U.S. for "promoting democracy in the region" and encouraging Palestinians to vote: "I think the problem started in Gaza when the United States was promoting democracy in the region, and so they told the people of Palestine to vote. And it turned out, the Palestinians in Gaza voted for the wrong party, and then they get penalized and

²²⁵ For greater detail, see IPT Investigative Profile and Investigative Report on the Muslim Public Affairs Council, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/181/the-muslim-public-affairs-council-mpac> and <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/358.pdf>

²²⁶ "Combating Islamophobia," J Street National Conference – DC, Feb. 26, 2017, *MPAC Press Release*, <http://www.mpac.org/events/j-street-national-conference.php>

²²⁷ Steven Emerson, "Wolf to Georgetown: Detail Use of Saudi Millions," *IPT News*, Feb. 15, 2008, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/607/wolf-to-georgetown-detail-use-of-saudi>

²²⁸ Event titled, "From Washington to Jerusalem: How Can Jewish and Muslim Americans Bring Peace to the Middle East?" Georgetown University, April 14, 2010.

²²⁹ Event titled, "From Washington to Jerusalem: How Can Jewish and Muslim Americans Bring Peace to the Middle East?" Georgetown University, April 14, 2010.

²³⁰ Event titled, "From Washington to Jerusalem: How Can Jewish and Muslim Americans Bring Peace to the Middle East?" Georgetown University, April 14, 2010.

punished basically through starvation. I think that's a **major human rights atrocity** committed against the Palestinian people."²³¹ [emphasis added]

He did, however, condemn Hamas for acts of violence: "But we've been on record condemning Hamas for its terrorism, and we don't believe that any group that commits acts of terrorism is serving the interests of the Palestinian people, nor is it abiding by the principles of Islam."

In a 1999 PBS interview, Al-Marayati called Hizballah attacks "legitimate resistance," but later added "when a Muslim commits an act of terrorism, we stand very loudly and clearly against that Muslim that committed that act of violence."²³²

Al-Marayati has continued to attempt to minimize terrorist attacks by Muslims, decry U.S. government anti-terrorism measures, and blame anything he can on the state of Israel. For instance, on **Sept. 11, 2001**, on a Los Angeles radio program al-Marayati said, **"If we're going to look at suspects, we should look to the groups that benefit the most from these kinds of incidents, and I think we should put the state of Israel on the suspect list because I think this diverts attention from what's happening in the Palestinian territories so that they can go on with their aggression and occupation and apartheid policies."**²³³ [emphasis added]

In April 2014, **MPAC's then-National Policy Analyst Hoda Elshishtawy**²³⁴ (currently MPAC's Director of Policy and Advocacy) was invited to speak at **J Street U's** Town Hall at Johns Hopkins University. The event titled, "Homeland and Diaspora: Political Developments in the Palestinian Territories and Arab American Communities," was attended by over 120 J Street U student leaders from campuses across the country.²³⁵

Arab American Institute (AAI)

In March 2012, the Arab American Institute (AAI), J Street and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace hosted a panel on Capitol Hill "to discuss revitalizing American political efforts in favor of the stalled Arab Peace Initiative as an attainable path to Israeli-Palestine peace."²³⁶

Panelists include Marwan Muasher, Vice President for Studies - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace & Former Foreign Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; **Jeremy Ben-Ami**, the president of the group J Street; Yuval Rabin, Co-Author of the Israeli Peace

²³¹ Event titled, "From Washington to Jerusalem: How Can Jewish and Muslim Americans Bring Peace to the Middle East?" Georgetown University, April 14, 2010.

²³² Salam al-Marayati, "Muslims in America," NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, PBS, Nov. 24, 1999.

²³³ Larry Stammer, "After the Attack: Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Newly Tested," *Los Angeles Times*, Sept. 22, 2001.

²³⁴ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/hoda-elshishtawy-29281921>

²³⁵ "Elshishtawy Talks to J Street U Student Leaders," MPAC press release, April 17, 2014, <http://www.mpac.org/programs/young-leaders/elshishtawy-talks-to-j-street-u-student-leaders.php>

²³⁶ "10 Years Later: The Arab Peace Initiative as a Framework for Solving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict," Capitol Hill, March 27, 2012, <http://cdn.livestream.com/embed/aaiusa?layout=4&height=340&width=560&autoplay=false>

Initiative & son of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; Tom Friedman, Columnist for The New York Times; and AAI president **James Zogby**.²³⁷

AAI routinely takes anti-Israel positions. The organization, for example, was a co-signatory to a May 2004 press statement with leading Islamist and anti-Israeli groups, including the **Council on American Islamic Relations**,²³⁸ **MPAC**, and **American Task Force for Palestine**.²³⁹ The statement titled, "Joint Muslims/Arab-American Statement on Israeli Violence in Gaza," "strongly condemn[ed]" Israel's "indiscriminate killings of innocent Palestinians, including many children," and its "demolition of Palestinian homes."²⁴⁰

In October 2000, former Muslim Brotherhood leader Abdurahman Alamoudi,²⁴¹ speaking at a rally across the street from the White House, announced his support for Hamas and Hezbollah.²⁴² Following public release of the video of Alamoudi's statement at the rally, politicians who had received campaign contributions from him immediately returned them.

AAI President James Zogby,²⁴³ for his part, cried foul. According to a report at the time in the New York Daily News:

"Leaders regarded in some circles as moderate, such as Zogby, are labeled by some Israel supporters as radical and dangerous - little different than Hamas associate Abdurahman Alamoudi, who is about to get a refund check from the Clinton campaign - and from the Bush campaign, to which he contributed \$1,000. **'What's going on is a shameful hysteria campaign of McCarthyism,' Zogby charged.**"²⁴⁴ [Emphasis added]

In 2004, Abdurahman Alamoudi, a former head of the "mainstream" American Muslim Council,²⁴⁵ was sentenced to 23 years in prison for illegal financial dealings with Libya.²⁴⁶

²³⁷ "10 Years Later: The Arab Peace Initiative as a Framework or Solving the Palestinian-Israel Conflict," Capitol Hill, March 27, 2012, <http://cdn.livestream.com/embed/aaiusa?layout=4&height=340&width=560&autoplay=false>

²³⁸ IPT Profile on CAIR, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/122.pdf> and <http://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/172/the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-cair>

²³⁹ "Joint Muslims/Arab-American Statement on Israeli Violence in Gaza," Press statement issued by American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee, American Muslims for Jerusalem, American Task Force for Lebanon, American Task Force on Palestine, Arab American Institute, Arab American Institute, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Muslim Public Affairs Council, May 20, 2004, <http://web.archive.org/web/20040905092746/http://www.amjerusalem.org/press/pr-2004-5-20.htm>

²⁴⁰ "Joint Muslims/Arab-American Statement on Israeli Violence in Gaza," Press statement issued by American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee, American Muslims for Jerusalem, American Task Force for Lebanon, American Task Force on Palestine, Arab American Institute, Arab American Institute, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Muslim Public Affairs Council, May 20, 2004, <http://web.archive.org/web/20040905092746/http://www.amjerusalem.org/press/pr-2004-5-20.htm>

²⁴¹ Case documents, *U.S. v. Alamoudi*, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/147/us-v-alamoudi>

²⁴² Video recording, Rally at Lafayette Park: Alamoudi, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/218/rally-at-lafayette-park-alamoudi>

²⁴³ <http://www.aaiusa.org/dr-zogby>

²⁴⁴ http://web.archive.org/web/20090827150937/http://www.nydailynews.com/archives/news/2000/10/27/2000-10-27_hil_refund_irks_arab_gore_ai.html

²⁴⁵ Daniel Pipes, [The American Muslim Council:] 'Mainstream' Muslims? *New York Post*, June 18, 2002, <http://www.danielpipes.org/423/the-american-muslim-council-mainstream-muslims>

Alamoudi also confessed to taking part in a Libyan plot to assassinate the then- Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.²⁴⁷

J Street's Donors

J Street's political action committee (JStreetPAC) has **received contributions from dozens of Arab and Muslim Americans, as well as from other individuals who engage in anti-Israel rhetoric or are affiliated with organizations that advocate on Palestinian and Iranian issues.** When initially asked about these donations, J Street's Ben-Ami denied they occurred or minimized the number of contributors.²⁴⁸

These donations raise major questions as to the possible impact they have had on J Street's positions on substantive issues.²⁴⁹ It has been reported that **anti-Israel career U.S. Arabists** not only contribute to J Street's PAC, but also sit on its advisory board.²⁵⁰

Donors also include **liberal, anti-Israel financier George Soros and his family**, board members of the **National Iranian American Council (NIAC)**, a pro-Iran lobby group, in Washington, DC,²⁵¹

²⁴⁶ Department of Justice Press Release, "Abdurahman Alamoudi Sentenced to Jail in Terrorism Financing Case," Oct. 15, 2004, http://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/168.pdf

²⁴⁷ Case documents, *U.S. v. Alamoudi*, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/case/147/us-v-alamoudi>

²⁴⁸ Hilary Leila Krieger, "Muslims, Arabs Among J Street Donors; At least 2 State Department officials also on list, says federal c'tee," *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 14, 2009, <http://www.jpost.com/International/Muslims-Arabs-among-J-Street-donors>; Eli Lake, "Soros revealed as funder of liberal Jewish-American lobby," *Washington Times*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/24/soros-funder-liberal-jewish-american-lobby/?page=all>; Lenny Ben-David, "Showdown on J Street," *PJ Media*, Oct. 20, 2009, <https://pjmedia.com/blog/showdown-on-j-street/>; Michael Goldfarb, "J Street Exposed," *Weekly Standard*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.weeklystandard.com/j-street-exposed/article/496297>; Chris Good, "Raising More Money, J Street Discloses Big Donors," *The Atlantic*, Sept. 24, 2010, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/09/raising-more-money-j-street-discloses-big-donors/63520/> and Chris Good, "J Street's Half-Truths and Non-Truths About Its Funding," *The Atlantic*, Sept. 24, 2010, <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/09/j-streets-half-truths-and-non-truths-about-its-funding/63541/>

²⁴⁹ The voluminous 2016 JStreetPAC Federal Election Commission report contains recent evidence of who has contributed to the PAC. See, e.g., Federal Election Commission (FEC) FORM 3X: Report for Receipts and Disbursements," filed by J StreetPAC, Oct. 20, 2016, <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/657/201610259034569657/201610259034569657.pdf>

²⁵⁰ "These include Ray Close, contributor to the J Street. [sic] former CIA station chief in Saudi Arabia and then advisor to the head of Saudi intelligence; Lewis Elbinger, contributor to the J Street PAC a State Department foreign service officer who had been stationed in Saudi Arabia but now serves as deputy political advisor seconded to Gen. David Petraeus at CENTCOM; Nicole Champaine, contributor to J street PAC [former] director of the State Department's Office for Egypt and the Levant; Amb. Ted Kattouf, members of the J Street Advisory Board, former ambassador to Syria and the United Arab Emirates; Ambassador Robert Pelletreau, member of the J Street Advisory Board. former ambassador to Egypt, Tunisia and Bahrain; and Ambassador Philip Wilcox, member of the J Street Advisory Board, former U.S. consul general in Jerusalem and president of the Foundation for Middle East Peace." David Bedein, "Op-Ed: J Street is Anti-Israel, not Pro-Peace," *Israel National News*, May 3, 2011, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/143869>

²⁵¹ Alex Shirazi, "The Shady Family Behind America's Iran Lobby," *The Daily Beast*, Sept. 15, 2015, <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/09/15/the-shady-family-behind-america-s-iran-lobby.html>

and the often-**anti-Israel Human Rights Watch**. Individuals who have made smaller donations to J Street “include several leaders of Muslim student groups, Saudi- and Iranian-born Americans, and **Palestinian- and Arab-American businessmen** who also give to Arab-oriented PACs.”²⁵²

The Ploughshares Fund

Since 2012, J Street has received significant funding from the liberal Ploughshares Fund to advocate for the Iran nuclear deal.²⁵³ In 2016, J Street received \$220,000²⁵⁴ and in 2015 it received \$576,500 from the Ploughshares Fund.²⁵⁵ J Street applauds its advocacy efforts on its website in support of the Iran deal: “J Street, building off our extensive advocacy infrastructure and legislating relationships, ensured that members of Congress in key states understood that American Jews, as well as leading Israeli security experts, backed the Iran deal. A J Street advocacy campaign during the summer, alongside two major polls showing American Jewish support for the agreement, helped to advance efforts.”²⁵⁶

George Soros

As he did when asked about Muslim and Arab contributors, Jeremy Ben-Ami, J Street’s founder and president,²⁵⁷ initially denied that J Street received funds from Soros and his foundation. However, Ben-Ami was forced to change his story after being confronted with documentation of Soros’ financial involvement.²⁵⁸ In one interview, when asked, “[w]hat is the truth?,” Ben-Ami responded:

“George Soros and his family decided to donate to J Street in the fall of 2008, well after our launch and two years after he publicly stated that it would not be helpful for him to assist in getting the effort off the ground. The family contributed an average of \$250,000 per year over the last three years [2008-2010] and their support amounts to just over 7 percent of the total funds raised by the J Street family of organizations. I **accept responsibility for being less than clear** about Mr. Soros’s support once he did become a donor. I said Mr. Soros did not help launch J Street or provide its initial

²⁵² Hilary Leila Krieger, “Muslims, Arabs among J Street Donors,” *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 14, 2009, <http://www.jpost.com/International/Muslims-Arabs-among-J-Street-donors>

²⁵³ Ploughshares Fund Annual Reports (2012-2016), <http://www.ploughshares.org/about-us/annual-reports>

²⁵⁴ Ploughshares Fund Annual Report, 2016, p. 34, http://www.ploughshares.org/sites/default/files/resources/pf_AR_2016_pages.pdf

²⁵⁵ Ploughshares Fund Annual Report, 2015, p. 28, <http://www.ploughshares.org/sites/default/files/resources/Ploughshares-AR-2015-web-version.pdf>; Bradley Klapper, “Group that helped sell Iran nuke deal also funded media,” *Associated Press*, May 20, 2016, <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/7044e805a95a4b7da5533b1b9ab75cd2/group-helped-sell-iran-nuke-deal-also-funded-media>

²⁵⁶ The Iran Deal,” <http://jstreet.org/learn/iran-deal-facts/>

²⁵⁷ <http://jstreet.org/about/staff>

²⁵⁸ Eli Lake, “Soros revealed as funder of liberal Jewish-American lobby,” *Washington Times*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/24/soros-funder-liberal-jewish-american-lobby/?page=all>; Lenny Ben-David, “Protecting the Quarterback in the White House,” *Jerusalem Post*, Sept. 14, 2009, <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-Ed-Contributors/Protecting-the-quarterback-in-the-White-House>

funding, and that is true. I also said we would be happy to take his support. **But I did not take the extra step to add that he did in fact start providing support in the fall of 2008, six months after our launch. My answers regarding Mr. Soros were misleading.** I apologize for that and for any distraction from J Street's important work created by my actions and decisions."²⁵⁹ [emphasis added]

IRS form 990s for **George Soros' Open Society Foundations (formerly known as Open Society Institute)**²⁶⁰ for the **fiscal years 2011, 2013 and 2014** identify grants to the **J Street Education Funds for \$6,000, \$37,000, and \$22,500 respectively.**²⁶¹ J Street's annual reports for 2013, 2014 identify George Soros and his son Alex Soros as **part of the Chair's Circle of individuals that have contributed at least \$50,000 or more to the organization.**²⁶²

According to tax forms obtained by *The Washington Times*, **Soros and his two children, Jonathan and Andrea Soros, contributed a total \$245,000** to J Street from a Manhattan address in New York **during the fiscal year from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.**²⁶³

Ben-Ami declared in an interview that the \$245,000 was part of a \$750,000 gift from the Soros family to his organization made over three years. Ben-Ami also admitted to raising \$11 million for J Street and its political action committee from a variety of sources.²⁶⁴

J Street, while denying Soros "did not found J Street and did not provide its seed funding," acknowledges that "the organization has received **approximately \$500,000/year in funding from the Soros family since launching.**"²⁶⁵ The website adds, "Overall, the J Street family of organizations--its legally-independent PAC, the 501(c) (3) Education Fund and the (c) (4) lobby--has now raised approximately \$35 million in just over five years. The Soros family has contributed just over seven percent of the overall funding."²⁶⁶ [emphasis added]

²⁵⁹ Charley J. Levine, "Interview: Jeremy Ben-Ami," *Hadassah Magazine*, Oct/Nov 2010, <http://www.hadassahmagazine.org/2010/10/10/interview-jeremy-ben-ami/>

²⁶⁰ Profile, NGO Monitor, Oct. 6, 2010, updated Aug. 2016, http://www.ngo-monitor.org/funder/open_society_institute_osi/ / A list of the international offices and foundations is posted at <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/about/offices-foundations>.

²⁶¹ Open Society Institute *IRS Form 990* for 2011 (p.35), 2013 (p.35), and 2014 (p. 46).

²⁶² J Street Annual Reports for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.

²⁶³ Eli Lake, "Soros revealed as funder of liberal Jewish-American lobby," *Washington Times*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/24/soros-funder-liberal-jewish-american-lobby/?page=all>

²⁶⁴ Eli Lake, "Soros revealed as funder of liberal Jewish-American lobby," *Washington Times*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/24/soros-funder-liberal-jewish-american-lobby/?page=all> ; Dan Eggen, "J Street's wrong turn on its ties to George Soros," *Washington Post*, Sept. 30, 2010 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/29/AR2010092907376.html>

²⁶⁵ J Street "Myths and Facts" (See sections titled, "George Soros founded and is the primary funder of J Street," and "J Street lied about receiving money from George Soros.") <http://web.archive.org/web/20160309185145/http://jstreet.org/page/mythsandfacts/home#donors>

²⁶⁶ "Explanation of George Soros & J Street Funding," J Street Blog, Sept. 26, 2010, <http://web.archive.org/web/20160309214447/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/Explanation-of-George-Soros-J-Street-Funding>

In a 2007 article in *The Financial Times*, Soros called for recognition of Hamas by the U.S. and Israel.²⁶⁷ “The Bush administration is again committing a blunder in the Middle East by supporting the Israeli government in its refusal to recognise a Palestinian unity government that includes Hamas,” he wrote.²⁶⁸ [emphasis added] In another article published the same year in *The New York Review of Books*, Soros alleged that the pro-Israel advocacy group, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), had “overreached itself.” [emphasis added] “It became closely allied with the neocons and was an enthusiastic supporter of the invasion of Iraq. It actively lobbied for the confirmation of John Bolton as US ambassador to the United Nations. It continues to oppose any dialogue with a Palestinian government that includes Hamas,” he added.²⁶⁹

Nancy Dutton

J Street’s political action committee has received funding from **Nancy Dutton, lawyer for Dutton & Dutton representing the Saudi Embassy in Washington, DC.**²⁷⁰ She together with her spouse Fred Dutton founded the Dutton & Dutton law firm in 1979.²⁷¹ A *Washington Post* obituary that described Fred Dutton as “Fred of Arabia” stated, “Mr. Dutton had been the Washington liaison and consultant for Saudi Arabia since 1975 and was widely credited with engineering the come-from-behind congressional approval of two major arms sales to the kingdom—the 1978 sale of F-15 fighters and the 1981 sale of radar planes.”²⁷²

Zahi Khouri

Palestinian American businessman²⁷³ **Zahi Khouri** contributed to JStreetPAC in 2009. He is listed in the Federal Election Commission records as “not employed” and living in Orlando, Florida.²⁷⁴

Khouri admitted to the *Jerusalem Post* he made the donation to the JStreetPAC because, “I believe that they are sincere about being pro-Israel and they are sincere about being pro-peace. **And AIPAC I consider an enemy of Israel rather than a friend of Israel because they're not helping it to achieve peace.**”²⁷⁵ [emphasis added] In a *New York Times* op-ed Khouri railed

²⁶⁷ George Soros, “America and Israel must open the door to Hamas,” *The Financial Times*, March 18, 2007, <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8835d6dc-d54a-11db-a5c6-000b5df10621.html#axzz41laTjcYw> (requires subscription)

²⁶⁸ George Soros, “America and Israel must open the door to Hamas,” *The Financial Times*, March 18, 2007, <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8835d6dc-d54a-11db-a5c6-000b5df10621.html#axzz41laTjcYw> (requires subscription)

²⁶⁹ George Soros, “On Israel, America and AIPAC,” *The New York Review of Books*, April 12, 2007, http://www.georgesoros.com/essays/on_israel_america_and_aipac/

²⁷⁰ “Federal Election Commission (FEC) FORM 3X: Report for Receipts and Disbursements,” filed by J StreetPAC, July 15, 2008, page 42 (of 301), <http://docquery.fec.gov/pdf/201/28932255201/28932255201.pdf>

²⁷¹ “Fredrick Gary Dutton, June 16, 1923-June 25, 2005,” http://www.freddutton.com/history/bio/Fred_Dutton_Bio.htm

²⁷² Patricia Sullivan, “Fredrick Dutton Dies; Power Broker, Presidential Aide,” *Washington Post*, June 26, 2005, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/25/AR2005062501068.html>

²⁷³ The bio accompanying his 2009 op-ed published in the *New York Times*, states he is “the chief executive of the Palestine National Beverage Co.” Zahi Khouri, “The West Bank’s Deceptive Growth,” *New York Times*, Sept. 8, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/09/opinion/09iht-edkhouri.html?_r=0.

²⁷⁴ FEC FORM 3X: Report for Receipts and Disbursements,” Aug. 5, 2009, p. 103.

²⁷⁵ Hilary Leila Krieger, “Muslims, Arabs among J Street Donors,” *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 14, 2009, <http://www.jpost.com/International/Muslims-Arabs-among-J-Street-donors>

against the “Israeli occupation”: “The foundation upon which our economy rests is dangerously rotten. Israeli spreading settlements, checkpoints and roadblocks that fragment the occupied Palestinian territory; **Israel’s illegal Wall and its permit system that severely restrict where Palestinians can live and work**; and Israel’s continuing siege of Gaza all not only threaten our nascent economic recovery, but threaten the very possibility of a two-state solution.”²⁷⁶

Judith Barnett

Judith Barnett, who founded The Barnett Group, L.L.C. in 2003 and formerly served on J-Street’s Board of Directors,²⁷⁷ has contributed money to JStreetPAC.²⁷⁸ **Barnett registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent for Saudi Arabia.**²⁷⁹ **She also signed a contract with the public relations firm, Qorvis Communications, to implement The Women’s Project for Saudi Arabia.** Soon after the 9/11 attacks, the Saudi Arabian Embassy signed a \$14.6 million contract with Qorvis “to promote public awareness” of Saudi Arabia’s “commitment in the war against terrorism and to peace in the Middle East.”²⁸⁰ Barnett wrote a **glowing piece in the *Washington Post* on the changing role of women in Saudi Arabia: “What I found was that the role of Saudi women is changing far more quickly than most in the West realize.”**²⁸¹ [Emphasis added]

Genevieve Lynch

Genevieve Lohman Lynch, who was a former board member of the pro-Iran lobby group, National Iranian American Council,²⁸² constituted a member of J-Street’s President’s Council, who each contributed at least \$25,000.²⁸³ It has been reported Lynch’s JStreetPAC contributions exceed \$10,000 per year.²⁸⁴

Ray Close

Ray Close, who served as CIA station chief in Saudi Arabia for 22 years and later went to work for Saudi intelligence, has been reported to have made political contributions to JStreetPAC.²⁸⁵

²⁷⁶ Zahi Khouri, “The West Bank’s Deceptive Growth,” *New York Times*, Sept. 8, 2009, http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/09/opinion/09iht-edkhouri.html?_r=0

²⁷⁷ <http://www.thebarnettgroup.biz/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2012-JB-History.pdf>

²⁷⁸ “FEC FORM 3X: Report of Receipts and Disbursements for Other Than an Authorized Committee,” March 14, 2008.

²⁷⁹ <http://www.fara.gov/docs/5622-Exhibit-AB-20040513-HYAA0U01.pdf>

²⁸⁰ Sari Horwitz and Dan Eggen, “FBI Searches Saudi Arabia’s PR Firm,” *Washington Post*, Dec. 9, 2004, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A49849-2004Dec8.html>

²⁸¹ Judith Barnett, “A Mind-Bending Venture into Saudi Gender Politics,” *Washington Post*, Jan. 25, 2004, https://web.archive.org/web/20080501004808/http://www.thebarnettgroup.biz/saudi_gender.htm

²⁸² National Iranian American Council Press Kit, http://www.niacouncil.org/site/DocServer/NIAC_Press_Kit.pdf

²⁸³ J Street Annual Report for 2013, p. 4, https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.jstreet.org/images/JSt_AnnualReport_13.pdf;

J Street Annual Report for 2012, p. 19, http://jstreet-media-website.s3.amazonaws.com/JSt_AnnualReport_12.pdf;

J Street Annual Report for 2011, p. 9, <https://s3.amazonaws.com/jstreet-media-website/JSt2011AnnualReport.pdf>

²⁸⁴ David Bedein, “Op-Ed: J Street is Anti-Israel, not Pro-Peace,” *Israel National News*, May 3, 2011, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/143869>

²⁸⁵ Lenny Ben-David, “J Street has no shame,” *Jerusalem Post*, Oct. 27, 2010, <http://www.jpost.com/Blogs/Guest/J-Street-has-no-shame-368209>.

Upon retiring from the CIA, Close “joined Kamal Adham [head of Saudi Arabia’s intelligence service] in a business relationship.”²⁸⁶ A former senior CIA official, Duane Clarridge, told reporter Eli Lake, “To many officers in the CIA this seemed untoward because as a government official, he had an official relationship with Kamal Adham. Now he was in a commercial relationship which over the years reportedly made Close a very wealthy man.”²⁸⁷

Close was also an advisor to the Baker- Hamilton Iraq Commission in 2006 where he served on the “Expert Working Group.”²⁸⁸ In a memo to the commission, **Close endorsed the Arab Peace Initiative as well as Hamas’s ascension to power in the Palestinian authority:** “There is nothing in those sensible and reasonable proposals that is nearly as threatening to the safety and security of Israel as is the fresh hostility generated by Israeli and American treatment of the struggling Palestinian administration [Hamas] that was chosen in free and democratic elections last year. The Arab Initiative is a positive and constructive starting- point.”²⁸⁹

Close’s son, Kenneth, is registered at the Justice Department as a foreign agent, working for Saudi Prince Turki al-Faisal,²⁹⁰ who served as director general of Al Mukhabarat Al A’amah, Saudi Arabia’s intelligence agency, from 1977 to 2001.²⁹¹

Mehmet Celebi

Turkish-American Mehmet Celebi of Chicago was part of J Street’s Ambassadors Club for donations of at least \$5,000.²⁹² **Celebi was dropped from the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign in 2008 after it was discovered he helped produce *Valley of the Wolves*, an anti-American and anti-Semitic Turkish film.**²⁹³ Celebi has made several anti-Israeli statements in the past. In December 2014, **Celebi posted on Twitter:** “‘democratic#Israel’ under arrogant @ntanyahu govt is breeding an arrogant immoral & nefarious military & generation.”²⁹⁴ In a

²⁸⁶ Eli Lake, “Baker Panel Aide Expects Israel Will Be Pressed,” *New York Sun*, Nov. 29, 2006 (accessed March 5, 2017) <http://www.nysun.com/foreign/baker-panel-aide-expects-israel-will-be-pressed/44310/>

²⁸⁷ Eli Lake, “Baker Panel Aide Expects Israel Will Be Pressed,” *New York Sun*, Nov. 29, 2006 (accessed March 5, 2017) <http://www.nysun.com/foreign/baker-panel-aide-expects-israel-will-be-pressed/44310/>

²⁸⁸ James A. Baker III and Lee H. Hamilton, co-chairs, *The Iraq Study Group Report* (New York: Vintage Books, 2006), (accessed March 5, 2017) http://online.wsj.com/public/resources/documents/WSJ-iraq_study_group.pdf

²⁸⁹ Ray Close, “Inteligencia y Seguridad,” *Offnews.info*, Oct. 30, 2006, <http://www.offnews.info/verArticulo.php?contenidoID=6277> .

²⁹⁰ Lenny Ben-David, “The Saudis Take a Stroll on J Street,” *PJ Media*, Dec. 23, 2009, <https://pjmedia.com/blog/the-saudis-take-a-stroll-on-j-street/?print=true&singlepage=true>

²⁹¹ Bernard Zand, “Interview with Saudi Prince Turki Bin Faisal Al Saud: ‘We Try To Learn from Our Mistakes,’” *Spiegel Online Int’l*, May 13, 2015, <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/spiegel-interview-with-prince-turki-bin-faisal-al-saud-a-1033376.html>

²⁹² J Street Annual Report 2011, p. 17 <https://s3.amazonaws.com/jstreet-media-website/JSt2011AnnualReport.pdf>

²⁹³ Christopher Cooper, “Campaigns Quick to Shake Loose Cannons,” *Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 30, 2010, <http://mehmet-celebi.blogspot.com/2010/09/mehmet-celebi-wall-street-journal.html>; and David Bedein, “Op-Ed: J Street is Anti-Israel, not Pro-Peace,” *Israel National News*, May 3, 2011, <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/143869#.VtRugbf2aov>

²⁹⁴ <https://twitter.com/mehmetfcelebi/status/543089819749216256>

2010 article, Celebi wrote: “Israel’s recent actions at home and abroad—largely boosted by increasingly aggressive and combative political leadership—are concerning many Israelis, friends of Israel, and surrounding nations. It is becoming paranoid, intolerant, and undemocratic, increasingly espousing a mindset of us versus the whole world.”²⁹⁵

Nicole Champagne

Nicole Champagne, Director, Office of Assistance for Asia & the Near East, Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration,²⁹⁶ gave \$1,000 to JStreetPAC in 2008.²⁹⁷ Her previous assignments include three years as the director of the Office of Egypt and Levant Affairs in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad; deputy director of the Office of Israel and Palestinian Affairs; and director for the Middle East and South East Asia in the NSC Counter-terrorism Directorate.²⁹⁸

Lewis Elbinger

Lewis Elbinger who was formerly an official with the State Department and **served as Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, made donations to JStreetPAC. He provided an **interesting address in the Federal Election Commission files: 6300 Riyadh Place, Dulles, Virginia.**²⁹⁹

Susan Manilow

Susan Manilow, the Vice Chair of **Human Rights Watch**,³⁰⁰ an organization that **often takes anti-Israel positions**,³⁰¹ is listed in J Street’s Annual Report for 2010 among the “J-NET” group of donors who contribute at least \$1,800 and form part of J Street’s Political Advocacy Network.³⁰² Manilow is also listed among J Street’s Congressional Caucus of donors who contribute at least \$10,000 and above.³⁰³

Consolacion Esdicol (Donor from Hong Kong)

²⁹⁵ Mehmet Celebi, “Turkish Reforms, A Wake-Up Call for Israel,” *TurkOfAmerica*, Oct. 5, 2010, http://www.turkofamerica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=622&Itemid=167

²⁹⁶ Middle East Institute, “Cut Off from Care: The Health Crisis of Populations Displaced by Conflict,” [http://www.mei.edu/events/cut-care-health-crisis-populations-displaced-conflict-middle-east#Nicole Champagne](http://www.mei.edu/events/cut-care-health-crisis-populations-displaced-conflict-middle-east#Nicole%20Champaine)

²⁹⁷ “Schedule A (FEC Form 3X) Itemized Receipts,” <http://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?29991771437>

²⁹⁸ Middle East Institute, “Cut Off from Care: The Health Crisis of Populations Displaced by Conflict,” [http://www.mei.edu/events/cut-care-health-crisis-populations-displaced-conflict-middle-east#Nicole Champagne](http://www.mei.edu/events/cut-care-health-crisis-populations-displaced-conflict-middle-east#Nicole%20Champaine)

²⁹⁹ Federal Election Commission, “FEC FORM 3X,” Oct. 15, 2008 (accessed July 26, 2011).

³⁰⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/about/people/susan-manilow>

³⁰¹ “Human Rights Watch’s double standards and flawed methodology: Analysis of HRW’s 2014 World Report,” *NGO Monitor*, Feb. 2, 2014, http://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/human_rights_watch_s_double_standards_and_flawed_methodology_analysis_of_hrw_s_world_report/

³⁰² J Street Annual Report 2010, p. 13,

http://annualreport.s3.amazonaws.com/2010%20JStreet_AR_FINAL%20Small.pdf

³⁰³ J Street Annual Report 2013, p. 8, https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.jstreet.org/images/JSt_AnnualReport_13.pdf; J Street Annual Report 2014, p. 9, https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.jstreet.org/images/2014_Financial_Statements_Final.pdf

J Street states on its website that “it accepts no funding from foreign governments or from foreign organizations.”³⁰⁴ A 2010 *Washington Times* report, however, noted that tax filings for the group showed that it received **funding from one Consolacion Esdicul**, the Happy Valley, Hong Kong-based donor of **“nearly half the group’s revenue for the 2008 to 2009 fiscal year.”**³⁰⁵

J Street’s founder and President Jeremy Ben-Ami justified the donation saying, “she [Ms. Esdicul] gave J Street money in multiple wire transfers at the urging of William Benter, a Pittsburgh-based philanthropist and the chief executive officer of Acusis, a medical services firm.”³⁰⁶

This is explained in greater detail on J Street’s website: “Some press reports have also noted a large contribution on our return from a resident of Hong Kong named Consolacion Esdicul. The explanation for this is straightforward. Bill Benter, a philanthropist and political activist from Pittsburgh, is a major supporter of and contributor to J Street. He is a generous donor to a range of causes related to his hometown, national politics and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and a passionate advocate for peace. As we were launching J Street, Bill committed to contribute and to help raise substantial funds for the effort should we get it off the ground. One contribution he helped raise was from Ms. Esdicul, a business associate from Hong Kong, where he lives for part of the year and has business holdings. The Esdicul contribution represents a significant portion of the one tax filing that was leaked – and seems high when viewed in isolation – but it represents just over 7 percent of the \$11 million raised by all aspects of J Street since it was launched.”³⁰⁷ [emphasis added]

³⁰⁴ J Street, “Myths & Facts,” <http://web.archive.org/web/20160309185145/http://jstreet.org/page/mythsandfacts/home> (See section titled, “J Street is funded by Arab and other foreign and non-Jewish donors.”)

³⁰⁵ Eli Lake, “Soros revealed as funder of liberal Jewish-American lobby,” *Washington Times*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/24/soros-funder-liberal-jewish-american-lobby/?page=all>

³⁰⁶ Eli Lake, “Soros revealed as funder of liberal Jewish-American lobby,” *Washington Times*, Sept. 24, 2010, <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/24/soros-funder-liberal-jewish-american-lobby/?page=all>

³⁰⁷ “Explanation of George Soros & J Street Funding,” J Street Blog, Sept. 26, 2010 <http://web.archive.org/web/20160309214447/http://jstreet.org/blog/post/Explanation-of-George-Soros-J-Street-Funding>