



# *Last Days Beacon*

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## NEVER AGAIN: THE RISE OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES



*By Carol Rushton*

After World War II, Americans could hardly believe the abhorrent discovery of concentration camps where Jews were sent to die in ovens and showers; the mass graves where Jews were rounded up and murdered, shot at point blank range simply for the crime of being Jews. At least six million Jews, as well as other minorities, lost their lives due to the hatred that Adolf Hitler had for them. The horror came to be known as the Holocaust. The world vowed it would never happen again.

This is why it is so frightening to see the rise of anti-Semitism around the world, including, unbelievably also in the United States.

From the publishing of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* in 1920 to the latest anti-Semitic ravings of Kanye “Ye” West in 2022, it is no wonder that American Jews are feeling increasingly under siege in the supposedly freest nation in the world.

How has a country founded on Judeo-Christian principles becoming a more threatening place for Jews, one of the most persecuted peoples in the world?

## Anti-Semitism: The Old Hatred

Anti-Semitism has been going on for thousands of years, dating back to Isaac and Ishmael. The United States is supposed to be free from all racial hatred. In our country’s short history, sadly, this has not been the case, including hatred for Jews.

Henry Ford, who is known today as the founder of Ford Motor Company, was also involved in publishing *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a deeply anti-Semitic diatribe against Jews. While the Immigration Acts of 1921 and 1924 sought to limit immigration into the U.S., it prevented many European Jews from fleeing the growing persecution and anti-Semitism in that part of the world, especially Jews in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s.

One of the most abominable acts of anti-Semitism in the U.S. was committed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1939, a ship, ironically named *St. Louis*, sailed from Germany with over 900 Jewish passengers, hoping to find asylum in any country that would take them. Although Roosevelt was well aware of what was happening to Jews in Germany under Hitler, the U.S. refused to accept them. So did every other country. The ship eventually had to return to Germany; according to historical sources at least one-third of the Jews on the *St. Louis* perished in the Holocaust.

Even though there was much sympathy and compassion after the war for the Jews and what they had suffered, this has gradually eroded over the decades.

U.S. synagogues and Jewish institutions are facing increasing attacks which include bombings, shootings, and hostage taking, as well as lesser attacks of vandalism and robbery. Below is just a partial list of shootings that have occurred in recent years at American synagogues:

- April 13, 2014: Frazier Miller Jr founded a chapter of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina which eventually became the White Patriot Party. He eventually moved to Missouri where he continued to write racist and anti-Semitic articles. In 2014, Miller shot and murdered William Louis Corporon and his grandson at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park, Kansas. He then went to Village Shalom, a retirement community also in Overland Park, Kansas, where he shot and murdered Terri LaManno. Ironically, all three were Christians. Miller also shot several others that day, one who actually was Jewish, but they all recovered.
- October 27, 2018: Eleven Jews were murdered in cold blood during Shabbat services at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The shocking massacre was committed by Robert Bowers, who had previously posted anti-Semitic statements online.
- January 15, 2022: On a quiet Saturday Shabbat day at the Beth Israel Synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, Malik Faisal Akram, a British citizen, took four hostages, including the

synagogue's rabbi. Akram eventually freed one hostage, and the others escaped by the rabbi throwing a chair at Akram. Afterward, Akram was killed by FBI agents in a shootout at the synagogue. The rabbi later recounted that Akram was demanding that a fellow female Islamist who was in prison at Fort Worth be freed.

According to the Jewish Virtual Library, there was a decline of anti-Semitic acts between 2005 and 2009 but that did not last. The Jewish Virtual Library reports that 7,759 hate crimes were committed in the U.S in 2020; 59.1% were classified as "Anti-Jewish" with 824 victims being Jewish ("Anti-Semitism in the United States: Statistics on Religious Hate Crimes," Jewish Virtual Library, [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org)).

The Anti-Defamation League reported that attacks against Jews "reached an all-time high in the United States in 2021 with a total of 2,717 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism reported to ADL" ("ADL Audit Finds Antisemitic Incidents in United States Reached All-Time High in 2021," 2021, Anti-Defamation League, [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org)).

During the 2020 BLM and Antifa riots, it wasn't only police officers that were under attack; Jews and Jewish synagogues saw an increase of violence against them as well. *The Times of Israel* reported what was occurring in the Los Angeles area Jewish community during this time. Jewish synagogues, institutions, and schools were found with "Free Palestine", "F\*\*\* Israel", and other anti-Semitic graffiti; Jewish businesses were ransacked and plundered - some were even destroyed (Tom Tugend, "LA Jews reeling after local institutions looted and burned in Floyd protests," June 3, 2020, *The Times of Israel*, [www.timesofisrael.com](http://www.timesofisrael.com)).

During the Covid lockdowns, Orthodox Jews became a targeted group by then New York City mayor Bill De Blasio. De Blasio kept the abortion clinics open but threatened Orthodox Jews with arrest and stiff fines for attending funerals and other religious gatherings.

Since the Covid lockdowns have been suspended, attacks against Jews in New York City have dramatically increased. A quick search on YouTube produced a long list of videos of Jews, secular and religious, being assaulted just walking a New York City street - simply for being Jews.

- "Trio Wanted for Antisemitic Attack on Jewish Teens | NBC New York"
- "Jewish man sprayed with fire extinguisher in possible hate crime"
- "5<sup>th</sup> Attack on Jewish Target Tops List of Hate Crimes in NYC"
- "Orthodox Jewish men assaulted in NYC"
- "Jewish man beaten by mob in NYC describes assault"

The list goes on and on.

The unprovoked attacks against American Jews in the largest city in the U.S. are horrifying to watch. With the no cash bail laws in New York City, even if the perpetrators of these assaults are caught, they will never be prosecuted. So, the attacks against Jews in New York City continue unabated.

New York City is not the only place in the U.S. where Jews are feeling increasingly unwelcome. Incredibly, Philadelphia - the city of brotherly love - decided to celebrate "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People" for the second year in a row. With a large PLO flag flying outside the city's Municipal Services Building (city officials must be so proud), supports waved smaller PLO flags and held anti-Israeli signs. Mark Levin reported on his radio program on November 28,

2022, that Jews in Philadelphia were scared of the rising pro-PLO support in the city, including among local city officials, like Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney.

## The BDS Movement

Started in 2005, the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction or BDS Movement has been very successful at demonizing Israel for “oppressing” the poor, voiceless “Palestinians” who have no rights and are murdered and tortured almost every day by the big, bad Jewish bully of the Middle East.

The BDS Movement attacks Israel on three different fronts. **Boycott** encourages groups, organizations, corporations, and countries to refuse to visit Israel, buy Israeli products, and ban Israeli artists and sports figures from entering countries. **Divestment** supports the withdrawal of all foreign investment in Israel companies and companies, groups, and organizations that support Israel. **Sanction** urges countries to end trade agreements with Israel as well as kicking Israel out of international organizations such as the United Nations and FIFA. In effect, the BDS movement seeks to isolate Israel as a pariah state, banning Israel from any participation in global affairs, crippling them so drastically financially that they cannot function, and effectively destroying the country.

The BDS Movement has their own website ([www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net)) that explains their mission “as a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality. BDS upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity.”

“Israel is occupying and colonizing Palestinian land, discriminating against Palestinian citizens of Israel and denying Palestinian refugees the right to return to their homes . . . For nearly seventy years, Israel has denied Palestinians their fundamental rights and has refused to comply with international law . . . Because those in power refuse to act to stop this injustice Palestinian civil society has called for a global citizens’ response of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and quality.”

Some of the other charges brought against Israel by the BDS movement include claiming Israel steals Palestinian land, forces Palestinians to live in ghettos and go through checkpoints which causes them great hardship.

The BDS website boasts support from very famous world figures such as the late South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu; singers such as Roger Waters from the rock group Pink Floyd (Waters refuses to perform in Israel), Lauryn Hill, Cat Stevens, and Peter Seeger; well-known American Communist Angela Davis, author of *The Color Purple* Alice Walker, actor Danny Glover, and the late physicist Steven Hawking.

The BDS Movement has an impressive presence on many college and university campuses around the world and has gained support from liberal Christian denominations such as the Presbyterian Church USA, United Church of Christ, Mennonite Church USA, Episcopal Church, Quakers, Roman Catholic Church and the United Methodist Church.

Since I lived in Israel for almost eight years during the 1990s, I can personally attest that Arabs living in Israel have more freedom, liberty, and prosperity than they would living in many Arab/Muslim countries. Israeli Arabs are free to vote, form political parties with representatives in the Knesset and own businesses. Some of them even serve in the Israeli Defense Forces and local police departments. As for the ghettos and checkpoints, the only ones who are forcing “Palestinians” to live in ghettos are the terrorist groups and their leaders who take every opportunity to attack Israel, murder Jews, and commit horrific terrorist attacks and blowing up buses and restaurants. For Arabs

and Muslims living in Judea and Samaria (West Bank) and the Gaza Strip, they need to stop inciting and promoting terrorism if they want to prosper.

## The Anti-Semitic Democrat Party



The vast majority of American Jews have been Democrats and have voted overwhelmingly for Democrat Party politicians and policies. Because Jews are a minority in the U.S., they identify with the minority status of other racial groups such as blacks, Latinos, Hispanics, Asians, and others in this country that feel that the Democrat Party and its policies benefit minority groups. What is not talked about in Jewish circles, and should be, is how anti-Semitic the Democrat Party has become.

The University of Maryland published results of a poll taken in 2022 showing 33% of Democrats support the BDS movement and only 20% of Democrats oppose it (“US: More Democrat Voters Support BDS Than Oppose It,” August 3, 2022, *Middle East Eye*).

In 2019, the House of Representatives passed a non-binding resolution opposing the BDS movement. Sixteen Democrats voted against it, including two of the most radical Anti-Semites in Congress, Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar.

One of the most telling moments occurred at the 2012 Democrat Party Convention.

The Democrat Party decided to not include a statement in their party platform affirming Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and not to include God. The party was publicly embarrassed on primetime, live, national TV when Ted Strickland, former governor of Ohio and an ordained Methodist minister, asked them to reinstate the references to God and Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, to the party’s platform.

Antonio Villaraigosa, mayor of Los Angeles at the time, directed the activities that evening and called for a voice vote on the two motions, which required a two-thirds majority to pass. The “ayes” and “noes” seemed evenly split.

Villaraigosa, visibly uncertain as to what to do, held the vote three times, trying to get a two-thirds majority of ayes. The last time, it was very clear that the “noes” had it. But Villaraigosa announced that the motions had passed. That’s when the boos started. This was a complete fiasco. It laid bare the Democrat Party’s anti-God and anti-Israel sentiments for all the world to see (I bet Villaraigosa was never so glad to leave a stage!).

Barack Obama was president at the time and was one of the most openly anti-Semitic, Israel-hating American presidents the United States has ever had up to that time. Obama displayed his contempt for Israel time and time again. Oh, he would occasionally throw out a sentence condemning anti-

Semitism - and condemning anti-Semitism is important. But it is a person's actions that reveal what he really is, not just his words.

In his second term, Obama did more damage to Israel and the Middle East than any president before him. The Iran nuclear agreement gave Iran carte blanche to continue to develop their nuclear program without being subject to inspections by any foreign entity to ensure they were following the agreement. Consequently, Iran has been able to greatly advance their nuclear weapons program. Current media reports state that Iran has now produced enough weapons-grade uranium to produce at least one nuclear bomb. With Iran spewing out death to Israel at every opportunity, Obama endangered Israel, as well as the other countries in the Middle East. The entire agreement was a complete farce, and everyone in the world knew it.

Obama also spent \$350,000 of U.S taxpayer money to try to overthrow the 2015 elections in Israel and prevent Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister at that time, from being re-elected. While Netanyahu was still re-elected, it is scandalous that Obama was allowed to do this without any criticism by the majority of our elected representatives and news media. What if Donald Trump had done something similar? He would have been impeached immediately!

In a parting shot right before he left office, Obama directed UN Ambassador Samantha Powers to abstain on voting on Resolution 2334 which condemned Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria, otherwise known as the West Bank. The resolution unfortunately passed. Florida Senator Marco Rubio released a statement after the vote:

With today's abstention, President Obama has aided and abetted radical, anti-Semitic forces at the U.N. and cemented his legacy as the most anti-Israel president in history. Israel is our closest ally in the region and the only free market democracy in the Middle East, and we should not abandon them ("Rubio: President Obama Cements Legacy as Most Anti-Israel U.S. President in History," December 24, 2016, [www.rubio.senate.gov](http://www.rubio.senate.gov)).

One of the anti-Semites that Obama championed when he was president was Linda Sarsour, a Muslim- American activist. Obama chose her as one of his 2011 Champions for Change: Winning the Future Across America. You can still find this on the White House website.

Sarsour has been involved with Black Lives Matter and has said she is a strong supporter of the BDS movement. In November 2019, Sarsour spoke at the American Muslims for Palestine conference in Chicago and said, "How can you be against white supremacy in American and the idea of being in a state based on race and class, but then you support a state like Israel that is based on supremacy, that is built on the idea that Jews are supreme to everyone else" (Josefin Dolsten, "Linda Sarsour Clarifies Her Comment," December 3, 2019, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*).

## Joe Biden's Record on Anti-Semitism



Joe Biden was vice-president in the Obama administration. Not one time did Biden ever protest Obama's treatment and betrayal of Israel.

The Democrat Party is filled with prominent, outspoken anti-Semites. Rashida Tlaib serves in the House of Representatives from Michigan. She isn't shy about expressing her disdain and contempt for Israel and Jews.

I want you all to know that among progressives it has become clear that you cannot claim to hold progressive values yet back Israel's apartheid government, and we will continue to push back and not accept this idea that you are progressive except for Palestine any longer - American Muslims for Palestine conference, September 19, 2022

There's kind of a calming feeling I always tell folks when I think of the Holocaust, and the tragedy of the Holocaust, and the fact that it was my ancestors, Palestinians, who lost their land and some lost their lives, their livelihood, their human dignity, their existence in many ways, have been wiped out- *Skulduggery* podcast, Yahoo News, May 10, 2019

I will not support an effort to enable war crimes and human rights abuses and violence. We cannot be talking only about Israelis need for safety at a time when Palestinians are living under a violent apartheid system, and are dying from what Human Rights Watch has said are war crimes . . . Israel is an apartheid regime - not my words, but the words of Human Rights Watch - Speech on House floor to debate the bill funding Israel's Iron Dome, September 23, 2021

Has Joe Biden condemned Tlaib for any of her anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic comments? Biden praised her. "I'll tell you what, [Rashida] I want to say to you that I admire your intellect, I admire your passion and I admire your concern for so many other people. It is from my heart that I pray that your grand mom and family are well and I promise you I'm going to do everything to see that they are on the West Bank. You are a fighter and God thank you for being a fighter" (Steven Nelson, "Biden Lauds Israel Critic Rep. Tlaib as 'Fighter' After Tense Tarmac Chat," May 18, 2021, *New York Post*).

What about Joe Biden? How has he treated Israel during his 50 years as a politician?

In 1982, Biden was a young U.S. senator and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which held a meeting with then-Israeli Minister Menachem Begin.

Biden went on a rant against Israeli settlements in Judea-Samaria, threatening the end of U.S. foreign aid to Israel. According to eye-witness accounts, Biden stuck his wagging finger in Begin's face and

pounded on the desk with his fist (I'm surprised he didn't use his shoe), clearly trying to intimidate the Israeli prime minister. Begin responded:

Don't threaten us with cutting off your aid. It will not work. I am not a Jew with trembling knees. I am a proud Jew with 3,700 years of civilized history. Nobody came to our aid when we were dying in the gas chambers and ovens. Nobody came to our aid when we were striving to create our country. We paid for it. We fought for it. We died for it. We will stand by our principles. We will defend them. And, when necessary, we will die for them again, with or without your aid (Ronn Torossian, "Menachem Being To Joe Biden: I Am Not A Jew With Trembling Knees," April 3, 2015, *Jewish Press*).

Below is a partial list of Biden's treatment of Israel since 2021:

- Biden has been holding negotiations with Iran to reinstate the disastrous Iran nuclear agreement, which endangers not only Israel but all nations in the world, including the U.S., not just countries in the Middle East.
- He has been pressuring Israel to allow Lebanon to establish oil and gas wells in the Mediterranean, knowing full well that monies accrued from those wells will go to Hezbollah to buy weapons to use against Israel.
- Biden has working to reopen an embassy for the so-called "Palestinians" in Jerusalem which will undermine President Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.
- Biden and his administration have been working to repeal President Trump's recognition of the Golan Heights as Israeli territory.
- He is giving \$316 million of U.S. taxpayer money to the PLO, who will use it to support terrorists and terrorist attacks against Israel as well as enriching PLO cronies.

When Barack Obama was president and pressuring Israel to dismantle settlements and make sweeping concessions to the PLO and other terrorist groups in the Middle East, Biden was silent. Biden has never condemned or criticized Tlaib for any of her anti-Semitic, anti-Israel statements. He has never expressed any concern over the increasingly blatant, anti-Semitic sentiments of the Democrat Party. When you vote for the Democrat Party, you are voting for Anti-Semitism.

(This is the first part of a two-part series on anti-Semitism.)

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