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Commentary...

They Back 'Palestine' Because They Hate Jews

By Jonathan S. Tobin

In the past week, anti-Israel protests on college campuses and in the streets of major cities have continued and grown in size. In Europe, the numbers of those expressing "solidarity with Palestine" are even greater as hundreds of thousands marched as Israel began its ground offensive inside the Gaza Strip.

The images of massive throngs of individuals waving Palestinian flags and yelling insults about Israel and Jews have been widely published and broadcast. So, too, have accounts of incidents in which Jews were subjected to intimidation or worse in public venues as aggressive opponents of Israel, who claim to be defending the Palestinian people, vented their spleen and sought to chase those who disagreed with them from public spaces.

Incidents of antisemitism are skyrocketing in the United States and are even becoming more brazen and violent in Europe, where Jews already had good reason to fear being publicly identified with their faith. Just as frightening is the way that online threats against Jews have not merely metastasized but are now leading to specific threats against Jewish communities and institutions.

Yet opinion leaders and influencers on social media are telling us not to believe our lying eyes and ears when we see the mounting evidence of antisemitism. Drawing conclusions from the behavior of the people screaming that "Palestine will be free from the river to the sea," carrying posters about throwing the Jews in the trashcan or ripping down posters of Israeli kidnapping victims is mistaken. Such people, we're told, are just expressing the natural sympathies that humanitarian-minded citizens have for oppressed Palestinians. If you think that's support for Hamas, then that's your latent Islamophobia showing. And if you believe such people ought to be held accountable, then you're promoting cancel culture and trying to shut down freedom of speech.

Compassion for Palestinian residents of Gaza, whose lives have been both disrupted and placed in danger by the war Hamas launched on Oct. 7 with its barbaric cross-border terrorist attacks on communities in southern Israel, is understandable and even commendable. Civilian casualties, however, are the inevitable and intended outcome of Hamas terrorism. Even leaving aside the issue of Hamas's popularity, people in Gaza are not dying for a "free Palestine." They're dying to protect a group that has run their coastal enclave as an Islamist tyranny since 2007, and whose avowed goal—made manifest by the Oct. 7 atrocities—is to destroy the state of Israel and slaughter its Jewish population. Nor are the protests merely an expression of sympathy for the plight of those people who are, through no fault of their own, trapped in a war zone.

As the flags, placards and speeches at these events make abundantly clear, the focus is on depicting Israel as not merely responding "disproportionately" to the attacks on its citizens inside its own border, as ridiculous as that allegation may be. Rather, their purpose is to rally support for "Palestine."

Defining what exactly "Palestine" is remains an important question. According to Palestinian Arabs, it consists not merely of Hamas-governed Gaza and the territories of Judea and Samaria (the "West Bank"), whose Arab population is governed autonomously by the Palestinian Authority led by the Fatah Party; that area west of Jordan has been considered disputed land since the 1967 Six-Day War. Rather, they view the whole of Israel as well as those territories to be Palestine. And when they say it must be "free," they mean the eradication of the State of Israel, something that could only be made possible by the genocide of its Jewish population.

Support for this concept stems from a belief buttressed by the spread of critical race theory and intersectional teachings, which falsely view Israel as an expression of colonialism and imperialism in which "white" oppressors have victimized "people of color." These ideas link the struggle for civil rights in the United States and against apartheid in South Africa with a desire to wipe the one Jewish state on

the planet off the map.

As no less a personage than Karen Attiah, the global opinions editor of The Washington Post wrote this past week, support for Hamas on the left, and specifically among African-Americans, stems from their

belief that Israel must be "decolonized" along with every other vestige of Western civilization.

Erasing the very idea of Jewish rights, in addition to thousands of years of history and faith, Attiah insists that Jewish liberals need to get over the idea that their erstwhile minority allies are abandoning them. If there is "solidarity with Palestine," it is because the very existence of Israel is a crime. She then goes on to re-circulate the blood libel that Israel helped train the police in Ferguson, Mo., to kill African-Americans. She also complains that it's wrong to accuse people who want to eliminate Israel of being antisemites, even though the Jews are the only people that "progressives" wish to deprive of their homeland and deny the right to defend themselves.

In this same way, a letter signed by numerous members of the faculty of Columbia University defended students supporting Hamas and the destruction of Israel. It also referred to the unspeakable atrocities of Hamas on Oct. 7 as "a military response" and "an occupied people exercising a right to resist violent and illegal occupation."

What is going on at college campuses and demonstrations is the full-throated expression of an antisemitic movement that seeks the end of Israel. As the demonstrators keep telling us, if that means that 1,400 Israeli men, women and children, must be slaughtered, Jewish women must be raped and tortured, and infants and children abducted, then that is so much the worse for any of these "occupiers."

This has nothing to do with alleged Israeli misdeeds. The contention is that if Palestinian "rights" are to be respected, then Jewish rights can be erased and Jewish lives don't matter. Unlike past versions of antisemitism that didn't bother dressing up hate in the costume of human-rights advocacy, contemporary Jew-hatred masquerades as progressive values, and is championed in prestigious academic and journalistic venues by those respected by society.

If liberal institutions like the Post and the faculty of Columbia have no compunction about justifying loathing Jews, why should we be surprised if Jewish students are being locked in libraries at Cooper Union College or threatened with violence at Cornell University? What's so shocking, then, when mobs in the streets of New York, Chicago, London and other major cities are yelling for Jewish blood? And if their counterparts in places like Dagestan in the Russian Federation riot and hunt for suspected Jews in airports?

So, let's stop pretending that the "Palestine" protests are about human rights. If they were, they'd be protesting Hamas's terrorism. If expressing compassion for Jewish victims and, say, demanding the release of babies and grandparents being held hostage is too much to ask, they could criticize the terrorists' use of human shields. That includes Hamas terrorists situating its military headquarters underneath a hospital, hoarding supplies inside Gaza while demanding that the world give more to aid Palestinians and refusing to let civilians under its rule escape the fighting.

But they don't do any of that. Instead, they threaten Jews, tear down posters of kidnapped Israelis and express their support for replacing Israel with "Palestine."

Nor should we treat this public expression of antisemitism as merely something about which decent and honorable people ought to sit down and discuss. There is no wiggle room here.

The idea that there is something wrong with publicly exposing those who engage in antisemitism is bizarre, especially coming from those in the academy who have done their best to drive conservative critics of their toxic theories from the public square. Cancel culture is about demonizing and penalizing those who engage in normal political debate. Opposing it has never meant justifying and defending actual racism like those who are neo-Nazis or members of the Ku Klux Klan.

That's why the doxxing of Harvard students who support the destruction of Israel and who back Hamas terrorism isn't wrong. Reasonable people would never excuse anyone who suggested lynching African-Americans. Yet that is what is being asked for by those who are cheering on or justifying the pogroms against Jews in Israel. Indeed, Harvard even seeks to protect their right to be hired at

the country's most prestigious law firms and corporations—something it would never do for those who call for the murder of any other minority.

In a saner era of American public life, those who rationalize Hamas slaughter as “decolonization,” as Attiah does, wouldn't be editors at The Washington Post. They'd be driven to the margins of American society where they could advocate for whatever variant of antisemitism they like.

The same could be said of the Daily Wire's Candace Owens, who described the pro-Hamas demonstration in London as proof that “people are not accepting the media narrative about what is happening in the Middle East despite the insistent rhetoric from government officials.” But what else did we expect from a defender of Kanye West's antisemitism, whether she calls herself a conservative or not?

The ability of Harvard's Jew-haters to go on to glittering careers, or the ability of Owens and Attiah to retain their influential perches, isn't the real question. It's whether society has now gone so far in accepting the demonization of Israel and Jews that there is no penalty attached to public expressions of Jew-hatred, whether they pose as sympathy for Palestinians or not.

What does matter is whether moral people are willing to go along with the pretense that demanding Israel's eradication and the murder of its population is acceptable discourse. What is needed is for all people of goodwill—no matter where they sit on the political spectrum, no matter their faith or background—to denounce these vile ideas as hate speech. What's more, they should demand that those who support this hatred be given the opprobrium and shunning that would be their fate if they were avowed Nazis, rather than merely those who support Hitler's Islamist successors. (JNS Oct 30)

The Palestinian Authority is Just as Bad By Nadav Shragai

Before we get confused again, before we construct another flawed paradigm on Gaza, before we bring the Palestinian Authority to Gaza instead of Hamas, or be tempted to believe President Joe Biden and ourselves that the Palestinians in the West Bank are “something else,” we should look at the bare fact right in front of us; we should know how to distinguish between an enemy and a hater, and between an ally and a collaborator.

You would think that in the wake of the massacre and the horrors of Hamas, things take on a different meaning, since our threshold to what is “tolerable” and “normal” has changed. But the truth is that nothing has changed: If only they could, the Palestinians in Judea and Samaria – whether it's Hamas, Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, or the Popular Resistance Committees – would perpetrate the same acts against the Jews in Petach Tikvah, Kfar Saba, Lod, Ramla, and Afula.

It hasn't happened yet, but not because of a lack of desire or attempts. It has not happened because hundreds of terrorist acts and attempted mass killings of civilians got thwarted almost daily over the past two years by the Israeli security services and the IDF. Authorities tend not to release all the specific figures so as not to stir panic, but now it might be worth reconsidering.

In any case, in order to understand what “a two-state solution” means and what its implications could be, there is no need to open the files of the pogroms that were thwarted. It's enough to take a quick look at the terrorist attacks they did manage to carry out. While they may not be on the same scale as what happened in the Gaza Strip, the nature, style, and cruelty are identical.

Hallel Yaffa Ariel, a 13.5-year-old girl, was slaughtered in her bed in her home on the outskirts of Kiryat Arba with a knife. Ori Ansbacher, a 19-year-old, was raped and brutally murdered in Jerusalem, and then her body was mutilated. He killer gloated in his trial that “raping and murdering a Jewish woman is the most important thing I have ever done.” The Fogel family from Itamar was murdered in their home shortly before Purim in 2011. Yoav, 10, and Elad, 4, were strangled and stabbed, and Ehud and Ruth, their parents, who tried to save their children, were stabbed repeatedly in their neck, throat, and abdomen. The three-month-old baby, Hadas who was found because she was crying, was also killed by the Nazis (now it is acceptable to call them that).

On one Saturday night, a similar massacre took place in the Salomon family's home in Halamish. Esther Horgen was killed with a rock that crushed her skull. Shalhevet Pas, who was less than a year old, was executed in her stroller by a sniper. Kim Levengron Yehzekel was tied up in the Barkan industrial zone and was then shot to death.

The reactions in the Palestinian Authority to the massacre on

October 7 neatly dovetail with this new Nazism. Abdel-Rahman Abu Arab, a member of the Fatah in Jenin, defined the morning of the massacre as a morning of joy, victory, and pride, and blessed the “heroic martyrs in Gaza.” Abbas Zaki, a member of Fatah's Central Committee who had already admitted that “the goal is the end of Israel,” praised Hamas for the attack and threatened to crush the skulls of all the Jews and Americans in the region. Jamal al-Huwail, a member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council

in the Palestinian Authority, promised a big surprise in the West Bank and hoped that the horrors in the Gaza border communities would be replicated there as well.

An official document from the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs again used the Hadith that incites to kill Jews “who hide behind stones and trees,” and in some mosques, this recommendation was adopted. For example, in Nablus, an Imam praised Hitler; in a nearby town, swastikas were spray-painted along inscriptions glorifying Hamas military wing leader Muhammad Deif and not only there. What about Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas? He, in his usual manner, has tried to have it both ways: condemned, then retracted, then amended and then mumbled.

So please, we should not equivocate on what's at stake, lest we once again get wedded to a flawed misconception. (Israel Hayom Oct 30)

The 'Two-State' Solution to Murder Jews By Bassam Tawil

Since Hamas's October 7 massacre, thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank have been taking to the streets almost on a daily basis to voice support for the Iran-backed terrorist group based in the Gaza Strip.

This is the same West Bank that the Biden administration and many Westerners are hoping will be part of a future Palestinian state next to Israel. Those who continue to promote the dangerous idea of a “two-state solution” are ignoring the fact that Hamas is sitting not only in the Gaza Strip, but in the West Bank as well.

Bizarrely, President Joe Biden and some Western leaders are continuing to talk about the need for establishing a sovereign and independent Palestinian state, even after the Hamas atrocities in October. What they are actually saying is: Now that Hamas has used the Gaza Strip to invade Israel and slaughter Jews, let's give this Islamist terror group the West Bank so it, too, can use it to butcher Jews.

The pro-Hamas demonstrations show that the terrorist group is popular among the Palestinians, including those living in the West Bank. The demonstrations also serve as a reminder that a large number of Palestinians support terrorism against Israel, including sickening crimes such as rape, beheadings, torture and burning women and children alive.

Recent public opinion polls conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR) have shown that most Palestinians support Hamas and the “armed struggle” (murder) against Israel. Every Palestinian child knows that if presidential elections were held today, the terrorist group Hamas would win. The most recent PSR poll, published one month before the Hamas massacre, showed that 58% of the Palestinians would vote for Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh as opposed to 37% for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas. The poll also showed that 58% of the Palestinian public supports “armed confrontations and intifada” against Israel.

The pro-Hamas demonstrations have been taking place mostly in those areas of the West Bank that are controlled by the Palestinian Authority (PA), headed by Abbas. Although Abbas and other senior PA leaders hate Hamas, they are not doing anything to stop the Palestinians living under their rule from taking to the streets to celebrate the murder of 1,400 Israelis and the wounding of more than 5,000 others during the October 7 carnage.

It is worth noting that in 2007, Hamas expelled the PA from the Gaza Strip after killing hundreds of Abbas loyalists, some of whom were dragged through the streets and lynched, while others were thrown from rooftops of tall buildings.

By failing to curb the pro-Hamas demonstrations, the Palestinian Authority is not only complicit in incitement to murder Jews, but also acting against its own interests by emboldening its rivals in Hamas. One of the reasons why the PA is not taking any measures to stop the pro-Hamas demonstrations is because its leaders themselves are also involved in the campaign of incitement against Israel and replacing it

with an Islamic state.

Abbas's anti-Israel and antisemitic rhetoric sometimes appears to surpass that of his rivals in Hamas. One month before the Hamas massacre, Abbas repeated a number of antisemitic canards he has uttered over the years, including that Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler had Jews slaughtered because of their "social role" as moneylenders, not because of his racist enmity toward Jews.

In a speech broadcast on Palestine TV on September 3, Abbas told leaders of his ruling Fatah faction during a meeting in Ramallah: "They say that Hitler killed the Jews because they were Jews and that Europe hated the Jews because they were Jews. Not true. It was clearly explained that [the Europeans] fought [the Jews] because of their social role, and not their religion... The [Europeans] fought against these people because of their role in society, which had to do with usury, money, and so on and so forth."

It is also worth noting that it was Abbas who initiated the campaign of incitement against Israel surrounding visits by Jewish individuals and groups to Jerusalem's Temple Mount, the Western Wall of which is all that is left of the Jewish Temples (destroyed in 586 BCE and 70 CE), and which is Judaism's holiest site.

In a notorious speech in 2015, Abbas falsely accused Jews who visit their holy Temple Mount of desecrating the Al-Aqsa Mosque, located on the Temple Mount: "We salute every drop of blood spilled for the sake of Jerusalem. This blood is clean, pure blood, shed for the sake of Allah... Every martyr will be placed in Paradise, and all the wounded will be rewarded by Allah... The Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher are ours. They are all ours, and they [Jews] have no right to defile them with their filthy feet."

Abbas's blood libel was interpreted by many Palestinians as a license to murder Jews. In fact, shortly after Abbas made the accusation in 2015, Palestinians embarked on a spree of terrorism in which dozens of Jews were murdered in stabbing and car-ramming attacks.

Abbas and the Palestinian Authority have proven again and again that they hate Israel as much, if not more, than Hamas hates Israel.

The PA leadership has been waging an unceasing campaign to vilify Israel and demonize Jews, especially in the international arena. The Palestinian leadership has repeatedly accused Israel of "genocide," "war crimes," ethnic cleansing, and "apartheid." It has also consistently threatened to file "war crimes" charges against Israelis with the International Criminal Court.

For decades, Abbas has used every available podium, including the United Nations General Assembly, to spread messages of hate and lies against Israel. His ultimate goal has been to undermine and delegitimize Israel to a point where Israel would be completely isolated in the international arena. His daily incitement against Israel has not only empowered Hamas, but also promoted antisemitism around the world.

Since the Hamas pogrom last month, Abbas has refrained from condemning the terrorist group. Instead, he has chosen to hold Israel responsible for the ensuing war. Essentially, Abbas is saying that Israel has no right to defend itself in the face of Hamas's atrocities. He is also implying that he sees no problem with Hamas having sent thousands of terrorists to invade Israel and brutally murdered innocent Israeli civilians.

There is a dangerously false idea that Abbas or any other Palestinian leader would rein in Hamas in the West Bank. Abbas has no problem with Hamas operating in the West Bank, as long as the terrorist group is targeting Israel, and not him or the Palestinian Authority leadership. That is why he has permitted Hamas supporters to march in the streets of Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and other West Bank cities and chant slogans in favor of Hamas.

On October 29, dozens of schoolgirls marched in Jenin, chanting: "We are the daughter of [Hamas arch-terrorist Mohammed] Deif" and "We want Jihad [holy war], we want to die for the sake of Allah," and "We want to blow up the head of the Zionists." At other demonstrations by Hamas supporters, some of which were held not far from Abbas's office, Palestinians chanted: "Anyone who has a rifle, should either shoot a Jew or give it to Hamas."

The idea of establishing a Palestinian state in the West Bank means turning this area into another launching pad for attacking Israel and slaughtering Jewish men, women and children. US President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Anthony Blinken can continue to argue as much as they want that Hamas does not represent the Palestinians, but everyone who lives in the West Bank and Gaza Strip knows that this is a lethal lie. Every Palestinian is aware of, and often admires, the pro-Hamas demonstrations that have been taking place in the West

Bank since October 7.

Every Palestinian sees, and often admires, the Hamas-affiliated armed groups that emerged in the West Bank over the past two years. Every Palestinian has also seen how Hamas won student council elections at major universities in the West Bank, including Birzeit University and An-Najah University. Every Palestinian, in addition, sees how the Palestinian Authority is unwilling to combat Hamas and other terrorist groups in the West Bank.

What appears to be missed by many in the West is that it is Israel's security and civilian presence in the West Bank that is preventing Hamas, or groups such as Al Qaeda or ISIS, from seizing control of the area. What they also do not seem to realize is that Abbas is in power in the West Bank thanks to Israel's presence there. Without Israel's presence, Hamas would have taken control of the West Bank a long time ago. Creating a Palestinian state in the West Bank would mean turning it into another Iran-led base for Jihad against Jews.

It is high time for Biden and other Western leaders to stop pushing delusional ideas that will quickly lead to a repeat of the October 7 massacre. How many Jewish babies must be beheaded or baked alive in an oven, one wonders, for them to see that Palestinian leaders have radicalized their people against Israel to a point where they brag about slaughtering Jews with their own hands. (Gatestone Nov 2)

Biden's Hamas Conundrum By Caroline Glick

Since Oct. 7, American Jews have seen their civil rights trampled every day. Jewish students are subjected to constant intimidation, assault, battery and threats from Hamas supporters on campus. From coast to coast, the stories are depressingly similar. University authorities refuse to protect them from their pro-Jewish genocide peers.

Then, too, on Thursday, the New York Police Department told the Jews of Brooklyn to stay off the streets on Shabbat afternoon. Pro-Hamas will be demonstrating, and the police said that they will be unable to protect Jewish residents as the terror supporters march through their neighborhoods.

How is this happening? How is it that at a time of maximum peril, law-enforcement bodies are doing all but nothing to defend the Jewish community? Why is the FBI not arresting terror supporters as required under U.S. law? Why is the U.S. Justice Department not directing local authorities to defend the Jews?

A good place to begin to look for answers is the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. That powerful division is led by Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke.

Clarke's appointment in 2021 caused an uproar in Jewish circles because she has a record of anti-Semitic activism and was an ardent supporter of the pro-Hamas, anti-Jewish Black Lives Matter movement.

In 1994, as the head of the Black Students Association at Harvard Law School, Clarke invited Wellesley College Professor Tony Martin to speak at Harvard. Martin had just written a Protocols of the Elders of Zion-style anti-Semitic book called The Jewish Onslaught.

Clarke defiantly defended Martin at the time and attacked the Jewish students who expressed concern about her move. She never apologized for her actions. Instead, ahead of her Senate confirmation, she told progressive, anti-Israel Jewish reporters and activists that she "regretted" the invitation. That was enough for them to declare that the allegation that Clarke remains hostile towards Jews is slander.

U.S. President Joe Biden has a problem. He staffed his administration at all levels and across departments with hardened ideologues, many of whom have records of hostility towards Jews and support for Hamas, Iran and other terror groups and regimes. Under Biden, these officials have advanced his Middle East policies that until Oct. 7 were largely aligned with the interests of Iran, Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis.

Now that those policies have been shown to be counterproductive, and at least partly responsible for the threats America now faces to its core Middle Eastern interests, the same officials remain in their positions and continue to direct the Biden administration's policies.

Consider the Palestinians.

U.S. policy towards the Palestinians is directed by the U.S. Special Representative to the Palestinians, Hady Amr. Amr is a longtime supporter of Hamas. In 2018, at the Qatar-based offices of the Brookings Institute, Amr was the lead author of a Brookings

policy paper titled, “Ending Gaza’s Perpetual Crisis—A New U.S. Approach.”

Amr’s basic recommendations were to change terror financing laws to permit U.S. contractors to work with Hamas, as well as to use any new round of war between Israel and Hamas to launch a new three-pronged policy towards Israel and Hamas.

Amr’s plan accepted Hamas as a legitimate actor. It called for the Palestinian Authority to unite with Hamas and reorganize under Hamas’s leadership in light of Hamas’s stronger support among Palestinians. Finally, it called for the United States to coerce Israel into making unreciprocated concessions to Hamas and the P.A., even though Amr acknowledged that the concessions would endanger Israel. Among other things, he called for Israel to end its maritime blockage of the Gaza coast and permit Hamas free access to the sea.

As the architect of Biden’s Palestinian policies, Amr’s Brookings paper was a blueprint for many of the policies adopted by the administration, including its willingness to fund Hamas indirectly through the P.A. and U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the U.N. agency operating in Gaza. Some 90% of UNRWA employees are Hamas members.

Amr remains in his position.

Then there is Iran.

Biden appointed Iran apologist Robert Malley to lead the administration’s Iran policy. Malley’s policy was so pro-Iranian that several career U.S. State Department officials, not known for their hostility to Tehran resigned in protest. As Semafor and Iran International exposed last month, Malley surrounded himself with advisers in and out of government with records of serving as Iranian regime agents in Washington. One of those aides, Ariane Tabatabai remains in her position as Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, with her security clearance intact, a month after her direct ties to the Iranian regime became public knowledge.

Although Malley was booted from his position under a cloud of suspicion of misuse of classified information and is reportedly under FBI criminal investigation, his policy of courting Iran and enabling its rise as a nuclear power and regional power remains in place.

This week many observers, including former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed shock when they discovered the Biden administration gave a U.S. entry visa to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian to speak at the United Nations. The move signaled that despite the fact that Iran trained Hamas terrorists in Iran ahead of Oct. 7’s atrocities, oversaw the planning of the Oct. 7 slaughter, green-lighted the atrocities and finances Hamas, the administration is still implementing Malley’s Iran policy. And to repay the administration for its appeasement, Abdollahian used his speech to threaten the United States with war if it continues to support Israel. Since Oct. 7, and as the administration clings stubbornly to Malley’s pro-Iran policies, Iranian proxies in Syria, Yemen and Iraq have repeatedly attacked U.S. forces in the region.

The Pentagon’s continued refusal to fully acknowledge Iran’s direction of Hamas’s acts of genocide is further indication that Malley’s policy remains Biden’s Iran policy.

Biden’s continued reliance on his anti-Israel, pro-Hamas and pro-Iran officials is not merely a policy disaster. It is a political problem. As Democratic pollster Doug Schoen explained at The Hill on Thursday, public support for Israel among both Democrats and Republicans is sky-high. Americans don’t merely support Israel; they support Israel passionately.

As Schoen noted, 81% of Republicans and 74% of Democrats support providing Israel with military support. Some 80% of Republicans and 72% of Democrats feel that it is important for the United States to protect Israel. And 74% of Americans believe that supporting Israel is the more important than other geopolitical priorities.

Schoen concluded his article by noting, “Frankly, in my five decades of experience in politics, including polling extensively on issues related to Israel and the America-Israel relationship, the current support for Israel’s right to defend itself against terrorists who seek its destruction is like nothing I’ve seen before.”

Sensitive to public opinion on the one hand and his administration officials on the other, Biden tried to thread the needle on Wednesday. The results weren’t pretty.

At a press conference with Australian Prime Minister Tony Albanese, Biden restated his administration’s commitment to provide Israel with the arms it needs to defeat Hamas. But he then demanded that Israel resupply Hamas under the euphemistic headline:

“Humanitarian aid.”

While Palestinian election results, polling data and the wide-scale celebrations of Hamas’s atrocities across Gaza, Judea and Samaria are evidence that Hamas represents a large majority of Palestinians in Gaza, and Judea and Samaria, Biden insisted that Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people.

His false assertion is a necessary component of his administration’s strategic goal, which he restated at the press conference—the establishment of a Palestinian state in Gaza, Judea, Samaria and portions of Jerusalem.

To defend the proposition that Israel must agree to establish a state in its heartland for a people that supports and engages in acts of genocide of Jewry and seeks the annihilation of the Jewish state, Biden turned to Amr’s playbook: He demonized the half-million Israeli Jews who live in Judea and Samaria.

“I continue to be alarmed about extremist settlers attacking Palestinians in the West Bank that—pouring gasoline on fire is what it’s like. They’re ... attacking Palestinians in places that they’re entitled to be, and it has to stop. They have to be held accountable. And it has to stop now,” he said angrily.

Biden’s broadside is unsupported by facts. Although several dozen Palestinian terrorists in Judea and Samaria have been killed in gun battles with IDF forces in Judea and Samaria since Oct. 7, no Israeli civilians were involved in any of the clashes.

On the other hand, the morning after Biden launched his slanderous broadside, a Palestinian mob outside a Jewish farm in the Binyamin region attacked two Israeli shepherds, critically wounding one.

Many Israeli media outlets responded with shock and anger at Biden’s demand for Israel to accept that the goal of the war is to establish a Palestinian state. One headline blared: “Biden deceived us.”

In an effort to play to both sides, at the same press conference, Biden rejected claims by Hamas’s “Gaza Health Ministry” that Israel has killed 6,000 civilians, including 2,700 children in Gaza, saying, “I have no confidence in the numbers the Palestinians are using.”

If Israelis were stunned and angered by Biden’s hostile messages directed against them, Biden’s rejection of Hamas’s casualty propaganda enraged Hamas’s allies in Washington. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) demanded that Biden apologize. Furious Hamas supporters at the State Department showed The Huffington Post 20 department cables where Hamas’s “Gaza Health Ministry” numbers were accepted as credible.

To quell the brewing rebellion of their own officials, both National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State Tony Blinken have reportedly conducted “listening sessions” with these pro-Hamas staffers to make sure they feel “listened to” by their bosses. There have been no reports that any of these pro-terror officials have been fired.

The rancor in the ranks of the Hamas supporters in the administration and their supporters in the progressive base is also a political issue. Biden’s support for Israel, limited though it has been is costing him support among Muslim Americans and pro-Hamas progressives. A Gallup poll of Democrats from Oct. 3 to Oct. 23 shows that Biden’s support among Democrats went down 11% in three weeks and now stands at 75%.

These numbers, aligned with Schoen’s data, expose Biden’s conundrum. If Biden maintains his support for Israel, then he will anger, alienate and perhaps permanently lose the support of his administration and the activist progressive base of his party. And if he stands with his base—and his pro-Iran and pro-Hamas officials and voters—he will alienate the American public. Either way, he undermines his standing as he moves towards an election year.

In “The Caroline Glick Show” this week, historian Victor Davis Hanson argued that with the public’s stalwart support for Israel, and Iran’s escalating attacks against the United States through its proxies, Biden will be forced to stand with Israel even more forthrightly in the weeks to come.

If the opposite occurs, if Biden opts to stand with Hady Amr, Robert Malley’s acolytes, and their allies and comrades throughout the administration, as well as with the Democrat Party’s pro-Hamas camp, and against three-quarters of the American public, it will be a testament to the brittleness of the administration’s extremism. It will also constitute a rejection of the democratic norms of governance that have underpinned American society and politics for 250 years.

(JNS Oct 28)