

WHAT DO THESE COMMON ANTI-ISRAEL SLOGANS **REALLY** MEAN?

“ Intifada, Intifada! ”

Intifada is an Arabic word meaning, “uprising.” There have been two Palestinian Intifadas - the first was defined by mass protests from 1987-1993 and the second by a series of deadly terror attacks from 2000-2005. Over 1,000 Israelis of all backgrounds were murdered in the devastating attacks of the Second Intifada, which included suicide bombings, bus bombings, and shootings. The majority of victims were civilians. Some of the deadliest attacks in Israel’s history were during the Second Intifada:

- Sbarro restaurant suicide bombing in 2001 (16 murdered, including 7 children, 130 wounded)
- Passover Eve Massacre in 2002 (30 murdered, 140 injured)
- Dolphinarium discotheque massacre in 2001 (21 murdered, 100+ injured)
- Maxim restaurant suicide bombing in 2003 (21 murdered, 60+ injured)
- Tel Aviv Central bus station massacre in 2003 (23 murdered, 100+ injured)
- Yeshivat Beit Yisrael bombing in 2002 (11 murdered, mostly women and young children, 50+ injured)

Calls for an Intifada are heard by most Jews and Israelis as support for murdering them and their loved ones. Intentionally or not, this slogan helps incite and justify indiscriminate and brutal violence against innocent people.

“ Globalize the Intifada ”

This slogan glorifies and promotes terrorism against Jews and Israelis everywhere. It turns Jewish people and institutions around the world into targets for violence and hate. As antisemitism and attacks against Jews increase globally, the call to “globalize the Intifada” makes Jews and the societies they live in around the world less safe.

“ From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free ”

This is a direct call for the destruction of Israel, opposing the existence of a Jewish state anywhere between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. The land between the river and the sea includes the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel. As such, the chant does not express support for “ending the occupation,” a two-state solution, or for justice and peace for everyone in the region. It is a call to strip away the rights of Jews to self-determination in their ancestral home, by wiping Israel off the map and replacing it with a Palestinian state. While not everyone who repeats the chant means to harm Jews, that the impact of this slogan and the political agenda it represents.

“ No Peace on Stolen Land ”

No land was “stolen.” In the late 1800s, Jews began returning to the land of Israel, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire, and rejoining the Jewish communities that had always lived in their ancestral home. Land for new Jewish communities was purchased from Arab and Ottoman landowners. Conflict between Jews and Arabs escalated from the 1920s-1940s so in 1947, the United Nations voted for a Partition Plan. This would have created a Jewish state alongside the first Palestinian Arab state in history. Jewish leaders accepted it, but Arab leaders rejected it and immediately launched a war to seize all of the land. In the middle of this civil war, on May 14, 1948, Israel declared independence. On May 15, five Arab states invaded Israel and called for its destruction. Israel survived and gained territory while defending itself against a genocidal invasion. This claim that this was “stealing” is baseless and part of an effort to deny Israel's right to exist.

“ 75 Years of Occupation ”

This statement sends the message that Israel has no right to exist. 75 years is a reference to 1948 - the year Israel declared independence. This means that Israel's existence in any territory is an “occupation.” This slogan is not actually anti-occupation or against any specific Israeli policy, but anti- the existence of a Jewish state. It is part of a global campaign to erase Jewish history and strip away rights of Jews to self-determination in their ancestral home.

“Resistance is Justified”

This phrase seeks to justify the murder, torture, and rape of over 1,400 people by Hamas on October 7. Almost all the victims were civilians and included Jewish, Bedouin, Druze, and Arab/Palestinian citizens of Israel. There is no justification for slaughtering entire families in cold blood, holding infants and the elderly hostage, or massacring hundreds of people at a music festival.

Hamas is not a “resistance” group. It is a genocidal terrorist group. Their goal is the violent destruction of Israel and Jews. This war began with Hamas brutally massacring civilians in a devastating series of attacks that reflect the antisemitic violence and extremism found within their Charter. Hamas leaders have repeatedly expressed their support for the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Israeli Jews and for the murder of Jews around the world. This is not “resistance” and there is no justification for such violence and hate.

“Settler-Colonialism” or “European Settler-State”

Claiming Israel is a “settler-colonial” state is rooted in ignorance and a hateful narrative that denies Jewish history and identity. Here are the facts:

- Jews are not “foreign” to the region. The Jewish people have a unique identity, culture, religion, and language that originated in the land of Israel. The Jewish communities of Jerusalem, Tiberias, Peki'in, and Safed are many centuries old, and some date back to Roman rule. The 3,000-year presence of Jews in the land is a fact confirmed by archeological and historical records.
- Most Jews returned to the land as refugees fleeing persecution. In no way did they “represent” the interests of the countries they were fleeing, whether Russia, Yemen, Poland, or Iraq. Most Israeli Jews come from communities that never left the Middle East (ex. Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Morocco, and Yemen).
- There is no “motherland” for the Jewish people outside of Israel. While the French in Algeria returned to France, Israel is a country of refugees who returned to their homeland and revitalized the same ancient language spoken there many centuries ago.

Erasing the Jewish people's connection to Israel is not an argument made in good faith. Calling Jews “colonizers” is an attempt to dehumanize them and justify the brutal Hamas massacre - the most deadly day for Jews since the Holocaust.

“ Israel You Can’t Hide, We Charge You with Genocide “

Israelis and Palestinians have suffered immensely in the current Hamas-Israel War and from the broader conflict. However, accusations of “genocide” and “ethnic cleansing” are false. Israel has repeatedly stated that it is fighting against Hamas and not innocent people in Gaza. Israel's response has been to strike terrorists, not civilians. This is why Israel warns Palestinian civilians to stay away from military targets and sends warnings (via text messages, phone calls, and leaflets) before airstrikes. This is also why civilians in northern Gaza were asked to evacuate, just like Israelis living near the borders of Gaza and Lebanon were evacuated. Numerous legal and military experts have documented that Israel does not intentionally target civilians and often goes beyond what the law requires to avoid harming them.

The term “genocide” was coined in 1944 to describe how the Nazis systematically murdered millions of Jews and others during WWII. Genocide means intentionally trying to exterminate an entire national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. In contrast, the Palestinian population has grown by millions since the Israeli-Palestinian conflict began in 1920. Similarly, there is no comparison between encouraging civilians to temporarily evacuate part of Gaza for their safety and ethnic cleansing. Those who use these terms are only fueling more hatred and conflict. Hamas can end the conflict immediately by releasing all hostages and laying down their weapons.

“ We Don’t Want Two States, We Want ‘48 “

This slogan is an explicit rejection of the two-state solution, which proposes the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. The international community supports a two-state solution to end the conflict because it would allow both the Jewish people and the Palestinian people to have independence and self-determination. This has been the basis for peace talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders for decades.

The claim “we want ‘48” references the year Israel was founded, which was 1948. It effectively demands that the region return to a time before Israel declared statehood in 1948. Calling for the return to a time before Israel’s statehood is interpreted by many as a call for destroying Israel and stripping away Jewish rights to self-determination. Understandably, many Israeli and diaspora Jews see slogans that call for Israel’s elimination as a form of hate.