



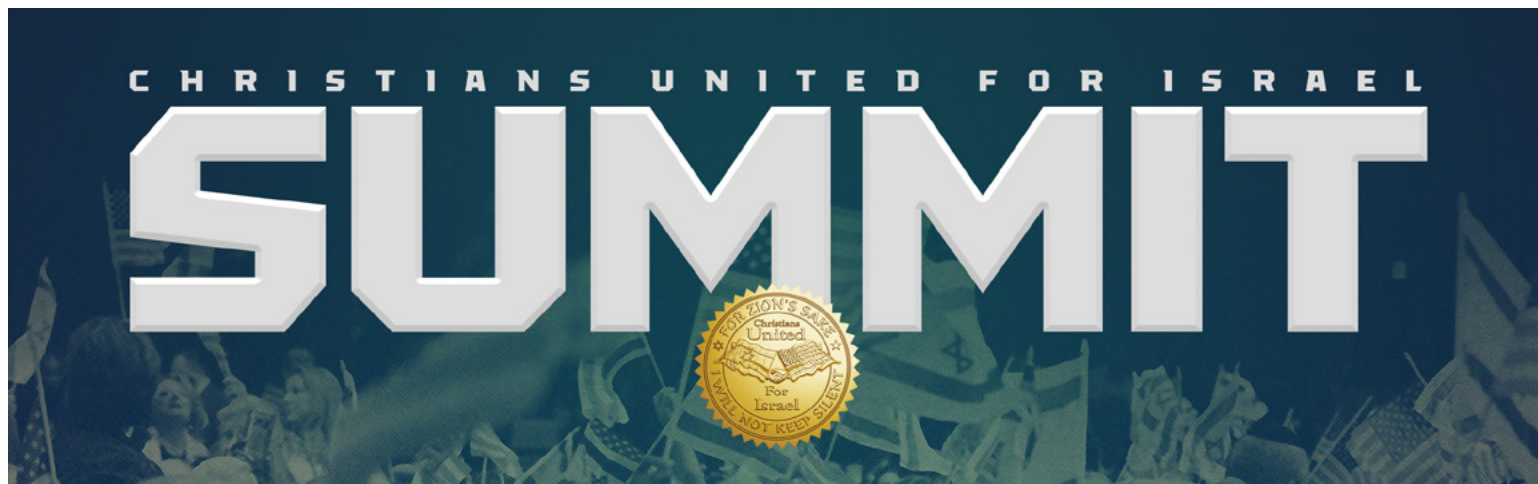
CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

SUMMIT

MEDIA KIT



CUFI.ORG



Welcome Journalists

Welcome to the Christians United for Israel (CUFI) 2021 Leadership Summit. We are very pleased that you are joining us for this significant event, and we are happy to facilitate your coverage.

With more than 10 million members, CUFI is the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States. Before the pandemic, we averaged more than 50 events in cities and towns across the country each month, and during the pandemic, we still held dozens of virtual events monthly. We have vibrant campus and millennial outreach programs that have grown in influence despite travel restrictions.

In this packet you will find detailed information about CUFI and our initiatives, as well as selected articles and opinion pieces authored by or featuring CUFI.

Please enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

Shari Dollinger & Diana Hagee

Co-Executive Directors, Christians United for Israel

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL FACT SHEET

“I consider CUFI a vital part of Israel’s national security.”

– Benjamin Netanyahu, former Prime Minister of Israel

As the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States, with over 10 million members, Christians United for Israel (CUFI) is the preeminent Christian organization devoted to transforming millions of pro-Israel Christians into an educated, empowered, and effective force for Israel. The breadth of CUFI’s diversity across generational, ethnic, cultural, and denominational lines has enabled the organization to span all 50 states and reach millions with its message.

CUFI plays a leading role in efforts to strengthen the US-Israel relationship, combat antisemitism, curb Iran’s nuclear ambitions, hinder Hezbollah’s and Hamas’s war of terror against Israel, safeguard the Jewish state’s qualitative military edge in the region, and defend Israel against the antisemitic BDS movement.

GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

- Largest pro-Israel organization with over 10 million members.
- Hold more than 50 events per month.
- CUFI on Campus presence at more than 330 universities nationwide.
- Educate millions of Americans through our 13 social media channels as well as our website, podcasts, and daily briefing emails.
- Bring 20 groups of Pastors, millennial influencers and students to Israel each year.
- Have brought over 750 millennial influencers, including leading pastors, celebrities, professional athletes, and government staffers, to Israel.

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About CUFI, CUFI on Campus & The Israel Collective



CUFI

With more than **10 million members**, Christians United for Israel is the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States and one of the leading Christian grassroots movements in the world. CUFI spans **all fifty states** and **reaches millions** with its educational message.

CUFI On Campus

CUFI on Campus develops politically minded student leaders and equips them to become effective advocates for Israel on their college campuses. Since its 2009 inception, **CUFI on Campus has trained more than 4,000 students** and presently has trained activists on more than **330 campuses across the country**.

The Israel Collective

The Israel Collective, an initiative of Christians United for Israel, was founded in 2014 by a team of young Christian leaders and is dedicated to building vibrant relationships between American Christians and the people of the Holy Land. To date, the Israel Collective has taken more than **750 Millennial Christian leaders on educational trips to Israel**.

Action Fund

The CUFI Action Fund is the legislative arm of Christians United for Israel. The Action Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(4), bipartisan organization dedicated to ensuring the millions of Christian Zionists across the country have their voices heard in our nation's capital. The Action Fund's policy agenda includes support for a strong US-Israel relationship, standing up to antisemitism, defending Israel's right to self-defense and self-determination, and opposition to regional bad actors such as Iran and Turkey and the terrorist organizations they support.

ISRAEL COLLECTIVE





CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL Leadership

Executive Board



Bishop Keith A. Butler
Founder and Presiding Bishop
of Word of Faith Int'l Christian
Center



Pastor Happy Caldwell
Founder and Pastor of Agape
Church and Founder and
President of Victory Television
Network



Pastor Mac Hammond
Senior Pastor, Living Word
Christian Center



Michael Little
Principal Representative to Israel
(CBN)



Pastor George Morrison
Founder of Truth & Life Ministries



Pastor Scott Thomas
Free Life Chapel in Lakeland, FL



Pastor John Hagee

Pastor John C. Hagee is the founder and Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas, a non-denominational evangelical church with more than 22,000 active members. He is the founder of Hagee Ministries, which telecasts his teachings throughout America and the nations of the world. Over the years, Hagee Ministries has given more than \$100 million toward humanitarian causes in Israel. In ministry for over 60 years, Pastor Hagee is also the author of more than 40 books, seven of which were on the New York Times Best Seller's List. In 2006, Pastor Hagee founded, and is the Chairman of Christians United For Israel (CUFI) which has grown to become the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States with 10 million members and one of the leading Christian grassroots movements in the world. In celebration of Israel's 70th year, Pastor John Hagee was recognized by the Embassy of Israel as one of the 70 greatest contributors to Israel since statehood. He was also invited by U.S. Ambassador David Friedman to give the benediction at the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in May of 2018.



Diana Hagee

Diana Hagee is the Co-Executive Director of Christians United for Israel and previously served as Chief of Staff to her husband, CUFI founder and Chairman Pastor John Hagee. She is the author of the best-selling book, *The King's Daughter—Becoming a Woman of God*, and was presented the prestigious Lion of Judah award by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. Hagee holds a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She and Pastor John Hagee have five children and thirteen grandchildren.



Shari Dollinger

Shari Dollinger serves as the Co-Executive Director of Christians United for Israel alongside Diana Hagee. Prior to this position, Shari was CUFI's Associate Director for 11 years. Before CUFI, Shari served as the Assistant Director of The Donor Forum, as the Officer for Inter-Religious Affairs at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, DC, and a foreign policy research associate at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Shari holds a Masters in Public Administration from George Mason University and a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Politics and Islamic/Middle Eastern Studies from Brandeis University. At Brandeis, Shari wrote her senior thesis on Christian Zionists' Impact on U.S. Foreign Policy.

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



POLICY AGENDA

At Christians United for Israel we are committed to Israel's strength, security and sovereignty. To this end, we stand with the decisions of the democratically elected government of Israel and work to support the US-Israel relationship and safeguard the Jewish state's right to defend itself. Presently we are focused on addressing the following policy items:

Support for a strong US/Israel relationship:

Founded upon the two nations' shared values, the alliance between the US and Israel is in the vital national security interests of both countries. Israel is the West's sole outpost of freedom and democracy in the Middle East, therefore CUFI supports American aid to Israel and the maintenance of the Jewish state's qualitative military edge in the region.

Opposition to international pressure on Israel:

Like any other sovereign democratic nation, Israel has the right to defend itself from terrorism and other violent threats. In addition, the Israeli military has time and again shown itself to take great risks to minimize civilian casualties, whereas Israel's enemies use civilians as human shields. CUFI opposes international condemnation of Israel's legitimate acts of self-defense and international pressure on Israel to make concessions to its adversaries that the Jewish state does not wish to make.

Countering Iran's malevolence:

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terror and the preeminent force for evil in the Middle East. Tehran remains committed to developing a nuclear weapons capability and supporting terrorists around the globe, including the terrorist-army Hezbollah. CUFI is committed to countering Iran's malevolence through sanctions on the Islamic Republic and efforts to disrupt military and financial support of Hezbollah.



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CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



Opposition to Antisemitism:

Over the past several years there has been a sharp increase in antisemitism in the United States, and more specifically, on college campuses. While freedom of speech is protected under the Constitution as a personal right, there are and should be consequences for those who unlawfully harass others. Antisemitism is not just a Jewish problem, it is an American problem, and therefore CUFI is actively engaged in working to combat antisemitism in our society.

Countering Palestinian terrorism and intransigence:

Despite repeated Israeli efforts to make peace with the Palestinians, their leaders have remained committed to Israel's destruction. Hamas, the tyrannical organization that is the de facto ruler of the Gaza Strip, is at its core a terrorist group committed to the annihilation of the Jewish state. The Palestinian Authority remains unwilling to abandon its incitement of violence against the Jewish state and its "pay-to-slay" program for terrorists. At this stage, CUFI does not believe the Palestinian Authority is a true partner for peace and opposes US taxpayer aid to the PA until it changes its behavior.

Opposition to the BDS movement:

According to their own leaders, the BDS movement's goal is to destroy Israel through economic warfare. The BDS movement is inherently antisemitic as it targets the world's only Jewish state with lies and demonization and aims to deny the Jewish people their God-given right to self-determination. CUFI supports both state and federal legislation aimed at ensuring US taxpayer dollars do not end up in the hands of antisemites who support this movement. At the federal level, presently CUFI is supporting the Strengthening America's Security Assistance Act, a package of legislation that includes the Combating BDS Act, and looks forward to the reintroduction of the Israel Anti-Boycott Act during the current legislative session. CUFI also continues to support anti-BDS legislation in states across the country.

*To learn more about these issues please visit the **Issues** and **Policy** sections of CUFI's website.*



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POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Worked across the country to see anti-BDS legislation advanced in a majority of states. *(2021)*
- CUFI's leadership—including Pastor John Hagee, Co-Executive Director Shari Dollinger, and CUFI Action Fund Chairwoman Sandra Parker—were privileged to be in attendance at the historic signing of the Abraham Accords. *(September 2020)*
- Worked to see the Never Again Education Act passed through the House and Senate which will ensure students are thoroughly educated on the evils of antisemitism, so the growth of this hatred is never enabled again. *(May 2020)*
- On January 28, Pastor Hagee was honored to stand in the East Room as President Trump unveiled his proposal for peace in the Middle East. *(January 2020)*
- Protected Jewish students on college campuses through our support of President Trump's executive order mandating the IRHA's definition of antisemitism as US policy. *(December 2019)*
- Opposed Hezbollah's increasing influence in Lebanon by advancing legislation to condition aid and increase reporting requirements for the Lebanese Armed Forces as to Hezbollah's influence. The Defense Department is now required to report on Lebanon's compliance. *(December 2019)*
- Engaged in public relations and lobbying efforts to see Airbnb reverse its policy of delisting Israeli properties in the West Bank, which the company did in April 2019.
- Just one week after CUFI released a statement backing associated legislation and after a month-long lobbying campaign, including meetings with CUFI leadership and the administration, the U.S. recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. *(March 2019)*
- The Stop Using Human Shields Act, which was renamed the Sanctioning of the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act, was introduced during the 2018 CUFI Washington Summit and signed into law five months later. *(December 2018)*
- After a month-long lobbying effort, including an op-ed announcing CUFI's intention to address the problems with the 1992 Anti-Terrorism Act, the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018 passed both houses of Congress and was signed into law by the President. *(October 2018)*
- Shortly after CUFI engaged in an effort to work with elected officials in Washington to introduce legislation aimed at ending UNRWA's influence in the Middle East, President Trump cut off all US funding to the UN agency. *(August 2018)*
- After more than 135,000 CUFI members emailed the White House asking the President to keep his pledge, the U.S. formally opened its Embassy in Jerusalem. *(May 2018)*
- After a 15-month lobbying campaign, including more than 1 million emails sent to elected officials by CUFI members, the Taylor Force Act became law. *(March 2018)*

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



INFLUENCE

“CUFI has truly been a friend at all times... Israel is so fortunate to have you as our strategic allies in the battle that we wage to protect the values of democracy and the freedom that we both hold so dear.”

– Israel Defense Minister Benny Gantz

- “Antisemitism is bigger than ever before, but CUFI is more effective than ever before... [CUFI] is a movement across this nation and it is a movement for such a time as this.”
– Vice President Mike Pence
- “I consider Christians United for Israel to be a vital part of Israel’s national security.”
– Benjamin Netanyahu, Former Prime Minister of Israel
- “Standing up against this global pressure campaign on Israel and the Jewish people goes to the heart of our friendship and the heart of America. And the tip of the spear is Christians United for Israel.”
– Ambassador Nikki Haley
- “For decades, America has been the backbone of Israel’s support in the world. Well, the backbone of that backbone is the support of millions of devout Christians across this great country. More than any other Christian organization, CUFI works year after year to make that backbone stronger and straighter than ever.”
– Ambassador Ron Dermer
- “I do not know of an organization in the world more important to Israel than CUFI.”
– Dr. Charles Krauthammer, syndicated columnist (of blessed memory)
- “As we see the mounting threats to the State of Israel, we appreciate more than ever the vital role played by friends like Christians United for Israel. It is extremely important to have you by our side.”
– President of Israel Shimon Peres (of blessed memory)
- “Life is not made of years but of moments, some are privileged moments and tonight I realized that I had to come here also to live a privileged moment, to be with you. Never in the history of my people have we witnessed an event such as this.”
– Elie Wiesel (of blessed memory)

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



CUFI in the News

Haley, Hagee show solidarity in visit to Israel, WARN AGAINST REVITALIZED IRAN

By David Isaac

As published in The Jewish News Syndicate (June 26, 2021)



Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and CUFI founder and Pastor John Hagee in Israel, June 2021. Credit: Oren Cohen/CUFI.

“Right now, you have multiple countries around the world, including the United States, looking to figure out how to redo this Iran deal. It’s nothing more than a death wish for Israel, and eventually, a death wish for the world,” said former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

“Israel, you are not alone. ... We represent 10 million-plus people in America and these people say to you Israel, we have your back.”

That was the message of Pastor John Hagee, chairman and founder of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States. Hagee was in Israel on a June 13-14 solidarity mission that included former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley. Haley, who served in that role from January 2017 to December 2018, stood out for her consistent defense of the Jewish state at the world body. Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations at the time, Danny Danon, said her support led to a “change in Israel’s status in the U.N.” In August, Biden’s choice for Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said, “[Biden] would seek to build on the nuclear deal to make it longer and stronger if Iran returns to strict compliance.”

Hagee and Haley met with Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their trip.

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The group visited Israel's south, viewing the damage in Ashkelon and Sderot, both of which suffered casualties during the 11-day conflict with Hamas in the Gaza Strip that began on May 10 and ended with a ceasefire on May 21. During that time, more than 4,000 rockets were launched towards Israeli population centers.

"We saw houses with six-inch concrete walls shattered by rocket fire," Hagee said during a press roundtable on Monday. "We saw houses 50 yards away from the blast center where the roof had been ripped off. We saw human hair plastered to the wall by the blast of those rockets. When people hear of a rocket, they don't think of how awesome its power is."

Hagee and Haley also stressed the importance of confronting Iran, noting that it supports Hamas and other terror groups in the region. (Hours after the May 21 ceasefire, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh thanked Iran for its financial and military assistance during the conflict.)



Nikky Haley. Photo by David Isaac.



Pastor John Hagee. Photo by David Isaac.

Haley sharply criticized U.S. President Joe Biden for attempting to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the 2015 nuclear deal that former President Donald Trump withdrew from in May 2018.

"Right now, you have multiple countries around the world, including the United States, looking to figure out how to redo this Iran deal. It's nothing more than a death wish for Israel, and eventually, a death wish for the world," said Haley.

"The reason it was so important in the Trump administration to pull out of that Iran deal was to make sure that everyone knew Iran's never going to change its ways. It's never going to stop saying, 'Death to Israel.' It's never going to stop saying, 'Death to America,'" said Haley, adding that the only way to bring change to Iran is to cut off its finances.

Haley also said the Biden administration's effort to re-enter the Iran deal undercuts the progress made during the Trump years to bring together Israel and the Arab states.

Biden should show the Arab states that he appreciates their steps towards normalizing ties with Israel, she said, referring to Israel's signing of the Abraham Accords in the fall of 2020 with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, followed by Sudan and Morocco.

She also noted that their decision to open ties with Israel was in part motivated by their fear of the Islamic Republic. "The one way to slap them in the face ... is to have talks with Iran Actions speak louder than words, and the idea that [Biden's] falling over himself to get back in the Iran deal is pretty disgusting."

Asked by JNS if the traditional bipartisanship for Israel in Congress is fraying, Haley said, "I'm extremely disappointed with how the hate speech toward Israel has risen on the Democrat side."

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"Certainly, not all Democrats have been against Israel but it seems like it's growing ... their voices are getting louder," she said, adding that Biden is appeasing the extremists in his party. "You call out hate every time you see it, regardless of who says it and you hold them accountable."



Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley and CUFI founder and Pastor John Hagee tour damage to Israeli homes after Hamas launched thousands of rockets into Israel last month, June 2021. Credit: Oren Cohen/CUFI.

'We are standing with you'

JNS asked Hagee if evangelical Christians were united in their support for Israel, given recent reports concerning a split between conservatives and liberals in the Southern Baptist Convention, the country's largest evangelical denomination. (CUFI is nondenominational.)

Hagee was confident that any political disagreements would not impact Israel, as the issue transcends politics. "It all boils down to a matter of your commitment to the written scripture. The people who are committed to written scripture ... will be supportive of Israel because Israel is not a political issue; it's a Bible issue," he said.

"From Genesis to the end of Revelation, the Bible has a message of comfort and consolation towards the Jewish people: 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, they shall prosper that loves you.' That's not a recommendation. That's a command to all believers. If you are a Bible-believing Christian, you will be a supporter of Israel. If you're not, you won't be. End of story."

In 1981, when Hagee held an inaugural "Night to Honor Israel," the event that led to the founding of CUFI, he initially encountered resistance, even death threats. CUFI has since grown to become a major political force on behalf of Israel.

"We can put 20,000 emails in any person's box in a 24-hour period because there are now thousands of Christians in every senator's, congressperson's district. These are people who believe the Bible and they go vote," said Hagee.

Haley affirmed her own support, noting that as ambassador, she made a promise to the Israeli people "that I would never stop fighting for Israel." She said she came on the trip "to make sure we let the Israeli people know we are standing with you, we will fight with you."

SUMMIT



CUFI in the News

HAGEE & HALEY: ISRAEL ENDURES – here's what we witnessed on the ground after Hamas' rocket attack

By John Hagee & Amb. Nikki Haley

As published in Fox News (June 21, 2021)



Some things are unforgettable. Like what we saw in Israel last week.

We were standing in a neighborhood, looking at the wreckage caused by the latest round of terrorist rockets. We were outside the home of a 90-year-old Holocaust survivor – at least, what was left of it. She wasn't there, because she was in the hospital. She lost her legs and nearly her life. Her caretaker died when the house was destroyed.

While we stood there, the next-door neighbor came rushing out to meet us. Screaming and crying, she invited us into her home. It was badly damaged, too.

When the rocket hit, she was holding her grandchild. The blast threw them into the wall. We could see the outline of her body, and even her hair, which had stuck there. Still crying, she and her husband hugged us close, and thanked us for being there.

There was nowhere else we wanted to be.

We went to Israel in the wake of war. Less than three weeks earlier, Israel's citizens endured 11 straight days of rocket attacks. The Hamas terrorists bear full responsibility. They launched more than 4,300 rockets at Israeli schools, homes and synagogues. Their goal was to kill as many innocents as possible – innocents like the family we met.

But as we saw, Israel endures.

Israel came through the crisis thanks to the Iron Dome, which we saw up close, and the iron will of its people.

Israel was completely in the right to take the fight to Hamas. With the terrorist leaders operating from hospitals, apartment buildings and even a foreign media hub, Israel targeted them with the utmost precision and protection for innocent Palestinians.

As one of us said to the U.N. Security Council in 2018,

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“no country in this chamber would act with more restraint than Israel has.” What was true then is still true.

Israel’s restraint is all the more remarkable given the threat it faces. Every Israeli citizen knows that Hamas would kill each and every one of them if given the chance. Israel’s response is to target Hamas, and Hamas alone, while trying to spare the lives of Palestinians who Hamas uses as human shields. Palestinians deserve better than to be ruled by terrorists.

Such values ensure that Israel endures. So does the country’s commitment to democracy, which deserves American support regardless of the party in power.

We met with former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and thanked him for his immense contributions to Israel’s security and prosperity. He will continue to serve his country as leader of the Knesset’s opposition.

Iran is a fundamentally bad actor. Its leaders, like the Hamas terrorists they support, want to destroy Israel.

We also met with Foreign Minister Yair Lapid from the new governing coalition, which took office while we were there. It’s a powerful statement that even in the midst of a national security crisis, Israel had a peaceful transition of power. Few other countries – especially among Israel’s critics – would manage or even attempt the same feat.

Israel’s endurance will continue to be tested.

Even before the Hamas rockets stopped, the United Nations began lobbing its own missiles at Israel. The ridiculously named U.N. Human Rights Council has launched an “investigation” into Israel’s recent actions in Gaza. The investigation is nothing more than a one-sided witch hunt with a predetermined outcome.

Israel is used to such ugly and false attacks, but that doesn’t make them any less painful or pathetic.

Even the United States is testing Israel’s endurance. In one of his earliest acts in office, President Joe Biden rejoined the U.N. Human Rights Council. The leader of the free world cannot allow the U.S. to simply go along for the ride with the Council’s anti-Israel investigation.

Biden has also rejoined the U.N.’s Palestinian “aid” program, which teaches people that Israel is evil. And he recently threw more than \$100 million behind Palestinian “reconstruction,” even though that money will unavoidably fund Hamas and other anti-Israel groups.

Worst of all, Biden is desperately looking for a way to rejoin the Iran nuclear deal. That deal was a disaster for America and Israel. It gave Iran more than \$100 billion to spend on the very Hamas terrorists who just lobbed more than 4,300 rockets at Israel.

While we were there, Biden lifted some key U.S. sanctions on Iran in a misguided attempt to show good faith – an attempt that will no doubt be perceived by Tehran as yet another act of weakness.

Iran is a fundamentally bad actor. Its leaders, like the Hamas terrorists they support, want to destroy Israel. America must stop them, not embolden them.

The challenges facing America’s ally are many and mounting. But we have faith Israel will endure, as always.

Our trip is a small sign of the steadfast support that Israel can count on – support that is grounded in faith, common sense and common ground. Israelis and Americans share the same values and the same vision of peace and prosperity in the Middle East and beyond. On that foundation, we will continue to build.

Nikki Haley was governor of South Carolina from 2011 to 2017 and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 2017 to 2019.

Pastor John Hagee is the founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel.

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CUFI in the News

NEW POLL: VOTERS OPPOSE BIDEN'S IRAN STRATEGY

By Jackson Richman, Contributor

As published in The Washington Examiner (June 03, 2021)

As the Biden administration seeks to re-enter the failed 2015 Iran nuclear deal, a new survey from the nation's largest pro-Israel group gives cause for pause.

In a survey of 800 people conducted between April 26 and April 29 by GS Strategy Group, 40% of respondents self-identified as Democrats, 34% as Republicans, and 20% as independents. Out of that dataset, 65% of respondents said that the Trump administration's "maximum pressure" campaign, which has deprived Iran of funding to support terrorism and other malign activities, should remain in place. Democrats support that stance by a 31-point margin, while Republicans do so by 66 points and independents by 43 points.

In the survey, commissioned by Christians United for Israel and shared exclusively with the Washington Examiner, when asked to choose between the United States renewing the 2015 nuclear accord or maintaining sanctions against Iran, 56% favor keeping the sanctions.

One of the criticisms behind the nuclear agreement was that it was not submitted to the Senate as a treaty. Obviously, former President Barack Obama did not do so since he knew he would not have the required two-thirds majority to approve it. That bears note here because according to the poll, 69% of Democrats favor sending any restored deal to the Senate for ratification. 61% of both Republicans and independents share that sentiment.

Isn't it interesting that more Democrats than Republicans appear to favor sending any deal to the Senate? After all, virtually all congressional Republicans insisted on this in 2015, while most congressional Democrats were the opposite camp.

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Finally, the poll suggests that by a margin of nearly 3 to 1, the public opposes the Biden administration's April announcement that it would restore hundreds of millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to the Palestinians. Although the funds will not go to the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinians have repeatedly demonstrated that they are not interested in peace with Israel. The poll demonstrates that most voters comprehend this rejection.

Democrats favor suspending U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority, which rewards terrorists and their families, by 27 points, or more than half of all Democrats. Conservatives and centrists back a suspension by 73% and 54%, respectively.

Although polls usually should be taken with a grain of salt, this poll was comprehensive and scientific.

"Our practice is to call a list of registered voters nationally, and when we reach that specific person we're looking for, we match them back to the voter file," said GS Strategy Group partner Robert Jones. "We control for gender, age, ethnicity, and geography to make sure that the sample is representative of a general election audience."

This survey suggests the Biden administration might want to listen to the voters. A plurality does not want to undo the status quo.

Jackson Richman is a journalist in Washington, D.C.

C H R I S T I A N S U N I T E D F O R I S R A E L

SUMMIT



CUFI in the News

HOW BIDEN SHOULD HANDLE ISRAEL, HAMAS AND IRAN

By Pastor John Hagee

As published in Newsweek (May 20, 2021)

To the great consternation of Palestinian human rights activists and the innocent Palestinian people living under Hamas rule in Gaza, terrorists, Europeans and the media are spreading a false narrative about the current conflict between Israel and Hamas. Bassam Eid, a well-respected Palestinian activist living in Jerusalem, said as much last week in a guest column that ran in Israeli media. It's about influence, Eid says, and Hamas started a war with Israel "to seize the narrative and increase its own influence and control over Palestinians in Jerusalem."

Hamas always wants to increase its influence and views terror as the means to that end. So, what made Hamas believe it could get away with raining missiles down on Israeli civilians? Hamas would have you believe it was a court decision, a police action or anything that Israel has control over. And that would be a lie.

The violent confrontations between Palestinians and Israelis in Jerusalem that immediately preceded Hamas rocket attacks were just a convenient foil—precisely how the terrorist playbook has read for more than two decades. Just as former U.S. Senator George Mitchell (D-ME) found in his role as lead investigator for the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to

the Temple Mount in 2000 did not cause the Second Intifada (as the terrorists' narrative suggested), so too will other investigators find that litigation over property in Sheikh Jarrah did not cause this latest spasm of rocket fire.

Rather, Hamas remains as committed as ever to killing Jews. The proximate cause for its aiming to do so now was an astounding display of weakness by the United States.

The facts bear this out. Just five weeks after the Biden administration reopened negotiations with Iran—the patron of Hamas—and announced it would be restoring U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority, Hamas attacked.

What has happened as a result of the administration's weak posture stands in stark contrast to the results of the previous administration's foreign policy, which united Arabs and Jews behind greater pressure on Iran, recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, moved the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and drastically increased the number of Arab states maintaining normalized relations with Israel.

In the Middle East, weakness begets conflict and strength begets stability. The Biden administration's resistance to this simple reality is now playing out in Gaza. But it's not

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too late to change course—and the White House is demonstrating that it understands Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorist predations.

It was wise to block U.N. Security Council attempts to effectively allow Hamas to get away with attacking Israel by imposing a ceasefire. So, too, was the decision to resupply armaments to Israel. President Biden is doing what is necessary to ensure Israel has the time and capabilities it needs to effectively respond to the terrorist threat.

Now, however, the Biden administration must learn from what has taken place in recent weeks by fundamentally changing its perspective on engagement with Iran and the Palestinian leadership.

The Biden administration should immediately make clear to Tehran that support for terrorism is central to the discussions in Vienna. Iran cannot be allowed to blackmail the world into receiving sanctions relief, only to funnel more money to Hezbollah and Hamas. In addition, the White House should make clear to the Palestinian leadership that further U.S. aid will be tied directly to democratic reforms, including enabling dissent to flourish inside all Palestinian controlled-territories—Gaza included.

Finally, the U.S. should return to emphasizing efforts to help Arab nations normalize relations with Israel. This is not just good for Israel or the Arab world—it also solidifies a coalition of stability-oriented countries across the region that can serve as a further bulwark against Tehran's tyrants.

Such an approach will no doubt be met with vitriol from anti-Israel elements around the world. Armchair revolutionaries, closeted (and open) anti-Semites and the foreign policy intelligentsia all believe weakening Israel is the answer to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Recent history has shown just how backwards that thinking truly is.

Since its founding, Israel has shown the risks it is willing to take for peace. But prior to the Abraham Accords, every peace agreement that Israel's adversaries signed came after Israeli military victories. The stronger Israel is, the more likely her adversaries will be to finally negotiate in good faith. And as the recent normalization agreements between Israel and several Islamic nations make clear, strong support of Israel and U.S. diplomatic engagement in the Middle East are the key ingredients for regional peace and stability.

Peace through strength has worked for decades—and as the Bible says, there is “nothing new under the sun.”

Pastor John Hagee is the founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel.

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CUFI in the News

Idaho, West Virginia enact anti-BDS law; Alabama furthers Holocaust education

BRIEF

As published in The Jewish News Syndicate (April 29, 2021)

All three legal measures were backed by Christians United for Israel, the nation's largest pro-Israel organization.

The governors of Idaho and West Virginia signed into law this week anti-BDS legislation, while the Alabama State Senate passed a resolution promoting Holocaust education.

Idaho's Anti-Boycott Against Israel Act, signed by Gov. Brad Little, said a public entity in the state may not enter into a large-scale contract with a company "unless the contract includes a written certification that the company is not currently engaged in, and will not for the duration of the contract engage in, a boycott of goods or services from Israel or territories under its control."

West Virginia's "prohibition on contracting with companies that boycott Israel," signed by Gov. Jim Justice, noted that the state "has an economic and a humanitarian obligation to denounce and reject the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement against Israel, and to prevent the state or any of its instrumentalities from contracting with companies that engage in the movement."

The Alabama legislature encouraged and endorsed Holocaust education by stating that public schools should teach students about the history of anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, as well as "the impact of personal responsibility, civic engagement and societal response in the context of the Holocaust."

The legal measures were backed by Christians United for Israel (CUFI), the nation's largest pro-Israel organization.

"All three states—Utah, Idaho and West Virginia—where CUFI sought to advance legislation this year ensuring that taxpayer dollars do not end up in the hands of those who boycott Israel, have now seen those measures become law. And in Alabama, after close communications with a host of allied organizations and the Department of Education, we are now seeing that state endorse quality Holocaust education," said CUFI founder and chairman Pastor John Hagee.

He added that "whether it comes in the form of Israel-boycotters or old-fashioned bigots, CUFI is resolutely committed to combating anti-Semitism at every turn."

C H R I S T I A N S U N I T E D F O R I S R A E L

SUMMIT



CUFI in the News

WHY BIDEN SHOULD NOT GIVE AID TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

By Sandra Parker

As published in The National Interest (April 27, 2021)

The Biden administration needs to stop rewarding Palestinian intransigence and support for terror.

Perhaps the most perplexing of Washington's bad habits is the knee-jerk regression of the newly empowered to return to the failed policies of the past. Both parties are guilty, and nowhere is this phenomenon more endemic than in America's Middle East policy. In recent weeks, however, President Joe Biden's administration has displayed an almost defiant opposition to recognizing the realities on the ground in the region. The Middle East has changed since Biden was last in office, and his policies should reflect the same.

For decades, the Palestinian Authority (PA) made the case that without American and international support, the PA would crumble, leaving Hamas, ISIS, or other terrorist organizations to usurp the supposedly moderate political leadership in Ramallah. Successive U.S. administrations accepted this flawed argument, particularly in the years after the disastrous 2006 Palestinian legislative election that briefly made Hamas leader Ismail Haniya the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, which allowed Palestinian leaders to demand immediate and unconditional forgiveness for its most egregious sins: support for terrorism and rampant corruption.

The PA's partner in crime in perpetrating this fallacy has been the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA). It too has argued for years that its efforts are indispensable to avoid a complete Palestinian collapse. And, like their PA accomplices, UNRWA demanded the world look the other way as they turned classrooms into breeding grounds for hatred toward Israel and violated international norms by bestowing refugee status upon every generation of Palestinians.

Accordingly, both the PA and UNRWA, therefore, are guilty of perpetuating the Palestinian conflict and making any chance of its resolution increasingly challenging.

The dire warnings of political and economic Armageddon in Palestinian-controlled territories did not come to pass when the Trump administration ended U.S. support for both entities. In the PA's case, the American

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calculus was simple: end the policy of paying terrorists or the United States will cease providing aid. The PA chose the latter. For UNRWA, things were a bit more complicated since the UN already has a refugee agency, deeming UNRWA completely unnecessary.

Even though neither the PA nor UNRWA have changed their approach, the Biden administration has now sought to reinstate aid to these two corrupt and conflict-perpetuating entities. It believes ending the U.S. aid hurt ordinary Palestinians. But such a thin argument is fundamentally unserious. Propping up the very entities that have prolonged the conflict condemns the Palestinian people to a perpetual cycle of victimhood where terror is taught in schools and rewarded with dollars.

Certainly, President Biden and his administration understand that money is fungible. The result of aid restoration using American taxpayer dollars will effectively be the aiding and abetting of both Palestinian terrorism and UNRWA's hate-filled indoctrination.

Sadly, the Biden administration's approach, in which bad behavior is verbally condemned but financially rewarded, does not end with the Palestinians. In early April, Washington announced its intention to lift sanctions against International Criminal Court (ICC) officials who unlawfully extended their jurisdiction to the United States for its military conduct in Afghanistan, and to Israel for its response to the murder of three Israeli teenagers in 2014. The Biden administration lifted the sanctions despite their strongly worded statement objecting to the very actions that led President Trump to levy the original sanctions.

The Biden administration needs to stop rewarding Palestinian intransigence and support for terror. In addition, any international institution, be it UNRWA or the ICC, which does not advance peace and American interests must be dealt with accordingly. The White House, therefore, needs to reinstate the sanctions against the ICC and end all support for UNRWA.

Congress also has a critical role to play in keeping the Biden administration, Palestinian leadership, and international organizations accountable for the decisions they make. Ongoing holds on U.S. funding should be sustained until lawmakers are confident that laws, including the Taylor Force Act, currently on the books aimed at accountability and oversight for funding groups like the PA, are being appropriately enforced. Moreover, legislators should work to close loopholes the administration might be using to ignore current law and rollback years of thoughtful, bipartisan efforts to change the PA's behavior and its international enablers'.

Foreign policy is often presented as highly complex, but the strategic foundations that lead to success are simple. Stand by your allies. Take measured action against your adversaries to change their behavior. Do not rely on the goodwill of bad actors. Do not reward bad behavior.

As the Abraham Accords showed, Arab-Israeli peace is possible. But only if America's allies trust us, our enemies fear us, and the sense of entitlement amongst international institutions is confounded. Presently, the Biden administration is failing on all three fronts. The window may be closing, but it's not too late to reverse course.

Sandra Parker is the chairwoman of the CUFI Action Fund.

C H R I S T I A N S U N I T E D F O R I S R A E L

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CUFI in the News

THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

MUST ENFORCE THE TAYLOR FORCE ACT

By Sandra Parker

As published in The Washington Examiner (March 25, 2021)

Violent anti-Semitism has become a plague upon the United States and we must continue to vigorously combat it. In recent weeks and months, America has seen terrifying attacks against Jewish communities. Over the past two years, the entire nation has grappled with the deadliest of attacks against our Jewish neighbors. From Poway to Pittsburgh to Monsey, anti-Semitic terrorism has reached fever pitch.

The Jewish community may have, at times, felt besieged and alone. It is not alone. Across America, there are more than 8 million committed, and unwavering Christian Zionist allies in the grassroots army that makes up Christians United for Israel (CUFI). We boldly stand with Jewish Americans and the Jewish people around the world against the evils of anti-Semitism and we will work together to turn back its rising tide.

Now that President Trump has extended federal protections to our most vulnerable population – students – against anti-Semitism on college campuses, two main policy prescriptions for combating anti-Semitism in our broader society remain: education and security.

More than a year ago, a study was released that

betrayed a shocking ignorance about the Holocaust among Americans. Thirty-one percent of Americans, and 41 percent of millennials, believe that two million or fewer Jews were killed in the Holocaust. Forty-one percent of Americans, and two-thirds of millennials, do not know what Auschwitz was.

The failure to educate students about the evils of anti-Semitism enables its growth. We understand the tradition of local control of education, but just as elementary students in every school district need to learn math and reading skills, no high-school graduate's education is complete without a firm understanding of the greatest genocide ever committed.

Local, state and federal education authorities need to immediately prioritize Holocaust education. And Congress needs to pass the Never Again Education Act to ensure educators have the training and resources they need to be successful. Most often, bigotry is a symptom of ignorance, and right now our population is ignorant of the Holocaust. That must change — not tomorrow, today.

Proper education will help combat anti-Semitism for future generations, but the problem exists here and now. That is why we welcome and fully endorse Sen.

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Chuck Schumer's call to quadruple the funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency administered Nonprofit Security Grant Program. This is commonsense policy that should enjoy widespread bipartisan – if not unanimous – support in Congress.

Steps must be taken to harden and protect religiously oriented locations. The bigots see synagogues and community centers as soft targets; it is incumbent upon our government to ensure that when people of faith gather, they are safe, secure and protected.

It is not 1938. In Israel, there is a country and a military that flies the flag with the Star of David. And in America at least 8 million Christians stand with their Jewish friends and neighbors. Washington must hear our voices and heed the warnings of the past. "Never Again" is not a bumper sticker or a slogan, it is call to action, a promise and a responsibility.

We can debate other issues on other days, but at this moment, if we fail to educate the next generation about the horrors of the Holocaust and protect the Jewish community against anti-Semitism sweeping across this country, we fail to uphold the most basic values upon which this country was founded. Americans of conscience must set aside their political and religious differences and come together to protect our first Constitutional freedom against the world's oldest hatred.

Pastor John Hagee is founder and Chairman of Christians United for Israel.

Another "incentive" for the Palestinian Authority playing along with this charade, essentially icing on the cake, would be the lifting of the Palestine Liberation Organization's designation as a Foreign Terrorist Organization as some reports have indicated is being considered by the Biden administration. So far, the State Department has not indicated that it intends to do so, but the mere mention of these schemes has created a trust deficit in this context.

The problems Palestinians face do not stem from the suspension of U.S. aid. They stem from a deeply corrupt and terror-supporting Palestinian leadership running the West Bank and the murderous terrorist organization Hamas running Gaza. The absence of any change in the Palestinian leadership's maximalist positions or its terror campaign against Israel is an argument against restoring aid, not for it.

The better course of action is for the Biden administration to help average Palestinians by holding Palestinian Authority leaders accountable and demanding the infrastructure supporting terrorists be dismantled, anti-Semitism be scrubbed from schools and media, corruption prosecuted, and democracy restored by holding elections and enabling civil society to mature.

The Biden administration's stated desire to exercise moral leadership is admirable. But undermining the Taylor Force Act achieves the opposite result. If necessary, Congress should intervene and protect U.S. taxpayers from their dollars being directed to entities that support terrorism (though it shouldn't have to). Certainly, that is neither controversial nor too high a bar.

The Taylor Force Act passed with widespread bipartisan support and reflects the will of the public. Attempts to evade the law's restrictions are shameful. That restoring aid to terrorists is what the Biden administration chooses to start its conversation with the Palestinian Authority would be laughable if it was not so immoral. Let's hope the current administration honors the memory of Taylor Force by keeping the law named in his memory intact. Otherwise, circumventing policies such as Taylor Force is an unwelcome harbinger of things to come.

Sandra Parker is the chairwoman of the Christians United for Israel Action Fund.

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CUFI in the News

HOW CUFI HAS AWAKENED THE 'SLEEPING GIANT' OF CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

By Sean Savage

As published in The Jewish News Syndicate (March 9, 2021)



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Reflecting on the organization's 15th anniversary, Pastor John Hagee says that "the most significant achievement was bringing together millions of people from many backgrounds and denominations across America in support of one single cause—Israel and the Jewish people."

This year, Christians United for Israel, one of the most powerful voices for Israel in the United States, marked its 15th anniversary.

"We could never have imagined CUFI would achieve so much, so quickly. But God has blessed us because we are fulfilling our biblical mandate to stand with Israel and His Chosen people," Pastor John Hagee, founder and chairman of CUFI, told JNS. "This said, I noted when we launched CUFI that there was a sleeping giant of Christian Zionism in this country. That giant has now been awakened. When millions of people share a passion for Israel, great things are possible."

Still, the organization and the movement it represents, Christian Zionism, is also one of the least understood. For some American Jews, they see an organization rooted in Christian theology and are reminded of centuries of Christian persecution. Or for others, they see a movement that holds many traditional and conservative values, and consider it out of place in an increasingly diversifying world. Yet a deeper look into CUFI, through its leadership and grassroots supporters, reveals an organization that reflects the diversity and forward-thinking in its support for Israel, and not afraid to call out all forms of bigotry and anti-Semitism while remaining true to its biblical values.

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CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



"I won't use the word 'proud' because the glory for CUFI's success is God's alone," said Hagee. "The most significant achievement was bringing together millions of people from many different backgrounds and denominations across America in support of one single cause—Israel and the Jewish people."

To that end, on the grassroots level, the group says it has gained more than 4,000 students on U.S. college campuses and taken 1,000-plus pastors to Israel.

'A history of standing with and protecting Africa'

Mareyah Washington, a junior at St. Augustine University, a private historically black college in North Carolina, told JNS that supporting Israel on campus has been an uphill battle for her.

"I find my campus to be uninformed for the most part when it comes to what's going on in the Middle East," she said. "Starting with a clean slate actually allows me to engage in non-confrontational conversations about Israel, and prepare my classmates and faculty for the lies they are going to hear as they dig deeper into this subject."



Mareyah Washington, a junior at St. Augustine University and head of the school's CUFI chapter. Credit: St. Augustine University.

Washington, who said that her support for Israel is rooted in her own personal faith, points out that as an African-American, many of her peers question why she supports a country like Israel.

"You are sometimes viewed as a sell-out for advocating for a non-African nation," she acknowledged. "However, Israel has a long history of standing with and protecting Africa, as do the Jewish people with African-Americans."

As president of her school's CUFI chapter, which sponsored a trip to Israel for her in 2019, she uses it as a platform both to advocate for Israel and for general awareness of international issues.

"One thing I will always be grateful to CUFI for is my trip to Israel with the Bonhoeffer fellowship of 2019. Being able to see the security fence in person, interact with the people I advocate for, and walk where Jesus walked all strengthened my relationship with God and gave me a deeper love and drive for what we do," she said.

CUFI also draws strength from its support across the country by individual churches and pastors. This is evidenced each year (in pre-COVID times) when it brings thousands of supporters to Washington, D.C., for its annual conference, where they lobby members of Congress on issues important for Israel.

'Organization draws its power from its people'

Pastor Jay Bailey, the lead pastor of Solid Rock Church in Columbus, Ga., and Georgia State Director for CUFI, told JNS that the organization draws its power from its people.

"With every passing year, the CUFI Leadership and their highly skilled team launch new initiatives, undertake bold and innovative projects, produce new resources, inspire people young and old alike, and challenge thought leaders and political influencers to take up the mantle and join the cause," he said.

Bailey, who originally hails from Jamaica and Canada, and has served at Solid Rock Church for 18 years, said he has been involved with CUFI since 2010.

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“Support for Israel is both a head and heart exercise for me. It is morally right to stand with Israel and her people. For me, there is no equivocation to this conviction. The Bible mandates that we love and honor Israel, and in doing so, we are honoring God and His eternal Word,” he said.



Pastor Jay Bailey, lead pastor of Solid Rock Church in Columbus, Ga., and Georgia State Director for CUFI. Credit: Solid Rock Church.

In particular, Bailey noted that his close work with the Jewish community in Georgia has been most the fruitful part of his experience with CUFI.

“The relationships that have been forged, especially with the Jewish community, have been deeply meaningful and fulfilling. What has been particularly special to experience has been the receptivity of the Jewish people,” he said, adding that he himself has Jewish ancestry with his seventh great-grandfather on his father’s side serving as the first chief rabbi of England.

Bailey said with rising anti-Semitism in the United States, coupled with the challenges Jewish and pro-Israel students face on campus, the work CUFI does is more critical than ever.

“We are also seeing ever-increasing threats against the nation of Israel from sovereign states who desire to wipe Israel from the face of the earth,” he stressed. “These threats are real and pose an existential threat to Israel and the United States.”

“The challenge is clear: It is noble, it is right, and it summons us to embrace it. CUFI will do what CUFI always does when face with a challenge. We accept it, and then

we rise above it,” said Bailey. “This is why there are over 10 million members who are a part of this family, and as for me and my household, we will support CUFI.”

‘Hesitation is the exception, not the rule’

Yet the group’s success has not come without its challenges. In particular, Christian support for Israel has not always been a given, and that very support has not always been warmly received by the Jewish community.

Versions of Christian Zionism in America can be traced back to colonial times with Puritans like with Roger Williams, the founder of the colony of Rhode Island, or President John Adams. However, the modern movement of Christian support for Israel in the United States and the United Kingdom emerged in the late 19th century when leaders such as Lord Shaftesbury and William Eugene Blackstone helped shape the movement’s policies in their respective countries.

Hagee explained that “Christian Zionism today is more organized and is now a far more biblically literate community than ever before. The movement today is stronger than ever, but we are working aggressively to make it even stronger.”

But it wasn’t always easy to garner Christian support for Israel. For most of Christian history, the teaching of replacement theology, which argues that the Christian church has replaced Israel and the Jewish people regarding the plan, purpose and promises of God, has been the dominant teaching.

Hagee, now 80, initially faced pushback from other Christians regarding his ministry’s support for Israel—his Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, in addition to his family, was threatened by violence that included bomb threats and smashed windows during his early days prior to founding CUFI.

“CUFI’s primary focus is education, and we’ve seen a real increase in Christians’ understanding our biblical mandate to stand with Israel and the Jewish people,” he said. “Likewise, though it remains a potent threat, we’re making strides in beating back Replacement Theology and teaching the American Christian community about the dangers of this anti-Semitic school of thought.”

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Christian Zionism has also faced resistance in its efforts to be accepted by the Jewish community. For one, the Jewish community has faced centuries of anti-Semitism at the hands of Christians, who have perennially persecuted Jews and encouraged conversion.

"After working with the Jewish community for more than 40 years, I've come to fully understand their hesitancy to work with Christians. I believe we've done a fairly good job of showing that we are exclusively focused on supporting Israel and combatting anti-Semitism," said Hagee. "We've kept true to our word that we are a non-conversionary association, and today, when we approach members of the Jewish community, hesitation is the exception, not the rule."

Areas where CUFI and the Biden administration agree

At the same time, politics have played a role in creating suspicion among American Jews of Christians. The American Jewish community overwhelmingly supports the Democratic Party and liberal policies, while evangelicals are closely tied to the Republican Party and conservative issues.

Hagee dismissed this, saying that while not everyone may share in their policies, they hardly ever encounter rejection from the Jewish community.

"CUFI is well-known, and while not all of our policy positions are shared by all corners of any community, including the Jewish community, in our experience only a small minority of members of the Jewish community decline to work with CUFI," he recounted.

Among the successes that CUFI cited has been its involvement with the opening of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem in May 2018 and the U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights the next year.

At the same time, the group has also been part of advancing legislation including the Never Again Education Act, the Taylor Force Act and the Sanctioning of the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act. Hagee also noted the Never Again Education Act, Executive Order 13899 on combating Anti-Semitism, consistent bipartisan support for U.S. aid to Israel year after year, and the advancement of anti-BDS legislation on college campuses and states across the country.

Sandra Parker, chairwoman of the CUFI Action Fund, which serves as the group's lobbying arm, said several issues that CUFI is working on coincide with core concerns of the Biden administration.

"We are a nonpartisan association, and we see areas, such as Turkey, where we feel CUFI and the Biden administration strongly agree," she said, referring to the group's support for sanctions on Turkey related to the F-35 fighter-jet program, which the Biden administration extended.

And while CUFI was very vocal in its opposition to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and supported former President Donald Trump's decision to leave it, it hopes to work closely with U.S. President Joe Biden and his staff on the issue.

Parker said the organization aims "to help shape the thinking in Washington as it relates to Iran. We do not believe that the U.S. should return to the JCPOA or be taken in by Iran's pre-nuclear blackmail."

Advancing anti-BDS legislation, fostering Holocaust education

At the state level, Parker said they work on several common areas with Jewish and pro-Israel groups.

"CUFI is engaged at the state level like never before, continuing to advance anti-BDS legislation, and this year, we've started to work on Holocaust education issues as well," she said.

With 2021 marking CUFI's 15th anniversary, the organization says that it continues to grow rapidly despite challenges brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.



Christians United for Israel founder and chairman Pastor John Hagee delivering the benediction at the opening of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem on May 14, 2018. Credit: Screenshot.

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CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



"Prior to the pandemic, CUFI was hosting an average of 50 events per month in cities and towns across the country and an annual summit with an average of 5,000 in attendance. Since March of last year, we've had to make a dramatic shift in the way we engage our members and the nation," Shari Dollinger, co-executive director of CUFI, told JNS.



Supporters of CUFI at the 2019 "Night to Honor Israel" at Pastor John Hagee's Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, Texas. Source: CUFI via Facebook.

Dollinger said that the pandemic has helped them reach new supporters while still staying engaged with its current members.

"CUFI has seen a dramatic increase in online engagement. For example, after we held our summit virtually, we saw more than 300,000 emails sent to elected officials in support of the summit policy agenda items," she said.

Additionally, Dollinger said they have rolled out a host of online engagement opportunities, such as small-group study series and online content such as short videos.

"In some respects, I feel we had the building blocks already in place that enabled us to grow even during the pandemic," she said. "CUFI's emphasis on digital engagement has always been strong."

Looking towards the future and a post-pandemic world, Dollinger stressed that CUFI will continue to focus on providing educational content for its 10 million members and hopes to return to in-person events soon.

"In the long-term, this educational focus will remain, but I hope and pray we will be able to return to the kind of face-to-face interactions that have such a dramatic

impact. Among those, of course, are trips to Israel. Once it's safe to do so, we plan on ramping up our pastor trips to the Jewish state without delay.

"We may not be on the first flight, but we won't be far behind," she assured.

'Our message resonates'

As for the U.S.-Israel relationship, Parker said that while she remains optimistic for the future, she's also concerned about the threats to it as well.

In particular, she noted that CUFI is "deeply concerned" about fringe elements that have made their way to Congress in the past few years.

"Congress is no place for anti-Semitism, conspiracy theories and the like," she stated. "Israel-haters, isolationists and all those who would traffic in anti-Semitic tropes or attack the Jewish state should be shunned from both political parties."

Indeed, CUFI was outspoken in condemning Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and urged her removal from committees in the House of Representatives.

"Unfortunately, I am disturbed that party leaders have not gotten their houses in order, but then again, the American people ultimately decide who goes to Washington to represent them, and the American people are overwhelmingly pro-Israel," said Parker.

Moving forward, Hagee emphasizes that as long as CUFI remains "true to its biblical values" that he does not see anything stopping it.

"We grow because our message resonates, and it resonates because it is an honest and true representation of Israel's biblical, moral and historical claim to exist as an independent, sovereign nation," he said.

"We have an impact because our people understand that to be a faithful supporter of Israel requires action and failure to act provides Israel's enemies abroad and the anti-Semites here at home with an opening for their hatred to take root and propagate—not on CUFI's watch!"

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



CUFI in the News

The Danger of Biden Wanting an Iran Deal Too Much

By Ari Morgenstern

As published in Haaretz (December 9, 2020)



U.S. President Barack Obama with Vice President Joe Biden alongside delivers a statement about the nuclear deal with Iran and six major world powers at the White House in Washington. July 14, 2015 Credit: POOL New/ REUTERS

A return to the old nuclear deal is a non-starter, writes CUFI's policy head: Any agreement with the Tehran regime must be comprehensive, bipartisan and durable. And Biden's team must be willing to walk away.

Upon taking office, President-elect Joe Biden will be greeted with a Middle East very different from the one he may recall from his days in the White House. Nowhere are these changes more apparent and more important than in the effort to curb Iran's regional ambitions.

But to be successful in this context, Biden must acknowledge the current reality in the region and make use of the leverage afforded him.

Discussions about reengagement with Iran must acknowledge the historic realignment in the Middle East as enshrined in the Abraham Accords, and as such, any agreement with Iran must take into consideration the viewpoint of regional allies who unanimously opposed the original deal. A return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in its present form is thus a non-starter.

And despite elements of then candidate Biden's September op-ed on the subject, the President-elect and his camp seem to recognize this.

In August, Biden's choice for Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said, "[Biden] would seek to build on the nuclear deal to make it longer and stronger if Iran returns to strict compliance."

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CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



The atomic enrichment facilities Natanz nuclear power plant, some 300 kilometres south of capital Tehran, November 4, 2019 Credit: - - AFP

Likewise, Jake Sullivan, Biden's pick for National Security Advisor noted that a Biden administration would seek, "to negotiate a follow-on agreement that does materially advance the security of the United States, of Israel and of our other regional partners as well." Even Biden in the aforementioned op-ed noted that the current agreement would be "a starting point for follow-on negotiations."

These statements implicitly acknowledge that the JCPOA was flawed.

- ***Iran, Biden and the bomb: Why Tehran is now speeding up its nuclear program***
- ***Iran is already stalking Israelis visiting the UAE. Mossad is bracing for the worst***
- ***Assassinations and sanctions aren't working: Why America and Israel need a new Iran strategy***
- ***How Israel is triggering a royal civil war in Saudi Arabia***

The deal's sunset provisions were tied to arbitrary timelines rather than concrete steps towards reform; the verification system ensuring Iranian compliance was absurdly weak; Iran has never

come clean about its past nuclear activities; and non-nuclear handouts such as the recent expiration of the UN arms embargo against Tehran were based on the incorrect assumption that Iran would react to American good will by quickly rejoining the community of nations.

Looking forward, these issues must be addressed. And any future engagement with the regime must be predicated on truly comprehensive, verifiable and permanent changes to Tehran's activities.

The Islamic Republic's human rights abuses, support for terror, and missile programs must all be addressed in potential discussions with Iran. Contrary to Biden's premise that the current JCPOA is a starting point for "follow-on" agreements, the nuclear issue cannot be compartmentalized, even at the outset of engagement. Such a path would enable Tehran to drag its heels on all other issues. If the nuclear issue is compartmentalized, the regime would undoubtedly continue its blood-soaked domestic and foreign policies.



The atomic enrichment facilities Natanz nuclear power plant, some 300 kilometres south of capital Tehran, November 4, 2019 Credit: - - AFP

Both Iran and the Biden team would seek an agreement not easily scuttled in the future. The only way to do so is by stating at the outset that the end goal must be a treaty to be submitted for approval by two-thirds of the Senate.

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This approach has the added benefit of strengthening Washington's hand by enabling Biden's team to demand the Iranians satisfy the administration's right flank: Senate Republicans. This is the diplomatic equivalent of good-cop, bad-cop. And it also restores the Iran issue to its rightful place of bipartisan consensus, which had been undermined by Obama choosing to make his signature foreign policy achievement an executive agreement.

The Biden team is in a very strong position to negotiate with Iran if it is willing to use the leverage that has been built up in recent years.

Iran's economy has been significantly impacted by the Trump administration's maximum pressure campaign. The rial has hit historic lows against the dollar. The Islamic Republic is exporting a fraction of the oil it was prior to Trump's policy shift. Iran's banks have been cutoff from the world. Global businesses have abandoned the Iranian market.

Biden mustn't want a deal more than he wants to see a specific, comprehensive outcome. And his team must be willing to walk away from the negotiating table.

Biden's desire to see a durable agreement with Iran and an end to the Islamic Republic's perennial status as a pariah state is laudable. But success won't be realized without speaking the one language Iran's rulers understand: strength.

Ari Morgenstern is the senior director of policy and communications for Christians United for Israel.

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CUFI in the News

A BEGINNING OF THE END FOR ANTI-ISRAEL BDS MOVEMENT

By Pastor John Hagee

As published in The Washington Examiner (September 21, 2020)

As you look around the globe, what countries' treatments of their citizens, neighbors, or minorities appall you? Perhaps it's communist China's oppressive regime, which forces Uighur Muslims into labor camps and offers bounties on followers of Jesus Christ. Perhaps it's Iran's "catalogue of shocking human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment." Or maybe it's Turkey's international belligerence and sponsorship of terrorism. The list of the sins of the dictators, theocrats, and kleptocrats in power around the world is as long as it is disgusting.

Yet, for some, no country deserves condemnation more than Israel. Armchair revolutionaries advocate in support of a movement for boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel but are unable to muster any anger against the greatest criminal regimes of this century.

As such, the simplest explanation for the BDS movement's appeal is anti-Semitism, plain and simple. Proponents don't like a strong, independent, multicultural Jewish state. Its existence bothers them more than the atrocities committed by the tyrants of Tehran, Iran, the strongman of Ankara, Turkey, or the butcher of Damascus, Syria.

BDS supporters claim that laws prohibiting states from contracting with Israeli boycotters are unconstitutional while simultaneously acknowledging that "none of the anti-boycott bills and laws take away your right to boycott for Palestinian rights or to advocate for such boycotts." BDS supporters are dishonest, and right now, they're scared. They are standing upon shifting sands.

Boycotts of Israel by nations are falling. In recent weeks, we have beheld a once-unfathomable progression of peace in the Middle East. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain are normalizing relations with Israel. Saudi Arabia is permitting Israeli flights to traverse its airspace. And the Arab League flatly rejected Palestinian efforts to condemn its members for making peace with the Jewish state.

Continued ►

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL SUMMIT



Even before this series of events, Israelis came together and overwhelmingly embraced President Trump's proposal for peace in the region that would guarantee Israeli security, defensible borders, and control over the holy sites they've protected for people of all faiths. Simultaneously, it would provide the Palestinians with a clear and unambiguous path to peace, prosperity, and autonomy, should the Palestinian leadership ever choose to end its war.

The future does not belong to those who would destroy the Jewish state, whether by bombs or boycotts. It does not belong to the maximalists. The state of Israel lives, and no Hamas terrorist or BDS activist is going to change that. The future belongs to the blessed peacemakers.

From Abu Dhabi, UAE, and Manama, Bahrain, to Washington, D.C., and Jerusalem, the old taboos, consternations, and resulting false promises are disappearing. They have been replaced with a pragmatic approach focused on peace, reconciliation, and mutual prosperity.

The time has long since passed for those who claim to be supporters of the Palestinian people to cease being a roadblock to peace in the Middle East. They must reject extremism, abandon their disdain for the Jewish state, and embrace the shining vision for peace and prosperity that has been laid before them. They must prioritize the good of the Palestinian people above the ever-shifting Palestinian narrative.

Only when they abandon their all-consuming hatred for the Jewish state will they and everyone in the region benefit, perhaps none more so than the Palestinian people they claim to be supporting.

This is the beginning of the end of BDS.

Pastor John Hagee is the founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel.