

WASHINGTON

# SUMMIT

➔ MEDIA KIT





## WELCOME JOURNALISTS

Welcome to the Christians United for Israel (CUFI) 2022 Washington 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 11 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. In 2022, both in-person and virtual events have continued to be held in churches and on college campuses all over the U.S. 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 select articles and opinion pieces authored by or featuring CUFI.

Please enjoy the conference.

**Shari Dollinger & Diana Hagee**

Co-Executive Directors, Christians United for Israel

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CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

## FACT SHEET

As the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States, with over 11 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 U.S.-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.

***"I consider CUFI a vital part of Israel's national security."***

– BENJAMIN NETANYAHU,  
Former Prime Minister of Israel

## GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

- Largest pro-Israel organization with over 11 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 11 social media channels as well as our website, podcasts, and daily briefing emails.
- Bring groups of pastors, millennial influencers and students to Israel each year.
- Have brought over **900 millennial influencers**, including leading pastors, celebrities, professional athletes, and government staffers, to Israel.





# ABOUT CUFI, CUFI ON CAMPUS & THE ISRAEL COLLECTIVE



## CUFI

With more than **11 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 **900 millennial Christian leaders on educational trips to Israel**.

## Action Fund

The CUFI Action Fund, a nonprofit 501(c)(4), nonpartisan organization, is related to the nation's largest pro-Israel organization, Christians United for Israel (CUFI). The Action Fund is dedicated to ensuring our elected officials hear the perspective of the millions of Christian Zionists across the country. The Action Fund's policy agenda includes support for a strong U.S.-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.



# 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 National Chairman of Christians United For Israel (CUFI) which has grown to become the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States with 11 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.



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## 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 U.S.-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 U.S.-Israel relationship:**

Founded upon the two nations' shared values, the alliance between the U.S. 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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## **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 U.S. 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 legislation aimed at ensuring U.S. taxpayer dollars do not end up in the hands of antisemites who support this movement, and with CUFI support, 34 states have advanced such anti-BDS measures dealing a significant blow to the anti-Israel movement. CUFI was also integrally involved in reversing Airbnb's decision to boycott Israeli homes in Judea and Samaria and continues our efforts to address any acts of economic antisemitism.

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

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## POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Advanced anti-BDS legislation in several key states bringing the total number of states to have advanced such measures to 34. *(2021-2022)*
- CUFI welcomes passage of the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act which included CUFI Summit legislative agenda item, The US-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act, as well as two additional pro-Israel priorities: the inclusion of an authorization of funds for Israel's missile defense programs and the creation of an interparliamentary group of four nations (Cyprus, Greece, Israel, and the United States), committed to limiting Turkey's aggression. *(December 2021)*
- Ambassador Nikki Haley joins Pastor Hagee on solidarity mission to Israel in the wake of conflict with Hamas. *(June 2021)*
- After more than a year of advocacy in support of sanctions against Turkey, CUFI welcomes the Trump administration's imposition of sanctions against Ankara for their decision to acquire the Russian S-400 surface to air missile system. *(December 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 IHRA's definition of antisemitism as U.S. policy. *(December 2019)*
- Engaged in public relations and lobbying effort 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 monthlong 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's 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 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 U.S. 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)*



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## 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.”***

– ISRAELI 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*
- “Being with CUFI means being with friends. [CUFI’s] work is as important as it ever was. Israel needs friends. That hasn’t changed.”  
– *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)*
- “We don’t fight alone. We fight with our friends. Above all, our friends in CUFI.”  
– *Ambassador Michael Oren*
- “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)*
- “I consider CUFI to be doing today what the Righteous [Among the Nations] did 70 years ago.”  
– *Irving Roth, Holocaust survivor and educator (of blessed memory)*
- “Whenever Israel stands up to threats and for the truth, we know we can count on Christians United for Israel.”  
– *Minister Gilad Erdan*

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## CUFI IN THE NEWS

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# DON'T FALL FOR ERDOGAN'S NOT SO CHARMING OFFENSIVE

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**BORIS ZILBERMAN**

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*As published in The National Interest (May 28, 2022)*

**Erdogan's silver tongue is a reminder of who  
he really is and whose side he's on.**

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan is on a charm offensive. In recent weeks, the autocratic leader has been making a concerted public effort to mend strained ties with regional powers and re-engage Washington in the hopes of resuscitating the moribund U.S.-Turkish relationship. This would be welcome news if Erdogan was addressing the policies that led to his nation's fractured ties, but he isn't. Erdogan is playing double-games on a range of international issues in the hopes of bolstering his status—and that of his AKP party—ahead of Turkey's June 2023 elections. President Joe Biden and democratic leaders should not be taken in by his efforts.

Erdogan sees Turkish relations with Israel, and his own relationship with Israeli president Isaac Herzog, as a central component of his strategy. He has dispatched his

foreign minister this week to Jerusalem for the first visit by a Turkish official in fifteen years. Israeli leaders see little cost in engaging in an exercise of rapprochement. At worst, it gives Israel a period of relative calm from an actor that can worsen a host of issues. At best, it creates an outside chance of restoring some semblance of the productive bilateral relationship that existed before Erdogan's rise. But it is hard to see how the latter occurs if Erdogan does not address Turkey's blatant anti-Israel and anti-Semitic discourse and behavior—including his own comments and Ankara's persistence in playing host to Hamas terrorists.

As Erdogan seeks to turn vinegar into wine, the Biden administration is seeking congressional approval for a \$400 million sale of air-to-air missiles and other

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upgraded radar and software technology to improve Turkey's current fleet of F-16 fighter jets. And a larger sale of modern F-16s requested by Turkey, with radars similar to that of the F-35 stealth fighter, looms on the horizon. This is despite Turkey being kicked out of the F-35 program in July 2019 after it took delivery of Russian missile defense systems. The United States was and should remain justifiably concerned about co-locating the F-35 with advanced Russian systems. Similar concerns over the latest version of the F-16 should be considered by Congress. It was not long ago that arms sales to Turkey of any kind were frozen by Congress, and the underlying reasoning for that freeze has not changed.

Greek prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis recently addressed a joint meeting of Congress, a first for a Greek leader, and his warning was clear, *"the last thing that NATO needs at a time when our focus is on helping Ukraine defeat Russia's aggression is another source of instability on NATO's Southeastern flank. And I ask you take this into account when you make defense procurement decisions concerning the Eastern Mediterranean."*

In addition to his ties with Moscow, Erdogan is using Turkey's membership in organizations like NATO to realize unrelated concessions from the West. Ankara is recklessly standing in the way of Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO membership, which has the support of the Biden administration and will be ultimately approved. Rather than agreeing to a quid pro quo, Washington should exact a toll on Erdogan for muddying the waters at a key historical moment for Finland, Sweden, and the NATO alliance.

Showing such disunity in the face of Russia's horrific war against Ukraine is irresponsible, misguided, and contrary to Turkey's short- and long-term interests. Erdogan's intransigence will not score him any points amongst policymakers who are weighing the arms sales that he covets. In fact, it is accelerating the spread of anti-Turkish sentiment. As former U.S. ambassador to Turkey Eric Edelman pointed out, *"There is broad support for Finland and Sweden in Congress, and many members would like nothing better than to trade Turkey as a member for the two Nordic states."*

Until Erdogan makes permanent and verifiable changes to Turkey's support for jihadists and terror groups, flouting of U.S. sanctions on Russian arms purchases, destabilizing actions against allies in the eastern Mediterranean, and undermining NATO unity, the United States must take a step back. To avoid a conditional approach to arms sales, economic packages, and trade deals, Erdogan should remember the adage to *"show, don't tell."*

**If one day Erdogan takes actions that back up his outreach, the United States should respond in kind. Until then, Erdogan's silver tongue is a reminder of who he really is and whose side he's on.**

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**Boris Zilberman** is the director of public policy and strategy at the Christians United for Israel Action Fund.



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## CUFI IN THE NEWS

# PASTOR JOHN HAGEE: BEGIN WAS 'HEROIC' TO BOMB IRAQI REACTOR, IRAN 'EVEN MORE DANGEROUS'

ALEX TRAIMAN

*As published in the Jewish News Syndicate (March 16, 2022)*

**He also discussed young evangelicals, the battle against anti-Semitism, the right for Israeli sovereignty and the arrival of Ukrainian refugees while he was in the country to receive multiple awards for his longtime work on behalf of Israel and Diaspora Jews.**



Pastor Hagee accepts Menachem Begin Support of Israel Award in Israel.  
(Photo credit: CUFI)

One of America's most powerful Christian supporters of Israel sees clear similarities between Iran's race towards nuclear weapons and a daring Israeli strike on an Iraqi nuclear reactor back in 1981.

In a wide-ranging interview, Pastor John Hagee, founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel (CUFI) and his own John Hagee Ministries, told JNS that *"there's an exact parallel. If anything, the parallel today is even more dangerous."*

Hagee recalled Israel's bombing of the Osirak reactor, ordered by then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin, as the moment that convinced him to launch what has

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become the largest Christian pro-Israel organization in the United States.

*"I thought Menachem Begin had done a heroic and courageous thing, a just thing for his people. A just thing for the people of the world," said Hagee. "He was taking nuclear weapons out of the hands of a lunatic."*

Hagee noted that while he and many others supported the strike that would make Israel safer, *"the 'blame America-Israel first' media said Israel should be condemned for its gunboat diplomacy."*

For Hagee, that was a turning point.

*"And I told my wife [Diana], I said that rather than the Jewish people being castigated, they should be complimented. They should be encouraged in what they're doing. I said, 'We're going to have a night to honor Israel.' And something was born in that conversation that exploded into what became Christians United for Israel with 11.5 million members."*

Hagee was lauded at two separate events in Jerusalem this week, with the Support of Israel Award at the annual Begin Symposium, commemorating 30 years since the passing of Israel's famed prime minister, and another at Jerusalem's Great Synagogue. At both, he was presented the honors by Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents for Major American Jewish Organizations, one of American Jewry's longest-serving communal leaders.

In his keynote address at the Menachem Begin Heritage Center on Sunday, Hagee invoked the *"maniacal dream"* of Iranian leaders to wipe Israel off the map, and implored that *"Israel must never allow Iran to get a nuclear bomb."*

**'A presence that exuded strength and confidence'**

Prior to receiving the award, and sitting in front of a painting of the former prime minister, Hagee told JNS that *"Diana and I were privileged to meet with Menachem Begin three times. The first time I met him ... he looked like a college professor. He was very kind, very cordial, and he had a presence about him that exuded strength and confidence."*

Thinking back on Begin's role in Israeli history, Hagee said, *"I've admired him from the day I met him, and I admire him today because he was a freedom-fighter who was persistent about the fact that anti-Semitism was not going to conquer the Jewish people."*

Hagee noted how he brought together 400 leading pastors in America in 2006 to launch a grassroots organization that started with annual trips to Washington to appeal to members of Congress to support the Jewish state, and a challenge to those pastors to have a night to honor Israel in each of the 50 states within the next year.

Since then, Christians United for Israel has grown into one of the most vocal and reliable sources of support for Israel.

*"We've now 11.5 million people who are committed to fighting anti-Semitism in its every form and standing for Israel and its right to be free," said Hagee. "Anti-Semitism is a biblical issue; we don't stand with Israel because it's a political issue."*

He warned that *"anti-Semitism is on the rise because for years colleges and universities have hired professors that considered teaching anti-Semitism and Jew-hatred to be in vogue."*

He also said that anti-Semitic attacks are increasing in America *"because we are becoming a lawless nation."*

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*"We are firing the police or defunding the police. Lawlessness abounds, and when lawlessness abounds, evil runs rampant, and anti-Semitism is evil," he said.*

## **'Support for Israel is growing'**

While CUFI is growing, the situation for Jews in the United States appears to be deteriorating. Many Congress members now espouse openly anti-Israel positions. Despite claims that Israel is losing bipartisan support, Hagee said that *"support for Israel is growing."*

Hagee called into question recent polls that assert that support for Israel is waning among younger generations of evangelicals, *"I can assure you by our television response. I can assure you by our response to CUFI, that that is absolutely not true."*

For Hagee, Christian students are among those leading the charge against anti-Semitism.

*"We have a presence on 400 American college and university campuses, where we have young people who are trained to lead other young people in how to combat antisemitism," he said. "And I will tell you, these young people are on the frontline, especially out on the West Coast. They get slapped, spit at, attacked by antisemitic people. They get up off the ground and lead the attack."*

*"We as Christians and as righteous people need to in a very visible and forcible way, stand against anti-Semitism and get it stopped. We as Christians—whether you are in CUFI or not—have an obligation to stand with Israel, period," added Hagee. "It behooves the righteous to get on the side of God Almighty in defending the Jewish people."*

In his acceptance address at the Begin Center, Hagee stated, *"God Almighty gave this land to the Jewish people by blood covenant forever,"* adding, *"Israel and*

*the Jewish people do not occupy this land. They own this land."*

*"The idea that Johnny-come-lately's would come along and say they own the land is absurd," Hagee told JNS. "There is a biblical record, a biblical mandate repeated over and over and over. The rocks and stones of Jerusalem are crying out that this land belongs to the Jewish people exclusively, now and forever."*

Specifically referring to the disputed biblical provinces of Judea and Samaria, Hagee asserted that *"Judea and Samaria belong to the Jewish people, end of story."* He added that with regards to asserting its legal, moral and historic rights, the Jewish people *"don't need to answer to the Palestinians, to the United Nations or to the United States of America."*

## **'Watched the first planeload of Ukrainian Jews come'**

As for other news, in the wake of intense fighting against Russia's invasion, CUFI has helped raise significant funds to help Ukrainian refugees.

*"In less than a week, we raised over \$2 million," Hagee said, "and we came here Thursday morning at 1 o'clock at Ben-Gurion Airport and watched the first planeload of Ukrainian Jews come."*

He noted how he and Diana watched young mothers deboarding the airplane with babies in their arms, many having left their fathers and husbands behind. *"There were no suitcases. There was a backpack that had all of their earthly possessions,"* he said.

*"It was in one sense agonizing to see the terror that they were going through, but on the other hand, it was jubilation to know that there was a free state called Israel where Jews could come. That has never really existed until the State of Israel became a reality,"* he added.

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### **'Americans ready to stand up for Israel'**

Hoenlein, who got to honor Hagee at both award events, told JNS that Jews don't fully appreciate the support for Israel they receive from America's large evangelical community.

*"I do not think that they appreciate particularly the work of CUFI," he said. "This is a mission to improve the world, and he sees their responsibility to the Jewish people in very clear and objective terms. ... And I would hope that many more in America ... will come to appreciate there are tens of millions of Americans ready to stand up for Israel and for the Jewish people."*

As president of Jerusalem's Great Synagogue, Hoenlein honored the Hagees as part of a new program to honor non-Jews who have made a unique contribution to the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

*"There are very few people who have done as much as the Hagees have for countless institutions here in Israel—ranging from hospitals to yeshivot to orphanages to food programs across the whole country. And they have been doing it for decades," he said. "This is an opportunity for us to thank them—in the heart of Zion and in the heart of Jerusalem—and to tell them that the Jewish people remembers its friends."*

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## CUFI IN THE NEWS

# US SENATE APPROVES \$1 BILLION FOR IRON DOME IN \$1.5 TRILLION OMNIBUS BILL

## OMRI NAHMIAS

*As published in The Jerusalem Post (March 12, 2022)*

The US showed **“overwhelming commitment to Israel's security,”**  
Prime Minister Naftali Bennett wrote on Twitter.



Iron Dome in action during the May 2021 Israel-Hamas war.  
(Photo credit: IDF Spokesperson's Unit)

WASHINGTON – The US Senate approved late on Thursday funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system and for security at houses of worship as part of an omnibus bill that would fund the federal government until September.

The \$1.5 trillion package comprises all 12 fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills and a supplemental \$14 billion to support Ukraine. The bill will now head to President Joe Biden's desk for a signature.

Jewish groups and Israeli officials welcomed the passage of the new bill that included \$1 billion for Iron Dome replenishment and \$250 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), which permits houses of worship and other threatened nonprofits to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 each.

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*"AIPAC applauds the US Congress for providing historic funding for Israel's security and other key provisions in the omnibus funding bill for Fiscal Year 2022," the group said in a statement.*

*"A strong Israel makes America more secure," AIPAC wrote. "This critical assistance helps ensure our ally has the resources needed to defend itself against growing threats. Iron Dome has saved countless Israeli and Palestinian lives and helps prevent war."*

Christians United for Israel welcomed the new bill as well. *"From core support enabling Israel to defend itself against tyrants that seek its destruction, to the vital resupply of Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system, we welcome Congress including critical aid to Israel within the omnibus bill, which now heads to the president's desk,"* said CUFI founder and chairman Pastor John Hagee.

*"It is our duty and obligation as Jews to do all we can to ensure that we safeguard our community in America and around the world in this time of great need,"* Orthodox Union president Mark (Moishe) Bane said in a statement.

*"The provisions in this federal legislation will go a long way toward protecting our communities in the United States and in Israel and will provide relief to those suffering in Ukraine,"* he said. *"We thank our elected leaders for this important work on behalf of so many, and we urge all parties to bring these measures to fruition without delay."*

EARLIER ON Thursday, Israeli officials thanked the House of Representatives for passing the bill. Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid and Defense Minister Benny Gantz praised the decision on Twitter and in statements to the media.

*"Thank you to the US Congress for your overwhelming commitment to Israel's security [and] for passing the critical security package, including the replenishment of the life-saving Iron Dome,"* Bennett wrote.

He specifically mentioned US President Joe Biden's efforts. *"Thank you for your leadership [and] friendship. Together, we are stronger."*

Gantz also thanked Biden, Congress and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, as well as Democratic politicians House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Stanley Hoyer.

*"The strategic connection between us and the US, which is based on an alliance of interests and values, is crucial for Israel's security and for maintaining its military superiority in the region, and we will do everything to strengthen and safeguard it,"* Gantz wrote.

The Iron Dome funding had been stalled for six months. Last September, the House approved a stand-alone bill to provide Israel with \$1b. for replenishing the anti-missile system. The vote passed with an overwhelming majority: 420 members voted in favor of the bill, and only nine voted against it.

In the Senate, however, Republican Sen. Rand Paul from Kentucky blocked several attempts to fast-track the bill by unanimous consent. Paul said that while he supports the Iron Dome, he thinks *"it should be paid for."*

The NSGP has been a major agenda item for many Jewish organizations as well. Since the terrorist attack on Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, many Jewish organizations have urged Congress to double its budget. The program permits houses of worship and other threatened nonprofits to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 each.

The money can be used for security measures such as fences, cameras, more secure doors and hiring of personnel. The bill would establish a dedicated NSGP office at the Department of Homeland Security, providing support mechanisms to eligible nonprofit organizations, as well as simplifying and streamlining the application process. It would also increase congressional oversight of the program.



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## CUFI IN THE NEWS

# CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL RAISES \$2.5M TO BRING UKRAINIAN JEWS TO SAFETY

## ISRAEL HAYOM STAFF

*As published in Israel Hayom (March 11, 2022)*

**CUFI founder Pastor John Hagee says  
“We are witnessing a miracle in progress”  
as group of 150 Ukrainian refugees arrives in Israel.**



CUFI founder Pastor John Hagee, right, greets Ukrainian Jewish refugees arriving in Israel, March 10, 2022. (Photo credit: CUFI)

The pro-Israel groups Christians United for Israel has raised over \$2.5 million to help Ukrainian Jews fleeing the war in their country reach Israel safely, CUFI reported in a Facebook post.

On Wednesday, members of the CUFI leadership, including founder and chairman Pastor John Hagee, met a group of 150 Ukrainian refugees who landed at Ben-Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv.

Speaking in a video filmed as the Ukrainian arrivals stepped off the plane onto the tarmac, Hagee said he was witnessing a “*miracle in progress.*”

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*"There are thousands more innocent women, children, and elderly trapped in Ukraine, seeking safety and freedom," Hagee exhorted.*

*"Help us help the Jewish people of Ukraine now," he said.*

*"When we declare 'Never Again,' it is more than a slogan. We are making a promise, and this promise is being fulfilled through the generosity of CUFI's member and partners," the CUFI post read.*



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## CUFI IN THE NEWS

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# 'IT BEGAN WITH WORDS'

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ARI MORGENSTERN

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*As published in the Jewish News Syndicate (January 27, 2022)*

### The modern American political lexicon begets violence.

The horrors of Nazi concentration camps did not materialize from thin air. Neither did the shootings in Poway, Calif., or Pittsburgh, Pa.; nor did the hostage-taking in Colleyville, Texas. As the late Holocaust survivor and educator Irving Roth often said: **"It began with words."**

**We must heed that warning now—here in the heartland and from coast to coast—and admonish the poisonous language that inspires hatred.**

Perhaps with Colleyville, those who enable and inspire anti-Semitic violence will finally be held to account. Social media, for example, has lit up with condemnations of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR),

which in November held a press conference calling for the release of the convicted terrorist who inspired the hostage-taking, Aafia Siddiqui.

CAIR couldn't care less about Siddiqui's multiple violent felonies, including attempted murder, her significant reported ties to Al-Qaeda or her anti-Semitic courtroom outbursts. Its clumsy attempt at damage control may satisfy some in the media, but would-be hostage-takers understand what community leaders want. It is no coincidence that just weeks before Jan. 15, a CAIR executive railed against *"Zionist synagogues."* It begins with words, but it never ends there, and CAIR is hardly the only guilty party.

The modern American political lexicon begets violence. The cottage industry of hateful advocacy groups justifying, defending or sharing the goals of violent people while paying lip service to nonviolence

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is growing. We must understand the weight of the words that anti-Semites—be they white supremacists or radical Islamic supremacists—are clinging to and recognize that all people are nonviolent up until the point that some people are violent.

Violence was a foreseeable conclusion to the campaign to free the terrorist Siddiqui. Likewise, the obscene anti-Semitic tropes advanced by certain fringe Congress members (from both parties), and the relentless demonization of Jews and Israelis by a wide array of groups in the United States will ultimately not end with words; it will inescapably conclude in violence. To stop future attacks, we must hold those who make anti-Semitic statements accountable for the violence sparked by their words, as well as those who defend or ignore the ever-growing chorus of bigots who hold power and bully pulpits.

The tragic reality is that some who hear words demonizing Jews will believe what they're being told. Among that population, some will merely hate Jews in their hearts; others will shout their hatred from the rooftops; and a few will pick up a weapon.

Those who shield anti-Semites because doing so is increasingly fashionable or politically expedient share in

the sins of the bigots they defend. Those who are silent when evil words are spoken are guilty of cowardice. And when the next horror flashes across our screens, none of these—not the bigots, nor their defenders nor those who were silent—should think themselves blameless. They are all accountable for the evil they have wrought.

Silence and obfuscation are interpreted as consent and agreement. As a result, being an American Jew today means living with the risk of being demonized, victimized and terrorized. We must change that reality. And that, too, begins with words.

When Americans speak up to the voices of hatred inspiring anti-Semitic violence, some of those who hold hatred in their hearts will think again. Using our words is the only way to turn back the tide of anti-Semitism. Now is the time for Americans to internalize the warning of anti-Nazi dissident Dietrich Bonhoeffer's message that *"silence in the face of evil is itself evil."* It's time that all Americans publicly and unequivocally reject anti-Semitism at every turn. The lives of our fellow countrymen depend on it.

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

# WASHINGTON SUMMIT



## —CUFI IN THE NEWS—

# STOP MAKING MURDER PROFITABLE

**SANDRA PARKER**

*As published in the Washington Examiner (January 13, 2022)*

He survived multiple tours of duty in hostile nations, only to be killed on the streets of our greatest ally. Americans were shocked when Taylor Force, a U.S. Army veteran visiting Israel, was stabbed to death in Tel Aviv. His killing brought to the forefront of America's conscience the inconvenient truth that U.S. tax dollars were being used in the commodification of terrorism. Specifically, U.S. aid money was being given by Palestinian leaders to terrorists in exchange for perpetuating violence against American and Israeli citizens.

For decades, Washington sent hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Palestinian leaders while ignoring the acts of terrorism that those funds bolstered. In 2018, President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan Taylor Force Act, barring further aid until we could be sure it would not be used as bounty payments for terror. In the years since, Palestinian leaders have devised creative schemes to skirt this law and continue incentivizing the murder of innocent people with lifetime annuities. But

America will not be deterred from its moral leadership in confronting evil, and Congress is responding.

Sen. Tom Cotton has introduced new legislation to stop foreign banks from processing so-called "martyr payments." The bill, the Taylor Force Martyr Payment Prevention Act, is a straightforward and smart rebuke to morally bankrupt leaders in anti-Israel countries such as Qatar that are processing handouts to Palestinians with blood on their hands. It will empower the Treasury Department, among other things, to block any bank processing a "martyr payment" from having any connection or relationship to American banks.

Stuart Force, the father of Taylor Force, told reporters this month that "this is not a theoretical problem. The family of the Hamas terrorist who murdered Taylor and was celebrated as a hero by Hamas has been receiving martyr payments as reward for his despicable act." This past summer, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas awarded the family of a terrorist who killed two

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and wounded two others, including a toddler, more than \$40,000 and a new house. Another, Hakim Awad, is reportedly paid \$14,000 annually as a reward for murdering a family of five in their home.

### **This is grotesque, and it must end. Now.**

Nearly a dozen of Cotton's colleagues immediately signed up in support of this vital legislation. More should do so, and each should ask where else this harsh penalty can be applied. Banks in Lebanon and elsewhere in the region that process payments for Hezbollah, for example, should have their correspondent banking relationships in the U.S. similarly severed. While there is federal legislation on the books protecting the U.S. financial system from banks that support Hezbollah, lawsuits filed by U.S. military veterans injured by Hezbollah-designed IEDs in Iraq suggest enforcement is lacking. The veterans allege that more than a dozen Lebanese banks with correspondent bank accounts in New York have provided material support to Hezbollah.

The more barriers there are between us and these agents of terror, the safer Israelis, Americans, and the region at large will be. Banks that are complicit in the Palestinian pay-to-slay program must choose between standing with terrorists or being part of the global financial system. How they respond will tell us all we will ever need to know. More importantly, these barriers will put an end to our tax dollars being complicit in the murder of innocent civilians. As these radicals adapt in how they perpetrate their terrorist acts, so, too, should our manner of defense. We cannot let them turn our banks into bullets.

If lawmakers are unwilling to do this, they are unwilling to do anything. Palestinian leaders have been financing terrorism with our tax dollars for far too long. Instead of consequence, these despots have been feted at the White House, won commitments for a resumption of aid to the Hamas-dominated United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and avoided sufficiently harsh consequences for the shootings, stabbings, vehicle rammings, kidnappings, bombings, and rocket attacks that perpetuate the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

President Joe Biden should do everything in his power to stop this abhorrent behavior. He should ensure total compliance with the letter and spirit of the Taylor Force Act, endorse the newly proposed measure, suspend support for UNRWA and other Palestinian mouthpieces in the international system, and show that his foreign policy will live up to basic American values.

We must do all that we can to stop making murder profitable. Forcing banks overseas to stop the payments or risk losing access to the U.S. is one of the best tools at our disposal. Regardless of politics or party affiliation, people of conscience should support this bill. The banking industry should support this bill. And so should 100 senators, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the president.

The families of the victims deserve that we give our all to end this injustice. And until we do, we remain shamefully complicit in these acts of terror.

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



# WASHINGTON SUMMIT



## CUFI IN THE NEWS

# RAND PAUL TAKES HEAT FROM PRO-ISRAEL GROUPS FOR STALLING IRON DOME FUNDING

MARC ROD

*As published in the Jewish Insider (January 11, 2022)*

**The letter was signed by a number of organizations, including  
The Jewish Federations of North America, Christians United for Israel,  
Hadassah and the Anti-Defamation League**

A coalition of pro-Israel organizations sent a letter to Senate leadership on Tuesday taking aim at Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) for blocking supplemental funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile-defense system and arguing that folding the funding into a larger package would "undermine Israel's security."

The funding passed the House by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in September of last year, but Paul has repeatedly blocked passage in the Senate, insisting that funding be reallocated from Afghanistan aid to pay for the \$1 billion Iron Dome supplement.

The letter — sent to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) — was signed by Christians United for Israel, The Jewish Federations of North America, the Orthodox Union, Hadassah, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the Union for Reform Judaism and the Anti-Defamation League.

*"[The funding] has bipartisan support in the Senate, although passage has been stymied," the letter, a copy of which was obtained by Jewish Insider, reads.*

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# WASHINGTON SUMMIT



*"One person's objection should not undermine the overwhelming bipartisan will of the Senate nor stand in the way of ensuring Israel has the tools necessary to keep people safe."*

For some of the groups targeting Paul, the letter represents an escalation.

A Senate source told JI in December — after Paul blocked a unanimous consent request to pass the funding on the Senate floor for the fourth time — that the "next chance" to approve the funding would be in a possible omnibus government funding package in February.

On Tuesday, the organizations wrote that they oppose this strategy.

*"While we understand the supplemental Iron Dome funding would likely be included in a final omnibus spending package, the delay and even the prospects of a second continuing resolution undermine Israel's security when the need to replenish this defensive system is urgent,"* the letter reads.

It is also increasingly uncertain whether Congress will be able to finalize an omnibus funding package by February.

Schumer spokesperson Angelo Roefaro emphasized to JI, in response to the letter, that *"[t]he Democratic side of the aisle wants to pass the bill by unanimous consent, but Senator Paul continues to block the bill from going to the President's desk."*

The plan to pass the funding as part of an omnibus *"puts a lot of faith in Congress's ability to pass an omnibus. And for an important partner like Israel — they shouldn't have to wait 9 months for replenishment of defensive, life-saving equipment,"* a senior government official with knowledge of Iron Dome funding told JI.

The official added that Israel is unlikely to run out of Iron Dome interceptors in the short term, unless there is a major conflict — potentially one involving attacks from both the north and south — but in that case, *"the hold would have a tangible impact on both Israel's security and the security of those American citizens living in Israel."*

A Senate source told JI that Democrats still view the omnibus as a "plan B" if Paul does not pull his objections and that the Democrats are seeking to avoid passing another continuing resolution (a temporary stopgap government funding bill).

*"A lot of those groups don't understand how floor time works and certainly aren't advocating the shelving of other domestic priorities in the short term,"* the source added. Currently, the main topic of debate on the Senate floor is over creating a carveout to the Senate filibuster to pass Democrats' voting reform legislation.

CUFI Action Fund Chairwoman Sandra Parker told JI, *"Senators Schumer and McConnell must exhibit the necessary leadership to reject the political fringes and advance this bipartisan legislation. As evidenced by the politically and religiously diverse coalition of organizations that signed this letter, the American people have waited far too long for the Senate to act."*

*"Time is of the essence,"* Rhoda Smolow, Hadassah's national president, told JI. *"Hamas and Hezbollah are constantly building their arsenals of terror, and we cannot wait for the next wave of attacks. Innocent lives are at risk. It is past time for the Senate to move forward on replenishing the Iron Dome missile defense system now, which has broad and bipartisan support."*

Elana Broitman, senior vice president of public affairs for JFNA, added, *"Iron Dome has overwhelmingly strong bipartisan support, and the supplemental funding should not be delayed any further."*

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A second letter, from some overlapping groups — the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Agudath Israel of America, Ameinu, B'nai B'rith, Hadassah, the Israel Policy Forum, Jewish Women International, Rabbinical Assembly, Orthodox Union, Union for Reform Judaism and Zionist Organization of America — was also sent to the Senate leaders on Tuesday.

That letter does not directly attack Paul, but instead decries "unfortunate gamesmanship that is taking place right now in the Senate." The signatories also do not directly criticize the omnibus strategy and instead

*"implore [Schumer and McConnell] to not allow any more needless delays in passing this legislation. Blocking immediate consideration of the legislation weakens our entire nation's commitment to our Israeli ally's security."*

A statement about the letter from the American Jewish Congress highlighted that it includes a *"diverse array of Jewish organizations spanning diverse religious, political, and policy spectrums"* and *"shows the strong support that exists across the Jewish community for getting the funding approved."*



# WASHINGTON SUMMIT



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## CUFI IN THE NEWS

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# ALABAMA CAN COMBAT ANTI-ISRAEL HATE BY DIVESTING FROM UNILEVER

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**PASTOR BRANDY GIBSON**

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*As published in the Yellow Hammer (January 6, 2022)*

Something is rotten in Vermont. Ben & Jerry's, perhaps the state's most iconic global brand, decided in July to embrace and participate in the global discriminatory and antisemitic movement to Boycott, Divest from, and Sanction (BDS) the State of Israel. Alabama should reject the hatred at the core of Ben & Jerry's decision and the deceit proffered by Unilever officials by selling off any and all public holdings in the London-based conglomerate.

The values we hold dear in Alabama demand that we stand up to the BDS movement and companies that are aiding and abetting bigots that reject Israel's existence as a Jewish state and seek to destroy it through economic warfare. Our state already prohibits state contracts with any companies that boycott Israel, and in October, Senator Tommy Tuberville joined several of his colleagues on the Senate Agriculture Committee urging Unilever's CEO to, *"use your authority to reverse Ben & Jerry's decision."* Now, public officials responsible for protecting the public pension funds of

state employees, state police officers, educators and other public servants must take action.

Under pressure from political extremists, Ben & Jerry's put its Israeli licensee in a no-win situation: conspire with the company to violate Israeli law by selling to some Israelis but not all or lose its license. Unilever knows that when Ben & Jerry's Israeli licensee refused to conspire with the company to discriminate that all sales in Israel would end. It knows that Ben & Jerry's corporate leadership believes Unilever is being *"deceitful"* by proclaiming that the ice cream brand will continue to be sold in Israel. Israeli law does not allow for discrimination and Ben & Jerry's is not above the law. Alabamians won't stand for that, and statements to the contrary could potentially violate federal regulations on securities as evidenced by a letter signed by several members of the Senate Banking Committee recently sent to Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Gary Gensler.

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Shockingly for a global conglomerate with \$61 billion in annual sales across 190 countries, Unilever has not reversed the boycott nor has it acknowledged that its brand is imperiling contractual relationships with a majority of states – including Alabama. But it can't hide for much longer.

In just the last four months New York, Texas, Arizona, Illinois and New Jersey have begun selling off hundreds of millions of dollars in Unilever stock held in each state's public pension funds. They are among the 33 states which have measures in force allowing for companies to be held accountable for participating in the BDS movement against Israel.

Alabama is invested in Israel through its bond holdings. Alabama law prohibits contracting with entities that boycott Israel. While, like New York, the measure does not prohibit investing in such entities, divesting state funds from Unilever would reflect both the will of the people and would be in the state's interest because it is far too risky to remain invested in a company that

publicly lies to investors to protect its bottom line and damages the Israeli economy (and therefore harms Alabama's investments). It's time for our state to take action.

Unilever should face a choice: accept the reputational and financial damage of trafficking in hatred or reverse the decision of its wayward subsidiary.

Two years ago, and before becoming a publicly-traded company, Airbnb flirted with the BDS movement and briefly restricted which Israelis could list their homes for rent and which could not. Ultimately, the company changed course and its corporate reputation has been largely repaired. Unilever can do the same, but first it must acknowledge the problem by ending its public deception. Until it does, the people of Alabama should be assured that its public pension funds are not supporting "deceitful" and anti-Israel corporate policies.

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**Pastor Brandy Gibson** is the Alabama State Director of Christians United for Israel.



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## CUFI IN THE NEWS

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# WITH AFGHANISTAN, ALL EYES ARE ON TERROR GROUPS... AND TEHRAN

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ALEXANDRIA PAOLOZZI

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*As published in the Jewish News Syndicate (August 26, 2021)*

**It's a hard lesson we're learning, but the president should do what it takes to ensure that America and her allies are never again put in such a position. It starts with recognizing the threat that is Iran.**

The dramatic failure on display in Afghanistan has America's allies and adversaries asking whether the United States can be trusted in the future and if our enemies will ever fear us again. The blame for this current tragedy extends beyond one administration, yet the final failure rests with the one that saw the implications, ignored the warnings and nonetheless chose to haphazardly proceed. The humiliating retreat in Afghanistan requires a recalibration in America's engagement around the world. It is essential to U.S. national security that we draw our friends closer and take a firm approach towards those who rule in tyranny and attack with terror.

In the wake of the Taliban coup, Afghanistan has once again become a safe haven for terrorists, namely Al-Qaeda. And shamefully, females, minorities, political dissidents and the brave Afghans who aided coalition forces will now live in daily abject terror and fear for their lives. No rational parent throws their child over a barbed-wire airport fence in the hope that they will be caught and brought to safety; no rational person chases an airplane down a runway holding on to its landing gear, flying hundreds of miles per hour in sub-zero temperatures. But fear breeds irrational behavior, and this is now the reality for all of those left behind in Afghanistan.

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There is no doubt that terror groups—ISIS, Hamas, Hezbollah and the world's most prolific state sponsor of terrorism, Iran—are emboldened by the Taliban victory over the Western-backed government in Kabul. At a minimum, we must respond to re-establish confidence and deterrence, as well as to honor a generation's worth of sacrifice from U.S. armed forces.

The first and easiest way to restore American strength is by dispatching senior officials to consult with our allies in the region and around the world. U.S. President Joe Biden should coordinate closely with partners around the globe, including listening to our Arab allies, meeting with Iranian dissidents and ensuring that there is no daylight between U.S. and Israeli priorities in combating terror.

Time is of the essence. As Taliban forces advanced towards Kabul, Hamas leaders offered their support, praising them and increasing their own attacks on Israel through incendiary balloons aimed at destroying Israeli fields. Hezbollah announced its intention to bring Iranian fuel to Beirut in an effort to prop up the failing economy and pacify Lebanese citizens. Iran was found by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to have increased its uranium enrichment capabilities to near weapons grade in continued defiance of the obligations it made to the international community.

And now, terror attacks in Kabul are bringing it all to the fore.

Despite the fact that their meeting was postponed, Biden has an opportunity in his upcoming rescheduled talk on Friday at the White House with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to set a new U.S. strategy on Iran. Publicly and privately, the president should express his commitment to standing with Israel in the face of Iranian-backed terror and the Iranian nuclear program, and announce specific new steps to do so. This can and

should include a commitment to ensuring Israel has the freedom of operation to engage its terrorist foes and their backers as the Jewish state deems necessary.

In addition, an essential part of the Biden administration's commitment to Israel should include rock-solid assurances that disagreements between the two stalwart allies remain private. Such is a long-standing principle in the U.S.-Israel relationship, which too often has been violated. Biden must make it clear that there is no place in his administration for any official who uses the press to undermine Israeli security or the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Furthermore, the Biden administration should reassess its approach to state adversaries—namely, Iran. Seven months into his term in office, Biden has little to show for extending his hand and turning a blind eye to provocative behaviors, particularly with regards to Iran. The regime is increasing its regional influence, has installed the war criminal Ebrahim Raisi in a faux presidential election and is decimating the integrity of the IAEA.

Despite his shameful retreat in Afghanistan, Biden should show the world and our enemies that America still has a backbone by clamping down on Iranian terror financing, arming terror organizations and human-rights abusers. He should apply the lessons learned from the failed engagement with the Taliban to Tehran by pursuing a comprehensive agreement with robust enforcement and sanctions snapback provisions—the deal that former President Barack Obama should have pursued. Biden should respond to each and every advance in the regime's nuclear and ballistic-missile programs with more stringent enforcement and fresh, biting economic sanctions. And, of course, he should deny Raisi ("the butcher of Tehran") the opportunity to visit New York in September for the U.N. General Assembly.

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In July, the president asked advocates for a continued U.S. presence in Afghanistan to "consider the lessons of recent history." He should take his own advice with the hard lessons we are learning now, and do what it takes to ensure that America and her allies are never again put in such a position.

Capitulation to radical groups guarantees that without the willpower to ensure there are consequences, chaos will ensue, respect will be diminished, and innocent lives will continue to be lost. Biden has been dealing out hope and goodwill in an effort to advance American interests. But hope is not a foreign-policy strategy. The current approach will only exacerbate the serious national security challenges we presently face.

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**Alexandria Paolozzi** is director of government affairs for the Christians United for Israel Action Fund.

# WASHINGTON SUMMIT



## CUFI IN THE NEWS

# 'A NIGHT TO HONOR ISRAEL' TURNS OUT HUNDREDS OF FERVENT CHRISTIAN SUPPORTERS

DMITRIY SHAPIRO

*As published in the Jewish News Syndicate (July 23, 2021)*

**Pastor John Hagee was the main draw with his spirited sermons and preacher's delivery, though former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley proved a powerful voice for the Jewish state.**



Pastor John Hagee speaking at the 2021 CUFI conference. (Photo credit: CUFI)

Jews are rarely so uninhibited in their support of Israel as evangelical Christians in the United States, whose support for the Jewish state during the weekend's Christians United for Israel Summit in Dallas, seemed to be a testament of faith.

The organization's founder, evangelical Pastor John Hagee, set the tone during his address to more than 700 donors and leaders of the organization in person in a hotel ballroom, as well as general membership who watched it livestreamed, during the first night of the summit on Sunday titled "A Night to Honor Israel."

*"Israel is not a political issue," said Hagee. "Israel is a biblical issue. If you believe the Bible, you will support the Jewish people."*

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# WASHINGTON SUMMIT



He said that especially, those who do not believe the 12th Chapter of Genesis do not understand the Bible.

*"I shall bless those who bless you, and shall curse those who curse you, and all clans on earth will bless themselves by you,"* the verse states.

Hagee believes that besides blessing Israel, non-Jews are indebted to Jews and should provide them with material blessings, as the Jews have provided gentiles with spiritual blessings.

*"What spiritual things? the Jewish people have given us the Bible. Every word in the Bible was written by Jewish people. They [gave us] the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,"* he said. *"They gave to us the prophets. There's not a Baptist in the bunch; they're all Jewish people."*

And finally, he said, the Jewish people gave the world Jesus, without who they would not be there at all.

Christian support, he continued, included the recognition of as an eternal, biblically mandated Jewish land. *"The point is, the Jewish people today do not occupy the land as the media claims; they own the land and they own it forever,"* he said. *"I've heard theologians say, 'Well, their reward is heavenly.'"*

*"Nonsense!"* Hagee said, citing the Bible verses describing the borders of Israel. *"The borders of Israel are very much recorded in scripture, and they include terra firma and that's all."*

Unlike pre-pandemic conferences that the group held annually in Washington, D.C., which included live choirs singing Israeli music and thousands of energized evangelicals dancing and singing along, this year's program was a more subdued affair, though the attendees were no less passionate about the topic at hand.

Many were themselves pastors from churches and missions across the country. On the first night of the conference on July 18, the audience hung onto the words of the speakers—most of whom were Republican politicians—professing their love for Israel.

But Hagee was the main draw with his spirited sermons and preacher's delivery.

*"The fact is that the blessing of blessed Israel brings supernatural blessing to nations, to churches, to individuals who bless Israel and the Jewish people,"* he said. *"Based on the Bible, I believe that the blessings of God that have been poured out on America since Christopher Columbus discovered what is called America now, looking for a home for displaced Jewish people in the Spanish Inquisition. I also believe the day America stops blessing Israel will be the day God stops blessing the United States of America."*



Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick at the 2021 CUFI conference. (Photo credit: CUFI)

*"Yeah!"* responded some members of the audience.

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who followed Hagee's speech, began by saying that he only agreed to speak that day if he could hear Hagee speak, a sentiment many in the audience agreed with.

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Patrick recalled his visit to Israel and spoke about the connections between Texas—the Lone Star State—and Israel, whose flag also features a single star.

He was followed by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), who spoke about the differences between the Trump administration's policies towards Israel as opposed to those of the Biden administration to an audience that opposed policies such as re-establishing a Palestinian consulate in Jerusalem and re-entering the Iran nuclear deal.

### 'The height of hypocrisy and insanity'

Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley was the final speaker of the night, whose pro-



Former Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley addresses the 2021 CUFI conference. (Photo credit: CUFI)

Israel positions at the world body made her a celebrity among the attendees.

Even Cruz, a potential 2024 opponent of Haley's if both decide to contest the Republican nomination and whose speech largely focused on recounting his involvement in consulting the White House on some

of the Trump administration's most pro-Israel policies, complimented her work on behalf of Israel.

Patrick also said that the combination of Donald Trump as president and Haley as his ambassador did more for Israel than any previous administration in American history.

In June, Haley was a guest of Hagee's on a solidarity visit to Israel in the wake of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.

*"I saw the moment I set foot on that hallowed ground—Israel stands strong. The Israeli people stand strong. Because you cannot destroy what God has blessed. And God has blessed Israel and her people,"* said Haley. *"I saw this truth as we traveled the country. The spirit of the Israeli people is as contagious as ever. They continue to live each day like it's their last."*

She also recalled how moved she was when she visited the site where a Hamas rocket killed an elderly man and spoke to a neighbor who showed her the spot where she stood to protect her grandchild during the explosion, her hair remaining in the plaster on the wall.

Haley also spoke of her frustration while working in the United Nations trying to combat its anti-Israel agenda.

*"During my time as ambassador, I led the fight to fix that failed body. I reminded everyone that the [U.N. Human Rights] Council is stacked with human-rights abusers—Communist China, Communist Cuba, Russia, Venezuela—it's a 'who's who' of genocidal maniacs, murderous thugs and tin-pot dictators,"* she said. *"It's bad enough that these dangerous regimes use the council to cover up their own crimes. It's even worse that they spend their days going after the free and democratic country of Israel."*

*"To this day, the Human Rights Council has a permanent agenda item with the sole purpose of bashing Israel."*

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*It's the height of hypocrisy and insanity, and it shows how broken the council really is."*

She said that while she was contemplating leaving the council, a European ambassador told her that the United States had to remain put since that's the last shred of credibility the council had. And that, she recounted, only encouraged her to go to the president and request to remove the United States from the council, which she called a farce.

The Biden administration is planning to rejoin the council, which recently launched an investigation into Israel war crimes in its engagement with Hamas.

*"America is sending the worst possible signal," said Haley. "The freest country in human history is lending legitimacy to the most oppressive regimes on the planet. And America is doing it in the name of human rights. It doesn't get more backward than that. Here's the truth that the Biden administration needs to hear: If you support human rights, you must oppose the U.N. Human Rights Council."*