

CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

SUMMIT

2023



Media Kit

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WELCOME JOURNALISTS

Welcome to the Christians United for Israel (CUFI) 2023 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 10 million members, CUFI is the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States.

We host events in churches and on college campuses all over the U.S., and our vibrant campus and millennial outreach programs are growing each day. CUFI is committed to supporting Israel and combating antisemitism in all its forms wherever it may be found.

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 note: *Unscheduled interviews, including with attendees, are prohibited. If you seek to develop coverage beyond the events on the press schedule, including interviews with CUFI leadership, event speakers or attendees, please inform a member of the CUFI Summit press team and we will examine the possibility of accommodating your request.*

Please enjoy the conference.

Handwritten signatures of Shari Dollinger and Diana Hagee in black ink.

Shari Dollinger & Diana Hagee

Co-Executive Directors, Christians United for Israel



CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL

FACT SHEET

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 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,
Prime Minister of Israel

GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

- Largest pro-Israel organization with over 10 million members.
- Hold more than 50 events per month.
- CUFI on Campus presence at nearly **200 universities** nationwide.
- Educate millions of Americans through our 16 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 **1,000 millennial influencers**, including leading pastors, celebrities, professional athletes, and government staffers, to Israel.



ABOUT CUFI, CUFI ON CAMPUS & THE ISRAEL COLLECTIVE



A CUFI INITIATIVE



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 50 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 (IC), a national initiative of Christians United for Israel has taken more than 1,000 millennial influencers to Israel. The IC communicates the truth about Israel and the Middle East to the next generation through social media and films that highlight the heart and the people of 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

John Charles Hagee has served the Lord as a minister of the gospel for over 63 years. He is a fifth-generation pastor and the 47th Descendent of his family to serve in the ministry since they immigrated to America in the mid-1700s. Pastor 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.

Pastor Hagee received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biblical Studies and Ministry from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, Texas, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Trinity University in San Antonio, and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of North Texas in Denton. He has received Honorary Doctorates from Oral Roberts University, Canada Christian College, and Netanya Academic College of Israel.

He is the founder of Hagee Ministries, which telecasts his teachings on media outlets throughout America and the nations of the world. Over the years, Hagee Ministries has given more than \$100 million toward humanitarian causes in Israel.

Pastor Hagee is the founder of Cornerstone Christian Schools which is a fully accredited premiere college preparatory educational facility for grades K4-12. CCS is committed to excellent Bible-based education equipping the next generation of leaders. He is also the founder of the Sanctuary of Hope, a housing complex that provides young, expectant mothers who have chosen life a safe haven in which to raise their children.

Pastor Hagee is the founder and Chairman of Christians United for Israel (CUFI), the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States and one of the leading Christian grassroots movements in the world with over 10 million members that speak as one voice on behalf of Israel.

In celebration of Israel's 70th year, Pastor Hagee was recognized by the Embassy of Israel as one of the 70 greatest American contributors to Israel since statehood. He was also honored by U.S. Ambassador David Friedman to give the benediction at the dedication of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem in May of 2018.

Pastor Hagee is the author of 43 major books, seven of which were on the New York Times Best Sellers List. His latest, *Absolute Power*, was released in 2021 and is currently available on Amazon or at jhm.org.

Pastor Hagee and his wife Diana are blessed with five children and thirteen grandchildren.



CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR ISRAEL LEADERSHIP



DIANA HAGEE

Diana Hagee is married to Pastor John Hagee, founder of Cornerstone Church, Hagee Ministries, and Christians United for Israel.

Among her ministry duties Diana coordinates special events for Cornerstone Church and its many outreaches. Diana also assists Kendal Hagee, her daughter-in-law, and Senior Pastor's wife, in overseeing and teaching the Embraced Women's Ministries of Cornerstone Church.

Diana is the author of the best-selling book *"The King's Daughter—Becoming a Woman of God,"* which was awarded the Retailers Choice Award; *"The King's Daughter Workbook"; "Ruth, the Romance of Redemption—A Love Story"; "Hannah's Song—What Love Looks Like."* She and Pastor Hagee co-authored *"What Every Man Wants in a Woman—What Every Woman Wants in a Man."* Diana also wrote *"Not by Bread Alone,"* a cookbook encouraging inspired ministry through food.

Gifted with the spirit of hospitality, Diana and Pastor Hagee have opened their home and hearts to thousands over their 46-year marriage. Family, church members, ministry partners, and fellow ministers alike have all made great memories around the Hagee table. On these occasions, her kitchen becomes a bustling beehive of activity creating mouth-watering dishes inspired by three generations of great cooks and an abundance of unconditional love.

Diana holds a Bachelor of Science from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She was presented the prestigious Lion of Judah award by the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston for the long-standing work she and Pastor Hagee do on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people. In 2021, The Algemeiner Journal, a newspaper that covers American and international Jewish and Israel-related news, named Diana and Shari Dollinger, Christians United for Israel's co-executive directors among the top 100 individuals positively influencing Jewish life.

One of Diana's many desires is to make Cornerstone Church a place known for its hospitality and where the Gospel is preached in word and deed.

John and Diana Hagee live in San Antonio, Texas. They have five children, five in-loves, and thirteen beautiful 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 as a Foreign Policy Research Associate at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). In 2021, Shari was included, along with Diana, in the Algemeiner newspaper's 'Jewish 100' list as one of 100 individuals with the greatest positive influence on Jewish life. The same year, she was also included in the Jerusalem Post's list of 50 Most Influential Jews.

Shari holds a Master of 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. Her op-eds have appeared in numerous publications, including the Jerusalem Post, Jewish News Syndicate (JNS), and the Times of Israel. Shari and her husband, Eric, reside in Atlanta, Georgia with their two children and three beagles.



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 the 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 (PA) 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, 35 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 Policy sections under the About section of CUFI's website.



POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS

- CUFI welcomes passage of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act which included two central CUFI legislative priorities: The Deterring Enemy Forces and Enabling National Defenses (ACT) and authorization for increased funds for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. The legislation also included CUFI-backed policy priorities focused on increased support for joint American-Israel missile defense programs and a prohibition on the transfer of any funds to Tehran.
- Advanced anti-BDS legislation in several key states bringing the total number of states to have advanced such measures to 35. *(2021-2023)*
- 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 a 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 months 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)*



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*



CUFI IN THE NEWS

HALT THE HEGEMONY THAT IS IRAN

KASIM HAFEEZ

As published in the Jewish News Syndicate (June 28, 2023)

Any Western policy approach that fails to weaken, isolate and undermine the Iranian regime only condemns another generation of Arabs and Persians to a life of abject misery under puppet regimes and terrorist rule.

From Baghdad to Beirut, from Aden to Gaza, one regime has been responsible for tyranny, brutality and sheer hopelessness in the lives of nearly 100 million people of the Arab world: Iran. Over the course of more than four decades, Tehran has avoided blame for the misery it has inflicted on innocent people in every place it extends its reach and benefited from the misplaced idealism of Western leaders. Misery, shamefully, is compounding annually.

It is within the power of Western leaders to improve their lot in life by holding the Iranian regime accountable for its behavior once and for all, and to stop its pollyannish

pursuit of bad deals that strengthens Iran's hand. But such is easier said than done.

While the chants of "Free Gaza" ring out from campus to Congress, few, if any, seem honestly able to name those responsible for the suffering of innocent Gazans; the convenience of blaming Israel or unabashed antisemitism ensures all blame falls on the Jewish state. Many of those same voices also cling to the misguided idea of "bringing in from the cold" a regime that celebrates the tens of thousands of children it marched into minefields and routinely brutalizes its citizens when they demand their fundamental freedoms.

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The question must be asked of these loud and powerful voices: Are they blind to reality?

The truth is wherever the regime in Tehran turns to shore up its equally immoral allies, the lives of ordinary people become unbearable. Yet rather than challenge Iran's hegemonic intentions, Western powers continue to entertain the idea of supercharging Iran's ability to solidify its stranglehold by sending hundreds of billions of dollars to Tehran in exchange for empty promises. Doing so would be a tragic mistake.

Indeed, any Western policy approach that fails to weaken, isolate and undermine the Iranian regime only condemns another generation of Arabs and Persians to a life of abject misery under puppet regimes and terrorist rule.

Nowhere is this clearer and more obvious than in the Gaza Strip. For too long, the people of Gaza have been held hostage by the Iran-backed terrorists of Hamas that run the enclave next to southern Israel. While at times Hamas has chosen a different path from Tehran—significantly during the Syrian Civil War—now, with Palestinian Islamic Jihad a true proxy of Iran working at the regime's behest on Israel's border, Iran's leaders are allowed to maintain a stranglehold on the people of Gaza.

Tragically, the world has chosen to look away. Even those who proclaim their support for the people of Gaza remain silent at the use of the Strip as a launching pad for Iranian belligerence against Israel; the plight of families being used as human shields; the immorality of terrorists bombing crossings that facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid; or the poisonous cradle-to-grave antisemitic indoctrination that is the hallmark of an

educational system that Iranian leaders look upon with approval.

Western governments and champions of human rights need to start being honest about the situation and act accordingly. The children of Gaza deserve better than to be dressed as terrorists or told their highest aspiration is to be a martyr. Lebanese citizens deserve to live in a functioning country that isn't awash in Iranian missiles. Iraqis deserve a country without the presence of Iranian militias. Ukrainians deserve to look to the skies and not fear Iranian drones. And our friends, partners and allies deserve to look to the West and see a friend, not an enabler of their enemy, thereby driving our friends to seek accommodation with our foes.

The United States and Europe can stop Iran from damning another generation to a life dominated by hatred, war and terror, but only if our leaders abandon their failed policies and willful blindness as to where responsibility rests for immense human suffering in the region. It is unforgivable that we have allowed Iran to destroy so many lives and pledge itself to the destruction of another 7 million, but it is correctable and never too late to match our policies with our values.

Kasim Hafeez is the Deputy Director of Communications for Messaging at Christians United for Israel.



CUFI IN THE NEWS

FLORIDA BILL WOULD CRACK DOWN ON 'WOKE' FINANCE COMPANY MORNINGSTAR FOR ACTIONS THAT HARM ISRAEL

Legislature passes bill aimed at protecting Israel from ESG investing

ADAM KREDO

As published in The Washington Free Beacon (May 16, 2023)

Florida could soon prohibit state funds from investing in companies that work in any way to undermine Israel, a move that would simultaneously hurt “woke” investment strategies and anti-Semitic boycotts.

The legislature this month approved a bipartisan bill that would bar the state from doing business with companies “**taking adverse action, including changes to published commercial financial ratings ... to inflict economic harm on Israel.**” The bill, which hit Florida governor Ron DeSantis’s (R.) desk on Tuesday, aims to crack down on companies that work to hurt Israeli businesses under the guise of progressive Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) guidelines.

Chief among those companies is the financial ratings giant Morningstar, which has been plagued by accusations that it systematically downgrades

companies that work with Israel—a move that generally discourages investors from funding companies. Morningstar subsidiary Sustainalytics, for instance, blacklists several companies that work with Israel to stop terrorism. Critics say this activity feeds the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement as it seeks to economically isolate Israel.

The bill comes as DeSantis clashes with various corporate titans over “woke” business practices. Earlier this month, DeSantis signed legislation that bans state officials from investing public money in ESG funds and bans the sale of ESG bonds in the state. The governor last year pulled \$2 billion of state assets from

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the financial firm BlackRock in protest over the firm's ESG policies

The legislation could provide a roadmap for other states that want to cut ties with Morningstar over its alleged anti-Israel bias, analysts told the *Washington Free Beacon*.

"It's the final countdown for Morningstar to end its blacklisting of Israel-based companies," according to Richard Goldberg, a senior adviser at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. "There's no doubt Morningstar is violating many state anti-BDS laws around the country, but some states aren't sure if their laws apply to financial ratings intended to drive divestment."

Goldberg and others say the Florida measure was specifically crafted to account for the type of BDS activity that has infected the ESG sector.

"Florida's Morningstar amendment," Goldberg told the *Free Beacon*, "is removing any doubt for its regulators who will soon need to put the company on the state's list of prohibited investments."

Over 35 states have enacted anti-BDS laws, which primarily apply to businesses that directly boycott Israel. But these states could soon follow Florida's lead and expand their statutes to include downgrading or blacklisting companies via ESG ratings.

"States have been holding back their anti-BDS laws because they believed Morningstar was working in good faith to improve their ratings," Goldberg said. "But today we know they are defending a BDS blacklist against 26 companies, including every Israeli bank—truly engaging in economic warfare against Israel.

Time's up for states giving Morningstar the benefit of the doubt."

Pro-Israel advocacy groups are already lining up behind the Florida statute.

Sandra Parker, the chairwoman of the Christians United for Israel action fund, said "the broad bipartisan support for the Florida measure signals that lawmakers are saying 'no' to those seeking to use ESG as a vehicle to surreptitiously infect American investments with BDS."

Christians United for Israel, one of several groups that have been pressuring Morningstar to eradicate anti-Israel bias, has also raised the issue in meetings with members of Congress, "who are deeply concerned about Morningstar's pro-BDS actions," Parker said.

"In the end it's quite clear that Morningstar, and anyone else pushing BDS on American investors, is going to change course rather than harm shareholders and suffer additional reputational damage," Parker said.

Morningstar has repeatedly rebuffed accusations of anti-Israel bias, insisting that it in no way supports the BDS movement. It has also taken steps to eradicate bias from its ESG ratings and adjust current guidelines to more favorably rate Israel.

Adam Kredo is the senior writer reporting on national security and foreign policy matters for the *Washington Free Beacon*.



CUFI IN THE NEWS

DEMOCRACY IS ON THE BALLOT IN TURKEY

BORIS ZILBERMAN

As published in The Times of Israel (May 11, 2023)

For years, the West has placated Turkey, hoping that economic incentives would push President Recep Tayyip Erdogan away from his authoritarian tendencies, but these efforts have failed.

Time and again, we have seen the carrot of economic incentive gobbled up by autocrats with little in return for the West or their people. No place with as much potential as Turkey has been as badly mismanaged. A key bellwether in the authoritarian-democratic divide, the Turkish people's path in the coming weeks will have a lasting impact beyond their borders.

On May 14th, the Turkish people will go to the polls and choose between extending Erdogan's twenty-year rule or moving in a new direction with the leader of the opposition bloc, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu. For the U.S., Europe, and Israel, it will be an opportunity to reset relations or figure out a way to navigate a rocky path with an often difficult partner.

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Erdogan's interactions with Israel exemplify how Turkey is already straddling the global divide. The rapprochement between Ankara and Jerusalem moved forward last year when Israeli President Isaac Herzog visited Turkey before exchanging ambassadors for the first time in six years. Erdogan has been less antisemitic and antagonistic in his rhetoric – a positive change – but as willing as ever to condemn Israel's rightful efforts to defend itself in the face of attacks by Iranian-sponsored terrorist groups.

Turkey continues to nurture a Hamas presence in its country, too, and seeks to expand ties with Iran – with Erdogan most recently telling Iran's President Raisi that they should unite against Israel. Which is to say, no one would be surprised if Erdogan did another about-face with Israel if he is victorious at the polls.

The Turkish-Israeli thaw was coupled with a charm offensive in Washington to mend the Biden-Erdogan relationship and repair Turkey's relationships in Congress. The Turkish ambassador has led these efforts with minimal results thus far. There is a laundry list of serious issues which Washington rightfully has with Ankara, including Turkey's purchase of the Russia S-400 missile system, which triggered U.S. sanctions, hostage diplomacy, terror financing, domestic political repression, targeting of America's Kurdish allies in Syria, hostilities towards key U.S. allies such as Greece, Cyprus and Israel, and its hold on Sweden's accession into NATO.

These persistent acts of anti-democratic defiance are indicative of a Turkish leader feigning a return to the

democratic fold but ultimately choosing to side with the authoritarian axis of Iran, Russia, and China.

On the other hand, Kılıçdaroğlu, a social democrat, would have an opportunity to continue strengthening ties with Israel without Erdogan's baggage and reset elements of the country's foreign policy. This could include clearing out Hamas terrorists harbored by Erdogan or a change in relations with Tehran. Should he be victorious, Kılıçdaroğlu should be encouraged by the international community to disengage from terrorists and tyrants, and he should be rewarded accordingly.

If Turkey is interested in freedom at home and being allied with free nations abroad, Ankara must address all the issues undermining its bilateral relationship with the United States and end its antagonism towards Israel. It is unlikely this would happen under a newly re-elected Erdogan.

If free and fair elections are held, and Kılıçdaroğlu is victorious, his work would be cut out for him if he indeed seeks to resolve these issues. Still, in Washington, Jerusalem, and European capitals, the new Turkish leader would be heard. Whether Kılıçdaroğlu will have the domestic political capital to make sweeping changes remains to be seen, but the free nations of the world would be well positioned to work with Ankara to right the ship.

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



CUFI IN THE NEWS

PASTOR HAGEE ON FIRST VISIT 45 YEARS AGO: 'I ARRIVED IN ISRAEL A TOURIST, AND I LEFT A ZIONIST'

MENACHEM WECKER

As published in the Jewish News Syndicate (May 1, 2023)

The Christians United for Israel founder told JNS that his first Western Wall visit in 1978 was a “turning point,” setting him on a path to uniting Jews and Christians.



Pastor John Hagee speaking at the 2022 Christians United for Israel (CUFI) Washington Summit. Credit: CUFI

As an 8-year-old boy, John Hagee sat at the kitchen table listening on the radio to the formation of the modern-day State of Israel in 1948. “Never did I think that I would one day stand in the holy city as a participant in history,” he told JNS. “I was simply awestruck.”

One of the best-known Christian Zionists, the pastor—founder and chairman of Christians United for Israel (CUFI)—has met all 11 Israeli prime ministers since Menachem Begin, including Benjamin Netanyahu, whom he has known since 1985.

But the pinnacle of his Israel experiences—what he calls participating in history—came in May 2018 when David Friedman, then Washington’s ambassador to

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Israel, invited Hagee to offer a prayer at the opening ceremony of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem.

That was an “exceptional honor and privilege,” Hagee told JNS. “Since CUFI’s founding, our position has always been that Jerusalem is the eternal and undivided capital of Israel, and the U.S. should acknowledge that in word and deed.”

In a wide-ranging interview with JNS, Hagee reflected on why he first visited Israel in 1978 and what it has been like to return countless times over the past 45 years. He also discussed his decision to become a man of the cloth and, over the years, one of Israel’s most prominent supporters.

AT HOME IN A FOREIGN LAND

Growing up in East Texas, Hagee aspired to serve in the military, and he received an appointment at 17 to go to West Point. “Ministry was the farthest thing from my mind,” he told JNS. One night at a church service that initially felt like thousands before it, he felt the desire very strongly to know God.

“From one breath to the next, I could not imagine my life without Him,” he said. “Everything changed.”

Hagee turned West Point down to attend seminary. In March 1958—just before he turned 18—he preached his first sermon “and never looked back.”

As a devout Christian, he made no distinction between biblical and contemporary Israel. “The modern State of Israel is, and has always been, central to my worldview and my faith,” he told JNS. “I learned Israel’s story as found in the Bible and her history as found in the pages of books, and still learn and study her contemporary challenges as described in the pages of newspapers and articles.”

It was not until 1978, when he was in his upper 30s, that Hagee had the financial means to travel the world, and he opted to visit Israel for the first time.

He wanted to see where Jesus had lived and taught, as well as visit the Sea of Galilee and the Western Wall. “It is foreign to arrive in a foreign land and feel completely at home, and it is unusual, yet impossible, not to leave a piece of your heart in the land once there,” he told JNS. “I arrived in Israel a tourist, and I left a Zionist.”



Pastor John Hagee and wife Diana welcome Ukrainian refugees to Israel.
Credit: CUFI/Oren Cohen.

There is no substitute for visiting Israel, but one need not travel to the Holy Land to “understand its vital importance to all Christians, appreciate its modern incarnation and love its people,” Hagee said. “Since the time of God’s covenant with Abraham, Israel has always and forever shall be.”

On his visit to Israel 45 years ago, Hagee experienced a “turning point in my life,” standing before the Western Wall for the first time.

“As I prayed, I looked to one side and saw a Jewish man engaged in fervent prayer. And in that moment, I came to understand that he and I were spiritual brothers,

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but that I knew very little about him, and he may very well be scared of people like me,” said Hagee. “In the subsequent days, I bought as many books as I could to understand as much as I could about the history of the Jewish people.”

He came to appreciate the extent of Jewish suffering under those claiming to bear Christianity’s banner. He talked to his wife Diana (née Castro) and arrived at a decision. “While I didn’t know how or what exactly we were going to do, the Lord had placed it upon my heart to be a healing and uniting force between Jews and Christians,” he said.

In 1981, he hosted the first Night to Honor Israel, and in 2006, Hagee founded Christians United for Israel (CUFI).

“Today, I believe CUFI’s greatest achievement is that its existence has changed the way many Jews and Christians regard each other,” he said. “Now more than 10 million Christians have come to understand the importance of standing with our Jewish brothers and sisters in both good times and bad.”

‘MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT’

“I’ve been privileged to have visited Israel more times than I can count,” Hagee told JNS. “What is most unique about Israel is not how it has changed, but how it has retained its character and ethos.”

Israel has grown dramatically over the past nearly half-century. “Its modern cities have grown from nearly nothing at all,” he said. “The desert has truly bloomed in the Jewish state. Israel has become one of the most prosperous and powerful nations in the world.”

Yet the core values that drive Israel and protect it have not changed in the 45 years Hagee has visited, he said.

Stateside, however, Christian views of Israel have evolved quite a bit. Christians have long doubted that

their faith had much of an impact on Israel, and did not translate that faith into action, Hagee said. That has changed.

“Millions of Christians across the country have come to understand that our mandate is not to just pray for something to happen—though this is vital—but also to be agents of change for something to happen,” he said. “Yes, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and we also do what we can to confront and combat antisemitism, whether it be in churches, communities, campuses or Congress.”

Hagee Ministries has donated more than \$120 million to Israeli humanitarian causes, and more than \$9 million to help Ukrainian Jews make *aliyah*, according to Hagee.

“Support for Israel amongst Christians is a deeply-held religious belief, but without education about Israel’s modern struggle, there could be no action in support of the Jewish state,” he said.

An overwhelming majority of evangelical Protestants (79%) view Israelis favorably, as does 69% of mainline Protestants, and 69% of Christians overall, according to a Pew Research Center report released in April 2019. (Among those groups, positive views of Palestinians were much lower: 35%, 38% and 41%, respectively. Meanwhile, 57% of the religiously unaffiliated viewed Israel favorably, and 54% saw Palestinians favorably.)

As Christians become more “biblically literate,” they reject replacement theology, which holds Christians to supersede Jews, and as they learn more of Israel’s ancient and modern history, many become pro-Israel activists, Hagee told JNS.

He declined to comment on domestic Israeli issues, such as judicial reform, which has divided many Israelis.

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"Israel is a democracy, and, as in all democracies, there are times of great challenge," said Hagee. "But at the end of the day, truth will find its way and will bring unity and healing to the nation."

'GOD'S GRACE AND TIME'S MARCH'

Hagee has brought thousands of Christians to Israel over the years and has found common themes in their experiences.

"Israel releases a healing force that heals the body and comforts the soul," he said. "There is not a time that one soul has left that sacred soil without having been changed forever."



Then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley embraces an Israeli woman, whose home was hit by rockets in May 2021 Credit: CUFI/Oren Cohen.

One standout Israel experience came in 2021 on a visit with Nikki Haley, then-U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and now a Republican presidential candidate. Hagee remembers vividly when Haley hugged a woman whose home had been destroyed by one of thousands of Hamas rockets.

"There, amidst all that destruction and pain, these two women from wildly-different backgrounds understood each other completely. I saw in Nikki's eyes how deeply

she felt for this woman, and I was moved as I witnessed this brokenhearted woman find just a bit of comfort in that heartfelt embrace," he said.

Hagee encourages all people of faith to do "everything in their power" to visit Israel but said trying to describe a first visit to Israel is like attempting to convey adequately in words what it's like to hold one's child for the first time.

"There are two constants in this world: God's grace and time's march. It doesn't seem like my first visit to Israel was so long ago, but my focus is on each day and the days ahead," he said. "Every trip to Israel is more meaningful than its last, and every time I leave, I am eager to return."

He will do that in the fall when he takes 800 people "to discover the joy and beauty of Israel."

"The memories and moments that stand out from my visits to Israel could fill a book," he said. "I pray for the peace of Jerusalem. And because my hope is in God, I know Israel shall remain strong and prosperous, and I have every confidence that Israel's best days are ahead of her."

Menachem Wecker is the U.S. bureau news editor of JNS.



CUFI IN THE NEWS

ANOTHER PROBLEM WITH ESG INVESTING: ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS

MELISSA LANGSAM BRAUNSTEIN

As published in The Washington Examiner (March 29, 2023)

The truth about environmental, social, and governance investing began coming into focus last year.

A report commissioned by Chicago-based investment research firm Morningstar revealed anti-Israel bias in the ESG ratings of Sustainalytics, Morningstar's ESG subsidiary.

Some investors had suspected as much since 2016. However, Morningstar dismissed those charges until the Illinois Investment Policy Board Committee on Israel Boycott Restrictions investigated whether Morningstar had violated Illinois' anti-boycott, divestment, and sanctions law in 2021.

FLORIDA INCHES CLOSER TO BAN ON ESG POLICIES WITH TAXPAYER FUNDS

Last spring's related report prompted ongoing discussions with Jewish and pro-Israel organizations starting in late July. And in October, Morningstar committed to "further fortify[ing] Sustainalytics' ESG

research and ratings against any concerns of anti-Israel bias."

Eight months on, Elana Broitman, senior vice president for public affairs at the Jewish Federations of North America, shared, "We remain engaged because we believe the opportunity for the company to make progress remains, but we need to see concrete action to address our core issues," which include bringing in a strong set of experts on this issue, addressing remaining biased ratings, and launching a thoughtful training program for their analysts.

Progress has been slow and uneven. For example, Morningstar eliminated the anti-Israel United Nations Human Rights Council as a source, paused the use of pro-BDS non-governmental organization Who Profits, and kept pro-BDS NGO DanWatch as a source.

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Employee training is being developed, and outside experts are being considered; asked when an expert might start, a Morningstar spokesperson offered a non-responsive answer. Meanwhile, numerous changes, including rectifying various corporate ratings, reportedly hinge on an expert's arrival.

Richard Goldberg, senior adviser at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, commented, "28 publicly traded Israeli companies, every Israeli bank, telecom company, every major company with operations in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan, are subject to 'significant' controversy — a red flag for investors — merely based on operations in what [Sustainalytics] call[s] occupied territory."

By contrast, the Agricultural Bank of China scores only a "medium" controversy rating while operating in Xinjiang, home to Uyghur concentration camps.

"Is there one checklist for the Jewish state and one for China? If there are two checklists, congratulations, you've now crossed over into antisemitism," remarked Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean and director of global social action for the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

Sustainalytics' double standard has also harmed American companies, such as Motorola Solutions. Goldberg noted Motorola Solutions was added to a de facto do not invest list for providing surveillance technology that protects Israeli civilians from terrorists; Motorola's "significant" controversy rating also remains.

This is "backdoor BDS," said Elan Carr, former U.S. special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism. "Aiding and abetting BDS by channeling investment away from Israel and companies doing business with Israel, it's a national security threat to Israel."

Roz Rothstein, co-founder and CEO of StandWithUs, added that BDS "seek[s] to shut down Israeli-Palestinian cooperation, harm Israel's economy, and ultimately eliminate the world's only Jewish state." So, while Morningstar may have "repudiate [d]" BDS last year, the movement's aims were already woven into Sustainalytics' ratings.

"Ignorance is the fertile ground in which bigots, like the backers of BDS, can plant their invasive ideas," observed a senior Christians United for Israel official. To reverse course, Morningstar needs better sources, a single standard for judging global controversies, and analyst education in international law and relevant history.

Discussions with outside groups continue, but impatience grows. With state treasurers urged to investigate, some states already investigating, and a letter-writing campaign underway, will Morningstar complete promised changes by its June 30 deadline? And will it be independently motivated or require government prodding, as in Illinois?

We'll know soon enough.

Melissa Langsam Braunstein is an independent writer in metropolitan Washington.



CUFI IN THE NEWS

PASTOR JOHN HAGEE ON A MISSION TO BUILD 'PRO-ISRAEL MACHINE'

MAAYAN JAFFE-HOFFMAN

As published in the Jerusalem Post (March 23, 2023)

The founder of Christians United for Israel brings first Rabbi Scheinberg Fellowship mission to Israel.



Then-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley embraces an Israeli woman, whose home was hit by rockets in May 2021 Credit: CUFI/Oren Cohen.

Pastor John Hagee is on a mission to "build a pro-Israel machine that will combat and defeat antisemitism in this generation."

The founder of Christians United for Israel was in Israel this week with 32 rabbis and pastors on the first mission of the Rabbi Scheinberg Fellowship, created in honor of Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg, Hagee's long-time Jewish friend.

According to its website, the fellowship is meant to "foster long-lasting relationships between pastors and rabbis that will transform communities and better the future of Jewish-Christian relations." Ari Morgenstern is the senior director of policy and communications for Christians United for Israel.

LATE RABBI ARYEH SHEINBERG AND PASTOR JOHN HAGEE

The late Scheinberg was a rabbi in Texas, where Hagee is from. In 1981, when Hagee decided he wanted his church to hold the first "Night to Honor Israel," he appealed to the Jewish Federation, who responded that it would require a committee meeting to decide if they could support it. However, many committee meetings

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later, the event had still not been given the green light - until Scheinberg intervened.

"He told the federation that we are always looking for friends," Hagee recalled. "Here's a man who says he is a friend. Why don't we allow him to prove whether he is a friend or not."



Pastor John Hagee and his mission meet Polish immigrants at Ben-Gurion Airport this week. Credit: CUFI/Oren Cohen.

The first Night to Honor Israel was so powerful that Hagee decided to do it yearly. Today, there are dozens of Nights to Honor Israel across the United States, many drawing upwards of 5,000 people. In 2006, Hagee founded CUFI. Today, the organization has 11.5 million members.

"A rabbi and Christian pastor got together with mutual respect to produce something that has impacted America, Israel and the world," Hagee said.

CUFI has played a pivotal role in strengthening the US-Israel relationship. According to its website, it has a powerful grassroots movement that touches every state and Congressional district in the country. Its members also speak out against antisemitism and

stand against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

However, Scheinberg passed away two years ago, and Hagee is aging. Multiple polls show that the younger generation of evangelical Christians is less supportive of Israel and less connected to the country. Hagee hopes that the fellowship will help turn this phenomenon on its head.

"There are indeed masses who are disconnected presently," Hagee said. "It is also true that another generation of young people is coming down the road who had heard nothing but a pro-Israel message from when they were in the cradle. And they are heart, soul, mind and body pro-Israel and love the Jewish people unconditionally."

The mission started on March 13 and included pairs of pastors or rabbis and pastors from California, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Minnesota, Missouri, Maine, Georgia, Maryland, Louisiana, Texas, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Virginia, Florida and New York.

Among the pairs was Hagee's son Mathew, who was paired with Scheinberg's son, Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg.

They traveled from north to south across the country, visiting Shiloh, the City of David, Hezbollah tunnels and the southern border.

The group also met new immigrants from Poland on the tarmac at Ben-Gurion Airport.

"They start talking to each other. They start eating together. They start telling mutual stories. Finally, they say, 'let's get together when we get home,'" Hagee described. "We are building the vehicle through which relationships can be developed."

Maayan Jaffe-Hoffman is Deputy CEO - Strategy & Innovation for the Jerusalem Post Group.



CUFI IN THE NEWS

90 OLIM FROM UKRAINE LAND IN ISRAEL ON A SPECIAL FLIGHT OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

**The immigrants were accompanied by players
of the National Football League of the USA**

JERUSALEM POST STAFF

As published in the Jerusalem Post (March 16, 2023)

A special flight of the Jewish Agency carrying about 90 immigrants from Ukraine landed in Israel, accompanied by players of the National Football League of the USA (NFL), who came to express support for Israel in a delegation of the CUFI organization

Chairman of the Jewish Agency Maj. Gen. Doron Almog welcomed them in Israel: "We will continue to do everything in our power to save more Jews and receive them with love in Israel"

The football players are part of a delegation of Christians who love Israel, which is coming to Israel at the initiative of the CUFI organization to express support for the state of Israel. Israel. The representatives of the organization received the flight of immigrants in Israel together with the chairman of the Jewish Agency Lt. Col. Doron Almog.

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Among the 90 olim (immigrants) on the flight are also three generations of the same family from the bombarded city of Zaporizhia - grandmother Valentina and grandfather Yuri, their daughter Natalia and grandson Ivan. Natalia's husband was forced to stay in Ukraine due to the local law that prohibits men under the age of 60 from leaving. The 85-year-old grandfather Yuri who survived the Holocaust said: "I had to leave Ukraine as a child. I never believed it would happen again. I really want to live a normal, quiet life, that everything will work out for the best in Israel for my large family.' His daughter Natalia, who left her husband behind, added: "We are all immigrating together, one big family. We want to live and develop in Israel. I hope that my husband will join us soon and that we will have a good future in Israel.'



CUFI IN THE NEWS

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS ARKANSAS ANTI-BDS LAW

AARON BANDLER

As published in the Jewish Journal (February 21, 2023)

The Supreme Court announced on February 21 that they would not be reviewing a lower court decision upholding Arkansas' law against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), the Associated Press (AP) reported.



The law had barred the state government from entering contracts with those who refused to sign a pledge against boycotting Israel. The case, *Arkansas Times v. Waldrip*, stemmed from an advertiser from The Arkansas Times refusing to sign a pledge to not boycott Israel as part of the state law, as The Times receives funding from a state college. The Times argued that this was a violation of the First Amendment. In June, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 9-1 against The Times, arguing that the law "only prohibits economic decisions that discriminate against Israel." The Supreme Court

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declined to intervene on February 21, thus upholding the federal appeals court's decision.

"The Supreme Court has confirmed our view that state statutes opposing BDS are indeed constitutional," American Jewish Committee (AJC) General Counsel Marc Stern said in a statement. "The primary aim of the BDS movement is to eliminate the State of Israel. The court's action gives a boost to efforts to put a stop to the pernicious effort to isolate Israel economically and morally." The AJC had filed a brief in support of the law.

Kenneth L. Marcus, Chairman and Founder of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, also said in a statement that the Supreme Court "put to rest the absurd notion that anti-BDS laws are incompatible with robust protections for the freedom of speech. Anti-Israel boycotts will now be seen for what they are: discriminatory conduct rather than political speech."

He added: "Like many other states, Arkansas had commendably decided that its state's taxpayers should not subsidize anti-Semitic boycotts of Israel through their government contracting process. When states prohibit discrimination against other groups, they must be consistent in preventing bias against the Jewish people. It is notable that, in this case, BDS supporters could not find even one justice—there were no dissenters—to support their discriminatory activities. The Louis D. Brandeis Center was pleased to support the State of Arkansas through its amicus work, just as we have fought BDS in higher education, corporate America, and most recently in the Ben & Jerry's case. We will continue to fight against discriminatory BDS activities from the campus to the ice cream parlor, and from the boardroom to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Arkansas State Senator Jim Dotson, a Republican who helped draft the law, said in a statement, "BDS supporters have purposely tried to confuse understanding of the difference between free speech and commercial

conduct. Today's denial is a welcome development for those who support the First Amendment and oppose antisemitism and anti-Israel discrimination. It is timely that the court's decision followed our state's unanimous passage of the country's strongest-ever law dealing with antisemitic crime and discrimination."

Christians United for Israel (CUFI) said in a statement, "Elected officials, business leaders, and anti-Israel activists should take note: the American people have spoken, and they are pro-Israel. CUFI applauds the Supreme Court's unanimous decision today to push back against the effort to use American taxpayer dollars to subsidize economic antisemitism."

Israeli-American Coalition for Action Chairman Shawn Evenhaim called the ruling a "significant Constitutional victory for states that have taken a strong stand against the BDS hate movement. Now, this ruling will allow even more states to do what's right and prevent publicly funded commercial interests from discriminating against the Jewish state."

Aaron Bandler is an investigative journalist for the Jewish Journal.