

ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS

[WHEN YOUR CONSERVATIVE UNCLE ASKS] WHAT ABOUT THE TERRORISM ISRAELI CITIZENS ARE FACING EVERYDAY?

I want safety and dignity for all the peoples of Palestine and Israel, and I mourn each and every life that has been lost. Targeting civilians with political violence is always unacceptable. I oppose all violence against civilians, whether it be instigated by individuals, by organizations or by states. The uprising happening in Palestine today is the inevitable result of decades of occupation, dispossession and state violence. The right to resist colonization is enshrined in international law, this resistance will only end when the Israeli government stops brutally oppressing Palestinians so that they too can live with freedom and equality.

[WHEN YOUR GRANDMOTHER ASKS] WHY ARE YOU SINGLING OUT ISRAEL OR APPLYING A DOUBLE-STANDARD?

Actually, it is the United States who is singling out Israel, with \$3.1 billion dollars in military aid (more cumulative aid than any other country since WWII) and protecting it from diplomatic censure in international forums such as the UN and the ICC. As Americans, we have a special responsibility to ensure that our tax dollars stop being used to commit war crimes. Israel claims to speak in the name of Jewish people around the world, so as a Jew, I feel a special responsibility to speak out against its policies.

This is not about singling out Israel, it's about holding Israel to the same standard as all countries to comply with international law and leveraging the particular responsibility and influence that we have as American taxpayers and as Jews to demand change in Israel.

[WHEN YOUR LIBERAL ZIONIST COUSIN ASKS] BUT DO YOU SUPPORT ONE OR TWO STATES?

I support full equality, justice and self-determination for all peoples in the region, and any solution that will be consistent with those goals. It is true that under occupation, Israel has

controlled millions of Palestinians, without representation, for nearly 50 years. This has resulted in a defacto one-state apartheid solution.

But the truth is that the journey to either two states or one state with equality for all of its citizens is a long one, and that the ultimate form for a durable solution—whether that be 1 state, 2 states, a confederation or some other form, is up to Palestinians and Israelis to negotiate. The boycott, divestment and sanctions movement does not advocate for a particular solution, it is about putting pressure on Israel so that it will make the concessions necessary for peace. U.S. policy, which enables Israel to continue its current policies, will also need to change in order for the parties to build a just and lasting peace.

[WHEN YOUR MOTHER ASKS] WHAT ABOUT THE RIGHT OF JEWS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND SECURITY?

I do recognize the right of Jews (and all people) to live in safety and freedom, but I do not recognize the right of the state of Israel to discriminate against non-Jews. Security for Jews cannot and should not come at the expense of Palestinian lives. The best way to ensure safety and freedom for Jews is to constantly fight for safety and freedom for all peoples.

[WHEN YOUR CONSERVATIVE UNCLE CHARGES] BDS IS ANTI-SEMITIC:

BDS is a rights-based movement and its goal is to achieve justice and equality. BDS opposes all forms of racism and oppression, including anti-Semitism. It specifically targets oppressive policies and the institutions and companies that uphold them, not Jewish people.

Criticism of Jews for being Jews is anti-Semitic; criticism of the state of Israel is not. The Israeli government encourages the dangerous conflation of all Jews with Israel. When Prime Minister Netanyahu claims to represent all Jews, he furthers such misperceptions. Israel does not represent all Jews, and nearly 25% of Israel's citizens are not Jewish.