

# Jeremy Ben-Ami

President and Founder of J Street

**Jeremy Ben-Ami founded J Street, an organization that claims to be “The Home for Pro-Israel, Pro-peace Americans.” However, Ben-Ami often contradicts the “pro-Israel” part of this slogan by twisting the truth and attempting to undermine Israel’s democratic system. Furthermore, before founding J Street, he worked as a director at a pro-BDS organization.**

**Jeremy Ben-Ami twists the truth when it comes to Israel by claiming the Palestinian Authority (PA) truly wants peace.<sup>i</sup> He does this despite the fact that top PA leaders continuously demonize Jews and call for the annihilation of Israel.**

- The following are just a few examples of PA leaders calling for the annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people:
  - “I believe that God will gather the Israelis so we can kill them.” - Abbas Zaki, Senior Member of the Fatah Central Committee, close advisor of President Abbas, on March 12, 2014.<sup>ii</sup>
  - “The two-state solution does not exist. The two-state solution is over. We must return to the option of one Palestine from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea.” - Tawfiq Tirawi, Fatah Central Committee member, on April 2, 2014.<sup>iii</sup>
  - “The Jew will hide behind stones or trees. Then the stones and trees will call: ‘Oh Muslim, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.’” - PA Mufti Muhammad Hussein on January 9, 2012.<sup>iv</sup> The mufti is one of the highest religious authorities in the PA.
  - “Jerusalem will be nothing other than ours, or there will be no peace.” - PA Minister of Religious Affairs Mahmoud Al-Habbash on May 2, 2014 on PA TV<sup>v</sup>
- At the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ press conference in 2014, PA President Mahmoud Abbas said, “...We said: ‘We will not recognize Israel as a Jewish state...’”<sup>vi</sup> Abbas said this while Ben-Ami bragged that he is a legitimate peace partner.

**Ben-Ami lobbies the US government to force decisions on Israel that are against the will of the Israeli public, thus undermining Israel’s democracy.<sup>vii</sup>**

- Ben-Ami is continuously frustrated by the way Israelis vote in their elections. However, instead of trying to understand why Israelis vote the way they do, he tries to undermine Israel’s democracy by forcing Israelis to go against their will.<sup>viii</sup>
- For example, Israelis voted for a government in 2015 that opposes giving land to the Palestinian Authority. Instead of trying to understand why Israelis voted this way (see above for more information on the PA), he continuously lobbies the US government to force Israel to hand over land and go against the will of the Israeli public.

***The people of Israel – like any other country – have the right to determine their own future. Ben-Ami should not try to force decisions on another country’s democratically elected government.***

**Before founding J Street, Ben-Ami worked as the Communications Director for the New Israel Fund, which is an organization that funds pro-BDS groups.<sup>ix</sup>**

- Ben-Ami helped lead this organization despite the fact that BDS aims to destroy Israel politically, economically, and socially. The movement’s policies aim to prevent dialogue between the two sides and if successful, would devastate the lives of Israelis and Palestinian-Arabs.
  - The BDS movement harms Palestinian-Arabs working in Israel by boycotting companies that employ them. **If BDS succeeds, roughly 100,000 Palestinian-Arabs will lose their jobs.<sup>x</sup>**
    - BDS undermines peace efforts by encouraging Palestinian-Arab leaders to not associate or negotiate with Israeli peace partners.

- Freedom House ranked Israel as the *only* completely free country in the Middle East, yet BDS only targets Israel.<sup>xi</sup> **Why is BDS ignoring actual human rights abuses in the region and instead targeting the only Jewish state?**

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<sup>i</sup> J Street Blog. Jeremy Ben-Ami "A True Partner." November 5, 2012

<sup>ii</sup> "Fatah official: 'God will gather Israelis so we can kill them.'" *The Times of Israel*, March 13, 2014

<sup>iii</sup> "Fatah leader calls for Israel's destruction: Palestine will stretch from Jordan River to Mediterranean Sea," *Palestinian Media Watch*, April 2, 2014

<sup>iv</sup> "PA Mufti: Muslims' destiny to kill Jews" *Palestinian Media Watch*, January 25, 2012

<sup>v</sup> "PA Minister of Religious Affairs demands all of Jerusalem for Palestinians, 'Or there will be no peace,'" *Palestinian Media Watch*, May 2, 2014

<sup>vi</sup> Palestinian Media Watch. "Abbas says he won't recognize Israel as Jewish state; claims Israel plans to displace Israeli Arabs." December 24, 2014

<sup>vii</sup> Americans for Peace and Tolerance. "The J Street Challenge"

<sup>viii</sup> Americans for Peace and Tolerance. "The J Street Challenge"

<sup>ix</sup> NGO Monitor. "New Israel Fund." April 14, 2015

<sup>x</sup> *EU Survey: Palestinians working for Israelis are paid double those working for Palestinians in the West Bank and triple those in the Gaza Strip.* Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik. *Palestinian Media Watch*. February 26, 2015.

<sup>xi</sup> Freedom House: Middle East and North Africa, Countries and Topics.