

**My personal talking points about Israel to Israel's critics:**

- To the critics who claim that they are not being anti-Jewish... If you say that you are not against my Judaism, only against my Zionism, please know that my Zionism is an inseparable part of my Jewish identity. You don't get to define my Jewishness for me. And spray-painting "Zionist pigs" on the MBTA sign in Longwood is antisemitic.
- If you say you don't hate Jews but the only people you criticize are Jewish, you are showing anti-Jewish bias. Remember there are also catastrophes in Ukraine and Haiti. Silence on those catastrophes while furiously criticizing Israel is a tell.
- The hostages, or at least their bodies, must come home. If you take a moral stand on the war but don't mention the hostages, you have no moral standing.
- Hamas and the IDF are not remotely the same. Covering them in the media as if they are morally equal is repugnant. One aims for genocide; the other doesn't.
- Shooting back at people who attacked you and your children and who are hiding behind their children is not genocide. Walling off people so that they don't come over the border and kill your kids is not apartheid.
- The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza is something like 90% the responsibility of Hamas and 10% the responsibility of Netanyahu. People in the U.S. keep reversing the proportion of who is truly to blame. How much aid gets into Gaza is a serious issue, and I am very grateful that the aid has dramatically increased. However, the aid is not the only issue. It is, however, the only issue that seems to be covered by the press, and that's a problem. People seem hell-bent on blaming Israel first, second, third, and fourth and shrugging their shoulders when it comes to that Palestinians as if we don't expect them to act morally. Why is that?
- Also, please note the deep hypocrisy of Israel's critics, including the U.S. who killed 4 civilians for every terrorist in Iraq and Afghanistan. The IDF's ratio of 2-1 is, believe it or not, more humane. The hyperbole of this being the most gruesome war ever is demonstrably untrue.
- Netanyahu must go, and most Israelis want him to. They protested in the thousands every day before Oct. 7, and they are doing so now as well.
- Remember Israel is also at war with Hezbollah and Iran, and most Israeli evacuees are from the North. Israel was also trying to go ahead with the Abraham Accords. We need to understand Israel's existential, broader situation.