



**To: Democratic Presidential Candidates**

**From: Mark Mellman, President, Democratic Majority for Israel**

**Re: **WARNING** on Anti-Israel Campaigners**

**Date: July 9, 2019**

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A strongly anti-Israel organization, IfNotNow, which has refused to acknowledge Israel's right to exist at all, and attempted to physically block those carrying Jewish symbols from the DC Dyke March, is asking young people to run up to candidates and ask some variant of, "will you push Israel to end the occupation."

They then trumpet a quick "yes" as a major foreign policy statement by the candidate and a victory for anti-Israel forces. Senator Warren was a victim of this hit-and-run camping tactic as in the video below.

Such a question and response alters the foundations of most Democrats' Israel positions:

1. It wrongly suggests Israel alone is responsible for the current impasse in negotiations, ignoring the fact that the Palestinian leadership has consistently refused offers for a two-state solution. As President Clinton recalled, "I killed myself to give the Palestinians a state. I had a deal they turned down..."

2. It demands pressure on Israel alone.

3. It ignores the need for a negotiated agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that would give the former security and the later a state.

A principled, Democratic, pro-Israel response to this question could say:

"I strongly support a two-state solution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict. That solution must give Israelis security and Palestinians a state, but it must also be negotiated directly by the parties, not imposed by outsiders."

By way of background, IfNotNow has steadfastly refused to say whether they support Israel's fundamental right to exist and have adopted

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disruption as a prime tactic. In addition to trying to block Dyke marchers, they also blockaded the entrance to a Saturday synagogue service at the University of Texas, had to be evicted by police from a Senate hearing, prevented attendees from entering the Christians United For Israel meeting in Washington and were arrested for physically blocking the line of march in New York's Celebrate Israel parade.

If you have questions or would like further information please call or email.

Link to Warren encounter:

<https://twitter.com/IfNotNowOrg/status/1148380673381560320>