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—Contributor..... Vermont Friends of Israel
—Contributor email.....markbt@pm.me
—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Athens
—Article Number:.....43328



Notes from editor (not for publication):

Here you go, Mark. I do hear you.

We do have another contribution this week that I think you'll appreciate. That's next on the editing docket.



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Conspiratorial narrative is straight out of Iran's
2 propaganda playbook

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

3

####END SUBHED####

4 TEXT BODY:

RE: "A staggering cost" [Viewpoint, March 4]:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 It took Kate Casa all of a few days to offer a predictable
6 full-throated diatribe blaming Israel for the war in Iran while
7 ignoring the tyrannical regime in control that has terrorized
8 America, the world, its own people, and yes, Israel, for nearly
9 five decades.

10 Given Casa’s openly hostile stance against the Jewish
11 state, the fact she blames suffering of ordinary Iranian civilians on
12 Israel surprised exactly no one.

13 But I do commend her ability to pack a remarkable
14 number of distortions into a single letter, especially the Nazi-era
15 antisemitic trope that Jews, or in modern rhetorical disguise,
16 Israel, are pulling the puppet strings of world power. Classy.

17 Casa’s assessment is unmistakable. American policy is
18 supposedly controlled by Israeli influence, campaign donations,
19 and shadowy political pressure. This narrative has circulated for
20 generations to stigmatize Jewish communities and portray them
21 as conspiratorial forces behind world events, despite the
22 inconvenient truth that Jews represent only 0.2% of the global
23 population. [Never mind the fact Israel doesn’t even make the list
24 for top foreign lobbying activity in America.](#)

25 Recycling that libel in a Vermont newspaper in 2026
26 should alarm anyone who cares about responsible public
27 discourse. How exactly did this pass editorial review?

28 Casa has long been known locally as one of the most
29 obnoxious anti-Israel activists, and true to form, her column
30 follows a familiar pattern: Every crisis becomes another
31 opportunity to condemn Israel while ignoring the actions of
32 regimes that openly threaten the United States and its allies.

33 Hundreds of American soldiers killed in Iraq by Iranian-
34 backed militias, 241 service members murdered in Beirut at the
35 hands of Iranian proxy Hezbollah, targeting of U.S. forces in
36 Syria with rockets and drones, attacks on global shipping lanes,
37 and assassination plots against our elected officials all seem to
38 have escaped Casa’s concern.

39 Not to mention the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
40 (IRGC) squashed protests this past January by [murdering more
41 than 30,000 of their own people](#) in a matter of days.

42 “Genocide,” anyone?

43 It is entirely legitimate to debate U.S. foreign policy,
44 military aid, or diplomatic strategy in the Middle East. But it is

45 illegitimate for both author and publisher to promote
46 conspiratorial narratives that suggest U.S. policy exists merely as
47 an extension of Israeli manipulation while ignoring the very real
48 threats posed by the Iranian regime.

49 If Casa wants to argue against U.S. involvement in the
50 Middle East, she should do so honestly, acknowledge Iran's
51 actions, recognize American leaders make their own assessments,
52 and avoid rhetoric that echoes some of the oldest and most
53 harmful antisemitic stereotypes.

54 Anything less is a page taken straight out of Iran's
55 propaganda playbook.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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###END LOGLINE###