

The Clintons Earned Over \$3.5 Million in Paid Addresses to Pro-Israel Organizations

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Bill Clinton said he “would grab a rifle” and fight for Israel during paid speech.

Bill and Hillary Clinton are under increasing scrutiny from the mainstream press over paid speeches they have given to big banks in exchange for millions of dollars. [According to CNN](#), the couple has earned a total of \$153 million in lecture fees from companies and organizations affiliated with the financial industry.

But the media has been conspicuously silent about the large sums the Clintons have raked in from paid addresses to pro-Israel organizations, including the Jewish National Fund (JNF), which directly participates in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and Bedouin citizens of Israel. An evaluation of Hillary Clinton’s [public disclosures](#) from 2001 to 2015 shows that she and Bill, and their daughter, Chelsea, have earned roughly \$4 million in speaking fees from pro-Israel organizations, including JNF and organizations allied with the right-wing government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The vast majority of these documented payments—\$3,599,999—have gone toward the Clintons’ personal income, and up to \$450,000 has been funneled into the Clinton Foundation.

Ramah Kudaimi, membership outreach coordinator for the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, told AlterNet, “It is the right of voters to know what every single candidate earns in speaking fees, whether from banks or pro-Israel groups that engage in oppressive policies against Palestinians. It is the voters’ right to know if we have candidates running to be president who plan to continue horrific U.S. policies that make us all complicit in Israel’s denial of Palestinian rights.”

The Wages of Blaming Palestinians

Bill Clinton’s presidency ended with the collapse of the U.S.-led peace process at Camp David in 2000. After leaving office, Clinton [publicly blamed](#) Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for the failure of negotiations, explicitly violating [a promise](#) he made to Arafat at the start of the Camp David process. The former president thus reinforced then-Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak’s infamous talking point that there was “no Palestinian partner” for peace.

Bill Clinton [declared](#) in the summer of 2002, at the Toronto chapter of the pro-Israel group Hadassah-WIZO, “If Iraq came across the Jordan River, I would grab a rifle and get in the trench and fight and die,” reportedly earning wild applause from attendees of the \$1000-a-plate dinner. According to a New York Post reporter in attendance, Clinton again blamed Palestinians for his failure at Camp David, “accusing Arafat of making a ‘disastrous mistake’ by turning down past peace proposals that would have given the Palestinian leader control

of 97 percent of the West Bank.” Clinton earned \$125,000 for the speech.

Payments From Obama’s Opponents

Bill Clinton received \$425,000 for two speeches to Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a right-wing group that generally supports the Likud-run government of Benjamin Netanyahu and is hostile to Democrats. Simon Wiesenthal Center president Marvin Hier, who [addressed](#) the 2000 Republican National Convention, has [compared](#) President Barack Obama to Neville Chamberlain and described the Iran nuclear deal as “another Munich.” In 2011, three years before Bill Clinton’s second paid speech before the organization, Hier [accused](#) then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of “a sell out” to anti-Semitism for opening diplomatic discussions with Egypt’s democratically elected Muslim Brotherhood.

While unmentioned in public disclosures, the Clinton Foundation website [notes](#) that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the main arm of America’s pro-Israel lobby, contributed between \$10,001 and \$25,000 to the organization for at least one speech delivered by Bill Clinton, with the exact date or amount paid unspecified. S. Daniel Abraham, the Slim Fast diet mogul who serves on the board of AIPAC, has [given](#) as much as \$5 million to the Clinton Foundation. Through a series of front groups, ad campaigns and Israel propaganda tours for freshman members of Congress, AIPAC [spent upward](#) of \$40 million last year in a failed attempt to derail the Obama administration’s Iran nuclear deal.

Among the Clintons’ pro-Israel speaking fees, only one was received from an organization that could be classified as part of Israel’s peace camp. The [Abraham Fund](#), which says its aim is to “promote coexistence and equality among Israel’s Jewish and Arab-Palestinian citizens,” paid Bill Clinton \$125,000 for a single speech in 2002.

Chelsea Clinton raked in as much as \$325,000 in speaking fees from the United Jewish Appeal and its affiliate, the Jewish Federations, a pro-Israel umbrella group of Jewish American establishment organizations that [actively combats](#) the Palestinian-led BDS (boycott, binvestment and sanctions) movement. She remits 100 percent of her speaking fees to the Clinton Foundation, where she is a board member and helps decide how the foundation spends its \$180 million annual budget.

Bill Clinton took in six-figure lecture fees from [pro-Israel synagogues](#) around the [country](#). Our calculations include only Jewish institutions whose pro-Israel programming could be identified; we excluded hundreds of thousands of dollars in speaking fees paid to the Clintons by Jewish institutions whose online materials do not explicitly promote Israel.

In addition, Bill Clinton received \$250,000 for a speech to Univision Management Company, the media corporation co-owned by pro-Israel billionaire Haim Saban. As AlterNet’s Grayzone Project [recently reported](#), Saban and his wife Cheryl contributed \$5 million to the pro-Hillary Clinton super PAC, Priorities USA Action, this February. Saban has also [contributed](#) between \$5 and \$10 million to the Clinton Foundation. “I’m a one-issue guy, and my issue is Israel,” Saban said in 2004.

Whopping Fees From Ethnic Cleansers

Public records show that Bill Clinton earned a total of \$549,999 in four speeches to the JNF. The disclosures do not mention the JNF’s most generous fee. JNF provoked an outcry within pro-Israel circles when it [transferred](#) half a million dollars to the Clinton Foundation through

the Peres Academic Center to pay for a single speech by Bill Clinton. Bill Clinton later said he [donated](#) his large fee back to the Peres Academic Center, but there are [lingering questions](#) about where all the money went, including funds from the JNF.

Formed in 1901, JNF has spent over a century driving Palestinians off their land, including through the creation of the paramilitary force euphemistically [named](#) the Green Patrol. Former JNF director Yosef Weitz outlined [detailed plans](#) for the mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in 1948, demanding that their villages be destroyed and they “be harassed continually” to prevent them from returning.

In recent years, JNF has teamed up with the Israeli military, police and [Christian Zionist donors](#) to violently expel the residents of unrecognized Bedouin villages in Israel’s Negev Desert. Among them is Al Arakib, which as of October 2015, has been razed to the ground a staggering [90 times](#).

Video below by Max Blumenthal, a co-author of this article, shows the destruction of Al Arakib by Israeli bulldozers in 2010 — the third time it was demolished — in order to [make way](#) for a JNF-funded “forest” and Jews-only town. The JNF is widely opposed in Palestinian civil society and controversial even within Israel, where it owns roughly [13 percent](#) of state land and vows to lease it to exclusively Jewish tenants.

Will Hillary Honor Her Commitments?

Hillary Clinton has made her unflinching support for Israel a centerpiece of her foreign policy agenda. In November 2015, she [promised](#) to “reaffirm” the “unbreakable bond with Israel, and Benjamin Netanyahu,” suggesting she would adopt a friendlier posture to Israel’s right-wing leader than Obama had.

In a July 2015 [letter](#) to mega-donor Haim Saban, which her campaign distributed to the press, Clinton declared “we need to make countering BDS a priority.” It was the first time in American history that a presidential candidate mentioned by name the grassroots movement to boycott Israel.

As the challenge to her primary candidacy from Senator Bernie Sanders grows, Hillary Clinton is tacking left. During her concession speech in New Hampshire, Clinton insisted to local supporters, “I believe so strongly that we have to keep up with every fiber of our being the argument for, the campaign for human rights.”

Whether a Clinton presidency would alter the U.S.-Israeli special relationship remains to be seen. But as long as she honors the wishes of her family’s top contributors, as she has pledged to do, her argument for human rights must exclude Palestinians.

The following list shows Bill and Hillary Clinton’s personal income from speaking fees to pro-Israel groups between 2001 and 2015, based on public disclosures.



[Click to enlarge.](#)

The following list shows the Clintons’ speaking events to pro-Israel groups, which were compensated by payments to the Clinton Foundation. The Foundation’s website does not

provide information about the exact date of the engagements or the amount given.



[Click to enlarge.](#)

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