



# FIGHT *The* SMEARS

## THE TRUTH ABOUT BARACK OBAMA AND RASHID KHALIDI

Ugly insinuations about Barack Obama's relationship with a former neighbor and university colleague, Rhashid Khalidi, are completely false.

Barack's record on Israel is clear: he strongly supports the U.S.-Israel relationship. He believes that our first and incontrovertible commitment in the Middle East must be to the security of Israel, America's strongest ally in the Middle East.

Barack and Joe Biden believe strongly in Israel's right to protect its citizens. They have consistently supported foreign assistance to Israel. They have called for continuing U.S. cooperation with Israel in the development of missile defense systems.

Barack has nothing to hide: he has openly described his relationship with Rashid Khalidi:

“[Khalidi] is not one of my advisors; he's not one of my foreign policy people. His kids went to the Lab school where my kids go as well. He is a respected scholar, although he vehemently disagrees with a lot of Israel's policy... To pluck out one person who I know and who I've had a conversation with who has very different views than 900 of my friends and then to suggest that somehow that shows that maybe I'm not sufficiently pro-Israel, I think, is a very problematic stand to take... So we gotta be careful about guilt by association.”

Bipartisanship — getting along with people we disagree with — is something we prize in our politicians. For example, Barack has been widely praised for working with conservative Republican Senator Tom Coburn to pass a bill making government spending searchable over the Internet. So why should it be any different that Barack knows a respected scholar, former university colleague, and former neighbor who disagrees with him about Israel?

Smears, insults, and innuendo about the nature of Barack's relationship with Khalidi are completely unfounded. Guilt-by-association is always a questionable tactic.

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