



THE CENTER FOR  
NEAR EAST POLICY  
RESEARCH LTD.

WWW.ISRAELBEHINDTHENEWS.COM

Beit Agron International Press Center  
37 Hillel Street  
Jerusalem 94581 Israel  
TEL. 02 6236368  
Calling from North America: 215-240-4919

# The Incitement Report

VOL. I, ISSUE 5

Mid-May - July 2010

## Incitement by The Palestinian Authority

***Palestinian Authority incitement has taken on an inadvertently ironic tone.***

Of late, PA officials have been charging that actions taken by Israel serve to undermine peace. For example, referring to projected plans by the Jerusalem municipality for demolition of 22 Arab houses illegally-built in Silwan on a green area zoned for public space — which plan includes stated municipal intention to raise funds to provide new housing for the 22 families evicted from their homes — PA president Mahmoud Abbas declared:

“Israel should realize that it is setting obstacles against the peace process. Its actions in Jerusalem put peace efforts in danger.”<sup>1</sup>

**This itself constitutes a form of incitement.**

But if we look closer, we see the full perversity of the charge, which was leveled in a context of multiple instances of incitement by the PA that do undermine any genuine possibilities of peace. (It should be noted that the PA had pledged to work against incitement during the proximity talks.<sup>2</sup>) Some examples:

⊙ In late June, in two different episodes of a PA TV show “For You,” which interviews families of Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli jails, the host prompted children being interviewed to see Israelis in a particularly negative terms. In one instance, the host said, “They’re wild animals, right? Aren’t they wild animals?” In another, she said, “The Jews are our enemies, right?”<sup>3</sup>

⊙ As part of a campaign to promote the boycott of Israeli-produced goods from Judea and Samaria, PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad visited a supermarket in Ramallah on June 28.

After first examining the merchandise, he then awarded the store owner a certificate that confirmed the business does not sell banned products. "It is just another step toward cleaning the Palestinian Authority of settlement products," said Fayyad.<sup>4</sup>

The banning of these goods by the PA contravenes agreements signed as part of the Oslo Accords.<sup>5</sup>

⊙ On June 21, 2010, the PA TV re-instituted an educational documentary that had been taken off the air six months ago, and which describes the Kinneret, Haifa, Acre, Ashkelon and Jaffa as "Palestinian":

A translation of the moderator's words:

"The West Bank and Gaza have another section in Palestine which is the Palestinian coast that spreads along the [Mediterranean] sea, from ...Ashkelon in the south, until Haifa, in the Carmel Mountains. Haifa is a well-known Palestinian port. [Haifa] enjoyed a high status among Arabs and Palestinians especially before it fell to the occupation [Israel] in 1948. To its north, we find Acre. East of Acre, we reach a city with history and importance, the city of Tiberias, near a famous lake, the Sea of Galilee. Jaffa, an ancient coastal city, is the bride of the sea, and Palestine's gateway to the world."<sup>6</sup>

⊙ The Palestinian Third Culture and Education Festival – sponsored by the PLO National Committee for Science and Culture – was held in Ramallah in early June. One of the dances featured at the festival was attended by the PA Minister of Culture and Minister of Women's Affairs, and shown on PA TV. It featured dancers carrying rifles and a song that praised violence:

"From my wounds, my weapon has emerged...  
"There is no force in the world that can remove the weapon from my hand...  
"He who offers his blood doesn't care if his blood flows upon the ground.  
"As the weapon of revolution is in my hand, so my presence will be forced [upon Israel]."<sup>7</sup>

A video of this presentation can be seen here:

[http://palwatch.org:80/main.aspx?fi=472&fld\\_id=474&doc\\_id=2388](http://palwatch.org:80/main.aspx?fi=472&fld_id=474&doc_id=2388)

⊙ On June 5, 2010, Fatah Central Committee member Nabil Sha'th said that the Palestinian people is entitled to wage armed struggle as it has for a century, and that it is entitled to resist by popular means.

Declaring that Fatah had led this struggle for 23 years, Sha'th added: "We are proud of all our martyrs and it is our right to return to the armed conflict."<sup>8</sup>

⊙ On May 28, 2010, PA TV chose to honor terrorist **Sanaa Shehadeh**, who is serving three life sentences in an Israeli prison for transporting a suicide terrorist to Jerusalem in 2002. In the course of the program, Shehadeh's home was visited and her family

was interviewed. Additionally, there was the inclusion of a pre-recorded segment, in which Shehadeh's young nieces sang an anti-Israel war song. Lyrics included:

"I want to recite a song for you [Sanaa Shehadeh]:  
What am I doing here while my enemy is on my ancestors' land?  
I want to defend, I want to fight,  
I want to carry a machine gun and a rifle."

"And tomorrow, when the war starts,  
I won't care about [my enemy], or about the West...  
And we shall strike Israel, we shall strike Israel,  
And return you [to us], land of my ancestors."<sup>9</sup>

A video of the nieces can be seen at:

[http://www.palwatch.org:80/main.aspx?fi=473&fld\\_id=473&doc\\_id=2370](http://www.palwatch.org:80/main.aspx?fi=473&fld_id=473&doc_id=2370)

⊙ From May 23 through 26, 2010, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud 'Abbas visited Vietnam. Following is a portion of a statement he made in an address:

"...My dear friend [Nguyen Minh Triet], we are comrades in struggle and fighting, and our vision of the future is one. Historically, people have always linked Palestine and Vietnam, and to this day, when people mention the Palestinian struggle they recall the struggle of the Vietnamese people. We have both suffered occupation, colonialism and oppression, but you eventually prevailed, and we are certain that, thanks to your position and your support, we shall prevail as well..."<sup>10</sup>

PA President Mahmoud Abbas played upon the incident with Israel and the Turkish flotilla to the maximum:

⊙ On May 31, 2010, Abbas declared at a meeting of PA leadership:

"Israel insists to keep the blockade on the Gaza Strip, therefore it committed this massacre against innocent civilians.

"We won't keep silent."<sup>11</sup>

⊙ On June 1, 2010, in a telephone interview from Amman with PA TV, he enlarged upon this, saying that:

"[The violence by Israel] was premeditated with determination to kill.

"Israel always ignores all international norms, all international laws, all humanitarian laws. [Israel] doesn't care about anything."<sup>12</sup>

In the face of insurmountable video evidence to the contrary, he maintained, that:

"Those who came to Gaza are civilians, peace-seeking people, who did not come to attack."<sup>13</sup>

⊙ A day later, at a Palestine Investment Conference in Bethlehem, Abbas maintained that activists aboard the flotilla were the victims of Israeli "state terrorism."

He called upon an international "freedom convoy" to break the blockade:

"We expect international justice, and the blockade must be lifted. Stopping the attacks is the first step towards peace."<sup>14</sup>

⊙ In an interview with Turkish TV, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas called for sending more flotillas to remove the siege on Gaza, saying that if they failed, there would be a need to use all other permitted means.<sup>15</sup>

⊙ On June 10, following his meeting with President Obama, Abbas declared to a Washington think-tank that:

"The investigation should not be left in the hands of Israel. Israel cannot investigate itself. The investigation should be international, as proposed by the UN secretary-general.

"Israel, first of all, attacked this convoy in international waters, which is unlawful, unacceptable.

"They attacked innocent people who had no weapons or aggressive motivations but were simply carrying humanitarian goods to Gaza."<sup>16</sup>

**Recurring themes are encountered in the Palestinian Authority incitement against Israel. One of these involves threats regarding Israeli intentions to destroy the mosque on the Temple Mount.**

⊙ On June 22, 2010, in his Friday sermon in the Al-Aksa Mosque, Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, PA-appointed Mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine, said:

"The Al-Aksa Mosque is threatened by the plans of the enemies of Allah [the Jews], who have violated all faith and religious laws, and even deviated from their humanity."<sup>17</sup>

⊙ A week later, also in a Friday sermon, this one broadcast on PA-TV, another cleric declared:

"The Jews, the enemies of Allah and of His Messenger, the enemies of Allah and of His Messenger! Enemies of humanity in general, and of Palestinians in particular... The Prophet says: 'You shall fight the Jews and kill them...'"<sup>18</sup>

⊙ On July 4, 2010, PA-TV ran the caricature (below) of a demonic Jew eating The Dome of the Rock.<sup>19</sup>



### **Another pervasive theme involves the honoring of terrorists.**

⊙ On July 4, 2010, **Muhammad Daoud Oudeh** (aka Abu Daoud), died. Oudeh was the mastermind of the September 1972 terror attack on Israelis at the Munich Olympic Village, in which 11 Israelis were murdered.

Fatah officials rushed to praise Oudeh:

Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Central Committee, described him thus: "He started his life as a regular individual and concluded it with giant stature." He also spoke of Oudeh's "his noble actions and his glorious history."<sup>20</sup>

PA President sent a telegram to Oudeh's family. It read:

"The deceased was one of the prominent leaders of the Fatah movement and lived a life filled with the struggle, devoted effort, and the enormous sacrifice of the deceased for the sake of the legitimate problem of his people, in many spheres. He was at the forefront on every battlefield, with the aim of defending the [Palestinian] revolution. What a wonderful brother, companion, tough and stubborn, relentless fighter."<sup>21</sup>

PA-TV broadcast the funeral of Oudeh in the Al Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria. One participant at the funeral declared: "We say to him: 'We will follow the path, brother Abu Daoud; Allah willing, we will complete the path together with the proud Fatah, Allah willing.'"<sup>22</sup>

PA minister Muhammad Ishtayeh praised Oudeh on Al-Manar TV (Lebanon) on July 9, saying:

"Martyr Abu Daoud continues the convoy of martyrs who fell for the sake of Palestine. We all follow this path.

"As for the claim that history can be rewritten in a different way – I think it is unjust to say that Palestinian history can be written in a different ink. **The ink in which the Palestinian history has been is red, and I believe that it will continue to be written in red ink.** (emphasis added)

"In addition, the martyr Abu Daoud was officially eulogized by the Fatah movement and the Palestinian establishment."<sup>23</sup>

⊙ At the same time, Grand Ayatollah **Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah**, a Shi'ite cleric and "spiritual" leader of Hezbollah, died in Lebanon. Believed to be the mastermind behind the terror attack on the Marine barracks outside of Beirut in 1983, Fadlallah more recently issued a *fatwa* sanctioning terrorist attacks on US and Israeli troops.

According to *Al Ayyam*, July 7, 2010:<sup>24</sup>

"A doctor at the Bahman hospital, where Fadlallah was treated, told Reuters that while [Fadlallah] was conscious, his nurse asked: 'What would you like me to bring you?'

He answered, 'I ask for nothing except that the Zionist entity should pass from the world.'"

PA President Mahmoud Abbas sent an emissary to the hospital to convey wishes for his recovery, before Fadallah died, and then sent a message of condolence to the family thereafter. This was reported by *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* on July 4 and 5, respectively.<sup>25</sup>

⊙ **Dalal Mughrabi** – the terrorist who led a 1978 bus hijacking in which 37 civilians, 12 of them children, were killed – has already been honored several times by Fatah and the PA.

On July 29, 2010, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*<sup>26</sup> announced yet one more honor, when a camp in Bethlehem was named for her. The PA has turned Mughrabi into a role model, and in this instance the paper announced that the camp "aims at training young leaders"

⊙ Another summer camp, this one in Jenin, under the aegis of the PLO's refugee department, focused on the issue of refugee return. At a closing, children presented the names of the cities and villages in Israel inhabited by Palestinians prior to 1948, along with stories and films on the Nakba.<sup>27</sup>

⊙ Just one day before the closing of the camp, mentioned above, PA President Mahmoud Abbas – promoting Nakba and right of return in his own fashion – told the Jordanian daily *Al-Ghad* that Palestinians in Lebanon were guests and would not remain there permanently. Thus the issue of granting them social and economic rights [recently under discussion] had nothing to do with their settling in that country.

⊙ In late July, PA President Abbas addressed the foreign ministers present during a meeting in Cairo of the Arab League. After the meeting he briefed the Egyptian media on what had been discussed.

On July 28, 2010, according to Wafa, the official PA news agency, as cited by analyst Yonaton D. Halevi,<sup>28</sup> what Abbas said was that:

"I'm willing to agree to a third party that would supervise the agreement, such as NATO forces, but I would not agree to having Jews among the NATO forces, or that there will live among us even a single Israeli on Palestinian land."

This was picked up by PA newspapers *Al-Quds* and *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* on July 30, 2010. Halevi says that when Abbas says "Israeli," he means "Jew."<sup>29</sup>

## Incitement by UNRWA

**As was reported in the last Incitement Report, UNRWA was deeply complicit in promoting the idea of a flotilla that would break Israel's sea blockade of Gaza:**

On April 1, 2010, UNRWA commissioner-general Filippo Grande had declared that the problems faced by Gaza – as a result of the “blockade” – “are not just humanitarian,” but “encompass every aspect of society.” He pronounced the situation as being “increasingly dire.”<sup>30</sup>

Then on May 3, 2010, John Ging, Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza, had suggested in an interview in his Gaza office that the international community has a responsibility to act with regard to the situation in Gaza. The situation now, he suggested, is that “Israel refuses to act reasonably.”

“Therefore we ask the international community: Bring us the supplies we need to rebuild schools and run them, bring us the equipment we need to hospitals and health centers. Everybody knows how desperate the situation is in the Gaza Strip after almost three years of blockade. We need action now...

“And who would stop the ship with such things as teaching materials and materials to building schools? In that case we would get a new reality for the international community. Then the purpose of the blockade would be to destroy Gaza, not to protect Israel.”<sup>31</sup>

In the weeks since the flotilla incident, prominent UNRWA staff has continued to play on the same theme. What we are seeing is a series of statements that echo each other, misrepresenting the facts with regard to Israel's position—promoting what is, in effect, the Hamas position while ignoring Israeli rights and security situation.

⊙ On June 16, 2010, UNRWA spokesman Chris Guinness said that the blockade had to be lifted entirely: “We need to judge the Israeli authorities by deeds not words because there have been many words in the past.”<sup>32</sup>

⊙ On June 17, speaking to the BBC, Guinness referred to the millions pledged [for Gaza reconstruction] by world donors at the Sharam Ash-Sheikh conference in 2009, maintaining that the blockade on reconstruction materials prevented international action:

This, he said, “was a clear case of where Israeli strategy directly countered to the strategy of the international community which wanted to rebuild Gaza.”<sup>33</sup>

Guinness is implying here that Israel is contravening the will of “the international community”: he is setting Israel against the entire community. This theme has been recurring in his statements and is part and parcel of attempts to delegitimize Israel.

⊙ On June 21, in a statement that was widely cited, Guinness said that nothing short of the full lifting of Israel's blockade would allow Gaza to be rebuilt:

"The Israeli strategy is to make the international community talk about a bag of cement here, a project there. We need full unfettered access through all the crossings...

"Israel's blockade became a blockade against the UN."<sup>34</sup>

**Here, in a statement masterful for its PR effect, there is a distortion of the reality:**

Guinness pits Israel against the UN, which wants construction materials brought into Gaza, rather than against Hamas, which seeks to bring in weapons to destroy Israel. There is no acknowledgement on his part of Israel's legitimate need to block weaponry from being brought in to Gaza.

In referring to an Israeli strategy of making the international community talk about "a bag of cement here, a project there" – a phrase that caught on with the media – he is obscuring the fact that Israel has reasons for what is being done (which he surely knows) and is not being contrary or arbitrary (which is the impression he seeks to lend).

Just one day before Guinness made this statement, Israel had announced a loosening of restrictions and had said that there were plans to meet with international agencies to discuss advancing such projects as the construction of schools and hospitals. Guinness, however, expressed no satisfaction with this, which would affect UNRWA directly.

⊙ On June 27, John Ging declared, at a Gaza City press conference, that it is "shameful" that the international community has allowed the Gaza siege to enter its fourth year as "750,000 innocent children are paying the toll."

"The political focus should be translated into action rather than discussing improvements or easing the siege. This siege must end completely and immediately."<sup>35</sup>

He that ending the blockade would not only bring peace to the Strip, but to the whole region.<sup>36</sup>

⊙ Just days earlier, in a statement to the UNRWA Advisory Commission, UNRWA Commissioner-General Filippo Grandi condemned the "inherently pathological nature" of the Gaza blockade.<sup>37</sup>



---

<sup>1</sup> *The Jerusalem Post*, June 25, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. State Department spokesman Philip Crowley, in an announcement on May 10, about the beginning of proximity talks, said that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas had pledged to “*work against incitement of any sort.*” Reuters, May 10, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, June 25, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> Agence France Presse news agency, June 28, 2010.

<sup>5</sup> “A review of ANNEX IV Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of the State of Israel and the P.L.O., representing the Palestinian people Paris, April 29, 1994 of the Gaza Jericho Agreement finds that the boycott of goods produced in the ‘settlements’ and a ban on the supply of Palestinian workers to the settlements constitutes a gross violation of the agreement by the PA.”

<http://imra.org.il/story.php3?id=47421>

<sup>6</sup> Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, June 21, 2010.

<sup>7</sup> Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, June 9, 2010.

<sup>8</sup> MEMRI blog, June 5, 2010, citing the PA’s *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*.

<sup>9</sup> Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, June 6, 2010.

<sup>10</sup> MEMRI, May 25, 2010, citing Wafa news agency.

<sup>11</sup> Xinhua, May 31, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Palestinian Media Watch, June 2, 2010.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> JTA, June 2, 2010.

<sup>15</sup> MEMRI blog, June 8, 2010, citing the PA’s *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*.

<sup>16</sup> From Agence France Presse news agency, carried by several media outlets, June 11, 2010..

<sup>17</sup> *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), June 26, 2010, cited by Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, July 4, 2010.

<sup>18</sup> PA-TV, June 29, 2010, as cited by PMW Bulletin, op. cit.

<sup>19</sup> As cited by PMW Bulletin, op. cit. The image was taken from the Jordan paper *Al-Dustur*.

<sup>20</sup> *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 4, 2010, PMW Bulletin, July 6, 2010.

<sup>21</sup> *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 4, 2010, as cited in PMW Bulletin, op. cit.

<sup>22</sup> PA-TV, July 4, 2010, as cited by PMW Bulletin, op. cit.

<sup>23</sup> MEMRI, July 14, 2010.

<sup>24</sup> Cited by PMW Bulletin, July 11, 2010.

---

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Cited by PMW Bulletin, July 29, 2010.

<sup>27</sup> *Al-Ayyam* (PA), July 19, 2010, cited by MEMRI.

<sup>28</sup> In a piece he ran on YNet on August 4, 2010.

<sup>29</sup> Days after its original citation of Abbas, Wafa changed what he said to read, "I will not agree that an Israeli, even if he is a Muslim, will be present on my land." This has the smell of a politically correct adjustment: The PA does not group "Arabs," even if Israeli citizens, with "Israelis."

<sup>30</sup> <http://streetroots.wordpress.com/2010/04/01/palestinian-people-held-captive/>

<sup>31</sup> Cited by <http://shiptogaza.se/en/news/un-chief-urges-world-send-relief-gaza>.

<sup>32</sup> *The Guardian*, June 16, 2010.

<sup>33</sup> Ma'an News (Palestinian news agency), June 18, 2010.

<sup>34</sup> Reuters, June 26, 2010. Made press in a number of venues, e.g., *Haaretz*, *The Jerusalem Post*.

<sup>35</sup> Ma'an News, June 27, 2010.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.