

4 September 1995

## Update: 11 Offices in Jerusalem Are Connected to PA

Figure Includes 3 Institutions That Have Agreed to Sever Ties With PA

In an update released today, Peace Watch reveals that eleven governmental institutions of the Palestinian Authority (PA) have been operating in Jerusalem in the most recent period. This figure represents an increase from the seven PA institutions noted in Peace Watch's comprehensive report on the subject six months ago. As has been reported widely in the press, three of the eleven institutions have pledged to sever their links with the PA.

According to Article 5 of Annex II to the Declaration of Principles, as well as Article III (6) of the Cairo Agreement, the offices of the PA must be located only in Gaza or Jericho, pending the inauguration of the elected Palestinian Council. Thus, the presence of PA institutions in Jerusalem constitutes a violation of the agreements. Peace Watch's criteria for determining which offices are connected to the PA appear at the end of this update. The following is a list of institutions in Jerusalem that are connected to the PA, the last three of which have agreed to sever their ties to the PA:

### Institutions Connected to the PA in Jerusalem:

- ✓ 1. The Palestinian Ministry of Religious Affairs
- Month ✓ 2. The Palestinian Energy Centre
- ✓ 3. The Office of the Mufti of Jerusalem
- = Month ✓ 4. The Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction
- ✓ 5. The Orient House
- Moved in ✓ 6. The Municipal Council of East Jerusalem No
- Closed - 7. ~~The Palestinian Institute for the Wounded~~
- Month 8. The Palestinian Housing Council
- Moved to Ranelah 9. The Palestinian Bureau of Statistics
- Moved to Ranelah 10. The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (private office of Abu Ajash 13/07/95)
- ✓ 11. The Palestinian Health Council

The links between the first eight institutions on the list and the PA are detailed on succeeding pages. The last three institutions on the list were previously examined by Peace Watch in a background paper that was issued on 28 August 1995.

12 Water

Month 13 Map for  
14 Palestinian Vocational Training Centre (Sharafet)

# Roman relic bulldozed in Bethlehem land row

A ROMAN aqueduct has become a victim of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The 2,000-year-old aqueduct, which passed close to Rachel's Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem, was regarded as unique by Israeli archaeologists.

But following a protracted dispute between the Israelis and Palestinian landowners, the site was mysteriously bulldozed and the aqueduct there destroyed, shortly after the Israeli government handed over control of Bethlehem to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority last Christmas.

The destruction of the aqueduct section, which the Israelis had spent years excavating, has caused outrage amongst archaeologists.

"It was part of the heyday of Jewish existence, the most important relic since the time of Jesus Christ," said Magen Broshi, curator at the Israel Museum.

The aqueduct, adorned with a Latin inscription, was a rarity as it was almost completely whole. "It was the only one of its kind, not just in the Middle East but throughout the world," said Peter Lerne, spokesman for the Israeli military government, which ran the Bethlehem area until last Decem-

by Jessica Berry  
in Bethlehem

ber's handover. Archaeologists are all the more furious because the small part that has been destroyed was the only section discovered to have Latin markings and therefore the only section experts could date.

The aqueduct, about 30cm in diameter and made of stone links, fed water from Hebron, in the south of the West Bank, to Jerusalem. Most of it is underground and has survived. Only the chunk near the tomb was preserved in visible form — until last month.

Rachel was one of the four matriarchs, ranked high in Jewish tradition, and for 2,000 years her tomb has, as Mr Broshi put it, "been irrigated with the tears of believers. It's very sentimental ground".

The aqueduct is on prime development land owned by wealthy Palestinians, and developers have been pressing to build shops there since the 1970s. They were denied permission until three years ago, when the Israelis acquiesced.

The Israelis stipulated, however, that the aqueduct should be preserved. It was

covered with a transparent protective plate to enable tourists to view it.

Work on the development was then halted by the Israelis after only a few days when one of the bulldozers managed to crush a large stone near Rachel's Tomb. The project stayed in abeyance.

Immediately the Israelis left, the bulldozers returned and within days the surviving remnant of the aqueduct had been obliterated.

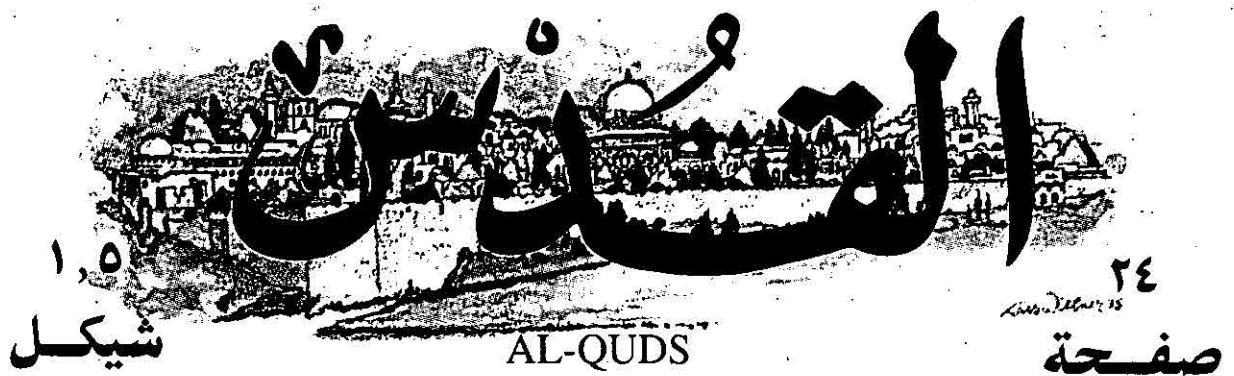
"They took the stone links in a truck and dispersed them in different heaps through Bethlehem over night," said Mr Lerne. When the Israelis learned what had happened, they spent the rest of the night driving through the town picking up the pieces.

"It was just plain greed on the part of the owners," said Mr Broshi, who is concerned that similar outrages can now be committed more easily in other parts of the West Bank, which have returned to Palestinian rule.

The relatively young and inexperienced Palestinian Department of Archaeology, for its part, roundly condemned the destruction, promising maximum punishment for all those who destroy archaeology. Its voice is unlikely to be heard.

מיניסטריון השלטון המקומי מספח כעשרים מכפרי ראמאללה למחלקה חדשה  
השייכת לירושלים, אשר תהיה שולח נמצא זמנית באבו דיס

ראמאללה / מאת מאג'ד אלעארורי / מנהל מחלקת השלטון המקומי בראמאללה, זהיר עבד  
אלהאדי, אמר כי הכפרים שבפרבר ירושלים, כעשרים במספר, עומדים להתנתק ממחלקת  
השלטון המקומי בראמאללה ולהצטרף למחלקה חדשה השייכת לעיר ירושלים, אשר מרכזת  
נמצא באופן זמני בכפר אבו דיס. מיניסטריון השלטון המקומי פירסם את הודעת הניתוק  
מראמאללה והדבר נמצא בביצוע.



جريدة يومية سياسية تأسست سنة 1961

## وزارة الحكم المحلي تلحق نحو ٢٠ من قرى رام الله بدائرة جديدة تابعة للقدس مقرها في ابوديس مؤقــتاً

نظام جديد سيطبق بهدف الارتقاء  
بالمدن والقرى الفلسطينية يتم من  
خلاله خلق هيكلية متقدمة للعمل  
ومن اهم عناصره الاهتمام بالقطاع  
الريفي لان المدن قطعت شوطا كبيرا  
مقارنة مع القرى التي لا يزال بعضها  
محروما حتى من خدمات الماء  
والكهرباء حيث من المؤمل وبالتعاون  
مع مؤسسة بكدار المصادقة على  
مجموعة من المشاريع الخاصة  
بالريف.

البقية ص ٢٢

رام الله / من ماجد العاروري / قال  
مدير دائرة الحكم المحلي في رام الله  
زهير عبد الهادي ان القرى المحيطة  
بالقدس وعددها نحو ٢٠ هي على  
وشك الانفصال عن دائرة الحكم  
المحلي في رام الله ، واتباع دائرة  
جديدة تابعة لمدينة القدس ومقرها  
مؤقتا في قرية ابو ديس . وقد صدر  
عن وزارة الحكم المحلي قرار الفصل  
عن رام الله وهو قيد التنفيذ.  
وقد جاءت اقوال عبد الهادي خلال  
مقابلة مع القدس. حيث اكد وجود



# NEWS RELEASE

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

Jacob & Libby Goodman ZOA House  
4 East 34th St. • New York, NY 10016  
E-mail address - email@zoa.org

Phone - 212-481-1500  
Fax - 212-481-1515  
Web Site - <http://www.zoa.org>

June 7, 1996

Contact: Morton Klein, (212) 481-1500

**Attn: NEWS EDITOR**

## **U.S. LAW REQUIRES CUT-OFF OF AID TO PLO IF PLO UNILATERALLY DECLARES A STATE**

**NEW YORK-** If PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat makes good on his latest threat to unilaterally declare a state in the territories he controls, it would violate the Oslo accords and trigger an automatic cut-off of U.S. aid to the PLO, said Morton A. Klein, National President of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA).

Arafat made the threat at a news conference, with Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan, on June 5, 1996.

"The Oslo accords prohibit the PLO from taking any actions that would affect the sovereignty of the administered territories," the ZOA president said. "Indeed, Yoel Singer, one of the architects of the Oslo accords and legal advisor to the Israeli Foreign Ministry, told the Knesset Law Committee on December 14, 1993 that if the PLO declared a state, the accords would be nullified." (*Jerusalem Post*, Dec. 15, 1993)

Klein pointed out that according to U.S. law [Sec. 604 (c)(9) of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act], U.S. aid to the PLO is automatically cut off if the PLO or its Palestinian Authority "take any steps that will change the status of Jerusalem or the West Bank and Gaza Strip, pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations." (*Congressional Record - House*, Oct., 26, 1995, H10982)

Peace Watch, the non-partisan organization that monitors violations of the Oslo accords, has stated that "any act designed to create a Palestinian State is a violation" of the accords, and "attempts by the PLO to create a fait accompli through the adoption of symbols of sovereignty not agreed upon by the two parties in the Oslo accords or in subsequent negotiations" are also violations.

The PLO's record of sovereignty-related violations so far includes: the PLO announcing that it has renamed the areas under its control "the Northern District of Palestine" and the "Gaza District of Palestine"; Yasir Arafat using the title "President of Palestine"; the PLO using letterhead that features a map of all of Israel labeled "Palestine"; the PLO using the term "State of Palestine" on its maps, letterhead, postage stamps, and other documents, and in connection with the team it is sending to the Olympics in Atlanta; the PLO operating government-level offices and ministries in Jerusalem; the PLO police carrying out operations in Jerusalem.



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Jacob & Libby Goodman ZOA House  
4 East 34th St. • New York, NY 10016  
E-mail address - email@zoa.org

Phone - 212-481-1500  
Fax - 212-481-1515  
Web Site - <http://www.zoa.org>

June 5, 1996

Contact: Morton Klein, (212) 481-1500

Attn: NEWS EDITOR

### STATE DEPARTMENT'S LATEST REPORT IGNORES OR MINIMIZES PLO VIOLATIONS

NEW YORK- The State Department's latest report on PLO compliance with the Oslo accords "ignores, minimizes or distorts the PLO's numerous serious violations of the accords," says Morton A. Klein, National President of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA). Klein said it was "surprising and disappointing" that the State Department would provide only a meager 3-page report on PLO behavior, especially when the report covers one of the most crucial periods in Israel-PLO relations — the weeks following the wave of Hamas suicide bus-bombings.

The ZOA today released its detailed analysis of the State Department's latest report, which covers the period of March 1, 1996 through May 15, 1996.

*Highlights of the ZOA critique of the State Department report:*

#### **I. STATE DEPARTMENT FALSELY CLAIMS THAT THE PLO IS SERIOUSLY CRACKING DOWN ON TERROR**

##### **(A) Preventing Terrorism.**

The Oslo accords require the PLO to "take all measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism."

The State Department report claims, erroneously, that following the Jerusalem bus bombings of February 25 and March 3, and the Tel Aviv mall bombing on March 4, the PLO undertook "an intensified, comprehensive and sustained campaign against the perpetrators of violence and terrorism."

Yet between March 5 and May 15, there were another 36 Arab terrorist attacks, in which 1 Israeli was killed and 26 wounded.

(For a detailed list of the attacks, call 212-481-1500)

##### **(B) Disarming Terrorists.**

The State Department report claims that as part of the PLO's alleged crackdown on terrorists, the PLO police "seized weapons and explosives." The report did not mention that after the PLO police displayed 45 pistols and 53 rifles that they claimed to have seized from Hamas.

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Amira Hess, the Gaza correspondent for *Ha'aretz*, said (on March 11, 1996), "All of this action is for the television cameras. It is a fantasy like the 'Tales of the Arabian Nights.' No serious quantity of seized guns has been shown and if they did show some I would not be surprised if they took them from the police armory."

Furthermore, the State Department does not mention reports that there are more than 26,000 illegal weapons in private hands in Gaza alone (Arafat himself has cited a figure of 16,000 [*Jerusalem Post*, May 12, 1995]).

**(C) Outlawing Terrorist Groups.**

The State Department report claims that as part of the PLO's alleged crackdown on terrorists, the PLO "outlawed the militant wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad." The State Department did not mention that according to the *Jerusalem Report* (April 4, 1996), the PLO, in fact, did not outlaw the terror groups.

**(D) Arresting Terrorists.**

The State Department report claims that as part of the PLO's alleged crackdown on terrorists, the PLO police "detained hundreds of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists." The State Department did not mention that *Ha'aretz* reported on April 3, 1996, that "the Palestinian Authority has released most of the Hamas activists that they arrested after the Tel Aviv bombing."

**(E) Prosecuting Terrorists.**

The State Department report claims that as part of the PLO's alleged crackdown on terrorists, the PLO sentenced terrorist Mohammed Abu Wardeh to a long prison term. The State Department did not mention that, according to the *Jerusalem Post* (March 7, 1996), the trial "was held so quickly that it appeared designed to head off an inevitable Israeli request for his extradition." Nor does the State Department mention the May 1996 study by Peace Watch, the non-partisan Israeli group that monitors violations of the Oslo accords, which found that nearly half of the only 37 terrorists previously sentenced to jail terms by the PLO were released after a few months, and some are currently serving in the PLO police force.

**(F) Closing Down Terror Camps.**

The State Department report ignores the fact that the PLO has not yet closed down any of the terrorist training camps operating in its jurisdiction; the PLO permits terrorist cells to form and thrive; and the PLO allows large numbers of weapons and explosives to flow into the territories under its control.

**(G) Praising Terrorists.**

The State Department report fails to mention public statements by senior PLO officials praising Hamas, such as the statement by PLO "Foreign Minister" Farouk Kaddoumi, in the Beirut newspaper *Al Nahar* on March 9, 1996 --just days after the wave of Hamas suicide-bombings in Israel-- that "Hamas is part of the national movement and it has its own style and approach to action. It is resisting the Israeli enemy"; and the statement by PLO cabinet minister Nabil Sha'ath, who threatened (*Jerusalem Post*, March 15, 1996) that if Israel does not make concessions on Jerusalem, refugees, settlements and borders, "we shall go back to the struggle and strife, as we

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did for 40 years. It is not beyond our capabilities...all the acts of violence will return. Except that this time we'll have 30,000 armed Palestinian soldiers who will operate in areas in which we have unprecedented elements of freedom."

The State Department report also ignored Yasir Arafat's repeated attempts to minimize Hamas's guilt by making the false and outrageous accusation that Israelis were the ones who supplied Hamas with the bombs for the suicide-bombings. (*Associated Press*, May 1, 1996)

**II. STATE DEPARTMENT IGNORES  
PLO'S FAILURE TO EXTRADITE TERRORISTS**

The Oslo accords require the PLO to extradite terrorists to Israel. Israel has so far requested the extradition of 21 terrorists from PLO-controlled territory. The PLO has ignored all of Israel's requests.

The State Department report makes no mention of this PLO violation.

**III. STATE DEPARTMENT IGNORES PLO'S FAILURE TO  
"DISCIPLINE" PLO FACTIONS THAT COMMIT TERROR**

The Oslo accords require the PLO to "discipline" those "PLO elements" that engage in terrorism. Since the signing of the accords in September 1993, Arafat has failed to take any "disciplinary" steps against Fatah, his own faction of the PLO, which has carried out 60 attacks (some by its "Hawks" unit or its "Abu Rish Brigades"), in which 6 Israelis were killed and 20 wounded, and 5 Arabs were killed and 21 wounded. Nor has Arafat taken action against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a PLO faction, which has carried out 17 terrorist attacks (in which 9 Israelis were killed and 13 wounded). Nor has Arafat taken action against the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a PLO faction, which has carried out 14 terrorist attacks in which 9 Israelis were killed and 10 wounded, and 1 Arab was killed.

**IV. STATE DEPARTMENT IGNORES PLO'S  
FAILURE TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS**

The Oslo accords require the PLO to "adhere to internationally-accepted norms and principles of human rights and the rule of law."

The State Department report did not mention this PLO obligation, nor did it mention that PLO policemen arrested and beat a photographer for *Agence France Press* for "distributing a photograph which hurt the image of Gaza" (*Ha'aretz*, May 15, 1996).

**V. STATE DEPARTMENT IGNORES PLO'S FAILURE TO  
RESPECT STATUS QUO ON JERUSALEM AND SOVEREIGNTY**

The Oslo accords require the PLO to refrain from taking steps affecting sovereignty in the territories or maintaining any offices in Jerusalem. The State Department report fails to acknowledge

that during the period under review, the PLO continued to illegally maintain 9 offices and ministries in Jerusalem; the PLO continued holding meetings with foreign diplomats at its Orient House building in Jerusalem; and PLO policemen were repeatedly caught illegally arresting and interrogating Arabs in Jerusalem (*Israel Radio*, April 7, 1996; *Ha'aretz*, April 12, 1996; *Israel Radio*, May 8, 1996).

The State Department also ignores other, continuing sovereignty-related violations, including the PLO announcing that it has renamed the areas under its control "the Northern District of Palestine" and the "Gaza District of Palestine"; Yasir Arafat using the title "President of Palestine"; and the PLO using letterhead that features a map of all of Israel labeled "Palestine." (For example, the testimony submitted by the PLO's Hassan abd al-Rahman to a Congressional hearing on March 12, 1996, appeared on such letterhead.)

## **VI. STATE DEPARTMENT FAILS TO ACKNOWLEDGE EVIDENCE THAT PLO COVENANT WAS NOT CHANGED**

The State Department report claims that "Arafat has fulfilled his commitment to amend the Palestinian Covenant."

The State Department report fails to acknowledge the mounting evidence that the Covenant has not been changed, such as the fact that an official internal document circulated by Fatah, Arafat's faction of the PLO (released by the non-partisan Oslo monitoring group Peace Watch), reported that "The text of the Palestinian National Covenant remains as it was and no changes whatsoever were made to it...it is frozen, not annulled"; or the fact that the PNC's own official communique listing resolutions that it passed, broadcast on PLO Radio on April 26 (*FBIS*, April 29, 1996) made no mention of changing the Covenant.

Nor does the State Department mention the many Americans, Arabs and Israelis who have said that it has not been changed, including:

U.S. Congressman Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), chair of the House International Relations Committee, and 16 other U.S. Senators and Representatives; Barton Gellman, the Jerusalem correspondent of the *Washington Post* (April 25, 1996); *Cable News Network (CNN) World News* (April 25, 1996); Al Pessin, the Jerusalem correspondent of *Voice of America Radio* (April 24, 1996); *New York Times* columnist A.M. Rosenthal (May 23, 1996); *Ha'aretz*; Israel's most prominent liberal daily newspaper (lead editorial, April 26, 1996); the non-partisan Israeli group Peace Watch, which monitors violations of the Oslo accords (legal opinion, April 25, 1996); the *Jerusalem Post* (April 26, 1996; April 30, 1996); Yigal Carmon, former Adviser on Counterterrorism to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (*Jerusalem Post*, April 26, 1996); Prof. Yehoshua Porat of Hebrew University, of the leftwing Meretz Party and one of Israel's leading experts on Palestinian Arab nationalism (*Ha'aretz*, May 1, 1996); Prof. Haim Shaked of Tel Aviv University and former head of its Dayan Center for Middle East Studies (*Jerusalem Post*, May 1, 1996); the national Jewish weekly *Forward* (editorial, May 10, 1996); the *Metro West Jewish News*, the largest Federation newspaper in New Jersey (editorial, May 2, 1996); Dr. Haidar Abdel Shafi, the head of the PLO's delegation to the 1991 Madrid Conference (April 25, 1996); and PLO Executive Committee member Saher Habash (*Israel Radio*, May 6, 1996).