

PMW Special Report

The Jibril Rajoub File

Jibril Rajoub, Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee

- **Promotes and glorifies Palestinian terror and incites murder of Israelis**
- **Uses his title as Olympic committee chairman while glorifying terror**
- **Prohibits using sports for peacebuilding**
- **Violates the fundamental Olympic principles**

PMW is calling on the International Olympic Committee to:

- ***Demand Mr. Rajoub's removal from the position of Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee***
- ***Ban Mr. Rajoub from participating in any activities related to the International Olympic Committee, as well as meetings and events of the national Olympic Committees***
- ***Prohibit Mr. Rajoub from using the title "Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee"***
- ***Demand the appointment of a new Palestinian chairman who rejects terror, upholds Olympic values, and facilitates peacebuilding through sports***

[Video overview of Rajoub's statements](#)

by Itamar Marcus and PMW staff

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Introduction

On October 3, 2015, Palestinian terrorist Muhannad Halabi attacked an Israeli family on their way to the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Halabi first stabbed the father to death and then stabbed and killed another Israeli man who tried to help the family. Halabi then stabbed and injured the mother and the two-year-old baby before he was shot and killed by police.

Just a month later, Jibril Rajoub, in his capacity of Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee, decided to honor Halabi's act of murder by naming a sporting event after him. The text on the banner of the event, which also showed two pictures of the murderer Halabi, displayed Rajoub's decision to endorse the brutal killing:

**“Under patronage of the leader Jibril Rajoub,
head of the Palestine Olympic Committee.
Palestine Cup – Martyr Muhannad Halabi Table Tennis Tournament 2015”**



Rajoub's decision to honor this terrorist murderer was not an exception but is typical of Rajoub, who is an outspoken terror supporter, even while using his title as Palestine Olympic Committee Chairman. During the wave of Palestinian terror attacks in 2015-2016, which was characterized by hundreds of terrorist stabbings, shootings and car rammings, Rajoub was a leading supporter of the terror, publicly "blessing" terrorist murderers on TV and "encouraging" them to kill more Israelis.

Rajoub's incitement to murder was calculated and precise, defining some targets while rejecting others, leaving Palestinians no room to question the sincerity of his call to murder Israelis. For example, he rejected suicide bombings on busses in Tel Aviv because: "The international community does not agree to a bus exploding in Tel Aviv," and stated that "we want to fight in a way that the world and the international community will remain by our side." [Official PA TV, Oct. 17, 2015] Kill Israelis in a politically acceptable fashion, so the "international community will remain by our side," was Rajoub's explicit call to murder.

In addition to his role as chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee, Rajoub holds the titles of Deputy Secretary of the Fatah Central Committee (headed by PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas), Chairman of the Palestinian Football Association, and Head of the Supreme Council for Sport and Youth. In these roles, Rajoub not only supports terror and murder of civilians, he actively counters the spirit of Olympic sports by prohibiting peacebuilding sports activities between Palestinians and Israelis. Following the 2014 Gaza War, Rajoub condemned a successful peacebuilding event between Israeli and Palestinian youth sponsored by the Peres Center for Peace as a “crime against humanity.”

This report documents Rajoub’s support for and glorification of terror with examples over a period of several years. It exemplifies that his terror promotion and incitement to murder during the 2015-2016 Palestinian terror wave was not an exception, but reflects his fundamental ideology as a terror supporter and opponent of peace between Palestinians and Israelis.

Rajoub’s statements and activities are diametrically opposed to the positive values that the Olympic Games stand for, among them “to place sport at the service of humanity and thereby to promote peace.”

As the 2016 Olympic Games approach, it is unthinkable that a person who glorifies and encourages murder of civilians should disgrace the Olympics by serving as a recognized Olympic official.

Palestinian Media Watch calls on the International Olympic Committee to

- ***Demand Mr. Rajoub’s removal from the position of Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee***
- ***Ban Mr. Rajoub from participating in any activities related to the International Olympic Committee, as well as meetings and events of the national Olympic Committees***
- ***Prohibit Mr. Rajoub from using the title “Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee”***
- ***Demand the appointment of a new Palestinian chairman who rejects terror, upholds Olympic values, and facilitates peacebuilding through sports***

Taking these steps would show that the International Olympic Committee rejects Rajoub’s glorification of Palestinian terror, and reaffirm its commitment to the fundamental Olympic goal to use sports as a bridge to peace. Permitting Rajoub to participate in activities related to the Olympic Committee, when he cheers Palestinian terrorists for murdering innocent Israeli civilians, brings disgrace on the International Olympic Committee, its members, and the 2016 Olympic Games.

Part 1: Rajoub promoted Palestinian terror and incited to murder during the 2015-2016 terror wave

Jibril Rajoub, Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee, has actively promoted Palestinian killing of Israelis during the wave of terror that started in September 2015. Since then, there have been hundreds of Palestinian terror attacks against Israelis, including stabbings, shootings, throwing of Molotov cocktails, and car rammings, which have killed 40 people (July 2016) and injured hundreds. Jibril Rajoub has been one of the most outspoken Palestinian leaders honoring, encouraging the terrorists, and inciting to murder.

In December 2015, Rajoub sponsored a sporting event named after terrorist Muhannad Halabi, a 19-year-old Palestinian who murdered 2 Israelis, Rabbi Nehemiah Lavi and Aharon Bennett, while they were walking to the Western Wall in Jerusalem on Oct. 3, 2015. Halabi also stabbed Bennett's wife, Adele, and their 2-year-old son, before he was shot and killed by Israeli police.

The picture below shows Palestinian athletes standing next to the banner of the tournament, which has the picture of the murderer Halabi on the left and right. The words on the banner of the event displayed Rajoub's decision to endorse the brutal killing as the Olympics Committee Chairman:

“Under patronage of the leader Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestine Olympic Committee Palestine Cup – Martyr Muhannad Halabi Table Tennis Tournament 2015”



Both the banner and the accompanying article identified Rajoub - the “**head of the Palestine Olympic Committee**” - as the sponsor of the event:

“Vice President of the Palestine Table Tennis Association, Radwan Al-Sharif, crowned the Hebron Al-Ahli Club team as the Palestine Cup Champion for 2015 – the Martyr (*Shahid*) Muhannad Halabi Tournament... **The championship was held on Friday under the patronage of Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestine Olympic Committee... in Bethlehem.**”

[Ma'an (independent Palestinian news agency), Dec. 19, 2015]

Twice in one week, Rajoub referred to the terrorist attackers, among them murderers, as "crowns" and "heroes." He also "encouraged" them to continue killing:



Rajoub: "Yesterday in Hebron, they escorted 17 Martyrs, (among them murderers of civilians –Ed.) to burial. **This is of course a source of pride for all of us. I say that whoever carried out individual acts of heroism, we in the Fatah movement bless and encourage them. We consider them heroes and a crown on the head of every Palestinian.** At this point, when there is weakening and frustration, there is a group of people, beginning with our brother **Muhannad Halabi (who murdered 2 – Ed.)** and ending with the last Martyr... There is a competition between individuals. This is one of the issues we need to address - are we for or against it? **I say that we in the [Fatah] Central Committee have discussed this matter, and we are in favor.**"

[Official PA TV, Jan. 2, 2016]

The 17 "Martyrs" brought to burial, who Rajoub said were a "source of pride," and performed "individual acts of heroism," included terrorist murderers.

Just four days after this statement on official PA TV, Rajoub again glorified murderers and said the "basis" of the relationship with Israelis should be violence:



“And from here we say to the 145 Martyrs (Palestinians killed from Oct. 2015 – Jan. 2016, most during their terror attacks –Ed.) – you are heroes and we bless you and strengthen your families, and say to you: You are a crown on our heads, until the Hour [of Resurrection] comes. And Allah will lengthen the lives of your family members, on the principle that Allah will honor them through you.”

[Official PA TV, Jan. 6, 2016]

In another speech at the outset of the terror wave, Rajoub also glorified terror attacks as "acts of bravery":

Jibril Rajoub: "These are individual acts of bravery, and I am proud of them. I congratulate everyone who carried them out. I say to you, we are proud of you... Whoever confronts, fights, dies as a Martyr, is arrested or injured – his identity is known. What I mean is that the fighter, the prisoner, or the Martyr, they are assets to the entire Palestinian people."

[Official PA TV, Oct. 17, 2015]



Significantly, Rajoub was very calculating in the terror he supported, calling on Palestinians to murder only individuals and not to commit suicide bombings on busses in Tel Aviv. His argument was explicit. The international community, Rajoub explained to Palestinian TV viewers, would accept Palestinian murder of individual Israelis “in the occupied territories” – a term which the

Palestinians use to refer at times to all of Israel and at times to the West Bank and Jerusalem. Terror attacks during the Palestinian terror wave have taken place all across Israel in areas that are recognized by the international community as undisputed land belonging to Israel, such as Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, Afula, and West Jerusalem, and Rajoub never criticized or condemned even one. However, Rajoub warned Palestinians that the international community would reject “exploding” buses in Tel Aviv, and therefore he opposed that kind of killing:

Rajoub: “The international community does not agree to a bus exploding in Tel Aviv. But the international community does not ask what happens to a settler or soldier in the occupied territories at the wrong time and in the wrong place. No one asks about him! Therefore, we want to fight in a way that the world and the international community will remain by our side.” [Official PA TV, Oct. 17, 2015]

Rajoub called on Palestinians to continue murdering Israelis in a way that he believed would not be condemned internationally. Rajoub’s calculated murder tactics cannot be dismissed as irrelevant chatter. Rajoub's statement was an explicit call for murder.

Part 2: Rajoub uses his title as “Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee” when promoting terror

Rajoub’s support for terror started long before the 2015-2016 terror wave. Rajoub has consistently used sports and his title as Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee to glorify and encourage Palestinian terror against Israelis, completely contradicting the Olympic Committee’s Charter calling “to place sport at the service of humanity and thereby to promote peace.”

The picture below shows 12 children who were murdered in 1978 along with 25 adults in the most lethal terror attack in Israel’s history, led by terrorist Dalal Mughrabi.



[Galit Ankwa \(2\)](#) [Yoav Meshkel \(6\)](#) [Yitzhak Ankwa \(10\)](#) [Liat Gal-On \(6\)](#) [Tali Aharonovitch \(14\)](#) [Naomi Elichai \(18\)](#)



[Ilan Hohman \(3\)](#) [Roi Hohman \(6\)](#) [Erez Alfred \(5\)](#) [Mordechai Zit \(9\)](#) [Naama Hadani \(5\)](#) [Omry Tel-Oren \(14\)](#)

The PA has named three schools, a city square and much more after terrorist Mughrabi. Rajoub, following the PA policy, sponsored a sporting event named after terrorist Mughrabi, using his title as Chairman of the Olympic Committee:

"The Beit Iba Youth Sports Club finished its preparations for hosting **The Martyr Dalal Mughrabi Women's Table Tennis Tournament...** The tournament that will be **sponsored by Chairman of the Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub** and by the Palestinian Table Tennis Association... The tournament is intended for three groups: Women, young women and girls."

[Ma'an, independent Palestinian news agency, Sept. 26, 2013]



Text on photo: "The Palestinian Table Tennis Association"
"The Martyr (*Shahida*) Dalal Mughrabi Tournament"
"The Beit Iba Sports Club"

An article about the tournament in the official PA daily stressed the connection to the Olympic Committee as well. During the tournament, Vice President of the Palestinian Table Tennis Association Radwan Al-Sharif **“conveyed the greetings of Chairman of the Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub... and noted that the Table Tennis Association acts in accordance with the Olympic Committee's agenda”**:

"The Martyr (*Shahida*) Dalal Mughrabi Table Tennis Tournament comes to a close... organized by the Table Tennis Association... Vice President of the Association, Radwan Al-Sharif, spoke at the closing ceremony. **He conveyed the greetings of Chairman of the Olympic committee Jibril Rajoub... Al-Sharif stated that the tournament achieved many national, regional and athletic goals. He mentioned the glorious deeds of hero Martyr Dalal Mughrabi (i.e., murder of 37)** and noted that the Table Tennis Association acts in accordance with the Olympic Committee's agenda."

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Oct. 1, 2013]

The following are additional examples illustrating Rajoub's policy of sponsoring sporting events named after terrorists while using his title as Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee. They also show that Rajoub is often present at these events or sends representatives to attend such events in his name:

Fencing tournament “under the auspices of Head of the Palestine Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub” named after terrorist Abu Jihad, who has been credited by the Palestinian Authority itself with killing 125 Israelis

Khalil Al-Wazir “Abu Jihad” headed the PLO terror organization's military wing and planned many deadly Fatah terror attacks in the 1960's - 1980's. The PA has credited him with responsibility for killing a total of 125 Israelis.

“The [Palestinian] Fencing Association has confirmed that a Martyr Abu Jihad Fencing Championship will take place ... on Friday [April 24, 2015] under the auspices of Head of the Palestine Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub.”

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 20, 2015]

Racing tournament named after terror leader Abu Ali Mustafa, who ordered numerous terror attacks against Israeli civilians during the first year of the Palestinian terror campaign 2000-2005 (the Intifada) “under the patronage of Chairman of the Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub”

“The fifth round of the 2014 Palestine racing tournament, the Abu Ali Mustafa Tournament, has ended. It was organized by the Jericho Race Car and Bicycle Union, with the participation of 24 competitors under the patronage of Chairman of the Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub, and with the support of the leadership of the National Security Forces.”

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 16, 2014]

Car race named after arch-terrorist Abu Jihad “under the auspices of Jibril Rajoub, Chairman of the Olympic Committee”

Headline: “**Car race - The Martyr Khalil Al-Wazir [Abu Jihad] Race - opens on Friday**”

“The [racing] tournament, which is being organized by the Palestinian Auto, Motor, and Bicycle Racing Association **under the auspices of Jibril Rajoub, Chairman of the Olympic Committee... will be named the Martyr Khalil Al-Wazir [Abu Jihad] Race.**”

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 17, 2014]

Sports club held chess tournament in honor of numerous terrorist prisoners, awarded plaques to released murderers, “with Bashir Mahamid of the Olympic Committee, representing Jibril Rajoub”

“The Deir Ghazaleh [sports] club held the Prisoners' Chess Tournament under the supervision of the Palestinian [Chess] Federation and with the participation of 56 players from various districts. **The tournament was attended by politicians and sportsmen, along with Bashir Mahamid of the Olympic Committee, representing [Chairman of the Olympic Committee] Jibril Rajoub...** At the concluding ceremony... [released] veteran prisoner Othman Bani Hassan gave a speech, [in which] he thanked those present for having honored the tournament with their presence, and also thanked the union, the club and the village council...

Later on, plaques of honor were awarded to the union, Jibril Rajoub, the Deir Ghazaleh village council, the Deir Ghazaleh sports club and the event's moderator, the respected teacher Sanaa Zakarneh. In addition, the Deir Ghazaleh sports club awarded plaques to the released prisoners, who included Othman Bani Hassan (serving 2 life sentences when released), Ahmad Kmeil (serving 16 life sentences when released), Faisal Abu Al-Rub (serving 2 life sentences when released), Nu'man Al-Shalabi (serving 3 life

sentences when released) and Muhammad Al-Sabbagh (serving 1 life sentence when released), after which medals and prizes were distributed to the winning players.”

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Feb. 23, 2014]

Sports tournament named after terrorist Abu Jihad attended by representative of “Chairman of the Olympic Committee, Jibril Rajoub”

“With huge success and excellent organization, the events of the third classification tournament for youth and men, the ‘Martyr Abu Jihad Tournament,’ organized by the Palestinian Boxing Association... **The championship was attended by [Member of Fatah Central Committee] and Chairman of the Al-Istiqlal University board, Tawfiq Tirawi... and Yusuf Lafi, representing [Deputy-Secretary of the Fatah Central Committee] and Chairman of the Olympic Committee, Jibril Rajoub.**”

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 22, 2012]

Paradoxically, Rajoub, the Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee, attended a sporting event that honored a terrorist who planned an attack against the Olympics itself - the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972. Rajoub attended a boxing tournament named after Ali Hassan Salameh, who was a commander of operations for the Black September terror group, which planned and carried out the murders at the Olympics.

Headline: **“In the presence of [Jibril] Rajoub - successful conclusion to the Second Palestine Boxing Tournament for youth and men in Hebron”**

“The tournament [was] held at the Shari’ah School for Boys in Hebron, and **was named** by the Palestinian Boxing Association **after Martyr (Shahid) Ali Hassan Salameh**, the ‘Red Prince.’”

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Aug. 9, 2010]

Finally, as cited in part 1, even during the recent terror wave, Rajoub honored **Muhannad Halabi** the murderer of two civilians who sparked a long and horrific wave of Palestinian terror attacks, citing his Olympic position. As the banner of the games announced last December:

“Under patronage of the leader Jibril Rajoub, head of the Palestine Olympic Committee. Palestine Cup – Martyr Muhannad Halabi Table Tennis Tournament 2015”

For years, Jibril Rajoub has been announcing publically that he, as Olympic Committee Chairman, is sponsoring events in the names of murderers. Every time he has done so, he has brought dishonor to the Olympics.

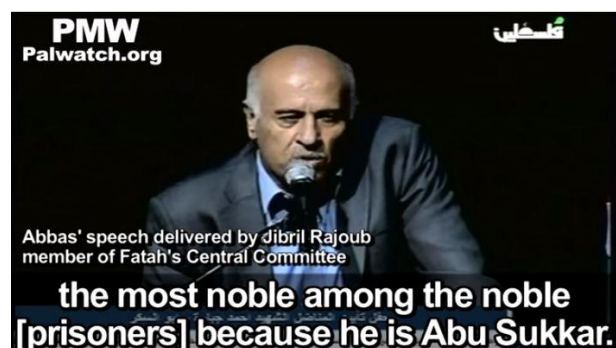
Part 3: Rajoub has consistently promoted terror

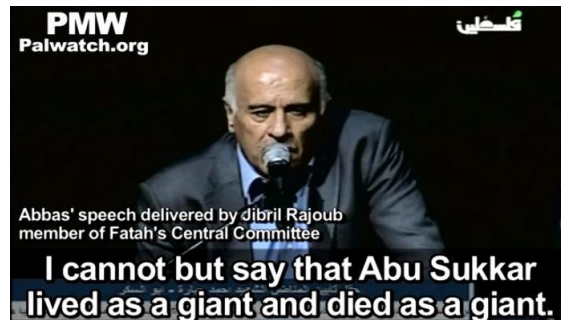
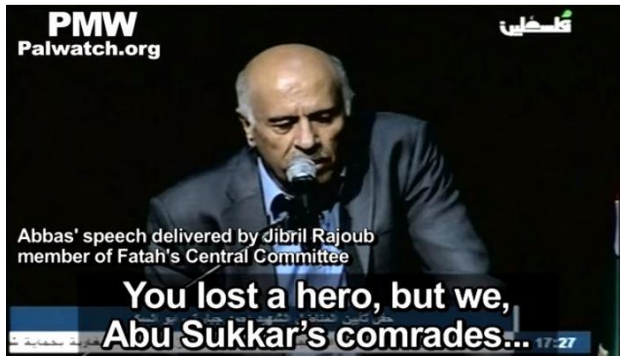
In addition to promoting terror during the terror wave of 2015-2016, as documented in part 1, Rajoub has consistently promoted violence in the past, even during periods when Palestinian terror was in a lull. Significantly, Rajoub has insisted that the Palestinian terror organization Hamas save "their weapons" for joining forces with the Fatah Movement in future "battle" against Israel. Rajoub has regularly promoted violence and terror as an integral component of the Palestinian strategy against Israel. Himself a convicted prisoner who was sentenced to life in prison for throwing a grenade at an Israeli army truck in 1970, Rajoub served 15 years of his sentence before he was released in a prisoner exchange. Rajoub's behavior since his release from prison shows him to be unrepentant. His terror ideology and promotion of killing is completely inconsistent with the Olympic goal "to place sport at the service of humanity and thereby to promote peace."

Palestinian terrorist Ahmad Jabarah Abu Sukkar planned a bombing attack in 1975 in which a refrigerator filled with explosives was detonated in the market area of Jerusalem. 15 people were killed and over 60 people were wounded. Rajoub eulogized the terrorist after his death in 2013, promising "to continue his way of struggle":

"Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, Chairman of the Palestinian Olympic Committee and Chairman of the Palestinian Football Association, Jibril Rajoub, eulogized veteran released prisoner, fighter Ahmad Jabarah Abu Sukkar: "Ahmad Jabarah Abu Sukkar... Before his pure soul, we emphasize our adherence to the principles and goals that he dedicated his long life to protect. Before Allah and our magnificent nation, we commit to continue his way of struggle, the way of the esteemed Martyrs (*Shahids*)."
[Ma'an, independent Palestinian news agency, July 17, 2013]

Rajoub also represented Mahmoud Abbas in a speech in which he glorified this same murderer of 15 as a "hero," a "beacon," and a "giant":





Moderator: “The speech of President Mahmoud Abbas will be delivered by Jibril Rajoub, member of Fatah’s Central Committee.”

Rajoub: “**Abu Sukkar, the legend who walked on earth, Abu Sukkar, who with the sweat of his brow, with his faith, with his sincere belonging outlined a path for us and wrote a page [of history] that is unforgettable and indescribable...** Believe me that **Abu Sukkar is worthy of being named the most noble among the noble [prisoners] because he is Abu Sukkar.**

To the people of [village] Turmus Ayya and to Abu Sukkar’s family, I say: ‘You lost a hero, but we, Abu Sukkar’s comrades... in Fatah and in the Palestinian National Movement, lost a beacon...’ Abu Sukkar lived as a giant and died as a giant. He should remain in our hearts with this glory, this greatness...”

[Official PA TV, Sept. 26, 2013]

The following are additional examples of Rajoub’s violence and terror glorification and promotion prior to the 2015-2016 terror wave, demonstrating how fundamental violence promotion is to Jibril Rajoub’s ideology.

Rajoub told Lebanese TV: “**I swear that if we had a nuke, we’d have used it this very morning”**

Rajoub: "There is no going back to negotiations unless the source of authority is the international resolutions, with a time frame and



with the freezing of all unilateral Israeli steps: Jerusalem, the fence, settlements and prisoners."

TV Host: "You've heard Israel's refusal."

Rajoub: "That doesn't matter. **Listen. We as yet don't have a nuke, but I swear that if we had a nuke, we'd have used it this very morning.**"

[Al-Mayadeen TV (Lebanon), April 30, 2013]

Even after Palestinian Media Watch exposed Rajoub's call to "nuke" Israel, he refused to retract his statement calling for mass murder of Israelis. When questioned about this on official PA TV, he responded that Hitler could learn from Israelis:

PA TV interviewer: "The statements you made in Beirut on the Al-Mayadeen TV station had a lot of impact, according to them 'We are Israel's enemies and if we had a nuke we'd have used it...'"

Rajoub: "True, the interviewer asked me and I answered in the same manner and with those words and even now I say to the Israelis: If there won't be a reexamination of your conduct on your part, a saying in Hebrew states: 'kill or be killed.' We won't be killed... **I'm certain that if Hitler would come again he would learn from them...**"

[Official PA TV, *Circle of Events*, May 23, 2013]

Rajoub has said that killing Israelis is legitimate:



"Whoever invades our territory, will leave in a wooden plank (i.e., in a coffin). **This land is our land...** Out of loyalty to your blood, Yasser Arafat, you who died during this month, **we will not return the sword to its sheath until there is a state... Resistance is Fatah's strategic right - in all its forms... We are ready - if there's shooting, we'll shoot.** If there are demonstrations, we'll demonstrate."

[Official PA TV, Nov. 29, 2012]

Two years ago, Rajoub called on the Palestinian terror organization Hamas to store their weapons until the proper time to use them to attack Israelis: **"The weapon of the resistance is sacred... we will all fight together"**



"They [Hamas] tell you: 'The weapon of the resistance'. Brother [Hamas], your weapon, the weapon of the resistance, is sacred to us. We will not harm it, go after it, or keep track of it. But could you store it away? **At the moment of truth, we will all enlist together, we will all fight together.**"

[Official PA TV, Sept. 30, 2014]

"Jibril Rajoub stressed that the Palestinian leadership had decided to close the subject of bilateral relations with the occupation (i.e., Israel)... **Rajoub stressed that [although] the Palestinian leadership would not oppose the weapons of the resistance, 'they must remain in storage, without military demonstrations in the streets, and when there is an attack, the battle will be one in all the Palestinian territories, in which all members of the Palestinian people will participate.'**" [Al-Quds, Oct. 3, 2014]

These statements are consistent with Rajoub's statements cited above calling for attacks on Israelis now. The following are more examples of such statements by Rajoub in support of violence:

Rajoub: "No one has removed the rifle from the equation"

"This is a popular struggle. We still believe in all forms of the struggle. **No one has removed the rifle from the equation.** However, for us, the struggle is a means, and the end is freedom and independence."

[Official PA TV, Nov. 5, 2012]



Rajoub equated building a school to killing Israelis:

"Building a school and throwing a hand grenade, in my opinion, are resistance. I build the school in order to strengthen the reasons for my people's resolve, as one of several aspects of the resistance, and **when there is a need to throw a grenade [or launch] a rocket, I'll do that as well out of my belief in the inevitable victory of my cause and its justness.**"

[Official PA TV, May 12, 2010]

Rajoub honored terrorists, including plane hijacker Laila Khaled

Rajoub has glorified three kinds of Palestinians as "sacred": "The fighter, the Martyr, and the prisoner," and instructed Palestinians that regardless of which terror organization they represent, they should be revered. Rajoub has also glorified Palestinian plane hijacker Laila Khaled, who hijacked a TWA flight from Rome to Athens in 1969 and an El Al flight from Amsterdam to New York in 1970, calling her "the fighter, the hero, the symbol":

Rajoub: "I was at Al-Quds University on Student Day. Someone asked me: 'Who is Laila Khaled (i.e., plane hijacker)?' So I spoke about **Laila Khaled, the fighter, the hero, the symbol**, etc. After a while, someone spoke about Yasser Arafat... and he spoke disrespectfully. I told them: **'There are three sacred things that should not be maligned - the fighter, the Martyr, and the prisoner. They are sacred. We should always speak positively about them, whether they are from the PFLP, Fatah, Hamas, etc.'**"

[Official PA TV, Aug. 16, 2015]

Rajoub honored two released murderers

Ziyad Mahmoud Ghneimat and Mustafa Ghneimat were convicted of shooting and murdering two Israelis in a forest in 1985, and Najeh Muqbil participated in stabbing and murdering his Israeli employer in 1990. After their release from prison in October 2013, Jibril Rajoub awarded the murderers with plaques of honor.

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Nov. 20, 2013]



Photo from the event: Jibril Rajoub honoring released prisoners Ziyad and Mustafa Gheiman and Najeh Muqbil. [Al-Jazeera, Nov. 20, 2013]

Rajoub supported Hamas policy of kidnapping Israeli soldiers as means to release Palestinian terrorists in Israeli jails



"If Hamas wants to kidnap soldiers, let them kidnap soldiers. Let them kidnap. Let them kidnap if they [the Israelis] don't want to release prisoners, but want them as prisoners forever, so [the prisoners] will come out as ghosts and skeletons. The Israelis need to understand. It's clear that kidnapping is the language they understand. On the contrary, we encourage them [Hamas]. When they kidnapped [Israeli soldier Gilad] Shalit, we congratulated them. When they concluded the Shalit [exchange] deal, in spite of our having a few reservations about it, we also congratulated them."

[Official PA TV, Jan. 2, 2014]

Jibril Rajoub representing PA Chairman Abbas: We salute those who captured [Israeli soldier] Shalit

In October 2011, the Israeli government agreed to release 1,027 Palestinian prisoners from Israeli prison in exchange for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who had been held hostage by Hamas for more than 5 years.

Ceremony honoring released Palestinian prisoners following the prisoner exchange deal:

Ceremony moderator: "We shall now hear the address by the representative of the President [Abbas], to be delivered by Jibril Rajoub, member of the [Fatah] Central Committee."

Jibril Rajoub: "I say in the name of the Fatah Movement -- we salute those who dug the tunnel [to capture the Israeli soldier]; we salute those who captured the captive [Gilad Shalit], and salute those who guarded the captive until this deal was completed [Applause]."

[Official PA TV, Oct. 30, 2011]



The foundation of the Israeli – Palestinian peace process was that all disagreements would be resolved through negotiations. Terror was to be a thing of the past. For Jibril Rajoub, it is as if a peace process never started. Killing and kidnapping are valid tools to pressure Israel to give in to PA demands, he tells Palestinians. In fact, Rajoub has declared: **“I swear that if we had a nuke, we'd have used it this very morning.”** Rajoub’s support for terror is the antithesis of the Olympic spirit.

Part 4: Rajoub and the Palestine Olympic Committee prohibit using sports as a bridge for peace between Palestinians and Israelis

One of the principles of the Olympics is that sport should serve as a bridge of peace between peoples. In the words of the Olympic Charter: “To place sport at the service of humanity and thereby to promote peace.” However, the PA and Rajoub absolutely prohibit peacebuilding activities and threaten legal measures against Palestinian athletes who participate in matches against Israel. Peacebuilding events are condemned as “normalization.” Rajoub takes a leading role in prohibiting sports with Israelis and undermining the Olympic spirit.

For example, after the Gaza War in 2014 when Israel was defending itself against numerous Hamas rockets, the official PA daily printed a report by *Agence France – Presse* that “Palestinian and Israeli children participated in friendly football matches” organized by the Israeli organization Peres Center for Peace. The event was successful and achieved sincere peacebuilding:

“[Israeli] Ofer, 11, from Sderot, a town in southern Israel where many rockets had landed, said: ‘It’s great to come back here and enjoy our time, after weeks of being stuck at home during the war.’ And [Palestinian] Qusai, 11, said: ‘I love it when we play together like this. I hope that one day there will be peace between Arabs and Jews and that there will be no more wars and death.’”

[From *Agence France-Presse*, reprinted in *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Sept. 3, 2014]

The Palestine Olympic Committee’s response to this peacebuilding activity indicates how adamantly the committee members oppose sports as a means to foster peace:

“Abd Al-Salam Haniyeh, a Palestine Olympic Committee member, denounced the match held between Palestinian and Israeli children. He considered it a crime and an unpatriotic and immoral act... Haniyeh said these matches are completely unacceptable to the sports community, the Olympic Committee, the Supreme Council for Sport and Youth Affairs and the Palestinian Football Association... Haniyeh demanded that Chairman of the Palestinian Football Association Jibril Rajoub immediately interrogate the [Palestinian] organizers of the match, settle the account with them and prosecute them on charges of serious treason.”

[*Sama*, independent Palestinian news agency, Sept. 3, 2014]

Three days later, Rajoub condemned this peacebuilding match for children and all other peacebuilding football matches as **“a crime against humanity”**:

Headline: "Rajoub: 'Normalization in sports with the Zionist occupation is a crime'"
"Chairman of the Olympic Committee, and Chairman of the [Palestinian] Football Association **Jibril Rajoub said any activity of normalization in sports with the Zionist enemy is a crime against humanity. He said that the position of the sports leadership on the issue is perfectly clear.**

Rajoub's statements were made in response to a sports activity held a few days ago (i.e., between Palestinian and Israeli children sponsored by the Israeli Peres Center for Peace)... **[Rajoub said] 'I demand that all individuals and institutions distance themselves from such activities, especially because their recurrence would arouse disgust and aversion towards all members of the [Palestinian] sports community.'**"

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Sept. 8, 2014,

[Kooora.com, Palestinian sports site, and Jibril Rajoub's official Facebook page, Sept. 6, 2014]

Since prohibiting the use of sports to build peace violates a fundamental principle of international sport, and the Olympics, Rajoub has to hide this ideology when communicating with international sports leaders. One example of Rajoub's duplicity are his words to Mr. Joseph Blatter, President of FIFA, in which Rajoub stated that sports can "bridge the gaps between peoples":

"It is my great honor and pleasure to warmly welcome Palestine's esteemed guest, Mr. Joseph Blatter, President of FIFA, on behalf of the Palestine's sports community... We definitely believe that presenting Palestine through sports and practicing different sport games by youth, along with your boundless encouragement and enforcement have made it more possible for Palestine to realize its desired goals and aspire (sic., inspire) its promising youth with new expectations and dreams; such youth that strongly believes in **the noble values and humane message of sports which can bridge the gaps between peoples** and help achieving their expectations and aspirations; this is a hope that we will not give up until the last moment!"

[Original English version as printed in official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 7, 2013]

This statement by Rajoub to FIFA President Blatter completely contradicts Rajoub's statements to Palestinians in Arabic. Prohibiting peacebuilding through sports is a long term policy of Rajoub. For example, he has threatened to throw anyone off the PA football team if they engaged in joint sports activities with Israelis:

"This state [Israel] is a state of bullies. Fascists can learn a lesson from this state. This government -- there is none more brazen in human history... **Anyone who joins any joint [sports] activity with the Israelis -- I'll take him off the [Palestinian Football] Association's lists, whether he is a player, coach, judge or, God forbid, a team...** Did we act correctly and convince [FIFA's]



General Assembly? Yes. Yes, we'll suspend their [Israel's] membership [in FIFA] and this way we'll screw them... **I won't allow and won't agree to any joint game between Arabs and Israel.**" [Official PA TV, July 1, 2013]

On another occasion, Rajoub stated that "the term normalization does not exist in the Palestinian sports lexicon" [Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 18, 2012]

The following are additional examples of Rajoub prohibiting and condemning peacebuilding through sports in recent years:

Rajoub: "There will be no youth or sports activity of any kind with the Israeli side"

"A joint meeting was held in the Al-Ram Football Association headquarters between the league's board of directors and the heads of the professional and semi-professional clubs in the presence of Jibril Rajoub, Chairman of the [Palestinian] Football Association...

Rajoub said: 'There will be no youth or sports activity of any kind with the Israeli side, and we will not renounce our goal of building a free and independent national sports entity.'
[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Jan. 5, 2014]

Rajoub: Boycott all Israeli youth activities in Jerusalem

"Chairman of the Palestinian Football Association Jibril Rajoub... asked the Arab League to support the [Palestine] Olympic Committee's position and efforts in jointly boycotting any activity for youth, whether social, tourist, or sports [activities], that Israel organizes in the occupied city of Jerusalem."

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 20, 2013]

Rajoub: No normalization with Jews – they are "Satans" and "Zionist sons of bitches"



Live broadcast: Opening of the first Forum for Arab women sports journalists, in the presence of PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and Deputy-Secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee Jibril Rajoub:

"I say also – and on behalf of Palestine: **Something that has no place in the dictionary of Palestinian sportsmen is the subject of normalization with the occupation. Impossible, impossible, impossible... I understand by normalization that the**

relationship between me and you will be normal, that we'll play [sports] together and there'll be a joint program. I say to you: Under no circumstances will there be normalization. Next time we are prepared to bring the Executive Committee in helicopters... so **they will see no Jews, no Satans, no Zionist sons of bitches.** Come by helicopter and go back by helicopter."

[Official PA TV, May 17, 2012]

Rajoub adamantly rejected football match with Israel

"[Chairman of the Palestinian Football Association, Jibril] Rajoub described the extent of pressure put on him personally so that a joint tripartite match would take place to join together the Catalanian team, Palestinian players and Israeli players. He emphasized that he had insisted all along that the match be Palestinian-Catalonian only. He said: 'Many people pushed towards [FC Barcelona player Lionel] Messi, Muhammad and Shlomo (i.e., stereotypical names for an Arab and a Jew) playing in a joint match, but we didn't agree and we will never agree to anything other than Messi and Muhammad playing in a way that will reflect the glory of our nation, despite its daily suffering.'"

[*Al-Ayyam*, Aug. 1, 2013]

Rajoub objected to "joint meetings or games" with Israelis

"Head of the [Palestinian] Football Association [and Deputy-Secretary of the Fatah Central Committee and Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee], Jibril Rajoub met with economic Vice President of the Barcelona Football Club, Javier Faus. He discussed a few issues related to organizing the Catalanian team's future visit to Palestine, in addition to ways of strengthening cooperation between the Palestinian Association and the old club. **Rajoub reiterated his complete objection to holding joint meetings or games of any kind that would be attended by Israeli players or administrators.**"

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 23, 2013]

Rajoub called for Israel to be removed from international sports associations and for Palestinian "national sports" to serve as "means of resistance" to Israel

"Chairman of the Football Association and head of the Palestine Olympic Committee, Jibril Rajoub, called to remove Israel from all world Olympic associations and committees if it continues to act stubbornly and not honor international agreements and conventions. In his speech yesterday... he emphasized that he is prepared to lead this move himself, but with the support and assistance of the Arab states... He praised the decision of the political system to reconstruct **national sports, such that it will be one of the means of resistance** and will strengthen the resolve, in order to achieve the goals, in both strategic and tactical terms."

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 18, 2012]

Rajoub rejected sports contacts with Israelis

PA TV host: "He [President of the Barcelona Club] also came with a message of peace, and the visit was related to sports with a political side, and he spoke about a game between an Israeli and Palestinian team against Barcelona. What do you have to say about this?"

Rajoub: "**Impossible, impossible, impossible that there be any sport related contact with the Israeli side, in any situation.**"

[Official PA TV, sports program *Pulse of the Fields*, Feb. 25, 2013]

Rajoub against “normalization” with Israel in sports

"In response to a question about recent reports on Internet sites concerning normalization, [Chairman of the Football Association and Chairman of the Olympic Committee, Jibril] Rajoub said: 'Normalization is when there's a friendly match between some player or some sports team [and a player or team from Israel], whether [it takes place] in the territories occupied in '48 (i.e., in the recognized state of Israel) or [those territories occupied] in '67...'
He noted that the Palestinian teams that are under the responsibility of the Olympic Committee have not played, and will not play under any circumstances, inside the Green Line (i.e., inside state of Israel), and that no Israeli company is sponsoring these teams."
[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Jan. 16, 2012]

Rajoub rejected “normalization” with Israel "in all its forms," including sports

Headline: "Rajoub: We will not agree to normalization which some elements are trying to introduce into the realm of Palestinian sports"
"Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee and the Palestinian Football Association, Jibril Rajoub, once again yesterday expressed his opposition to normalization in all its forms, including normalization in the realm of sports."
[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Jan. 8, 2012]

Rajoub: The Palestinian team will not play against Israel

"The Israeli flag will not, not, not be raised in the Palestinian territories, and the Palestinian team will not play against any team within the Green Line (i.e., inside state of Israel)."
[Official PA TV, Jan. 2, 2012]

Rajoub rejected “any kind of direct coordination” with Israelis

“The Palestinian Football Association will not agree to any kind of bilateral relations or direct coordination [with Israelis]. As far as we are concerned, FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) – with the Europeans and the Asian Football Confederation as part of it – is the authority and the intermediary, and it (i.e., FIFA) serves as a communications transfer point with us.”
[*Al-Ayyam*, Sept. 23, 2013]

Rajoub sees all of Israel as “occupied lands” and rejected an activity between Israelis, Palestinians and the Barcelona football team as “stupid idea”

TV host: "Mr. Jibril, does the visit of Barcelona's [football] team include a visit to the occupied lands?"

Rajoub: "They are coming to the occupied lands. All of Palestine - from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea (i.e., all of Israel) - it's all occupied."

TV host: "I mean the Israeli occupied lands."

Rajoub: "You mean [occupied in] 1948 (i.e., Israel's establishment)?"

TV host: "Yes."



Rajoub: "On August 3 [2013] they are coming to us. Where they go after that - I'm not responsible for them... **There was a stupid Israeli attempt to do something (a sports activity) together.** Of course, they try to use Barcelona as a fig leaf to hide their crimes against the Palestinian sports. "

[Al-Kass Sports Channel (Qatar), June 2, 2013]

Rajoub's rejection of sports as a vehicle for peacebuilding violates one of the fundamental principles of the Olympics.

Part 5: Palestinian Media Watch's letter to Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of the International Olympic Committee, Mrs. Pâquerette Girard Zappelli calling for disciplinary actions Rajoub

The following is Palestinian Media Watch's letter of July 26 to Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of the International Olympic Committee, Mrs. Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, in response to her and the committee's refusal to take action or even condemn Jibril Rajoub's documented glorification of Palestinian terrorists who have murdered Israelis. The letter was sent to Mrs. Zappelli together with this PMW report, *The Jibril Rajoub File*, documenting Rajoub's terror glorification, and urges the International Olympic Committee to take the appropriate steps to remove Jibril Rajoub from his position. The report was also sent to all national Olympic Committees, and leaders of the International Olympic Committee.

July 27, 2016

Call to ban Jibril Rajoub from Olympic Committee activities and demand his replacement as Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee

Dear Mrs. Pâquerette Girard Zappelli,
Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of the International Olympic Committee,

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) has been forwarded your response (of May 31, 2016, copied below) to Mr. Hillel Applebaum to his complaint about Mr. Jibril Rajoub, Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee, regarding Mr. Rajoub's promotion of violence and glorification of terrorists who have murdered Israelis.

In your response, you explained that you and the International Olympic Committee do not see any need to take action against Mr. Rajoub for three reasons:

- Mr. Rajoub's documented hate speech and terror glorification was from the years 2012 and 2014;
- Mr. Rajoub did not make these specific statements in his capacity as Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee;
- The International Olympic Committee believes that, along with Israel, the Palestine Olympic Committee is "doing their best to improve relations between the two countries through sport."

Unfortunately, these assumptions about Mr. Rajoub and the Palestine Olympic Committee are incorrect. Therefore, it is critical, prior to the upcoming Olympic Games, to bring to your attention facts about Mr. Rajoub.

Mr. Rajoub has continued to promote violence and glorify terror through 2016. He has glorified terror in his capacity as Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee, and, for years, has made extensive use of his leadership role in Palestinian sports to prohibit and undermine cooperation and peacebuilding through sports.

All Olympic officials, and especially you as Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of the International Olympic Committee, should be outraged that Mr. Rajoub is using the name of the Olympic Committee to glorify and encourage murder of civilians. He recently sponsored a sporting event named after the Palestinian terrorist who murdered two Israeli civilians in October 2015, which sparked the recent wave of Palestinian terror attacks. Mr. Rajoub sponsored the sporting event as “Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee.”

Attached is a comprehensive Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) report documenting this and many other examples of Mr. Rajoub’s promotion of violence and glorification of Palestinian terror against Israelis.

In addition, Mr. Rajoub actively counters the spirit of Olympic sports by prohibiting peacebuilding sports activities between Palestinians and Israelis. He adamantly speaks out against such joint events, denouncing them as forbidden “normalization” with Israel. He has even condemned a successful peacebuilding event between Israeli and Palestinian youth sponsored by the Israeli Peres Center for Peace as a “crime against humanity.”

As an overt terror promoter, Jibril Rajoub represents the antithesis of Olympic values. Having Mr. Rajoub in an official capacity using the Olympic name at a time when terror is being fought throughout the world is a disgrace to the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Games, and the entire Olympic community.

Therefore, PMW is calling on the International Olympic Committee to:

- ***Demand Mr. Rajoub’s removal from the position of Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee***
- ***Ban Mr. Rajoub from participating in any activities related to the International Olympic Committee, as well as meetings and events of the national Olympic Committees***
- ***Prohibit Mr. Rajoub from using the title “Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee”***
- ***Demand the appointment of a new Palestinian chairman who rejects terror, upholds Olympic values, and facilitates peacebuilding through sports***

I look forward to your earliest response. I am of course available to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,
Itamar Marcus
Director, Palestinian Media Watch

The following is your email response to Mr. Applebaum's "Complaint – Ethics in the matter of Jibril Rajoub":

From: Pâquerette Girard Zappelli <paquerette.girard_zappelli@olympic.org>

Date: 2016-05-31

Subject: RE: Complaint – Ethics in the matter of Jibril Rajoub

Dear Mr Applebaum,

After a thorough read of all the documents you provided, it clearly appears that the words of Mr Jibril Rajoub are not recent (2012 and 2014) and were spoken in his political capacity and not as an NOC official.

Our understanding is that the two National Olympic Committees are doing their best to improve relations between the two countries through sport. Owing to this, the competitors of the two organisations will together participate peacefully in the upcoming Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Your sincerely,

*Pâquerette Girard Zappelli
Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer
International Olympic Committee*

Conclusion

The Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer of the International Olympic Committee, Pâquerette Girard Zappelli, wrote in a response to a complaint over Jibril Rajoub's terror glorification that Rajoub is acceptable to the International Olympic Committee because the complaint was based on documentation that was two years old or more, and because Rajoub had not used his title as Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee when glorifying terror. Further it was stated, that the International Olympic Committee "understood" that the Palestine Olympic Committee, headed by Rajoub, is working to "improve relations between the two countries [PA and Israel] through sport."

This PMW report shows that the International Olympic Committee is completely misinformed and that there is no justification for not taking disciplinary measures against Rajoub. This PMW report documents unequivocally that Jibril Rajoub, today and in the past, promotes terror and incites murder, and that he does so using his title as Chairman of the Palestine Olympic Committee. In addition, Rajoub absolutely rejects building peace through sports activities with Israelis.

Allowing overt terror supporter Jibril Rajoub to remain in any position connected to the Olympics and to use the title as chairman of an Olympic committee dishonors the Olympic Games and makes a mockery of the Olympic principles.