

## **76 Palestinian Authority schools named after terrorists and Nazi collaborators and honoring Martyrs and Martyrdom**

- **32 PA schools named after terrorists**
- **3 PA schools named after Nazi collaborators**
- **41 PA school names glorify Martyrdom**
- **Belgium cuts funding of PA schools because of previous PMW report on schools named after terrorists**

*Following a previous PMW report on PA school names, Belgium forced the PA to rename a Belgium-funded school that had been named by the PA after terrorist Dalal Mughrabi. However, PMW found and exposed that immediately after changing the name of the one school, the PA named **two other** schools in the same neighborhood after the same terrorist. In response to the PA's mockery of Belgium, the Belgium Ministry of Development Cooperation severed its ties with the PA Ministry of Education and cancelled all funding of PA schools until no PA schools are named after terrorists, not only those funded by Belgium.*

by Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

### **Introduction: PA Schools Turn Terrorists into Role Models**

The PA Ministry of Education has named at least 32 schools after terrorists and an additional 3 schools after Nazi collaborators, while at least 41 school names honor "Martyrs." Significantly, the PA Ministry of Education is directly and solely responsible for the naming of schools:

"The naming of schools and changes are the responsibility of the Minister of Education, by a direct decision of the Ministry or the Name Committee."

[Ma'an, independent news agency, Aug. 26, 2015,  
see also WAFA, official Palestinian Authority news agency Aug. 25, 2015]

By naming schools after terrorists, the Palestinian Authority is telling its children most emphatically that terrorists who have murdered Israeli civilians are role models and heroes. PMW has found evidence that in practice, students who attend such schools refer to terrorists as personal heroes whom they look up to and aspire to emulate.

For example, the Shadia Abu Ghazaleh School for Girls is named after one of the first female Palestinian terrorists. She was killed in 1968 when a bomb she was preparing accidentally detonated. This is what the girls studying in one of the two schools named after Abu Ghazaleh said about her when interviewed on PA TV:



**PA TV host:** "What do you know about Shadia Abu Ghazaleh, you study in a school named after her?"

**Girl 1:** "Shadia Abu Ghazaleh is a model of the patriotic woman..."

**Girl 2:** "She was a model of the wonderful female Palestinian fighter. We follow her path in this school."

**Girl 3:** "We're happy that our school is named after a very well-known Martyr, who played a role and who did something great."

**Girl 4:** "The school is named after her to commemorate her... and encourage people to be like her."

**Girl 5:** "Shadia was a model for us and will remain a model for us and we will follow her path."

The students definitely know that it is a bomb maker they are praising as their role model, because a mural with Abu Ghazaleh's face and biography highlights this and appears prominently on a school wall:

Biography below picture of the terrorist:  
"Shadia Abu Ghazaleh... participated in the operation that blew up a bus. She was at home preparing a bomb in order to detonate it in an Israeli building in Tel Aviv but it exploded in her hands."



[Official PA TV, Dec. 5 2013, rebroadcast Dec. 9, 2013]

There are 6 schools named after Dalal Mughrabi, the terrorist who led the murder of 37 civilians, including 12 children, in a bus hijacking. When high school girls from one of these schools were interviewed, these students likewise saw their school's namesake as a role model:

Girl 1: "Dalal Mughrabi is a great leader... Our mothers give birth to thousands like Dalal, and she still walks among us... I personally am proud to attend the Dalal Mughrabi School."

Girl 2: "My life's ambition is to reach the level of the Martyr fighter Dalal Mughrabi."

[Official PA TV, March 27, 2014]



Glorifying terrorists and “Martyrdom” by naming schools after terrorists, is sending a grave message to children that killing Israelis and seeking death for Allah are valued goals. This report documents the PA’s policy of venerating terror, violence, and death through the names it chooses for its schools.

**School funded by Belgium renamed after terrorist murderer Dalal Mughrabi**

In September 2017, Palestinian Media Watch found that one of the schools named after Dalal Mughrabi, the terrorist cited above who led the murder of 37 civilians, was built using money from the Belgium government. Initially the school was named “The Beit Awaa School,” and subsequently was renamed the “Dalal Mughrabi Elementary School” without Belgium being notified. The plaque citing Belgium’s funding on the wall of the Dalal Mughrabi School reads in English and Arabic:

“Through a fund from the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium and through the Belgian Development Agency BTC, constructed and furnished, Beit Awaa Basic Girls School”

[Facebook page of Dalal Mughrabi Elementary School, (accessed Sept. 18, 2017)]

The pictures below are from the Facebook page of this Dalal Mughrabi School (accessed Sept. 18, 2017). The first screenshot shows the school logo in the profile photo of the school’s Facebook page and the plaque from Belgium. Below it on the left is the school logo enlarged showing the face of terrorist Mughrabi and the text: “The Dalal Mughrabi Elementary School.” To the right of it enlarged is the plaque about Belgium’s funding.



After PMW published these findings in September 2017, the government of Belgium immediately condemned the use of its funding for the purpose of glorifying terrorists, and demanded that the name of the school it had funded be changed. Didier Vanderhasselt, spokesperson for the Belgian Foreign Ministry, reacted with outrage:

“Belgium unequivocally condemns the glorification of terrorist attacks [and] will not allow itself to be associated with the names of terrorists in any way... Belgium has immediately raised this issue with the Palestinian Authority and is awaiting a formal response... In the meantime Belgium will put on hold any projects related to the construction or equipment of Palestinian schools.”

[*The Algemeiner*, Oct. 7, 2017]

Almost a year later, in July 2018, Palestinian Media Watch found and reported that despite Belgium’s complaints, the school was still named after terrorist Dalal Mughrabi. After further pressure from Belgium the PA finally changed the name of the school to “**The Belgian School**” in August 2018.

However, in a show of contempt of Belgium, the PA simultaneously renamed a nearby school after the same terrorist, giving it the name “**The Martyr Dalal Mughrabi Elementary School.**” In addition, it publically laid the foundation for another school named “**The Second Dalal Mughrabi Republic School.**”



PMW immediately reported that while the PA had given in to their demand to change the name Dalal Mughrabi from one school, without notifying them they had named two other schools after the same terrorist. Belgium this time responded by severing ties with the PA Ministry of Education and with a full cancellation of all funding of PA schools until no schools are named after terrorists, not only those funded by Belgium:

**Belgian Ministry of Development Cooperation:**

"Belgium regrets the naming of the two other schools, which were not built with Belgian funds. The glorification of terrorism or perpetrators of terrorist acts is not acceptable under any circumstances. Our country has repeatedly conveyed the Belgian position to the Palestinian Ministry of Education. As long as terrorism is glorified through school names, Belgium cannot continue to cooperate with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and budgets for school building will be suspended." [*Joods Actueel*, Sept. 4, 2018]

Naming and renaming institutions after terrorists without notifying the donor country is a recurring Palestinian practice. Last year, PMW exposed that a community center for young women that had been funded by Norway, Denmark, and the UN was also named, without the donors' knowledge, after the same terrorist Dalal Mughrabi. Each of the donors expressed outrage and demanded their money be returned and their name removed from the plaque.

(See below on the topic of international donor funding of PA education.)

### ***The following are 32 schools the PA has named after terrorists***

The PA has named six schools after **terrorist Dalal Mughrabi**.

**Terrorist Dalal Mughrabi** led the most lethal terror attack in Israel's history, known as the Coastal Road massacre, in 1978, when she and other Fatah terrorists hijacked a bus on Israel's Coastal Highway, killing 37 civilians, 12 of them children, and wounding over 70.

1. The **Dalal Mughrabi** High School for Girls – Gaza
2. The **Dalal Mughrabi** High School for Girls – Al-Shuyoukh, Hebron
3. The **Dalal Mughrabi** Elementary School for Girls - Al-Shuyoukh, Hebron
4. The **Dalal Mughrabi** Elementary School – Beit Awaa, Hebron Region
5. The **Dalal Mughrabi** Elementary School for Boys and Girls – Jenin
6. The Second **Dalal Mughrabi** Republic School – Beit Awaa, Hebron Region



***Picture of the bus after Mughrabi's hijacking and murder of the passengers*** (Photo: IDF Spokesman Unit)

The school uniform in the original Dalal Mughrabi school that was now changed to “The Belgian School” featured the school logo including a picture of the terrorist:



School uniform with the school logo which has the face of the terrorist.  
[Facebook page of then Dalal Mughrabi Elementary School, Posted Nov. 2, 2014]

The PA has named two schools after **terrorist Shadia Abu Ghazaleh**.

**Terrorist Shadia Abu Ghazaleh** - One of the first female Palestinian terrorists, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terror organization. She was involved in many attacks against Israel and was killed in 1968 while preparing a bomb for an attack in Tel Aviv that accidentally detonated.

7. The **Shadia Abu Ghazaleh** School for Girls - Gaza
8. The **Shadia Abu Ghazalah** High School for Boys - Jabaliya

The PA has named five schools after **terrorist Abu Jihad**.

**Terrorist Abu Jihad (Khalil Al-Wazir)** headed the PLO's military wing and planned many deadly Fatah terror attacks. These attacks, in which a total of 125 Israelis were murdered, included the most lethal in Israeli history - the hijacking of a bus and killing of 37 civilians, 12 of them children.

9. The **Khalil Al-Wazir [Abu Jihad]** Elementary School for Girls – Hebron
10. The Martyr **Khalil Al-Wazir** Elementary School for Boys - Samu'a, Hebron
11. The Martyr **Khalil Al-Wazir** Elementary School for Boys - Al-Yamun, Jenin
12. The **Abu Jihad** High School for Boys – Arabe, Jenin
13. The **Abu Jihad** High School for Boys – Hebron

The PA has named four schools after **terrorist Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad)**.

**Terrorist Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad)** was one of the founders of Fatah and head of its Black September terror branch. Attacks he planned include the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, Sept. 5, 1972, and murder of two American diplomats in Sudan, March 1, 1973.

14. The **Salah Khalaf** Elementary School for Girls – Gaza
15. The **Salah Khalaf** Junior High School – Gaza
16. The **Salah Khalaf** Elementary School for Boys - Al-Yamoun
17. The **Salah Khalaf** School – Tulkarem

The PA has named one school after **Hamas terror leader Ahmed Yassin**.

**Terror leader Ahmed Yassin** founded the Hamas terror organization and headed it when Hamas was responsible for numerous terror attacks and the deaths of hundreds of civilians in suicide bombings.

18. The Martyr **Ahmed Yassin** School for Boys – Jenin

The PA has named one school after **Al-Qaeda co-founder Abdullah Azzam**.

**Abdullah Azzam** was the Palestinian co-founder of the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization and the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist organization in Pakistan. Azzam was a proponent of Global Jihad and the establishment of an Islamic State. Azzam moved to Saudi Arabia in the 1970s, where he taught Osama bin Laden. In 1979, Azzam moved to Pakistan, where he took an active role leading the fight against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, enlisting bin Laden in the effort as well.

19. Martyr **Abdullah Azzam** Elementary School for Boys – Jenin

The PA has named one school after **terrorist Abu Ali Iyad**.

**Terrorist Abu Ali Iyad** was appointed head of Fatah military operations in 1966 and was responsible for numerous terror attacks on Israeli civilians, including attacks against civilians in four Israeli towns.

20. The **Abu Ali Iyad** High School for Girls – Qalqilya

The PA has named one school after **terrorist Nash'at Abu Jabara**.

**Terrorist Nash'at Abu Jabara** was a member of Hamas terror organization and a bomb builder. He built suicide belts used by suicide bombers who carried out numerous terrorists attacks against Israeli civilians.

21. The Martyr **Nash'at Abu Jabara** High School for Girls – Tulkarem

The PA has named two schools after **terrorist Abu Ali Mustafa**.

**Terrorist Abu Ali Mustafa** was the leader of the terror organization Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which carried out numerous terror attacks against civilians from its founding in 1967 through the Palestinian terror campaign of 2000 - 2005 (the Intifada).

22. The **Abu Ali Mustafa** Elementary School for Boys - Jenin
23. The **Abu Ali Mustafa** Elementary School for Girls – Jenin

The PA has named three schools after **terror leader Mustafa Hafez**.

**Terror coordinator Mustafa Hafez** was an officer in the Egyptian army who organized terror squads and sent terrorists across the border to attack Israeli civilians in the 1950's. He was killed by Israel in 1956.

24. The **Mustafa Hafez** Elementary School for Boys – Khan Younis
25. The **Mustafa Hafez** School – Gaza
26. The **Mustafa Hafez** Elementary School for Boys and Girls - Khan Younis

The PA has named one school after **terrorist Izzat Abu Al-Rubb**.

**Terrorist Izzat Abu Al-Rubb** was a leader in the Fatah terror organization who worked with Yasser Arafat to form terror squads after 1967. He personally participated in a number of terror attacks. He was one of the leaders of Fatah's Al-Asifa terror units.

27. The Martyr **Izzat Abu Al-Rubb** High School – Jenin

The PA has named two schools after **terrorist Izz A-Din Al-Qassam**.

**Terror leader Sheikh Izz A-Din Al-Qassam** was an influential Islamic preacher who led a Muslim terror group in the British Mandate of Palestine in the 1930s. Hamas' military wing, which has murdered hundreds in suicide bombings, is named after him – the Izz A-Din Al-Qassam Brigades.

28. The Martyr **Izz A-Din Al-Qassam** High School for Boys – Yaa'bad
29. The Martyr **Izz A-Din [Al-Qassam]** Elementary School – Jenin

The PA has named one school after **terrorist Osama Al-Najjar**.

**Terrorist Osama Al-Najjar** was the spokesperson of the "Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades," Fatah's military wing, during the PA terror campaign (the "Intifada," 2000-2005). The Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades has been declared a terrorist group by Israel, the US, Canada, the EU, and Japan.

30. The Martyr **Osama Al-Najjar** School – Khan Yunis



The PA has named one school after **terrorist Kamal Adwan**.

**Terrorist Kamal Adwan** was responsible for Fatah's terrorist operations in Israel and was a senior member of Black September, which planned and carried out the murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics (Sept. 5, 1972). He was killed by Israeli forces in April 1973.

31. The **Kamal Adwan** High School for Boys – Tel Al-Sultan, Rafah

The PA has named one school after **terrorist Kamal Nasser**.

**Terrorist Kamal Nasser** was the spokesperson for the PLO and Fatah and a senior member of the Black September terror organization responsible for the Munich Olympics massacre in 1972. He was killed by Israeli forces in April 1973.

32. The **Kamal Nasser** High School – Khan Younis

**The following are three schools the PA has named after Nazi collaborators:**

The PA has named one school after **Nazi collaborator and war criminal Amin Al-Husseini**.

1. The **Amin Al-Husseini Elementary School** – El-Bireh

**Amin Al-Husseini** was the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem at the time of the British Mandate. During World War II he moved to Berlin, where he collaborated with the Nazis and was an associate of Hitler. Al-Husseini was responsible for a Muslim SS division that murdered thousands of Serbs and Croats and was on Yugoslavia's list of wanted Nazi war criminals. When the Nazis offered to free 5000 Jewish children, Al-Husseini fought against their release which caused 5000 children to be sent to the gas chambers.



**Amin Al-Husseini with Hitler**

The PA has named two schools after **Nazi collaborator Hassan Salameh**.

2. The **Hassan Salameh** Junior High School for Girls – Gaza
3. The **Hassan Salameh** Elementary School – Gaza

**Hassan Salameh** was a leader of Arab gangs in the Lod and Jaffa region in the 1930s and 1940s. He was a loyal follower of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Haj Amin Al-Husseini, who spent World War II in Berlin supporting the Nazi war effort. In 1941, Salameh was recruited to be a Nazi agent, and in 1944, he was sent on a mission by the Nazis in the British Mandate of Palestine, with the goal of starting an Arab revolt against the British and poisoning Tel Aviv's water sources. The plot was discovered and thwarted by the British. In 1947, Salameh was appointed by the Mufti as Deputy Commander of the "Holy Jihad" Army that fought Israel in the 1948 War of Independence. In June 1948, he was killed in battle.

## 41 Palestinian Authority school names glorify Martyrs or Martyrdom

A prominent PA school name is *Al-Khansa*, with at least eight schools so named. Al-Khansa is honored in Islamic tradition and by the PA as “The Mother of Martyrs.” An Arab woman and poet from the earliest period of Islam (7th century), she is famous for sending her four sons to battle and rejoicing when they all died as Martyrs. She has been lauded by the PA and presented as a role model for mothers. This is how her significance is explained in a PA schoolbook for Grade 8 published in 2002:

“Al-Khansa witnessed the Battle of Al-Qadisiyah with her four sons. She urged them to fight... They fought until all of them fell as Martyrs. When the news reached her she said, ‘Praise be to Allah who has honored me by their Martyrdom...’”

[*Reading and Texts Part II, Grade 8, p. 13*]

The PA has named 8 schools after the “**Mother of Martyrs**” **Al-Khansa**.

1. The **Al-Khansa** Elementary School for Girls- Bethlehem
2. The **Al-Khansa** Elementary School for Girls - Jenin
3. The **Al-Khansa** Elementary School for Girls - Nablus
4. The **Al-Khansa** Elementary School for Girls – Khan Yunis
5. The **Al-Khansa** Elementary School for Girls - Rafah
6. The **Al-Khansa** Elementary School for Girls - Yatta
7. The **Al-Khansa** High School for Girls - Absan Al-Kabira
8. The **Mother of the Martyrs** School for Boys – Bethlehem

The PA has 33 school names honoring “Martyrdom” in general as well as unspecified “Martyrs” of different places. The term “Martyrs” defines those who died for Allah. While the term “Martyrs” can refer to people who are not terrorists, it is used overwhelmingly by the PA as a term of supreme honor for all terrorists, including suicide bombers, killed in terror attacks against Israel. When Israel transferred the bodies of 91 terrorist “Martyrs” to the PA in May 2012, among them suicide bombers who killed many civilians, the terrorists were given a military funeral for heroes with the participation of many PA dignitaries.

The PA Mufti Muhammad Hussein eulogized the terrorist “Martyrs” as follows:

"Today we receive this elite group of Martyrs. Our people, headed by the Palestinian leadership, welcome these Martyrs with great honor... As we accompany these Martyrs to Heaven, we should be happy: By Allah's will, we still have elite groups of Martyrs like these among us... Honored brothers, this is a great event: The souls of the noble Martyrs envelop us, and their souls tell us to follow in their path."

[Official PA TV, May 31, 2012]

Then PA Minister of Religious Affairs, Mahmoud Al-Habbash, explained the religious significance of Martyrdom:

“After prophecy and righteousness there is no status Allah has exalted more than Martyrdom... The Martyr has merit with Allah, a merit that no one else has...

‘The Martyr - his sins are forgiven with the first gush of his blood from his wound... The Martyr lives together with the prophets and the righteous.’”

[Official PA TV, Nov. 8, 2013]

This heroic status and supreme religious position is applied by the PA to all terrorists killed while attacking Israelis. By naming 33 schools after “Martyrs”, the PA is reinforcing two messages, the importance of killing Israelis, and the importance of dying for Allah.

The following are 33 schools named after unspecified “Martyrs”:

1. The **Martyrs**’ Elementary School for Boys – Anabta, Tulkarem
2. The **Martyrs** of Yatta Elementary School for Girls – Yatta
3. The **Martyrs** of Idhna Elementary School for Boys – Hebron
4. The **Martyrs** of Al-Zaytoon Elementary School for Boys – Gaza
5. The **Martyrs** of Al-Montar Elementary School for Girls – Gaza
6. The **Martyrs** of Gaza Elementary School for Boys – Gaza
7. The **Martyrs** of Shiek Radwan Elementary School for Boys – Gaza
8. The **Martyrs** of Al-Shati High School for Boys – Shati refugee camp, Gaza
9. The **Martyrs** of Rafah High School for Boys – Rafah refugee camp
10. The **Martyrs** of Khan Yunes Co-ed Elementary School – Khan Yunes
11. The **Martyrs** of Dir Al-Balah High School for Girls – Dir Al-Balah
12. The **Martyrs** of H’zaa High School for Boys – H’zaa
13. The **Martyrs** of H’zaa High School for Girls – H’zaa
14. The **Martyrs** of Bany-Sohila High School for Girls – Bany-Sohila
15. The **Martyrs** of Al-Marazi High School for Girls– Al-Marazi, central camps
16. The **Martyrs** of Dora School for Girls – Dora
17. The **Martyrs** of Sorif Elementary School for Boys – Sorif
18. The **Martyrs** of Hizma High School – Hizma, Jerusalem
19. The **Martyrs** of Silwad High School for Boys – Silwad, Ramallah
20. The **Martyrs** of Al-Samoua Co-ed Elementary School – Gaza
21. The **Martyrs** of Shuja’iya High School for Boys – Gaza
22. The **Martyrs** of Al-Shuyoukh Elementary School for Boys – Hebron
23. The **Martyrs** of Al-Maghazi High School for Girls – Gaza camps
24. The **Martyrs** of Nusairat High School for Boys – Nusairat

25. The **Martyrs** of Bani Na'eem Elementary School for Girls – Hebron
26. The **Martyrs** of Bet Lid High School – Bet Lid, Tulkarem
27. The **Martyrs** of Tarqumia Elementary School for Boys – Hebron
28. The **Martyrs** of Taffuh Elementary School for Boys – Hebron Region
29. The **Martyrs** of Halhoul Elementary School for Girls – Hebron
30. The **Martyrs** of Kharas Elementary School for Boys – Hebron
31. The **Martyrs** of Khuza'a High School for Girls– Khan Yunis
32. The **Martyrs** of Zeita High School for Boys – Zeita, Tulkarem
33. The **Martyrs** of Dhahiriya High School for Girls– Dhahiriya

### **International donors reject association with PA institutions named for terrorists**

International donors have expressed outrage upon finding out their funding, or even their country's name, has been associated with Palestinian institutions named after terrorists. PMW reported on May 26 of last year that a Palestinian community center had been named for terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, and that a plaque appeared with the donor countries' names. The response was outrage and condemnation.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Børge Brende announced:

"I deplore this decision in the strongest possible terms... We will not accept the use of Norwegian aid funding for such purposes... We have asked for the logo of the Norwegian representation office to be removed from the building immediately, and for the funding that has been allocated to the Centre to be repaid."

[Norwegian Foreign Ministry website, May 26, 2017]

The Danish Foreign Minister Anders Samuelsen was similarly angered:

"I am outraged that the WATC, which claims to work for human rights, has not only glorified a terrorist, but also abused the trust of a generous people like the Danish. It is completely unacceptable and I can't distance myself strongly enough from it. Denmark and Danish tax kroner must under no circumstances be used for anything that glorifies or promotes terrorists in any way. Therefore, we will now also demand that the WATC pay back the Danish aid."

[Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, June 2, 2017]

The UN Secretary General António Guterres expressed similar outrage:

"The United Nations disassociated itself from the Centre once it learned the offensive name chosen... The glorification of terrorism, or the perpetrators of heinous terrorist acts, is unacceptable under any circumstances... The United Nations support to this community ended last year and it has asked for the logo of UN Women to be removed immediately."

[Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General May 28, 2017]

As shown above, Belgium does not accept terror glorification through schools either.

## **Conclusions**

Palestinian youth who attend the schools named after terrorists declare that they are taught to see these terrorist murderers as their role models.

The Palestinian Authority's education to hatred and terror, especially presenting terrorist murderers as heroes and role models for children, is a fundamental and most far-reaching impediment to peace.

The European Union, Britain, and others are allocating significant funding directly toward Palestinian education. Beyond Belgium's recent cancellation of funding there have been no public actions or condemnations from other donors over the PA's terror glorification through the Ministry of Education.

Due to the PA's need for funding of its education, all donor countries have a unique opportunity as well as a responsibility: to demand that the PA remove all examples of terror glorification from its education system. The donor countries should not inadvertently send, through their silence, a message of acceptance of the PA's policy of using education to glorify and promote terror.