

The Palestinian Authority's Beliefs = Hamas's Charter

***Comparing the Palestinian Authority
Opinions and School Textbooks with the
Hamas Charter***

by Itamar Marcus

Executive Summary:

The Similarity Between the P.A. and Hamas

In Israel it is accepted to differentiate between the Palestinian Authority (P.A.), on the one hand, that supports peace, and between Hamas, on the other hand, as one who opposes peace. However, within Palestinian society, in the education of their children and in the media, a unified ideology on the most substantive issues as pertains to Israel is often presented, including, the denial of Israel's right to exist and defining Israel as the "conqueror of all of Palestine." The religious obligation to destroy Israel, which supposedly is a tenet identified only with Hamas, constitutes the sole attitude toward Israel that appears in textbooks published by the P.A.'s Ministry of Education, and is a recurrent theme in the media, often with the same formulations as in the Hamas Charter.

Positions which contradict the P.A.'s two main undertakings at Oslo, namely the recognition of Israel and the renouncing of violence, are systematically taught in P.A. schools and are presented in the P.A. media. These positions were recently asserted by two senior officials in the P.A. and it becoming ever more apparent that the anticipation of Israel's destruction is not only a Hamas position. One of Arafat's aides stated that he was speaking in the name of the Palestinian leadership, when he resurrected the P.L.O. "Phases Plan" saying at a public lecture that "The Palestinian State with its capital in Jerusalem is not the end of the journey" but is only a phase, "after which another phase will follow, notably the Democratic State in all of Palestine"[Arafat's Assistant for National Purpose, Uthman Abu Gharbia, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Nov. 25, 1999]. Amad Falugi, the Minister of Communications in the P.A., expressed the same position: "... our nation is full of hope regarding the future and the conquering state [Israel] will not continue to exist, regardless of its strength or its arrogance..." [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Nov. 18, 1999]

The use of violence as a legitimate means to achieve political ends, a tenet that is identified only with Hamas, also is a fundamental position in the P.A. The head of the Preventive Security apparatus in Gaza, Muhammed Dahlan opposes Hamas terrorist strikes only "at this phase": "We think that military operations at this phase definitely does not serve the national interest and therefore we will not permit any [military] operation, out of emotion ..." [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Nov. 14, 1999]. Farouk Kadumi, head of the Political Department in the P.L.O. also stated recently that that the P.L.O. is currently amassing arms in Lebanon "in order to continue the struggle by all means, when the need arises" [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah) and *Al-Quds*, Nov. 23, 1999]. The internal position in the P.A., which supports, in principle, the use of violence against Israel at times and in quantities that serve Palestinian interests, was recently articulated directly in a cartoon in which the bombing of Israel was presented as the "Palestinian dream." This position received additional expression on the official Internet site of the Fatah movement. "... The

Palestinian State will not arise by means of redeployment. A popular confrontation that will remind the Israelis of the Intifada, is the only means to stand against the conceit of the Israeli people, that justifies its actions with the claim that it is the chosen people of God." [The Internet home page of the Fatah Movement, Nov. 29, 1999]

Even when Israel was suffering from the terrorist strikes of the Hamas suicide bombers, senior P.A. officials defined their cooperation with Hamas as a division of tasks. Hani Alhasan, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, explaining why Arafat refused to implement mass arrests against Hamas, that "the unity is in the nature of construction, and it is incumbent upon us to divide the work among the builders." [Al-Ayyam, Aug. 31, 1997] Muhamed Dahlan, the head of the Preventive Security Apparatus in the Gaza Strip, said at the time that the presence of Hamas "is important and essential in the cooperation in the building." [Al Risalah, May 22, 1997] Officials in the P.A. did not conceal their position supporting the terror attacks by the Hamas suicide bombers. When a member of the Legislative Council expressed his condolences to the family of the terrorist who murdered Israelis in the Apropos cafe suicide bombing - "his words were interrupted by the applause of the members of the council" [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida (Fatah), March 27, 1997].

The distance between the Hamas and the P.A. is, in fact, shrinking, and what emerges is that the only meaningful difference between them, as regards Israel, is the acceptance or rejection of the Oslo process as a vehicle to arrive at common goals.

In the present report, The Palestinian Media Watch presents examples from the many findings that show that all the substantive positions in the "Hamas Charter" are taught in the school textbooks published by the Palestinian Education Ministry, and are expressed by official spokesmen of the P.A. What follows is a table that compares between the beliefs of the P.A. and the corresponding positions in the "Hamas Charter" [The translations of the school textbooks is from the report of the Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace, www.edume.org and of the Hamas Charter from the Internet site of the Israeli Foreign Ministry]

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- The definition of all of Israel as the land of the Islamic Waqf
- The prohibition to leave Islamic lands in the hands of Israel
- The obligation to fight Israel in a Jihad
- The inevitable victory will bring about the destruction of Israel
- Classic antisemitism, which includes libelous statements, comparisons of Israel to Nazis, etc.

| Hamas Charter | Palestinian Authority Beliefs |
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| "Palestine is an Islamic Waqf throughout all generations and to the Day of Resurrection." [Article 11] | "The land of Palestine is a Waqf for all Muslims from the east to the west... [Yousuf Abu Sneinah, an official religious lecturer, Voice of Palestine, April 30, 1999.] |
| "...the liberation of Palestine is an individual duty binding on all Muslims everywhere." [Article 13] | "The liberation of Palestine is an obligation for the entire Islamic nation, and not only for the Palestinians..." [Ibid.] |
| "When our enemies usurp some Islamic | "..if the enemy has conquered part of its |

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| <p>lands, Jihad becomes a duty binding on all Muslims.” [Article 15]</p> | <p>land ..then Jihad becomes the individual religious duty of every Muslim man and woman, until the attack is successfully repulsed and the land liberated from conquest...” [Islamic Education for Seventh Grade, p.108]</p> |
| <p>“In order to face the theft of Palestine by the Jews, we have no escape from raising the banner of Jihad.” [Article 15]</p> | <p>“...there will be a Jihad and our country shall be freed. This is our story with the thieving conquerors. You must know, my boy, that Palestine is your grave responsibility..” [Our Arabic Language for Fifth Grade, p. 69-70]</p> |
| <p>"Israel will rise and will remain erect until eliminated by Islam..."[Introduction]</p> | <p>“Remember: The final and inevitable result will be the victory of the Muslims over the Jews.” [Our Arabic Language for Fifth Grade, p. 67]</p> |
| <p>“There is no solution to the Palestinian problem except by Jihad.” [Article 13]</p> | <p>Arafat: “The agreements won’t liberate the land. Every centimeter needs struggle, and the land needs blood.” [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida (Fatah), Jan. 25, 1999]</p> |
| <p>“For our struggle against the Jews is extremely wide-ranging and grave...” [Introduction]</p> | <p>“The Day of Judgment, for Muslims, is connected with the final battle with the Jews.” [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida (Fatah), Oct. 5, 1999]</p> |
| <p>“...no one can renounce it [Palestine] or part of it, or abandon it or part of it.” [Article 11]</p> | <p>“The Muslim land of Palestine is one unit which can not be divided. There is no difference between Haifa and Nablus, Lod and Ramallah, Jerusalem and Nazareth. Dividing the land of Palestine into cantons and recognizing the occupation has no validity according to Islamic law... no one has a permission to give it up it or to divide it.” [Yousuf Abu Sneinah, PA religious lecturer, Voice of Palestine, April 30, 1999.]</p> |
| <p>“The Motto of the Hamas: Allah is its goal... Jihad its path...” [Article 8]</p> | <p>“Jihad is an integral article of faith which will never end, regardless of how many fall” [Palestinian Authority (PA) TV (Fatah), July 12, 1998]</p> |
| <p>“..Join Jihad!..” This call will ... continue to be heard until liberation is completed, the invaders are vanquished and Allah's victory comes.” [Article 33]</p> | <p>“My brothers! The oppressors [Israel] have overstepped the boundary. Therefore Jihad and sacrifice are a duty.... are we to let them steal its Arab nature... Draw your sword... let us gather for war with red blood and blazing fire...Death shall call and the sword shall be crazed [from much slaughter]... Oh Palestine, the youth will redeem your land..” [Reader and Literary Texts for Eighth Grade, p.</p> |

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| | 120-122] “...there will be a Jihad and our country shall be freed. This is our story with the thieving conquerors.” [<i>Our Arabic Language for Fifth Grade</i> , p. 69-70] |
| “...death for the cause of Allah its most sublime belief.” [Article 8] | “Martyrdom for Allah is the hope of all those who believe in Allah and have trust in His promises” [<i>Islamic Education for Seventh Grade</i> , p.112] “I hope that all my children will die as martyrs.” [Mother of a man killed fighting Israel, PA TV (Fatah), Sept. 9, 1998]. |
| “...reinforced by successive battalions from the multifarious Arab and Islamic world, until the enemies are defeated and Allah's victory prevails.” [Introduction] | “Our brothers in Arab and Muslim countries felt the danger... the [Arab] Nation will recruit its forces and there will be a Jihad and our country shall be freed, by Allah's will.” [<i>Our Arabic Language for Fifth Grade</i> , p. 69] |
| “The Nazi Zionist practices against our people...” [Article 31] | “They [the Jews] try to carry out Nazi slaughters on us” [Hafez Barghouthi, editor of <i>Al-Hayat Al-Jadida</i> (Fatah), July 23, 1999] “The clearest examples of racist belief and racial discrimination in the world are Nazism and Zionism.” [<i>The New History of the Arabs and the World</i> , p. 123] |
| “It [Israel] stands behind the diffusion of drugs and toxics of all kinds in order to facilitate its control and expansion.”[Article 28] | “[Israel is] a source of corruption due to distributing spoiled food, drugs, alcoholic drinks etc. [<i>Al-Hayat Al-Jadida</i> (Fatah), Feb. 18, 1999] |
| “This wealth [permitted them to] take over control of the world media ...” [Article 22] | “The success of the Jews was not coincidental, but an outcome of ... their loathsome control of world media.” [<i>Al-Hayat Al-Jadida</i> (Fatah), July 2, 1998] |
| “A society which confronts a vicious, Nazi-like enemy, who does not differentiate between man and women, elder and young... The Nazism of the Jews does not skip women and children... they mistreat people like the most horrendous war criminals.” [Article 20] | “The Slaughter is an evident political action in the bloody history of the Zionist entity... this is not the policy of a party, block, stream or a person. This is a continuing method that has never changed... the slaughter is the foundation of the State of Israel...” [<i>Al-Hayat Al-Jadida</i> (Fatah), Jan. 18, 1999] |
| “For Zionist scheming has no end, and after Palestine they will covet expansion from the Nile to the Euphrates.” [Article 32] | “David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister and the Founder of the Hebrew state, said: ‘We will make the war a Jewish profession, until all our land will be liberated, from the |

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| | Euphrates to the Nile' ...” [Al-Quds, April 9, 1999] |
| “They stood behind the French and the Communist Revolutions and behind most of the revolutions we hear about..” [Article 22] | “The Bolshevik revolution was a revolution of Jews.” [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida (Fatah), Oct. 5, 1999] |
| “They also used the money to establish clandestine organizations... in order to destroy societies and carry out Zionist interests. Such organizations are: the Free Masons, Rotary Clubs..” [Article 22] | “The first things they distributed all over the world were the ‘Free Masons’ and the ‘Rotary clubs,’ in order to trap the sinners and the influential people...” [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida (Fatah), Nov. 7, 1999] |