

Special Report

Palestinian Historical Revision:

Jesus misrepresented as "Muslim Palestinian"

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As part of its ongoing attempt to invent a Palestinian history, the Palestinian Authority is enlisting Jesus in order to hitch a ride into the past. Whereas the historical Jesus was a Judean (a Jew) living in Judea, the PA turns him into a "Palestinian": **"We must not forget that Messiah [Jesus] is a Palestinian, the son of Mary the Palestinian."** [PA official daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Nov. 18, 2005].

Similarly, the PA Mufti, Muhammad Hussein, asserts:

"Jesus was born in this land; he took his first steps in this land and spread his teachings [of Islam] in this land. He and his mother [Mary], we may say, were Palestinians par excellence."
[PA TV (Fatah), May 12, 2009]

This is not only a distortion of Jesus' personal history, but also an anachronism. The Romans changed the name of Judea to "Palestine" 136 years after the birth of Jesus, to punish the Jewish nation following its unsuccessful rebellion.

In another anomaly, Jesus' Jewish nationality and Christian message are distorted so as to present him as a Muslim and a *Shahid* – a holy Islamic Martyr. While Islamic tradition may turn Jesus into a Muslim, nowhere does Islam refer to him as a *Shahid*.

The cartoon on the right demonstrates the misappropriation of the symbol of the crucifixion as a Palestinian symbol. Inscribed on the cross is the word "Palestine." [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, Dec. 11, 2000]

The Pope's visit to Israel in 2009 presented an opportunity for the PA to misrepresent the "Arab Palestinian people" as "the people of the Messiah":

"The Pope's visit is an opportunity for the Palestinian leadership to present its cause... so that His Honor [the Pope] will assume his religious and political responsibility towards the people of the Holy Land, the Arab Palestinian people, the people of the Messiah [Jesus]."

[Al-Hayat Al-Jadida (Fatah), May 9, 2009]

A Palestinian member of Parliament usurped Jesus' suffering as Palestinian suffering.

Mustafa Barghouti, MP:

"We always remember that Jesus was the first Palestinian who was tortured in this land."

[PA TV, Dec. 24, 2009]

For the purpose of inventing a Palestinian national and historical tradition, religious differences are blurred or disregarded. All of the biblical prophets – indeed, the entire development of monotheism – are recast as Islam's traditions. *PA Mufti, Muhammad Hussein:*

"We're talking about an ongoing chain [of prophets of Islam], from Adam to Muhammad, representing the call for monotheism and the mission of Islam... The prophets were all of the same religion [Islam]... [e.g.] Jesus was born in this land in Bethlehem... He also lived in Nazareth, moved to Jerusalem, so he was a Palestinian... We respect Jesus, we believe in him [as a prophet of Islam], just as we believe in the Prophet Muhammad." [PA TV (Fatah), April 21, 2009]



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The official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, has systematically built up this historical religious revisionism. The following are further examples:

“Palestinians are used to death like this. The suffering of the first Palestinian – the Messiah – started with the Last Supper.” [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), April 30, 2008]

“Christianity was born in our Arab countries and the Messiah [Jesus] is a Syrian Palestinian, born in Nazareth.” [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Oct. 28, 2006]

“It was quite natural that the Palestinians rose to save their sanctuaries [in Nazareth in Galilee]... since Lord Messiah [Jesus] and his mother [Mary] are both Galileans and Palestinians.”
[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), March 9, 2006]

“We must not forget that the Messiah [Jesus], may peace be upon him, is Palestinian, the son of Mary the Palestinian, who is sanctified by hundreds of millions of believers in this world.” [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Nov. 18, 2005]

“They [Christians] read in the holy book [the Bible] the name of 'Palestine' and the real [Arabic] names of our villages and cities... We must not forget the Messiah [Jesus] is Palestinian, the son of Mary the Palestinian.” [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Nov. 18, 2005]

Note: The PA assumes that few Palestinians read the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. For were Palestinians to read the Bible, they would learn that Jesus was a Jew, that there was no “Palestine”, and that the Hebrew names used by Israel today, including the name “Land of Israel,” are the names found in the Bible.

“The *Shahids* (Martyrs) will cry, ‘We shook the palm trees alongside Lady Earth and the Lady of the people, the Virgin Mary, and with her son [Jesus], the first Palestinian *Shahid* (Martyr).’
[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Jan. 17, 2005]

“The Palestinian Galilee village [in Israel] of Kfar Kana takes pride in the fact that in [the village] the Palestinian Messiah [Jesus] succeeded in turning water into wine.”
[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Jan. 17, 2005]

On PA TV, a Palestinian artist displays his painting of Jesus arrested by two Israeli soldiers:

“Our [Palestinian] struggle today against the Other [Israel] is an eternal struggle; one can say that it began 2000 years ago and it continues until today. I portray this [in my painting] with the figure of Jesus who came to the world with the gospel of justice, and the other side did what they did to him... In this painting I exemplify this idea: the Israeli soldier, as we see him, is wearing an [Israeli] army uniform, [he arrests Jesus] while Jesus has nothing other than the Truth. When they searched Jesus upon his entry into Jerusalem, they found a stone, a slice of bread, fish, and he was chained. This is the Palestinian from the beginning of the struggle until its end.”
[PA TV (Fatah), July 21, 2000]

Headline: **“Nazareth: The city where the Jews murdered the first Palestinian of its [Nazareth's] sons.”** [Article]: **“[Nazareth] became famous as the place where the Lord Messiah grew up... The deeply rooted Palestinian language still flows off of the tongues of the Nazarenes, to the extent that one senses when one speaks to them, that time and the forces of the Zionist occupation did not succeed in altering the face of Palestinian Nazareth [Nazareth is an Israeli city – Ed.], and that it [the city] did not forget and will not forget its first son [Jesus] whom the Jews betrayed and handed over to the Roman emperor, and persisted until he was taken and executed.”**
[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Jan. 24, 2000]