

UNHRC should condemn the PA and Hamas for abuse of Palestinian children

- **On Monday the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) will meet in order to go through its regular routine of criticizing Israel.**
- **For 25 years the PA has been teaching Palestinian children and youth that terrorist murderers are heroes; that Jews are "the most evil among creations," and Israel is "the enemy"; and that Israel has no right to exist.**
- **These intertwined messages have been used by the PA as a means to mobilize and recruit Palestinian children and youth to take an active part in acts of terrorism against Israelis.**
- **While the PA rightly criticizes Hamas when it uses these same messages to children to fuel the weekly violent confrontations on the Gaza border, the PA is itself guilty of the same crimes against Palestinian children.**
- **Ignoring the wider context, intentions, and actions of the Palestinian terrorists, the PA and its representatives, and Hamas, the UNHRC is set to condemn Israel for the deaths of the Palestinian terrorists killed during these confrontations.**
- **If the UNHRC was sincere in its protection of children and human rights, it would condemn the PA and Hamas for indoctrinating entire Palestinian generations to hate Jews and Israel, and for recruiting Palestinian youth to carry out terrorist attacks.**

By Maurice Hirsch, Adv, Itamar Marcus, and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

This Monday, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) will meet in order to go through its regular routine of condemning Israel, in particular for its treatment of Palestinian children. The reality is that while Palestinian children are indeed suffering, the ones responsible are the Palestinian Authority leaders who have systematically stolen the childhood from Palestinian youth by raising them to see violence and martyrdom-death as ideals to strive for. As a result, Palestinian children and teenagers have been taking an active part in violence and murderous terrorism for years and have paid the price with both their lives and as prisoners in Israeli jails. While the UNHRC is always quick to condemn Israel for the deaths of the Palestinian teen terrorists and for the imposition of prison terms on arrested teen terrorists, it should instead be condemning the PA for using children as combatants in violation of international law and morality. Israel cannot be blamed for arresting or shooting anyone while defending itself against the PA terror, even if the terrorist is a teenager.

The bottom line is that if the PA would stop using children as terror combatants, there would be no Palestinian child terrorist prisoners and potentially no/many less child casualties.

The PA is not alone in abusing the Palestinian youth. Hamas too sends children to the front lines in their campaigns against Israel, most recently during the violent confrontations it has organized at the Gaza border with Israel since March 30, 2018, under the banner of the “March of the Return”, a euphemistic name that refers to infiltrating Israel with the goal of facilitating the so-called return of millions of Palestinian refugees to their claimed homes in Israel. Making the goal of the violence and the march clear, Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar said “We will take down the border [with Israel] and tear out their [Israeli] hearts from their bodies.” [Al Jazeera, April 6, 2018]

Ironically, while the PA is guilty of the same crime of putting children in danger in the name of “the struggle,” in two articles that appeared in the PA’s official daily on the backdrop of the weekly violence at the Gaza border, the authors hypocritically criticized Hamas for sending Palestinian children into conflict zones with Israeli forces.

Criticizing Hamas’ use of Palestinian children in these events, Muwaffaq Matar, a Fatah Revolutionary Council member and regular columnist for the official PA daily wrote:

“Our children are our national project for the future. Playing with their lives is treason and a crime... Escorting Palestinian children to the sites of confrontation with the occupation, allowing them to reach them, or transporting them to these dangerous sites must be viewed as indirect assistance to the crime against humanity... The protection of our children is a moral, human, and national obligation, which must not disappear from the consciences of those responsible for organizing the demonstrations, activities, and confrontations with the occupation forces... Martyrdom-death (*Shahada*) for nothing is not heroism.”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Feb. 10, 2019]

Calling to hold Hamas responsible for its abuse of children, an editorial in the official PA daily added:

“There is no choice but to pursue those [i.e. Hamas] who are still placing our children’s lives in danger from the Israeli killing bullets through their populist displays. We must not be silent any longer about this matter. Palestine has the right that its children will learn and grow in order to be pillars of the future of freedom and independence, and the children in Palestine have the right to be protected and defended by it [Palestine] so that they will live their lives in happiness.”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Feb. 11, 2019]

This is not the first time the PA has accused Hamas of using the march for its own purposes.

In April 2018, almost immediately after the start of the violence, Mahmoud Al-Habbash, PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas’ senior advisor of Islamic Affairs and Supreme Sharia Judge accused Hamas of intentionally sending Palestinians in Gaza to “go and die,” for the sole purpose that Hamas would have stories of dead Palestinians to tell the media.



Mahmoud Al-Habbash, Abbas’ Advisor on Islamic Affairs and Supreme Sharia Judge:

“The Palestinian people... doesn’t care about those [Hamas] with ‘the emotional stories of heroism, those with the slogans of heroism - slogans that when you hear them, you think that the people saying them are inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque after they liberated it. And afterwards you discover that they’re only selling illusions, trading in suffering and blood, trading in victims, [saying]: ‘You Palestinians, our people, go and die so that we’ll go to the TV and media with strong declarations.’ These [Hamas] acts of ‘heroism’ don’t fool anyone anymore. The Palestinian people... sides with the PLO.”

[Official PA TV, April 6, 2018]

The clear desire to use youth in terror during these confrontations on the Gaza border was exposed in a Facebook post written by the march’s organizers, calling specifically to youth to participate in terror:

"Rebelling young people,
Treat seriously and do not take lightly the requests to bring a knife, dagger, or handgun, if you have one, and to leave them under your clothes and not use them or show them, except if you identify one of the [Israeli] soldiers or settlers. Do not kill Israeli civilians, instead hand them over to the resistance immediately, because this is the point that Israel fears, as it knows that the capturer can set any condition he wants."

[Independent Palestinian Facebook page "The Great March of Return", May 14, 2018]



The instructions also described how masses of Palestinians would "collectively" breach the security fence aided by bulldozers:

"At a certain time... there will be a collective advance towards the barbed wire fence until we remove it with our strong hands and exposed bodies all at once, while being aided by loudspeakers and calls of 'Allahu Akbar' (i.e., Allah is greatest) by the masses. Therefore, do not advance individually, make do with the collective advance according to the instructions, because there will be bulldozers at the back that will advance in order to completely remove the fence."

Gazans were instructed not to deal with "the wounded or the Martyrs" but to concentrate on "the battlefield":

"Do not busy yourselves with the wounded or the Martyrs (*Shahids*), as the medical teams behind us are ready for this. Just pay attention to the battlefield and act wisely and according to the instructions."

While the PA's attack on Hamas' use of children in terror is certainly appropriate, it is also hypocritical as it is the PA itself that fundamentally poisons the minds of Palestinian children and encourages them to take part in acts of terror against Israel and Israelis.

The following are examples of documentation of the PA's messages exposed by [Palestinian Media Watch](#) for over two decades, showing that the PA has been abusing its own children with indoctrinating messages of hate and terror promotion. The messages taught to the children include:

- Terrorist murderers of Jews/Israelis are heroes, and terrorist "Martyrs" are role models;
- Encouraging children to use violence;
- Jews are "the most evil among creations," and Israel is "the enemy," Jews are "Allah's enemy" and "Zion is Satan with a tail"

Terrorist murderers of Jews/Israelis are "heroes," terrorist "Martyrs" are role models

The PA has [named 32 schools](#) after terrorist murderers including [Dalal Mughrabi](#) who led a group of terrorists who hijacked a bus with Israeli civilians in 1978 and murdered 37 of them, including 12 children. The PA has not only named [6 schools after her](#), but [specifically teaches fifth-graders to aspire to be like her](#) in an official PA schoolbook currently in use. The book features murderer Mughrabi on a list of "heroes" - "the best of the best" - and teaches that "every one of us wishes to be like them."

"Heroes have an important position in every nation... Every nation is prouder the more heroes it has, and the people – even if they are divided over many things – they all agree regarding the pride in their heroes, because without them the nation would be degraded... **We are proud of them, sing their praise, learn the history of their lives, name our children after them, and name streets, squares, and prominent cultural sites after them... every one of us wishes to be like them...** Thus they created a glorious history for the nation – they are the heroes. **Who among us has forgotten... Dalal Mughrabi, Yasser Arafat, and others among those moons that never set [but] illuminate the darkness of our dark nights? Our great homeland embraces all of them... These heroes are the crown of their nation, they are a symbol of its glory, they are the best of the best, the best of the noble people.** They took their lives in their hands and threw them at the dangers... **Therefore they are worthy of being heroes**, commemorated by history, and their memory will remain as a musk perfume that spreads its scent. **Bravo to the heroes, and scorn to the cowards!**"

[PA 5th Grade Arabic Language Textbook, Part A, (August 2017), pgs 13 -14]

Another terrorist role model is 13-year-old Ahmad Manasrah who stabbed and almost killed a 13-year-old Israeli boy. Manasrah [had a school football tournament named after him](#), in which many PA schools participated. Such a tournament gives Palestinian children of the same age as the terrorist a clear idea of who their role model should be and who they should imitate.

The PA also uses a terrorist murderer to promote reading to young Palestinians. "Martyr" Baha Alyan who was killed while murdering three Israeli civilians on a bus has had [reading events named after him at Palestinian universities](#), and has been [honored at a library event](#) and at [a scouts course](#).

A music video broadcast numerous times on official [PA TV highlights as a role model 17-year-old female suicide bomber Ayyat Al-Akhras](#), and promotes death as a Martyr for Al-Aqsa: "God, grant us Martyrdom... A million grooms and brides... have written the marriage contract in blood":



Lyrics: "Al-Aqsa has called, and its call is precious
For its sake, life is insignificant, even if it's precious...
God, grant us Martyrdom there
God, promise us, we beg of you...
A million grooms and brides at the celebration
Have written the marriage contract in blood on the veil"

Visual: Suicide bomber Wafa Idris - She blew herself up in Jerusalem, killing 1 and wounding over 100

Lyrics: "A million grooms and brides at the celebration
Have written the marriage contract in blood on the veil"

Visual: Suicide bomber Ayyat Al-Akhras - She blew herself up in Jerusalem, killing 2 and wounding 28

Lyrics: "**Filled with desire, they are going to the Paradise of immortals
To a wedding procession with angels that fill Palestine with light.**"

[Official PA TV, Dec. 11, 17 and 19, 2017;
Jan. 8, 10, 20, and Nov. 2, 2018]

The girl in the following PA TV children's show summarizes the PA message to kids that they should aim to kill and be killed. She says: "Shoot, shoot, in the name of God. The path of the Martyrs is above all":



Girl: "O Palestinian carrying a rifle: Shoot, shoot, in the name of God. Shoot, shoot, in the name of God. The path of the Martyrs is above all. They have sacrificed the most precious of all so that we will see the oppressor retreating..."
PA TV host: "Bravo, thank you very much."

[Official PA TV, *The Best Home*, April 28, 2017]

Another girl explained the value of dying as a "Martyr" for Allah - to an audience full of children on the same children's show on official PA TV:



"A Martyr (*Shahid*) is a person who has sacrificed his life in order to elevate the Word of Allah. A person becomes a Martyr when he defends his homeland or honor, or fights those who don't believe in Allah Almighty. Martyrdom-death (*Shahada*) is a high and supreme level, according to Allah."

[Official PA TV, *The Best Home*, March 24, 2017]

Similarly, the official PA news agency Wafa lauded dead teenage terrorists for achieving "Martyrdom" (*Shahada*) rather than graduating with a matriculation exam certificate (also in Arabic *Shahada*.) Instead of criticizing or even lamenting the loss of life and a future, the PA praised the dead teenage terrorists' choices that lead to death:

"The families of the Martyrs (*Shahids*) and their relatives find themselves proud of the Martyrdom (***Shahada*, a play on words, also means "certificate"**) that their children achieved with the Creator **and in the homeland...** Sixteen [students] succeeded [**in achieving**] the Martyrdom (***Shahada***) of the homeland and **withstanding its difficult tests**, for death as a Martyr is the path to excellence and greatness, and the path of those who know how to reach the great victory..."

[Wafa (official PA news agency), July 11, 2016; official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 12, 2016]

In parallel to the PA glorification of terrorists, Fatah, also headed by PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, organized [camps for kids named after arch-terrorist Khalil Al-Wazir - Abu Jihad](#). The camp, attended by 600 high school students, was held at a facility of the PA National Security Forces:

"The Fatah Movement's Jenin branch, in cooperation with [Fatah's] Jenin region leadership, held the third coexistence camp under the title **Martyr Abu Jihad Camp**, and this was at the [PA] National Security [Forces] camp Horsh Al-Saada. The camp will last for an entire month, three days a week, and 600 students from the [Fatah] High School Shabiba will participate in it."

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 7, 2018]

The PA Ministry of Education emphasized the importance of terrorist Abu Jihad's heritage to students in all PA schools via school radio:

"Director-General of Student Activities and Spokesman of the [PA] Ministry [of Education] Sadeq Al-Khadour said that as part of the activities in the schools, broadcasts of the radio stations in the schools were dedicated to talking about the prisoners in the occupation's prisons and the life of Martyr Khalil Al-Wazir."

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 18, 2018]

Abu Jihad was a founder of Fatah and deputy to Yasser Arafat. He headed the PLO terror organization's military wing and also planned many deadly Fatah terror attacks in the 1960's - 1980's. These attacks, in which [a total of 125 Israelis were murdered](#), included the most lethal in Israeli history - the hijacking of a bus and murder of 37 civilians, 12 of them children.

Encouraging children to use violence

When teaching Palestinian children about Newton's second law of physics, PA 7th Grade Life Sciences schoolbook presents them with an image of a Palestinian youth using a slingshot to propel rocks at Israeli soldiers.



The PA 9th Grade Social Studies schoolbook teaches the students that:

"The right of the peoples to self-determination and to resist occupation and foreign domination [emphasis in source], including turning to the **use of armed force** (emphasis added – Ed.) – is a natural and legitimate matter, especially since international law in general forbids occupation. This is what is stated in the UN

Charter in Article 4 of Section 2, which is dedicated to preventing the use of force, or the threat of using force, in international relations.”

And adds that the PLO chose “armed struggle”, even before the 1967 Six Day War:

“Armed Palestinian resistance started with the beginning of the Zionist immigration to Palestine at the end of the 19th century, and it grew with the increase [of Zionist immigration]. Afterwards, it became a political military operation and revolutions with the beginning of the British Mandate. Among the prominent Palestinian revolutions: The revolution of 1936 (i.e., 1936 Arab Revolt) and the great strike... The resistance operations became frequent after the [UN] partition resolution and the Zionist occupation of Palestine in 1948. The PLO has taken the armed resistance on itself since its establishment in 1965.”

The PA 9th Grade Arabic Language schoolbook includes a text where Palestinians watch the “barbeque” of an Israeli bus attacked with Molotov cocktails:

“The curfew does not include us in the Al-Shurafa [neighborhood of Ramallah]. It is imposed on the Al-Natarish [neighborhood of El-Bireh]. **It looks like they are barbecuing one of the buses of the colony of Psagot, which is on the high mountain, with Molotov cocktails.**”

Fatah, under the leadership of PA Chairman Abbas, even prepared a guide to rock throwing for children:

Posted text:

"In order to hit the target, there are three conditions:

1. Stand stably and balance your legs, arms, and body well
2. Focus your gaze on the center of the target, and do not look at anything else
3. Keep the desired balance between your body and your weapon; you are the one that controls the weapon, and not the other way around

If you did not understand this, read it again, and if you still have not understood, here is an example picture for you"

[Official Fatah Twitter account, Dec. 16, 2017]



Fatah, which is the ruling party in the PA, also uses Facebook to “softly” promote the recruitment and militarization of the Palestinian youth.

The image shows a young child in uniform wearing a *keffiyeh* around his neck and holding an M-16 assault rifle.

Posted text: **“The women are still giving birth to men. I’m talking about the women of Palestine.”**

[Official Fatah Facebook page, Feb. 16, 2019]

Fatah has also encouraged Palestinian parents to [teach their children about a terror bombing](#) in which 15 Israelis were murdered and over 60 wounded in 1975.

In a post on Facebook, Fatah writes about the terror attack in which terrorist Ahmad Abu Sukkar filled a refrigerator with explosives and had it driven to the center of Jerusalem where it was detonated:

"Share so that our children will know about it."

Fatah also honored the terrorist himself by posting three photos of him:

Posted text: "38 years since **the refrigerator operation, which caused the death of 13 Israelis (sic., 15) in Jerusalem's markets**

Share so that our children will know about it

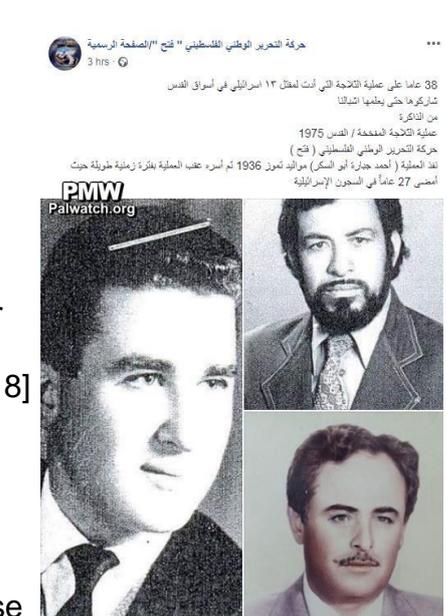
From the memory:

The refrigerator bomb operation, Jerusalem, 1975
The Palestinian National Liberation Movement - Fatah
The operation was carried out by Ahmad Jabarah Abu Sukkar, born in July 1936. He was taken captive long after the operation and sat in the Israeli prison for 27 years."

[Official Fatah Facebook page, July 5, 2018]

Jews are "the most evil among creations," and Israel is "the enemy"

To create an atmosphere that will prepare Palestinian youth to use violence against Israelis and Jews, the PA teaches its children to see Jews as mean, impure creatures, who descend from "apes and pigs." The following video shows a girl on a PA TV children's program reciting a poem that presents [Jews as "the most evil among creations"](#):



**Girl: "Oh, you who murdered Allah's pious prophets (i.e., Jews in Islamic tradition)
Oh, you who were brought up on spilling blood
Oh Sons of Zion, oh most evil among creations
Oh barbaric monkeys
Jerusalem opposes your throngs
Jerusalem vomits from within it your impurity"**

Because Jerusalem, **you impure ones**, is pious, immaculate
And Jerusalem, **you who are filth**, is clean and pure..."

PA TV host: "Bravo! Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine, we will never forget it."

[Official PA TV, May 29, 2015]

[Even younger girls](#) have recited this poem too.

In Gaza, under the control of Hamas, small children participating in a Childhood Festival of the Islamic Association in Khan Younes, were taught to pretend to be Hamas terrorists.

Alongside graphic visuals, a Palestinian girl announces:

"Forward, my child, to the duel. You will die as a Martyr (*Shahid*) and blow up the enemies. Palestine [is] an Arab holding victory in one hand, and rocks of fire in the other. [Palestine is] an Arab full of the challenging spirit, pride, and determination."

[Posted on YouTube, May 5, 2016]

Visuals:

Young boys dressed as Hamas fighters exit a "tunnel."



Young boys dressed as Hamas fighters dance with rifles.



Young boys dressed as Hamas fighters capture another boy dressed as an Israeli soldier.



Young boys dressed as Hamas fighters taking a kidnapped Israeli soldier through a “tunnel”



Young boys throw stones at other boys dressed as Israeli policemen. In the background are two boys dressed as Israeli ultra-orthodox Jews, acting as if they are praying.



Two girls: “Arabs, I do not turn to you. You can continue to sleep. We have young people who are all ready, and who do not fear death. The young of Jerusalem are a knife revolution.”

In addition to the poisonous teachings of the PA school system, the PA and Fatah’s constant glorification of terrorists and incitement of terrorism, the PA also [denies Israel's right to exist](#) and has [indoctrinated entire generations of Palestinians](#) to believe that one day all of Israel will become “Palestine” and they will be able to realize what the PA refers to as the Palestinians’ “Right of return.”

Despite leaving the subject of “refugees” as one of the issues to be decided in the final status peace discussions, according to the PA, every Palestinian, and all of their descendants, who fled Israel during Israel’s 1948 War of Independence, [many at the behest of the Arab armies or](#)

[militias](#), or in the course of the 1967 Six Day War, are entitled to return to their original place of residence.

When combined with the denial of Israel's basic right to exist, the demand that Israel open its doors to the millions of Palestinian so-called refugees, has one goal alone – to flood Israel with an overwhelming large Palestinian population, thereby devastatingly changing the demographic composition of the country, and paving the way for its democratic obliteration.

There is little doubt that Hamas used the PA indoctrination of Palestinians with the so-called “right of return” to mobilize the Palestinians of Gaza and initiated the violent confrontations on the border, cynically calling them the “March of the Return”.

When the different elements of the PA practices, teachings, and indoctrination are put together - **Terrorist murderers of Jews/Israelis are "heroes," terrorist "Martyrs" are role models; Encouraging children to use violence; Jews are "the most evil among creations," and Israel is "the enemy"; Israel has no right to exist; and the Palestinians have a “Right of Return”** - it is no wonder that Palestinian youth take an active role in terrorism against Israel. Hamas' messages and actions similarly indoctrinate Palestinian youths in Gaza, militarize them, and encourage them to take an active part in terrorism against Israel and Israelis. Accordingly, many of these teen terrorists are injured, or even killed as Israeli forces defend Israel and its citizens against these attacks.

As opposed to the current PA criticism of Hamas, when it was convenient to try and persuade and dupe the international community, such as the UNHRC Commission of Inquiry into the events on the Gaza border, that the terrorist actions were no more than “civilian demonstrations” the PA described the [launching of hundreds of flaming arson-kites into Israel](#), that indiscriminately targeted Israel's civilian population and resulted in extensive ecological and environmental damage, as nothing more than “a children's game such as kites (i.e., flaming arson-kites) used by peaceful protesters.” [Official PA daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, July 22, 2018]

Unsurprisingly, having adopted the false narrative of the PA, Hamas and their NGO supporters, the report of the UNHRC Commission of Inquiry, which will be discussed on the 18th, declared that the Gaza “demonstrations were civilian in nature, had clearly stated political aims and, despite some acts of significant violence, did not constitute combat or a military campaign” and that the commission found “no evidence to suggest that they were directed or coordinated by armed groups.”

Reports such as these, which ignore the wider context, intentions, and actions of the Palestinian terrorists, the PA and its representatives, and Hamas and exonerate them of any responsibility for the violence and casualties, are clear proof of the all too prevalent anti-Israel bias that characterizes the UNHRC.

If the UNHRC was sincere in its protection of children and human rights, it would recognize that Israel's defensive measures are merely a response to the immediate and real danger posed by Palestinian terrorists, including the teen terrorists. Additionally, it would condemn the PA and Hamas for indoctrinating entire Palestinian generations to hate Jews and Israel, and for the recruiting of Palestinian youth to carry out terrorist attacks.