

THE INCITEMENT REPORT

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Incitement by the Palestinian Authority
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- ***Al-Ayyam (PA), November 12, 2009, reported:*ⁱ**

"Mahmoud Abbas...spoke in favor of armed resistance at a rally marking the fifth anniversary of Yasser Arafat's death: 'We will continue [Arafat's] long and exhausting struggle [that was] fraught with blood, sweat, and tears. The road [we are traveling] today is anchored in a noble heritage of struggle that we built with brave hands, an enlightened mind, and a national thinking [rooted in] long experience. We combined armed struggle with political activity. Our guns were not the guns of highway robbers. They were political guns [promoting] a noble goal.'

- ***According to El-Shourouq (Tunisia), November 15, 2009:*ⁱⁱ**

Fatah Central Committee member Nabil Sha'ath said in an interview: "Today we have the right to return to the armed struggle in order to restore our rights. For 18 years we tried to negotiate, but Israel has continued its aggression, destruction, massacres and [construction of] settlements. Today we have the right to turn back to the alternative [routes]... If negotiations fail, we will turn to armed struggle. This is our right, as I have said... International law stipulates that, when an occupying [force] takes one's land and harms one's honor, one has the right to resort to armed struggle."

- ***Hafez Al-Barghouthi, editor of the PA daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, wrote on November 15, 2009:*ⁱⁱⁱ**

"[We] must bring things to the point of no return: either [we obtain] a fully sovereign Palestinian state in the June 4, 1967 borders, or the flood will descend..."

"The Palestinian people will not allow its tragedy to repeat itself without a reaction. If it must choose between a quick death and a slow one, it will choose the short road and set the land on fire everywhere..."

"We owe nothing to anyone. On the contrary, it is others who owe us a huge debt. If the roads to peace are blocked by settlements and international conspiracies, we will turn ourselves into paragons of sacrifice... When we no longer have anything to lose, it will be [the Israelis] who will lose..."

● **On December 24, 2009**, three members of Al-Aksa Brigades killed Rabbi Meir Avshalom Chai in a drive-by shooting in Samaria and fled. Two days later, the IDF had tracked them to their homes, in the Nablus area . Two refused to come out of their homes and surrender; a third came out using his wife as a shield and was thought to be armed. They were all shot dead.

By December 27, the Palestinian Authority leadership and PA-controlled media had begun to refer to the three as *shahids* – holy martyrs:^{iv}

PA President Mahmoud Abbas sent a personal emissary – Secretary General of the President’s Bureau, Tayeb Abd Al-Rahim – to the homes of their families. He carried letters from Abbas that conveyed condolences and informed the families of his decision to name them “*Shahids* of the Palestinian Revolution” (PA TV)

Said Al-Rahim: "Without doubt, what the occupation authorities have carried out is a wild and barbaric act and a deliberate, malicious assassination in cold blood."

PA TV featured a poster of the three terrorists, expressing condolences from Abbas. The text on the poster read:

"With honor and admiration to those who are more honored than all of us.

"The Palestine Liberation Organization, Fatah, accompanies to their wedding [of martyrs with virgins in Paradise]:

"The Martyr, Commander, Hero: Rasan Abu Serah

"The Martyr, Commander, Hero: Ra'ed Al Aschregi

"The Martyr, Commander, Hero: Anan Sobh

The Director General of the Presidency expresses condolences to the Nablus Martyrs - in the name of the President [Abbas]."

Additionally, PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad personally visited the homes of the families of these men and conveyed condolences.

It should be noted that there was denial of what the three men had done. There was no claim that “innocent” men had been mistakenly killed by the IDF.

Maan News Agency on December 26 referred to the activity of these men, “which led to the death of the settler in a shooting operation.”

● **Dalal Mughrabi** was a young female terrorist who led a party of 11 other terrorists down from Lebanon into northern Israel, via the Mediterranean, in 1978. They first killed wildlife photographer Gail Rubin on the beach and then hijacked a bus. When the bus was stopped at a roadblock, and a gun battle ensued, she blew it up. In all 37 civilians, including 10 children, were killed and 71 wounded. This attack, which became known as the Coastal Road Massacre, is one of the worst in Israel’s history. Mughrabi herself was killed in the gun battle.

On December 29, 2009, PA President Mahmoud Abbas honored Mughrabi’s memory on the occasion of her 50th birthday. PA dignitaries and a children’s marching band were present for the ceremony.^v

A very large banner was displayed at the ceremony. It had Mughrabi's picture on it. The text read:

"Under the auspices of President Mahmoud Abbas

The Political and National Education Authority Ceremony on the anniversary of the birth of the bride of the cosmos The *Shahida* (Holy Martyr) Dalal Mughrabi."

Two PA TV broadcasts noted the ceremony.

Additionally, the governor of Ramallah announced the naming of Dalal Mughrabi Square.

While on December 30, 2009, PA spokesman Jamal Nazal, writing in *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, referred to her as "the heroine of Palestine's heroines."

● **Wafa Idris**, the first female Palestinian suicide bomber, detonated a bomb in the center of Jerusalem in January 2002 that killed one and injured over 100.

During the first week of January 2010, she was honored as a *Shahida* (Holy Martyr) in a Fatah promotional video broadcast on PA TV.^{vi}

● **On January 11, 2010, the following appeared in the PA paper *Al-Ayyam*:**^{vii}

Headline: "The occupation accuses the Palestinian leadership of incitement because of Dalal Mughrabi Square -Minister of Culture: Honoring the *Shahids* is the least we can do, and resistance to the occupation is a legitimate right"

"The occupation government [the Israeli government] has reiterated its familiar tune of accusing the [Palestinian] National Authority of incitement within Palestinian culture. The Israeli Prime Minister... claims that the Palestinian leadership is encouraging terror in its culture.

"Netanyahu claims that the proof, which he presented to the members of his government, is the naming of a square in the region of Ramallah and El-Bireh after the *Shahida* (Martyr) Dalal Mughrabi. ...

"Netanyahu is reported as saying: 'Anyone who supports naming [the square] after Dalal Mughrabi, who was responsible for the murder of dozens of Israelis, is encouraging terror and pushing peace further off...'

"Netanyahu was referring to the operation of self-sacrifice led by Mughrabi in 1978, the 'Coast Operation' within Israel, which led to the deaths of 36 Israelis. Netanyahu accused the [Palestinian] National Authority of incitement in schools and in cultural activities in general.

"Minister of Culture Siham Barghouti said, in response to the Israeli claims, that 'It is our right to preserve and maintain [the memory] of our fighters who sacrificed their lives for our sake and for the sake of the Palestinian cause.'

"She added: 'Honoring them in this way [by naming public places after them] is the least we can give them, and this is our right, especially since we believe that resistance, in the shadow of the ongoing occupation, is a legitimate right, and we are proud and we pride ourselves on our heritage of struggle, which has been realized by our *Shahids* and fighters throughout history.'

● ***Al-Quds, Jerusalem, January 21, 2010, reported:***^{viii}

"The concluding statement of Fatah's Revolutionary Council meeting said that there was a need to step up the popular resistance and to expand it to all Palestinian areas harmed by the settlements and by the separation fence."

● **On Friday, January 29, 2010**, a sermon was broadcast on PA-controlled TV that said in part:

"The Jews, the enemies of Allah and of His Messenger, the enemies of Allah and of His Messenger! Enemies of humanity in general, and of Palestinians in particular - they wage war against us using all kinds of crimes, and as you see - even the mosques are not spared their racism..."

"Oh Muslims! The Jews are the Jews. The Jews are the Jews. Even if donkeys would cease to bray, dogs cease to bark, wolves cease to howl and snakes to bite, the Jews would not cease to harbor hatred towards Muslims. The Prophet said that if two Jews would be alone with a Muslim, they would think only of killing him. Oh Muslims! This land will be liberated, these holy places and these mosques will be liberated, only by means of a return to the Koran and when all Muslims will be willing to be Jihad Fighters for the sake of Allah and for the sake of supporting Palestine, the Palestinian people, the Palestinian land, and the holy places in Palestine. The Prophet says: 'You shall fight the Jews and kill them...'"^{ix}

Incitement by UNRWA January 2010

Karen AbuZayd has retired as Commissioner-General of UNRWA and has been succeeded by Filippo Grandi, who had been AbuZayd's lieutenant.

Providing insight into the issue of UNRWA incitement we have Mr. Grandi's inaugural letter to the UNRWA staff, dated January 26, 2010. It appeared on the UNRWA website.^x

Mr. Grandi's letter includes the following:

"I need not tell you how difficult this period is for the Palestinian people. We are all painfully aware of the counterproductive policies collectively punishing the people of the Gaza Strip; conscious decisions that have caused untold suffering and a dramatic deterioration in the lives of the population, in contravention of international law. One of my key priorities will be to continue to advocate strongly on behalf of the 1.5 million Gazans, and to do so not only until the end of the blockade and the occupation, but also until a just and lasting solution to the plight of the refugees is achieved.

"Despite some recent economic improvements for some, the lives of most Palestinians in the West Bank continue to be made almost impossible by obstacles, walls, movement limitations and other restrictions, and by the expanding threat of settler violence. For those residing in East Jerusalem, as I do, it is cause for daily anguish to watch the situation deteriorate rapidly under our very eyes, especially the ruthless evictions of Palestinians from their homes. UNRWA will continue to stand with the affected families and all of those in need of our protection and will tirelessly lend our voice to their calls for justice."

There are several seriously tendentious statements – and, in fact, outright misrepresentations – included here. But this material is problematic for reasons beyond this: UNRWA'S mandate is purely humanitarian. Grandi is assuming a political stance that is absolutely beyond his purview. How does UNRWA come to "stand with affected families" who have been evicted in eastern Jerusalem?

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- i MEMRI Special Dispatch No. 2664, November 20, 2009.
- ii Ibid.
- iii Ibid.
- iv Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, December 29, 2009, regarding all material that follows on this subject.
- v Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, December 31, 2009, regarding all material that follows on this subject.
- vi Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, January 5, 2010.
- vii Reported on the Palestinian Media Watch website, <http://www.palwatch.org/>, January 14, 2010.
- viii Source and translation: MEMRI Blog, posted January 21, 2010.
- ix Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, February 1, 2010.
- x <http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=548>