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The Incitement Report

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Incitement by the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA January-February 2010

⊙ "The Palestinian Authority is once again trying to divert attention from its problems at home, and the best way to do this is [by] escalating tensions with Israel - the Palestinian Authority's policy since its inception after signing the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993.

"To distract attention from charges of financial corruption and embarrassing sexual scandals, the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank has stepped up its anti-Israel rhetoric. Allegations of 'ethnic cleansing,' 'destruction and desecration of Islamic religious sites,' 'apartheid,' 'racism,' 'land theft' and 'conducting medical experiments on Palestinian prisoners' are directed every day toward Israel by Abbas and his top officials and spokesmen.

"These charges are often backed up by threats to launch a 'third intifada' or to resume suicide bombings against Israel.

"Given Abbas's growing predicament, the likelihood of a new wave of violence in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip seems to be more realistic than ever."¹

⊙ On February 26, 2010, PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad stated that the Al-Ibrahimi mosque site in Hebron [the Machpelah] is "an inseparable part of Palestinian lands occupied in 1967, as is the Gaza strip and eastern Jerusalem."²

According to NAM News Network:

"After performing Friday prayers (which were held at the Al-Ibrahimi mosque³), Fayyad said that the Palestinian people stand together in facing the Israeli decision to list Al-Ibrahimi mosque and Rachel Tomb (sic) – a mosque – both on Palestinian land, as Israeli UNESCO (sic) heritage sites.

"He stressed that Israel by this, breaches international law, having no claim over the land, which the Palestinians have full rights to."⁴

He further warned of an increased risk of violence as a result of the Israeli government decision on the sites, adding "we are all united against the decision of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and against the terror of the settlers."⁵

Several sources⁶ reported that Fayyad accused Israel of having "annexed" the site.

⊙ On February 23, 2010, PA President Mahmoud Abbas referred to the decision of the Netanyahu government to add the Machpelah in Hebron and Kever Rachel outside of Bethlehem to the list of national Heritage sites as a "severe provocation" that could lead to a "war of religions" and possibly a new intifada.⁷

⊙ The Palestinian Authority daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, reported on February 20, 2010, that Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad praised the popular resistance in the village of Bil'in at a rally marking six years of struggle against the separation fence.⁸

⊙ On February 13, 2010, PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad put out a call for a boycott both with the Palestinian Authority and internationally of products from Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria.

He made his statement in the course of a seminar organized by al-Quds University in the city of Tulkarem in the West Bank. Fayyad said his cabinet was working intensely to pass a law forbidding the sale of products from the "occupied territories" and to ensure that other world governments fulfill their obligations according to the Hague Conventions.

Fayyad also claimed that "the settlements and their products violate the Fourth Geneva Convention."

"This campaign and its success require a collective national responsibility on behalf of the Palestinian people, and will also require creating hostile public opinion around the world toward the settlements and their merchandise," he said.⁹

⊙ On February 12, 2010, Faiz Faraj, a Palestinian in Hebron, attempted to stab an Israeli soldier who was on patrol. Other members of the IDF opened fire on him after he pulled out a knife and lunged at the soldier. The Palestinian died on the way to the hospital.

Subsequently, PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad paid a condolence call to the family. This was the front page story in the official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, on February 14, 2010.¹⁰

The story included a picture of the terrorist, who is referred to as a *Shahid*. The article said:

"The [Palestinian Authority] Prime Minister [Salam Fayyad] paid condolences to the family of the *Shahid* [Martyr] Faiz Faraj, who was killed on Friday evening by the occupation forces [Israel], having been fired upon directly in the old Al-

Shalala neighborhood in Hebron. Fayyad denounced in extremely harsh terms the actions of the occupation forces, carried out as part of the ongoing campaign to suppress the non-violent protests of residents in the various regions."

⊙ On February 11, 2010, Palestinian Authority TV news ran a feature showing a Palestinian mother speaking of her son's death as something positive.¹¹

After learning that her son had died in an Israeli air strike, the mother explained:

"We had always hoped for his [her son's] *Shahada* [Martyrdom], knowing he wanted to die as a *Shahid* [Martyr]. Every time he went out, we would say to him, 'May Allah be with you.' We knew that he wanted to die as a Martyr. Praise to Allah, he sought Martyrdom, and he achieved it. My message to every mother is to sacrifice her child for Palestine."

A second woman, who had been chosen by PA TV news to participate in this pre-recorded report, explained that Palestinian society sees Martyrs as grooms. This is based on the Islamic tradition, promoted actively by the PA, that Martyrs will marry 72 virgins in Paradise. "By Allah," she said, "we welcome every Martyr as if he were a groom among us."

⊙ A music video broadcast on PA TV from the year 2000 until as recently as February 7, 2010, depicts a Martyr being greeted in Paradise by the Virgins all dressed in white.¹² It can be seen here:

http://palwatch.org:80/main.aspx?fi=637&fld_id=637&doc_id=1486

⊙ The Friday sermon delivered at Bourin Mosque in Nablus on January 29, 2010, was carried on Palestinian Authority TV.¹³

Excerpts from that sermon:

"Palestine was subjected to a loathsome occupation of its land and holy places by these neo-Mongols, who perpetrated, on this holy, blessed, and pure land, acts of killing, assassination, destruction, expropriation, Judaization, harassment, and the fragmentation of the homeland.

"This is clear evidence of the hatred they harbor, and of their unparalleled racism. This is the Nazism of the 20th (*sic*) century.

"The Jews are the enemies of Allah and His messenger. They are the enemies of Allah and His messenger, the enemies of humanity in general, and of the Palestinians in particular. They are fighting us with all types of crime, and even the mosques have not been spared their racism.

"For the people who laid traps for the prophets of Allah – arrested them, killed them, and deceived them – it is a thousand times easier to lay traps for the followers of these prophets. **Our mutual enmity with the Jews is a matter of faith more than an issue pertaining to occupation and land....** (*emphasis added*)

"Jews will always be Jews. Even if donkeys cease to bray, dogs cease to bark, wolves cease to howl, and snakes cease to bite, the Jews will not cease to be hostile to the Muslims.

"The Prophet Muhammad said: 'Whenever two Jews find themselves alone with a Muslim, they think of killing him.' Oh Muslims, this land, these holy places, and these mosques will only be liberated when we return to the Book of Allah, and when all Muslims are prepared to become *mujahideen* for the sake of Allah, in support of Palestine, its people, its land, and its holy places."

"...This land will only be liberated through Jihad."

A clip of this sermon, taken from PA TV by MEMRI can be seen here:

<http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/0/0/0/0/0/2367.htm>

© The official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* on January 6, 2010, did a full-page spread honoring Fatah on the 45th anniversary of its founding.¹⁴

More than a third of the page was devoted to a celebration of the lives of 10 senior terrorists, who were referred to as "heroic Shahids" [Martyrs].

The following is a translation of material from that page:

Headline: "On the 45th anniversary of its founding: Fatah is still the leader of the national struggle and the foundation stone of the Palestinian State"

"Quality military operations:

"The revolutionary forces [Fatah] who were engaged in *Ribat* [religious war] in South Lebanon conducted a series of prominent operations, the best-known among them being the Savoy Operation in 1976 [where terrorists took over a hotel and killed eight hostages and two soldiers], followed by the operation by Dalal Mughrabi [the bus hijacking in which 37 Israelis were killed] in 1978, and many more operations against the northern [Israeli] settlements close to the Lebanese border, which caused pain to Israel and sleepless nights for its military and security establishment..."

"Fatah katyushas (missiles) in the south [of Lebanon] pulverized the colonies of the occupation:

"UNIFIL ... did not prevent the members of the Fatah movement, and of the other Palestinian organizations, from continuing their self-sacrifice [military] actions against Israel, and in 1981 Fatah's katyushas pulverized the northern settlements."

"Fatah still boasts the greatest number of prisoners and *Shahids* [Martyrs] in the struggle:

"Fatah has the greatest number of prisoners in the jails of the Israeli occupation... In addition, it is the largest faction that has sacrificed *Shahids* [Martyrs] from among its commanders and members [in the past] and until a few days ago, when special forces of the Israeli occupation army executed three of its

members in Nablus [referring to the three terrorists who were killed by Israel two days after they murdered Rabbi Meir Chai in December 2009]."

⊙ Mahmoud Abbas, when criticized by Prime Minister Netanyahu for honoring terrorist Dalal Mughrabi both by sponsoring a celebration in recognition of her birthday and naming a square after her, responded. His words were carried by *Al Hayat al-Jadida* on January 19, 2010:

"They [Israelis] say about me that I carry out terrorist activities. What are those terrorist activities? That I search for those who sell land in Jerusalem and chase them. Of course I chase them, and I shall continue to do so. Is that a crime? [Israel says,] 'Does he [Abbas] not know that they [the PA] named a square after Dalal Mughrabi...?' ...I do not deny [the naming]. Of course we want to name a square after her. Okay, what about [Rehavam] Zeevi? They [Israelis] named a road after him, near brother Saeb [Erekat], and so on. What is it [that Israel wants]? That we renounce our history? How? We... carried out military activities; can I then later renounce all that we have done? No, I don't renounce it."¹⁵

⊙ PA Minister of Religious Endowments Mahmoud Al-Habbash recently delivered a sermon in which he talked about ideas of resistance and Jihad, declaring that while "wisdom and reason" should be utilized in adapting the means of resistance to the circumstances, "nobody has the right to declare the end of Jihad."

This sermon appeared on Palestinian Authority TV on January 7, 2010. Following are translated excerpts from that sermon:¹⁶

"Jihad continues to Judgment Day. Brothers, nobody - whoever he may be - can ever abolish Jihad or say that it has come to an end. Jihad continues to Judgment Day. Someone once said in a political debate: 'I am ready to declare an end to Jihad.' This concept is wrong. Nobody has the right to declare an end to Jihad.

"However, Jihad assumes different forms, paths, and methods, in accordance with the circumstances...

"We have one enemy. All our arrows and all our efforts should be aimed in a single direction - to conduct resistance against the settlement and the occupation, and to repel the Israeli injustice done to our people.

"The day will come when we will fly the flag of our Independent Palestinian State over every inch of our soil.

"It is inevitable that the day will come when we will fly the flag of our independent Palestinian state over every inch of our soil and over the minarets and the domes of Jerusalem, Allah willing."

Incitement by UNRWA January - February 2010

⊙ On February 2, 2010, new UNRWA commissioner-general, Filippo Grandi, toured sites in Gaza and then declared the situation "catastrophic." Stating that the Israeli blockade was destroying Palestinian life and hope, he called on the international community to pressure Israel to lift the blockade.¹⁷

According to Agence France-Presse,¹⁸ on February 8, 2010, Grandi, who had gone to Cairo, explained that he was there "to discuss the situation in Gaza and to call on the Cairo government and the Arab League to continue pressure on the state of Israel to lift entry restrictions on people and construction equipment.

"We respect Israel's security concerns. They are legitimate concerns, but we have offered very precise guarantees that the material we receive would only be used for our reconstruction projects...

"It's a crisis that affects all aspects of life for the residents of Gaza.

"It's an economic crisis with a crumbling private sector, it's a social crisis, a crisis of institutions, it's a very serious general crisis that the banning of construction material renders even more serious."

Grandi was also cited by Daoud Kuttab¹⁹ as having said that the siege on Gaza is "collective punishment," and that the refugees' rights are violated every day. "The closure is a violation of human rights. Not allowing Gazans access to goods that sustain life and allow them to pursue normal life is therefore a clear violation."

⊙ Our investigative staff has encountered a pattern. Statements made by UNRWA personnel before, during or shortly after Cast Lead are being "recycled": run on the Internet so that they continue to be available. The dates when the statements were made become insignificant as these statements are seen as addressing current problems.

Two examples, both involving John Ging, Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza, are most pertinent in this respect:

1) It is unclear precisely when this video was actually made and then put up on YouTube – other than that it was after Cast Lead, likely some time early in 2009. It was posted on the website www.Momsinsantiago.com on February 24, 2010 – roughly a year after it was filmed.

In this video, Ging explains to the journalist who accompanies him on a tour of Gaza, that:

"This was the biscuit factory (shown destroyed)...the cement factory...

"Remember, the announcement was that this whole war was about destroying the infrastructure of terrorism. But when you look around and see what has been destroyed, you see that it was not the infrastructure of terrorism..."

You see factories destroyed, the infrastructure of the economy...schools, the infrastructure of education...ministries, the infrastructure of peace...the parliament, the infrastructure of democracy."

The journalist comments to Ging, "You ask people not to retaliate, but when they're hungry [because of what Israel has done], they become angry."

Ging picks up on this and explains how more people now wait in line for UNRWA assistance, but there isn't more to give. And then he says, "Treat people as hostile and they become hostile."

The video can be seen at:

<http://www.momsinsandiego.com:80/children/unrwas-john-ging-childrens-psychiatric-hospital-in-gaza-3>

2) On October 19, 2009, Ging gave an interview with Amjad Atallah, co-director of the New America Foundation's Middle East Task Force.

In that interview, Ging said: "Thank you very much to all the political interventions and statements, but this [the "blockade" of Gaza by Israel] is a matter of law. It's a matter of international law. It's a matter of holding up human rights for civilians who are caught up in a conflict zone."

Ging spoke at length about the "truncated education" young Gazans are receiving because Israel will not permit into Gaza the building materials necessary for expanding schools. His claim is that there are adequate mechanisms in place to assure that building materials would be used properly by UNRWA.

A text description and a video of the interview can be seen at:

http://middleeast.newamerica.net/events/2009/hope_amid_tragedy

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New York website, March 2, 2010.
- 2 NAM (Non aligned movement) News Network, originating in Malaysia, February 27,
2010.
- 3 <http://www.dailybahrain.com/news/newsfull.php?newid=337865>. February 26, 2010.
- 4 NAM News Network, op. cit.
- 5 *Ha'aretz*, March 1, 2010.
- 6 CBC News, Gulf News, *Jerusalem Post*: source is AP
- 7 *The Jerusalem Post*, February 25, 2010.
- 8 Posting on the MEMRI Blog, February 21, 2010:
http://www.thememriblog.org/blog_personal/en/25001.htm
- 9 Ali Waked, writing in YNet, February 13, 2010.
- 10 Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, February 14, 2010, regarding all material that follows
on this subject.
- 11 Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, February 21, 2010, regarding all material that follows
on this subject.
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- 13 MEMRI Anti-Semitism Documentation Project, Report #2784., regarding all material
that follows on this subject.
- 14 Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, January 15, 2009
- 15 Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, January 19, 2009.
- 16 MEMRI Special Dispatch No. 2796, February 8, 2010.
- 17 NAM News Network, February 3, 2010:
<http://www.namnewsnetwork.org/v2/read.php?id=109398>
- 18 Cited by The International News, February 24, 2010:
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- 19 *Huffington Post*, February 16, 2010: www.huffingtonpost.com/daoud-kuttab/fillipo-grandi-the-new-un_b_463982.htm