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The Incitement Report

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Incitement by the Palestinian Authority
March 2010

© Of particular note in March was the honoring of the terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, who led the worst terror attack in Israel's history, the Coastal Road Massacre of 1978. Mughrabi sailed on a raft from Lebanon with a squad of terrorists and landed on the beach south of Haifa. They first killed American nature photographer Gail Rubin, and then hijacked a bus, ultimately murdering 38 Israeli civilians including 13 children.

The process of honoring Mughrabi – which was timed for the 32nd anniversary of the event on March 11 – received public attention in Israel and was monitored by Palestinian Media Watch. There were multiple facets to what occurred.

Square named for her

Intention to name a square in El-Bireh (adjacent to Ramallah) after Mughrabi was declared well in advance of the actual day: On the 50th anniversary of Mughrabi's birth, the governor of Ramallah made the announcement.¹

What followed were protests from the prime minister's office on January 7, 2010,² and then, three days later, by Prime Minister Netanyahu himself.³

Subsequently, defense of this planned action was forthcoming from various PA officials in response to the Israeli criticism.

From PA minister of culture, Siham Barghouti, who said on January 11, 2010, "Honoring them [martyrs] this way [by naming places after them] is the least we can give them, and this is our right."⁴

From Mahmoud Abbas on January 17, who said, "Of course we want to name a square after her... [We] carried out military activities; can I then later renounce all that we have done?"⁵

From Mahmoud Al-Aloul, member of the Fatah Central Committee and General Commissioner for Recruitment and Organization, on February 25, who stressed the importance of continuing to commemorate the memory of the *shahids* (martyrs) and the Palestinian acts of heroism.⁶

On March 7, 2010, the El-Bireh municipality announced that construction of the square had been completed, and preparations were under way for its inauguration four days hence.⁷

The *Shabiba* [Fatah] youth movement of the high schools in the Nablus region participated in work around the square in preparation for its inauguration. Hasan Fakhri coordinator of activities in the Nablus district, said that this activity was designed to reinforce loyalty to the *shahids* (martyrs), who sacrificed their blood for the sake of the Palestinian cause. He remarked on the need to recall the symbols of the Palestinian struggle among [future] generations.⁸

Secretary-General of the Presidency, Tayeb Abd Al-Rahim, on March 9, praised Mughrabi and other terrorists who "turned their blood into a bridge over which we pass on the way to our freedom, independence and national liberation from the burden of the occupation."⁹

On March 10, the PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* published an article praising women who carried out attacks and suicide bombings, such as Dalal Al-Mughrabi, Rim Al-Riyashi, Hannadi Jaradat, and Wafa Idris.¹⁰

Ultimately, because US Vice President Joe Biden had come into the region as preparations for the inauguration of the square were taking place, there was broad expectation that the ceremony would not proceed. This was particularly the case as Prime Minister Netanyahu had registered strong protest to the US administration and had asked envoy George Mitchell to convince Abbas to cancel the event.¹¹

In fact, media reports had it that the PA agreed to cancel the event.¹²

What actually happened is that the "official" inauguration under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority did not take place, but members of the Fatah youth (Fatah being the predominant faction of the PA) did gather to dedicate the square in a "popular" ceremony.

Tawfiq Tirawi, a member of the Fatah Central Committee, who was a participant at the event, declared, "We are all Dalal Mughrabi. For us she is not a terrorist [but rather] a fighter who fought for the liberation of her own land."¹³

Other members of Fatah who were present included Jamal Huweil, a member of the Palestinian legislature, and senior Fatah presence Mustafa Abu Rabi'a. Fatah spokesman Dr. Faiz Abu Aytah called Mughrabi "a symbol in the history of our national struggle." He spoke of "the right of Fatah, of the Palestinian Authority, and of the Palestinian people to celebrate the anniversary of her martyrdom."¹⁴

Additionally, the ceremony was attended by the PA Minister of Women's Affairs, Rabiha Diab.¹⁵

A large banner held up at the event read:

"On the anniversary of the Coastal Road Operation we renew our commitment and our oath that we uphold the charge and that we will not stray from the path of the *shahids*

Shahida [Martyr] Dalal Mughrabi Square, *Shabiba* students' movement/ Palestine"¹⁶

Radio interview with sister

On the morning of the day on which the "unofficial" square naming took place, PA TV recognized the anniversary of the Coastal Road Massacre by interviewing Dalal Mughrabi's sister, Rashida.

The broadcast began with praise for the terror attack:

"A glorious chapter in the history of the Palestinian people... in the heart of the occupation state. The operation shocked the occupation entity."

Rashida then said:

"This is a day of glory and pride for our Palestinian people and a blow to the Zionists, who view it as a day of blood for them..."

"Before she set out for the operation and fell as a *shahida*, Dalal left a message for our father, a will to all of our brother fighters, to point the rifles - all the rifles - at the Zionist enemy... And if people have not taken note of her will, let them now take note that we must unite, and our rifles must unite, against the enemy who steals our land, and not against one another..."

"Dalal is a source of pride for the Palestinian woman. It is our right to honor her. There is an Israeli demand not to celebrate in honor of Dalal. There are high school students and members of the *Shabiba* [Fatah] youth movement who are adamant about their right to honor Dalal today. They want to assemble at 1:00 in the afternoon around the square, which will be named after Dalal this afternoon, and, Allah willing, we will see you there, so that we can all show our pride in our fighters, in the Palestinian woman - in Dalal Mughrabi."¹⁷

A seminar named for her

Three days after the events described above, on March 14, the PA launched a four-day seminar, called "Martyr Dalal Mughrabi Camp" in Jericho under the auspices of the PA's Military Science Academy.

This academy is the site of some of the training of PA security forces being done under the supervision of US General Keith Dayton.

⊙ In early March, a PA TV program for young children spoke of Israel as "occupied Palestine."

During the course of the program, "The Best Home," the host explained that Israeli Arab children living in the Israeli cities of Lod, Nazareth and Be'er Sheva are living under occupation. Addressing Israeli Arab viewers, she said: "Dear children... we will always remain in contact with you, because you have the right, and this program is certainly yours too, just as it belongs to every Palestinian child, since you are part of occupied Palestine."¹⁸

What merits particular attention here is the attempt to turn Israeli Arab children against Israel.

⊙ Children watching a new program on official Palestinian Authority TV are being taught that Israel doesn't exist. The children's show, "Chicks," includes a regular segment that introduces young viewers to different areas of "Palestine." The map that is being utilized for this educational program includes all of Israel, but is labeled "Palestine." A second heading in English and Arabic next to the map reads, "Explore Your Country."¹⁹

⊙ PA president Mahmoud Abbas has promoted a terrorist who has been in Israeli prison 2006.

Mahmoud Damra commanded Force 17, a unit that was Yasser Arafat's personal guard and was also head of a Tanzim (Fatah) terror unit. Damra was responsible for the logistic coordination and execution of several attacks; among those killed in these attacks were Esh-Kodesh Gilmore and the Binyamin and Talia Kahane, all US citizens, Sara Lisha of Neve Tzuf, Ariel Jeraffi of Tapuach Junction, and Eli Cohen of Modiin.²⁰

A report in the Palestinian daily, Al Quds on March 6, 2010 announced:

"President Mahmoud Abbas decided to promote the prisoner Mahmoud Damra, [known as] Abu Awad, commander of the 'President's Security Force 17,' to the rank of major-general."²¹

⊙ In mid-March, PA Prisoners Affairs Minister 'Isa Qaraqe charged the Israeli Prisons Service doctors with acting like hangmen. He accused them of being partner to the torture of prisoners – including sick and wounded ones – by Israeli security apparatuses.²²

⊙ Abdallah Daud, who headed the Palestinian intelligence service in Bethlehem, was actively involved in terror. During Operation Defensive Shield, an Israeli operation against terror in 2002, Israel entered Bethlehem. Daud, who knew he was a wanted man sought by the IDF, was among a group of terrorists who stormed into the Church of the Nativity in order to utilize it as a place of refuge.

This group remained in the church for several weeks, using monks as shields and doing damage to the church, while shooting from the church. Ultimately Israel allowed the terrorists to leave on the condition that they would be deported. Daud was sent to Cypress and than Mauritania, where he died in late March of natural causes.

The Palestinian Authority then decided to honor him in several respects:

He was given an "official" funeral, to which Abbas sent a personal emissary to the funeral. Speaking in Abbas's name, he said:

"We must maintain the way of the *Shahid* (Martyr) Daud, who always believed in the struggle, in love of the homeland, and in the realization of national unity."²³

The official PA daily Al Quds reported on the funeral on its front page, complete with a picture.²⁴

For his part, PA prime minister Salam Fayyad paid a condolence call to the family in the UNRWA Balata refugee camp in Nablus and made a public statement honoring Daud that was carried in Al-Hayat Al-Jadida on March 31, 2010:

"The Prime Minister mentioned the *Shahid's* [Martyr's] qualities and said that his death far from the homeland, while suffering from the discrimination of his expulsion, bestows upon his Martyrdom a clear national and human character."²⁵

⊙ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Palestinian Authority daily, on March 22, 2010, ran a cartoon by Muhammad Saba'ana, shown below, which says:



"I'm in my eighth month with a *Shahid* (Martyr)."²⁶

In addition to the above, there was a different sort of severely escalated incitement by the PA during the month of March. As part of the increasing diplomatic tensions between the U.S. and Israel, we saw greater pressure on Israel from the PA, via threats, veiled and not so veiled:

⊙ In the wake of a decision to place the Cave of Machpela (Tomb of the Patriarchs) in Hebron on a list of Heritage sites, rioting ensued in Hebron and then spread to Jerusalem.

On March 1, 2010, Israeli defense officials charged that PA prime minister Salam Fayyad and other PA officials were inciting this violence.

"Fayyad is actively encouraging Palestinians to use popular resistance against Israel," one official said.²⁷

⊙ On March 2, 2010, Arab Israeli journalist Khaled Abu Toameh reported that:

"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."²⁸

⊙ On March 6, 2010, PA president Mahmoud Abbas, responding to Israeli actions to quell riots on the Temple Mount, said:

The "occupation army" [IDF] was "provoking" members of other faiths in a way that could "set off a religious war in the region."²⁹

⊙ Mohammed Dahlan and Khatem Abd el-Kader, who holds the Jerusalem portfolio in Fatah, were among those who, on March 14, 2010, called on Israeli Arabs and residents of eastern Jerusalem to go to the Temple Mount to "protect it from the Jews."³⁰

Immediately prior to the opening of the restored Hurva Synagogue in the Old City, Abd el-Kader said, "We are facing the most dangerous three days since 1967."³¹

He called on Muslims to "converge on al Aksa to save it" from what he called "Israeli attempts to destroy the mosque and replace it with the [Jewish] temple." He said that renovation of the synagogue was a "provocation" and warned Israel that it was "playing with fire."³²

⊙ On March 15, 2010, after Prime Minister Netanyahu had announced that construction would continue in Jerusalem, Ahmed Qurie, former PA prime minister and member of the PLO Central Committee, told reporters in Abu Dis:

"If Israel continues these practices, another uprising will break out. If matters remain at this level, regardless of whether we take the decision or not, it is coming. If Israel continues these practices, it is coming."³³

⊙ The Palestinian Authority's supreme shari'a judge Taysir Al-Tamimi, on Friday, March 19, 2010, called on the Islamic *ummah* [nation] to consider the day a special one for rescuing Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa mosque, as well as for holding demonstrations and marches of rage against Israel.³⁴

⊙ Days later, on March 22, after meeting with US envoy Mitchell in Amman, PA president Mahmoud Abbas declared that the Palestinian people have a national right to resistance.³⁵

⊙ On March 27, 2010, at the two-day Arab Summit in Libya, PA President Mahmoud Abbas accused Israel of trying to wipe out the Arab identity of Jerusalem via "ethnic cleansing."³⁶

According to MEMRI, he also said "that a Palestinian state means nothing without Jerusalem as its capital, and therefore the Palestinians are determined to defend it and adhere to every pebble and grain of its soil. He said that defending Jerusalem is a duty incumbent upon every Muslim, and called for convening a special U.N. Security Council meeting to condemn Israel's policy in Jerusalem."³⁷

¹ The announcement was made in the PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, on December 30, 2009, and carried in a Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin on December 31, 2009.

² Israel News Channel 2, as reported by PMW.

³ Galei Zahal, as reported by PMW.

⁴ *Al Ayam*, as reported by PMW.

⁵ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* as reported by PMW.

⁶ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* as reported by PMW.

⁷ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, as reported by PMW.

⁸ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* reporting March 8, 2010, on the event of the day before, as reported by PMW.

⁹ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, as reported by PMW.

¹⁰ MEMRI blog, March 10, 2010.

¹¹ Herb Keinon, writing in *The Jerusalem Post*, March 11, 2010.

¹² Ibid. Keinon cited Palestinian sources.

Also, Ali Waked, writing in YNet on March 10, 2010, said: "The Palestinian Authority decided Wednesday to postpone a ceremony naming Ramallah's central square after Dalal Al-Mughrabi,.. The postponement is assumed to be linked to a visit by US Vice President Joe Biden."

¹³ *The New York Times*, March 11, 2010.

¹⁴ Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, March 14, 2010.

¹⁵ MEMRI blog, March 14, 2010, citing *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, PAdaily, March 12, 2010.

¹⁶ *Al Quds*, March 12, 2010, as reported by PMW.

¹⁷ Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, March 13, 2010.

¹⁸ Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, March 24, 2010.

¹⁹ Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin, March 16, 2010, citing one specific segment of the program from March 14, 2010.

²⁰ Israel National News, March 8, 2010.

²¹ Translation by PMW, March 28, 2010.

²² MEMRI blog, March 15, 2010, citing Wafa news agency, March 15, 2010.

²³ PA daily *Al Quds* on March 28, 2010, with translation by PMW in Bulletin of April 7, 2010.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Translation by PMW.

²⁶ MEMRI blog, March 23, 2010.

²⁷ *The Jerusalem Post*, March 1, 2010.

²⁸ Hudson NY, March 2, 2010: <http://www.hudsonny.org/2010/03/palestinian-authority-direct-the-heat-toward-israel.php>.

²⁹ *The Jerusalem Post*, March 6, 2010.

³⁰ *Haaretz*, March 15, 2010.

³¹ Ali Waked, YNet, March 14, 2010.

³² Khaled Abu Toameh, *The Jerusalem Post*, March 14, 2010.

³³ Ali Waked, YNet, March 15, 2010.

³⁴ MEMRI blog, March 19, 2010, citing *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, the PA daily of March 19, 2010.

³⁵ *Haaretz*, March 22, 2010.

³⁶ TimesofMalta.com, March 28, 2010.

³⁷ MEMRI blog, March 28, 2010, citing *Al-Hayat* and *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* of March 28 and Wafa News Agency of March 27.