

which has since resulted in the United States cutting off funding for the Palestinian Authority's General Fund.

"Martyrs" and terrorist prisoners in Israeli jails, as well as their families, receive their PLO-distributed "salaries" and benefits through grants from that PA General Fund, which is totally controlled by PA President Mahmoud Abbas. Oh, yes, Abbas is also the head of the PLO and strictly controls *its* purse-strings.

How evil is the Pay for Slay program in concept and execution? Unfathomably awful for anyone with even a slight moral compass. Despite PA assertions that this is simply a "welfare program," the payments to terrorist murderers are not based on "need" in any way. In fact, even the smallest Pay for Slay salary far exceeds the maximum welfare payments available to regular impoverished Palestinian Arabs.

These are incentives—they are meant to encourage the murder of innocent people. The incentives remove the high-minded political justification—resistance and welfare for the disadvantaged—and make it a simple murder-for-hire plan.

In 2016, the PA spent \$150 million on "salaries" to prisoners in Israel's jails. It also paid \$180 million to families of these prisoners and to released prisoners. The combined \$330 million paid out for Pay for Slay accounted for over 30% of all foreign aid the PA received from around the world—mainly from America.

This works out to an *average* annual payment of over \$14,000 per terrorist prisoner, compared to a normal Palestinian welfare payment of a mere \$1,800 per annum. Families and released terrorist prisoners each get an average of \$4,800 a year forever.

But it gets worse, because the success of a terrorist's attack is richly rewarded by the PA. If you received a mere 5-year sentence—presumably because you failed to actually murder any Jews in the course of your terror spree—you are eligible for \$570 per month. If you hit the Palestinian version of a jackpot and murdered and injured many Jews, receiving a 25-year term, you will collect in \$2,800 per month. If you are a lifer due to multiple terrorist murders, you get \$3,400 a month.

Note that the average family income for Palestinian Arabs is \$550 per month.

Once having served his sentence, the 5-year terrorist wannabe will get less than \$200 a month for life; his more "successful" comrade, after 25 years, will enjoy a lifelong monthly pension of about \$1,200.

Under PA law, ex-terror-prisoners also get a wealth of other benefits—based on time served. Perhaps the best is a guaranteed civil service job or military post and pension. The short-timer gets a job as a Head of Department. His more lethal comrade becomes an Undersecretary of a Ministry!

If the military seems more attractive, the "minor" terrorist is enlisted at the rank of First Lieutenant, while the more "successful" terrorist actually enters the PA's army as a Major General.

And, in fact, the more one examines the terms and conditions of Pay for Slay, the more

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horrific it becomes, and the more obvious it is that this major PA program is fully worthy of its name. It is a lavishly funded incentive program for terrorist murderers. It also provides major financial and social-status incentives for their families to encourage them to become successful at their horrifying "work."

No "land-for-peace" deal is going to heal the sickness of a Palestinian society that, since Pay for Slay was instituted by the PA-controlling Fatah in 1964, has taught its younger people that the hate-instilled terrorist murder of Jews is not only acceptable—it is to be generously incited and richly rewarded. How can peace develop with such an antagonist?

In talking with friends, family and colleagues, make sure they know about the horrific institution of Pay for Slay in the PA's territories. (Hammas has a similar, but somewhat less generous program in Gaza.) Discuss with them the incentives for terror in the territories, and explain that American cuts in aid to the PA are driven by our understandable loathing of this near-unimaginable, inhuman policy.

I hope you'll also quickly visit FLAME's lively [new Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below, which describes FLAME's recent *hasbarah* campaign asserting the near-impossibility of distinguishing anti-Zionism from classic, racist anti-Semitism.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen

Editor, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. We may never defeat anti-Semitism or its equally twisted twin, anti-Zionism—but we have an obligation to fight them with every ounce of our being. That's why FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[Anti-Zionism is Racism](#)." I hope you'll review this hard-hitting paid editorial, which began running this month—for the first time in the *New York Times*. It exposes slander of Israel and opposition to Israel's existence by BDS activists, members of Students for Justice in Palestine and even a few politicians as racist calumnies. These lies need to be called out, and FLAME's new position paper does it boldly. In addition to running in mainstream media, this editorial will be sent to every member of the U.S. Congress and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate now](#). Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay focused on the true obstacle to peace, which is the lack of a credible Palestinian peace partner.

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Facts and Logic

About the Middle East

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