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Facts & Logic About the Middle East

October 13, 2020



What the Ramallah lynchings taught us about Palestinian incitement

Dear Friend of FLAME:

Twenty years ago, on October 12th, two Israel Defense Forces reservists, Vadim Norzhich and Yosef Avrahami, accidentally entered the Palestinian Authority-controlled city of Ramallah in Judea-Samaria (aka, the West Bank).

While in the custody of Palestinian Authority policemen, they were viciously stabbed and beaten to death, their bodies subsequently mutilated and dragged through the streets of Ramallah. These were images broadcast live around the world and seared into the minds of those who sadly witnessed them.

The most visceral image from that day was that of Aziz Salha, one of the lynchings, who proudly waved his blood-stained hands from the police station window.

This bestial murder, and the ghastly images surrounding it, have haunted a generation of Israelis who had supported the Oslo peace accords and witnessed only a few months previously then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak offer the Palestinian leadership a state with Jerusalem as its capital and control over the Temple Mount. The Palestinians rejected this offer out of hand, like all before and since.

Since that moment, many Israelis understood that to perpetrate such a murder, and delight in it as thousands of onlookers did, flatly contradicted their belief that the Palestinian people truly wanted peace.

Unfortunately, the Palestinian policies of incitement and delegitimization that inspired the Ramallah lynchings continue to this day. Unfortunately, too, these hateful policies go virtually unreported by U.S. and European mainstream media.

Yet the type of hate and loathing that creates such inexplicable rage, bloodshed and murder continues intentionally and purposefully in daily Palestinian life.

Israelis, and even Jews generally, are continually seen as legitimate targets in the Palestinian education system, in the media and in religious institutions.

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

What's Stopping a Palestinian State?

Over 72 years, Israel has offered land for peace and a Palestinian state. The Palestinians have rejected all offers. How much longer should the world wait?

What are the facts?

Only a tiny fraction of the world's national groups have serious claims. Both Kadhafi and Libyans agree to withdraw, as has been the case of the UN member of the United Arab Emirates. The rest are not recognized states. The failure of the Palestinians to achieve statehood is not a result of a lack of a right, requires powerful strategy, unity and leadership. Sadly, these qualities have eluded the Palestinians, preventing them from seizing multiple opportunities for statehood.

Palestinians embrace a "passive" strategy. As recalled in the 1983 Charter of the PLO, the Palestinian Organization (PLO), the Palestinian people are declared to be the "children of Palestine" and "inheritance of Zionism in Palestine." The Charter states that "Actual struggle is the central strategy." While Palestinian leaders have pledged to "fulfill the Charter's duties," "resistance" and "struggle" are not mentioned. The Charter of Hamas, the Palestinian terror group that rules Gaza, states "resistance" and "struggle" and is fulfilled and a fully sovereign state is established with Jerusalem as its capital" on the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, encompassing all of Israel.

Clearly, a strategy focused solely on destroying Israel is futile, as is one that rejects negotiation. Palestinian leaders have the flexibility offered to negotiate on such specific demands. Indeed, this all-out strategy is futile at odds with actual leadership in the United States, Europe, Asia, and increasingly in the Middle East. It's certainly not the path to statehood.

Palestinians lack political unity. Palestinian leaders and their people do not share a coherent vision. While both their political and religious support allows of Israel, Hamas' fundamentalist Islamic focus is at odds with secular Israel. International Islamic terrorism is a global phenomenon. The PLO pursues a more diplomatically approach-oriented strategy to "wake people" through a self-reliance and Israel's terrorism with financial incentives. What's more, these two factions remain bitter enemies, unable to share governance. While many Palestinians embrace peace and cooperation with Israel, this view is not promoted or shared by their leaders. In short, Palestinian society is splintered with dissension, incapable of forming a state.

Palestinians lack cohesive leadership. It is said that all Palestinian leaders who would make peace with Israel would be killed. This was the fate of international Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981, after signing a peace treaty with Israel. But if Palestinian leaders were actively to pursue policies of coexistence with Israel and promote a strategy of peace to coexistence, it's far more likely the Palestinian people would live in the future, because no Palestinian leader has had the courage to negotiate seriously with Israel, despite the growing offers of land for peace, including a report in Jerusalem's *Haaretz*, Palestinians had offered the recent US \$50 billion US peace plan without discussion.

Palestinian society is splintered with dissension, preventing a state.

Thousands of gassed students at Hebron, Syria has demonstrated long peace negotiations, and finally, a decision to grant Israel a tiny country the size of New Jersey. Military experts note that in several front against regional enemies, Israel's most central the Jordan Valley in Judea-Samaria, which borders Jordan, where only the Palestinian line. For regional security reasons, Israel has long designated the Jordan Valley for future application of sovereignty.

How can it be that the world still waits for the Palestinians?

Like most people who cover the story and name state, the Palestinians have failed to receive a viable strategy, national unity or leadership. Had enough to see the dissension of the Palestinian people, after 72 years of waiting, the world could have taken the right course to bring forward state of the Palestinians still refuse to join in.

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According to Palestinian Media Watch, the Palestinian Authority regularly teaches that Jews are Satan's partner, spreading evil in the world. That evil is allegedly inherent in Jewish genes, and the killing of Jews is Allah's will. The extermination of Jews, they assert, is necessary so all of humanity can live in peace.

In 2016, in honor of Ramadan, PA TV broadcast a cartoon series for young children that presented Jews as the representatives of several devils, fighting battles for these devils, and doing their work on earth. "This is a conflict between two entities, good and evil, between two projects: Allah's project vs. Satan's project," the narrator explained to the watching children.

Furthermore, Jews are dehumanized and turned into animals that need to be culled. Frequently, Jews have been referred to as the descendants of pigs and monkeys, or vermin, monsters and sub-human, similar to propaganda used by the Nazis before and during the Holocaust. In 2014, a young boy recited on TV a poem about Jews, including the following: "Oh most evil among creations\ O barbaric monkeys, wretched pigs."

Palestinians are regularly told that the murder of Israelis and Jews is a holy mission. Recently, former terrorist Shifa Al-Qudsi spoke about how during the Second Intifada she took on a suicide mission dressed as a pregnant woman intending to detonate a bomb, killing herself and multiple innocent bystanders. Thankfully, she was caught and unable to complete her mission. In an interview on Israeli TV last month, Al-Qudsi remembered how she felt joyous while preparing to murder Israelis: "Like a bride on her wedding day, who is preparing to go to her groom."

From a very young age, Palestinian children are taught to hate Israelis and Jews, and to sacrifice their lives to murder them. On a PA TV show for kids, *O Children of Our Neighborhood*, home videos are shown of very young kids addressing terrorists as "heroic prisoners." Holding a framed poster of terrorist Anas Allan, who is serving four life sentences for his involvement in the murder of four Israelis, two girls likened the imprisoned terrorists to "tall mountains" and "lions." A young boy specifically mentioned murderer Allan, sending "love" to all prisoners.

The incitement against Israel, Jews and the glorification of murder is all pervasive in Palestinian society. Street signs and city squares, sporting tournaments and summer camps are named after terrorists. Their beaming posters promising "paradise" to all those who follow in their footsteps, and even answers in crossword puzzles mean that the average Palestinian is constantly bombarded with crude, daily messages that the murder of Jews, innocent or not, is a desirable, even heroic act.

Unfortunately, Israeli concessions and compromises in response to Palestinian demands have not reduced the blood lust. Even the infamous bloody-handed Aziz Salha, who was arrested by Israel and sentenced to life imprisonment, was released in 2011 as part of the exchange for IDF soldier Gilad Shalit, who had been held prisoner. Salha now receives a generous monthly stipend from the Palestinian Authority in tribute for his murderous actions.

While the international community continues aiding Palestinian institutions that are involved in this incitement and dehumanization, it and many media outlets

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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consider issues like settlements, territory and Jerusalem the main obstacles to peace. Nevertheless, even if an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians were signed, the hatred instilled in generations under the Palestinian Authority would remain, virtually ensuring there would be no peace or cessation of bloodshed.

I hope you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that to achieve real peace, security and an end to the conflict—good for all the peoples of the region—the international community and *mainstream media* must ensure that the Palestinian Authority ends its daily campaign of incitement and dehumanization.

Only when this is achieved and the horrifying images of Israelis being butchered recedes further into history—replaced with a Palestinian society that no longer sees Israelis and Jews as the sub-human enemy of humanity—can peace be attainable. That is why incitement remains the greatest obstacle to peace and must be remedied as a primary criterion for negotiations.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—which explains the sad, but true reasons Palestinians continue to fail at forming their own nation state.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson
President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Some American and European politicians argue that Israel's intention to apply sovereignty to the militarily critical Jordan Valley would inhibit formation of a Palestinian state. Nothing is further from the truth. The Palestinians don't have a state—despite numerous offers of land for peace by Israel—because the Arab group simply hasn't mustered an adequate strategy, political unity or leadership. They're simply unable to say yes. To clarify this point, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[What's Stopping a Palestinian State?](#)" I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specific reasons the Palestinians have failed to create a sovereign state and why it's time for the world—and Israel—to move on. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence 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 committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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