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UNRWA was intended to do, the agency has perpetuated the Palestinians' refugee status for 75 years now.

But UNRWA's misdeeds go far beyond just maintaining Palestinians' statelessness. Since Hamas took over Gaza in 2007, the UN agency has basically become a subsidiary of the Islamist terrorist group—to the extent that the two are almost indistinguishable.

UNRWA schools have become indoctrination centers, where Palestinian children are fed a steady diet of antisemitism and Islamic fundamentalism. They are encouraged to hate and kill Jews, even if it means dying themselves, for according to Hamas's ideology, martyrdom is the highest honor one can aspire to.

UNRWA facilities serve as part of Hamas's terrorist infrastructure. The same schools in which Palestinians are taught to slaughter Jews also serve as terrorist bases, used to store weapons or launch rockets against Israel.

In reality, this UN agency is part and parcel of Hamas's control and terrorism apparatus in Gaza. Yet, astoundingly, the Biden administration, along with the rest of the West, continues to fund UNRWA—meaning that the American taxpayer is directly subsidizing terrorism.

Recently, information has surfaced that Israel plans to dismantle UNRWA as part of its effort to destroy Hamas in Gaza. What better time, then, for the U.S. to defund this monstrosity definitively, as it once did in 2018?

**Whereas UNRWA was created to find a just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem, it has instead perpetuated and aggravated it.** In contrast to the historical handling of all other refugee groups, UNRWA designates *descendants* of Palestinians who left Israel in 1948 as refugees, which allows the Palestinians today to claim some six million “refugees” worldwide, including citizens of other nations.

UNRWA does not offer these “refugee” clients any solution to their statelessness except decades of futile war with Israel and a mythical “right of return” to a state some 98% of whom have never set foot in.

For decades, UNRWA has been used by Arab leaders to leverage the Palestinian refugee issue against Israel. Most Arab states refuse to give citizenship to Palestinians who live in them, nor rights of any kind, making UNRWA responsible for meeting Palestinians' basic needs, thereby rendering them perpetual refugees.

**Since Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007, it and UNRWA have become intertwined, nearly indistinguishable.** Many UNRWA staff are affiliated with Hamas. In fact, according to Kobi Michael, a senior researcher at Tel Aviv's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), all Gaza's UNRWA employees are vetted by the terrorist group.

Some UNRWA employees have even become high-ranking members of Hamas. For example, Suhail al-Hindi, a school principal and chairperson of the UNRWA Gaza workers' union became a member of the Hamas politburo.

According to a report by the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se), UNRWA staff members, including teachers and educational staff, expressed support for the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre on social media.

UNRWA claims it screens prospective employees for links to terrorists, but since the UN does not consider Hamas a terrorist group, its members are not excluded from employment. UNRWA spokeswoman Tamara Alrifai even admitted to *Foreign Policy* in 2021 that UNRWA takes action only when its employees are found to hold a political position with Hamas.

**UNRWA is responsible for educating Gaza's children to hate and kill Jews.** The organization uses textbooks issued by the Palestinian Authority, which, according to numerous studies, as well as the U.S., EU, and UN Anti-Racism Committee, are steeped in antisemitism and support for terrorism.

No surprise, then, that at least 118 participants in the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre graduated from UNRWA schools, according to IMPACT-se. One of the October 7<sup>th</sup> hostages released by Hamas told Israeli Channel 13 reporter Almog Boker that he was held captive by an UNRWA teacher, who barely fed him and denied him medical treatment.

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**UNRWA is part of Hamas's vast terrorist infrastructure.** The terrorist group frequently uses UNRWA facilities and civilians who take refuge in them as human shields—a war crime. What's more, parts of the terrorist group's underground tunnel network are located under UNRWA schools, and UNRWA buildings are used to store weapons and launch rockets at Israel.

In a recent interview, a Gazan captive admitted to Israeli officials that UNRWA is effectively a fully-controlled subsidiary of Hamas—which means every dollar contributed to the UN agency by the U.S. and EU goes directly into Hamas hands.

**Despite all the evidence linking UNRWA to Hamas, however, the UN agency is still handsomely financed by U.S. taxpayers.** Since coming to office in 2021, President Biden has financed UNRWA to the tune of at least \$730 million. Tragically, his administration continues to defend the organization. Recently, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters, “You can’t hold them (UNRWA) accountable for the depredations of Hamas.” Who is he kidding?

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that UNRWA must meet the same fate that awaits Hamas in Gaza. It must cease to exist so it can no longer oppress the Palestinians or attack Israel.

Best regards,

Jason Shvili, Contributing Editor

Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. The events of October 7 have changed our world forever—and especially the world for Israel and the Jewish people. Likewise, the words “Never Again” will never be the same for us. October 7 has shown us that despite all promises of equity and commitments against hate on campus and on our streets, we can never depend on it. We will likely never be free of the scourge of antisemitism, fueled by the most outrageous slanders. I hope you’ll agree that we opponents of Hamas and its savage massacre—and of all who support Hamas, against all humanitarian values—need to speak out. FLAME’s new *hasbarah*—explanatory message —“**Enemies of Israel Tell Five Big Lies**”—refutes today’s most vicious lies against Israel and the Jewish people. I hope you’ll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME intends to publish in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Star Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel’s behalf is critical, I urge you to **support us** with a donation.

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