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Home » New opportunity opens for the Palestinians: Will they seize peace and prosperity . . . or let it slip away again

FLAME.**Hotline**

January 9, 2024



UNRWA schools in Gaza like this commonly serve as massive Hamas weapons depots and sites of military tunnel entrances, endangering students. Thousands of Hamas members work as teachers at UNRWA schools, where students are taught antisemitism and terror techniques.

UNRWA in Gaza serves as Hamas subsidiary, undermining hopes of Israel-Palestinian peace

Dear Friend of Israel, Friend of FLAME:

On October 7^{th—}the day Hamas terrorists ruthlessly raped, decapitated and slaughtered 1,200 innocent Israelis and took hostage 240 others—Ranoosh Salah, a staff member of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) posted on social media that it was "An unforgettable glorious morning."

That an UNRWA employee would proclaim such support for Hamas's massacre should come as no surprise. After all, the UN agency has unbreakable ties to Hamas, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where many UNRWA personnel are also Hamas members or supporters. In fact, some Gazans report that UNRWA is effectively a \$1 billion branch of the Hamas organization.

For this reason, Israel must dismantle and expel UNRWA from the Strip, just as it will Hamas.

Indisputably, both UNRWA and Hamas share the same goal: Destruction of the Jewish State of Israel. Both cling to the decades-old belief that all Palestinian "refugees" must return to a "homeland" they <u>never owned or controlled</u>, including what is now Israel.

Of course, this would result in the disappearance of Israel's Jewish majority, and with it, the Jewish state itself. Rather than help Palestinians progress to peace and independence, as

THIS MONTH'S AD Appeared in Media Reaching 10 Million People Nationwide.

	licious lies against Jews and Israel		
White no sharese or sign of humanity, the ensenties of brack have doubled down on their ionizationes that human is an illogitimate state that must be destroyed and that the savage simplifier of 1,200 innecent forest was justified—all based on five. "Big Lies" about the fermion state.	separating or limiting the rights of any of its citizens—including two mrillion Arach-baraci citizens—mor any Paleitinians outside Israel. Political and civil rights of all Paleistinians outside Israel are controlled by their respective dictatorships, who allow virtually no freedoms, such as speech or the voce. No apartheid.		
	these acts on October 7, head commits none. Though some modia briefla exists they conduct encouver original doubs during Israeli military efforts, in fact, Israel attacks only military structures and personnel—noner civilian only targets. Harna placess fits fighters in dense realdential areas or in tunnels beneath them, endangering or in tunnels beneath them, endangering		
many Palestinian supporters to rethink based (their positions, the event only ignified an explosion of hate from Israel is exercise. Tens of thousands of demonstrators demanded not two states living in peace, but rather, "From the rive to the sea, Palestine will be free by an means necessary"-meaning, clarify sloughter of civilians.	utter fies a 1943 minutes we note: 1943 minutes and the second s		
Power of Big Lies: Though Israel was the victim of a mass markle of innocent Jews, its enemies islams the Jewish state- not only for the Hamas massesce, but also for exponding in defense. The reasons many blame Israel for the atrocity are based on five Big Jians. Big Issues Big Issues Wast leader Goebbeds, who noted that if he told an outrageous lie often rough, peocle would beain to believe it. Alternatively if you			
use trath as a basis for your judgments, you may find these facts useful: Lie #1: Israel is a colonial state that stole Palestinian land. A colonizer is a foreign nation that conquery and exploits	Above all, Issael and the UN, have mude numerous offers of land for an independent Palentinian state. Tragically, the Palentinians have turned down five offers of land for paces since 1948, three since the year 2000. Apparently, their dream of conquering Israel Treom the land to the sea ² has greater importance.		
acotter nation. First, the Palestinian have never owned any land in Palestine. They were also never a nation. Nothing was sidem. Second, lews are the indigenous people of the land of Israel. They have lived there continuously for 3,000 years and had two commonwealths for over 1,000 years. They are not foreigners. No colonial state.	The bertiality of the October 7 manaters shocked us—beheadings, incidention, mpc, tottaer, heartlast executions, braid Alshingpitys, Even source, the gaits have option to southinited Jew hatred on Americana sterett and astropause—to condusting amagery with the excise of Palentinian Hearthins …, houd on usite These about the Jewish state, Bait Hamas and the haters should been that "Never Again's means fighting and defaulty equil Jerever.		
Lie #2: Israel commits genocide. Genocide is the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group by killing			
its members. Israel does not, nor has ever, targeted innocent Palestinian civilians for attacks—no mass murders, no pogrom All Palestinian civilian deaths have occurred as collateral	This message has been published and paid for by • FLAME		
damage while fighting terrorists who hide in residential or oth public areas. Tellingly, the Palestinian population in and aroun locard has mushroemed struce (stard)'s counding in 1948—from about 700,000 to seven million today: No penocide.			
Lie #3: Israel practices apartheid. Apartheid is a system of legalized racial segregation in which one nacial group is deprived of political and civil rights. Israel has no laws or polici	FLAME is a tax-exempt, nonport Str(c)(3) organization. Its purpose is the measure and publication of taxts regarding developments in the Moddle East and separing toke propagarise that might harm the United States, Isseel and other after in the region. Your lawer-leaded this and hild/one are weakerne.		



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UNRWA was intended to do, the agency <u>has perpetuated</u> 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 <u>almost indistinguishable</u>.

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 <u>highest honor</u> 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 <u>directly subsidizing terrorism</u>.

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 <u>defund this monstrosity</u> 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 <u>six million "refugees"</u> 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 <u>never set foot in</u>.

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 <u>perpetual refugees</u>.

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 <u>Hamas politburo</u>.

According to a report by the Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se), UNRWA staff members, including <u>teachers and educational staff</u>, expressed support for the October 7th 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 <u>hold a political position</u> 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 <u>support for terrorism</u>.

No surprise, then, that at least 118 participants in the October 7th massacre graduated from UNRWA schools, according to IMPACT-se. One of the October 7th hostages released by Hamas told Israeli Channel 13 reporter Almog Boker that he was held captive by an UNRWA teacher, who <u>barely fed him</u> 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 <u>store weapons</u> 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 <u>every dollar contributed</u> 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 <u>continues</u> <u>to defend</u> 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 <u>must cease to exist</u> 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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