

A portion of Chapter 3. INCITEMENT

Overview

Incitement within the Palestinian Authority has been unremitting from the mid-90s until the present. This has been in spite of the fact that the Oslo Accords called for a cessation of incitement. The PA was able to proceed with what was called the “peace process” even while inciting, and in defiance of signed agreements, because its incitement simply was not taken seriously as a factor preventing the achievement of genuine peace.¹ It was viewed, instead, as “mere words,” that would adjust as the situation on the ground improved.²

This attitude has since changed. Oslo architect Yossi Beilin has now admitted that one of the “important mistakes” he and his colleagues made “was that we didn't treat the incitement problem as seriously as it deserved. I admit that I did not take into consideration the gravity of Palestinian incitement.”³

Incitement has, in fact, been the truest indicator of Palestinian attitudes and intentions.

There have been several messages delivered consistently in the course of the incitement:

- That neither the State of Israel nor Judaism has legitimacy.
- That the Palestinians ultimately have claim to the entire land.
- That Israelis (and Jews) are despicable people who are deserving of hatred.
- That violence against Israel is praise-worthy and religiously sanctioned.

The basest libels, the crassest reinventions of history, the most venomous terms of hatred are employed in the service of the incitement. Consider:

From a PA paper in 2000:

*Medical sources reported yesterday evening that more than 40 residents were injured in a strange occurrence of hysteria and nervous collapse as a result of their inhaling poison gas, fired for the first time by the Israeli occupation forces on defenseless residents. Medical specialists are of the opinion that it is nerve gas, prohibited by international law.*⁴

From a recent statement by Sheikh Ikrama Sabri, the PA-appointed Mufti of Jerusalem:

...The Jews call this the Wailing Wall [because]...the Jews cry, repent, and remonstrate before Allah that He chose Mohammed from among the Arabs and did not choose a [prophet] from among the Children of Israel...

*There is not a single stone in Palestine that proves the Jewish existence [in the land].*⁵

From a Friday sermon broadcast on PA TV in 2002:

We will enter Jerusalem as conquerors, and Jaffa as conquerors, and Haifa as conquerors and Ashkelon as conquerors, we are certain that the victory is quickly coming...⁶

From PA TV September 2000:

The Islamic land of Palestine is one and indivisible. There is no difference between Haifa and Nablus, between Lod and Ramallah, between Jerusalem and Nazareth, between Gaza and Ashkelon. The land of Palestine is Waqf [Islamic trust] land that belongs to Moslems throughout the world and no one has the right to act freely or the right to make concessions or to abandon her. Whoever does this betrays a [trust] and is nothing more than a loathsome criminal whose abode is in Hell!⁷

Also on PA TV, October 2000:

The Jews are the Jews. There never was among them a supporter of peace. They are all liars... They are terrorists. Therefore it is necessary to slaughter them and murder them, according to the words of Allah... It is forbidden to have mercy in your hearts for the Jews in any place and in any land. Make war on them any place that you find yourself. Any place that you meet them – kill them. Kill the Jews... The Jews only understand might. Have no mercy on the Jews, murder them everywhere...⁸

Over a period of years these messages have become all pervasive within the society. In the course of participation within their popular culture, Palestinians are exposed to constant incitement.

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) has monitored crossword puzzles and finds themes of incitement even there.⁹ They repeatedly use “nationalistic motifs” that deny Israel’s right to exist and glorify terrorists. Every part of Israel from Metula in the north to Eilat in the south is defined as “Palestine” or “occupied Palestine.” Jerusalem is frequently depicted as the “Eternal Capital of Palestine.” Vulgar historical revision is found in these puzzles, as when the clue for Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust Memorial, is given as a “center for eternalizing the lies.” There is anti-Semitism, as well, such as when the clue for “treachery” is “Jewish character trait.”

In a similar vein, a soccer tournament in the PA areas in January 2003 was named after Abd Al-Baset Odeh, the suicide bomber responsible for the Passover Massacre in Netanya in 2002. All of the seven schools participating in the tournament were named after other *shahids* (martyrs). A brother of Odeh gave out awards at a special program.¹⁰

The great irony is that the attempt to grant the Palestinians autonomy, if not statehood, via the Oslo Accords, ultimately had the effect of generating amongst this population increased hatred of Israel...

¹ www.pmw.org.il/new/weekly.html.

² Ibid.

³ *Ha'aretz*, June 15, 2001.

⁴ *Al Ayyam*, February 13, 2000, cited by Palestinian Media Watch.

⁵ *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, 15 October 2000, cited by Palestinian Media Watch.

⁶ Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Muhammad Maadi, Friday Sermon on PATV:, August 3, 2001, cited by Palestinian Media Watch.

⁷ www.pmw.org.il/new/weekly.html#Revisionism.

⁸ Dr. Ahmed Yousuf Abu Halabiah, preacher, member of the Palestinian Sharia (Islamic religious law) Rulings Council, and Rector Advanced Studies, the Islamic University, Palestinian Television, October 13, 2000, cited by Palestinian Media Watch.

⁹ www.pmw.org.il/new/specrep-34.html.

¹⁰ Palestinian Media Watch, January 21, 2003.