

Arafat's Legacy of Lies

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On September 11, 2001, thousands of Palestinian Arabs were filmed dancing in the streets of Ramallah, Nablus, and other cities to celebrate the news of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. Yasir Arafat responded: "For your information, it is clear and obvious that it was less than 10 children in East Jerusalem." (New York Times, Sept. 12, 2001) Arafat aide Bassam Abu Sharif said "only a few kids" took part in the celebrations. (Jerusalem Post, Sept. 17, 2001)

Similar questions of credibility arose in early 2002 when Arafat and his colleagues claimed that the Israeli capture of a ship carrying 50 tons of weapons to the Palestinian Authority was a hoax, and that PA officials had no connection to it. ("We had no connection with the supposed arms shipment," Arafat said at a press conference on Jan. 18, 2002) Those claims were soon exposed as false.

More recently, Arafat and his aides claimed that Israel "massacred hundreds of civilians" in Jenin; that allegation proved to be completely false. Now they are claiming that Israel "forged" the thousands of documents that were recently discovered in Palestinian Authority offices revealing that Arafat personally approved and paid for numerous recent terrorist attacks against Israel, including suicide bombings.

Are the Palestinian Arabs' claims about Israeli "forgeries" credible?

A look at statements by Palestinian Arab officials on a variety of subjects in recent years sheds light on the question of their credibility.

I. "The Holocaust is a Myth"

"The Holocaust is disputed." An official editorial by the PA news agency Wafa, on March 31, 2002, referred to previous eras when, it said, "the white man massacred, erasing 112 million Native Americans, or when Hitler sent Jews of disputed numbers among the Jews

themselves, to the gas chambers and much much more of other Europeans and Soviets." [<http://www.wafa.pna.net/EngText/31-03-2002/page001.htm>]

"The Jews themselves carried out the Holocaust." In a sermon broadcast by official PA Television on Sept. 21, 2001, Sheikh Ibrahim Madhi said: "One of the Jews' evil deeds is what has come to be called 'the Holocaust,' that is, the slaughter of the Jews by Nazism. However, revisionist historians have proven that this crime, carried out against some of the Jews, was planned by the Jews' leaders, and was part of their policy." (Translation courtesy of MEMRI.)

"The Holocaust is a fable." Hiri Manzour, columnist for the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah, wrote in its April 13, 2001 edition that the Holocaust is "a fable" and "the figure of six million Jews cremated in the Nazi Auschwitz camps is a lie for propaganda, as the most spacious vaults in the camp could not have held even 1% of that number." Manzour also wrote, "When Zionism cannot find an enemy to separate and repel the Jews, it invents such an enemy; and so was the case with the Holocaust." (Translation courtesy of Palestinian Media Watch.)

"The Nazis killed a lot less than six million Jews." The PA-appointed Mufti (chief Muslim religious authority) of Jerusalem, Ikrama Sabri, said the number of Jews murdered by the Nazis "was less than six million, and that Israel is using this issue to get sympathy worldwide" (Associated Press, March 25, 2000). He told the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, "Six million? It was a lot less. It's not my fault if Hitler hated the Jews. Anyway, they hate them just about everywhere." (Reuters, March 25, 2000)

"The Holocaust is a lie." On February 18, 1999, the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida published a crossword puzzle which gave as its clue, for 7-across, "Jewish Center for eternalizing the Holocaust and the Lies." The "correct answer" was "Yad VaShem." (The phrase "the Holocaust and the Lies" is an Arabic pun mocking the full Hebrew name of Yad VaShem.)

"The Holocaust is a lie." Dr. Samir Sahda, General Secretary of the PA's Desk of the National Institutions, wrote in the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida on December 8, 1998, that "Israel convinced the world of the lie of the massacre and racism which they [the Jews] were exposed to in Germany, and [thus] gained the world public opinion."

"The Holocaust is a deceitful myth." Excerpts from a July 2, 1998 article entitled "The Jews and the Media Monopoly" in the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida :

"There is no alternative but to say that the success of the Jews is not coincidental but rather the result of long years of planning and a great investment of effort in order to obtain their wretched control over the world's media...The winds began blowing in their favor when the campaign of persecution against them was begun by Hitler the Nazi...the international Jewish communications media under their control exploited this in the best possible way, and then the show started.

"They began to disseminate frightful pictures of mass executions and invented the shocking story of the gas ovens, where Hitler allegedly burned them. Newspapers began to fill up with pictures of Jews cut down by Hitler's bullets and of Jews being led to gas ovens. In these pictures, they focused on women, children and old people and have exploited this to arouse sympathy for themselves when demanding financial compensation, donations and grants from all over the world.

"The truth is that the persecution of the Jews is a deceitful myth which the Jews have labeled the Holocaust and have exploited to get sympathy. The most credible of historians have challenged the Jews to bring convincing evidence to prove it. The Historical Studies Association, based in Los Angeles, announced a grant of \$50,000 to whomever could bring compelling proof that the Jews were murdered in gas chambers, but the Jews resorted to pressure and allegations of anti-Semitism to silence these voices.

"And even if it is possible that Hitler's assault against the Jews hurt them a little, the fact is it did them a clear service whose fruits they are reaping until today..."

"The Holocaust is a deceitful myth." The PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida published an article on July 2, 1998, stating: "The truth is that the persecution of the Jews is a deceitful myth which the Jews have labeled the Holocaust and have exploited to get sympathy."

"The Holocaust is exaggerated." PA Communications Minister Imad al-Falouji and PA general-secretary Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, who were among the leaders of a January 19, 1998 rally in Gaza in support of Roger Garaudy, who was on trial in Paris for denying the Holocaust. Abdel-Rahman said that films and books about the Holocaust "have told what happened to the Jews in an unbelievable and exaggerated manner, so why not give Garaudy the right to state his point over the issue?" (Reuters, January 19, 1998)

"The forged claims about the Holocaust." The PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida published an article on September 3, 1997, calling the Holocaust "the forged claims of the Zionists regarding the alleged acts of slaughter perpetrated against the Jews during the same period."

"The Nazis killed 400,000 Jews, not six million." On August 25, 1997, PA Television broadcast a cultural affairs program on which the moderator said: "It is well-known that every year the Jews exaggerate what the Nazis did to them. They claim there were 6 million killed, but precise scientific research demonstrates that there were no more than 400,000." A featured guest on the show added the accusation that the Jews "have profited materially, spiritually, politically and economically from the talk about the Nazi killings. This investment is favorable to them and they view it as a profitable activity so they inflate the number of victims all the time."

"The Nazis killed less than one million Jews." Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Arafat's #2 man,

wrote a book, *The Other Side: The Secret Relationship Between Nazism and the Zionist Movement*, claiming the Nazis may have really killed less than one million Jews and that "the Zionist movement was a partner in the slaughter of the Jews." (Jerusalem Post, Jan. 26, 1995)

"The lie of the gas chambers." The journal *Balsam*, published by the Palestinian Red Cross (which is headed by Fathi Arafat, brother of Yasir Arafat, who is "general supervisor" of the journal) published in its July 1990 issue an article asserting that "the lie concerning the gas chambers enabled the Jews to establish the State of Israel," and "Jews regard themselves as the landlords of humanity, and the Nuremberg courts were manned mainly by Jews and their friends."

"The Holocaust is a lie." The Cyprus-based PLO journal *El Istiqlal* ran a two-part series (Dec. 23 & 30, 1989) headlined "Burning of the Jews in the Nazi Chambers is the Lie of the 20th Century in Order to Legitimize the New Nazism." It stated: "While Jews are complaining about their treatment by the Gestapo, the truth is that they were served healthy food as proved by the dining rooms observed there, and Nazi camps were more civilized than Israeli prisons." In his introduction to the article, Abdo referred to "the alleged Holocaust" which, he said was "exaggerated propaganda."

II. "Israel Conspires to Poison Arabs"

"Israel murders Arab children to get their organs." Yasir Arafat said in an interview on Al Jazeera Television on January 13, 2002, that the Israelis "murder our kids and use their organs as spare parts." Similarly, the PA newspaper *Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah* reported on Dec. 24, 2001 that "When the occupying authority holds the bodies of martyrs ... they steal body parts of the martyrs."

"Israel is causing cancer among Palestinian Arabs." Abdul-Rahman Al-Shunnar, president of the PA's Palestinian Family Protection and Planning Organization, told the pro-Arafat

newspaper *Jerusalem Times* (April 13, 2001) that "Israel's use of several dangerous gases against the Palestinian people" is the reason for the 9,000 cases of cancer detected in various parts of Judea-Samaria in an October 1999 survey.

"Israel gives Arabs poisoned candy." The official PA web site declared on May 21, 2001 that "Israel has started a new genocide against the Palestinian people by poisoning them, using poisoned candy bags dropped down from airplanes." (<http://www.wafa.pna.net/EngText/21-05-2001/page014.htm>)

"Israel causes deformities among Arab babies." The PA newspaper *Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah* reported on Jan. 31, 2001, that "there is an increase in the average number of deformed births in the Shafaa hospital in Gaza," caused by Israeli forces supposedly using "depleted uranium" in their bullets.

"Israel uses radioactive bullets against Arabs." A group of Israeli Knesset Members who met with Arafat on December 18, 2000, were "surprised" to hear Arafat speak of his new conspiracy theory--that Israel is "making use of radioactive bullets against the Palestinian demonstrators." (*Ha'aretz*, Dec. 19, 2000)

"Israel causes cancer among Arab women and children." Yasir Arafat's wife Suha, at a press conference with then- First Lady Hillary Clinton, accused Israel of "daily and intensive use of poisonous gas," causing "cancer and other horrible diseases" among Palestinian Arab women and children. She claimed Israel had "poisoned our air with poisonous gases" and caused Palestinian Arab women and children to suffer "cancer and other horrible diseases." Mrs. Arafat also claimed that Israel has contaminated 80% of Palestinian Arab water sources with "chemical materials." (Reuters, Nov. 11, 1999)

"Israel Causes Mad Cow Disease": Maher al-Dasouqi, director of the Palestinian Authority's Committee for Consumer Protection, declared: "Citizens must be vigilant regarding chocolate from England, especially 'Cadbury's,' which is

very popular in Palestinian markets, since the milk used in the production of all types of [Cadbury's] chocolate was infected with 'mad cow disease.' The sale of this chocolate is forbidden in England, but it was smuggled into the Palestinian regions by Israeli merchants..." Dasouqi's allegation was published in the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah on December 8, 1997.

"Israel poisons Arab food." Abd al-Fatah Hamid, director of the Control and Inspection Department of the PA Ministry of Supplies, told the Palestinian Arab newspaper Al Ayam (Oct.29, 1997) that Israel is distributing "spoiled goods and food supplies" among the Palestinian Arabs. "This is one of Israel's means in its war against Palestinian society," Hamid asserted.

"Israel tries to harm Arab males' virility." Abdel Hamid al-Qudsi, Deputy Minister of the PA Ministry of Supplies, declared: "Israel is distributing food containing material that causes cancer and hormones that harm male virility and other spoiled food products in the Palestinian Authority's territories in order to poison and harm the Palestinian population. We absolutely feel that it is an organized plan and conspiracy which is under the auspices of the Israel Defense Forces this is a planned and initiated war against the Palestinian people." (Yediot Ahront, June 25, 1997)

"Israel Infects Arab Children with AIDS." Nabil Ramlawi, the PLO representative to the United Nations in Geneva, said: "The Israeli authorities infected by injection 300 Palestinian children with the HIV virus during the years of the intifada." (Jerusalem Post, March 17, 1997)

III. "Israel Conspires to Commit Terrorist Attacks"

"Israel assassinated its own Tourism Minister." In an interview with Israel Television, broadcast in three parts on Dec. 7-9, 2001, Arafat said that "the Israeli Mossad (external intelligence service) was behind the assassination in Jerusalem of Israeli cabinet minister Rehavam

Ze'evi." At another point in the interview, Arafat said "that Ariel Sharon and Ehud Barak had conspired together in September 2000 to allow Sharon (then head of the Israeli opposition) to 'provoke' the Palestinians into violence that would provide an excuse for Israel to attack the Palestinians." (Translation courtesy of Prof. Michael Widlanski of Hebrew University.)

"Jews poisoned the wells." The PA news agency Wafa broadcast a report that in Nablus on October 9, 2001, there were Jews "around the drinking water well acting suspiciously," and "tests of the well water showed a strange substance." [<http://www.wafa.pna.net/EngText/10-10-2001/page005.htm>]

"Suicide bombing was actually Israeli terrorism." A PA security official told Yediot Ahront (Oct. 7, 2001) that the Palestinian Arab suicide bomber who blew himself up at Kibbutz Shluchot, killing one Israeli, was actually "an operation of the Israeli Army that apparently wanted to blow up a car of Palestinian workers."

"Israel uses naked women to capture intifada youth." A front-page declaration in the PA newspaper, Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah, on Aug. 14, 2001, claimed that "the occupation is using naked women to hunt down intifada youth." (Jerusalem Post, Aug. 15, 2001)

"Israeli agents massacred the 21 youths in Tel Aviv." In an interview with the New York Times (July 7, 2001) Yasir Arafat said the person who drove the suicide bomber to the May 2001 Tel Aviv attack in which 21 youths were slaughtered was "a longtime informant for Israeli intelligence." Arafat was "trying to make the point that the Tel Aviv bomber and his driver had no connection to the Palestinian Authority while they had at least indirect links with Israel," the Times reported. "He also made reference to another deadly terrorist attack, years ago, in which he said Palestinian collaborators also played a key role."

"Israel carried out the 9/11 attacks." The chief of the Mossad, Ephraim Halevy, said: "Arafat tells everyone who will listen that the Mossad

crashed into the Twin Towers in New York. Arafat lives in a world of lies and perpetual fantasy." (Israel Radio, Nov. 26, 2001)

On Oct. 7, 2001, PA Radio broadcast a report that "U.S. law enforcement officials have nabbed three cadres of Mossad operatives in New York in connection with the September 11 attacks." (Translation courtesy of IRNA.)

"Israelis helped carry out the Tel Aviv massacre": Former Israeli Justice Minister Yossi Beilin revealed to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz (June 15, 2001) that "in our last meeting, [Arafat] suddenly took a piece of paper out of his pocket and started explaining to me that the terrorist at the Dolphinarium [who murdered 21 Israeli youths] was actually connected to some sort of Israeli collaborator." Beilin said Arafat "claimed over and over that the terrorist attack at Beit Lid was connected to a subversive current in the Shin Bet [Israeli security services]."

"Israeli mother, not terrorists, murdered her own baby." On April 2, 2001, PA Radio broadcast this statement by one of its commentators concerning the Jewish infant Shalhevet Pass, who was murdered by a Palestinian Arab sniper in Hebron: "On the matter of the baby settler who was killed in Hebron a few days ago, we already said that her death was a fishy action and there is information according to which this baby was retarded and it was her mother who killed her in order to get rid of her." (Translation courtesy of IMRA.)

"Israeli agents are carrying out the shooting attacks": Arafat told a group of Israeli Knesset Members that the Palestinian Arab terrorists shooting at the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo from the adjacent Arab town of Beit Jala are actually "Palestinians collaborating with Israel." Ha'aretz, Dec. 19, 2000)

"Israelis carried out the Netanya bombings": Arafat claimed that the Palestinian Arab terrorist bombings in Netanya, which injured 37 Israeli Jews. Bombings were the work of "the Israeli Mafia." (UPI, Nov. 9, 1999)

"Israelis carried out the attack in Hebron": After a Palestinian Arab terrorist attack in Hebron on August 3, 1999, when two Jews --one a U.S. citizen-- were seriously injured, PA Radio declared that "the attack was staged by the Israelis." (Jerusalem Post, August 5, 1999)

"Israel and the U.S. were involved in the massacre of 70 Japanese tourists in Egypt": An editorial in the PA newspaper Al Hayat Al Jadidah on November 18, 1997 declared: "[Concerning] what happened yesterday in Egypt...While Egypt leads the Arab states facing the danger of American and Israeli dictates, it is only natural and understandable that its enemies from within and from without, the enemies of the Arab nation will act to de-stabilize it, so that it will be by with emergencies that will distract it from the central problems of its nation...The timing [of the attack] is therefore not accidental..."

In the same day's newspaper, a signed article by editor Hafezal-Barghouti asserted: "Egypt declared its absolute refusal to grant a prize to Israel--the convening of the Doha summit--and displayed its indifference to American pressure-tactics employed by the Judaized Congress...Hence, the strategic contingency of American and Israeli infidels in Egypt acts when Egypt says "no" to Israel and the U.S. The infidel murderers carry out a Satanic plan that is aimed at bringing about an "Algerization" of Egypt, so that it can never recover. Any promising Arab regime is being shattered, either from within, like Algeria, or from the outside, like Iraq."

"Israelis carried out the Ben-Yehuda Street bombing": Arafat claimed that the Arab bombers who murdered 5 Jews and injured 192 on Ben-Yehuda Street in Jerusalem "were assisted by Israeli extremist elements." (Yediot Ahront, September 7, 1997)

"Israel carried out the Gaza bus bombings": A Palestinian Arab prisoner who claimed to be an agent of Israel's Security Services, the Shin Bet, was presented at a press conference organized by the PA police in Gaza on May 4, 1997. The prisoner, Ibrahim Halabi, claimed that the Shin Bet recruited him to carry out two recent attacks

on Israeli school buses in Gaza, and gave him the explosives. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesman said the allegation was "a fabrication." (New York Times, May 5, 1997)

"Barak heads Israeli group that commits terror": "An unholy conspiracy of Israeli 'fanatics', who are members of a shadowy group of ex-IDF people called 'OAS', and Moslem extremists were behind [the Feb.1996] suicide bombings, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat told foreign diplomats...Arafat is known to have said last year, before [Ehud] Barak became [Israel's] foreign minister, that 'Barak is one of the big bosses of the OAS'..." (Jerusalem Post, Feb. 27, 1996)

"Israel gives weapons to Hamas": Regarding weapons in the hands of Arab terrorists, Arafat said, "These weapons could be obtained only from high authorities with great influence on the Israeli side." (Jerusalem Post, March 22, 1996)

"Israelis carried out the Beit Lid bombing": Referring to the Arab terrorist attack in Beit Lid, in which 22 Israelis were killed, and other attacks in 1995, Arafat said, "I have evidences that these terrorist activities have been done through coordination between these fanatic Islamic groups and some elements on the Israeli side." (Washington Post, May 2, 1995)

"Israelis give weapons to Hamas": "PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, in interviews published yesterday, accused IDF troops of aiding the spread of arms in the territories in a plot to create chaos in Palestinian self-rule areas...This weapons trade is being carried out under the auspices of some Israeli officers in the West Bank and Gaza. This is part of a wicked plan'..." (Jerusalem Post, Feb. 18 & Feb. 19, 1994)

IV. Anti-American Conspiracy Theories

"America wants to change the language in Muslim schools." "Will Muslims realize that the country of brutality, America, is threatening

them with punishment and torture if they do not go its way and follow its orders, according to its new world order, which it imposed on Muslims to change their language of religious education." (Translation courtesy of PMW.)

"America wants to cause a Palestinian civil war." The PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah stated on Jan. 28, 2002: "What is the US position if not an attempt to ignite the fire of civil war in the Palestinian area, to provide cover for Israeli crimes, to ensconce the stages of comprehensive violence in the region and to threaten stability...Washington is the source of authority for Mafias." (Translation courtesy of PMW.)

"America has launched a war against Islam." A sermon by at the Al Aqsa Mosque, broadcast on official PA radio on Dec. 28, 2001, declared: "The infidel countries, led by the United States, invented the excuse and justification for their dirty war against Islam, Muslims, and Islamic movements all over the world." (Translation courtesy of PMW.)

"America is bringing half a million Afghani Jews to Israel." PA radio reported on Dec. 7, 2001, that the United States is using its victory over the Taliban regime in Afghanistan "to bring more than half a million Afghani Jews to Israel." (Translation courtesy of Prof. Michael Widlanski of Hebrew University.)

"America seeks to control Muslim countries." A sermon by religious preacher Mohammed Hassin, broadcast on PA Radio on Dec. 7, 2001, declared: "The 'Crusaders' are raising their heads and enlisting armies to fight the Islamic nations in an oppressive campaign, under the label of 'terrorism' which the infidels are attaching to the Arabs and Muslims, for the purpose of realizing their imperialist interests, and to spread their control over the Muslim countries and their resources." (Translation courtesy of PMW.)

"America seeks to destroy Islam." Yusuf Abu-Sneina, a PA-appointed religious preacher and official of the PA Ministry of Religious Affairs, said in a sermon broadcast on PA radio on Oct. 26, 2001: "The heretic nations are once again

attacking, like dogs, Muslim Afghanistan, and are fighting Islam everywhere...These are heretic nations seeking to destroy Islam." (Translation courtesy of IRNA.)

"Giuliani hates Arabs and hides his real name." On October 17, 2001, an article in the PA newspaper Al-Hayat Al-Jadida by its editor stated: "New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani was obsessed by his hatred of Arabs even before the terrorist attacks on New York. He hides his first name, chosen for him by his Italian father, so as not to remind the Jewish voters of the infamous Rudolph Hitler. [sic] This is why he prefers to shorten it to Rudy." (Translation courtesy of MEMRI.)

"America wants to rule the world." An editorial on the official web site of Arafat's Fatah movement on Sept. 30, 2001, said: "It became obvious that the US Administration was planning to impose its hegemony on the world as a limitless tyranny...After all, the US is seeking to impose its hegemony on the world."
[http://www.fateh.net/e_editor/01/300901.htm]