

Special Report: Sept. 1, 2008

PA Libels and Lies Part 1: 1997-2000

Palestinian libels and lies create the atmosphere that leads to the Palestinian Terror War

by Itamar Marcus and Barbara Crook

Throughout history, libels, lies and distortions have been used to incite hatred and violence, and even to foment mass murder. The policy of continuous dissemination of libels by the Palestinian Authority during the years 1997-2000 was instrumental in creating an atmosphere of hatred in which murdering Jews and Israelis would later be presented as legitimate self-defense. Jews and Israelis were portrayed as the embodiment of evil, not as a result of the violence of the PA Terror War, but as a precursor to the conflict. This successful fomenting of hatred by the PA enabled them to launch the war and to achieve broad popular support for the murder of Israelis in suicide terror attacks as if it were self-defense.

The following are some examples from the PA campaign of libels and lies, 1997 -2000:

1. Libel: Systematic Israeli policy to poison Arabs

Mahar Aldasouki, Head of Palestinian Consumer Protection Association:

"The heads of the Zionist movement are supervising...in addition to the acts of murder of babies, the elderly, and attack on the honor of man...the regimes of the occupation and the settlers burn the crops and spray the land with poisonous pesticides, and flood her with waste water, which contaminates the environment, the land and the water... [Israel] floods our markets with hundreds of thousands of tons of food products which are unfit for human consumption... The common goal which stands behind this is the proliferation of disease, weakness, and slow death in the Palestinian body through indirect means... Milk, which is designated for fattening calves, is packaged and smuggled to the Palestinian markets and sold as milk for babies... The distribution of meat and lamb, which are filled with carcinogenic hormones is done intentionally ... [and they engage in] the penetration of poisons and filth-ridden products and smuggling them to us. He [head of Consumer Protection Association] points to these three subjects which cause severe disease which destroy the Palestinian's body and influence the genetic code and the destruction of the coming generations, all this in accordance with hard scientific facts... He pointed to the fact that the children are the main target of this hostile plan."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Sept. 12, 1998]

2. Libel: Israel used Nerve Gas

"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."

[*Al-Ayyam*, Feb. 13, 2000; and a similar report in *Al-Quds*]

3. Libel: Israel addicting PA youth to drugs and alcohol

"The Minister [for Social Affairs] Antazar Al-Wazir said that her office provides all possible help to those fighting drugs; however, the Israeli authorities are working hard on bringing drugs into the Palestinian society."

[PA TV (Fatah), July 23, 2000]

"The [current] stage of the Israeli occupation is the stage of the rapid spreading of drugs ... in our country... The goal of the Israeli occupation is to destroy the national wealth that manifests itself in our youth..."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Sept. 2, 1999]

"General Al-Afifi [the Director of General Intelligence in Gaza] added that there is continuous surveillance and supervision on the settlements, as the settlements are seen as a source of corruption, being distributors of spoiled food, drugs, alcoholic drinks, and the like."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Feb. 18, 1999]

"...Many of the citizens who participated in the demonstration told 'Wafa' [the Palestinian News Agency] that the main reason for the distribution of drugs in the holy city originates from the Israeli occupation - who aims at the youth of Jerusalem in order to attain their goals, after aiming at the [Palestinian] land.

"Sultan Abu Sneina, one of the participants in the informative campaign, told Wafa that 'the occupation has a part in the distribution of these plagues, in order to ruin the youth...'"

[*Al-Quds*, Feb. 19, 1999]

4. Libel: Israel endangers Palestinian health and produce

PA Farmers' Association:

"[Israel is] distributing medication and spoiled agricultural materials in the Palestinian markets with the intention of hitting the agricultural sector, destroying the crops and endangering the health of the consumers..."

[*Al-Ayyam*, Feb. 7, 1999]

5. Libel: Israel dumps poisonous waste

Headline: "The Occupation is Burying Poisonous Waste near Jenin"

"Dr. Yussef Abu Sefiyeh, Minister for Environmental Affairs, uncovered the existence of Israelis who are dumping the excesses of the Israeli chemical plants' poisonous waste into the nature reserve near the Am Al-Toth village in the Jenin region. This case, which exposes the lives of the residents and the Palestinian environment to danger, is the fourth of its kind during four years of waste burying. Minister Abu Sefiyeh put full responsibility on the Israeli government for these dangerous steps, which expose the lives of the residents to danger..."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Feb. 14, 1999]

6. Libel: Israel plans to destroy Mosque built on site of Temple

"An expert Palestinian researcher warned of the tunnel excavations which the occupation regime is carrying out under Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of the occupied Jerusalem, which aspires to erase the eternally holy Islamic mark, and this is the beginning of the realization of the Jewish dream, in the establishment of the so called "Solomon's Temple", in its place ..."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Sept. 6, 1998]

"Jewish extremists held a meeting yesterday in West Jerusalem, in which they discussed the ways to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque and to establish the so called Temple in its place."

[PA TV (Fatah), Sept. 16, 1998]

"[Sheik Salah] warned that the Jewish groups' plans to eliminate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and to build the Temple in its place reached advanced stages and some of them are being implemented now, such as the continuation of the excavations on the foundations of the Al-Aqsa Mosque...also, the show of hostility against the Al-Aqsa Mosque in a continuous way such as burning the [Al-Aqsa Mosque] gate."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Dec. 3, 1998]

7. Libel: Israel planned Sabra and Shatila killings

A widespread tactic in the PA is to use events that really occurred as a starting point, so that the distortions have a basis in reality. For example, the killing of Muslims in Sabra and Shatila by Christian Lebanese militias is rewritten in minute detail in PA history as an Israeli-sponsored massacre:

"...the Israeli forces ... prepared the scene of the crime by landing battalions with helicopters... The helicopters shot flares and even followed up on the execution while the crime was committed... We say that the Israeli goal was to kill the maximum number of camp residents..."

There is no doubt that the Israeli strategic policy is to commit massacres, not only the massacre of Sabra and Shatila...

"The memory of the painful massacre which was planned by he who is still serving in the government of the occupation until this very day, into which came groups of settlers and our enemies and committed this despicable crime... Heads of children were cut off and their bodies ripped to pieces, their limbs were dispersed and the honor of women was violated in front of everyone... Our enemies still desire the heads of our sons and Palestinian blood is still being spilled like water. No one was arrested and no one will be arrested, because the policy which our enemies are implementing against the Muslims is written in the beginning of our history..."

[PA TV (Fatah), Sept. 18, 1998]

8. Libel: Israel is blamed for Arab murder

An Arab woman was stabbed to death in Jerusalem by an Arab who explained that he had mistaken her for a Jew. Still the PA's official paper, as well as the PA Deputy Minister of Religion, accused Jews of murder.

"Naïla Hamdan Karain, age 47, of Silwan [in Jerusalem] fell as a *Shahida* [woman who died as a martyr for Allah] in the neighborhood of Musrara, after being stabbed by an extremist Jew in the settlement neighborhood." (Ed. note: Musrara has been part of Israel since 1948, yet is referred to as a settlement.)

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Feb. 12, 1999]

Deputy Minister of Religion, Yussef Juma'a Salame:

"These days we hear of the murder of our people daily. The crime of the stabbing of the young woman yesterday in the city of Jerusalem is a link in the chain of the continuous acts of stabbing against all sectors of our people. These repeated attacks prove the level of hostility and hatred against our people who stand in Jerusalem and its environs."

[Voice of Palestine Radio (Fatah), Feb. 12, 1999]

9. Libel: Israel blamed for Palestinian Terror

After a Jerusalem terror attack, PA official daily, front page, main headline:

"Palestinian sources believe that the Israeli Intelligence stands behind the bombing."

"These sources estimated that there is a 'mole' from one of the Israeli [intelligence] systems [which stands behind] the bombing, such as happened in the throwing of two hand grenades on the bus stations in Beer Sheva a few weeks ago, after which it was found that the man who carried out the attack, Salem Alsaba, was recruited by the Israeli intelligence. Circles close to the Alsaba family said that Salem called his family two days ago from his place of detention, and this raised wonder in the family due to the fact that the Israeli authorities do not allow any detainee, for security reasons, to establish any connections during the interrogation period. It was relayed that his family refused to speak to him and spoke harshly with him about his deeds. The sources mentioned that the authority which was given to Alsaba, confirms what was mentioned at the time by the PA, which was that the suspicious attack was done to stop the Wye River talks... Palestinian sources said to the France Press Agency that "the Palestinian security forces have a number of leads and signs of the existence of an exterior party which stands behind the last attack and the recent series of attacks, which have a political goal of confusing the PA and preventing the implementation of the agreements that they reached with Israel... The recent military attack that was attributed to the Jihad, is the double suicide attack in the beginning of 1997 near the Netzarim and Kfar Darom settlements, after which the National Authorities introduced to the media a man by the name of Ibrahim Alhalaby, who recruited the two suicide bombers and who planned the attack. Alhalaby confirmed that he works for the Israeli intelligence and that he organized this attack according to their request, in order to create tension in the relations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel and to stop the implementation of the agreements signed between them."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Aug. 11, 1998]

10. PA changes lie three times in a week

A premeditated ambush and stoning attack of an Israeli vehicle near Ramallah and the subsequent beating and stoning of the soldier inside were broadcast on television around the world. However, PA news, instead of accepting responsibility, changed the story three times in a week, always blaming Israel:

PA TV afternoon news: "The confrontation broke out after the Israeli soldier fired from his car..."

PA TV nightly news changed the story, blaming other soldiers: "The soldiers of the Occupation fired bullets and tear gas."

A week later, Arafat had a new story: "The President [Arafat] said that the soldier made a mistake in coming close to the demonstrators. He should have stayed away as did the other cars."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Aug. 12, 1998]

11. Libel: *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is an authentic Jewish plot

Sheikh Attiyeh Sahar, Chairman of the Department of Islamic Research in The Al-Zahar University:

"It must be known that this nation, the Jews, is willing of mind and soul to alter their religion in order to attain their demands. This is rooted deep in their history... These people, in order to attain their goals, are willing to turn away from their God and His Singularity, which was introduced to the world by their prophets. We also know that they changed the Bible and replaced it, because it does not serve their purposes, and they drafted the Talmud, as it is known, and came up, finally, with the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*."

[PA TV (Fatah), Sept. 10, 2000]

12. Libel: Israel plans to expand from the Nile to the Euphrates..."

"The map [of the future Jewish homeland] in the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*... Herzl sent a furious letter [... to] the mandatory borders of Palestine so that they include the Litani River, that is 'from the water to the water' – [a slogan] expressed by the poster spread over the Knesset 'from the Euphrates to the Nile.' ... the historical homeland, according to the Zionist perspective, is from the Nile to the Euphrates..."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* (Fatah), Dec. 21, 1997]