

Palestinian Authority non-recognition of Israel

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**by Nan Jacques Zilberdik and Itamar Marcus
Palestinian Media Watch**

The Palestinian Authority's messages in Arabic deny Israel's existence by portraying a world in which all of Israel is said to be "Palestine." The rejection of Israel's existence is reinforced by the PA's teaching that the conflict with Israel is a *Ribat* or a Jihad, a religious conflict "until Resurrection."

These actions demonstrate that in messages to its own people, the PA has not complied with the fundamental, preliminary requirement of the peace process, which is to have recognized Israel.

The following are some examples from September – November, 2011 of PA non-recognition and presenting the conflict with Israel as an eternal religious conflict during the peace talks in 2010:

1. Non-recognition of Israel

This educational documentary, depicting all parts of Israel as "Palestine," has been broadcast repeatedly on PA TV (Fatah) since 2007. Most recent broadcast was on Nov. 1, 2011:

"The West Bank and Gaza have another section in Palestine which is the Palestinian coast that spreads along the [Mediterranean] sea, from... Ashkelon in the south up to Haifa, in the Carmel Mountains. Haifa is a well-known Palestinian port. [Haifa] enjoyed a respected status among Arabs and Palestinians especially before it fell to the 'occupation' [Israel] in 1948. To its north, we find Acre. East of Acre, we reach a city with history and importance, the city of Tiberias, near a famous lake, the Sea of Galilee. Jaffa, an ancient coastal city, is the bride of the sea, and Palestine's gateway to the world."



[PA TV (Fatah) since 2007. Most recent broadcast was on Nov. 1, 2011]

Following PA statehood bid at the UN:

PA maps still show "Palestine" – the requested state – to include all of Israel

The day after PA Chairman Abbas delivered the Palestinian Authority's request for statehood to the UN, PA TV, which is controlled directly by Abbas' office, broadcast a map that does not recognize Israel's right to exist, but completely denies it.

The map depicts Israel under Palestinian rule and was part of a public service clip promoting Palestinian statehood. It shows both all of Israel (excluding the Golan Heights) and the PA areas wrapped in the Palestinian flag, symbolizing sole Palestinian sovereignty, and a key representing Palestinian claims of ownership of the land and “right of return.”

Arabic texts on map:

Right: “Expelled”

Left: “Resolve”

Bottom: “Right of return”



[PA TV, Sept. 24, 2011]

Abbas claims to recognize Israel and its right to exist, and to be requesting a Palestinian state based on 1967 ceasefire lines, living side by side with Israel.

The maps of “Palestine” publicized in Abbas’ official Pa media do not corroborate Abbas’ statements.

The following are other examples of maps of “Palestine” that include Israel in the official PA media that were published in the days after the PA statehood bid at the UN.

PA TV filler showing map of “Palestine” including PA areas as well as all of Israel. The following Israeli cities are presented as Palestinian: Acre, Haifa, Beit Shean, Be’er Sheva, Ramle, Safed, Tiberias, Nazareth, Jaffa and Lod. [PA TV, Sept. 24, 2011]



Map of PA areas and all of Israel that forms the word “HERE.” It completes the text on the side and bottom, reading:

“HERE [we] stand, stay, permanent, eternal, and we have one goal, one, one – to be, and we will be.”

The word “here” specifically refers to all of Israel. Abbas quoted this statement by the poet Mahmoud Darwish in his speech requesting PA statehood at the UN.

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Sept. 26, 2011]



Opening ceremony of basketball tournament featured huge a map of "Palestine" that includes all of Israel. Both PA TV and the official Pa daily reported on the opening, showing the map. [PA TV, Sept. 26, 2011 and *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Sept. 29, 2011]



Lock in the shape of map including PA areas as well as all of Israel.

Text on top lock: "[the Arab] Weakness".

Text on bottom lock: "Occupation"

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Sept. 20, 2011]



The Palestinian Authority is telling its people that peace with Israel is not a goal. Instead, the PA says that all of Israel is "Palestine," and that no compromise is acceptable because this principle is "the only red line."

This message was expressed by the regular cartoonist, Muhammad Sabaaneh, in the official PA daily. His cartoon displayed a map of all of Israel (excluding the Golan Heights) and the PA areas, with the following text written across the map: "The only red line." [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Aug. 21, 2011]



The cartoon is a clear example of the PA's lack of recognition of Israel's right to exist, and sends a message that the PA's real goal is a complete dismantling of Israel and its replacement by a Palestinian state. This sentiment is implicit in PA ideology but only occasionally is it expressed so explicitly in its controlled media.

At a Fatah event in the presence of Mahmoud Abbas and many other senior PA officials, a Palestinian singer defined Palestinian land that "I am returning to" as spanning from Rosh Hanikra, in Israel's north, to Rafah in the Gaza Strip in the South, and from Haifa, on Israel's Western coast to Beit Shean Israel's Eastern border.

This song and video has been broadcast on PA TV 20 times during 2011, most recently on Nov. 1, 2011.

"We commit and promise to stand behind you, oh Mahmoud Abbas, until Judgment Day. I am returning to you, the purest land, oh land of the free. No matter how long the nights of exile, I am returning to you, oh land. **From Rafah to Rosh Hanikra (northern Israel) our coast, and Beit Shean (Israeli city).** Above your soil, oh my land, is a picture of Garden of Eden. From Rafah to Rosh Hanikra our coast, and Beit Shean. Above your soil, oh my land, is a picture of Garden of Eden. **From Rafah to Rosh Hanikra, north and south, are the picture's borders. From Haifa (Israeli city) and Tantura to the [Jordan] valley (i.e., all of Israel).** I am returning to you, the purest land, oh land of the free."

[PA TV (Fatah), Feb. 27, 2011 and May 12, 2011]

Note: The following PA officials are shown sitting in the audience: Mahmoud Abbas, PA Chairman, Sultan Abu Al-Einein, Fatah Central Committee, Hanan Ashrawi, PLO Executive Committee, Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee, Al-Tayeb Abd Al-Rahim, President's office Sec. Gen., Yasser Abd Rabbo, PLO Sec. Gen., Ahmad Tibi, Israeli Arab Member of Knesset.

This video originally aired on Feb. 27, 2011 and has been rebroadcast another 19 times in 2011.

2. Conflict with Israel is eternal and religious

During the peace talks of 2010, in his Friday sermons on PA TV, the PA Minister of Religious Affairs, Mahmoud Al-Habbash, repeatedly preached that the conflict with Israel is not territorial but religious, and therefore mandated by Islamic law. He explained early in 2010:

"Allah has preordained for us the Ribat (religious conflict/war) on this blessed land. We are committed to it by Allah's command. Let no one be mistaken or under the illusion that Ribat is a choice and nothing more. It is a commandment that necessitates hardship and requires the person to rush to fulfill this command. If Allah has chosen you for Ribat on the land of Ribat, you, the choicest of God's servants, then this is an honor. The enemy is patient, it is waiting for the nation to collapse. The struggle over this land is not merely a struggle over a piece of land here or there. Not at all. The struggle has the symbolism of holiness, or blessing. It is a struggle between those whom Allah has chosen for Ribat and those who are trying to mutilate the land of Ribat."

[PA TV (Fatah), Feb. 12, 2010]

Al-Habbash later added that the religious conflict/ war with Israel is so intrinsic to Islam that it appeared in the Quran:

"Since that date [1917, Balfour Declaration], resolute people, fighters and Ribat (religious war) fighters have not ceased upon our blessed land... This conflict is explicit in the Quran and our obligation with regard to it is clarified by the Quran... We do not oppose peace. On the contrary, we aspire to peace, but not at the expense of our rights; not at the expense of our cause, and not at the expense of our religion."

[PA TV (Fatah), May. 14, 2010]

Minister of Religious Affairs, Mahmoud Habbash, Friday sermon:

“Look at Palestinian women. Have they lagged behind men in anything? Have they lagged behind in the struggle, in Jihad? Have they lagged behind in Ribat? Have they lagged behind in [violent] resistance? The existence of female prisoners is proof that my words are correct. Our Shahidas (Martyrs), from among our daughters and mothers and the women of Palestine, are proof of what I am saying. The women have not lagged behind, and in our society no door is closed to them. All doors are open, so that women may participate together with men in all spheres of life: in action, in Jihad, in resistance, in politics, in the legal system...

Women’s liberation will happen [when they are] shoulder-to-shoulder with men in building society, in liberating Palestine, in building identity, in consolidating values, in educating the younger generation, in creating men. That is the woman’s role.”

[PA TV (Fatah), March 11, 2011]