



PLO DELEGATION

TO THE UNITED STATES

Monthly Report on Israeli Incitement *November 2015 Issue*

In order to facilitate an environment that is conducive for peace and security, it is important to mitigate factors that contribute to keeping both Palestinians and Israelis from achieving progress. Incitement is one of those factors.

In this respect, the Palestinian Authority has undertaken initiatives that curb and diminish incitement against Israel; By 2006, the Palestinian Ministry of Education revised textbooks to ensure the removal of incitement. Additionally, President Abbas has repeatedly called for the activation of the trilateral incitement monitoring committee that was stipulated in the Wye River Memorandum of 1998.

In an effort to urge the Israeli government to condemn and redress incitement against Palestinians¹, this report highlights major incidents of Israeli incitement in public, media, and governmental spheres that occurred in October 2015

In addition, this report traces Israeli actions and policies, even if not verbal, that amount to incitement. In fact, Israeli incitement, whether from official bodies or the public, happens mostly through wrong-doing rather than bad-mouthing. Finally, incitement is a symptom and a consequence of Israel's prolonged military occupation and therefore, to eradicate incitement, it is vital to address its root cause: the occupation.

Each story is followed by a brief assessment of how and why a particular incident amounts to Israeli incitement against Palestinians, titled *Inciting Elements*.

¹ Note: This report relies on Western, Israeli, and Arabic news sources reporting directly from Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Preference is given to news stories in English, but in the event that a story is only available in Arabic, the headline of the original story is translated and posted in this report. In the event that a link becomes inactive or dysfunctional, please contact the PLO Delegation in Washington, DC, and an alternative link will be provided.

Monthly Report:

November 2nd, 2015

Israeli foreign ministry cadets to defend 'legality' of West Bank settlements

Israeli foreign ministry cadets will from now on be guided by hard-right leaders on tours of settlements in the occupied West Bank so that they can better defend their "legality" against international opinion, officials have indicated. "We think it does not matter what your political positions are. You must know that the Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] is legal," deputy foreign minister Tzipi Hotovely told Army Radio. "When I say legal, I also mean international law. It is settlement with a historical base and has very deep roots." The move ensures that the diplomatic corps, which prides itself on its sophistication and professionalism, will remain in lockstep with the expansionist policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

[Read Article](#), ***The Independent***

Inciting elements:

Under United Nations Security Council resolutions 446, 452, and 465, the settlements that Israel has imposed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are illegal under international law and are an impediment to the two state solution that has been seen as the most practical pathway to peace in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. For Deputy Foreign Minister Hotovely, who is no stranger to incitement against Palestinian and using inflammatory rhetoric to stonewall the peace process, her statement shows the gradual shift of the current Netanyahu government away from the core tenets of the peace process, to enshrine its current expansionist policies on settlements as the cornerstone of Israeli policies towards the Palestinian people.

November 2nd, 2015

Israel Faces Tough Dilemma Over Bodies of Palestinian Terrorists

Defense officials are currently considering requiring, before the terrorists' bodies are handed over, that families of the terrorists sign a commitment to refrain from holding mass funerals. The Israel Police have been following a similar policy for some time with families of terrorists from East Jerusalem. Most of the families there have abided by their commitments, but Israel has greater leverage over Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, which Israel annexed in 1967, than it does in the West Bank because East Jerusalemites are afraid of losing rights that they are accorded as residents of Israel. And yet, Ya'alon, senior members of the IDF general staff, the office of the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories and the IDF Central Command are not pleased with the new policy. They have reservations over having Israel dragged into haggling over bodies, something that the country had tried to avoid in the past. In addition, there is concern that holding on to the bodies would only exacerbate the unrest on the ground, as already occurred last week in Hebron. They also don't see the bodies as an asset and instead believe them to be a burden.

[Read Article](#), ***Haaretz***

Inciting elements:

Because of the nature of the extra judicial killings of Palestinians by the Israeli Defense Forces since the current escalation of violence, the Israeli media and government have continuously labeled every murdered Palestinian as a terrorist. For the Palestinians, the withholding of bodies of those that have been killed by Israeli forces and the concession that Palestinians should not be able to hold funerals “that are used for nationalistic purposes” is a repetition of the same inciteful rhetoric that has been displayed by the Israeli government in the past. Not only are the Palestinian people denied their human dignity living under a perpetual occupation imposed on them by the Israelis, but they are also robbed of that dignity in their death as well, prevented from burial according to religious and cultural practices. By claiming that Palestinian funerals are used to call for “terrorist attacks” against Israelis, the Netanyahu government once again dehumanizes the Palestinians so that even grieving is provocation against the Israelis.

November 5th, 2015

Palestinian parents told to keep children away from knives

Jerusalem’s educational authority has sent out a letter to Palestinian parents of students in East Jerusalem asking them to keep their children away from knives and inform them of the ‘finality of death’. The letter, distributed in East Jerusalem on Monday and Tuesday to around 20,000 parents, called on parents to look for “out of the ordinary behaviour which raises concerns the child may cause harm to themselves or someone else” and to prevent their children gaining access to “dangerous objects such as knives”. “Children have a hard time understanding and interpreting events and messages they are exposed to, and adults have the central role in mediating these for them, and helping them understand them properly, and not be drawn in by rumors and distorted information ,” read the letter. “The view of death among children develops relatively slowly, and there is real difficulty in understanding the finality of death. A dialogue with the children on this matter can prevent hasty decisions to harm themselves or others.”

[Read Article](#), **Middle East Eye**

Inciting elements:

The letter sent out by the East Jerusalem educational authority targeted Palestinian children and their parents. In an identical letter that was sent out in West Jerusalem, the letter did not have the above mentioned prescribed elements sent out to the students and their families. By insinuating that Palestinian children will be susceptible to extremist elements, and that Palestinian parents should ensure that children should understand what they think is finality of death, is another insinuation that Palestinians not only encourage their children to commit acts of violence against Israeli Jews, but that they also do not teach their children effectively or raise them well. These letters, and racist perceptions on the Palestinian family, continue to shape the violent and barbaric narrative of the Palestinian people on the Israeli psyche, further leading to the dehumanization of the Palestinian people.

November 15th, 2015

Israeli leaders liken Paris attacks to Palestinian violence

Israeli politicians on Saturday compared a series of deadly attacks in Paris that left at least 129 civilians dead to Palestinian acts of violence. Extending his sympathy to the families of the victims, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel "stands shoulder-to-shoulder with France in this common battle against militant Islamic terrorism." He added that "innocent people in Paris, like those in London, Madrid, Mumbai, Buenos Aires and Jerusalem, are the victims of militant Islamic terrorism, not its cause." "As I've said for many years, militant Islamic terrorism attacks our societies because it wants to destroy our civilization and our values." The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the deadly Paris attacks, which were carried out in multiple locations across the French capital. Israel's Culture Minister Miri Regev used the attacks to criticize the European Union for removing Hamas from its list of terrorist organizations in December last year, while she praised France for fighting the decision. "France didn't know that in less than a year it would bleed and hurt as we do from the day we were founded, but it apparently did know that the threat of Muslim terror is not only on Israel, but on the whole world," Israeli daily the Jerusalem Post quoted her.

[Read Article](#), **Ma'an**

Inciting elements

The attack on Paris and the death of 129 innocent men and women was a terrible event and an act of terrorism against Paris and the people of France. The attack was widely condemned across the world, including the Palestinian Liberation Organization which released a statement condemning the attack. However, the Prime Minister of Israel's taking advantage of the carnage and emotional trauma that is afflicting the international community to equate the actions of individual Palestinians suffering illegal Israeli Occupation, to that of a terrorist organization that has repeatedly made threats against the Palestinian people, is but a cheap way to score international points for Israel. Equating the Palestinian cause with ISIS continues the destructive narrative of the Palestinians (and the Arab people) and those that adhere to Islam as a barbaric and medieval people that cannot be reasoned with such as ISIS.

November 17th, 2015

Israel to Approve Construction 436 Settler Units in Jerusalem

The Israeli government is planning to issue tenders for the construction of 436 new housing units in the Jewish settlement of Ramat Shlomo in Jerusalem, according to Israeli daily Jerusalem Post. It said the municipality also wants to advance plans for the construction of 1,000 new housing units in the said settlement. In November 9, Israel's planning committee for construction in the West Bank approved the construction of about 2,200 new housing units in Ma'aleh Michmash settlement complex, east of Ramallah, in addition to a plan to erect two settlement outposts in the area. The Israeli daily Haaretz said the move was to preempt legal action by Palestinians and rights groups to evacuate the sites. Under the plan, by 2030 there will be 800 homes in Ma'aleh Michmash, which serves as the central land reserve in the

region, while 300 more homes will be added to Kochav Hashahar. The plan also seeks to regularize the Mitzpeh Danny and Neveh Erez outposts, in addition to tourism sites and an education complex. To be noted, settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian Territory and the Golan Heights, both occupied since 1967, are considered illegal under international law. The settler population in the West Bank is estimated at 531,000: in late 2012 the population of the West Bank settlements was 341,400; in late 2011 there were 190,423 individuals living in Israeli neighborhoods in East Jerusalem.

[Read Article.](#) **Wafa**

Inciting elements

The continuous action by the Israeli government to accelerate the building of settlements, which have been condemned almost universally by the international community, is one of the largest impediments to the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

While Netanyahu regularly lies to the international community and the American public by saying that he has not built any new settlements, his government never ceases to further build and expand existing illegal settlements. The illegal settlements are the largest obstacle to peace.

November 22nd, 2015

Ministers okay prison sentences for terrorists under age 14

Minors under 14 who commit nationalistically-motivated crimes may receive prison sentences, if a bill authorized by the Ministerial Committee for Legislation on Sunday becomes law. The proposal by MK Anat Berko (Likud) differentiates between acts of terrorism – defined as crimes motivated by nationalism – and other crimes, for which minors under 14 cannot receive prison sentences. The bill states that those under the age of 14 who commit terrorist acts will be kept in a children’s home until they turn 14, at which point they can be sent to prison. Earlier this month, 12 and 13-year-old Palestinian cousins stabbed a Jerusalem Light Rail security guard in the capital’s Pisgat Ze’ev neighborhood. Berko said she plans to expedite the bill’s passage into law because it could save lives. “As long as the Palestinians recruit minors while knowing that the Israeli law does not have a real response to minor terrorists under age 14, we can only expect the phenomenon to spread, with the thought that, anyway, Israeli law enforcement will send the minors back home after they commit the acts,” Berko stated.

[Read Article.](#) **The Jerusalem Post**

Inciting elements:

The proposed legislation in the Knesset that calls for the incarceration age to be lowered to include minors that are below the age of 14 is a clear move by the Israeli government to increase the incarceration rate of the Palestinian people, which is now targeting the vulnerable Palestinian youth. The law, which has always been exclusively applied against the Palestinians, will ensure that Palestinian children are entered into the prison system at a younger age. This not only causes them to be torn from their homes and families, but also violates their most fundamental children human rights and causes extreme cases of trauma. Not only that, but also lowering of the incarceration age places a strain on the

already fragile mental health of the Palestinian youth for those that are entered into the prison system, an issue that needs to be highlighted as the collective mental health of the Palestinian youth continues to deteriorate under the continued illegal Israeli Occupation.

November 23rd, 2015

Israeli Settler Leader: Expel West Bank Palestinian Terrorists' Families to Gaza

Authorities in the Israeli settlement of Kiryat Arba shut down schools on Sunday so that students could join the protests, nrg reported. Among protesters demands were closing Route 60, which runs north-south through the West Bank, to Arab drivers. The demonstration drew out Israeli officials from inside the Knesset, as well as local authorities, including Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Uri Ariel, Regional Cooperation Deputy Minister Ayoob Kara, MK David (Dudu) Amsalem (Likud), Kiryat Arab Regional Council head Malachi Levinger, Gush Etzion Regional Council head Davidi Perl, Har Hevron Regional Council head Yohai Damari and others. Amsalem called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon to focus efforts on restoring security to Israeli residents of the West Bank, regardless of disputes over the territories there. "Our right to the land [of Israel] and the future of Israel is the development of settlements in Judea and Samaria," said Amsalem, using the Hebrew names for the West Bank. The head of the Gush Etzion Regional Council said he was sure there were steps the government was not taking to protect Israelis in the West Bank. "We must set up checkpoints at the entrances and exits of villages. We must strike Palestinian media leading the incitement. The reality has proved that destroying homes is effective," said Perl, referring to the Israeli policy of detonating the homes of Palestinian terrorists and their families, "but we could also expel terrorists' families to Gaza."

[Read Article](#), **the algemeiner**

Inciting elements:

In a further attempt to normalize the illegal Occupation that Israel has established in the OPT, there have been calls for the families of alleged Palestinian attackers who have their homes demolished. . It is known that the failed Israeli policy of home demolition is not conducive to the peace process, so to have calls for West Bank families to be uprooted from their homes and land, and then to have them be shipped to the Gaza Strip, strips the Palestinian people of their basic Human Rights. Furthermore, the call to expel West Bank Palestinian families to Gaza inadvertently admits the total Israeli control on the besieged Gaza Strip which has disintegrated into a level of extreme ghettoization and implies that Palestinians in the occupied West Bank would be afraid give up their imagined privileges of living in the West Bank. This is a further insult to the Palestinian people. Although Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank face different forms of occupation, the people remain united under one national identity, and steadfast in their quest for a sovereign, independent and viable Palestinian state.

APPENDIX:

Articles XXII (1) and XXII (2) of Chapter 4 of the *Interim Agreement between Israel and the Palestinians* of 1995 stipulates that:

1. Israel and the Council shall seek to foster mutual understanding and tolerance and shall accordingly abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression, shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by any organizations, groups or individuals within their jurisdiction.

2. Israel and the Council will ensure that their respective educational systems contribute to the peace between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples and to peace in the entire region, and will refrain from the introduction of any motifs that could adversely affect the process of reconciliation.

The Wye River Memorandum of 1998 further reaffirms the above stipulations as noted in Section II (3) *Preventing Incitement*:

- a. Drawing on relevant international practice and pursuant to Article XXII (1) of the Interim Agreement and the Note for the Record, the Palestinian side will issue a decree prohibiting all forms of incitement to violence or terror, and establishing mechanisms for acting systematically against all expressions or threats of violence or terror. This decree will be comparable to the existing Israeli legislation which deals with the same subject.
- b. A U.S.- Palestinian-Israeli committee will meet on a regular basis to monitor cases of possible incitement to violence or terror and to make recommendations and reports on how to prevent such incitement. The Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. sides will each appoint a media specialist, a law enforcement representative, an educational specialist and a current or former elected official to the committee.