



PLO DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES

Monthly Report on Israeli Incitement

March 2016 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 **March 2016**.

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:

March 1st, 2016

Palestinian MKs may 'quit' if bill passed allowing Knesset to expel them

The head of the Joint Arab List, Ayman Odeh, warned Monday that he and other Palestinian members of the Israeli Knesset may resign if a controversial bill allowing the Knesset to expel lawmakers was passed next week. The bill was submitted to the constitutional committee after the Knesset's Ethics Committee suspended MKs Hanin Zoabi, Basel Ghattas and Jamal Zahalqa from their duties for several months after they visited the families of Palestinians who were killed while attacking Israelis.

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

Inciting Elements:

This bill, if passed, would allow the majority Israeli members of the Knesset to expel all Palestinian MKs without due cause. It is yet another way for the Knesset members to be able to target and exclude Palestinians. If there are no Palestinian MKs then the Palestinian people within Israel will have even less of a voice in the country. The Palestinian members who were suspended from their duties were doing their job by visiting these families in an official capacity and therefore there were no grounds for suspension.

March 4th, 2016

UN: Israel's demolitions, displacement of Palestinians at highest level in seven years

Israeli occupation forces demolished 41 structures in Khirbet Tana near Nablus on Wednesday, according to a UN [statement](#) on March 4. Khirbet Tana is located within an Israeli-imposed 'firing zone', where the occupation forces conduct training exercises. Palestinian residents are thus denied building permits and are often subject to "waves of demolitions", according to the UN. Some 18 percent of the Occupied West Bank has been declared a 'firing zone' by the Israeli army, with 38 Palestinian communities located within these areas.

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

Inciting Elements:

Israel has specifically labeled land in the West Bank as a "firing zone" for the purpose of crippling the Palestinian ability to build homes and disperse across their territory. Since it is labelled a firing zone, Palestinians are unable to legally build on that land. This results in Israel saying that they have the authority to demolish such homes since they were unauthorized. This process is just a means for the Israelis to confine Palestinians to specific areas and punish those who are simply trying to make a life within the Occupied territory.

March 7th, 2016

Israeli 'left' comes up with plan to segregate and disenfranchise 200,000 'enemy' Palestinians

"Saving Jewish Jerusalem" would fence off most of East Jerusalem's Palestinian neighborhoods and transfer responsibility for their 200,000 residents from City Hall to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli military in the occupied West Bank. The new campaign describes Jerusalem's Palestinian

residents as imperiling the security, demographic balance, standard of living and economy of the city. It argues that a majority of people 18 and under in the city are Palestinian and plays on fears raised by the recent surge of Palestinian attacks against Israeli Jews.

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

Inciting Elements:

This initiative, "Saving Jewish Jerusalem", is yet another way to cut off Palestinians from land and resources. The whole point of the initiative is to ensure that Jerusalem, and to a larger extent Israel, remains a Jewish homeland. This will be achieved by any means necessary. It stereotypes young Palestinians as terrorists who will attack Israeli Jews if they are not walled off from the Jewish population. The proposed wall therefore is stated as a security measure for Jews while in fact it will lead to further suffering of Palestinians, the majority of which are children, as they are cut off from food, water, education and health.

March 9th, 2016

Israel Places 63 Palestinians in Jails without Charge, Trial

40 of the detainees received detention orders, without charge or trial, for the first time, whereas the remaining 23 had their sentences renewed for numerous times. There are more than 500 Palestinian prisoners being held under administrative detention, a controversial Israeli practice, dating back to the Days of British Mandate, which allows for the detention of Palestinians without charge or trial, up to six months, and can be renewed indefinitely.

Israeli officials claim the practice is an essential tool in preventing attacks and protecting sensitive intelligence, but it has been strongly criticized by the international community, as well as by both Israeli and Palestinian rights groups.

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

Inciting Elements:

Against international condemnation Israel continues to use the controversial administrative detention, brought in by the British, against Palestinians. Administrative detentions specifically target Palestinians and violate their rights. This is simply a way for Israel to get around the law and jail Palestinians without charging them and without giving them a trial. This practice places innocent Palestinians in jail, sometimes for years, since the Israelis have the ability to prolong the initial 6 months sentence for however long they want, indefinitely if they chose.

March 14th, 2016

Chief Rabbi Permits the Killing of Palestinians Carrying Knives

Israeli media sites yesterday quoted a "religious edict" issued by Sephardi Chief Rabbi of Israel Yitzhak Yosef encouraging the killing of any Palestinian armed with a knife.

"If a terrorist comes at someone with a knife, it is a (religious) duty to kill him – he who comes to kill you, kill him first," he said on Saturday.

[Read Article](#), **The Palestine Chronicle**

Inciting Elements:

When somebody like Sephardi Chief Rabbi Yosef, who has immense influence, makes comments stereotyping Palestinians as terrorists and saying it's your religious duty to kill them, it has huge repercussions. He is using his power and influence to spread anti-Palestinian rhetoric amongst Israeli Jews. By also giving them religious freedom to kill Palestinians it is encouraging hate, discrimination and attacks against Palestinians.

March 15th, 2016

Israel Bans Palestinian Products Inside Occupied Palestinian Territory

Five Palestinian companies warned of financial losses as Israeli occupation forces banned their products from being marketed in occupied Jerusalem, under political and economic pretexts, Palestinian sources reported Saturday. The source explained that the Israeli decision came after a decrease in Israeli sales of the same products, in Jerusalem markets, due to dominance of Palestinian products. Israeli occupation authorities put this decision into action even though the Palestinian companies were licensed within the Israeli record.

[Read Article](#), **Mint Press News**

Inciting Elements:

The Israelis are simply using this ban of Palestinian products within Occupied Jerusalem as a way to ensure that Jewish products are making a larger profit. This is Israel manipulating the market for their own benefit in an area that is predominantly Palestinian to begin with. The ban is targeting Palestinian companies and is illegal since there is no just cause for banning the companies from selling their products in Occupied Jerusalem. This is a move by Israel to force the PA to acknowledge that Israel is in control of Jerusalem, which means that the Palestine has no 'right' to claim it as their capital.

March 21th, 2016

Israel to confiscate more Palestinian land in West Bank

The Israeli regime is planning to confiscate 1.2 square kilometers (296.5 acres) of land from Palestinians in the northern occupied West Bank district of Nablus, a local monitor says. The Israeli NGO, Peace Now, which tracks and opposes the expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, announced on Tuesday that the Israeli regime has already devised plans for expanding nearby settlements in the area.

[Read Article](#), **Press TV**

Inciting Elements:

Land grabbing is both illegal and a means for Israel to gain more territory in order to make a Palestinian state impossible to achieve. By expanding their illegal settlements Israel is minimizing the amount of land Palestinians have to expand as their population grows. This means that per capita resources available for Palestinians decrease causing tension within the occupied territories. This is specific target against Palestinians to continue their suffering with the main

political goal of suppressing Palestinian self-determination and severely harms the viability of the two-state solution.

March 24th, 2016

Palestinians face severe restrictions during Jewish holiday

Palestinians faced severe movement restrictions on Wednesday, as Israeli authorities shut down all movement through checkpoints in and out of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip ahead of the Jewish holiday of Purim. An Israeli army spokesperson said that beginning at 1 a.m. on Wednesday and lasting until midnight Saturday, the checkpoints would be closed to all Palestinians with the exception of humanitarian cases. Palestinian citizens of Israel, as well as holders of foreign passports, would still be allowed to pass through the checkpoints, she said, noting: "They're only closed for Palestinians."

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

Inciting Elements:

This ban directly targets Palestinians. The settlers living in the West Bank are still able to cross the checkpoints as usual during this time. This ban is stereotyping all Palestinians as 'troublemakers.' It is stately that during this Jewish religious holiday if anybody would cause a problem or attack the celebrations it would be the Palestinians that would do that or else there would be no ban against them.

March 28th, 2016

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Says non-Jews Forbidden From Living in the Land of Israel

In a recording of Yosef's weekly Saturday night lecture obtained by Channel 10, the rabbi can be heard saying, "According to Jewish law, it's forbidden for a non-Jew to live in the Land of Israel – unless he has accepted the seven Noachide laws."

"If he's not willing to accept one of them, [which is] not to commit suicide, if he's not willing to accept this, you send him to Saudi Arabia," Yosef continued, apparently referring to suicide attackers.

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

Inciting Elements:

Chief Rabbi Yosef remarks make it deciding apparent that he would like to rid Israel of all non-Jewish citizens and more specifically Palestinians. This is apparent through his mentioning of suicide, and therefore suicide attacks as there has been Palestinians involved in suicide attacks against Jews. These remarks though are stereotyping all Palestinians to say that they do not follow the seven Noachide laws as they are all liable to commit suicide attacks so they should therefore all be deported out of the country and to Saudi Arabia.

March 30th, 2016

Less than 5% of new flats built in Arab areas in Israel last year

According to the report, which was prepared by the Lawyer Mohamed Bassam from Adalah, the overwhelming majority of land and houses marketed during the year were specified for Jewish communities.

Statistics showed that the Arab residents in Israel only had 4.6 per cent of the marketed houses during 2015; however, Arabs make up 20 per cent of the Israeli population.

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

Inciting Elements:

Israel has adopted discriminatory practices towards Palestinians in regards to housing. With 20% of the population being Arabs, the percent of marketed houses for 2015 should be a similar number in an equal society. This is not the case though in Israel, which is evidenced by the fact that only 4.6% of Arabs had marketed houses during 2015. This has then lead to a residential crisis for Arabs as they are not able to build new houses as their communities continue to grow, meaning that tension in these communities will continue to grow as resources are fought over.