



PLO DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES

Monthly Report on Israeli Incitement

April 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 Palestinians, this report highlights major incidents of Israeli incitement in public, media, and governmental spheres that occurred in April 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*.

Monthly Report:

April 1st, 2016

Silencing Arab members of the Knesset would be a new low for Israeli democracy

In the most recent assault on democratic rights, and in an attempt to undermine the Arab minority, the coalition in Israel's parliament, the Knesset, proposed [legislation that would enable the suspension of elected representatives of the public](#) – a move likely to disproportionately affect Arab MKs. The legislation stipulates that an MK can be suspended if 90 out of the 120 MKs support this motion. This legislation will allow elected officials to be relieved of their duties – not because they broke any law, but because their political agenda is found to be unacceptable. In its purest form, this represents tyranny of the majority and, if it passes, it will be a new nadir for Israeli democracy.

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

Inciting Elements:

This new legislation specifically targets both Arab MKs and Israeli democracy as a whole. It will allow members of the majority to dispel MKs who hold minority views on policy for the simple fact that they do not agree with whatever policy the majority wants to implement. This means that the minority member MKs will be left having to make a decision to stand up for policies they are against and face suspension from the Knesset or remain quiet and not represent their constituents views like they are elected to do. This completely undermines democracy in Israel.

April 3rd, 2016

Israel bans call to prayer in Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque 51 times in March

Israeli authorities banned Palestinian mosque employees from playing the Muslim call to prayer through the speakers of the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron 51 times in March, the Palestinian Ministry of Endowment said on Saturday. Minister of Endowment Sheikh Youssef Ideis slammed the restrictions as attempts by the Israeli occupation to give the impression that the mosque is Jewish property.

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

Inciting Elements:

The banning by Israel of the call of prayer at the Ibrahimi Mosque is a direct attack against Palestinians' right to religious practice and freedom. The Ibrahimi Mosque has long been the site where extremist Jewish settler leaders and groups incite against and limit the Palestinians' right to worship. The ban on the call to prayer is an attempt to strip the mosque of its Muslim nature and a step towards claiming that the mosque is Jewish property.

April 5th , 2016

Israeli hospitals separate Arab and Jewish patients

Israeli Arab MK Ahmed Al-Tibi yesterday criticised the “apartheid policy” carried out by the administrations of a number of Israeli hospitals against Palestinian and Arab women, Safa news agency reported. Al-Tibi voiced his criticism after Israel’s Reshet Bet radio station revealed that Shaare Zedek Medical Centre, Hadassah Medical Centre, Eklof and Meir Hospital separate Arab and Jewish women in maternity wards. Though the hospitals denied the claims, staff members confirmed them.

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

Inciting Elements:

Separating Jewish and Arab women in maternity wards is a despicable act demonstrating the deeply imbedded racism in Israeli society. During Apartheid South Africa, white and black women were separated claiming that black women are inferior. Separating newborn babies is also a signal that one religion and ethnicity is so super to the other (Jewish people over Arabs) that even hour old babies can’t be in the same room as each other, as if the Arab babies will contaminate, hurt or brainwash their Jewish counterparts.

April 11th, 2016

Israel approves plan to deploy more police in Arab areas

The plan entails the recruitment of 2,600 new police officers and construction of 10 new police stations in cities with predominantly Arab or mixed populations. While Netanyahu portrayed the scheme as one intended to bolster law enforcement, Yedioth Ahronoth quoted Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan as saying the plan included the deployment of more police in East Jerusalem for the twin purposes of “enforcement and deterrence”.

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

Inciting Elements:

Netanyahu’s plan to add more police in Arab enclaves of Israel is not for the purpose of creating an equal amount of law enforcement across Israel as he says it is for. Similarly to American police presence in predominantly black neighborhoods in the United States, Israel’s plan to gain more control over the Arab neighborhoods inside Israel will not curb violence, it will rather increase it.

April 17th, 2016

Netanyahu: Occupied Golan Heights to 'forever remain in Israel's hands'

Israel's Channel 2 reported on Friday that Israeli officials [had decided to hold a meeting in the area as a gesture of defiance](#), as world leaders work on drafting an agreement to end the five-year civil war in Syria which calls on Israel to hand back the annexed Golan to Syria. "I chose to hold this festive Cabinet meeting on the Golan Heights in order to deliver a clear message: The Golan Heights will forever remain in Israel's hands. Israel will never come down from the Golan Heights," Netanyahu said.

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

Inciting Elements:

Netanyahu's blatant comments about how the Golan Heights will forever remain in the hands of Israel, even as the international community is working on returning the Golan Heights back to Syria, does not bode well for the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It can be easily surmised that Netanyahu holds the same opinion about the Palestinian Territories as he does the Golan Heights. In both regards Netanyahu has gone against the view, and law, of the international community stating that these annexed and occupied regions will remain under Israeli control.

April 23rd, 2016

Israel to Seize Hundreds of Dunums of Land for Benefit of Illegal Israeli Settlements

Israeli occupation authorities Saturday notified the takeover of hundreds of dunums of land in the village of Jalood to the south of Nablus, as well as in the towns of Turmosayya and al-Mghayar to the north of Ramallah, to pave a new road that would serve illegal Israeli outposts and settlements, according to a local official.

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

Inciting Elements:

The Israelis have once again confiscated Palestinian land within the West Bank to use for their own purpose of aiding the illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine. This land grab means that the Palestinians are losing vital land that they could otherwise be using for agriculture or other means to develop their economy. This road the Israelis are taking the land to build for is also just for Israeli use which is also detrimental to the Palestinians.

April 25th, 2016

Israel Closes Hebron's Ibrahimi Mosque for Jewish Passover

Israeli authorities on Monday closed the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron for two days, as part of a series of severe restrictions enforced by the Israeli military during the year's Jewish Passover

holiday. Israeli troops also closed with cement cubes the entrance to Hebron's Emergency Center in the Israeli-controlled H2 part of the city.

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

Inciting Elements:

The closing of the Ibrahimi Mosque is a direct violation of freedom of religion, forbidding Palestinians from going to the mosque to pray just because it is also the Jewish Passover holiday. The closure of the Emergency Center by the Israeli troops makes it significantly harder for Palestinians needing medical assistance to receive this aid. If there are Palestinians scared of the now military outpost on the emergency center they may not seek aid which could result in worsening conditions or even death. These Israeli "security" measures are just to show Israeli power over the Palestinians.

April 27th, 2016

UN: 800 Palestinians evicted in first quarter of 2016

The United Nations weekly report on Palestine reports that Israeli occupation forces bulldozers had demolished 586 Palestinian buildings, evicting 800 people, in the first 15 weeks of 2016 – four times the rate of demolitions and evictions last year. According to the UN, the Israelis had already demolished 120 donor-funded buildings by the beginning of March, more than in the whole of last year, and a good proportion of these must have been funded by the British taxpayer.

[Read Article](#), **Palestinian News Network**

Inciting Elements:

In the first few months of this year alone the Israelis have demolished more Palestinian donor-funded buildings than they did in the whole of last year, along with an increase in bulldozing non-donor funded buildings. This signals that this year the Israeli occupation forces plan to demolish significantly more buildings than they did last year. This is of grave concern as it is displacing numerous Palestinian families who have limited options of where to go. It is also of concern as it can be assumed that these demolitions will be paving the way for Israeli settlement infrastructure within the occupied territory.

April 29th, 2016

7 elderly Palestinians indicted for 'incitement' at Aqsa

Seven elderly Palestinians from Jerusalem were issued indictments on Friday by an Israeli court for alleged incitement and involvement with Murabitun, an Islamic group [outlawed](#) by Israel last year. The seven, indicted for alleged incitement at Al-Aqsa Mosque, were banned by the Israeli Magistrate Court from entering the holy site and the Old City of Jerusalem until their court date, which has been postponed until May 17th.

[Read Article](#), **MAAN News**

Inciting Elements:

These seven men who were at Al-Aqsa Mosque to worship have been unlawfully connected to the Israeli dictated illegal organization of Murabitun. They have been issued indictments for incitement when in fact this act against them is Israeli incitement. By simply stating that these men are a part of the illegal organization, Murabitun, with no evidence the Israelis are able to control who can enter the holy site in Jerusalem, restricting any religious freedom these men should be entitled to.