



FACES

OF

PALESTINE



ILLUSTRATIONS BY BOSCH FAWSTIN

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Introduction

Appearing at the UN and in diplomatic circles in Europe and elsewhere, Palestinian representatives portray their cause as one involving a solemn struggle for national selfhood, a deep and abiding desire for identity, a passionate need—common to all people at all times—for a place to call home.

This emotional narrative of dispossession, statelessness and “occupation” has won international sympathy for the Palestinians. Repeated insistently over two generations, the story has acquired enough power to redefine reality, putting Israel on the defensive and neutralizing Israel’s own all too real story of genocide and diaspora. It has turned tiny David, whose precarious future has always been menaced by the remorseless enemies surrounding it, into an insensate Goliath ever ready to crush the powerless millions whose individual and national aspirations it controls. The Palestinian narrative has made the victims of Holocaust into the new Nazis.

This narrative has been promoted effectively by those who represent the Palestinian cause at international congresses and in high-level negotiations, but it is regularly belied by those who claim to express the deepest longings of the Palestinians. These people—the ones who turn rhetoric into facts on the ground—speak a different language and tell a different story. Their words focus not on the art of the possible as a route to a peaceful and secure regional future, but on the art of war—vengeful, unyielding, everlasting. It is a war like no other in our time, fueled by an elemental hate. The aim is not just victory but extermination; the strategy calls for scorched earth strewn with the mangled

bodies of women and children even more than those of men in uniform.

The voices that express this vision belong to individuals who wage politics by suicide vest. They know their advantage lies in the fact that they, unlike their opponents, love death more than life, and that they are committed to winning—in the heartless phrase of all totalitarians—by any means necessary. These soldiers of hate tell a different Palestinian story from the one heard in the diplomatic lounges of the UN; but the international community pretends not to hear their raucous demands for blood.

Those who tell this narrative of death and destruction are not marginal figures living on the political outskirts, as do the hate-filled bigots of Western societies. They are found in the highest reaches of Palestinian society. They are accorded respect as men and women of honor, even as they implement a policy of wanton slaughter or deliver the afternoon sermon of hate that sends the suicide bomber on his way. Look at the faces on the pages that follow. Listen to the voices.



"Arise, o sons of Arabia. Fight for your sacred rights. Slaughter Jews wherever you find them. Their spilled blood pleases Allah, our history and religion. That will save our honor."

- Haj Amin al-Husseini
Grand Mufti of Jerusalem

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Haj Amin al-Husseini

Appointed mufti of Jerusalem by the British high commissioner for Palestine in May 1921, Haj Amin

al-Husseini was the founder of the radical Palestinian movement. During the incitement that led to the 1929 Arab revolt in Palestine, for example, he called for slaughtering “the Jews,” not merely Zionists.

In 1937, fleeing an arrest warrant by the British in Palestine for his role in stirring up rebellion, the mufti escaped to Europe and spent the remainder of World War II in Germany and Italy. From this sanctuary, he provided active support to the Germans by recruiting Bosnian Muslims, in addition to Muslim minorities from the Caucasus, to serve in Nazi SS units. The mufti’s objective for these recruits was made explicit in his multiple wartime radio broadcasts from Berlin, heard throughout the Arab world: “Kill the Jews wherever you find them,” he said during his broadcast on March 1, 1944, for example. “This pleases God, history, and religion.”

Haj Amin also launched a campaign to prevent Jewish emigration from Europe to Palestine. Invoking the personal support of such prominent Nazis as Himmler and Eichmann, the mufti helped convince German, Rumanian and Hungarian government officials to cancel an estimated 480,000 exit visas that had been granted to Jews. As a result, these hapless individuals were deported to Nazi concentration camps.

The mufti escaped to the Middle East after the war, to avoid capture and possible prosecution for war crimes. He had a leadership position in the 1948 war against Israel, but gradually lost influence to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Ironically, the eventual leader of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, worked for al-Husseini from the age of sixteen and always considered the mufti his primary spiritual and political mentor.

"Be certain that America is on its way to disappear...make us victorious over the infidel people...Allah, take hold of the Jews and their allies, Allah, take hold of the Americans and their allies...Allah, count them and kill them to the last one and don't leave even one."

- Ahmad Bahar

Speaker of the Gaza Parliament, Hamas



Ahmad Bahr

During a Friday sermon in 2007, Ahmad Bahr, deputy speaker of Hamas's Palestinian Legislative Council, described Jews as "the cancerous lump ... in the heart of the Arab nation." He predicted that "America and Israel will be annihilated, Allah willing."

"Allah, take hold of the Jews and their allies," Bahr prayed before the other faithful. "Allah, take hold of the Americans and their allies.... Allah, count them and kill them to the last one and don't leave even one." Just one week earlier, on Sudanese TV, Bahr had called Muslims "the masters of the world." Jews and Americans, he said, are "cowards, who are eager for life, while we are eager for death for the sake of Allah."

Speaking about Jews on Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV in 2011, Bahr said that "Allah imposed the nation of Muhammad, and the Jihad-waging Palestinian people, upon those siblings of apes and pigs, until we sweep them out of our land and our holy places." He flatly condemned the very idea of negotiating with Israel, claiming that such negotiations "are aimed at uprooting Islam and the resistance here in Palestine, in Gaza." Instead, he favors the path of martyrdom, holding out the promise of 2.5 million virgins awaiting the martyrs in a single palace in the Garden of Eden. That's a big jump from the usual promise of 72 virgins, but apparently Bahr fervently believes that waging jihad to destroy Israel and kill Jews merits a bonus in the next life. Indeed, he describes sex itself as a form of warfare. "When a man is having intercourse with his wife," Bahr said, "he should be praying for a son who would wage Jihad for the sake of Allah."

"There is no place for you Jews among us, and you
have no future among the nations of the world.
You are headed to annihilation."

- Mahmoud Al-Zahar
Founder of Hamas



Mahmoud al-Zahar

When Hamas released the Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, held in captivity for five years, in exchange for over 1,000 jailed Palestinian terrorists in October 2011, the Hamas leader Mahmoud al-Zahar said, “The lessons we’ve learned by kidnapping soldiers lead us to continue the kidnappings. We still have 7,000 prisoners in [Israeli] jails, and they also need to be released.”

Al-Zahar is interested in these prisoner exchanges because he is determined to amass as many foot soldiers as possible in order to obliterate Israel. While al-Zahar currently resides in the “political wing” of Hamas, he earned his stripes planning attacks against Jews by Hamas’s “armed wing,” the Ezzedeen Al-Qassam Brigades, founded in 1992.

When al-Zahar first ascended to his ministerial post in 2006, he outlined Hamas’s foreign policy agenda: “Israel is not a legitimate entity, and no amount of pressure can force us to recognize its right to exist.” Then, for those who may still not have understood the message, al-Zahar further explained, “By God, we will not leave one Jew in Palestine. We will fight them with all the strength we have. This is our land, not the Jews.”

Al-Zahar has been equally clear as to his plans for the Jews after Palestine is “liberated.” He declared, “We are no weaker or less honorable than the peoples that expelled and annihilated the Jews. The day we expel them is drawing near.... We have learned the lesson—there is no place for you among us, and you have no future among the nations of the world. You are headed to annihilation.”

The imperial nature of al-Zahar’s Islamist vision was on display in 2004 when he spoke at the funeral of the first female Hamas suicide bomber. “She is not going to be the last,” he pledged, “because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe.”

"The Prophet said: The resurrection will not take place until the Muslims fight the Jews, and the Muslims will kill them. Everything wants vengeance against the Jews...these pigs on the face of the earth."

- Ibrahim Mudayris

Official, PA Ministry of Religious
Trusts and Religious Affairs



Ibrahim Mudayris

Sheikh Ibrahim Mudayris, Yasser Arafat's favorite preacher, was the most prominent religious figure in the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the years 2003–2005. His official title in the Ministry of Religious Trusts and Religious Affairs was “Head of the Association for Learning Koran by Heart.” He was given the most coveted slot of any preacher in Gaza: delivering the traditional Friday sermon, broadcast live from the Sheikh Ijlin Mosque.

Mudayris's frequent references in his sermons to Jews being “the sons of apes and pigs” differed from the comments of other radical Muslim clerics only in that they were given sanction by his role as a high-level official of the PA's religious ministry. Mudayris left no doubt that any political solution involving Israel would be temporary—a mere pause in the jihad against the infidels. “We must assess every phase of our legitimate struggle,” he said. “We must also assess every means we use for jihad and struggle against our enemies. If the phase demands an offensive means, then we should use it, and if it demands a political means, then we should use it also.”

Despite continued complaints from Israel about the virulent hatred declared in his sermons, Mudayris was the televised voice of Palestinian religion until May 2005, when he fell victim to his own extremist views in comparing Jews to the AIDS virus and broadcasting the claim that Muslims would take over America. These comments set off a worldwide outcry, and Mudayris was removed from Palestinian television. There was speculation at the time that this was a cosmetic effort to brighten the PA image in advance of a visit by the organization's chairman Mahmoud Abbas to the United States. Mudayris is presumed to still occupy a significant position in the PA religious ministry.

"We will rule the nations, Allah willing, the USA will be conquered, Israel will be conquered, Rome and Britain will be conquered. The Jihad for Allah is the way of truth and the way of salvation and the way which will lead us to crush the Jews and expel them from our country, Palestine."

- Yasser Ghalban, Hamas Leader



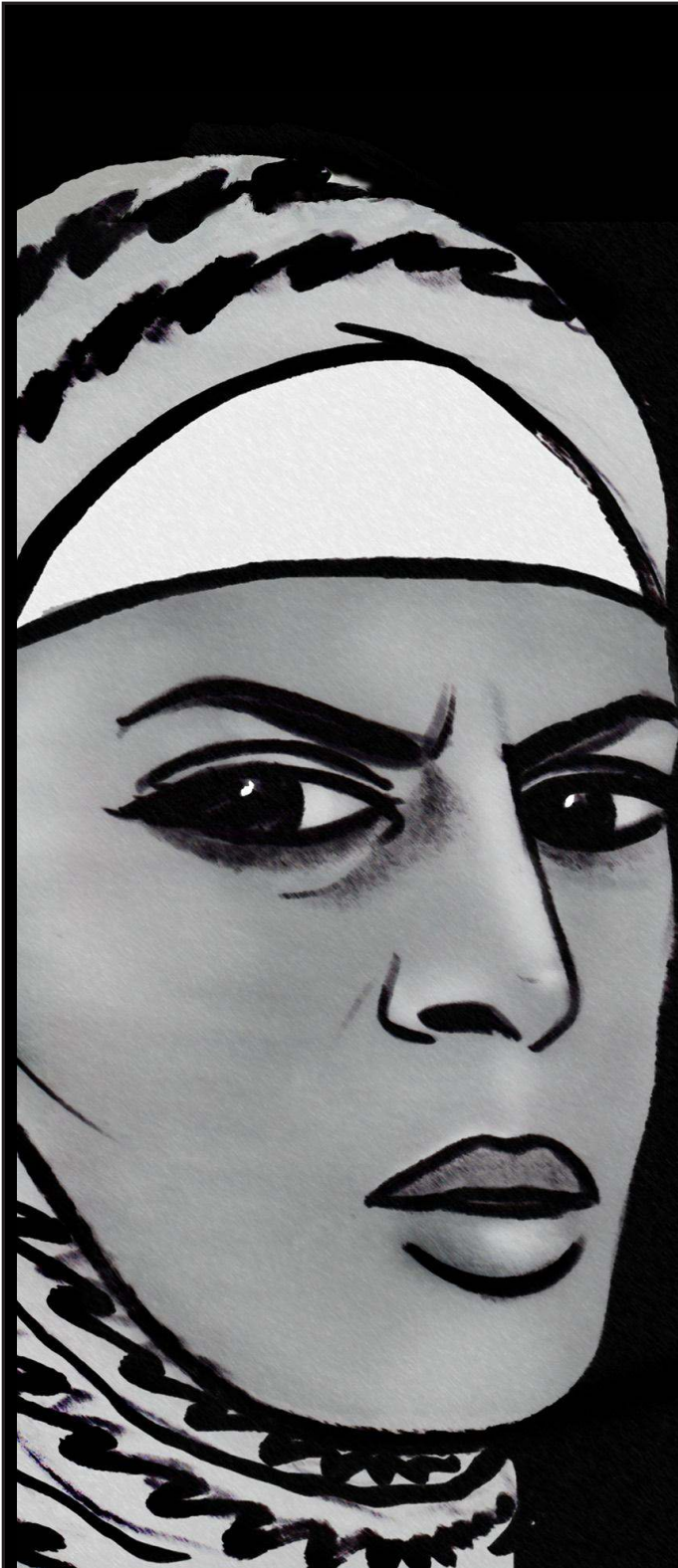
Yasser Ghalban

Yasser Ghalban was a field commander in the Ezzedeem Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, which have perpetrated numerous suicide bombings and rocket attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets. On June 16, 2006, Ghalban and his brother and cousin were killed in an ambush in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis by members of the Preventive Security Service “death squad,” a rival Palestinian faction. This “death squad,” according to Hamas, was being run by Fatah in the West Bank and Gaza with the aim of assassinating Hamas leaders and activists.

A week after Ghalban’s death, Hamas released a series of video tributes to the slain terrorist. The central theme of those videos was that the liquidation of Jews in Israel by jihad would pave the way for Islam to rule the world. One video starred Ghalban himself, declaiming his own particular vision of how that jihad would unfold. In words expressing the imperial intentions of radical Islam, he said:

“We will rule the nations, by Allah’s will, the U.S.A. will be conquered, Israel will be conquered, Rome and Britain will be conquered.... The Jihad for Allah ... is the way of Truth and the way for salvation and the way which will lead us to crush the Jews and expel them from our country, Palestine. Just as the Jews ran from Gaza, the Americans will run from Iraq and Afghanistan and the Russians will run from Chechnya, and the Indians will run from Kashmir, and our children will be released from Guantanamo. The prisoners will be released by Allah’s will, not by peaceful means and not by agreements, but they will be released by the sword, they will be released by the gun.”

While Yasser Ghalban’s fate may have been sealed, his vision of where Israel and the West are headed is still alive and well among the many Palestinians who carry on his legacy.



"My dream was to be a martyr. I believe in death. I wanted to blow myself up in a hospital, maybe even in the one in which I was treated. But since lots of Arabs come to be treated there, I decided I would go to another...I wanted to kill 20, 50 Jews...Yes, even babies and children."

- Wafa al-Bis

Failed Suicide
Bomber

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Wafa al-Bis

As soon as Wafa al-Bis was freed from jail in the autumn of 2011—along with over 1,000 other Palestinian terrorists and militants released by Israel as part of the prisoner swap for Gilad Shalit—she vowed to take up once again the terrorist cause that had landed her in prison six years earlier.

First arrested in 2005 after her suicide belt failed to detonate at a border crossing, when she was twenty-one years old, Bis remained committed to killing Jews. Asked soon after her imprisonment if she would be a suicide bomber again, she replied without hesitation: “Of course. Why not? This is an honorable thing and I would be a suicide bomber three times over if I could.”

The target of Bis’s botched suicide attack was an Israeli hospital in Beer Sheva. She had actually been a patient at the hospital, receiving treatment, free of charge, for burns she suffered when a gas tank exploded in a cooking accident. Bis repaid the favor by returning to kill those who had tended her.

Far from being seen as an embarrassment, her life story has come to be regarded as an inspiration and a model for children to follow. “I hope you will walk the same path we took and God willing, we will see some of you as martyrs,” Bis told schoolchildren who came to cheer her return home after her release from prison. In response, the children chanted, “We will give souls and blood to redeem the prisoners. We will give souls and blood for you, Palestine.”

That Bis would urge children to follow in her footsteps is not surprising. She herself had been urged to become a suicide bomber by her parents. After her failed mission in 2005, her mother said that she was happy with her daughter’s choice: “It is an honorable thing and I am proud of her.”

"Of course. I do not regret what happened. Absolutely not. This is the path. I dedicated myself to Jihad for the sake of Allah and Allah granted me success. You know how many casualties there were [in my attack]? This was made possible by Allah. Do you want me to denounce what I did? That's out of the question. I would do it again today, and in the same manner."

- Ahlam Tamimi

Co-Conspirator in the 2001 Sbarro suicide bombing attack in Jerusalem



Ahlam Tamimi

Another one of the Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli jails in exchange for Gilad Shalit in 2011 was Ahlam Tamimi, a female Jordanian terrorist. She had been serving sixteen life sentences for her role in the suicide bombing of the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem on August 9, 2001, which killed fifteen Israelis and wounded over 130 others, including eight children and a pregnant woman.

At the time of the killing, Tamimi was a twenty-year-old Jordanian national who lived in Ramallah, studied at Birzeit University, and worked as a television journalist. On the day of the attack, Tamimi escorted her fellow bomber Ezziddin al-Masri to the restaurant. In an attempt to pass inconspicuously as tourists, Tamimi and al-Masri were dressed as Westerners and spoke English as they made their way by taxi from Ramallah into Jewish West Jerusalem.

When Tamimi dropped al-Masri off at Sbarro's, he made his way into the restaurant carrying an explosive hidden inside a guitar case and packed with nails and screws to maximize the destruction. Once the blast was detonated, Tamimi nonchalantly made her way past the carnage to the Palestinian news station where she worked, and announced the attack on that afternoon's broadcast—taking care not to mention her own involvement.

Upon her return to Jordan in 2011, Tamimi was greeted at the Amman airport by hundreds of supporters waving Palestinian flags and Hamas banners. A few days later she told a Jordanian television interviewer, "Of course I do not regret what happened. Absolutely not. This is the path. I dedicated myself to Jihad for the sake of Allah, and Allah granted me success. You know how many casualties there were in the [2001 Sbarro attack]? This was made possible by Allah. Do you want me to denounce what I did? That's out of the question. I would do it again today, and in the same manner."

"[The Jews] are foreign bacteria - a microbe unparalleled in the world....May He annihilate this filthy people who have neither religion nor conscience. I condemn whoever believes in normalizing relations with them, whoever supports sitting down with them, and whoever believes that they are human beings. They are not human beings. They are not people."

- Abdallah Jarbu

Hamas Deputy Minister of Religious Endowments



Abdallah Jarbu

Abdallah Jarbu, deputy minister of Hamas's Ministry of Religious Endowments, has tried to define precisely the foundations of the organization's Jew-hatred in two interviews he gave in February and March 2010 on Hamas-controlled Al-Aqsa TV.

On February 28, 2010, Jarbu told interviews that Jews "suffer from a mental disorder, because they are thieves and aggressors.... They want to present themselves to the world as if they have rights, but, in fact, they are foreign bacteria—a microbe unparalleled in the world.... May [Allah] annihilate this filthy people who have neither religion nor conscience. I condemn whoever believes in normalizing relations with them, whoever supports sitting down with them, and whoever believes that they are human beings. They are not human beings. They are not people. They have no religion, no conscience, and no moral values."

Jarbu expanded upon his initial thoughts in a follow-up interview on March 19, 2010: "The Jews, just like a cancer, operate via dormant cells, until the body collapses. We must stop this swelling, criminal, Zionist cancer.... The Jews, the brothers of apes and pigs, have gathered from all corners of the world, in order to defile the Al-Aqsa Mosque.... You cannot go on living, oh Arab and Islamic nation, while the Al-Aqsa Mosque is being defiled by the Jews, the most despicable people on this Earth. By Allah, they are not human beings. They are not men who deserve to live, as long as we are alive. We salute anyone who tried to run over Jews with his bulldozers. We salute anyone who tried to stab a Jewish settler pig."

These words have consequences. For years, Hamas has organized summer camps for Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip as a way of recruiting future operatives and supporters. Ten thousand of these children were in camps administered by Jarbu's own Ministry of Religious Endowments.

"Those who negotiate, those who hasten to normalize [relations with Israel]...the spirit of Allah will sully them, and the Hellfire will gather them, along with the apes and pigs - with the Jews, the Zionists, whom Allah transformed into apes and pigs. They will be gathered in the Hellfire along with those who were loyal to them and stood with those who abandoned the cause of the Islamic nation of Palestine."

- Sheik Ismail Aal Radhwan Hamas Preacher



Sheikh Ismail Radhwan

On September 1, 2010, armed gunmen from the Ezzedeen Al-Qasam Brigades opened fire on a car carrying Jewish settlers near the Israeli city of Hebron, killing its four occupants, including a pregnant woman. Several days later, Sheikh Ismail Radhwan, a Hamas preacher, senior legislator and organizational spokesman, gave a sermon that was broadcast live on Hamas-controlled Al-Aqsa TV, celebrating the murder. Radhwan began with heartfelt thanks to the Hamas jihadists:

“We are here today to salute the mujahideen who rocked the very pillars of the occupation, and retaliated for the crimes of the occupation, in the West Bank—in Hebron and Ramallah. Indeed, we salute and honor those modest hands that proved to all the conspirators, as well as the occupation and its helpers, that they are capable of regaining their vitality. Yes, we salute the mujahideen, who killed the Zionists, who killed the settlers.”

Radhwan then gave his opinion that Allah’s disdain for peaceful negotiations with Jews is particularly harsh. Regarding “those who negotiate” and “hasten to normalize” relations with Israel, or who surrender Palestinian “rights,” he claimed that the Prophet Muhammad had said of such people: “The land will spew them out, the spirit of Allah will sully them, and the Hellfire will gather them, along with the apes and pigs,” meaning the Jews.

Radhwan has expressed similar thoughts on numerous occasions. Speaking of Palestinian liberation in a sermon broadcast on Al-Aqsa TV in 2007, for instance, he said:

“The Hour will not take place until the Muslims fight the Jews and the Muslims kill them, and the rock and the tree will say: ‘Oh, Muslim, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, kill him!’”

"By God, we will not leave one Jew in Palestine. We will fight them with all the strength we have. This is our land, not the Jews."

- Abdel Aziz Rantisi

Co-Founder of Hamas



Abdel Aziz Rantisi

After completing secondary school in 1965, Rantisi moved to Egypt and studied medicine at Alexandria University, where he came under the sway of the Muslim Brotherhood. Upon graduating in 1972 with a master's degree in pediatric medicine, Rantisi returned to Gaza. In 1987, along with Ahmed Yassin, he was instrumental in inciting a Palestinian uprising against the Israel Defense Forces. These conflicts escalated, resulting ultimately in the First Intifada and in the founding of Hamas.

By 1997, Rantisi had become Hamas's chief spokesman and military general. In this capacity, he directed the group to intensify its campaign of terrorism, a move that was calculated to derail peace negotiations that were then underway between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority.

After the steadily mounting Palestinian violence flared into a full-scale Second Intifada in September 2000, Rantisi lauded those suicide bombers who had given their lives to murder Jewish civilians: "I congratulate them. They will teach the Jewish mothers in Haifa, Tel Aviv and everywhere that our blood is not cheap."

Speaking to several thousand supporters in Gaza on March 27, 2004, Rantisi said, "America declared war against God. [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon declared war against God, and God declared war against America, Bush and Sharon. The war of God continues against them and I can see the victory coming up from the land of Palestine by the hand of Hamas."

On March 22, 2004, Rantisi was named as the replacement for the slain Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin. Less than a month later, on April 17, Rantisi himself was gunned down by an Israeli army helicopter. This was precisely the end he desired. "It's death whether by killing or by cancer... I prefer to be killed by an Apache [helicopter.]"

"The [Jews] are brought in droves to Palestine so that the Palestinians and the Islamic nation behind them will have the honor of annihilating the evil of this gang."

- Yunis Al-Astal

Hamas legislator and cleric



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Yunis al-Astal

When Hamas gained control of Gaza in 2006, Yunis al-Astal was elected a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. Interviewed on Hamas-controlled Al-Aqsa TV in 2007, al-Astal gave an impassioned thumbs up to suicide bombing. He praised particularly the “female martyrdom-seekers” of the Second Intifada: “These are young women, in the prime of their life, at a time when girls like these think only about jewelry and preparing for marriage. Nevertheless, they went to their martyrdom, advancing head-on with a great fighting spirit. This intifada of ours has recorded more than 15 exemplary cases of girls who were martyred for the sake of Allah. But not before making the Jews—the brothers of apes and pigs—taste the bitterness of death.”

In al-Astal’s view, death for Jews is preordained, as he made clear in an interview on Al-Aqsa TV on May 11, 2011: “The [Jews] are brought in droves to Palestine so that the Palestinians—and the Islamic nation behind them—will have the honor of annihilating the evil of this gang. All the predators, all the birds of prey, all the dangerous reptiles and insects, and all the lethal bacteria are far less dangerous than the Jews.”

Indeed, al-Astal looks ahead to a promising future in which Islamic conquest will go beyond the destruction of Israel to subjugate the whole of the Western world:

“Soon, Allah willing, Rome will be conquered, just like Constantinople was, as was prophesied by our Prophet Muhammad. Today, Rome is the capital of the Catholics, or the Crusader capital, which has declared its hostility to Islam, and has planted the brothers of apes and pigs in Palestine in order to prevent the reawakening of Islam—this capital of theirs will be an advanced post for the Islamic conquests, which will spread through Europe and then will turn to the two Americas...”

"The Jews have become abhorred and loathed outcasts, because they live off corruption and the plundering of the peoples...The world has begun to ...applaud Hamas. The entire world says: "Bravo, Hamas, for confronting these people of corruption"...because the hatred for the Jews is on the rise, and people who hate the Jews find no [other] way to fulfill their hatred of the Jews and of the Americans - the Americans too have become abhorred throughout the world, because of their corruption, for they are led by the Jews."

- Fathi Hamad Interior Minister of Hamas



BOSCH FANSTIN

Fathi Hamad

Fathi Hamad, interior minister for the Hamas-controlled Gaza government since 2009, said in September 2008, “killing a single Jew is the same as killing 30 million.” In a 2009 speech, he predicted that Israel “would disappear by 2022.”

When Hamas launched Al-Aqsa TV in 2006, Hamad said the television station’s mission was “to establish Islamic culture and an ideological, scientific and political vision that is in tandem with the spirit of Islam, and to spread information about important issues.” To this end, Hamad began to produce children’s programming that promoted terrorist activity and hatred of Jews and Israelis. Tomorrow’s Pioneers, for example, featured a Hamas version of Mickey Mouse, a giant black and white rodent named Farfour who entertained children with songs that included lyrics like these:

“Oh Jerusalem, it is the time of death.... We will return the Islamic community to its former greatness, and liberate Jerusalem and liberate all the countries of the Muslims invaded by the murderers. You and I are laying the foundation for a world led by Islamists.”

In February 2008, Hamad gave a speech in which he praised the use of children, women and the elderly as human shields in terror actions:

“For the Palestinian people, death has become an industry, at which women excel, and so do all the people living on this land. The elderly excel at this, and so do the mujahedeen and the children. This is why they have formed human shields of the women, the children, the elderly, and the mujahedeen, in order to challenge the Zionist bombing machine. It is as if they were saying to the Zionist enemy: ‘We desire death like you desire life.’”

"[T]he occupation has no future on the land of Palestine. When I say "the land of Palestine," I am not referring [only] to the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem. When I say that the occupation has no future on the land of Palestine, I refer to Palestine from the [Mediterranean] Sea to the [Jordan] River, and from Rosh Hanikra to Rafah."

- Ismail Haniya Gaza Strip Prime Minister



Ismail Haniya

Ismail Haniya was sworn in as prime minister in March 2006 by Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority. During a diplomatic trip to Iran in December 2006, Haniya pledged Hamas's continuing commitment to jihad and its fealty to the Iranian Islamic state:

“The US and Zionists ... want us to recognize the usurpation of the Palestinian lands and stop jihad and resistance and accept the agreements reached with the Zionist enemies in the past. I'm insisting from this podium that...we will never recognize the usurper Zionist government and will continue our jihad-like movement until the liberation of Jerusalem.”

When tensions from the 2006 Palestinian election had led to violent clashes between Hamas and Fatah supporters, Fatah's leader Mahmoud Abbas dismissed Haniya as prime minister in June 2007. Haniya continues to oppose the “moderate” Palestinian Authority, claiming that Allah has mandated the strategic choice of jihad rather than negotiation: “At no time may Muslims—especially under occupation—negotiate whether there should or shouldn't be resistance or Jihad.

Haniya preaches terrorism as a religious imperative and also as an effective strategy. It works well, he says, because the Jews, unlike the Palestinians, “love life more than any other people, and they prefer not to die.”

Terrorism against Americans is also approved by Haniya. Thus he heartily denounced the killing of the al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in May 2011:

“We, of course, condemn the assassination or killing of a Muslim mujahid and an Arab. We pray for Allah to cover him with His mercy, next to the prophets, the righteous, and the martyrs.”

"[E]verybody knows that the greater goal cannot be accomplished in one go. If Israel withdraws from Jerusalem, evacuates the 650,000 settlers, and dismantles the wall - what will become of Israel? It will come to an end...If one says that one wants to wipe Israel out... C'mon, it's too difficult. It's not [acceptable] policy to say so. Don't say these things to the world. Keep it to yourself."

- Abbas Zaki Fatah Leader



Abbas Zaki

Abbas Zaki, former PLO envoy to Lebanon and current member of Fatah's Central Committee, has used his varied political roles to promote, among other things, the PLO policy of negotiating while engaging in terrorism and the repeated rejection of a two-state solution for Palestinian independence. For example, in November 2008 he said that "the heroic Vietnamese used to negotiate with the French, while they were slaughtering them." In keeping with this precedent, he wholeheartedly endorsed the use of suicide bombers against Israelis.

After the 2009 war between Hamas and Israel, he said: "I now support any operation that will make the women and men in Israel cry ... All those who always flex their muscles, and say they want to slaughter Israel—this is their opportunity..... Don't forget we're Arabs—we believe in blood vengeance.... We should have afflicted them with three or four operations, and then their women would have said to those sons of bitches: 'Come home, we are getting killed here.'"

Zaki outlined his ideas about a future strategy for the Palestinians in an April 2008 interview, saying it would "proceed through phases." He explained, "When the ideology of Israel collapses, and we take, at least, Jerusalem ... [we will] drive them out of all of Palestine."

Zaki has also made it perfectly clear that the PLO and the so-called "moderate" Fatah have been acting in bad faith. He tells audiences that the "most advised" strategy is one of stealth, and that knowingly deceiving the international community is the only way their objectives can be achieved. "If one says that one wants to wipe Israel out ... C'mon, it's too difficult. It's not [acceptable] policy to say so," he acknowledged. His advice is: "Don't say these things to the world. Keep it to yourself."

"The story of "two states of two peoples" means that there will be a Jewish people over there and a Palestinian people here. We will never accept this."

- Nabil Shaath
Fatah Head of Foreign Relations



Nabil Shaath

Nabil Shaath is a senior Palestinian leader who has held several influential positions in the Palestinian Authority: chief negotiator, cabinet minister, international co-operation minister, planning minister, acting prime minister. He is currently a member of the Fatah Central Committee, in charge of international relations.

Shaath is often portrayed as a “moderate,” but his words belie this characterization. “The Palestinian Authority will never recognize Israel as a Jewish state,” he asserted on September 8, 2010. “Such a declaration would ... prevent Palestinian refugees, who left their homes and villages a number of decades ago, from being granted the right to return to them,” he added.

“At the end of the day,” Shaath said in an interview with ANB TV of Lebanon on July 13, 2011, “we want to exert pressure on Israel in order to force it to recognize us and leave our country. This is our long-term goal.” What did he mean by “leave our country”? Shaath answered this question clearly by declaring, “we will be a state for one people. The story of two states for two peoples means that there will be a Jewish people over there and a Palestinian people here. We will never accept this.” In other words, a one-state solution, without Israel.

Yet Shaath said something rather different when he spoke to CNN’s Wolf Blitzer on September 21: “We want [the occupation] to end in order to be in peace with Israel, as neighbors, two states side by side.” This seemed to be a contradiction, but it was actually a strategy: voice one set of ideas for a Palestinian audience, another for the Westerners whom Shaath and other Palestinians want to use in their diplomatic war games.

Conclusion

These are the authentic voices of Palestine. For Western ears they speak of victimhood; they plead for land and boundaries and recognition. But their real quest, less publicized, is more elemental. It is a quest for the ethnic cleansing of a neighboring country “from the river to the sea”; for the eradication of a people who have been dehumanized as “apes and pigs”; for a world forever purged of Israelis and of Jews everywhere.