
**Submission of the Institute for NGO Research for the
List of Themes in advance of the 99th Session
Review of the “State of Palestine”**

Introduction

The Institute for NGO Research¹ brings this submission for the List of Themes in advance of the 99th session meeting for the review of “State of Palestine” and its compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. We hope that this submission will aid the Committee in its preparation of the List of Themes to the Palestinian Authority.

This submission focuses on the rampant campaign of antisemitic and anti-Israel incitement within the Palestinian Authority (PA). This campaign of incitement is endemic throughout Palestinian society and is especially aimed at inculcating hatred within many generations of Palestinian children. Palestinian incitement undergirds the ongoing armed conflict with Israel and is responsible for countless deaths of both Palestinians and Israelis. It also underlies the extensive recruitment and use of Palestinian children as combatants. Any review of the PA’s compliance with the CERD must address this issue in depth. Failure to do so will represent a significant lapse in evaluating the PA’s adherence to and compliance with the CERD.

We are also highly disturbed that the PA’s report to the Committee and several NGO submissions appear to excuse or diminish the PA’s obligations under the CERD due to the ongoing armed conflict with Israel and control of Gaza by Hamas. More than 95% of the Palestinian population falls under the control of the Palestinian Authority and therefore under its jurisdiction and responsibility pursuant to the CERD. This jurisdiction and responsibility also includes Gaza. It is important, therefore, that the Committee does not give the PA a pass on compliance with its obligations under the CERD while shifting blame onto others. The Committee is tasked with upholding the human rights as specified by the CERD. It should not indulge excuses for noncompliance by the PA.

The CERD Explicitly Prohibits Discrimination and Incitement Campaigns Based on Religion or National Origin

The chapeau of the CERD requires all State Parties to “encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race,

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sex, language or religion” and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race, colour or national origin...”

Article 2 of CERD requires that State Parties eliminate all forms of racial discrimination:

Article 2

1. States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races, and, to this end: (a) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination against persons, groups of persons or institutions and to ensure that all public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation; (b) Each State Party undertakes not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations;

(c) Each State Party shall take effective measures to review governmental, national and local policies, and to amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination wherever it exists;

(d) Each State Party shall prohibit and bring to an end, by all appropriate means, including legislation as required by circumstances, racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization;

(e) Each State Party undertakes to encourage, where appropriate, integrationist multiracial organizations and movements and other means of eliminating barriers between races, and to discourage anything which tends to strengthen racial division.

Article 4 prohibits State Parties from promoting in any way discriminatory propaganda or incitement to hatred and violence on the basis of ethnicity:

Article 4

States Parties condemn all propaganda and all organizations which are based on ideas or theories of superiority of one race or group of persons of one colour or ethnic origin, or which attempt to justify or promote racial hatred and discrimination in any form, and undertake to adopt immediate and positive measures designed to eradicate all incitement to, or acts of, such discrimination and, to this end, with due regard to the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of this Convention, inter alia:

(a) Shall declare an offence punishable by law all dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial discrimination, as well as all acts of violence or incitement to such acts against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin, and also the provision of any assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof;

(b) Shall declare illegal and prohibit organizations, and also organized and all other propaganda activities, which promote and incite racial discrimination, and shall recognize participation in such organizations or activities as an offence punishable by law;

(c) Shall not permit public authorities or public institutions, national or local, to promote or incite racial discrimination.

Article 7 mandates that State Parties must use education to promote tolerance and not hatred:

Article 7

States Parties undertake to adopt immediate and effective measures, particularly in the fields of teaching, education, culture and information, with a view to combating prejudices which lead to racial discrimination and to promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations and racial or ethnical groups, as well as to propagating the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and this Convention.

The Palestinian Authority has extensively violated all of these CERD provisions.

The Palestinian Authority Promotes Hatred and Violence Against Jews and Israelis

Despite the clear obligations mandated by the CERD, the PA systematically promotes hatred and violent incitement against Jews and Israelis. Much of this campaign is aimed at poisoning the minds of children, inculcating antisemitic hatred. The PA floods Palestinian society with racist and antisemitic messages, encouraging participation in violence, and heroicizing those who engage in antisemitism and extreme violence. This program emphasizes the targeting of civilians. **The PA also rewards via its “pay to slay” policy those who commit violence (including children) with cash payments. The greater the crime and the more victims injured or killed, the more money received. More than \$300 million of humanitarian aid intended for social programs is diverted annually for this perverse scheme.**

The campaign of discrimination and incitement begins from birth and continues throughout the entire life of a Palestinian. It takes place through state media, schools (including those run by UNWRA), youth groups and centers, sporting and cultural events, unions, and civil society programming in both the West Bank and Gaza.

This campaign has been extensively documented by NGOs, governments, and international institutions. This submission highlights only a few examples of thousands of cases. **The Institute for NGO Research hopes it can share this material and additional cases with the Committee in person during the 99th Session.**

One such group examining PA incitement is the organization, IMPACT-se, a “research, policy and advocacy organization that monitors and analyzes education.” IMPACT-se

conducts in-depth reviews and analyses of the Palestinian educational curriculum and textbooks. Its studies have documented significant incitement of Palestinian children. For example, IMPACT-se's 2019 report, "[Wasatia Education: Exploring the Palestinian Curriculum](#)," details this campaign. Palestinian students are taught that "those who die as martyrs while fighting their enemies receive seventy-two virgin brides, among other rewards in paradise." IMPACT-se explains that this idea does not exist in the Qur'an but "is falsely tied to the Qur'an's Surah Muhammad [47], taught in a textbook on Islamic education." Moreover, "no historical context or explanation is given to students."

The Palestinian curriculum emphasizes "jihad" and singularly defines it as warfare. According to IMPACT-se, "The title, image and six Qur'anic verses are selected to support this interpretation without context. The content covers the psychological and practical dimensions of war. In this lesson students are encouraged to discuss the goals of militant jihad and the wonders of martyrs. No other interpretation of the meaning of jihad is offered."

IMPACT-se's report further details how the Palestinian curriculum uses "subliminal violent messaging" in math, science, and other subjects. For example, Newton's Second Law is taught "through the image of a boy with a slingshot targeting soldiers. In other words, to explain power, mass and tensile strength, circular motion and elastic energy are taught through the use of such slingshots."

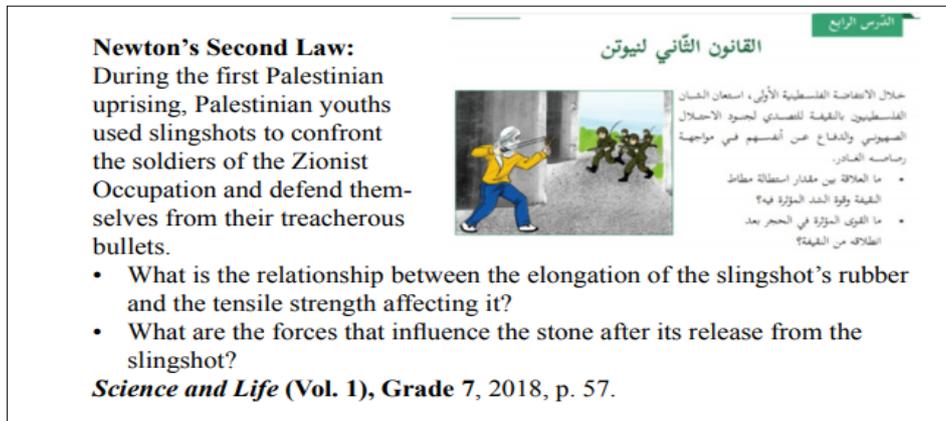


Figure 1: Source: IMPACT-se, "Wasatia Education: Exploring the Palestinian Curriculum," 2019: http://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/WASATIA-IMPACT-Booklet_Digital-Format-A5.pdf

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) is "an Israeli research institute that studies Palestinian society from a broad range of perspectives by monitoring and analyzing the Palestinian Authority through its media and schoolbooks." It has documented hundreds of examples of official media promoting antisemitism, discrimination, and violent incitement and targeting such messages towards children.

For instance, on March 18, 2019, on the official PA TV station, a Fatah official referred to two murderers who killed four Israelis as "[the role models for the children](#)." On May 29, 2017, the [Al-Huda Kindergarten YouTube Channel](#) featured a video of the graduation ceremony of the kindergarden in Gaza, which is affiliated with the Palestinian Islamic Jihad

terror group. The children in the performance are seen “armed with toy weapons and wearing military uniforms and Islamic Jihad headbands. They simulate killing other children playing Israeli soldiers dressed as ultra-Orthodox Jews and abducting their bodies, after the ‘Israeli soldiers’ attacked children playing Palestinian civilians.” A Hamas song in Hebrew is playing in the background, with lyrics including “O Zionist, a rocket will reach you where you live... I will make you drink the cup of death.”

PMW also shows that [official PA media regularly posts pictures of children with assault rifles](#).

The PA also [glorifies child terrorists](#), encouraging other youth to follow their example. For example, Ahmad Manasrah, a 13-year-old who “stabbed and almost killed a 13-year-old Israeli boy. Manasrah had a school football tournament named after him, in which many PA schools participated. Such a tournament gives Palestinian children of the same age as the terrorist a clear idea of who their role model should be and who they should imitate.”

On April 6, 2018, the PA [celebrated the “participation” of a six-month-old baby in the violence along the Israel-Gaza border](#). The Official Fatah Facebook page posted a picture of the infant in a pile tires with the caption “a child no older than six months was among participants in the demonstrations today (Friday) and in the March of Return events on the eastern border of the Gaza Strip.”



PMW also reported that in March 2019, the [Beitunia Upper Elementary School for Girls hosted a sports festival that was named after Dalal Mughrabi](#), a terrorist who murdered 37 Israeli civilians, including 12 children, in a 1978 terror attack. The school’s Facebook page featured a picture of girls at the event wearing t-shirts with an image of the terrorist. The photo’s caption read “With considerable creativity, the events of the Dalal Mughrabi Sports Festival took place today [March 13, 2019] in the presence of Director of the Education Directorate, brother Bassem Erekat, District Governor of Ramallah and El-Bireh Laila Ghannam, and Beitunia Mayor brother Ribhi Dawla.”

PMW further explains that the PA has named [32 schools after Dalal Mughrabi](#). A PA schoolbook also refers to her as a hero:

“Heroes have an important position in every nation... Every nation is prouder the more heroes it has, and the people – even if they are divided over many things – they all agree regarding the pride in their heroes, because without them the nation would be degraded... We are proud of them, sing their praise, learn the history of their lives, name our children after them, and name streets, squares, and prominent cultural sites after them... every one of us wishes to be like them... Thus they created a glorious history for the nation – they are the heroes. Who among us has forgotten... Dalal Mughrabi, Yasser Arafat, and others among those moons that never set [but] illuminate the darkness of our dark nights? Our great homeland embraces all of them... These heroes are the crown of their nation, they are a symbol of its glory, they are the best of the best, the best of the noble people. They took their lives in their hands and threw them at the dangers... Therefore they are worthy of being heroes, commemorated by history, and their memory will remain as a musk perfume that spreads its scent. Bravo to the heroes, and scorn to the cowards!” [PA 5th Grade Arabic Language Textbook, Part A, (August 2017), pp 13 -14]

In January 2017, Official PA TV featured a young [boy reciting a poem encouraging the “slaughter” of Israelis and glorifying death](#). [PMW’s website](#) contains countless other examples of Official PA media glorifying child soldiers and inciting Palestinian youth.

The PA Promotes the Recruitment and Use of Children for Antisemitic Violence

Yet, the recruitment and use of Palestinian children to carry out acts of antisemitic violence by the PA is endemic.

The ruling Fatah party’s Tanzim and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades recruit and use children as combatants. Many other organizations in and members of the PA, the Palestinian Legislative Council, and the Palestine Liberation Organization are part of Palestinian terror groups such as Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the DFLP, and others. The PA routinely allows armed groups to recruit on school campuses under the guise of carrying out “social programs.” Such activity allows vulnerable children to be placed in contact with violent actors, placing them at risk for recruitment.

Children have been recruited and used throughout the history of the Palestinians’ war with Israel. Violence on the Israel-Gaza border, which began in March 2018, is the latest example of this phenomenon. From the outset, children were recruited by PA-affiliated and other Palestinian armed groups. A Facebook post written by the organizers of the border riots, for instance, calls on [youth to participate in terror](#), stating:

“Rebelling young people, Treat seriously and do not take lightly the requests to bring a knife, dagger, or handgun, if you have one, and to leave them under your clothes and not use them or show them, except if you identify one of the [Israeli] soldiers or settlers. Do not kill Israeli civilians, instead hand them over to the resistance

immediately, because this is the point that Israel fears, as it knows that the capturer can set any condition he wants.”

Another example is a music video broadcast numerous times on official PA TV, which highlights as a role model 17-year-old [female suicide bomber](#) Ayyat Al-Akhras, and promotes death as a Martyr for Al-Aqsa: ‘God, grant us Martyrdom... A million grooms and brides... have written the marriage contract in blood.’”

In April 2017, a PA TV show featured a girl instructing other kids to aim to kill and be killed, stating, “Shoot, shoot, in the name of God. The path of the [Martyrs](#) is above all.”

Furthermore, according to PMW, “the official PA news agency Wafa lauded dead [teenage terrorists](#) for achieving ‘Martyrdom’ (Shahada) rather than graduating with a matriculation exam certificate (also in Arabic Shahada).”

Incitement, Recruitment and Use by Palestinian Armed Groups Allowed by the PA

Not only does the PA extensively participate in recruitment and use of children for violence, it also does nothing to prevent incitement campaigns and recruitment and use by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, PFLP, and other Palestinian armed groups. Failure to prevent these activities is a violation of the PA’s obligations under the CERD.

The following are only a few of the many examples of incitement and child recruitment and use by Palestinian armed groups.

For instance, in August 2014, the PFLP terror group launched the “[we are all resistance](#)” campaign to provide “psychosocial support for children in shelters and distribution of aid to displaced people” in Gaza.” Members of the campaign visited UNRWA schools, with the PFLP “volunteers” working to support a collective vision of resistance.” This campaign placed vulnerable children in proximity to terror operatives and was clearly aimed at recruiting children to the PFLP.

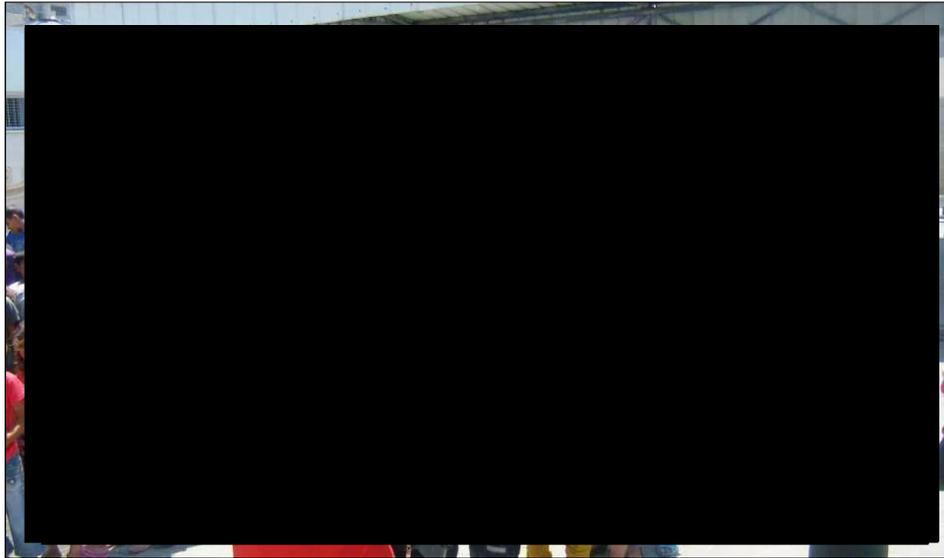


Figure 2: Source: PFLP, “We are All Resistance” campaign supports families and children,” August 12, 2014:
<http://pflp.ps/english/2014/08/12/we-are-all-resistance-campaign-supports-families-and-children/>

In August 2017, the PFLP linked student organization, the Progressive Student Labor Front (PSLF), organized a “mass rally to salute outstanding students in public high schools in an event called ‘Planting and Building,’ [in honor of the martyrs Ghassan Kanafani and Basil al-Araj.](#)” According to the PFLP terror group, the event was attended by “large numbers of students, teachers and professors, comrades of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, cadres of the Progressive Student Labor Front in addition to representatives of the Palestinian factions and civil society organizations.” Far from being positive role models for children, Kanafani, a leader of the PFLP, was involved in the planning the Lod Airport Massacre that killed 26 civilians, and al-Araj, head of a terror cell, was killed while shooting at police during an arrest attempt.

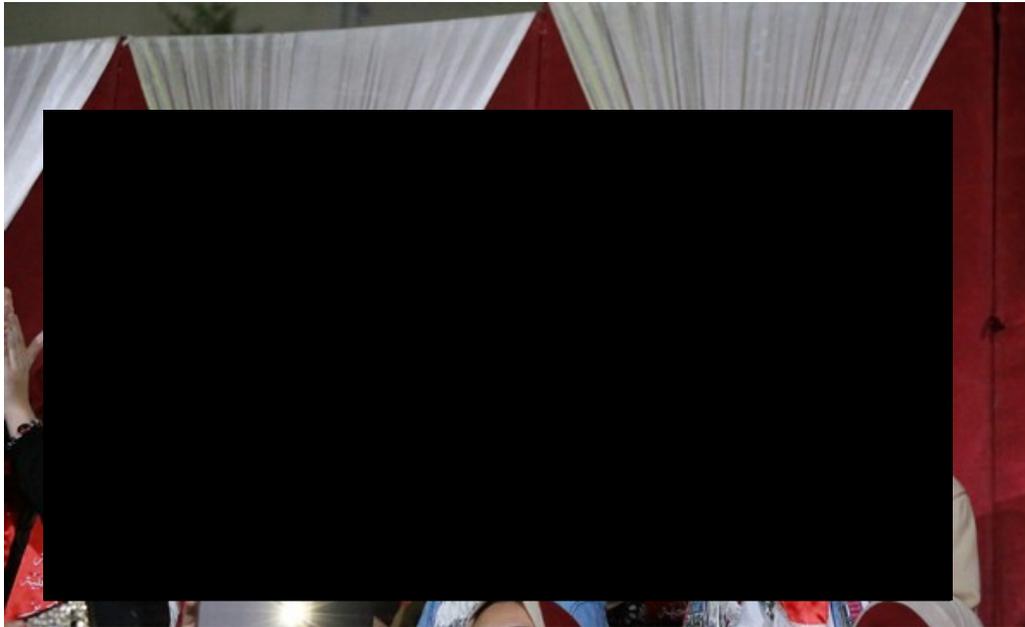


Figure 3: Students at the event dressed in PFLP garb. Source: PFLP, “Progressive Student Labor Front salutes outstanding students in mass festival in Gaza,” August 7, 2017: <http://pflp.ps/english/2017/08/07/progressive-student-labor-front-salutes-outstanding-stu>

The PFLP has repeatedly praised, glorified, and encouraged children to participate in the Palestinian “stabbing intifada” against Israeli civilians.

In March 2016, the PFLP praised the “[heroic successive resistance actions carried out by Palestinian young people in the uprising](#).” The PFLP terror group added that “the youth of the intifada, with their blood, sacrifice, will and determination in their ability to penetrate the Zionist security system inside the occupying entity, are escalating their resistance against the heinous crimes of the occupation against our people.”

In October 2015, the PFLP posted an article “[Palestinian Progressive Youth Union: The rising intifada and revolution of the youth](#),” encouraging young Palestinians to:

1. Joining with the heroes of the Palestinian resistance to confront the enemy forces with all forms of weapons and resistance.
2. The formation of committees and popular protection groups, as a popular response to the crimes of the settlers for the protection of our people, villages and farms; not only to defend, but to attack the fascist cowardly settler hordes.
3. Launch the battle in the streets to liberate the occupied West Bank, it is unacceptable that we are banned from our streets while the settlers invade our communities with massive violence.

4. Rallying and demonstrating in Jerusalem, Nablus and everywhere to break the siege on our proud capital and the steadfast Mountain of Fire.

5. Sending our support to the families of the heroes and the martyrs and rally around their families and protect them by all means against attempts by the enemy to demolish their homes.

6. We call on our brothers in the Palestinian security services to join with the resistance and popular committees to defend our people and confront the crimes of the settlers and disobey all orders that call upon them to carry out political arrests and security coordination with the occupation.

7. Universities, schools, institutions, youth centers, women's unions, neighborhood and popular committees in the villages and camps, sports clubs and our entire people in the camps and in diaspora, one people with one cause, are called upon to join the activities of the popular uprising, to mobilize and harness all of their capacities in support of the uprising and its continuation.

In August 2017, the PFLP posted an article "[Palestinian youth honor Naji al-Ali with Leila Khaled in Ein el-Helweh refugee camp](#)," discussing how Palestinian "youth organizers" invited "Comrade Leila Khaled, icon of resistance and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine to open the exhibition" in Lebanon. Leila Khaled participated in armed hijackings of TWA Flight 840 in 1969 and El Al Flight 219 in 1970.

In July 2012, the PFLP posted an article about how a youth camp honored "[the martyr and great Palestinian writer and national leader, Comrade Ghassan Kanafani](#)." According to the PFLP, "The camp included over 100 boys and girls for 12 days, in which they participated in cultural and educational activities about the life of Ghassan Kanafani, Palestinian literature, and the history and future of Palestine."

An August 2015 PFLP post "UNRWA crisis is being manufactured to liquidate refugees' rights," features young children holding PFLP posters.

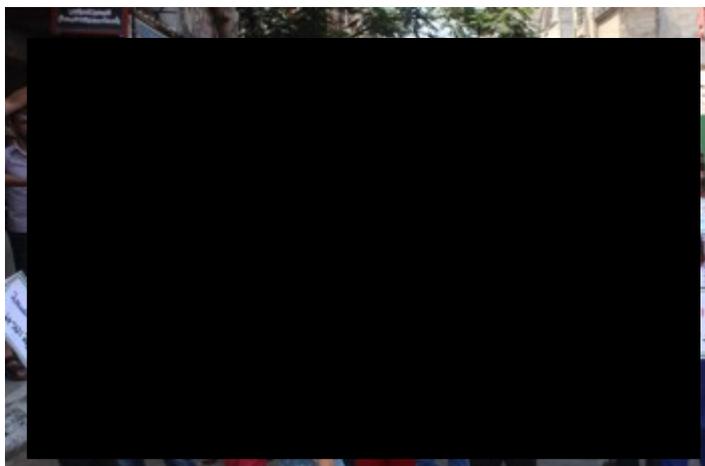


Figure 4: Source: PFLP, “UNRWA crisis is being manufactured to liquidate refugees’ rights,” August 9, 2015:

Hamas regularly recruited and used children in the context of the violence on the Israel-Gaza border that began in March 2018. For example:

- March 25, 2018: [Hamas sent a 7-year-old girl to the Gaza security fence during protests](#). The IDF ensured that she returned to her parents safely.
- April 23, 2018: YNet News published an article “IDF: [Hamas sending children](#) at us.” The IDF is quoted stating that “ [Hamas encourages young children](#), some of them aged no more than 10, to take part in riots on the Gaza border fence—using them as glorified human shields with the knowledge that the IDF will refrain from shooting at them.” The article features numerous photos of children throwing rocks, using slingshots, and collecting tires (to be burnt along the fence). The article also includes video footage of [children participating in the demonstrations](#).
- April 24, 2018: An article in Israel Hayom “ [Hamas uses children as human shields](#),” features a photo of children participating in the violent demonstrations.
- July 25, 2018: The IDF stated that “deadly violence” that took place on the [Gaza border](#) on July 25 began with a “bait” riot staged by children, which lured IDF soldiers into Hamas and other terror groups’ sniper range.

In the midst of the border operations, Hamas also held “summer camps” for Palestinian children to indoctrinate and provide military training:

Most of the activity is devoted to basic military training. The youths are trained by instructors wearing uniforms bearing the insignia and badges of Hamas’s Izz al-Din alQassam Brigades. In addition to summer camps held in Hamas facilities, summer camps are held in schools throughout the Gaza Strip. Most of them are organized by Hamas on a wider scale (tens of thousands of participants). The summer camps in schools are also devoted primarily to military training and ideological indoctrination by Hamas.[1] Training during these summer camps is a supplement to the military training, both theoretical and practical, undergone by high school students during the school year.⁶⁴

The slogan for the 2018 summer camps was “I am returning to my homeland,” referring to the ultimate objective of the border attacks of “return” – a euphemism for the destruction of the State of Israel. The [camps also included specific military training](#) for the “marches” such as “launching balloons, throwing stones, collecting tires and glorifying the shaheeds killed during the ‘marches.’” Simulating and training for the abduction of Israeli soldiers was a significant component.

In May 2018, a [16-year-old was killed during the violence along the Israel-Gaza border](#). Palestinian Islamic Jihad posted a death notice for the individual including a photo of him wearing military uniform.

Recommendations

This submission has highlighted only a small portion of the extreme campaigns of antisemitic and anti-Israel incitement, violence, and recruitment and use of child combatants actively carried out by the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian armed groups. Fully documenting this destructive campaign would require providing thousands upon thousands of pages to the Committee.

Rather than creating a tolerant, liberal, and open society, the PA’s campaign fosters hatred, antisemitic discrimination, prolonged armed conflict, and endemic societal violence. This poisonous campaign is not only a violation of the PA’s obligations under the CERD but is the primary obstacle to peace with Israel.

We therefore recommend the Committee address the following issues in its List of Themes in advance of the 99th Session:

The Committee must ask the PA to address the issue of incitement in its reporting to the Committee.

The Committee must ask the PA what it is doing to combat campaigns of antisemitism, racial discrimination, and violent incitement by Palestinian armed groups, including Hamas.

The Committee must ask the PA what it is doing to combat the recruitment and use of child soldiers by itself and other Palestinian armed groups.

The Committee must confront the PA about its “pay to slay” program and the eligibility requirements of this perverse funding.

The Committee must ask the PA what steps it is taking to preserve Jewish historical sites with PA territory and explain what measures it is taking to end its blocking access to these sites in violation of the Oslo Accords.

The Committee must ask the PA what steps it is taking to prevent further destruction of Jewish cultural heritage by the Waqf on the Temple Mount.

The Committee must ask the PA to address its role in the harassment and violence targeting non-Muslims visiting the Plaza of the Temple Mount.

In addition, the Institute for NGO Research also requests a meeting with the Committee in order that we may present this material and additional cases during the 99th Session.

Respectfully submitted,

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UN Liaison, Institute for NGO Research