**What the Arabs Say About ……..**

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is probably the most discussed conflict in the world today. Many opinions are published across the whole spectrum of political views and many initiatives offer solutions to the conflict. So why is there no progress?

This document highlights statements made by Palestinians and their Arab state supporters and I leave it to the reader to decide whether the Palestinians really do want peace with Israel or not.

Click on link to chapter required

[Chapter 1: “Fatah - On Peace”,](#ch1)

[Chapter 2:“Who are today’s Palestinians?”](#ch2)

[Chapter 3: “Palestinians, Who do others say they are?”](#ch3)

[Chapter 4: ”Habitation of Palestine”](#ch4)

[Chapter 5: “Palestine. What is it?”](#ch5)

[Chapter 6: “Refugees and their Descendants - Their Plight”](#ch6)

[Chapter 7:“Who can we believe?”](#ch7)

[Chapter 8:“Hamas - A Partner for Peace?”](#ch8)

[Chapter 9:- On November 29](#ch9)[th](#ch9) [2012, Palestine Upgraded](#ch9)

[Chapter 10:- “Arab statements on Jews”](#ch10)

[Chapter 11: “Israel’s Minorities”](#ch11)

[Chapter 12: “Palestine. What is it?”](#ch12)

[Chapter 13: “UN/League of Nations Resolutions](#ch13)

[Chapter 14: “Jerusalem – Varying Arab opinions”](#ch14)

[Chapter 15 : Christians in the Middle East](#ch15)

[Chapter 16: Arabs Talk About Israel](#ch16)

[Chapter 17 – Arabs Discuss Israel’s Judicial System Following Olmert Trial](#ch17)

[Chapter 18 – Arabs Discuss Hamas](#ch18)

**Chapter 1:“Fatah - On Peace”**

On November 29th, Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the Palestinian Authority in the ‘West Bank’, went to the UN to request UN membership for the Palestinians, as ‘a last chance for peace’. Do the attached statements suggest that, now that they have received that recognition, they will live in peace with their neighbours?

“According to the phased Plan, we will establish a Palestinian state on any part of Palestine that the enemy will retreat from. The Palestinian state will be a stage in our prolonged struggle for the liberation of Palestine on all its territories”. ***Abu lyad, Arafat’s 2nd in command, 1988 (freemiddleeast)***

“It doesn’t mean that we don’t want the 1948 borders, but in our current political program we say we want a state on the 1967 borders”. ***Najat Abu Bakr, Fatah member of Palestinian parliament, PA TV (Fatah), 25/8/2005***

**“The Palestinian people will never accept the right of the Jewish people to their own state. Not for 1000 years”.** ***Abu Mazen, , 12/7/2009***

“With the 2-state solution, in my opinion, Israel will collapse, because if they get out of Jerusalem, what will become of all the talk about the Promised Land and the chosen People? What will become of all the sacrifices they made – just to be told to leave? They consider Jerusalem to have spiritual status. The Jews consider Judea and Samaria to be their historic dream. If the Jews leave those places, the Zionist idea will begin to collapse. It will regress of its own accord. Then we can move forward”.

***Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central committee, 7/5/2009, ANB TV***

“It is impossible to realize the inspiring idea or the great goal in one stroke....Israel will come to an end....If I say that I want to remove it from existence, this will be great, great,[but] it is hard. This is not a [stated] policy. You can’t say it to the world. You can say it to yourself”

***Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member, Al-Jazeera TV, 23/9/2011***

**“The conflict between us and the Jews is not a conflict about land and borders, but rather a conflict about faith and existence." *Sheikh IshaqFeleifel , Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, 3/6/2011***

“We have never agreed, and we never will agree, under any circumstances, to recognise Israel as the state of the Jewish people….There is a chance of two states: a Palestinian [state] and a non-Jewish state of Israel”.

***Nabil Sha’ath, member of Fatah central Committee and P.A leader, Kul al-Arab, June 2011 (beyondimages)***

“[The Israelis] have a common mistake, or misconception by which they fool themselves, assuming that Fatah accepts them and recognizes the right of their state to exist, and that it is Hamas alone that loathes them and does not recognize the right of this state to exist. They ignore the fact that this state, based on a fabricated [Zionist] enterprise, never had any shred of a right to exist”.

***Adi Sadeq, PA Authority Ambassador to India, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, 26/11/2011 (pmw)***

“At the end of the day, we want to exert pressure on Israel in order to force it to recognize us and to leave our country. This is our long-term goal…. 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”.

***Nabil Shaath, Lebanese TV, 11/7/2011 (memri)***

“I will never allow a single Israeli to live among us on Palestinian land”.

***Mahmoud Abbas, Fatah , 28/7/2010, to Egyptian media (ynetnews)***

“We must unite because we want a state, we want to remove Israel….We must declare our state on the entire land of Palestine”. ***Man from the Al-Amari refugee camp, Palestinian TV (Fatah), 2/3/2012***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 2:“Who are today’s Palestinians?”**

Who did they say they were?

“There is no such country [as Palestine]. Palestine is the term the Zionists invented! There is no Palestine in the Bible. Our country was for centuries part of Syria”.

***AuniBeyHada, a local Arab leader, to the Peel Commission, March 1937 (jewishvirtuallibrary)***

“There are no differences between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. We are all part of one nation. It is only for political reasons that we carefully underline our Palestinian identity...yes, the existence of a separate Palestinian identity serves only tactical purposes. The founding of a Palestinian state is a new tool in the continuing battle against Israel”.

***ZuheirMuhsin, late Military Dept leade of PLO and member of its Executive Council, Dutch daily Trouw, March 1977 (danielpipes.org)***

“The Palestinian people does not exist. **The creation of a Palestinian state is only a means for continuing our struggle against the state of Israel for our Arab unity**. In reality, today there is no difference between Jordanians, Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese. Only for political and tactical reasons do we speak today about the existence of a Palestinian people, since Arab national interests demand that we posit the existence of a distinct "Palestinian people" to oppose Zionism”.

***Zuheir Mohsen, leader of the as-Sa'iqa faction of the PLO, 31/3/1977 in an interview with the Dutch newspaper Trouw***

"There is no Palestinian nation. It's a colonial invention... When were there any Palestinians? ...until the 19th century Palestine was the south of greater Syria. "

***Professor AzmiBishara, High profile critic of the Israel government, Arab former member of Knesset,***

***Israel's Channel 2 TV ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3n5-yG-6dU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3n5-yG-6dU" \t "_blank)****)*

**“The Palestinian people have no national identity. I, Yasser Arafat, man of destiny, will give them that identity through conflict with Israel”.**

***Alan Hart, ‘Arafat, Terrorist or Peace-maker?’,Sedgewick Jackson, Ltd, 1984***

Who do they now say they are?

“I come to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people… It is time for the Palestinian people to gain their freedom and independence”.***Mahmoud Abbas, at UN General Assembly, 23/9/2011***

“Allah be praised, we all have Arab roots, and every Palestinian, in Gaza and throughout Palestine, can prove his Arab roots - whether from Saudi Arabia, from Yemen, or anywhere. **Brothers, half of the Palestinians are Egyptians and the other half are Saudis.** Who are the Palestinians? We have many families called Al-Masri, whose roots are Egyptian. Egyptian! They may be from Alexandria, from Cairo, from Dumietta, from the North, from Aswan, from Upper Egypt. We are Egyptians. We are Arabs. We are Muslims. We are a part of you”.

***FathiHammad, Hamas Minister of the Interior and of National Security, MEMRI,  March 23, 2012***

***Do the above statements suggest that the appellation “the Palestinian people” is a recent development?***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 3: “Palestinians, Who do others say they are?”**

"I learn of the arrival of about 6,000 of the BeniSukhr Arabs at Tiberias who are very seldom seen this side of the Jordan." ***British Consul James Finn in papers Relating to the Distubances in Syria, no. 2, June 1860, p 35***

“There are very large contingents from the Mediterranean countries, especially Armenia, Greece, and Italy, Turkomen settlers, a fairly large Afghan colony, Motawila, immigrants from Persia, tribes of Kurds, a Bosnian colony, Circassian settlements, a large Algerian element, Sudanese”.

***Encyclopedia Britanica, 1911***

“Today's Palestinians are immigrants from many nations: "Balkans, Greeks, Syrians, Latins, Egyptians, Turks, Armenians, Italians, Persians, Kurds, Germans, Afghans, Circassians, Bosnians, Sudaneese, Samaritans, Algerians, Motawila, Tartars, Hungarians, Scots, Navarese, Bretons, English, Franks, Ruthenians, Bohemians, Bulgarians, Georgians, Syrians, Persian Nestorians, Indians, Copts, Maronites, and many others."

***JacobDe Haas, ‘History of Palestine, the last 2000 years’, New York, 1934, p258***

In 1860, entire Algerian tribes immigrated en masse to Safed. The Muslims of Safed, are "mostly descended from these Moorish settlers and from Kurds that came earlier to the city."  ***Jacob De Haas, ‘History of Palestine, The Last Two Thousand Years’, New York, 1934, p 425***

"This illegal [Arab] immigration was not only going on from the Sinai, but also from Transjordan and Syria, and it is very difficult to make a case out for the misery of the Arabs if at the same time their compatriots from adjoining states could not be kept from going in to share that misery." ***Palestine Royal Commission Report, London: 1937***

"So far from being persecuted, the Arabs have crowded into the country and multiplied until their population has increased more than even all world Jewry could lift up the Jewish population." ***Winston Churchill, 1939***

Ibrahim Pasha, the 1831 Egyptian conquerer of Palestine "left behind him permanent colonies of Egyptians at Besian, Nablus, Irbid, Acre, and Jaffa. Into Jaffa alone, "at least 2,000 people have been imported." ***Ernst Frankenstein, ‘Justice for My People’, London, Nicholson and Watson, 1943, p127***

“There are villages populated wholly by settlers from other portions of the Turkish Empire in the 19th century. There are villages of Bosnians, Circassians, and Egyptians”.

***James William Parkes, ‘History of the Peoples of Palestine Hammondsworth, Great Britain, 1970, p 212.***

After 1870, "the [Turkish] forward policy included…the planting of Circassian colonies in the country."

***CG Smith, in ‘Studies on Palestine During the Ottoman Period’, Jerusalem, 1975, p 93.***

“In 1860, entire Algerian tribes immigrated en masse to Safed. The Muslims of Safed, are "mostly descended from these Moorish settlers and from Kurds that came earlier to the city."  
 ***Jacob De Haas, ‘History of Palestine, The Last Two Thousand Years’, New York, 1934, p 425.***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 4: ”Habitation of Palestine”**

“The land in Palestine was lacking in people to till its fertile soil”.

***Thomas Shaw, British Archaeologist, ‘Travels and Observations’, London, 1767***

“Jerusalem is one of the most unhealthy of cities, and fever is its principal disease. Orientals and Europeans, immigrants and natives, alike suffer; and during the sickly period of the year almost one fourth of the population become ill”.

***The Lancet, 1864***

“Above all other countries in the world, [Palestine] is now a land of ruins. In Judea it is hardly an exaggeration to say that...for miles and miles there is no appearance of present life or habitation”.

***Cook’s Tourist Handbook for Palestine and Syria, Thomas Cook & Son, Ludgate Circus, E.C, 1876***

“A desolation is here that not even imagination can grace with the pomp of life and action. We never saw a human being on the whole route”.

***Mark Twain, ‘Innocents Abroad’, 1887***

“Rosh HaNikra, marking the border between the provinces of Syria and Palestine, was guarded by a small company of Turkish soldiers. The platoon had to be changed every month because malaria sickened/debilitated everyone after ten days”.

***Report of J.Cropper ‘The Geographical Distribution of Anopheles and malaria fever in upper Palestine’, 1902***

“The road leading from Gaza to the north was only a summer track suitable for transport by camels and carts...no orange groves, orchards or vineyards were to be seen until one reached [the Jewish village of] Yabneh....Houses were all of mud....The western part, towards the sea, was almost a desert....The villages in this area were few and thinly populated. Many ruins of villages were scattered over the area, as owing to the prevalence of malaria, many villages were deserted by their inhabitants”.

***Eyewitness account in the Report of the Palestine Royal Commission, 1937, Chapter 9, para 43***

“Palestine is notoriously malarious and, during the summer months some localities such as the Jordan Valley, the coastal plain, and the Vale of Esdraelon have the reputation of being barely habitable”\*\*.

***‘A Brief Record of the Advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force under the command of General Sir Edmund Allenby, July1917-October 1918. Produced by the Government Press and Survey of Egypt 1919***

“Malaria stands out as by far the most important disease in Palestine. For centuries it has decimated the population and it is an effective bar to the development and settlement of large tracts of fertile lands....There are few regions actually free from it”.***First Annual Report of the British Mandate Department of Health, 1921***

“The villagers [of Samaria Village in the Beisan Area] state that not one child out of ten born in the village ever reaches maturity. [Malaria] carries them off before they are ten years of age”.

***Report of ‘Malaria in Samaria Village’, 9/12/1922***

“Palestine is a small country and, as a whole, thinly populated...malaria...has always been very prevalent, particularly at Jerusalem, Acre...and in the Valley of the Jordan”.

***“Malaria Commission. Reports on the Tour of Investigation in Palestine in 1925’***

***League o f Nations Health Organisation. Geneva***

“During the British occupation of Palestine in 1917, 90% of all British soldiers entering Beisan in the Jezreel Valley, Palestine, came down with malaria within their first ten days in the area, thus attesting to its endemicity”.***Report of ‘Malaria Survey of Beisan’, 1923***

“The Syrian absentee landlords in some cases...find cultivation of their lands so unremunerative....Malaria decimates the population, or so enfeebles it, as to completely nullify nature’s rich gifts”.

***First Report on Agricultural Development and land Settlement in Palestine”. Director of Development,***

***Jerusalem, 23/12/1931***

“In a number of areas where intense endemic malaria had resulted in no population for generations, recent schemes (of Malaria control\*) have created large tracts of cultivatable land....Very large areas of what is

recognised by all as some of the most fertile land in the country have been reclaimed after centuries of waste, by the antimalaria measures undertaken....Many large tracts which until recently meant nothing both death to those venturing into them, have now been reduced into rich and fertile land free from all danger to health”.

***Dept of Health, British Mandate, ‘A Review of the control of Malaria Palestine 1918-1941***

"This illegal [Arab] immigration was not only going on from the Sinai, but also from Transjordan and Syria, and it is very difficult to make a case out for the misery of the Arabs if at the same time their compatriots from adjoining states could not be kept from going in to share that misery."

***Palestine Royal Commission Report, London, 1937***

\*In the early 1920s, the Haifa Malaria Research Unit, under the control of the Jewish scientist Dr Israel Kligler, maintained by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and acting in co-operation with the Health Department of the British Mandate in Palestine, was formed to assist with the control of malaria in Palestine.

Today, Mandate Palestine (comprising, Israel, the West Bank, Jordan and Gaza), is one of the few countries in the world which has been certified completely free of malaria by the WHO and, as a result, the Jewish and Arab populations have grown exponentially.

\*\* Population of Palestine (including what are now Gaza, Israel and the West Bank)

1922 757,182 ***British Mandate census***

1947 1,845,000 ***United Nations estimate***

2011 12,600,000

For more details, rare photos of Palestine a hundred years ago, maps:

[www.malariainpalestine.com](http://www.malariainpalestine.com)

***Return to top***

**Chapter 5: “Palestine. What is it?”**

What did the Arabs say?

“There is no such country. Palestine is a term the Zionists invented! There is no Palestine in the Bible. Our country was for centuries part of Syria. “Palestine” is alien to us; it is the Zionists who introduced it.”

***Arab leader, AuniBey Abdel-Hadi, 1937, to the Peel Commission in Jerusalem.***

“There is no such thing as 'Palestine' in history, absolutely not.”    
***Prof. Philip K. Hitti, distinguished Arab historian, author of the authoritative book "The***

***Arabs", testifying at the 1946 Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry .***

“Such a creature as Palestine does not exist at all. This land is nothing but the southern portion of Greater Syria. It is common knowledge that Palestine is nothing but southern Syria".

***Ahmad Shukeiri, the first chairman of the PLO and one of its founders, addressing the UN security Council***

***in 1956 in his capacity as the Arab League’s ambassador to the UN .***

“A state named ‘Palestine’ has never existed.”***Hafez al-Assad, Syrian President, at a conference in Amman in 1987***

What do the Arabs say now?

“Palestine is Arab in history and identity”.

***Palestinian TV (Fatah) 2007 – 2009***

“Palestine in its entirety is Islamic Waqf land, which cannot be relinquished”.

***Mahmoud Al-Zahar, Hamas Foreign Minister, TV interview, 29/7/2011 (memri)***

“Palestine is the [Mediterranean] sea and the [Jordan] river. All of Palestine is ours”.

***Palestinian TV (Fatah) 2/3/2012***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 6: “Refugees and their Descendants - Their Plight”**

Arabs say**:**

“The fact that there are these refugees is the direct consequence of the action of the Arab states in opposing partition and the Jewish state”.

***Emil Khoury, Secretary general of the Arab Higher committee, September 1948 (www.pnews.org)***

“It is shameful that the Arab governments should prevent the Arab refugees from working in their countries and shut the doors in their faces and imprison them in camps”.

***Musa Al-Alami, Former Arab mayor of Jerusalem, ‘The Lesson of Palestine’, ME Journal, .386, October 1949 (emory.edu)***

“The Arab armies entered Palestine to protect the Palestinians...but instead, they abandoned them, forced them to emigrate”.

***Mahmoud Abbas, Falastin Al-Thaura, March 1976***

“The Arab nations keep the Palestinians and their descendants in squalor. They are denied citizenship rights. They are denied work. They are denied property. They are denied their human rights because they are and always will be a political football in the Arab campaign against Israel”.

***Joseph Farah, Arab-American journalist, January 2004 (***[***www.worldnetdaily.com***](http://www.worldnetdaily.com)***)***

**“To us, the refugees issue is the winning card which means the end of the Israeli state”.**

***SahkerHabash, member of Fatah Central committee, at a seminar on ‘The Palestinian Refugee from the Political Parties’ perspective’, Al-Najah University, 23/11/2004 (***[***www.fateh.org\_public/refugees.html***](http://www.fateh.org_public/refugees.html)***, 12/9/2004)***

Statehood “will never affect the right of return for Palestinian refugees.... [Refugees in the Palestinian territories] will not be considered citizens”.

***Abdullah Abdullah, Palestinian Ambassador to Lebanon, Daily Star, September 2010***

“Every Palestinian, in Gaza and throughout Palestine, can prove his Arab roots – whether from Saudi Arabia, from Yemen, or anywhere....Half of the Palestinians are Egyptians and the other half are Saudis”.

***FathiHammad, Hamas Minister of the Interior and of National Security, (MEMRI,23/3/2012)***

“Any discussion aimed at a solution of the Palestine problem which will not be based on ensuring the refugees’ right to annihilate Israel will be regarded as a desecration of the Arab people and an act of treason”.

***Beirut al Massa, 15/7/1957***

Others say

“British forces offered safe conduct out of the field of fire to Jews and Arabs....accepted only by the Arabs....British forces played a major part in the evacuation (flight) of the Arabs in Northern Palestine”.

***LCH Stockwell Papers, 6/19: “Evacuation from Palestine, November 1947 – May 1948”, General MacMillan,***

***(“Ploughing Sand” p235, Naomi Shepherd, John Murray Publishers Ltd, 1999)***

**Refugees.Background. History**

As a result of war in 1948, 600,000 Arabs left their homes in what is now Israel, most to neighbouring Arab countries .

By 1951, the UN counted 860,000.

They and their descendents, now total over 5 million.

Of these, only 30,000 refugees are left.

They have lived in refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Gaza and the West Bank ever since.

They have been denied citizenship in their host countries, the right to higher education, ownership of land, entry to certain professions. As a result most live in dire poverty.

After WWII there were 12 million refugees in Europe. The Partition of India and Pakistan led to over a million refugees.

All have been settled and integrated into their host countries.

Their children have been given citizenship, and are no longer regarded as being ‘refugees’.

During the early 1950s, 850,000 Jews were expelled from Arab countries. Most fled to Israel. After living in refugee camps for several years, they were all fully integrated and they and their descendents contribute to Israeli culture, politics, academia, etc.

Refugees worldwide have been helped to rebuild their lives by the UNHCR.

Palestinian refugees have their own United Nations dedicated agency, UNRWA.

They and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren are still kept in camps and defined as refugees.

UNRWA defines the Palestinian refugees as those whose “normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948”, that is, under two years.

According to Arab witnesses, most had arrived from other parts of the Arab world during the Ottoman Empire and British Mandate period.

It is claimed that there are now over 5 million Palestinian refugees. They are the only refugee group in the world whose numbers have grown rather than decreased.

They all, including the 99% who were born in their host countries, receive international aid, more than any other group in the world.

The U.S. government is now considering the question as to whether descendants of Palestinian refugees are refugees.

They claim “Right of return”, not to a new Palestinian state, but to Israel, a state they have neither lived in nor visited, a state whose different language, religion and culture they do not share.

**What has prevented the grandchildren of the Palestinian refugees integrating into their host societies?**

**UNRWA**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) helps to resettle all refugees around the world.

It has 7190 employees, who are helping resettle refugees in 120 countries.

The United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) was established as a temporary measure to help the approximately 600,000 – 700,000 Arab refugees who became homeless as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israel war.

It has 30,000 employees, and costs $1 billion dollars p.a.

It provides the refugees and their descendents with a basic level of health, education and welfare at the cost of their reintegration into local Arab societies.

Publicly, it defines a Palestinian refugee as anyone whose “normal place of residence was Palestine from 1st June 1946 – 15th May 1948 and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict”.

In reality, UNRWA has continually expanded the definition to include

“the children and grandchildren of such refugees... if they are

1. Registered with UNRWA
2. Living in the area of UNRWA’s operations
3. In need”.

There is also evidence to suggest that UNRWA artificially increased the numbers by including an unknown number of non-Palestinians in its total.

UNRWA claims that there are now over 5 million Palestinian refugees.

The development of Palestinian civil society and democratic institutions has been retarded by financial dependence on the international community.

**The USA and Canada have now withdrawn their funding of UNRWA, as they do not consider children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to be refugees.**

There are suggestions that:

1. some of the funding goes into the pockets of its employees, and
2. on weapons which are used to attack Israel
3. Hamas imposes conditions on its continued operation in Gaza by deciding the school curriculum, which teaches hatred of Jews and Israel rather than striving for peace, thus helping to prolong the conflict.

UNRWA should be asked to provide evidence that:

1. Every ‘refugee’ was resident in Palestine from June 1946 – 15 May 1948
2. No ‘refugee’ holds citizenship of another country.

Funding should be made dependent on transparency about how funds received by UNRWA are spent; for it to adopt the policy of the UNHCR: to resettle the descendents of the Arab refugees, and to cancel the ‘Right of Return’ campaign.

**The UK has very recently tripled its funding to UNRWA.**

**Why are UK tax payers having to fund an organisation which perpetuates the plight of people in its care instead of helping them live a normal life**

***Return to top***

**Chapter 7:“Who can we believe?”**

“The Guardian has always sensed liberal, middle class ill-ease in going after stories about immigration, legal or otherwise, about welfare fraud or the less attractive tribal habits of the working class, which is more easily ignored altogether. Toffs, including royal ones, Christians, especially popes, **governments of Israel**, **and US Republicans** are more straightforward targets. So while we hacks do not fear the knock at the door in a Turkish dawn, we should not feel too pleased with ourselves. And remember, dear reader, that we are also striving much of the time to tell you what you’d rather know rather than challenge your prejudices and make you cross”.

***Michael White, Guardian Political Editor, blog 10/3/2011***

“A campaign of intimidation, harassment, pressure, threats and boycotts has made it impossible for an Arab journalist to work in the Palestinian Authority-controlled territories... Intimidation and threats are the only way that Western journalists are allowed to present biased reports from Ramallah and Gaza”.

(Khaled Abu Toameh’s Facebook page) A Senior PA official told KhaledabuToameh, “Even the Jews at Haaretz behave themselves and for that they are rewarded with interviews of PA President Mahmoud Abbas.”   
 ***The Algemeiner e-paper 7/6/2012***

“It was certainly an atrocity which should have been covered across our news bulletins that day”.

***Mark Thompson, BBC, 24/6/2012 [on murder of Fogel family by Palestinian]***

‘’Newspaper and magazine readers and TV news audiences worldwide were unaware of how the foreign press was sucking up to Yassir Arafat. By providing only favourable coverage of the Palestinian suffering and under-reporting the massacres, rapes, ravaging, and destruction the PLO inflicted on Lebanon, news people gained access, received press credentials, **and were able to stay alive”.**

***Brigitte Gabriel, A Lebanese Christian, in “Because they Hate”, St Martin’s Press, 2006, [covering the PLO’s invasion of Lebanon in the 1980s].***

“…some Arab journalists, who fail to distinguish between their leanings and their job. Thus, instead of providing information and reporting facts, they become tools for controlling and overseeing others. They believe that professionalism in journalism means being a fighter and a slogan-chanter’.

***Al Hayat, Arab newspaper, (London), 11/8/08***

“Reporting honestly about Sadam’s atrocious murderous rule…would have jeopardized the lives of Iraqis, particularly those on our Baghdad staff”.

***Jordan Eason, CNN News Executive in “The news we keep to ourselves”, NY Times, 11/6/2003***

“Hizbollah is also determined that outsiders will only see what it wants them to see”.

***Nic Robertson, CNN, Reliable Sources, 6/8/2006***

“Look, we’re serious, we will kill you if you film these outgoing rockets”.

***Hizbollah handler to Richard Engel, NBC, 8/8/2006***

“Being balanced can be frustrating, so present your stories on a human level. **Do not rely on the facts”.**

***Instructions from Organisation of Palestinian Journlists (PASSIA) to Palestinian journalists. When?***

“The Palestinian journalists union declared...that news photographers are forbidden from taking pictures of Palestinian children carry weapons or taking part in activities by ‘militant groups’, saying that the pictures harm the Palestinian cause”.

***Aug 22 2002 yahoo 27/8/2003. www.dailynews.yahoo.com***

“Everyone in the news business gets taken for a ride sooner or later. Its an occupational hazard. What is surprising is the scale of it in Lebanon. And what is so tragic about this is editors everywhere can no longer trust the pictures from Lebanon. The public cannot know what is staged and what is real”.

***Jules Crittenden, City Editor, Boston Herald, 9/8/2006***

*“*Facts don’t matter, only emotion matters. Write your own history”.

***Edward Said, 1993***

“We have one vocabulary in private, and we have another vocabulary for the public domain, and that’s why you don’t hear it because you’re the public domain”

***Dr.TajHarget, Chairman, Muslim education Centre, Oxford, on BBC 1’s Panorama, 21/8/200****5*

**Taqiyya**

“Speaking is a means to achieve objectives...It is permissible to lie if attaining the goal is permissible”.

***Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, (1058-1111)***

“Muslims have every right to deceive their adversaries, and a promise made to non-Muslims can be broken whenever necessary”.

**Amir Taheri, “Holy Terror”, Sphere Books, 1987**

“A lie is not wrong in itself...If the lie is the only way of obtaining a good result, it is permissible...We must lie when truth leads to unpleasant results”.

***Al-Ghazzali, 11th century Muslim theologian***

***(“Whose Jerusalem”, Eliahu Tal, International Forum for a United Jerusalem,1994)***

“I picked up the phone and called Murdock, and told him there are not Muslim riots, these are riots of poverty. Within 30 minutes the title was changed from “Muslim riots” to “Civil riots”.

***Saudi Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, owner of shares in Sky, 12/5/2005***

**Discussion points:**

* + Tell only half the story in order to be able to continue reporting in a country or area and to stay alive?
  + Report an obviously staged event as if it really happened?
  + Write according to their ideology rather than reporting on what happened?
  + Are news agencies being lazy when they publish pictures which have been doctored or have misleading captions, without checking their veracity?
  + Is the history of the Middle East being ignored by the media?
  + Is it because of influence/ignorance? Personal animosity/bias? Intimidation?
* To what extent can we trust the media?
* What are the ethics of reporting, photographing, editing news?
* Can Western reporters report freely?
* Do they sometimes have their own agenda?
* How honest is it for a reporter to have his or her own agenda?
* How could the BBC reporter have missed the fact that most buildings were intact?
* Did she?
* How careful are the news agencies at editing incoming material?
* Is it ethical or responsible for editors not to be careful?
* What would make the press give in to intimidation?
* What will a journalist do to ensure that he/she does not fall foul of the controlling forces?

**What is the role of reporters**?

* + - To report only what they see?
    - To comment on what they see?
    - To give the background/history of issues which led to what they see?
    - To stand ‘shoulder-to-shoulder with one side or another, as a BBC Journalist did at a Hamas rally in Gaza?
    - To give in to threats and intimidation for the sake of getting a story?
    - To put forward the views of one side only?
    - To publish photos by local sympathisers from places they, as balanced reporters are not allowed to go to?
    - To allow emotion to colour their reporting, as Barbara Plett did when she cried as she reported on Arafat’s leaving Ramallah?
* To believe everything that witnesses or photographers tell them without checking their veracity?

***Return to top***

**Chapter 8:“Hamas - A Partner for Peace?”**

“Hamas will never agree to sit in a government that recognises Israel”.

***AymanTaha, Hamas spokesman in Gaza, Cairo, 28/2/2009 (ynetnews)***

**“We want Palestine in its entirety – so there will not be any misunderstandings. If our generation is unable to achieve this, the next one will, and we are raising our children on this. Palestine means Palestine in it’s entirely, and Israel cannot exist in our midst”.**

***Mahmoud Al-Zahar, Hamas leader, Future News TV, 15/6/2010 (memri)***

“We will negotiate with Israel only over its departure from Palestine, and recognise it only once it is recognised elsewhere”.

***Mustafa Al-Sawaf ,Hamas columnist, in Hamas-affiliated daily, Falastin, 4/6/2011***

**“The conflict will never come to an end until Israel comes to an end”.**

***UsamaHamdan, Hamas international relations, Al-Aqsa TV, 24/7/2011, (beyondimages)***

“We say to Israel...it is we who will annihilate your existence”.

***Al-Zahar, senior Hamas member, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, 7/12/2011***

“Palestine – all of Palestine – is from the sea to the river. We won’t relinquish one inch of the land of Palestine. The involvement of Hamas at any stage with the interim objective of liberation of [only] Gaza, the West Bank, or Jerusalem, does not replace it strategic view concerning Palestine and the land of Palestine”.

***Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, 14/12/2011***

“Palestine in its entirety is Islamic waqf land, which cannot be relinquished”.

***Mahmoud Al-Zahar, Hamas foreign minister, in TV interview, 29/7/2011 (memri)***

“We do not recognise Israel and it is very simple. We do not recognise Israel as controlling even one centimetre of the land of Palestine, because it is an artificial state”.

***Mahmoud Al-Zahar, former Hamas Foreign Minister, Qudsnews website, 30/7/2011 (haaretz)***

“The Hamas movement continues to adhere to its programme and to the non-recognition of Israel and to the non-relinquishing of even a single grain of Palestinian soil”.

***Al-Rashq, Hamas senior official, Palestinian TV (Fatah), 21/12/2011 (palwatch)***

Hamas’s aim is to act “for the liberty of all Palestinians, from the [Mediterranean] sea to the [Jordan] river”.

***Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, 13/2/2012***

***Do the above statements suggest that the goal of the Palestinian leaders has not changed: they intend to destroy Israel?***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 9:- On November 29th 2012, Palestine was upgraded by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to ‘Non-Member State’ [[1]](#footnote-1).**

**“The case of the Palestinians Authority and the Oslo Accords will be closed.**...Once we become a recognised state, we will go to all UN agencies to force the international community to take legal action against Israel” [[2]](#footnote-2).

**Abbas Zaki, member of Fatah Central Committee, *Al-Quds Al-Arabiya, 6/11/2012 (Jerusalem Post, 8/11/2012***

"If Palestine receives status of a non-member state in the General Assembly, there will be positive effects on all levels in the future... Israel will no longer be able to define the occupied territories as disputed lands. They will become lands of a separate, occupied state 3".  
***Riad Al-Malik, PA Foreign Minister [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, July 24, 2012]***

"We are here for a final serious attempt to achieve peace, not to end the negotiation process, rather to breathe new life into the negotiation process."

**Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, to General Assembly delegates before the vote. 29/11/2012**

"Israel's hand is always extended in peace, but a Palestinian state will not be established without recognition of the state of Israel as the state of the Jewish people, without an end-of-conflict declaration, and without true security arrangements that will protect Israel and its citizens". ***Benjamin Netanyahu, 29/11/2012***

"The fact that the Palestinians tore to shreds their commitments under the Oslo Accords and went to the UN unilaterally is somehow dismissed....The Palestinians want a Palestinian state without peace. Many of these European governments voted for this thinking it may advance peace but in fact this pushes peace backwards because it tells the Palestinians you can get international recognition and international legitimacy without making the necessary compromises for peace."

***Benyamin Netanyahu, Israel’s PM (Die Welt-Germany, 10/12/2012)***

**Israel responded the Palestinians’ rejection of former agreements under the Oslo Peace Accords by announcing that it would also not abide by them, would build homes in existing settlements and in other parts of what were previously “disputed territories”, and would reclaim money owed for electricity supplied to the Palestinians but so far not paid for. It was sharply criticised by many in the international community for this announcement.**

***Return to top***

**Chapter 10:- “Arab statements on Jews”**

“If the Jews left Palestine to us, would we start loving them? Of course not. We will never love them. Absolutely not. The Jews are infidels...They are enemies not because they occupied Palestine. They would have been enemies if they had not occupied a thing”.

***Muhammad Hussein Yakub, Egyptian Cleric, Al-Rahma TV, 17/1/2009 (memri)***

“Jews, not dictatorships, are the number one danger facing Muslims”.

***TareqSweidon Kuwaiti, Cleric and Manager of Al Resala TV, Al-Quds TV (Lebanon) 26/3/2012 (memri)***

“Jews, Jews” Your holiday [Passover] is the holiday of the Apes”.

***PA daily Al-Hayat Al-Jadida 19/4/2011 (pmw)***

**Arab statements on Israelis**

“Large numbers of [Israeli] settlers have been bringing huge cages full of rats and releasing them on the streets and alleys of the Old City [Jerusalem]...in order to turn the [Arab] residents’ life into a living hell, forcing them to leave”. [The rats do not attack their Jewish neighbours].

***Al-Ayyam, 17/7/2008 (pmw)***

“Hamas suspects that Israeli intelligence services are supplying its Gaza stronghold with chewing gum that boosts the sex drive in order to ‘corrupt the young’.

***14/7/2009***,***AFP***

“Despite a Palestinian campaign that calls for the boycott of Israeli products, Palestinian consumers “love and buy Israeli products”, says one Bethlehem minimarket owner. “Lots of people prefer to buy Tnuva products simply because there is tighter supervision and they want to feel safe in what they buy. It has nothing to do with politics. When we buy a product from you [Israelis], we know it is under supervision and only made with fresh ingredients”.

***Daily Alert, 25/5/2012 (ynet news)***

“The Muslim Brotherhood’s hatred for the Jews is a matter of religious principle, which lies at the heart of its creed and cannot be changed, revoked, or disregarded. This hatred did not emerge in the 20th century or [after] Israel’s establishment or the occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands by Israel. This hatred is historic, with roots going back to the inception of Islam.” *L****ebanese liberal*** [***Joseph Bishara***](http://jewishrefugees.blogspot.co.uk/2013/01/antisemitism-central-to-brotherhood.html) ***,*** [***www.elaph.com***](http://www.elaph.com) ***,13/9/2012***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 11: “Israel’s Minorities”**

“If Israel were an apartheid state, I, for example, would not be allowed to work for a Jewish newspaper or live in a Jewish neighborhood or own a home. The real apartheid is in Lebanon, where there is a law that bans Palestinians from working in over 50 professions. Can you imagine if the Knesset passed a law banning Arabs from working even in one profession? The real apartheid is also in many Arab and Muslim nations, like Kuwait, where my Palestinian uncle, who has been living there for 35 years, is banned from buying a house. The law of Israel does not distinguish between a Jew and an Arab".

***Israeli Arab journalist Khaled Abu Toameh, talk in Jerusalem, November 2010***

"The army encourages Arabs to join . . . It all depends on us as citizens. We can hold out our hands in peace and get rid of the discrimination, or let it go on and on....I feel I am example to anyone who wants to join the army....The Arab sector never believed there'd be an Arab officer, they never believed they would accept us, and they do".

***Lieutenant Abu Rayya, first Arab-Israeli from his community to reach officer status in the IDF,***

***The Times, Australia, 12/11/2010***

“Do you think I could be deputy mayor of Haifa if Israel was an apartheid state?”

***Elias Mtanes, former deputy mayor of Haifa, in “The Jew is not my enemy”, p179, Tarek Fatah, Emblem, 2011,***

“We Israeli minorities live better than any of our counterparts throughout the Middle East”.

***Ishmael Khaldi, Israel’s first Bedouin diplomat, in “A Shepherd’s Journey”, p85, Pub. Ishmael Khaldi, 2011***

“It needs to be understood that many … differences are cultural and Bedouin-specific. Our lifestyle and very conservative heritage is further constrained by tribal rules and customs. This creates a sort of self-imposed barrier to full integration into a modern life”.

***Ishmael Khaldi, Israel’s first Bedouin diplomat, in “A Shepherd’s Journey”, p86, Pub. Ishmael Khaldi, 2011***

“Most Arab citizens (of Israel) are in favour of co-existence, cooperating and living in harmony with Jewish Israelis”.***Sahran Bader, founder of “Israeli-Arab Nationalist Party”, (Jerusalem Post, 27/4/2012)***

“I work for the office of social insurance in Israel, so I can tell you confidently that Arabs have the same legal rights….I study in the same educational institutions, ride the same buses, shop in the same supermarkets. …. And I do feel that I belong to my country….In my own small village in the Galilee there are not only one but two mosques and two Imams who both get a monthly salary from the state”.

***BoshraKhalaila, Israeli Arab, (The Times of Israel, 17/10/2012)***

"In Israel there are a lot of benefits and a modern way of life, as well as economic and political stability. You can't compare the lives of Arabs in the Galilee to that of Arabs in Palestine, Lebanon, or Egypt. There is also the element that in Israel there is no concern of an Islamist takeover."

***Sammy Smooha, Haifa University Professor, (TIP) 8/6/2012***

“I’m a proud Arab and a proud Muslim. I’m not Palestinian….Israel did not expel me. I kept my land. I have the right under the law to do whatever I want to do, even to become prime minister. We Arabs need to thank God that we live in this democratic country”.

***AatefKarinaoui, Israeli Bedouin, now forming first pro-Israel Arab party running for Knesset in next elections,***

***(The Times of Israel, 4/11/2012)***

**What does this tell us about the rights of Israel’s minorities?**

***Return to top***

**Chapter 12: “Palestine. What is it?”**

What did the Arabs say?

“There is no such country. Palestine is a term the Zionists invented! There is no Palestine in the Bible. Our country was for centuries part of Syria. “Palestine” is alien to us; it is the Zionists who introduced it.”

***Arab leader, AuniBey Abdel-Hadi, 1937, to the Peel Commission in Jerusalem.***

“There is no such thing as 'Palestine' in history, absolutely not.”    
***Prof. Philip K. Hitti, distinguished Arab historian, author of the authoritative book "The***

***Arabs", testifying at the 1946 Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry .***

“Such a creature as Palestine does not exist at all. This land is nothing but the southern portion of Greater Syria. It is common knowledge that Palestine is nothing but southern Syria".

***Ahmad Shukeiri, the first chairman of the PLO and one of its founders, addressing the UN security Council***

***in 1956 in his capacity as the Arab League’s ambassador to the UN .***

“A state named ‘Palestine’ has never existed.”***Hafez al-Assad, Syrian President, at a conference in Amman in 1987***

What do the Arabs say now?

“Palestine is Arab in history and identity”.

***Palestinian TV (Fatah) 2007 – 2009***

“Palestine in its entirety is Islamic Waqf land, which cannot be relinquished”.

***Mahmoud Al-Zahar, Hamas Foreign Minister, TV interview, 29/7/2011 (memri)***

“Palestine is the [Mediterranean] sea and the [Jordan] river. All of Palestine is ours”.

***Palestinian TV (Fatah) 2/3/2012***

***Why has Arab opinions on Palestine changed so radically?***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 13: “UN/League of Nations Resolutions (and British Decisions)”**

**Balfour Declaration**

“**His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of the object.”**

***Arthur Balfour, Foreign Office, UK, November 2nd 1917***

"Faced with the Jews' schemes, Europe could not bear their character traits, monopolies, corruption, and their control and climbing up positions in government. In 1290, King Edward I issued a decree banishing the Jews [from England]. Following him were France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Czechoslovakia, Spain and Italy. The European nations felt that they had suffered a tragedy by providing refuge for the Jews. Later the Jews obtained the **Balfour Declaration**, and Europe saw it as an ideal solution to get rid of them."

***PA TV, 1/1/2013***

**League of Nations, endorsement of Balfour Declaration, in San Remo 1922**

**“Recognition has thereby been given to the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and to the grounds for reconstructing their national country...”**

***League of Nations endorsement of Balfour Declaration and British Mandate for Palestine, San Remo, 12/8/22 (Domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/fd807e46661e3689852570d00069e918/2fca2c68106f11ab05256bcf007bf3cb!OpenDocument***

**“The Mandatory shall be responsible for placing the country under such administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home…”**

*San Remo Conference, endorsement of British Mandate for Palestine, 1922*

***domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/5ba47a5c6cef541b802563e000493b8c/7f0af2bd897689b785256c330061d253!OpenDocument***

“The Arabs, especially the educated among us, look with deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement… We will wish the Jews a hearty welcome home….There is room in Syria for both of us”.

***Emir Faisal, Arab representative at Paris Peace Conference 1919, son of acknowledged leader of the Arabs Sherif Hussein, in a letter to Felix Frankfurter, 3/3/1919 (amislam.com/feisal.htm)***

**UN General Assembly Resolution 181, 1947**

**“Independent Arab and Jewish States and the Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem, set forth in part III of this plan, shall come into existence in Palestine two months after the evacuation of the armed forces of the mandatory Power has been completed but in any case not later than 1 October 1948.”**

“The partition line proposed shall be nothing but a line of fire and blood”.

***Jamal Husseini, spokesman for the Palestine High Committee at the UN (UN GA A/A.13/SR.31,24/11/47,(domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/2ee9468747556b2d85256cf60060d2a6/fcfdbc89e49cb80a85257352005 3605d)***

**UN Security Council Resolution 242, 22/11/67, United Nations*.***

**“The fulfillment of the Charter principles requires the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East which should include the application of both the following principles:**

1. **Withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict;***(The Resolution’s authors stated they meant by this withdrawal to a secure negotiated border; the Palestinians demand total withdrawal).*
2. **Termination of all claims or states of belligerency and respect for an acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every State in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force…”**

***domino.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/361eea1cc08301c485256cf600606959/7d35e1f729df491c85256ee700 686136***

“We aim at the destruction of the State of Israel. The immediate aim: perfection of Arab military might. The national aim: the eradication of Israel”.

**P*resident Aref of Iraq, 3/5/67, www.palestinefacts.org/pf\_1948to1967\_sixday\_backgd.php -***

“No peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel”.

***Arab League Summit Conference, Khartoum, November 1967***

([***http://domino.un.org/UNISPAL.nsf/eed216406b50bf6485256ce1007***](http://domino.un.org/UNISPAL.nsf/eed216406b50bf6485256ce1007))

**Subsequent statements which bypass Resolution 242 made by the advisory body, the International Court of Justice, are not binding.**

**Security Council Resolution 242 has never been superseded by any legal international resolution or decision.**

**As stipulated by Resolution 242, peace talks began in 1993, and have not yet been completed.**

***Return to top***

**Chapter 14: “Jerusalem – Varying Arab opinions”**

“Its identity with the site of Solomon’s Temple is beyond dispute”.***Supreme Muslim Council, 1925***

“The Jewish connection Jews have to Jerusalem needs to be recognised and respected”.

***Sari Nusseibeh, President, Al Quds University, Jerusalem, 2000***

**“We recognise nothing but an entirely Islamic Jerusalem under Islam”.*Supreme Muslim Council, 1997***

“The Zionist movement has invented that this was the site of Solomon’s Temple. But this is all a lie”.

***Sheik Red Salah, a leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, Jewish Telegraph Agency, 12/2/2001***

“The Palestinian programme is to create a Palestinian belt around the Israel belt [of post-1967 New Jerusalem neighbourhoods]...The most important Palestinian challenge is building, even without permits”.

***Faisal Husseini, PA Minister for Jerusalem Affairs, June 1997 (theisraelproject)***

“We can build inside Jerusalem, legal, illegal – rebuild a house, whatever we can do. Maybe we lose ten houses, but in the end we build 40 more houses in East Jerusalem”.

***Khalid Tufakji, Palestinian demographer who worked in the PLO HQ in Jerusalem, 1998 (camera)***

“With the two-state solution, in my opinion, Israel will collapse, because if they get out of Jerusalem, what will become of all the talk about the Promised Land and the Chosen People? What will become of all the sacrifices they made – just to be told to leave? They consider Jerusalem to have spiritual status”.

***Abbas Zaki, member of Fatah Central Committee, 7/5/2009, ANB TV***

“Jerusalem is a completely Islamic city”.

***Sheikh Muhammed Jihad Al-Kilani, Direicitor of Religious Affairs, Al-Hayat Al Jadida, 14/7/2010***

“To make light of Jerusalem is to make light of our faith. Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state. There will be no peace nor stability in the region without Jerusalem. It is not possible for anyone to sign a document relinquishing it”.

***Minister Al-HAbash, Al-HAyat Al-JAdidah, 8/7/2010***

“Unless Jerusalem will be Palestinian, as it was throughout history, the capital of the Palestinian state and the capital of the Palestinian people...there is no peace....Jerusalem has to return to its owners. And we are its owners”.

***PA TV, 20/9/2010***

“As for East Jerusalem, under Israel’s 44-year rule, Muslims, Christians, and members of all other religions have been able to visit and practice their faith freely, just as billions of people from all over the world visit the Vatican or Muslim pilgrims flock to Mecca. Yet under the Hashemite occupation of the city, this was not done. Without claiming citizenship, Jerusalem would remain an open city to all who come to visit”.

***MudarZahran, a Jordanian-Palestinian writer, Middle East Quarterly, Winter 2012, pp.3-12***

**Israel’s seat of government is in Jerusalem**

***Oxford Dictionary***

**Capital City** or **Town:** The city or town that functions as the seat of government and administrative centre of a country or region”.

**Why does the Arab world no longer recognise Jerusalem as the historical and present capital city of the Jews and Israel?**

***Return to top***

**Chapter 15 : Christians in the Middle East**

**Egypt**

Violence against my community is “ethnic cleansing and organised slaughter”.

***Naguib Gabriel, Coptic attorney and activist, Elaph.com, 15/7/2013 (MEMRI)***

“In every single country where Christian minorities live among Muslim majorities, Obama's policies have empowered the Islamist parties, with the obvious consequence that the Christians are first to suffer”.

***Raymond Ibrahim, interview on National Review Online, 2/7/2013 (meforum.org.7/7/2013)***

“Christian boys and girls in Egypt are frequently targeted, often for "ransom" money — as they are in Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, and all throughout sub-Saharan Africa”.

***Raymond Ibrahim, interview on National Review Online, 2/7/2013 (meforum.org.7/7/2013)***

**Libya**

“Libya's small Christian minority has been targeted in unprecedented ways. Among other things, the very few churches there are under attack and bombed; nuns that have been serving the sick and needy since 1921 have been harassed and forced to flee; foreign Christians possessing Bibles have been arrested and tortured”.

***Raymond Ibrahim, interview on National Review Online, 2/7/2013 (meforum.org.7/7/2013)***

**Syria**

“And in Syria — where does one begin? Churches are being bombed and Christians are routinely being beheaded — most recently a Catholic priest, one of many”.

***Raymond Ibrahim, interview on National Review Online, 2/7/2013 (meforum.org.7/7/2013)***

**Saudi Arabia**

“It is necessary to destroy all the churches of the region.”

***Saudi Grand Mufti, (***[***http://charismanews.com***](http://charismanews.com)***, 4/1/2013***

**West Bank**

“'Out of the 600 Christians from the Gaza Strip who arrived in the West Bank to celebrate Christmas, dozens have asked to move to Israel because they no longer feel comfortable living under the Palestinian Authority and Hamas”.

***Khaled Abu Toameh, Gatetone Institute, 3/1/2013***

“Palestinian Islamists are cleansing the Holy Land of Christians”.

***Archbishop Crammer,*** [***http://archbishopcrammer.blogspot.co.uk***](http://archbishopcrammer.blogspot.co.uk)***, 12/6/2013***

“About this time a Roman Catholic priest in Ramallah bewailed the fact that in his experience Muslim Palestinians did not want Christians living among them”. [***http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=6498***](http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=6498)

"By not talking openly about the problem, the Christian leaders are encouraging the perpetrators  
to continue their harassment and assaults against Christian families."

***Khalid Abu Toameh, Gatestone Institute, 10/5/2012***

**Gaza**

“Anglican Friends of Israel reflects on the significance of Hamas's legislation which would mean the closure of Christian schools in Gaza, and urges Christian leaders in the West to start holding Palestinian leaders responsible for what happens to Christians under their jurisdiction”.

[***http://jericho777.worldpress.com***](http://jericho777.worldpress.com)***, 12/6/2013***

”Dozens of Christian families from east Jerusalem have moved to Jewish neighborhoodsin the city because they too no longer feel comfortable living among Muslims”. ***Khaled Abu Toameh, Gatetone Institute, 3/1/2013***

**Israel**

“The only place in the Middle East [where] Christians are really safe”.

***Canon Andrew White, Vicar of St. George’s Church in Baghdad, [http://frontpagemag.com](http://frontpagemag.com" \t "_blank), Aug 2013)***

“Our goal is to guard the Holy Land and the State of Israel.....The State deserves that we also do our part in defending it”.

***Father Gabriel Nadaf, Greek Orthodox Priest, 5/8/2013***

**Iran**

Iran’s leader, Achmadinajad, described Israel as a "disgraceful blot" that should be "wiped off the face of the earth".  ***Chris Macgreal, The Guardian, 27/10/2005***

A more literal translation is: "the regime occupying Jerusalem must vanish from the page of time", and this is the translation we should have used (as noted in Corrections and clarifications, 28 July 2007). ***Correction issued by the Guardian***

“Iran's stance has always been clear on this ugly phenomenon (Israel). We have repeatedly said that this cancerous tumour of a state should be removed from the region".

***Sayyid Ali Khamenei , Iranian Supreme Leader, to thousands of Muslim worshippers in Tehran, CNN, 15/12/2000 (copyright Reuters)***

“With diminishing support for Israel and with the (upcoming) collapse of the monarchy in Saudi Arabia, there won’t be any obstacles left facing Iran with its policy of annihilation of Israel.”

***Sadollah Zarei,* *Editorial in Iran’s Keyhan newspaper, May 2012, Israpundit 14/5/2012***

“While we were talking to the Europeans in Tehran, we were installing equipment in Isfahan...By creating a calm environment, we were able to complete the work in Isfahan”.

***Hassan Rouhani, Memoirs, 2011 (in Persian), (iranfocus.com, 6/7/2013)***

“Today, we cannot say that we want to eliminate the tension between us and the U.S...we should be aware that we can have interactions even with the enemy in such a manner that the grade of its enmity would be decreased, and secondly , its enmity would not be effective”.

***Hassan Rouhani, January 2013 (Washington.institute.org/policy-analysis/.../who is Hassan Rouhani?***

“We halted the nuclear programme? We were the ones to complete it. We completed the technology....We only halted the gas supply for those ten centrifuges in Natanz. We finalised the Uranium Conversion Facility....Our centrifuges reached 3000 in Winter 2004”.

***Hassan Rrouhani, talking about the Tehran Declaration [agreement with the IAEA to suspend all uranium enrichment, 21/10/2003] on Iranian state-run TV IRIB, May 2013***

“Israel’s fury [at the UN] makes us happy....this fury is a result of Iran getting stronger, while Israel’s power diminishes”.

***Hassan Rouhani,25/9/2013 (Jerusalemonline, 2/10/2013)***

*Israel has allegedly had WMD since about the 1970s. Never, ever, has it threatened to use, let alone used them, in spite of repeated attacks by its neighbours. Even now, Israel is considering bombing Iran’s nuclear sites, not the Iranian people and not with WMD*

***Return to top***

**Chapter 16: Arabs Talk About Israel**

“I agree that the Palestinians suffer, but they suffer because of their corrupt leaders and not because of Israel....I have to admit that our current Islamic teaching creates violence and hatred toward non-Muslims. We Muslims are the ones who need to change....We ask others to respect our religion while all the time we curse non-Muslims loudly (in Arabic) in our Friday prayers in the mosques....We Muslims need to stop blaming our problems on others or on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. As a matter of honesty, Israel is the only light of democracy, civilization, and human rights in the whole Middle East....We kicked out the Jews with no compensation or mercy from most of the Arab countries to make them "Jews-free countries" while Israel accepted more than a million Arabs to live there, have their own nationality, and enjoy their rights as human beings....We Muslims have to change!”

***Dr Tawfik Hamid*** **(*www.islamreview.com/articles/From\_the\_heart\_of\_a\_Muslim. 20/10/2010***

“Our politicians curse Israel to gain popularity”.

***Youssef* *Zeidan, Egyptian novelist (MEMRI, 12/1/2014)***

"Palestinian Arabs have more rights in Israeli jails than Palestinian Arabs who are Jordanian citizens....Israel is paradise for the Palestinian Arabs. Jordan is the true apartheid state....The Kerry peace plan is suicide for Israel....Palestinian Arabs are 80% of the Jordanian population, the USA shouldn't be giving Jordan $55 Billion to Jordan for Palestinian Arab refugees, they are already citizens of Jordan....Israel – the only country in the world which treats us [Palestinians] as human beings”.

***Mudar Zahran, interview on the-glazov-gang, February 2014 (jamieglazov.com/category/the glazov-gang, 12/2/2014)***

“The harm we do to ourselves is worse than [the harm] done to us by our enemies – for many Muslims are killed by other Muslims, possibly even more than are killed by non-Muslims – most of us incessantly speak of phantoms and nonexistent conspiracies”.

***Dr. Jibrin 'Ali Al-Jibrin, Saudi columnist (http//www.oximity.com/article/Saudi-columnist, 18/2/2014))***

“I say to those who distort their Lord’s book, the Koran: From where did you bring the name Palestine, you liars, you accursed, when Allah has already named it “The Holy Land” and bequeathed it to the Children of Israel until the Day of Judgment. There is no such thing as ‘Palestine’ in the Koran. Your demand for the Land of Israel is a falsehood and it constitutes an attack on the Koran, on the Jews and their land”.

***Jordanian Sheikh Ahmad Adwan, facebook, (*arabsforisrael.blogspot.com/2014)**

“The Palestinians are the killers of children, the elderly and women. They attack the Jews and then they use those (children, the elderly and women) as human shields and hide behind them, without mercy for their children as if they weren’t their own children, in order to tell the public opinion that the Jews intended to kill them”.

***Jordanian Sheikh Ahmad Adwan, facebook, (*arabsforisrael.blogspot.com/2014)**

“Evidently, most Western governments, journalists and human rights organizations have chosen to endorse the Palestinian Authority's stance that the only evil-doers are the Israelis. And that is precisely why the ICHR report on the anarchy, lawlessness and human rights violations by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas will be completely ignored in the West”.

[***Khaled Abu Toameh***](http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/author/Khaled+Abu+Toameh) ***(***[***http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/4169/palestinian-authority-human-rights-violations***](http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/4169/palestinian-authority-human-rights-violations) ***11/2/2014)***

“In our whole region consisting of over 350 million Arabs, there are only 1,658,000 Arabs who have complete political and religious freedom and have the right to vote in full democratic elections. It is no coincidence that all of these Arabs live as full and equal citizens in the one Jewish State.”

***Druze MK, Deputy Speaker of Knesset Hamad Amar (Yisrael Beytenu), (***[***www.israelnationalnews.com***](http://www.israelnationalnews.com)***, 24/12/2013)***‎

"There are many regimes (in the region) that do not care about equal rights, they only care about catering to an elite that terrorizes the rest of the population, while brushing off the issue of human rights and dehumanizing others....In Israel, we [non-Jewish minorities] do not experience this....Israel is a shining example of human rights in the Middle East".

***Father Nadaf, Greek Orthodox priest (***[***www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/24329/Default.aspx***](http://www.israeltoday.co.il/NewsItem/tabid/178/nid/24329/Default.aspx)***, 25/12/2013)***

“Hamas was born to destroy the State of Israel....Hamas was born to destroy, and Hamas does not know how to build....Palestinians, for more than sixty years, tried to destroy the State of Israel, not to build a Palestinian state....Israel is not the problem in the Middle East. Israel is the solution”.

***Mosab Hassan Yousef, sone of Hamas founder and leader Sheikh Hassan Yousef, at***

***2 Deutscher Israel Kongress, 23/10/2011*, (defence.pk ›** [***Forums***](http://defence.pk/forums/) **›** [***World Affairs***](http://defence.pk/forums/world-affairs.59/) **›** [***Middle East & Africa***](http://defence.pk/forums/middle-east-africa.155/) ***(29/11/2012)***

“It is an unfortunate fact, that Israeli medical teams have done more for Syrians in the south of the country than all the opposition groups put together, to say nothing of the murderous regime that caused them to seek help in the first place”.

***Aboud Dandachi,* *a Syrian blogger and refugee, (www.algemeiner.com, 22/2/2014)***

“(The Jews) are peaceful people who love peace, who are not hostile and are not aggressors, but if they are attacked, they defend themselves while causing as little damage to the attackers as possible. It is an honour for them that Allah has chosen them over the worlds – meaning over the people and the Jinns until the Day of Judgment. I made the reasons for Allah’s choice clear in my books and pamphlets. When Allah chose them, He didn’t do so out of politeness, and He wasn’t unjust other peoples, it is just that they (the Jews) deserved this.”

***Sheikh Ahmad Adwan, Muslim scholar living in Jordan, on his personal Facebook page (***[***http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=129302***](http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=129302)***, February 2014)***

“The Koran specifies that the Land of Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people, that God Himself gave the Land to them as a heritage and ordered them to live therein. It also announces that – before the end of time – the Jewish people will come from many different countries to retake possession of that heritage of theirs. Whoever denies this actually denies the Koran itself”.

***Sheikh Abdul Hadi Palazzi, Secretary General of the Italian Muslim Assembly, and the Khalifa for Europe of the Qadiri Sufi Order***. ***(Weekly Blitz. Volume 5, Issue 42,***

***13/11/ 2010)***

**“Why doesn’t Syria learn from the Israeli army?** Why don’t they learn from the Israeli army which tries, through great efforts, to avoid shelling areas populated by civilians in Lebanon and Palestine? Didn’t Hezbollah take shelter in areas populated by civilians because it knows that Israeli air force doesn’t bomb those areas?”

***Faisal Al-Qassem, Al-Jazeera TV host, 19/1/2014 (***[***www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display\_art.html?ID=13220‎***](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=13220‎)***)***

***Return to top***

**Chapter 17 – Arabs Discuss Israel’s Judicial System Following Olmert Trial**

Sufian Abu Zayda, a leading Fatah official and former Palestinian Authority minister, praised the Israeli court verdict; he said it shows that in Israel, no one is above the law. Abu Zayda, is considered an expert on Israeli affairs. He is quoted as saying:-

• "This verdict provides further evidence that the judicial system in Israel is fully independent in the wake of the separation between the legislative, executive and judicial authorities, as well as total freedom of the media,". <http://tinyurl.com/ns37ucr>

Following are some of the comments posted on Arab media and social websites in response to the Olmert verdict:

* Ali Al-Kadi: "We salute Judge David Rosen [who sentenced Olmert to prison]. We wish the Arabs had 22 judges like David Rosen!" *[Al-Quds Al-Arabi]* <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=167721>
* Mohammed Akash: "O Muslims, look at the fairness of this judge and where you are. You must learn from our enemy, Israel. Long live the fair Israeli judicial system."*[Al-Quds Al-Arabi]* <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=167721>
* Manji Dalali: "This is one of the secrets behind Israel's victory over the Arabs. We must learn from our Jewish Zionist enemy the principles of fair justice. "*[Al-Quds Al-Arabi]* <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=167721>
* Ibrahim - Libya: "We Muslims are in great need of a decent judicial system to punish our thieves and corrupt leaders. May God help us." *[Al-Quds Al-Arabi]* <http://www.alquds.co.uk/?p=167721>
* Hassan Jamal: "I wish Arab countries do the same for their corrupt leaders. I wish the Arab people will do the same for their countries and get rid of corrupt officials, including presidents and kings." *[Al-Quds]* <http://tinyurl.com/llqhod8>
* Mohammed: "Of course Islam is the best religion. But the regimes that claim to endorse Islam are practicing repression and corruption. Meanwhile, Israel is among the democratic countries and is better than all the Arab and Islamic countries when it comes to respecting its people and combating theft of resources." *[Al-Wasat News]* <http://tinyurl.com/m4c88gs>
* Adel: "This is the secret to Israel's success; it has become a symbol of justice because it has made justice one of its major bases of power. We, on the other hand, are doing the opposite. We continue to cover up cases of corruption and do not do anything about them." *[Echorouk Online]* <http://tinyurl.com/qba6m7g>
* Abu Zeid: "I live in Israel and am familiar with its laws. In this state, no one is above the law." *[Al-Arabiya]* <http://www.alarabiya.net/ar/arab-and-world/2014/05/13/-الفساد-يدخل-أولمرت-إلى-السجن-6-سنوات.html>
* Sami Dirani: "Israel is the enemy of the Arabs...but it practices democracy - something the Arabs do not know. That is why Israel is stronger and more advanced than the Arabs, who are busy slaughtering each other. Some [Arabs] are dying of starvation, while others are swimming in pools of dollars." *[Al-Hayat]* <http://alhayat.com/Articles/2324750/السجن-ست-سنوات-لرئيس-الوزراء-الإسرائيلي-السابق-ايهود-أولمرت>
* Hani: "The *hadith* [prophet's sayings] states that we should seek education, even if it is in China. And I say to Muslims, 'Learn justice even if it's from Israel.' I wish the day would come when our leaders would be brought to trial and have our money taken back from them." *[Assawsana]* <http://tinyurl.com/m4c88gs>
* Yasalam: "If Olmert were in Kuwait, his case would have been shelved and he would have received a senior position in government." *[Al-Aan]* <http://tinyurl.com/n29czw2>
* Rahhal: "The Zionists have more justice than our thugs and so-called Muslims." *[Al-Aan]* <http://tinyurl.com/n29czw2>
* Kabir al-Muhandiseen: "This is how states are built. This is the secret to Israel's strength and steadfastness." *[Al-Aan]* <http://tinyurl.com/n29czw2>
* Muhasabah: "In Israel, they hold their officials accountable and send them to prison, while we Arabs glorify the corrupt." *[Al-Aan]* <http://tinyurl.com/n29czw2>
* Zuhear al-Karim: "How many Arab leaders would be left if they went on trial for similar cases of bribery and corruption?" *[Arabic CNN]* <http://tinyurl.com/p3d8tkw>
* Abdo Shehatah: "The Jews continue to prove, every day, that they have real democracy in this world." *[Arabic CNN]* <http://tinyurl.com/p3d8tkw>
* Saad Sayad: "Law is above all and this is democracy. Israel is the only real democracy in the Middle East." *[Arabic CNN]* <http://tinyurl.com/p3d8tkw>

***Return to top***

**Chapter 18 - Arabs on Hamas**

“We are not leading our people to execution, we are leading them to death – I mean, to confrontation”. S***ami Abu Zuhri, Hamas spokesman, Al-Aqsa TV (Hamas), 14/7/2014***

“Hamas has harmed the Palestinian cause and has proved itself to be an imbecile and failed movement”. ***Dr Nagla Al-Sayyid, in Egyptian Al-Gumhourriya newspaper, 12/7/2014***

“It is indeed tragic when a dictator or criminal gang takes over a people and makes it a hostage and a tool for antagonism towards the (entire) world. Hitler in Herman and Sadam Hussain in Iraq did this, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza are doing it”.

***Kamal Gabriel, Elaph.com, 14/7/2014***

"[The story of Hamas] is the story of Hassan Nasrallah and his resistance to Israel, which ended in the destruction of half of Lebanon [in 2006]... When has Hamas ever stopped trading in the blood of its people?!"   
 ***Salman Al-Dosari , editor of London-based Saudi Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, London, 13/7/2014***

"Adding fuel to the fire of the Gaza victims is the repeated media hypocrisy and the disgusting tear-jerking speeches that we don't stop hearing every time Hamas decides to sacrifice some of the people of Gaza. Only rarely do they speak the truth. The Arab street doesn't want to hear anything aside from curses against Israel, and that is easy, because we've been cursing it for over 60 years. But what is disheartening is that the blood of the Gazans has become a bargaining chip in the hands of [Binyamin] Netanyahu and Khaled Mash'al”.

***Dr. Amal 'Abd Al-'Aziz Al-Hazzani, columnist, London-based Saudi daily***

***Al-Sharq Al-Awsat 13/7/2014***

“Hamas is part of the political Islam that begat ISIS's caliphate state”.

***Ali Al-Siwan, a columnist for the official Syrian daily Teshreen, 29/6/2014***

“Our people in Gaza must come to the realisation that such idiotic decision-making pertaining to religion and politics, forces the Gaza strip and its people as well as the entire Arab nation in its entirety to pay a very heavy rice in fragmentation, in humiliation, in martyrs and, unfortunately, in blood shed in vain....We pray for Allah to bestow upon the Hamas leaders a bit of common sense”.

***Egyptian Talk show host Khaled Saleh, Al-Nahar TV, 9/7/2014***

“Why do you in the Al-Qassam brigade hide among civilians? Why do you use peoples’ homes?” ***Talk show host Ahmad Musa, Sada Al-Balad TV, July 12, 2014***

Hamas leaders “are all on the take. They fly luxurious planes, and keep Swiss bank accounts!.

***Mohammed Mustafa Sherdy, Egyptian Al-Milwar TV, 11/7/2014***

“We are afflicted with a bunch of people who pretend to be Muslims, but do not understand anything, or else, they think people are stupid. They goad people into fighting, terrorism, and violence, under the pretext of "Jihad," while they themselves sit at a hotel, a swimming pool, or a nudist beach, eating a variety of dishes, marrying four wives, and driving the latest model luxury cars. What is this?! What kind of men are you?”.

***Talk show host Mazhar Shahin, Egyptian Al-Tahrir TV , 12/7/2014***

“So, why Hamas was successful in spreading a sophisticated network of tunnels and fail to build simple bomb shelters if they knew there would be armed conflicts? Is Hamas willing to sacrifice Palestinians to get more Arab and foreign financial aid and what is more, does Hamas receive orders from abroad or they simply have no control over various factions within Hamas?”

***Abdulateef al-Mulhim, Arab News (Saudi Arabia), Arab-News 16/7/2014, (ICEJ News*** [***media@icejnews.org***](mailto:media@icejnews.org) ***17/7/2014)***

“It is up to the Palestinians to get rid of their illusions and sincerely try to contemplate the benefits brought for the by Egypt’s Initiative [cease-fire proposal], instead of waiting for instructions from Khaled Al-Mish’al who is residing in Qatar where he enjoys all kinds of good meals and engages in all types f sports activities in a bit to reduce his weight and his potbelly, while scores of children are being killed in Gaza”.

***Ahmed Al-Jarallah, Editor-in-chief, the Quwait Arab Times, 17/7/2014, (ICEJ News*** [***media@icejnews.org***](mailto:media@icejnews.org) ***17/7/2014)***

***Return to top***

1. 1. *Symbolism of the date: on November 29th 1947, the UNGA voted for the creation of “Independent Arab and Jewish States”. The Jews accepted this, and Israel was established. The Arab world did not.*
   2. *Oslo Accords, 28/9/1995: Both sides committed “to refrain from steps that will change the status of the West Bank...pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiations”.*

   *Thereby bypassing the Oslo accords, and rewarding terrorism. In response, Israel stated that as the P.A. would no longer abide by agreements made under the Oslo Peace Accords, and claimed ownership of land still to be negotiated i.e. “disputed land”, Israel too would claim ownership of some of that land and would build homes on it. Israel has been severely criticised by the international community for this. Supporters of Israel regard this criticism as double standards.*

   *“Our land is not just the West Bank and Gaza, and that is important. It is all of Palestine”.*

   ***Mahmoud Zahar, Hamas founder and Foreign Minister (Washington Post, 30/11/2012)*** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)