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**Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center  
at the Israel Intelligence Heritage  
& Commemoration Center (IICC)**

## **Inculcating kindergarten children with radical Islamic ideology and the culture of anti-Israel terrorism**

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**The end of the year party for kindergarten children in the Gaza Strip (Al-Aqsa TV, May 31). The Islamic society operating the participating kindergartens is part of the Hamas movement's social infrastructure and uses them to inculcate pre-school children with the movement's ideology.**

## Indoctrination at an end of the year kindergarten party

1. On May 31, 2007, Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV satellite channel broadcast the end of the year party held for the 29<sup>th</sup> class of kindergartens belonging to the **Al-Mujamma' al-Islami** Islamic society, a part of Hamas' social infrastructure (*da'wah*) in the Gaza Strip.<sup>1</sup> The children, dressed in camouflage suits and wearing green headbands inscribed "There is no God but Allah," put on a show. They carried plastic rifles and waved flags bearing the insignia of the Muslim Brotherhood (the movement which founded Hamas).
2. As part of the show, children, some of them masked, marched in a kind of military formation and demonstrated martial exercises such as summersaults, jumps, crawling as if under fire and sword-waving, while in the background a song of praise for Hamas was played. Some of the lyrics were "a Hamas [member] does not fear death," "a Hamas [member operates] for the sake of [Islam]," "the name of Hamas is exalted," and "Ahmad Yassin shook Israel from his [wheel] chair and his firm stance never faltered."



**The end of the year kindergarten party (Al-Aqsa TV, May 31).**

<sup>1</sup> **Al-Mujamma' al-Islami** is a Muslim Brotherhood Islamic society operating in the Gaza Strip, founded in 1973 by sheikh Ahmad Yassin. Its activities are social, religious and "educational." When Hamas was founded in the late 1980s as the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Mujamma' al-Islami served to increase support for it. Today it provides the Gaza Strip population with religious, cultural, health and educational services. The organization operates kindergartens attended by about 800 children, as well as schools for hundreds of children.

3. As the song ended, two children raised crossed swords while a third child held a Qur'an aloft behind them, forming a tableau of the Muslim Brotherhood's emblem. Then one of the children called out, "Let me hear you shout 'Allahu akbar,'" [Allah is greatest] and the others shouted "Allahu Akbar." A series of questions and shouted answers followed, led by the same child:

"Who is your model?"... "The prophet [Muhammad]!"

"What is your path?" ... "**Jihad!**" [holy war]

"What is your greatest aspiration?"... "**To die for the sake of Allah!**"

"What is your movement?"... "**Hamas!**"

The final question: "What is your army," and the answer was: "**Qassam**" [i.e., Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas' terrorist-operative wing].



**Kindergarten children forming the Muslim Brotherhood emblem with swords and a Qur'an**



**A kindergarten classroom belonging to Al-Mujama al-Islami (from the Islamic society's Website.)**

**[Click here for the video](#)**

## Kindergarten children as an important target audience for Hamas ideology

4. Kindergarten children, and the Palestinian younger generation in general, are **an important target audience for Hamas**, which strives to indoctrinate them with radical Islamic ideology and the culture of the campaign of violence and terrorism against Israel, both part of its battle for hearts and minds.<sup>2</sup> Alongside its military-terrorist infrastructure, Hamas has a broad civilian infrastructure called the *da'wah*, which operates a network of educational institutions, among them kindergartens, elementary, middle and high schools, and summer camps. Hamas' "educational" network in fact

competes with the Palestinian Authority educational system.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Hezbollah in Lebanon as well invests great resources in indoctrinating the younger generation in the spirit of radical Iranian Shi'ite Islam.

<sup>3</sup> For further information see our July 10, 2006 Bulletin entitled "The Hamas civilian infrastructure in PA territories ," at

[http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/English/eng\\_n/pdf/hamas\\_0706e.pdf](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/hamas_0706e.pdf) and our June 2003 Bulletin entitled "Incitement to Terror and Hatred: Extremist Islamic messages encouraging hatred, violence and terror against Israel are inculcated into high school students in Bethlehem and other parts of the Palestinian Authority-administered territories by the Hamas civilian infrastructure (the *da'wah*)," at [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/English/Hate-Authority/PDF/june\\_03.pdf](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/Hate-Authority/PDF/june_03.pdf).

## The nature of Hamas kindergarten “education...”



**Left: A child dressed up as Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, making a speech. Right: “Armed” kindergarten children watch as the Israeli flag is burned. The pictures, which were posted on the Internet, were taken in 2001 at the end of the year party for children in Islamic [charitable] Society (Al-Jam’iyyah al-Islamiyyah) kindergartens in Gaza. The Hamas Islamic society concerns itself with “educational-social” activity, and runs a large network of kindergartens.**

5. **The next generation of Hamas operatives** is being brought up in the kindergartens and other institutions in Hamas’ network. Children and adolescents brainwashed by Hamas ideology are often exploited by Hamas (and the other terrorist organizations) for **active participation** in the violent campaign against Israel, even at the risk of their lives. They have participated in terrorism-supporting activities such as **violent demonstrations**, clashes with IDF soldiers, smuggling, conducting observations and digging tunnels. Sometimes they have even been involved in terrorist activities against Israel.<sup>4</sup> In the past severe criticism was voiced by Palestinians of exploiting children to carry out terrorist attacks.

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<sup>4</sup> For further information see our Bulletin entitled “The exploitation of Palestinian youth by Palestinian terrorist organizations,” at [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia//ENGLISH/AUTHORITY/PDF/APR1\\_04.PDF](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia//ENGLISH/AUTHORITY/PDF/APR1_04.PDF).

## Hamas refuses to stop broadcasting programs of incitement on Al-Aqsa TV

6. Hamas uses its media to inculcate children and adolescents with its ideology. An important role is played by its new satellite channel (**Al-Aqsa TV**), its Websites, including its online children's paper, **Al-Fatah**.

7. The issue of child-directed propaganda on Al-Aqsa TV was **recently put on the internal Palestinian agenda** after a program called **Tomorrow's Pioneers** was broadcast and was widely criticized by Israel and Western countries. The program, broadcast during the first half of May, used the figure of Mickey Mouse (called "Farfur"<sup>5</sup>) to preach Hamas ideology to children: the Islamic takeover of the world, the continuation of violence and terrorism ("resistance") against Israel until its destruction, "the liberation of Al-Aqsa mosque," fostering hatred for Israel, and the "liberation" of Iraq and other Arab-Muslim countries "invaded by murderers."<sup>6</sup>

## Using Mickey Mouse to indoctrinate children with Hamas propaganda



**Tomorrow's Pioneers: moderator Sarra' Barhoum and Mickey Mouse (Al-Aqsa TV, May 10, pictures courtesy of Palestinian Media Watch)**

<sup>5</sup> An Arabic nickname for a small child.

<sup>6</sup> For further details see [http://www.pmw.org.il/Bulletins\\_may2007.htm#b130507](http://www.pmw.org.il/Bulletins_may2007.htm#b130507)

8. **Tomorrow's Pioneers** was openly criticized by Palestinian information minister, **Mustafa Barghouti**. He said that the images were "lamentable and primitive" and that "the government is determined to prevent children from being exposed to political propaganda," and that the government's position was "**that education should be separated from ideology.**" He also stated that the government had contacted Al-Aqsa TV, which promised to make radical changes in the program's content (Ramattan TV, May 8, 2007).

9. **Fathi Hamad**, a senior Hamas official who is also chairman of the board of the Al-Aqsa Communications Network (the corporation to which Hamas's radio station and TV channels belong), said in response that Al-Aqsa TV would continue broadcasting **Tomorrow's Pioneers**. He noted that the program was broadcast within a clearly-defined policy whose objective was to "raise a generation of Palestinians which cling to their land and country" (Filistin Mubasher, May 10).

10. The broadcasting of the end of the year kindergarten party illustrates the fact that **Al-Aqsa TV continues broadcasting programs intended to foster a generation of children and adolescents with a radical Islamic world perception, filled with hatred for Israel and the West and ready to participate in Hamas' strategy of violence and terrorism.**