



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

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## **Nakba Day events in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip (as of May 14, 2008)**

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A scene from a movie accompanied by a propaganda song broadcast on Hamas's Al-Aqsa TV. The suicide bomber appears with his explosive belt and the song says, "...listen to the mother's cry and fasten the belt..." (Al-Aqsa TV, May 14, 2008).



Hamas actors playing Israeli soldiers and rabbis abusing Palestinians, a Nakba Day event (Al-Aqsa TV, May 1).

### **Overview**

1. As Israel celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, **Nakba Day** was marked in the Palestinian Authority-administered territories to commemorate what they Palestinians call the "catastrophe" visited upon them with the establishment of the State of Israel. As it has every year, the events, marked separately by Hamas and Fatah, centered around the "right to return," the "right" of the Palestinian refugees to return to their houses in the territory of the State of Israel (**See Appendix I**). Nakba Day events included closing stores, processions, conferences, symposiums, displays and symbolic references to the "the right" to return. They

were expected to climax on May 15, declared a half-holiday by the PA to enable the general public to attend the events.

2. So far, in **Judea and Samaria**, where most of the events are sponsored by Fatah and the PA, public interest in the events has been relatively weak (partially because of the confrontations between the various parties organizing them). In the **Gaza Strip** Hamas, which calls the shots, linked Nakba Day to the "blockade" imposed on the Gaza Strip. In anticipation of Nakba Day the movement waged an anti-Semitic propaganda campaign against Israel (**See Appendix II**).

3. **Planned for May 14 and 15 in Judea and Samaria are processions of Palestinian civilians from various areas with tents and equipment to focal points of Israeli-Palestinian friction near the border** (crossings, checkpoints, settlements), as a symbolic way of expressing the "right to return." **In the Gaza Strip a mass civilian procession to the Erez Crossing** is planned for May 15, with the potential for friction with IDF forces. Hamas spokesmen called upon the Palestinian public to go to the crossing after the noon prayers to "express rage" and break through the "blockade of the Palestinian people." Hamas also notified local and international media and invited them to cover the event and the other activities protesting the "blockade."

## Appendix I

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### Inculcating the Palestinian refugees' "right to return" as part of Nakba Day

#### The Gaza Strip

1. On May 15, 2008, after the noon prayers, a mass "rage" procession is expected to march toward the main gate of the Erez Crossing, leaving from the various mosques in the Gaza Strip. While the processions in Judea and Samaria are supposed to symbolize the "right to return," Hamas's procession was intended to "express opposition to the new Nakba as manifested by the blockade of the Gaza Strip..." (Agence France Presse and the Palestinian media, May 13).
2. A delegation including Abu Mazen and other high-level Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad activists visited a number of schools in Gaza City in preparation for Nakba Day, beginning with the Suleiman Sultan school for boys. Each child received a "historical map of Palestine," and the cities and village appearing on it were explained. Mahmoud al-Zahar gave a speech in which he said that "Palestine will be liberated, every meter [of it]...and it is the duty of this generation to liberate it" (Ramattan News Agency, May 13).
3. A display of artwork was opened in Al-Qatiba square in Gaza City in the presence of Mahmoud al-Zahar and other high-ranking Hamas activists. One of the exhibits was a 7-meter high map of "historical Palestine." It had small signs indicating the cities and villages from which the refugees fled in 1948. Mahmoud al-Zahar stated that "the return of the refugees to their houses and lands is closer than ever..." (Al-Aqsa TV, May 13).
4. Mahmoud al-Zahar gave a speech on May 14 at a Nakba Day event in which he stated that "the right to return is closer than ever." August 2005 [the Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip], he said, and July 2006 [the second Lebanon war] proved that the IDF could be defeated. He added that a Palestinian state would be established on all the territories of Palestine and that in the end the Zionists would be forced to leave it (Ynet, May 14).



A shot from Al-Aqsa TV showing a girl holding "the key of return." The Arabic reads "Without a doubt...we will return."



Inculcating the idea of "the right to return:" a Hamas display in the Gaza Strip to mark Nakba Day, showing the names of Israeli cities and villages to which the Palestinians are supposed to return (Al-Aqsa TV, May 10).

## Judea and Samaria

5. On May 13 PA chairman Abu Mazen visited the "return tent" erected in Ramallah for Nakba Day. He gave a speech in which he mentioned the Arab initiative which "dealt directly with finding a just and agreed-upon solution for the refugee problem according to [UN General Assembly 1948] Resolution 194." He stated that the "issue of the refugees is fundamental, no less important and even more so than the issues of borders, the settlements, Jerusalem and other basic matters currently being discussed." He also expressed his desire to use peaceful means to reach a solution to the Palestinian issue, noting that there was no way of escaping it (Palestinian TV, Wafa News Agency, May 13).



A display for Abu Mazen's visit to the "return tent" in Ramallah (Wafa News Agency, May 13).

6. "The national campaign for realizing the right to return," a group probably affiliated with Fatah, called upon the Palestinians to take part in quiet processions which would begin at 10:00 a.m. on May 14. It said that Fatah had agreed that on May 15 Palestinians would gather and quietly march to the border. According to the announcement, people were to meet at specific locations in north Jerusalem, south Jerusalem, Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, Jericho, Ramallah, Hebron, Qalqilya and Bethlehem.

7. As part of "the campaign," a press conference was held on May 12 in the auditorium of the Palestinian Information Center in Ramallah. It was attended by Israeli Knesset member **Taleb al-Sana**. Campaign spokesman **Jamal al-Juarish** thanked him for coming, saying that "al-Sana came from south Palestine and is a witness to the fact that we were there." On May 14 Fatah-affiliated campaign chairman Ziyad Abu Eyn announced that there would be quiet procession in all the West Bank districts attended by both Arabs and foreigners. He added that the Palestinian refugees in Syria said they would march on the other side of the border, and that dozens of buses would take refugees to "the Palestinian-Syrian border across from the occupied Golan [Heights]." It was also reported that Palestinian refugees in Lebanon would participate in a march to the border (Al-Quds, May 13).

8. **Many activities are planned around "the right to return" as part of Nakba Day in Judea and Samaria:** a giant key will be constructed in Bethlehem, the Palestinian symbol of the return of the refugees, which is supposed to enter the *Guinness Book of Records*; a refugee camp called "the return" will be erected in Ramallah; black balloons will be released into the sky to commemorate the days which have passed since the Nakba; movies will be shown and activities dealing with the refugees will be organized for children; special editions of books dealing with the "Nakba" and the "right to return" will be distributed in schools; 10,000 CDs with the names of the villages destroyed in 1948 will be distributed; a "candles of return" procession will march from the "return" refugee camp to Al-Amaari refugee camp.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For further information see Palestine Media Watch, "A look at the Palestinian media," May 13, 2008.

## Appendix II

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### Hamas's anti-Israeli Nakba Day incitement campaign

#### Overview

1. As part of its Nakba Day events Hamas waged a incitement campaign against Israel, the Zionist Movement and the Jewish people, incorporating the themes of hatred for the West and accusations against the Arab world. Al-Aqsa TV, Hamas's satellite television station, was central to the campaign. Its programs for both children and adults inculcated the "right to return," defamed Israel and the West, heaped praise on Hamas's terrorist attacks and its anti-Israeli struggle. For example:

#### Anti-Semitic display at a Gaza City rally

2. Hamas began its Nakba Day activities on May 1 with a rally in Gaza City called "the return rally," attended by members of the Hamas administration. It featured a display of Hamas actors dressed as IDF soldiers and stereotype orthodox Jewish rabbis abusing and striking Palestinians (Al-Aqsa TV, May 1).



Hamas actors playing Israeli soldiers and rabbis abusing Palestinians (Al-Aqsa TV, May 1).

[For the video of the display click here](#)

## An anti-Israeli, anti-Jewish, anti-West and anti-Arab sermon delivered by a young Islamic preacher

3. On May 4, 2008, Al-Aqsa TV broadcast a program called "The Young [Islamic] Preacher," which featured a child named **Amjad Abu Naama** who gave a sermon full of propaganda against Israel, the Jews, the West and the Arab states. He said the following:

i) "Oh, Muslims, the world is witnessing global terrorism of the worst type. It is **Zionist-Jewish terrorism** aided American and Christian support and directed against the residents of Gaza in Palestine. Its goal is to destroy Islam, which is resisting the Jews. The entire Western world, along with the hypocrites of this nation [the Islamic nation], agreed unanimously to crush this unfortunate people [the Palestinian people] because only they stand up against what is called 'Israel..'"

ii) "Allah, have mercy on us, **preserve the jihad fighters wherever they are** and support them. Blind whoever spies on them and break the arm of whoever lays a hand on them."

iii) "**Allah, strike the Jews and America...**Allah, destroy their planes, destroy their tanks, strike fear into their hearts, scatter them...make the earth tremble under their feet, **open their arteries so that they blood flows...**"

iv) "Olmert – **the friend of President Bush, whose place is in hell** – comes to us and says that the air invasions will continue, and the blockade of Gaza [will continue]. The hypocritical Western world does the opposite of what it should, as though it loves the oppression and enjoys being silent in the face of disgrace...[and Israel] can do whatever it pleases. It kills, destroys and causes hunger...What is happening in Gaza, oh Muslims, is the shame of mankind and a double shame for the **Arabs and their leaders. Gaza has turned into a crematorium, day and night a holocaust is being [carried out].**"



Left: Amjad Abu Naama, delivering an anti-Semitic speech. Right: The opening of "The Young Preacher" (Al-Aqsa TV, May 4).

## Holocaust denial and accusing the Zionist Movement of killing Jews during the Holocaust

4. On April 30, 2008, Al-Aqsa TV broadcast a program claiming that the Zionist Movement, headed by David Ben-Gurion, killed crippled Jews during the Holocaust and blamed the Nazis for their murder to be able to represent the Jews as persecuted and win international support. The Holocaust, it claimed, was nothing more than “an evil conspiracy of the Jews.” In the background films of the Holocaust era were shown to make the claims seem “credible.”



Amin Dabour, Gazan expert on political matters, with the map of “Palestine” in the background: “As far as the Holocaust of Israel [i.e., of the Jews] is concerned, the whole issue is a joke and part of Ben-Gurion’s perfect play” (Al-Aqsa TV, April 30, 2008).



“The devilish Jews concocted an evil plot: the Holocaust” (Al-Aqsa TV, April 30, 2008).

## Inculcating the “right to return”

5. On May 2, 2008, Al-Aqsa TV broadcast a children’s program featuring two puppets called Kuku and Fufu, which repeatedly stated that the Palestinians would soon return to Jaffa, Acre, Lod, Ramla, Ashdod and even Tel al-Rabia (i.e., Tel Aviv<sup>2</sup>). The intention is to inculcate children with the idea that to realize the “right to return” they must fight Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Calling Tel Aviv “Tel al-Rabia” (which also appears on Hamas maps) is a way of creating the impression that before 1948 an Arab settlement of that name existed and to express lack of recognition for Tel Aviv as a Jewish-Israeli city.



Kuku and Fufu "We will return to Jaffa, Acre, Lod, Ramla and Ashdod, and even to Tel al-Rabia [i.e., Tel Aviv].

## Praise for terrorist operatives and turning shaheeds into role models

6. Al-Aqsa TV broadcast short clips praising the operatives of Hamas's terrorist-military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades. The clips were accompanied by propaganda songs praising Hamas terrorists, among them suicide bombers, and calling for the destruction of Israel.

Pictures from Al-Aqsa TV broadcasts, May 4, 2008:



Muhammad Dahir, an operative of Hamas's smuggling wing, called "the tunnel unit," killed in December 2007.



Ayid al-Bashiti, senior Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades operatives, who died in a targeted killing in September 2007, with his gun-toting infant son.



A scene from a movie accompanied by a propaganda song broadcast on Al-Aqsa TV. The suicide bomber appears with his explosive belt and the song says, "...listen to the mother's cry and fasten the belt...).