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The Meir Amit Intelligence and  
Terrorism Information Center

**Annual Jerusalem Day events organized by Iran and its proxies around the world again stressed hatred for Israel and the United States and support for Hezbollah and Hamas. In the Arab and Western world, participation and media coverage were generally slight, contrary to Iranian expectations. In the West (especially Britain), the Iranians joined anti-Israeli organizations participating in the campaign to delegitimize Israel.**<sup>1</sup>

**"Death to Israel" signs carried in Tehran and Trafalgar Square in London**



Sign carried in the demonstration in Tehran (From the [occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com](http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com) website)



Sign carried in the Trafalgar Square rally (From Richard Millet's blog)

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<sup>1</sup> Supplement to the August 14, 2011 ITIC bulletin "Jerusalem Day, marked on August 26 this year, is an annual Iranian-sponsored event in support of the Palestinian cause. The Iranian regime expects extensive participation in events in Iran, the Arab-Muslim world and the West (including the United States and Britain). The events are traditionally exploited for anti-Israeli antiWest incitement" at [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/English/eng\\_n/pdf/iran\\_e127.pdf](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/iran_e127.pdf).

## Overview of this year's World Jerusalem Day events (August 31, 2011 update)

1. Jerusalem Day events were held on August 26 in **Iran, the Arab-Muslim world** (the Arab countries, Turkey, Southeast Asia and Africa), in **Western countries** and elsewhere. This year again Jerusalem Day events were exploited for strong incitement against Israel and the West (mainly the United States and Britain) and for **support of Iran and the so-called "resistance"** [i.e., the terrorist organizations, including Hezbollah and Hamas].

2. **The heads of the Iranian regime expected a larger number of participants than in previous years**, hoping to ride the wave of popular protests sweeping the Arab world. That hope was expressed in a speech given by Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on the eve of Jerusalem Day, in which he said that this year he expected mass participation in the events as "proof" of the faith of the nation of Islam in the Iranian regime. Iranian president Ahmadinejad also called on Muslims and non-Muslims alike around the globe to demonstrate massive participation in Jerusalem Day events. An initial examination of the events in various locations indicates that **in most Arab and Western countries participation was slight** (although the themes were particularly vicious and extremist) **and the demonstrations did not receive significant media coverage** (the Arab and Western media were engaged in covering other issues, such as the dramatic developments in Libya). On the other hand, in Lebanon and other Muslim countries (such as Pakistan) attendance was broad.

3. **The main issues of Jerusalem Day were the following** (details below):

1) **Focal points of events:** The main events were held, as they have been every year, in **Iran**, where Jerusalem Day has become a national event in which the Iranian regime's leadership participates. Other important sites were **Lebanon** (led by Hezbollah), **Britain** (with the participation of anti-Israeli organizations, most of them extreme Islamist participants in the campaign to delegitimize Israel), and **Pakistan** (where mass anti-American rallies were held with Shi'ite participation). Jerusalem Day events were also held in the United States, Europe, Southeast Asia and Africa.

2) **Themes:** There was a **considerable similarity of themes** at the various Jerusalem Day focal points. **Prominent was hatred for Israel, with the leading slogan of "Death to Israel."** Israel was defamed as an "apartheid state" carrying out the "ethnic cleansing" of the Palestinians and calls were heard for its **boycott** (BDS)<sup>2</sup> and **destruction**. (In Britain **no attempt was made to moderate or soften the call to destroy Israel**, and Jerusalem Day events were blatantly extreme-Islamist oriented.) In various places around the globe, including Western countries, **support**

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<sup>2</sup> Boycott, divestment, sanctions.

**was voiced for "resistance"** [i.e., terrorism] and for **Hezbollah and Hamas** (through the use of pictures of shaheeds from both organizations). The events were also exploited, as they are every year, for **strong anti-West** (especially anti-American) **incitement**, including slogans and the ritual of burning the American flag. **There was also anti-West incitement in Muslim countries which maintain correct diplomatic relations with the United States** (Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh). In at least one country (Turkey) signs were waved reading **"Saudi king is a killer."**

3) **Iran joined forces with various anti-Israeli organizations in organizing and participating in Jerusalem Day events** in the Arab-Muslim world and Western countries. For example, in **Lebanon**, again this year, the events were led by Hezbollah. In the **Gaza Strip** and **Syria** (the Yarmouk refugee camp) most of the Palestinian terrorist organizations participated in the events. In **Iraq**, pro-Iranian Shi'ites participated. **In Britain, the United States and other Western countries, anti-Israeli organizations, mostly Muslim, participated in the events. Some of them were so-called "human rights organizations" which call for the destruction of Israel and participate in various aspects of the campaign to delegitimize Israel** (propaganda, flotillas, convoys and BDS)

4) **The influence of the popular protests in the Arab world on Jerusalem Day events:** Iran was disappointed in its expectations that the popular protests in the Arab world could be used to their own ends by means of Jerusalem Day. For example, in **Jordan** the Muslim Brotherhood (and other centers of power) boycotted the event initiated by the Iranian embassy because of Iran's support for Syria. In **Syria** the events were low-key, in our assessment because the regime feared they might be used by its opponents. In **Egypt** a demonstration was held in front of the Israeli embassy on August 26, but no attempt was made to link it to Jerusalem Day.<sup>3</sup> In **Yemen**, President Saleh's opponents participated in the demonstration. On the other hand, **Hassan Nasrallah and Ahmed Jibril**, who spoke at demonstrations held in Maroun al-Ras (south Lebanon) and in the Yarmouk refugee camp (on the outskirts of Damascus) expressed support for the Syrian regime of Bashar Assad, **praising it for its support of the "resistance" [i.e., Hezbollah and the Palestinian terrorist organizations]. An illustration of that support was Syria's allowing Iranian aid for Hezbollah to pass through it into Lebanon** (See Nasrallah's speech below).

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<sup>3</sup> Iranian propaganda included the demonstration in its reports on Jerusalem Day, **but no mention was made of it at the time in Egypt.**

5) **Media coverage:** The success of propaganda events like Jerusalem Day is measured by the volume of coverage they receive from the media. In that respect, **Jerusalem Day was a failure for Iranian propaganda.** Media coverage was skimpy with the exception of countries like **Iran** (where the national media were enlisted) and **Lebanon** (where the events were covered by Hezbollah's popular Al-Manar TV, which broadcasts via satellite to Muslims around the world, but not by Lebanon's general media.) In other countries, Jerusalem Day was covered mainly by the Islamic media, websites, blogs and social networks affiliated with Iran or the Islamic organizations participating in the events.

4. In our assessment, this year Jerusalem Day events showed **an increasing Iranian desire to participate in the propaganda campaign against Israel.** To that end the Iranians joined forces with **radical Islamic organizations** in Western countries (e.g., Turkey), **terrorist organizations** (e.g., Hezbollah in Lebanon) and **Shi'ite Muslims** (e.g., in Iraq and Pakistan). They also managed to **join forces with organizations in Western countries participating in the campaign to delegitimize Israel, primarily with Islamist organizations** (some of which represent themselves as human rights organizations). The Iranians **are careful to remain behind the scenes**, even if sometimes there are indications of their presence (emphasizing support for Hezbollah, even in Western cities like London; similar slogans in focal points of the events, especially "Death to Israel;" the involvement of the Iranian embassies in the events in several Islamic states; and the involvement of activists of Iranian origin in events in Britain and perhaps other Western countries).

5. On the other hand, Jerusalem Day events also **illustrated the limitations of the Iranian regime's anti-Israeli, anti-American propaganda campaign:**

1) **The Arab regimes are basically hostile to and suspicious of the Iranian regime's intentions** and activities even when Iran tries to exploit the Palestinian cause, which usually inspires broad popular sentiment. The Arab regimes prevent significant cooperation with Iran in promoting its campaigns. As a result, in the Arab world Iran has been forced to rely mainly on the Shi'ites for support and on its Shi'ite proxies, especially in countries like Lebanon and Iraq.

2) **Iran's support of the Syrian regime, which has brutally suppressed the country's protest movement, has damaged Iran's image and reduced its popularity in the Arab street**, even among Islamist movements such as the Muslim Brotherhood (which are well aware that the Iranian regime uses brute force to suppress its own protest movement). Iran's difficulty in enlisting broad popular support for Jerusalem Day in Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority territories (and to a

certain degree, Turkey as well) may be an indication of reservations held by those countries.

3) **The Iranian regime has not managed to overcome its negative image in the West**, even when Iran initiated an event allegedly meant to defend "Palestinian rights." Themes like "Death to Israel" and "Death to the United States" are usually not well received in the West even when they are marketed as "defending the human rights" of the Palestinians. In some Western countries, however, especially in Britain, the Iranians succeeded in joining forces with a number of organizations and activists hostile to Israel, although the number of participants in the events was not greater than in previous years (and perhaps even smaller). Prominent among the participants in Western countries were Muslims (and in some instances activists of Iranian origin and Shi'ite Muslims) who were not of particular interest to the Western media.

6. An initial summary of Jerusalem Day events in various countries follows:

## Iran

7. This year, as in previous years, World Jerusalem Day was marked with marches and rallies in Tehran and other cities throughout the country. According to the Iranian regime (as posted on the president's website), millions of Iranians participated in the events. However, in our assessment, their numbers reached tens or perhaps hundreds of thousands. This year as well, **high-ranking members of the Iranian regime** participated, among them politicians, the military and clerics. In Tehran the marchers held signs wishing invoking for the United States, Israel and Britain, and rd "Allahu Akbar, Khamenei is the Leader" (Fars News Agency, Iran, August 26, 2011). On the eve of Jerusalem Day Ahmadinejad said he oped that Jerusalem Day would bring about "**the elimination of the Zionist regime and the freedom of mankind from evils...**" (PressTV, August 23, 2011).

8. Iranian president Ahmadinejad participated in the main march in Tehran. Speaking before the Friday prayers were held in Tehran he said that **the objective of Jerusalem Day was the full destruction of the "Zionist regime."** He reiterated that the "liberation" of Jerusalem and support for the "resistance movement" [i.e., the terrorist organizations] would always be the number one priority of Iranian foreign policy. **He also insinuated anti-Semitic themes into his speech**, saying that "one of the big lies is the Holocaust fable" and that Zionism [i.e., the Jews] "ruled the West" (Mehr News Agency, August 26, 2011; the Iranian president's official website).

9. The **Iranian Revolutionary Guards** said in a statement for World Jerusalem Day that "Islamic awareness" and "the popular revolutions" in the region were the **prelude to the fall of the "Zionist regime of occupation" and a Palestinian victory** (ISNA, August 24,

2011). *Hojjat al-Eslam Ali Saeidi*, representative of the Supreme Leader to the Revolutionary Guards, said that **Iran viewed Hezbollah and Hamas as "Iran's border with Israel" and regarded all threats to them as direct threats to Iran's interests** (Mehr News Agency, August 26, 2011).

### Pictures from the Jerusalem Day events in Tehran



"Down with Israel" (From the [occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com](http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com) website)



Ahmadinejad mingles with the crowd. "Down with America" (From the [occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com](http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com) website)<sup>1</sup>



A swastika, a Star of David and President Barak Obama. Upper right: the Hezbollah flag (From the [occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com](http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com) website)

## The Palestinian Authority

10. In general, **there were no exceptional events** in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip on Jerusalem Day. In the Gaza Strip the various terrorist organizations marked the day with a demonstration.

11. **Nabil Abu Rudeina**, PA spokesman, responded to a declaration made by Iranian president Ahmadinejad, who that if the Palestinian appeal to the UN brought the liberation of the "Palestinian lands," **it would be step toward "the continuation of the resistance**

**and the liberation of more lands"**<sup>4</sup> (Al-Manar TV, August 24, 2011). Nabil Abu Rudeina said that such a statement helped the Israeli right wing, which objected to the Palestinian intention to appeal to the UN. He added that Ahmadinejad's declaration **cast doubt on the Palestinian intentions, the trustworthiness of the Palestinian commitment to the two-state solution based on the 1967 lines, and conflicted with the Arab peace initiative** (Wafa News Agency, August 27, 2011).

12. Regarding the situation on the ground, in the days before Jerusalem Day a group calling itself "Knocking on the Gates of Jerusalem" issued a call for demonstrations at the four compass points surrounding Jerusalem (including Qalandia) in response to Israel's policy of Judaizing Jerusalem and to stress that it would be the capital of the future Palestinian state and symbol of "national honor." Apparently, inspired by the call and activities planned for Jerusalem Week, a demonstration was held at Qalandia (north of Jerusalem). However, **the Palestinian media did not mention the demonstration at Qalandia or other friction points in connection with Iranian-inspired Jerusalem Day.**

## The Gaza Strip

13. The terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip held a march for Jerusalem Day. Most of the Palestinian organizations participated (Fatah apparently did not).



March in the Gaza Strip (Picture from the alquds.com website)

## Lebanon

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<sup>4</sup> Ahmadinejad was asked if Iran supported the Palestinian attempt to gain international recognition in the UN. He said it would, and that if it brought about the liberation of the "Palestinian lands" it would be an excellent move. He added that if a sovereign Palestinian government were established, it would mean "the continuation of the resistance [i.e., terrorism] and the liberation of more lands."

14. As usual, Jerusalem Day events were organized by Hezbollah. **The main event was a rally in Maroun al-Ras** in south Lebanon, near the Israeli border, attended by about a thousand people. Other events were held in Beirut, Nabatiyeh and Sidon (where there was a march during which the American and Israeli flags were burned), Bint Jbeil and the Beqaa Valley. All the events were **supervised by Hezbollah and were kept within control**.

15. At the main rally in Maroun al-Ras **Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah gave a speech projected onto a giant screen**. A large part of it was devoted to the Palestinian issue and the campaign against Israel. The main themes were the following:

1) **The determination to wage jihad to destroy Israel**: Nasrallah began by praising jihad and the so-called "resistance" [i.e., the use of terrorism]. He said that "Palestine" belonged to the Palestinians and the Islamic nation and that **"No one could cede an inch of Palestinian land**, nor even a drop of Palestinian water..."

2) **The Palestinian move in the UN**: He said that the establishment of "Palestine" based on the 1967 territory was a "Palestinian issue" and it was up to the Palestinian people to decide. However, he added, any Palestinian entity or state which was established on the basis of the 1967 borders **could not be "at the expense of the rest of Palestine, the rest of the land of Palestine...Our real ambition, all of us, is that the day will come when an independent Palestinian state is established from the [Mediterranean] sea to the [Jordan] river, and the state will be established, with the help of Allah..."**



Hassan Nasrallah speaks in Maroun al-Ras and calls for the destruction of Israel (Al-Manar TV, August 26, 2011)

3) **Praise for jihad and the so-called "resistance"** [i.e., terrorism]: The "occupation of Palestine" is the reason for the tragedy of the Palestinians, all the other people of the region and of the entire Islamic nation. Thus efforts must be focused on expelling the occupation, especially since there is no prospect of negotiation. He said that the Palestinian people again stated that **"its option is the option of resistance."** He said that **the "glorious" action in Eilat**, which "sent shock waves through the Zionist entity," **showed that the enemy was weak and the**

**Palestinian people were determined.** He said the Islamic nation had to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Palestinian people and support them.

4) **The current regional upheavals, especially those in Egypt, are very important for the Palestinian cause.** According to Nasrallah, the overthrow of Mubarak resulted in an important regional "strategic turning point." Proof of that was the "glorious action" in Eilat, where "jihad fighters from the Gaza Strip" responded with Katyusha rocket fire targeting the "settlements in south Palestine." The Israeli prime minister, he said, did not initiate a broad ground action against the Gaza Strip because he was afraid it would damage Israel's relations with Egypt, even though "Egypt did nothing, only hiccuped." Thus, he said, the Egyptian constraints on Israel will increase "if the Egyptian position gradually increases...and improves."

5) **Praise for the Syrian regime for its support of Hezbollah and the "resistance"** [i.e., the Palestinian terrorist organizations], adding that **"even a large portion of Iranian support passes through Syria."** He said he did not want to go into details, "so as not to embarrass the Syrian leadership," but that "it was **not only moral and political support**" [a broad hint that Iranian military support to Hezbollah is transported through Syria]. He said that "we all say we support the need for great, important reforms in Syria," but they have to be achieved through dialogue, "quiet measures," and without sectarian incitement. He quoted Bashar Assad, who said that the United States and the West wanted concessions from Syria, not reforms. Thus Nasrallah called **for support for Syria** so that it would not have to capitulate and would be able to "carry out reforms tranquilly and faithfully." **[Note:** The rest of the speech, which will not dealt with here, was devoted to internal Lebanese affairs.]

### Pictures from Jerusalem Day events in Lebanon



Mass Hezbollah demonstration in Maroun al-Ras  
(From the [occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com](http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)  
website)



The mass demonstration in Maroun al-Ras  
(Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)



Nasrallah's speech broadcast in Maroun al-Ras (Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)



An Al-Mahdi Scout (Hezbollah's youth movement) in Nabatiyeh carries a broken Star of David with a spider web in the center (a reference to Hassan Nasrallah's speech in which he compared Israeli society to a spider web (Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com))



March in Nabatiyeh: Khamenei, Khomeini and Hezbollah flags (Al-Manar TV, August 26, 2011)

## Syria

16. **Syrian Jerusalem Day events kept a low profile, in our assessment from the fear that they be exploited for anti-regime activity.** On August 26, the Palestinian terrorist organizations operating in Damascus held a modest rally in the Yarmouk refugee camp with the theme "**Jerusalem, the historical capital of Palestine from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea.**" The rally was attended by the Iranian ambassador to Syria and members of the Baath Party leadership. On August 24 the Iranian embassy in Damascus organized a modest event to mark Jerusalem Day.

17. The event in the Yarmouk refugee camp was **exploited by the Syrian regime for propaganda against the popular protests.** Baath leader **Yasser Huriya** gave a speech using Jerusalem Day as a platform to say that the Syrian regime would continue its reforms, which he claimed were already being implemented, "despite external pressure." **Ahmed Jibril**, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (a Palestinian terrorist organization run by the Syrian regime), also said that "external forces"

were plotting against Syria and planning to interfere with its position on the Palestinian cause.



The Jerusalem Day event in the Al-Yarmouk refugee camp (From the alwatan.sy website)

## Jordan

18. **The Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan boycotted the meal organized by the Iranian ambassador in Amman on August 26 to break the Ramadan fast.** They were joined by the Jordanian trade unions, politicians and media personnel. The reason given for the boycott was **Iranian support for the Syrian regime, which oppressed the civilian population** (Aljazeera.net and postjordan.com websites, August 27, 2011). A "top Islamic source" (possibly in the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan) denied any links with any elements involved in the "oppression of the Syrian people" (Aljazeera.net in Amman, August 27, 2011).

19. **Hamam al-Saeed**, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin who heads the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, merely issued a videoed announcement for Jerusalem Day posted on YouTube (August 20, 2011), in which he referred to the "theft of Palestine by the Jews." he said that the entire Muslim nation had to go forth with its armies and people to "liberate Jerusalem, impose Islam and expel the Jews."



Hamam Saeed, Muslim Brotherhood leader in Jordan, delivers a speech for Jerusalem Day (YouTube, August 20, 2011)

## Jerusalem Day events in other Arab states

### Yemen



Setting fire to the Israeli flag in Sanaa  
(Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)



Burning the Israeli flag in Sanaa  
(Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)



The demonstration in Sanaa  
(Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)



Masses of anti-Saleh protesters at Change Square in Yemen's capital on World Jerusalem Day (Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)

### Iraq

20. A relatively small demonstration was held in **Baghdad** in Al-Firdaws Square. It was **organized by supporters of Shi'ite leader Muqtada al-Sadr**, who heads the Mahdi Army militia, and other Iraqi Shi'ite groups affiliated with Iran. There were also demonstrations in Shi'ite districts throughout Iraq, attended by hundreds of people.



Baghdad children hold pictures of Khamenei and Muhammad Baqr al-Hakim (a Shi'ite ayatollah exiled under Saddam Hussein who returned to Iraq after the fall of the regime and was killed in a terrorist attack in Najaf (Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)



The demonstration in Baghdad's Al-Firdaws Square (Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website)

## Muslim countries

### Turkey

21. Jerusalem Day events in Turkey were organized by **radical Islamist organizations** which united into the so-called Jerusalem Day Forum. The Islamist IHH participated but remained on the sidelines, leaving the leadership to radical Islamist organizations such as Ozgur-der<sup>5</sup> and Mazlum-der,<sup>6</sup> which collaborate with IHH and **whose operatives participated in the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla.**

22. In our assessment, despite the great organizational efforts invested by the Islamist groups, the Jerusalem Day events in Turkey did not impact on general public consciousness. They were held at the height of summer and the enthusiasm following the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla was absent. [Note: The demonstration against the Syrian regime held in the heart of Istanbul on August 29 attracted a larger audience.] The national Turkish media did not extensively cover the events and most reports were issued by Islamist newspapers and websites.

23. The focus of Jerusalem Day events this year, as it is every year, was **Istanbul**:

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<sup>5</sup> **Ozgur-der**: An organization whose radical Islamist ideology is similar to that of IHH. It provides assistance to Muslims around the world, including in Afghanistan, Egypt and Lebanon. Three passengers aboard the *Mavi Marmara* belonged to Ozgur-der.

<sup>6</sup> **Mazlum-der**: Mazlum-der was founded in 1991 and **considered the strongest and best-organized human rights organization in Turkey**. In the past it was also suspected of being a front for an extremist Muslim organization. Under the previous Turkish government it was subjected to monitoring and searches, its branches were closed and the Turkish attorney general's office initiated legal proceedings. The organization's activists participated in the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla.

1) **The main event was held in Beyazit Square** and attended by several hundred people, who carried anti-Israeli, anti-American and anti-British signs ("Curses on America," "Curses on Israel," "Israel must disappear"). The traditional ceremony of burning American and Israeli flags was also held. Signs were waved in support of Hezbollah ("We are all Hezbollah," "We salute the resistance of Hezbollah and Hamas"), as were pictures of dead terrorist operatives ("shadeeds") from both organizations. The event was organized by Mehmet Shahin, formerly a member of the Turkish parliament, and a member of the IHH leadership.

2) **A panel discussion was held in the community center in the Bagcilar** neighborhood with the participation of **Nour al-Din Shirin**, who edits the Islamist website Verfecr. Nour al-Din Shirin is an anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic, anti-American Islamist journalist who supports the Iranian regime. He organized a Turkish delegation to Jordan for Nakba Day (May 15, 2011), whose The members of the delegation confronted the Jordanian security forces near the Allenby Bridge. At the discussion he gave a speech emphasizing the "strategic importance" of Jerusalem for the Muslim world and said he expected a "defeat of the Zionist forces."

3) **A demonstration was held near the Zeynebiye mosque** in which between 100 and 200 people participated. It is located in the Halkali suburb of western Istanbul where many devout Muslims from eastern Turkey live. The demonstrators held pictures of the *Mavi Marmara* "shaheeds" and waved Palestinian, Hamas and Hezbollah flags. They also carried signs against the king of Saudi Arabia.

24. **Other events held in Turkey included the following:**

1) On August 26 a (poorly attended) demonstration was held in front of the Israeli embassy in **Ankara**. It was organized by Ozgur-der and members of the local IHH branch and activists from other Islamist organizations participated.

2) In **Bursa** there was a Jerusalem Day event where Nour al-Din Shirin gave a speech.

3) In **Diyarbakir**, in southeastern Turkey, events were organized by the Jerusalem Day Forum. The organizers enlisted two *Mavi Marmara* passengers to encourage people to attend. A Hamas representative gave a speech.

## Pictures from Jerusalem Day in Turkey

### Istanbul's Beyazit Square



Hamas and Hezbollah flags; lower right corner, picture of Imad Mughniyeh (wearing cap)  
(From the velfecr.com website)



Demonstrators holding a picture of the late Imad Mughniyeh, Hezbollah's military-terrorist commander (Velfecr.com website)



Pictures of Khomeini and Khamenei; under them are pictures of the IHH operatives killed aboard the *Mavi Marmara* (Velfecr.com website)



Poster of the Jerusalem Day forum quoting Khomeini, who said "If each Muslim were to pour out [just] one bucket of water, there would be a flood to wash away Zionism"<sup>1</sup> (Velfecr.com website)



The banner reads "Jerusalem Day – The Islamic Resistance Day (Al-Quds Forum)" (Velfecr.com website)



The banner reads "Jews, remember Haybar, the army of Muhammad will return" (Velfecr.com website)



The red sign, upper right, reads "Israel will disappear soon;" the pictures to its left are Khomeini and Imad Mughniyeh (Velfecr.com website)



The IHH operatives killed aboard the *Mavi Marmara*. The banner reads "The end of Zionist Israel is near" (Velfecr.com website)



Pictures of high-ranking Hezbollah figures who were killed: Abbas Musawi and Imad Mughniyeh. Burning the Israeli flag: America and Britain to follow (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Burning the Israeli, American and British flags (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Demonstrators wave the Hezbollah and Hamas flags (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)

## Demonstration near the Zeynebiye mosque



The rally at the Zeynebiye mosque (From the zeynebiye.com website)



Sign calling the Saudi Arabian king a killer (zeynebiye.com)



Picture of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Behind it is a sign denouncing "Saudi killers...", only part of which can be read (zeynebiye.com)

## The panel discussion in the Bagcilar neighborhood



Nour al-Din Shirin. The picture propped up on the podium is Imad Mughniyeh.



Nour al-Din Shirin delivers a speech. Behind him is a poster of Abbas Musawi, Hezbollah leader before Hassan Nasrallah.





The large sign in the background at the left is of picture of shaheeds. It reads "We are at the wedding with death, [death is] garlanded with roses, fragile and quiet" (Velfecr.com website)



Demonstrators hold posters depicting Al-Aqsa mosque imprisoned within a Star of David (Velfecr.com website)

## Southeast Asia

### Pakistan



Pictures of Khomeini and Khamenei carried at a rally in Lahore



Shi'ite women march in Lahore carrying plastic rifles (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Burning the American flag during a march in Lahore (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Pakistani Shiite Muslims march during a rally against Israel and the United States... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Pakistani Shiite Muslims shout slogans during a rally against Israel and the United States... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Pakistani protesters burn Israeli and US flags during a rally to mark Al Quds Day in Hyderabad... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



People rally to mark "Al-Quds Day", Jerusalem Day, in Karachi, Pakistan ... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



People rally to mark "Al-Quds Day", Jerusalem Day, in Karachi, Pakistan... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Pakistani Shiite Muslims march during a rally against Israel ... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



A demonstration in Karachi  
(occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



A demonstration in Karachi  
(occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)

## Afghanistan

### Jerusalem Day protest in Kabul



Afghans hold up placards and the Palestine flag during a demonstration in solidarity with Palestinians and against Israel and the US in Kabul... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Afghan men wave Palestinian flags as they shout anti American slogans during a protest to mark Quds Day or Jerusalem Day in Kabul... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Afghan people holding placards wave Palestinian flags as they shout anti American slogans during a protest to mark Quds Day or Jerusalem Day in Kabul... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



An Afghan boy, center, shouts anti American slogans during a protest to mark Quds Day or Jerusalem Day in Kabul... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



Afghan girls hold posters showing Al Aqsa Mosque, during a protest to mark Quds Day or Jerusalem Day in Kabul... (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)

## Malaysia



Burning the Israeli flag  
(occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)

## Bangladesh

25. As part of Jerusalem Day events the Iranians held a "seminar" in the auditorium of the high court in Dacca. It was organized by the Iranian Cultural Center and the Iranian embassy in Bangladesh. During the seminar the ambassador from Palestine, Shaher Muhammad, called on Bangladesh's government and people to support the Palestinian appeal for membership in the United Nations. No official government representative was present, for the first time since Bangladesh received independence (Weeklyblitz.net website). After the seminar Israeli and American flags were burned in the streets of Dacca **under the aegis of the Iranian and Palestinian embassies. Both the seminar and the flag-burning were widely covered by Bangladesh's media** (ibid).

26. In addition, prayers were held for the Palestinian people at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Muslim clerics delivered vicious sermons against Israel in the presence of a crowd of at least 75,000 people who had gathered for the prayers of the last Friday of Ramadan (Weeklyblitz.net website)



Demonstration in Bangladesh  
(occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)

## Indonesia



Indonesian Muslim women wave a large Palestinian flag during an anti-Israel protest in Jakarta  
(occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)



The demonstration in Jakarta  
(occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)

## India



Shiite Muslims protest against U.S. and Israel during a rally to mark Quds day in Jammu, India, Friday, Aug. 26, 2011.  
(occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com)

## Africa

27. Jerusalem Day events were held in Ghana, Nigeria and possibly other African countries.

## Nigeria

28. Jerusalem Day events were held in a number of Nigerian cities, attended by Islamic activists. Hezbollah flags were waved and there were signs reading "Death to Israel."



March in Kaduna (Facebook.com)



Hezbollah flags at the rally in Zaria (Facebook.com)



The rally in Kaduna (Facebook.com)



The rally in Kaduna (Facebook.com)



The march in Kano, attended by hundreds of Nigerians (Facebook.com)

## Europe

### Britain



Strong anti-Israeli incitement in Trafalgar Square at London's central Jerusalem Day event (Richard Millett's Blog, August 21, 2011).

### Overview

29. Jerusalem Day events in Britain focused on **London**, where there was a march and a rally was held in Trafalgar Square. A conference was supposed to be held in **Birmingham**. The events were organized by an anti-Israeli British organization called the **Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC)**. The London event was held on August 21, five days before the official Jerusalem Day date.

30. The London march and rally were attended by **radical Islamic organizations** joined by elements affiliated with the radical left.<sup>7</sup> This year the number of participants was **apparently smaller than in previous years**,<sup>8</sup> and was not well-covered by either the British or the foreign media. This year, however, the event's **radical nature was particularly conspicuous: the slogans, as in Tehran, explicitly called for the destruction of the State of Israel** ("Israel Must Be Destroyed"), **there was blatant solidarity with Hezbollah** (yellow Hezbollah flags were waved and there were signs reading "We are all Hizbullah") and **there was support for Hamas and terrorism methods** (the "resistance").

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7 For further information about the organizations, see the August 14, 2011 bulletin "August 14, 2011 ITIC bulletin "Jerusalem Day, marked on August 26 this year, is an annual Iranian-sponsored event in support of the Palestinian cause. The Iranian regime expects extensive participation in events in Iran, the Arab-Muslim world and the West (including the United States and Britain). The events are traditionally exploited for anti-Israeli antiWest incitement" at [http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam\\_multimedia/English/eng\\_n/pdf/iran\\_e127.pdf](http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/pdf/iran_e127.pdf).

8 IHRC, which organized the rally, claimed that there were 6,000 participants and that it was the largest rally ever held (IHRC website). **In our assessment their estimation was an exaggeration.**

31. **The slogans and signs exposed the basic worldview of the rally participants – Islamic organizations, some of which call themselves "human rights organizations," and extreme left-wing groups. They are engaged in the campaign to delegitimize Israel and joined forces for Jerusalem Day, whose theme is the destruction of the State of Israel. Note that many organizations participating the delegitimization campaign are usually careful not to state explicitly that their objective is to destroy it.** In many instances they use vague slogans, **some of them from the lexicon of the human rights organizations**, which are accepted readily by British public opinion (the call to destroy Israel is not considered politically correct) or because they do not want to difficulties with the British law-enforcement agencies.

### **A sample of Jerusalem Day speeches**

32. There were various speakers at the Trafalgar Square rally. Among them were Massoud Shadjareh, IHRC head, who organized the rally, and representatives from various other organizations (most of the radical Islamic). There were also representatives from anti-Zionist Orthodox Jewish organizations and from groups involved in the campaign to boycott Israel (BDS).

33. Remarks from two of the speakers:

1) One of the speakers was **Lauren Booth**, half-sister of Cherie Blair (wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair). She is an anti-Israeli activist, participated in the August 2008 flotilla to the Gaza Strip (and was banned from entering both Egypt and Israel). In October 2010 **she announced she had converted to Islam**. A journalist and broadcaster, **today she works for Press TV, Iran's English TV network**. In her speech she denounced what she referred to as "Israel's crimes," called them "criminal injustice against humanity" and shouted for "Liberate Al-Quds" and "March to Al-Quds." She supported Hamas and its so-called "right" to carry out terrorist attacks: "And I want to remind everybody here who Hamas is. They are the elected government that the Gaza people elected **and they have a right to resist an occupation**. This is a right under international law, and **I say we back your resistance!** (Crowd cheers). **You resist! Do not stay in your homes and die under those bombs!** For we are not cowards, **we are Muslims!** And you will not kill us anymore without feeling the vengeance of the people that you oppress! (Crowd cheers and shouts "Allahu Akbar") (YouTube, Richard Millet's blog) [ITIC emphasis].



Lauren Booth speaks at the Jerusalem Day rally in Trafalgar Square

2) Another was Dr. Abd al-Wahid, representative of the so-called Liberation Party in Britain.<sup>9</sup> He spoke in **praise of jihad** and said that the prophet Muhammad encouraged jihad against despots. He spoke in **support of the "resistance fighters"** [i.e., terrorists] who were waging jihad on Israel to "liberate" their lands, but also said that in the end "Palestine" would eventually be "liberated" only by the regular armies of one or more of the states bordering Israel: "It needs one of those states, some of those stats, around **to release their armies to liberate that land and then truly**, by Allah truly, then that region will see peace like it had in the past" (Hurryupharry.org website). He referred to the terrorist operatives killed by the IDF in the latest round of escalation in the Gaza Strip "shaheeds," and he said he was confident that one day Jerusalem would be named for the Muslim who liberated it, just as Trafalgar Square, where the rally was being held, was named for [the battle won by] Admiral Nelson.



Abd al-Wahid speaks at the Jerusalem Day rally in Trafalgar Square

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<sup>9</sup> **The Liberation Party (Hizbut Tahrir) is a radical Islamic party which is anti-Israeli, anti-Zionist.** It was founded in East Jerusalem in 1953 and supports the return to the Islam of the first generations through the reeducation of the masses. Is in favor of a return to the Caliphate. The party has branches throughout the Arab-Muslim world and in Western countries. It does not have a terrorist wing but has served as a hothouse for radical Islamic activists who were its members and transferred to activities in violent networks.

**Hatred for Israel and solidarity with Hezbollah: Pictures from the Trafalgar Square rally**

**(from Richard Millet's blog)**





## Other European countries

### France

34. A demonstration was held in **Paris** with poor participation, apparently mostly Muslim. There were shouts (in Arabic) of "Faithful to the blood of the shaheeds" and "Allahu Akbar" (YouTube).



Picture held sideways at the right: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Hamas founder and leader, carried by a demonstrator in Paris (YouTube)

## Germany

35. In **Berlin** a march and rally were held, both heavily guarded by police. It was **attended by about 600 people**, the overwhelming majority of whom were Muslim, some of them apparently of Turkish origin. It was also attended by **Neturei Karta Orthodox Jews**. Slogans were shouted and signs were held reading "Israel is a terrorist," "Israel is not a Jewish state," and "Allahu Akbar." There were also signs encouraging a boycott of Israel, Hezbollah flags were waved and there were pictures of Khomeini and Khamenei.

36. **A pro-Israeli demonstration was held on the outskirts of the rally, the initiative of the local Jewish community. There were about 400 demonstrators**, including Iranian exiles, as well as two leftist German politicians.<sup>10</sup> They expressed solidarity with Israel, called for the liberation of the Gaza Strip from Hamas, called for the liberation of abducted IDF soldier Gilad Shalit, and expressed opposition to anti-Semitism and radical Islam.

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<sup>10</sup> Jpost.com website.

## Pictures from the march and rally in Berlin



Hezbollah flag (Iran's PressTV, August 27, 2011)



Photo from the rally (Iran's PressTV, August 27, 2011)



Call to boycott Israel (Iran's PressTV, August 27, 2011)



Representatives from Neturei Karta who participated in the rally (Iran's PressTV, August 27, 2011)

## Russia

37. A demonstration was held in **Moscow** which, according to claims of Iranian sources, was attended by several hundred people (The number cannot be verified.) (Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website).

## Norway

38. A march and rally were held in **Oslo**. They were apparently attended by several hundred people, most of them Muslims (Occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com website).



The march in Oslo (YouTube)

### The United States

39. Jerusalem Day events were held in a number of American cities. **The main events were a march and rally in New York's Times Square.** According to the rally's Facebook page, 774 people announced their participation. However, according to the photographs and audience participation in chanting slogans, in our assessment, **there were several dozen.** In other cities as well, for instance Chicago, attendance was also limited.

40. At the Times Square rally Israel was referred to as a "genocide" state, Zionism was equated with racism and apartheid, and the Israeli security fence was called the "Israeli apartheid wall." Signs were also carried denouncing the "War criminals of Syria," a phenomenon not found at any other Jerusalem Day demonstration.

### Pictures from the Facebook page of the New York City rally





41. One of the speakers was **Ali Naqvi**, an activist from a group calling itself the **Al-Quds Committee**, which organized the events in the United States and other countries. His main themes were the following:

1) Defense of the Palestinian "right" to "self defense" and **justification of the "resistance"** [i.e., violence and terrorism] he claimed existed under the "occupation." He repeated the slogan, chanted by the crowd, "**Resistance is justified when people are occupied.**"

2) **Support for the "right" of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to choose their own government and leaders** [i.e., a hint at Hamas, designated by the United States as a terrorist organization]. It is ridiculous, he said, for the United States to tell the Gazans whom they can elect to office. The crowd, which, judging by the number of voices, was quite small, then chanted "No justice, no peace, US out of the Middle East."

3) **A call for a consumer boycott of products made by companies such as Coca Cola, McDonald's and Starbucks** (companies on the BDS list because of their relations with Israel), including the chant "Not a nickel not a dime, Israel out of Palestine," somehow connected to the issue.

4) **Support for the one-state [i.e., "Palestine"] "solution" and "the dismantling of the Zionist state."** He said that "We have full confidence that the South African model of the peaceful dismantling the apartheid state could be replicated with apartheid Israel." (ITIC emphasis).



Ali Naqvi: "Dismantle the apartheid state" (YouTube)

42. Other speakers included:

1) **Rabbi Yoel Loub, from Neturei Karta:** He said "the creation of the Zionist state was a rebellion against God" and that the Zionists were the "root cause [sic] of all the problems in the Middle East today." He called on God for "the dismantlement of of the so-called State of Israel," and was joined by the crowd in the the chant "Judaism yes, Zionism no, the State of Israel must go." **He also claimed that during the Holocaust Zionist Jews wanted "authentic" Jews to die so they could establish the Zionist state.**



Rabbi Yoel Loub: "Zionist is rebellion against God" (YouTube)

2) **Rahmah Zarrin**: She claimed to have participated in the Viva Palestina convoy in October 2010. she said that the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla was a "peaceful flotilla" of "humanitarians" who were "attacked" by Israel in international waters. She called for the end of the blockade of the Gaza Strip and for the flotillas to continue.



**Rahmah Zarrin (YouTube)**

3) **Maulana Agha Mehdi**: Introduced as a resident scholar and Imam at New Jersey's Bait e Wali il-Asr mosque. He called for the end to the "apartheid" and claimed that the houses of the Palestinians had turned into concentration camps, just like under the Nazis. He also claimed that the "Arab spring" was a "Muslim spring" and shouted "Allahu Akbar." The chant was taken up by the audience.



**Maulana Agha Mehdi (YouTube)**

4) **Mauri Saalakhani**, director of the Peace and Justice Foundation: He has written several books about Islam, and received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prize in 1995. He claimed that "**genocide**" and "**ethnic cleansing**" were being carried out in "**occupied Palestine**," financed by American dollars. He quoted Iranian President Ahmadinejad ("may Allah preserve him") and **George Galloway**, British anti-American pro-Hamas activist who heads Viva Palestina, and **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**.



**Mauri Saalakhan (YouTube)**