



## Nazism in Palestinian society and the use of Nazi symbols

October 26, 2021

### Overview



- On **August 14, 2021**, Palestinians from the village of Bayta held a demonstration near the outpost of Eviatar in Samaria. The outpost was evacuated in July 2021, but as part of the agreement with the Israeli government, the land is still controlled by the IDF, an issue which is currently being examined by the Civilian Authority. During they demonstration they ignited rags soaked in kerosene forming a swastika inside a Magen David.
- It was a display planed in advance by the Palestinians, who prepared it, brought it to the location of the demonstration and set it on fire, part of the night harassment units' activities to protest the establishment of the outpost. **The Palestinian Authority (PA) and Fatah support such demonstrations and always deliberately ignored such displays.** Videos of the display and the demonstrators, including children, holding torches, were uploaded to the social networks and broadcast by Hamas' al-Quds TV.
- On **September 25, 2021**, Israeli soldiers uploaded a video to the social networks showing a Nazi flag hanging from the power lines on the outskirts of the Palestinian village of Bayt

Umar, near Hebron. Several hours later an IDF force arrived and shot the flag down. A Nazi flag was also flown in Bayt Umar in July 2014.



**Right: Nazi swastika flag in Bayt Umar (social networks, September 25, 2021). Left: Nazi swastika flag on the outskirts of Bayt Umar (picture by Avraham Weiss for Tazpit News Agency, July 6, 2014).**

► On **October 22, 2021**, swastikas were painted on a roadblock on the Hawwara road, south of Nablus (Twitter account of Zvi Sukkot, October 22, 2021).



**Swastikas spray-painted on a the concrete blocks of the roadblock (Twitter account of Zvi Sukkot, October 22, 2021).**

► On **June 29, 2021**, a Palestinian child attending a Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) military training camp (the Palestinian version of summer camp) in the Gaza Strip was interviewed for the organization's al-Quds al-Yawm TV station. To the Jews he said, "**We asked Hitler why he left some of you alive.** He did it to show how wicked you are. We will come for you from under the ground to spread terror in your hearts and above the ground we will mangle your bodies with our rockets. Go run to your shelters, you mice, you sons of Jewish women."



Camper at a PIJ training camp (MEMRI, June 29, 2021).

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<https://www.memri.org/tv/islamic-jihad-summer-camp-not-enjoy-play-sacrifice-tear-jews-bodies-rockets>

► Such events reflect the Palestinian attitude, including the government's official attitude, towards Nazism and its link to Jews and Zionism. Generally speaking, it has five aspects:

- ◆ **Defaming the Jews: It is possible to understand Hitler and the Nazis**, because the [Ashkenazi] Jews [in Europe] were so detestable and loathsome the Europeans tried to get rid of them. Hitler did not kill all the Jews so that people who came after him, such as the Palestinians, could see for themselves that the Jews were inherently evil, **understand and perhaps justify the Nazis' actions**. On occasion Mahmoud Abbas uses Nazi themes in his speeches without specifically referring to Nazis.<sup>1</sup> **Over the past decade Nazi themes such as the glorification of Hitler have appeared in children's books published in the PA and on the official Fatah Facebook page**. In some instances, as happened recently in the Gaza Strip, the themes are used as a call to the Palestinians to finish what Hitler started. The message is plainly sent to the Palestinian target audience but downplayed and glossed over for foreign consumption.
- ◆ **The claim that Israel acts like Nazi Germany: Israel is accused of treating the Palestinians exactly or almost exactly as the Nazis treated the Jews**. Zionism is the new Nazism (and the new apartheid), and the Palestinians are the new victims. The victims of Nazi racism have become Nazi racists themselves. That is the message sent

<sup>1</sup> At the Palestinian National Council meeting on April 30, 2018, Mahmoud Abbas gave a long speech he called a "history lesson," in which he claimed that the European Jews' social activities, banking and high-interest money-lending were why they were hated. He used similar themes at a meeting of the PLO's Central Council on January 14, 2018, claiming the State of Israel was a Western colonial settlement project backed by Christian countries that hated Jews and wanted to get rid of them, and the desire of the colonial powers to spread fear throughout the Arab world.

by senior Palestinian figures, the Palestinian media and the many demonstrations, including the one held near the evacuated outpost of Eviatar. Senior Fatah figure **Jibril Rajoub**, who is a possible replacement for Mahmoud Abbas, repeatedly calls the Jews "the new Nazis." The message is aimed at people overseas who are unaware of the actual facts, and resonates with the left, including its anti-Semites, around the world. The claims have two objectives, one to delegitimize the existence of Israel as a Jewish state, and the other to represent the Palestinians as the new victims of contemporary Nazism in order to enlist international support.

◆ **The claim that the Zionists were Nazi collaborators: The Palestinians accuse the Zionists of collaborating with the Nazis, helping them establish their regime and even kill Jews**, in the belief that it would cause the Jews of Europe to emigrate to Israel [sic] to escape the fate awaiting them.<sup>2</sup> That twisted claim was the basis for Mahmoud Abbas' PhD thesis, "The ties between Nazism and Zionism, 1935-1942," and his book, *The Other Face: the Secret Relation between the Nazis and the Zionist Movement*, a reworking of his doctoral dissertation. Its main theme is "Zionism, the beginning and the end." According to Mahmoud Abbas, the many attempts made by Zionists to utilize and manipulate Nazism to increase the willingness of the Ashkenazi Jews in Europe to emigrate to Israel, i.e., Mandatory Palestine, had little success. The source of the theme was apparently Russian communist propaganda from the 1950s and '60s.

◆ **Accusations that Israel cynically exploits the Holocaust: Israel's objective, according to the Palestinians, is to justify its positions and policies, and enlist international support.** The Holocaust was admittedly terrible but Israel exaggerates it, and in any case the Palestinians and Arabs had no part in it. Therefore they should not have to suffer at the hands of the Zionists because the Jews suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

◆ **The adoption of Nazi symbols to show Palestinian hatred of the Jews: The Palestinians have adopted the swastika and the Nazi salute**, and examples of such practices surface from time to time. **Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem at the time and an ardent opponent of Zionism, collaborated with the**

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<sup>2</sup> The Nazis rose to power in the 1930s, the State of Israel was declared in 1948.

**Nazis and met with Hitler**, a fact rarely mentioned in the Palestinian narrative, but neither criticized nor expressed with remorse.

► It is difficult to assess how widespread or deeply ingrained such ideas are within Palestinian society or in Palestinian political circles. Even the most limited and mild attempts to challenge them are met with sharp criticism. For example, the vehicle of **Professor Muhammad Dajani Daoudi**, who visited Auschwitz in 2014, was torched, he received death threats, the university he taught at, the al-Quds University in the PA, shirked all responsibility and he was forced to flee to the United States. No Palestinian politician came to his defense. The five aspects noted above are part and parcel of the policy of indoctrination and incitement to hatred of Zionists implemented by the PA and most of the Palestinian organizations, and all fit the definition of anti-Semitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

## Appendix

### The use of Nazi symbols by Palestinians



**Former Israeli Prime Minister photoshopped into an SS uniform (official Fatah Facebook page, January 15, 2021).**



**An incendiary balloon bearing a swastika, launched from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory (IDF spokesman, April 20, 2018).**

► On **September 2, 2020**, Issa Qaraqe, former head of the PLO's commission for **prisoners' and released prisoners' affairs**, wrote an article for the east Jerusalem-based Palestinian daily newspaper al-Quds entitled "Prisoner Maher Yunis, imprisoned in the Israeli country of Auschwitz." He claimed Zionism had allied itself with Nazism and the Israelis were the new Nazis. There was no difference, he claimed, between the SS and the IDF because the

"Israeli country of Auschwitz has camps and carried out a 'holocaust' against the Palestinian people" (MEMRI, November 19, 2020).



**Issa Qaraqe (MEMRI, November 19, 2020).**

► Shortly before **January 27, 2020**, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, **Dr. Khalil Nizal, secretary of the Fatah branch in Poland**, wrote an article for the PA daily newspaper al-Hayat al-Jadeeda. On the one hand, he said, he recognized the terrible suffering of the Jews in Europe, and himself disagreed with the crimes perpetrated by the Nazis against them, but on the other, not only the Jews of Europe suffered, and during the Second World War other terrible crimes were committed, such as dropping the atom bomb on Japan, the destruction of Warsaw in 1944 and the rape of German women by the soldiers of the armies [sic] that invaded Berlin. He claimed Israel, i.e. "the occupation," unjustly and illegally claimed the pain of the Jews during the Holocaust for itself and exploited it as an excuse for the injustice of the *nakba* (catastrophe) of the Palestinian people under the aegis of the continuing silence of the West, fed by Western guilt over the crimes of the Holocaust. He suggested to those who claim the number of Holocaust victims was less than six million that they stop, only to use facts "from research," arguing that Israel inflates the number of victims to extort the world and enforce its policies. Finally, he protested that the Palestinian people, which did not take part in the Second World War, had to pay the price of the crimes committed in Europe against many people, especially the Jews (MEMRI, February 13, 2020).



Dr. Khalil Nizal (MEMRI, February 13, 2020).

► On **January 18, 2020**, five days before the Fifth World Holocaust Forum was held in Jerusalem, the PA's official newspaper, al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, published an article **Yahya Rabat, a senior Fatah figure in the Gaza Strip**, who regularly writes a column for the paper. He called on Palestinians to carry out terrorist attacks to disrupt the Forum and cause its cancellation. He wrote that "one shot will disrupt the [opening] ceremony and one [dead] body will cancel it" (MEMRI, January 21, 2021).



The article by Yahya Rabah in al-Hayat al-Jadeeda (MEMRI, January 18, 2020).



**Cover of Nazi children's book reprinted by Fatah: "Don't trust a fox or a Jew!" (official Fatah Facebook page, October 29, 2015).**

► The official Fatah Facebook page posted pictures of the mass graves of the Second World War accompanied by a text claimed as "genuine." According to the text, the Jews willingly and enthusiastically agreed to bury Russian prisoners alive in order to save their own lives. A Nazi soldier purportedly said to the Russians, "I just wanted you to know who the Jews are and why we kill them!"



**Pictures reprinted by Fatah (official Fatah Facebook page, February 27, 2019).**

► During Operation Protective Edge (2014), the PA and Fatah actively defamed the memory of the Holocaust by repeatedly equating the measures taken by Israel against Hamas with the Nazi genocide of the Jews (Palestine Media Watch, August 18, 2014).

► **Jibril Rajoub, secretary of Fatah's Central Committee**, customarily and often uses anti-Semitic themes and references to Nazism when relating to Jews and Zionism:

- ◆ Interviewed by al-Andalou News on **March 8, 2021**, he discussed the decision of the International Criminal Court to begin an investigation of Israel for war crimes. He said the decision was "important" because it "**shocked the new Nazis in Israel.**" He claimed that "Israel is carrying out a holocaust against the Palestinian people, killing, destroying buildings, taking over land and detaining [Palestinians]" (al-Andalou News, March 8, 2021).
- ◆ Interviewed by al-Shahad TV in Kuwait on **January 20, 2021**, he said it was the first time an American body was dealing with "the right-wing fascist approach" of Netanyahu, who [allegedly] reflected the ugly faces of Mussolini and Hitler and who did not recognize the right of the Palestinian people to its own land or its right to exist or its right to self-determination. He also called the events in "Palestine" a "second holocaust." He claimed there were 14 million [sic] Palestinians who had been evicted and cut off geographically, historically, personally, religiously and culturally. However, now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it was impossible to carry out a slaughter as it had been in the 1940s. He also stated there were objections to the Jewish-Israeli narrative which represented [the Israelis] as the victims of the conflict with the Palestinians, but they were the criminals, the killers and degenerates who were doing to the Palestinians what had been done to the Jews [in the Holocaust] (al-Shahad TV, Kuwait, January 20, 2021).
- ◆ Interviewed by Palestinian TV on **February 2, 2021**, he said that "No one will agree that Netanyahu should continue to dictate to the world with the excuse of the Holocaust while the Palestinians experience the holocaust of this century" (Palestinian TV, February 2, 2021).
- ◆ Interviewed by the Voice of Palestine radio on **July 22, 2018**, he discussed the tension on the Temple Mount and the increase in the number of Jewish visitors, saying, "It is all part of the new Nazi rule in the shadow of the political racism of the occupation government, which has no relation to international law (Ramallah News, July 22, 2018).
- ◆ Regarding Operation Protective Edge, on **July 14, 2021**, he said, "Never before has there been such an attack, not in 2012, not in 2008, not in all our history – that [the Israeli occupation] would dare to carry out mass destruction [in the Gaza Strip] like

what the Nazis did in Europe in the 1940s, and the world is silent...We'll see them say it is one percent of what Hitler did, right? Watch them say it. Let's see them admit that they are doing to the Palestinians, forgive me for saying this, what Hitler did to them" (Palestine Media Watch, August 18, 2021).



Jibril Rajoub on Palestinian TV (al-Awda, an independent Palestinian TV channel, July 14, 2021).

## Nazism in Palestinian educational institutions

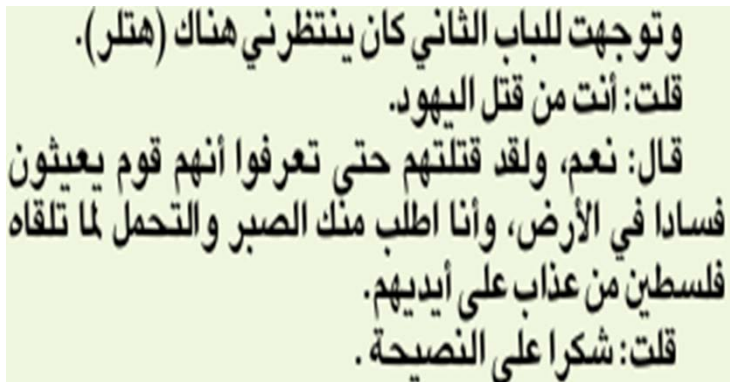
► The official Facebook pages of several PA schools posted quotes from Hitler, the same things said by a Palestinian child in a PIJ summer training camp. For example, the Facebook page of Anabta high school in Tulkarm quoted Hitler as saying "**I could kill all the Jews in the world but I left a few so that the world would know why I killed them.**" The quote was accompanied by a picture of Hitler, and a similar quote was posted to the Facebook page of the Intaba girls' high school in Tulkarm.



Facebook pages of PA schools in Tulkarm with pictures and quotations from Hitler.

► The **February 2011** issue of the children's and adolescents' magazine Zayzafoona, published with PLO backing and funded by the PA, printed a story by a girl in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade who described a dream in which she met four figures worthy of admiration. The contribution of each was described and each one gave the girl advice. They were al-Khwarizmi, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Persian Muslim mathematician; Naguib Mahfouz, an Egyptian author; Salah al-Din al-

Ayoubi, a 12<sup>th</sup> century Muslim leader; and Adolf Hitler. The girl wrote, "I saw before me four white doors...I opened the first...I asked, 'Who are you?' He answered, 'I am Khwarizmi.' I said, 'Was it you who invented mathematics and arithmetic?' ...I opened the second door and Hitler was waiting for me. I said, 'Were you the one who killed the Jews?' He said, 'Yes, so that you would know they are a people who sow the earth with destruction and I ask you for patience for the suffering they cause Palestine.' I said, 'Thank you for the advice...' "



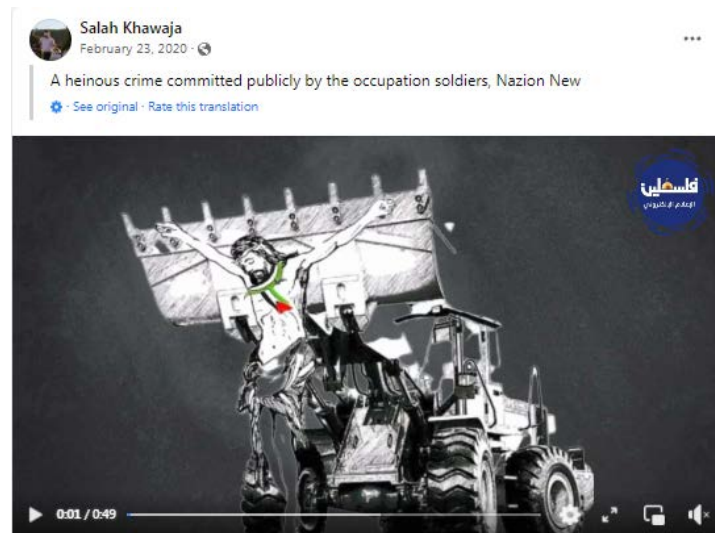
Right: Front page. Left: "The young girl's dream."



Palestinian students from al-Quds University raise their arms in the "Sieg Heil!" Nazi salute, November, 2013.

► On **February 23, 2020**, a Palestinian Facebook user named Salah Khawaja posted a video from Palestinian TV showing of the evacuation of the body of Muhammad al-Na'am from a site near the border security fence in the Gaza Strip. The body was evacuated with the shovel of a bulldozer.<sup>3</sup> Khawaja wrote, "A heinous crime committed publicly by the occupation soldiers, Nazion New" (Facebook page of Salah Khawaja, February 23, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> On the morning of February 23, 2020, IDF forces identified two Palestinians who approached the border security fence in the southern Gaza Strip, east of Khan Yunis. The two placed an IED near the fence. The IDF forces shot and killed one, wounding the other, who was evacuated by Palestinians to the Gaza Strip (IDF spokesman, February 23, 2020). The Palestinian media reported that an IDF bulldozer entered the site, loaded the body of the terrorist and took it to Israel "in a humiliating manner" (Shehab, Palinfo, the Facebook page of Palestinian journalist Muthana al-Najar, February 23,



From the Facebook page of Salah Khawaja, February 23, 2020.

► **Mazin Qusmiyeh, a prominent activist in the campaign to delegitimize Israel,** and founder of al-Awda, the Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, called IDF soldiers "Zio-Nazis."



From a video in which a child is injured, Facebook page of Mazin Qusmiyeh, April 10 2021.

**Click for Video**

**<https://www.facebook.com/mazin.qusmiyeh.9/posts/10159049897526181>**

► **Salim Assi, a Palestinian cartoonist living in Denmark,** drew a cartoon showing Angela Merkel as a Nazi supporting the "Nazi Zionist" regime against the Gaza Strip.

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2020). The IDF reported that the body was removed by armored bulldozer out of concern that during its removal the Palestinians would detonate an IED by remote control. According to reports, an armored bulldozer had entered the location guarded by a tank and secured by additional forces when the body was removed (Haaretz, February 23, 2020). The incident was an excuse for several days of escalated violence initiated by the PIJ.



**Angela Merkel. The Star of David replaced by a swastika (Facebook page of Salim Assi, May 20, 2021).**

► On **September 9, 2021**, three days after the six terrorist prisoners escaped from the Gilboa Prison in northern Israel, The Palestinian Commission of Detainees' Affairs issued a report entitled "Nazi crimes in Naqab (Ktziot) prison and the detainee's [sic] burn down prison cells," describing the [alleged] running of the prison and calling for an international community to put and end to the crimes.

**Report on the Ktziot Prison (website of the Commission of Detainees' Affairs, September 9, 2021).**



Right: Picture attached to the report. Left: The logo of the Commission of Detainees' Affairs (Commission website, September 9, 2021).



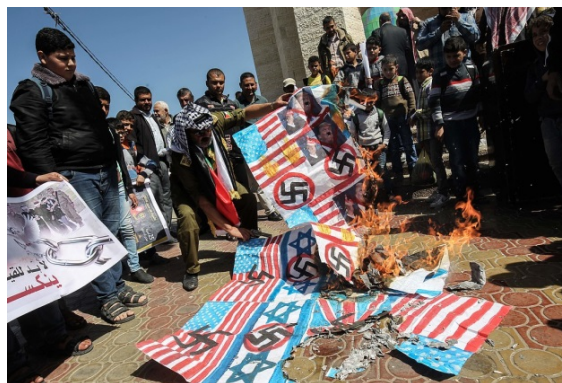
Fatah operatives raise their arms in the Nazi salute during a "military" march commemorating the anniversary of Arafat's death, November 2013.

## Using the swastika in demonstrations in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip

► The swastika is a popular symbol in Palestinian demonstrations against Israel held in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. From time to time during the 2018-2019 return marches at the Gaza Strip border flags with swastikas were waved by demonstrators. Incendiary balloons marked with swastikas were also launched into Israeli territory, either to send Israel the message it embodied the new Nazism or as a threat.



**Right: Palestinian flag and swastika during a return march near the Gaza Strip border security fence (IDF spokesman, August 2, 2019). Left: Palestinian flag and swastika painted near the border security fence (Twitter account of Ofir Gendelman, April 6, 2018)**



**Demonstration in Rafah protesting the Israel and United States, particularly Trump (Palestine al-'An, Palinfo, March 7, 2018).**



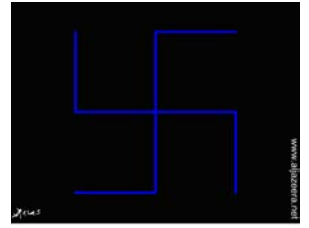
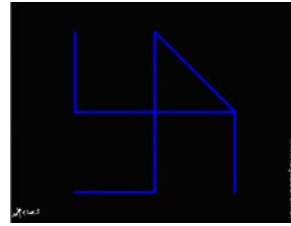
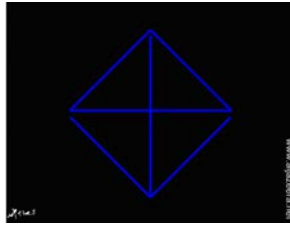
**March in Bethlehem protesting the relocation of the United States embassy to Jerusalem. The inscription on the flag reads, "Zionism=Nazism-fascism. USA=ISIS=Terror." The picture under the swastika is Trump (Wafa, December 29, 2017).**

► On **June 1, 2015**, during the weekly demonstration of the families of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, held in front of the Red Cross offices in Gaza City, an Israeli flag was burned and a sign was held equating then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a swastika. The sign read, "This is the end of Israel. Bye-bye Bibi=swastika. Bye-bye Hitler, born to kill, burn in hell" (Shehab Facebook page, June 1, 2015).

A photograph showing a group of people, including a man in a blue jacket, tearing a flag with the text "GET BASTARD OUT RIGHT" and a swastika symbol. The flag is being held by several individuals, and one person is actively tearing it. The scene appears to be outdoors, possibly during a protest or demonstration.



154-21



An aljazeera.net animation that turns a swastika into a Magen David (March 2, 2008).