

Facts at Your Fingertips

Take Action, Make a Difference

The Palestinian Authority and its controlling organizations: The Palestine Liberation Organization and Fatah – all headed by Mahmoud Abbas — has been actively inciting the murder of Jews throughout Israel and is claiming that those who murder Jews are “heroes” and “martyrs.” It pays salaries to those who murder and maim Jews totaling in 10s of millions of dollars. Meanwhile, Hamas – a group whose stated goal is the genocide of the Jewish People – has amassed thousands of rockets and missiles plus has constructed dozens of terror tunnels from Gaza into Israel. Yet many continue to blame Israel for a lack of a peace agreement.

In their articles and reports, pundits and the media play fast and loose with the history of the Middle East and the particulars of the Arab war against the Jewish people. They portray the false Arab narrative that the land belongs to the Arabs as true, and try to create doubt about Israel’s and the Jewish peoples’ indigenous legitimate rights to the Land, and Israel’s many efforts to reach a peace.

There are rumors that the Trump administration will unveil a peace plan shortly. Meanwhile, the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement gains support.

Therefore, this is a time when pro-Israel activists must step up our education and advocacy work and appeal to others to help us in these efforts. We need to ensure that politicians know the facts and that the media is accurate and honest. To proactively offer information can be a positive and preventative measure, and to respond where appropriate with the truth when misinformation or lies creep into the news is vitally important.

In keeping with these goals and Philadelphia ZOA’s mission to educate, we have prepared “**Facts at Your Fingertips**,” an abbreviated overview of Israel, its environs and the Palestinian-Arabs through the 20th Century and contemporary times.

The facts cover: Israel’s legal rights to the land and pre-1967 “borders,” recent examples of the Palestinian Authority’s continued incitement of hatred and violence and efforts to delegitimize Israel, an overview of Jerusalem, the situation in Gaza and who Hamas is, and an overview of Jewish communities in Judea and Samaria — beyond the so-called “Green Line.”

You will see that under international law, the Jewish people are entitled to all of the land including the area beyond the so-called 1967 “borders” that the “Palestinians” claim as theirs – though that land never belonged to them. You will see that despite claims that they want “peace,” the Palestinian-Arabs are as antagonistic, belligerent and intransigent as ever. You will see that only under Israeli control can access to all holy sites in Jerusalem be guaranteed, and that the example of Gaza shows that when Israel gives up land, it gets war, not peace. Finally, you will understand that, far from an “occupation” or “colonization,” Jews have every legal and human right to live in the so-called “settlements.”

Please keep “**Facts at Your Fingertips**” handy. Keep a copy on your desk or near your phone so it will be at the ready when you contact the media, lawmakers or the White House. (Contact info is available for all of the above on our Web site: www.philly.zoa.org) Share the facts and knowledge with your children and grandchildren. This information is likely totally unfamiliar to them.

With your help, we can try to safeguard Israel and make sure that support for the Jewish state remains strong in the Philadelphia region and beyond. We can do our part with our lawmakers to help them understand the situation and with the media in our area to offer them the tools to report honestly, and to hold them accountable if they fall short.

Bear in mind: Israelis want to live in peace in their G-d-given land which legally belongs to the Jewish people. The Jewish people accepted far less than the land promised under the “Palestine Mandate.” They agreed to share the land and never sought control over others, but when attacked, were obligated to defend their people and repel the Arab attackers.

Israel has sacrificed and taken risks for peace and has relinquished great swaths of territory. The Arabs have been unwilling to compromise and settle for anything less than 100 percent of their demands and seem as determined as ever to extract dangerous and unfair concessions from Israel.

Israel's Legal Rights to the Land and Pre-1967 "Borders":

- The Jewish peoples' legal claim to all of the historic and biblical land of Israel, Judea and Samaria (later known as the geographic region called "Palestine") was first expressed in the Balfour Declaration of 1917. This document expressed the intention of the British government to dedicate that land as "a national home for the Jewish people." But instead of giving all of Palestine to the Jews, in 1922 the British (who had control) gave 78% (the area east of the Jordan River) to the Arabs to create the new Arab nation of Transjordan. In 1947 the United Nations called for a partition of the remaining land (western Palestine) into a second Arab nation and a small nation for the Jewish people. The Jews accepted the plan but the Arabs strongly rejected this and attacked Israel with the intention to destroy it.
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 242: While many read this resolution as insisting Israel "return" *all* lands it gained in the 1967 Six-Day War, a defensive war, those diplomats who crafted the resolution have maintained that this was never their intent. The word "all" is not part of the resolution. This resolution was the basis for the "land for peace" negotiations and was intentionally ambiguous. For more, see: http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/UN/meaning_of_242.html
- The Palestinian-Arabs have been demanding that Israel "return" to its pre-Six Day War "borders" or that Israel "return" the land it "took" in that war. Those lines were never borders, but rather were armistice lines following the 1948 attack by Arab armies on the nascent state of Israel. From 1948 until they were liberated in June, 1967, Jordan illegally occupied the area known as "the West Bank," which has always been known as Judea (Judah) and Samaria (the Shomron), and the eastern neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Egypt illegally occupied the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian-Arabs never had control over or possession of those lands.
- Were Israel to relinquish Judea and Samaria, it would make Jerusalem a border city with the Palestinian entity; Tel Aviv would be 11 miles from the border; Ashdod, 22 miles away; Beersheba, 10 miles; Haifa 21 miles. All would be within rocket range of the Palestinian-Arabs. When Israel left the Gaza Strip in 2005, there was no peace. Instead, the Arabs have fired more than 15,000 deadly rockets at Israeli civilian areas – and this continues to this day.
- Fatah, the terrorist organization that Mahmoud Abbas leads, was founded in 1964, not 1967. The Palestinian-Arabs still have as their goal the "liberation" of all of Eretz Israel. They have been instructing their children that Tel Aviv, Haifa and other Israeli cities are "occupied" "Palestinian" land.

The Palestinian Authority Continues to Incite Hatred and Violence:

- Official Palestinian Authority TV continues to teach children that all of Israel is "occupied Palestine." Kids' shows claim that all Israeli cities are "occupied" Palestinian cities. PA TV hosts refer to cities in Israel alternately as "1948 occupied cities," "occupied cities" or "occupied territories." The Israeli cities described as Palestinian cities include Haifa, Jaffa, Lod, Ramle and Acre. [PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 25, 2010] Palestinian Media Watch <http://palwatch.org/>
- Mahmoud Abbas (a.k.a. Abu Mazen) has stated repeatedly that Jews will not be allowed to live in "Palestine." Abbas is on record as saying: "We welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem." In 2018, Abbas claimed: "Israel is a colonialist project that has nothing to do with Jews." In 2013, Abbas said: "In a final resolution, we would not see the presence of a single Israeli - civilian or soldier - on our lands."
- The Palestinian Authority's Minister for Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake, presented a Palestinian woman with "the Shield of Resoluteness and Giving" because she is the mother of four sons who are serving a total of 18 life sentences in Israeli prisons. They all killed Israeli civilians in terror attacks. The Minister also "*praised the Abu Hamid family as a model of willpower and of the struggle for the*

independence of Palestine" when he visited the family with a ministry delegation, human rights organizations and released prisoners. [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, official PA daily newspaper Aug. 28, 2010] Palestinian Media Watch <http://palwatch.org/>

- Jibril Rajoub, Fatah Central Committee member said in an interview on official Palestinian Authority Television: *"At the [Sixth Fatah] Conference, we affirmed the struggle in all its forms, including resistance and the armed struggle... The [armed] struggle is a means, not an end. The [armed] struggle is related to our abilities... must cause pain to the occupation [Israel]; it must be connected to a political platform."*[PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 6, 2010] Palestinian Media Watch <http://palwatch.org/>
- Nabil Shaath, Fatah Commissioner of Foreign Relations and member of the Fatah Central Committee and member of Palestinian Parliament, told a reporter: *"that 'the Palestinian people has the right to defend itself, and it has the right to act in the way of the armed struggle. We have acted in this way for 100 years. Fatah led it [the armed struggle] for 23 years, and Hamas adopted it for 15 years. We are proud of all of our Shahids (Martyrs), and it is our right to return to the armed conflict whenever we view that as our people's interest.'"* [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 7, 2010] Palestinian Media Watch <http://palwatch.org/>
- *"We maintain the right to launch an armed resistance."* — PA President Mahmoud Abbas, August 2009 *"It is not possible to rule out or to marginalize the military option. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades [Fatah's armed force and a recognized terrorist group under U.S. law] are the jewel in Fatah's crown."* -- senior Fatah figure, Fahmi Al-Za'arir, August 2009 *"Resistance to the Israeli occupation is a national obligation, and it is a legitimate right."* -- : Jailed Fatah terrorist leader Marwan Barghouti, August, 2009
- At a ceremony in Ramallah in 2010, Abbas inaugurated a town square named in memory of Dalal Mughrabi, who commanded the terrorists that perpetrated the 1978 coastal road bus hijacking, in which 37 Israelis, including 12 children, were slaughtered.
- *"The Jews, the enemies of Allah: and of His Messenger, the enemies of Allah and of His Messenger! Enemies of humanity in general, and of Palestinians in particular The Prophet says: 'You shall fight the Jews and kill them'"* sermon on official PA TV, Jan. 29, 2010 (Source: Palestinian Media Watch)
- There is no map in PA stationery, publications, atlases or school texts that show Israel as anything other than "Palestine."
- Under the "Palestinian Basic Law" the Palestinian-Arabs claim all of Jerusalem as their capital, with no willingness to compromise or make concessions on this matter. (Source: <http://www.palestinianbasiclaw.org/>)
- The Palestinian National Charter considers all of the boundaries of the region during the British Mandate an indivisible territorial unit. (Source:http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plcov.asp)
- The Palestinian National Charter declares under Article 9: Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine. This it is the overall strategy, not merely a tactical phase. The Palestinian Arab people assert their absolute determination and firm resolution to continue their armed struggle and to work for an armed popular revolution for the liberation of their country and their return to it. (Source:http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plcov.asp)
- The Palestinian National Charter declares under Article 20: "The Balfour Declaration, the Mandate for Palestine, and everything that has been based upon them, are deemed null and void. Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history and the true conception of what constitutes statehood. ..."
- (Source:http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plcov.asp)
- The Palestinian National Charter declares under Article 21: The Arab Palestinian people, expressing themselves by the armed Palestinian revolution, reject all solutions which are substitutes for the total

liberation of Palestine and reject all proposals aiming at the liquidation of the Palestinian problem, or its internationalization. (Source:http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp)

- The Fatah Internal Charter declares: “Revolution is our path to freedom, independence, and construction. It is a revolution until victory.” Amended August, 2009 (Source: <http://www.fas.org/irp/dni/osc/fatah-charter.pdf>)

Jerusalem:

- American law (the Jerusalem Embassy Act, 1995) recognizes Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. President Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital in 2017. Jerusalem is the holiest city in Judaism. Jews all over the world pray in the direction of Jerusalem.
- Israel “captured” Jerusalem in a defensive war from Jordan, which had illegally occupied the city. Jews have lived continuously in Jerusalem for millennia, and have been the majority population in the city since the mid-19th Century. Jews have lived in Jerusalem for millennia prior to the advent of Islam.
- So-called “East” Jerusalem is the very area where Judaism’s holiest and most sacred sites, including the Temple Mount and Western Wall, are located. “Eastern Jerusalem” is where the Jewish Quarter lies. If Jews did not have an historic tie to these neighborhoods, this would not be the location of the Jewish Quarter. When this area was controlled by Jordanian Muslims for 19 years after Jordan attacked Israel in 1948, Jews were not allowed near these places, plus 58 synagogues were destroyed and our Mount of Olives cemetery was violated with heavy vandalism.
- Only under Israeli control have Jews, Christians and Muslims had unprecedented access to their respective holy sites.
- Israel has a recognized right to all of Jerusalem under international law and established legal precedents.
- The Obama administration never questioned or objected to any building by Arabs — whether legal or illegal — in Jerusalem.

Gaza and Hamas:

- In August 2005, every Israeli man, woman and child left the territory of Gaza. Israel even exhumed and removed Jewish remains in cemeteries.
- Over the past dozen years, Hamas terrorists and other terrorists with the permission of Hamas have fired more than 12,000 missiles and rockets at Israeli civilian cities and communities, resulting in murders, serious injuries, psychological trauma and destruction of homes, businesses, houses of worship and cars. About three million Israelis live within range of these rockets including those in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.
- On a typical day, Israel allows 200 trucks of humanitarian aid plus commercial goods through the land crossings from Israel into Gaza. (For weekly and monthly updates, see: (http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2009/Increased_humanitarian_aid_Gaza_after_IDF_operation_Jan_2009) Millions of dollars worth of international food aid continually flows through the Israeli humanitarian apparatus, ensuring that there is no food shortage in Gaza. Food and supplies are shipped from Israel to Gaza six days a week. *The Financial Times* has reported that there is such a “glut” of goods in Gaza that prices for food, luxury items and clothing are plummeting. Media occasionally report on the magnificent villas, five-star resorts and restaurants and glitzy shopping malls that have been built on the Gaza Strip. Building materials Israel is allowing into Gaza are used for terror tunnels and fortifications and not to build hospitals, schools or homes.

- Thousands of patients and their companions travel from the Gaza Strip into Israel for medical treatment. The Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem and other Israeli medical institutions donate millions of dollars in aid annually to treat Palestinians in Israel.
- According to the United Nations, more than 70% of the Gaza Strip's electricity supply comes from the Israeli electric grid, while 17 MWs come from Egypt and 30 MWs are produced by the Gaza city power station. Gaza has not paid its electric bill to Israel, and frequently attacks electric transmission lines and the Israelis who try to repair them.
- *The Christian Science Monitor* has reported: “Egypt controls the Rafah crossing, the only gateway to Gaza not controlled by Israel, and cooperates in maintaining the blockade.” Egypt rarely opens the crossing.
- The Hamas covenant goes beyond being anti-Israel. It calls for the murder of Jews as well as members of the Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and Free Masons. (Google: “Hamas” and “Yale” and “Avalon” to see for yourself.)
- Maritime blockades are a legitimate and recognized measure under international law as long as they do not block access to the ports and coasts of neutral nations. A state may take action to enforce a blockade. Any vessel that violates or attempts to violate a maritime blockade may be captured or even attacked under international law.

Jewish communities beyond the “Green Line”:

- “Jews have lived in Judea and Samaria — “a k a the West Bank” — since ancient times. The only time Jews have been prohibited from living in the territories in recent decades was during Jordan's rule from 1948 to 1967. This prohibition was contrary to the Mandate for Palestine adopted by the League of Nations, which provided for the establishment of a Jewish state, and specifically encouraged “close settlement by Jews on the land.” (Source: Myths & Facts Online by Mitchell G. Bard)
- “The ‘settlements’ also do not displace Arabs living in the territories. The area of the Jewish “settlements” is just 2% of the so-called “West Bank.” The media sometimes gives the impression that for every Jew who moves to the West Bank, several hundred Palestinians are forced to leave. The truth is that the vast majority of settlements have been built in uninhabited areas and even the handful established in or near Arab towns did not force any Palestinians to leave.” An estimated 80% of the settlers live in what are in effect suburbs of major Israeli cities such as Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.” (Source: Myths & Facts Online by Mitchell G. Bard)
- “Numerous legal authorities dispute the charge that settlements are “illegal.” Stephen Schwebel, formerly president of the International Court of Justice, notes that a country acting in self-defense may seize and occupy territory when necessary to protect itself.” “According to Eugene Rostow, a former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs in the Johnson Administration, Resolution 242 gives Israel a legal right to be in the West Bank. The resolution. Rostow noted, "allows Israel to administer the territories" it won in 1967 "until 'a just and lasting peace in the Middle East' is achieved," Rostow wrote.” (Source: Myths & Facts Online by Mitchell G. Bard)
- “Those territories never legally belonged to either Jordan or Egypt, and certainly not to the Palestinians, who were never the sovereign authority in any part of Palestine.” The Jewish right of settlement in the area is equivalent in every way to the right of the local population to live there,” according to Professor Eugene Rostow, former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs.” “The implication of many settlement critics is that it would be better for peace if the West Bank were *Judenrein* (empty of Jews). This idea would be called anti-Semitic if Jews were barred from living in

New York, Paris or London; barring them from living in the West Bank, the cradle of Jewish civilization, would be no less objectionable.” (Source: Myths & Facts Online by Mitchell G. Bard)

- “Some Jewish settlements, such as in Hebron, existed throughout the centuries of Ottoman rule, while settlements such as Neve Ya'acov, north of Jerusalem, the Gush Etzion bloc in Judea and Samaria, the communities north of the Dead Sea and Kfar Darom in the Gaza region, were established under British Mandatory administration prior to the establishment of the State of Israel. To be sure, many Israeli settlements have been established on sites which were home to Jewish communities in previous generations, in an expression of the Jewish people's deep historic and religious connection with the land.” (Source: Myths & Facts Online by Mitchell G. Bard)

You may add notes of your own here:

Compiled by the Zionist Organization of America Greater Philadelphia Chapter.

To learn more, go to: www.philly.zoa.org or zoa.org.
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