

Written Statement by United Nations Watch

Palestinian Violations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Agenda Items 7 and 9

The “State of Palestine” acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in April 2014 and is now undergoing its first review by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Committee).

The period since April 2014 has been marked by several waves of Palestinian terrorism and violence, resulting in both Palestinian and Israeli children being killed. Israeli civilians, including children, were the specific targets in many of the terrorist attacks.

Just two months after the PA joined the CRC, Hamas terrorists kidnapped and brutally murdered three Israeli teenagers (two of them under age 18). This incident was followed by the summer 2014 Gaza war, an intense seven-week conflict in which hundreds of Gaza rockets were indiscriminately fired at Israeli cities, many launched from in or near schools or other civilian infrastructure putting both Palestinian and Israeli children at risk. The only reason Israeli civilian casualties were so low is because of the extensive measures Israel takes to protect its citizens, for example, by building bomb shelters, deploying the iron dome missile defense system, and blaring warning sirens of incoming rocket attacks. Despite these measures, just a few days before the end of that war, 4-year-old Israeli Daniel Tragerman, unable to reach the shelter in time, was killed by a mortar fired from Gaza. Shockingly, the lethal mortar was launched from near a school being used to shelter Palestinian civilians.¹

In September 2015, a new wave of terror attacks commenced featuring stabbings, shootings, car ramming attacks, and one suicide bus bombing. According to Israel’s Foreign Ministry, since October 2015, 76 people were killed and 1187 were wounded in terror attacks. During this time, there were 202 stabbing attacks, 147 attempted stabbings, 221 shooting attacks, 73 car ramming attacks, 316 roadside bombs, and 1,223 rocket and mortar attacks from the Gaza Strip.²

One disturbing aspect of this wave of terror is the numbers of child perpetrators. A recent report found that 174 Palestinian children carried out 142 separate terrorist attacks during this period, killing 7 Israelis and wounding 58.³

These child terrorists were responding to pervasive anti-Israel incitement and glorification of martyrdom coming from Palestinian leaders, on Palestinian television, and in the Palestinian education system. For example:

¹ *Four-year-old killed in mortar attack named as Daniel Tragerman*, TIMES OF ISRAEL (Aug. 22, 2014), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/four-year-old-killed-in-mortar-attack-named-as-daniel-turgerman/>.

² *Wave of Terror 2015-2016*, ISRAEL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (last visited Feb. 20, 2019), <https://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Palestinian/Pages/Wave-of-terror-October-2015.aspx>.

³ *A Society Not Ready for Statehood: Palestinian Children Who Kill and Their Adult Enablers*, HUMAN RIGHTS VOICES (Sep. 6, 2018), http://www.humanrightsvoices.org/assets/attachments/documents/Report_on_Palestinian_Child_Terrorists_September_2018.2.pdf.

- Morad Bader Abdullah Adais, the 16-year-old terrorist who brutally stabbed to death 38-year-old Israeli Dafna Meir in front of her horrified children was acting in response to Palestinian television shows that portrayed Israel as killing and humiliating young Palestinians. Adais told investigators that if allowed to go free he “would go to Al-Aqsa mosque, even if I was killed, and on the way I would kill as many Zionist Jews as I could.”⁴
- Hussein Muhammad Abu Ghush, aged 17, posted the following on Facebook one day before carrying out a fatal stabbing attack: “History will write that we faced Israel with a stone, a knife, explosive devices, weapons, and our hearts, and we offered blood of Mujahideen as sacrifice for the place from which the Prophet ascended to heaven. May God accept us as martyrs in paradise.”⁵
- One week before stabbing to death a 13-year-old Israeli girl, her 17-year-old attacker posted on Facebook about wanting to be a martyr: “death is a right and i am asking for my right.”⁶
- In another case, a 15-year-old would-be stabber was motivated to become a “martyr” by Palestinian media coverage of recent stabbing attacks.⁷
- After being released from Israeli prison in 2018, 17-year-old Ahed Tamimi pledged “to continue on the path of the martyrs, so that their blood will not have been shed in vain. We shall always continue on their path. I have pledged to continue to make sacrifices, even sacrificing my life, for the sake of liberating Palestine.”⁸

These are not isolated examples. They reflect the pervasive culture of hatred and violence inculcated in Palestinian youth from a very early age. Through the education system and the media, children are taught that Israel has no right to exist because Israel proper really belongs to Palestine. Children are encouraged to follow in the footsteps of famous terrorists, who are honored and glorified. Israel, Israelis, and Jews are routinely demonized.

Below are examples of Palestinian violations of the CRC related to terrorist incitement in the media in violation of Articles 6 and 17 of the CRC. Article 6 concerns the right to life and survival and development of Palestinian children. Article 17 obligates States to ensure that children have access to material that promotes their “social, spiritual and moral well-being.”

⁴ *Teen given life in prison for cold-blooded murder of Dafna Meir*, TIMES OF ISRAEL (Nov. 2, 2016), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/teen-given-life-in-prison-for-cold-blooded-murder-of-dafna-meir/>.

⁵ *Palestinian teen discussed death on social media prior to fatal attack*, MA'AN NEWS (Jan. 26, 2016), <https://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?id=769972>.

⁶ *Tovah Lazaroff, Kiryat Arba Attack: Palestinian terrorist stabs teen girl to death in bedroom*, JERUSALEM POST (June 30, 2016), <https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Initial-report-Suspected-terror-shooting-in-Kiryat-Arba-2-wounded-459126>.

⁷ *Palestinian boy, 15, indicted for attempted murder in thwarted Old City stabbing*, JERUSALEM POST (Feb. 7, 2016), <https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Palestinian-boy-15-indicted-for-attempted-murder-in-thwarted-Old-City-stabbing-444152>.

⁸ *Palestinian teen icon Tamimi urges more assaults on Israeli troops*, TIMES OF ISRAEL (Oct. 25, 2018), <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-teen-icon-tamimi-urges-more-assaults-on-israeli-troops/>.

Children celebrate martyrdom and violence on official PA television.

- In the presence of the PA Minister of Education, a Palestinian boy recites a poem on a PA TV children’s program, calling for war and vengeance against Israel—“**To war that will smash the oppression and destroy the Zionist's soul...**” The television presenter responds encouragingly: “Bravo!” (March 17, 2017).⁹
- Young children recite a poem promoting escalation of violence from rock throwing to the use of an AK-47 weapon on a PA TV children’s program “World, hear and see, **my rock has turned into an AK-47** [assault rifle].” The host responds “Bravo! You’re so talented!” (Jan. 20, 2017).¹⁰

Hamas TV children’s program teaches rejection and hate

- Hamas TV children’s program interviews young children dressed in military fatigues. One child says he wants to be an engineer when he grows up “**so that I can blow up the Jews.**” Another child recites a poem about liberating Jerusalem. The child host responds “Keep waging Jihad...when you grow up you will wage resistance against the Jews...” (Sep. 4, 2015).¹¹

⁹ *Boy recites Poem on PA TV children’s program*, PMW (May 17, 2017), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXTwIz0DcJI>.

¹⁰ *Kids on PA TV children’s program*, PMW (Feb. 1, 2017), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NboGyu4INR8>.

¹¹ *Children on Hamas TV: we want to wage Jihad and blow up the Jews*, MEMRI (Sep. 4, 2015), <https://www.memri.org/tv/children-hamas-tv-we-want-wage-jihad-and-blow-jews>.