

# NPK-info

Nederlands Palestina Komitee [www.palestina-komitee.nl](http://www.palestina-komitee.nl)

## Inhoud

Uit "Media houden conflict MO in stand" door Fons Strijbosch [Volkskrant 7-1] :

- \* "Westerse media roepen Israel en de PLO voordurend op te onderhandelen over vrede en miskennen daarmee de basis van het conflict: de Israelische bezetting."
- \* "Het vredesoverleg, met al zijn mogelijkheden tot tijdrekken, ziet Israel tevens als effectieve methode om het Palestijns land te behouden."

### Wapentransporten

Zie [Grossman](#) hierna. Terzijde: Naar het schijnt ontdekken de Palestijnen dagelijks grote Israelische wapentransporten.

### Berichten

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- \* [What had to be proved, David Grossman, Ha`aretz, 6-1-02,](#)

*NPK/WL, 8-1-2002*

P.S.

En zie

- PSPV, Platform voor Solidariteit met het Palestijnse Volk in Nederland <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/solpalvol>
- PSC, Palestina Solidariteits Campagne  
<http://net.clubs.nl/psc>
- Palestina Actie  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pal-actie>

# Dr. Barghouthi's Arrest, and the Israeli Military's Brutal Treatment of Dr. Barghouthi and European Delegates

*5 January 2002, The arrest of Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi - a physician and human rights activist, president of the Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees (UPMRC), which won the WHO World Health Award 2001, and director of the Health, Development, Information and Policy institute (HDIP)- on Wednesday the 2nd of January by plain clothed Israeli police, was condemnable.*

Arrested after participating in a morning press conference in East Jerusalem, Dr. Barghouthi was held for over four hours in the notorious Israeli detention center, "Maskopia". Dr. Barghouthi was finally deported from East Jerusalem to the West Bank at the Ram checkpoint, between Ramallah and Jerusalem. Upon his release, and waiting for his car to arrive to take him back to Ramallah, the doctor was talking with international delegates and press, who were with him at the time of his initial arrest.

It is at this point that the most horrific events of the day occurred.

According to witnesses at least three jeeps of Israeli soldiers arrived at the checkpoint, and attempted, without reason, to re-take Dr. Barghouthi. The events that followed illustrate the brutality of the Israeli occupation, and their continued disproportionate use of force and violence against civilian Palestinians, and their foreign supporters.

For ten minutes the group was subjected to pushing, punching, being thrown to the ground and dragged along in addition to the soldiers firing tear gas and throwing sound bombs. They also opened fire above the heads of the people. In this aggressive and violent assault Ms. Luisa Morgantini, in her sixties, and Ms. Ulla Sandbaek, both members of the European Parliament, were thrown to the ground and physically attacked.

This vicious, unprovoked and completely unjustified attack against Dr. Barghouthi and the group must be

condemned in the harshest terms. The fact that the Doctor was released, without charges, one hour later confirms that there was no reason for his detainment. Upon his release it became clear he had been beaten and suffered a fractured knee, in addition to lacerations and bruising to his face and body.

Dr. Barghouthi has continuously worked in the Palestinian health sector, to provide health care to the more than three million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; he was a member of the negotiating team in Madrid, and has over the years consistently advocated a non-violent, peaceful approach to the removal of the Israeli occupation of the West bank and Gaza Strip.

We all must denounce Dr. Barghouthi's arrest for being in East Jerusalem which is part of the Occupied Territories, and his treatment at the hands of the Israeli police and Army, and therefore government. We must also criticize, and demand an explanation for, the violence use against the foreign delegation and other people with Dr. Barghouthi at the time of the attack.

We are beginning a campaign of formal protest to the Israeli government and as part of this we would appreciate if you could please write/email/fax or call the Israeli Embassy in your country - for the relevant address information please see <http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/israel1.html>, in addition to asking your representatives to make an official protest to the Israeli government.

Also write to the following Israeli officials, remembering a fax is great deal more effective than an email:

Shimon Peres  
Email: sar@mofa.gov.il  
Fax: 972 2 5303367

Binyamin Ben Eliezer, Defense Minister  
Email: sgansar@mod.gov.il or sar@mod.gov.il  
Fax: 972 3 6976218

Uzi Landau, Minister for Internal Security  
Email: sar@mops.gov.il  
Fax: 972 2 5308151

Nissim Dahan, Health Minister,  
Fax: 972 2 6787662



## **The Palestinian intifada, or uprising, will continue as long as Israel occupies the Palestinian territories,** *a senior leader of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement said Friday.*

"Our position is clear: the intifada and the resistance, including armed revolt are a legitimate right of the Palestinian people and it is impossible to believe that the occupation can continue without the intifada and armed struggle being pursued on the ground," said the head of Fatah in the West Bank, Marwan al-Barghuti.

Barghuti, who has been at the forefront of those espousing armed struggle to create a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, was commenting on the truce declared by Arafat on December 16.

"The intifada has not stopped and hence does not need any sparks to be re-ignited," Barghuti told AFP.

He said it was "natural" that Palestinians were content by the drop in violence which has seen more than 1,100 people killed since the uprising broke out in September of last year, most of them Palestinians themselves.

"It is a natural human instinct to be drawn to calm and respite, especially after 16 months of suffering," he said.

But he added that Palestinians were "ready to keep on fighting for their independence and Jerusalem."

Barghuti placed the blame on Israel for the militariza-

tion of the intifada and the escalation in the violence.

"The intifada started as a popular and peaceful movement until Israel responded with its aggression, oppression and killings. We had no choice but to defend ourselves," he said.

"Palestinians cannot go on burying their martyrs every day without Israel paying the price. It is Israel's occupation, terrorism and oppression which pushed Palestinians to resort to weapons."

"Independence and freedom are the driving forces behind the intifada and as long as these two goals will not be reached, the intifada will go on," he said.

The West Bank Fatah leader also said that Arafat's ceasefire, which has been endorsed by hardline Islamic militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, stemmed from "a series of Palestinian decisions" and were only "temporary."

"These decisions are helping us enforce the ceasefire and are only temporary," said Barghuti.

"The prolongation of the occupation, closure, violence, killings and arrests will put an end to the current truce," he warned.

Haaretz, January 05, 2002

## **Either a Zionist or a terrorist**

*By Meron Benvenisti*

At the risk of the following scenario sounding tendentious because of wishful thinking and gloating, it appears that the "grand scheme" worked out by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, his generals and the right wing of the government has resulted in a failure: They did not eliminate Chairman Yasser Arafat, nor did they destroy the Palestinian Authority.

Following months of brutal military operations, thousands of casualties, delegitimization and insults, brainwashing and political and media manipulation that would have toppled many a regime, Arafat, besieged and humiliated, is still holding on, while Sharon and his cronies are the ones who have been pushed into a defensive position; evident in all its absurdity in their frightened rejection of President Moshe Katsav's hudna initiative.

Once again, as was the case during the Lebanon War, the arrogance of power, patronizing Orientalism and

planning that doesn't see beyond the intellectual horizons of the generals was exposed. And once again, the "national assessor's" forecast has collapsed, and his tendency has been exposed: Failing to distinguish between intelligence assessments and ideological positions, he offers rationalizations for every planned adventure and, at the same time, immunizes the adventurers against the results of their deeds - because there is, supposedly, no alternative; and if the plan failed, it was only because the Americans and the leftists got in the way.

After all, someone had to advise the generals that Arafat could be eliminated by humiliating him, and that the spirit of the Palestinians could be broken through brutal collective punishment. But as it emerges, Arafat actually is more "relevant" than ever, the Palestinian people are demonstrating an amazing resilience; and the age-old excuse of "terror against women and children" is melting away.

Military Intelligence - the national assessor - feels it has to cover up its mistake by intensifying the ideological statements: "The bottom line is that the Palestinian goal, from a historic perspective, is to undermine the Jewish nature of the State of Israel."

And the outgoing commander of Military Intelligence offers his own contribution to psycho-history: "Arafat is not built... for historic compromises." In other words, there's no choice, we must continue the onslaught, so as to expose the wily ways of the terrorists."

It's difficult to believe that in any open and liberal society, a commander of any military branch would issue such a public "historic perspective" without being silenced immediately by angry protests, irrespective of the doubtful validity of such a "perspective." But in a society that is used to viewing the Arabs through the eyes of "Arabists," these words were accepted as obvious. Because in this society, whatever Arabs have to say must never be taken at face value and must always be interpreted on the basis of their "mentality."

Now, it's as clear as day: For as long as Arafat doesn't unequivocally declare that he accepts the Zionist enterprise, he'll be defined as a terrorist. It won't help if he makes do with the statement that Israel is a fact, even if born in sin. On the contrary, this would only prove that "he remains committed to the right of return and sees it as a key to turning the Jews into a religious minority,"

as Military Intelligence has said.

And this means that he is an incorrigible terrorist, because there is no chance that Arafat - or even the most moderate Palestinian - will ever be able to become a defender of Zionism, but, at most, will only be able to bow before the facts of life. Thus, the litmus test is clear: Either you're a Zionist or a terrorist.

Such a test leads to endless war and the justification of each and every act of brutality, because it is "an existential threat."

So, why haven't we heard the voices of those who believe in peace, in the possibility of reconciliation. Most of them also believe distinguishing between accepting the Zionist enterprise a priori, or in retrospect, is evasion. They also want Arafat to accept "the Zionist enterprise," so they can finally rid themselves of the burden of guilt about the way in which Zionism steamrolled the Palestinians: The victim must justify his torturers.

But all this spin doesn't erase the feeling that maybe the worst is finally behind us.

<http://www.counterpunch.org/kifah.html>

January 5, 2002

## Kifah: The Movie Star that Israel Killed

By Mark Schneider

*Ever meet a movie star? I almost did. Before our delegation left Colorado for Palestine several of us went and saw a new movie documentary called "Promises." The plot was simple: A Jewish Israeli man wanted to see if he could create relationships between Israeli and Palestinian children. Seemingly a simple proposition after all, they are neighbors, right? And yet, he did succeed, sort of.*

Kifah was one of the child stars of the film. Made about three years ago, Kifah was just 9 years old. With the filmmaker's prodding, the Palestinian children decided to host a meeting with two secular Jewish Israeli twin boys.

All the Palestinian kids lived in Dehaisheh refugee camp - located near Bethlehem. All these Palestinian refugees came from villages located in present-day Israel. Some villages remain, though Israeli settlers occupy the Palestinian homes; many villages were bulldozed by Israel - to try to eliminate any history of the massive Palestinian presence in present day Israel.



In the film, the gathering of Israeli and Palestinian kids was magical because kids are kids. They shared food and stories, wrestled and made a promise: to keep the relationships going.

Fast-forwarding a few years later in the film, the filmmaker went back to see if the relationships still existed.

Several of the Palestinian children called the Israeli twins but never got their calls returned. It was heart-breaking.

More heart-breaking, though, was before the film fast-forwarded. At the original meeting of all the children, one of the Palestinians kids, one that gave off the toughest exterior, began sobbing after their "promise" had been made. Why? As tears rolled down his cheeks he said that he feared that soon after the filmmaker left them all alone their Palestinian-Israeli friendships would wither away.

The filmmaker, knowing this scenario was quite likely, openly sobbed. The camera panned around the Palestinian children's living room and hovered briefly at each child's face. One of them was Kifah.

Yesterday I visited Dehaisheh refugee camp and got excited at the thought of maybe meeting one of the Palestinian stars of the film. When I asked the refugee camp guide if the children still lived in Dehaisheh, she paused. Most were off in school. Then, almost matter-of-factly, she told me that one of the film's stars, Kifah, had been killed two months ago.

With a few other children, Kifah went to the Bethlehem checkpoint, the only way to for Palestinians that live around Bethlehem to visit East Jerusalem, the capitol of Palestine. The children began throwing stones and the soldiers responded with live ammunition. Kifah, which means "Struggle" in Arabic, was killed instantly.

In the 3 weeks I've been here, with my international status, I've freely traveled through this checkpoint more than 10 times. In two massive marches, one on Christmas and the other on New Year's Eve, hundreds of internationals supported over a thousand Palestinians in their attempt to travel to Al-Quds (East Jerusalem). All of the Palestinians were denied entry, stopped by dozens of Israeli soldiers. From Bethlehem to Jerusalem it's about 7 miles. From Dehaisheh Refugee camp it's about 8 miles.

Out of a population of 12,000, Kifah is the 9th martyr from Dehaisheh camp to be killed in this Intifada. Like all the 900 Palestinian martyrs of this Intifada, there is a poster, widely circulated, of young Kifah. His smile is a small one.

For now I'll try to find Kifah's poster, one I can keep of a film star I almost met.

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## ABSTRACT OF STUDY ON PALESTINIAN TEXTBOOKS:

### *Democracy, History, and the Contest over the Palestinian Curriculum*

*A study by Prof. Nathan Brown, Georgetown University*

Palestinian education has gotten a great deal of attention because of allegations that it contained incitement and racist statements. Professor Nathan Brown of Georgetown University examined one aspect of allegations that it contained incitement and racist statements. Professor Nathan Brown of Georgetown University examined one aspect of Palestinian Education, the new textbooks issued by the PNA Department of Education, and found a marked improvement in the curriculum, contrary to publicity by right-wing Zionist groups. However, he found Palestinian education to be lacking as yet in the teaching of democracy and the use of progressive methodology. A detailed discussion of the study for viewing or download in PDF format is available by clicking here. He summarizes his findings below. The views expressed and the findings are those of Professor Brown and not necessarily those of MidEastWeb for Coexistence.

In 1999 and 2000, I conducted research on the establishment of the new Palestinian curriculum by collecting documents, textbooks, and interviewing Palestinian educators. Since that time, I have continued the research by continuing to survey textbooks and discussions of educational issues by Palestinian educators. This research was

supported by a Fulbright grant through the United States-Israel Educational Foundation (USIEF) and another grant from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). The conclusions of the research are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views either of USIEF or USIP.

I am aware of the international controversy surrounding Palestinian textbooks. Most accusations against the books are based on reports from the "Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace" (CMIP). Although that organization presents reports that are tendentious and misleading, few independent reviews have been conducted. Therefore CMIP reports--which seek to obscure rather than highlight the changes that have been made-- are not frequently challenged. I hope that my own review of Palestinian textbooks can help correct the inaccurate impressions prevalent in international discussions of the issue.

The Palestinian Authority has published two sets of books. The first, the National Education series, was designed to supplement the interim use of Jordanian and Egyptian books. That series was written in 1994. It contained no racism or incitement. It also mentioned no region as Palestinian other than those occupied by Israel

in 1967. It was largely silent on most sensitive political issues. The second series of books, a comprehensive curriculum, has been completed for grades one, two, six, and seven. Remaining grades will be added, two at a time, over the next few years. The newer books have broken some of the silence of the earlier books but still generally treat sensitive issues with circumspection. Based on a review of those books, I can state the following:

### **Racism**

The new books are devoid of racism and anti-Semitism. Thus, the PA should be credited with removing such material from the curriculum rather than maintaining it. The CMIP relies for its claims on the Palestinian decision to continue use of older Egyptian and Jordanian material. The Egyptian and Jordanian books do contain problematic material, though they were adopted only as an interim measure. Palestinian educators are highly critical of the books in question and anxious to replace them (as they have now done for four grades). Oddly, Israel actually participated in continuing the books. Palestinian schools under Israeli control in East Jerusalem used the Jordanian books with the offensive material but they were not allowed to use the 1994 National Education books devoid of any offensive material (because they were written by the Palestinian Authority). Only in 2000 did some East Jerusalem schools begin to switch to the new Palestinian curriculum.

### **History**

The Palestinian books strive to create a strong sense of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim identity in students. This dominates their treatment of history. Thus, they concentrate on trying to demonstrate a continuing Arab presence in Palestine. Though they do not deny a Jewish presence, they do not dwell on it. In Islamic education, the books have to confront Muslim-Jewish relations (in the early days of Islam) and Muslim-Christian relations (during the Crusades). The books clearly take the point of view of the Muslims in both instances. But they also clearly support peaceful relations (for instance, by lauding Saladin for insisting that people of all faiths should have access to Jerusalem). The books do not treat Jewish history in any comprehensive manner, positively or negatively.

### **Present**

Perhaps the most difficult issue is how to present Palestine in the present, since all matters (statehood, borders, Israeli settlements) remain unresolved. The books deliver no consistent message. Sometimes they seek to avoid the subject (for instance, a group of schoolchildren takes a trip from Gaza to Jerusalem; the books make no mention of the fact that checkpoints and closure make such a school trip impossible). Sometimes they convey the Palestinian national consensus (that Jerusalem must be their capital, that Israeli settlements harm Palestinians) while bypassing other issues. Sometimes they try to distinguish between "geographic" or "historic" Palestine

with "political" Palestine. Thus they sometimes discuss (generally briefly) some areas within Israel's 1967 borders. But each book also contains a foreword describing the West Bank and Gaza as "the two parts of the homeland." In short, political realities are confusing and difficult for educators to describe to children. It would be unfair to describe such confused treatment as "delegitimation of Israel."

### **Violence**

Similarly, the books do not encourage violence. They do urge students to be willing to make self-sacrifice for the religion or nation (as most schoolbooks do), but they do not urge violence in that regard. One book does contain a poem praising the children who threw stones in the first intifada, but at the same time praises Gandhi at some length for non-violence.

### ***In closing, allow me to make three observations:***

1. The efforts to discredit Palestinian textbooks have already caused some damage. Many leading Palestinian educators have argued that the new curriculum should be designed not only to promote nationalist identity but also the skills of democratic citizenship. Stung by international criticism, education officials tend to be less open to such contributions than they were in the past. The cause of educational reform has been obstructed by the harsh and unfair international criticism.
2. Schoolbooks are products of the broader political situation. The original plan for the Palestinian curriculum (produced in 1996) involved the introduction of Hebrew-language instruction as an elective in secondary school. I believe that plan is still in effect. But the deterioration of the broader political context has taken a toll. In 2000, a first-grade book had a picture of a coin from the era of the British mandate with Palestine written in both Hebrew and Arabic. In 2001, after a year of the second intifada, a picture of a Mandate-era postage stamp erased the Hebrew. The Palestinian curriculum is not a "war" curriculum. Neither is it a "peace" curriculum. A real peace curriculum will follow, not precede, a comprehensive peace.
3. I hesitate to compare the Israeli and Palestinian educational systems. Their situations are different, and I conducted no study on Israeli textbooks. But my children have attended Israeli schools and I have tried to keep abreast of research by Israeli academics. My impression is that both Israeli and Palestinian schools handle an awkward political situation similarly: they are actually more similar than either side would like to admit!

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# Israel: New Labor Leader May Strengthen Sharon

## Summary

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer won the chairmanship of the Labor Party Dec. 26, beating Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg with nearly 90 percent of the vote. The victory will allow Ben-Eliezer to build support for a prime minister candidacy, and sets the stage for a fracture of the center-left party. It will also strengthen Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government by weakening Labor's ability to influence policy.

## Analysis

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer Dec. 26 won the chairmanship of the Labor Party, Israel's largest center-left party, beating Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg with nearly 90 percent of the vote. His victory though does not ensure his candidacy for the prime minister's post. Another round of party elections must occur prior to Israel's general elections scheduled for November 2003.

Sharon: The Commando Wins Office

Winning the Israeli prime minister's office in a landslide, Ariel Sharon is probably the last prime minister who will ever be elected having fought the landmark 1948 war for independence.

Indeed, as he enters office Sharon is much more than a hardline politician. He is a commando who will be seen by his rivals and enemies as much stronger than the general, Ehud Barak, whom he replaces. [Click here to continue.](#)

Ben-Eliezer's new position will, however, give him time to expand his own base of support among the Labor Party's less dovish members, and may solidify fractures within the party and set the stage for the formation of a breakaway group. The defense minister's victory will also, in the short term, strengthen Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and weaken Labor's ability to influence government policy.

The Labor Party isn't likely to leave Sharon's coalition government while the war with the Palestinians still rages. Sharon's popularity ratings remain high, making challenges to his right-wing Likud Party in possible early general elections an unappealing prospect. Labor suffered a serious blow with the humiliating defeat of former Prime Minister Ehud Barak by Sharon last January. The outbreak of the Palestinian intifada in September 2000 left the party little choice but to enter into Sharon's national unity government following the defeat rather than assume the position of an opposition party during a time of war.

Barak's subsequent resignation from the party left it leaderless. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres served as Labor's de facto representative to the government in critical matters. As the party's elder statesman and a world-renowned public figure, Peres wields substantial political influence.

Now Ben-Eliezer has the right to assume the mantle of Labor representative to the government following his victory. But even if the defense minister would prefer not to take the position from Peres -- so as not to alienate a potential future ally -- Sharon may force the issue.

The prime minister will prefer dealing with Ben-Eliezer rather than Peres for a number of reasons. For one, Ben-Eliezer is considered a hawk within Labor and is often in closer agreement with hardline policies advocated by Sharon than fellow Labor member Peres.

More importantly, the defense minister enjoys neither the domestic political support or the international renown of Peres, who has forced the government to repeatedly pursue peace negotiations with the Palestinians, despite their failure to bring about a lasting agreement. Ben-Eliezer is likely to exert significantly less influence over government policies, which would free Sharon to pursue more aggressive military policies in order to satisfy grumbling within his own party.

Despite his reputation as a hardliner, Sharon has been widely criticized within Likud for not pursuing more stringent military options in the conflict with the Palestinians. Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continues to build support within Likud for another chance at the party's leadership, and remains a viable rival.

Ben-Eliezer faces a number of problems in assuming Labor's leadership during a period when the party is rife with divisions. For one, he enjoys little support among the party's senior members, many of whom -- including Peres, former Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami, former minister Haim Ramon and Industry and Trade Minister Dalia Itzik -- chose to remain publicly neutral during the Labor election.

Ben-Elizer won the leadership position in large part because few of the senior leaders wanted to step forward for what is seen as an interim position. Several of these members, including Burg, are reportedly weighing their own chances for winning the party's nomination to serve as candidate for the prime minister, and few want to strengthen a potential rival.

Ben-Eliezer is also now responsible for deciding how long Labor will remain in the government. As the party's influence over government policy wanes, its participation will become increasingly untenable. This past October, Labor threatened to quit the coalition if the government did not ease its military operations in the occupied Palestinian territories. And there are several high profile Labor party leaders, like Knesset member Ophir Pines-Paz, who favor leaving the coalition.

But Ben-Eliezer has a vested interest in remaining a part of government until he is able to build enough support to secure Labor's nomination for prime minister.

For the moment, Labor is likely to remain in the government since it has little chance of presenting a united front to Israeli voters and successfully challenging Likud in possible early elections.

As for Ben-Eliezer, he will use this interim period to buttress his support among Labor's membership. Unlikely to win over the senior cadres to his side, Ben-Eliezer may seek to gain allies from the second tier of leadership and among Labor's less dovish factions. Though not likely to shift the party further right, it may lead to a break-off with more hawkish members with Ben-Eliezer at the helm.

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Ha'aretz; Israel's Leading Newspaper, Sunday, January 06, 2002

## What had to be proved

By David Grossman

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jtml?itemNo=114100&contrassID=2&subContrassID=4&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y>

The seizure of the Palestinian arms ship brings great relief because the terrible weaponry will not be aimed at Israelis, as well as a sense of gratitude toward the soldiers who participated in the mission. However, in the voices of spokesmen for the Israel Defense Forces, the government and the media there was also an un concealed note of joy that at long last "final proof" has been found of the Palestinians criminal, terrible intentions.

Ostensibly, it has become clear beyond a shadow of doubt that "the Palestinian Authority is infested with terror from head to toe," as Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz said at the press conference that seemed to be an attempt to bring back for a moment the glory of the heroic 1950s, if not of Entebbe itself.

But what proof has been obtained here? Proof that if you oppress a people for 35 years, and humiliate its leaders, and harass its population, and do not give them a glimmer of hope, the members of this people will try to assert themselves in any way possible? And would any of us behave differently from the Palestinians in such a situation? And did we behave any differently when for years we were under occupation and tyranny?

Avshalom Feinberg and Yosef Lishansky set out for Cairo to bring money from there to the Nili underground so that the Jewish community in Palestine could assert itself against the Turks. The fighters of the Haganah, the Lehi and the Etzel underground movements collected and hid as many weapons as they could, and their splendid sliks (arms caches) are to this day a symbol of the fight for survival and the longing for liberty, as were the daring weapons acquisition missions

during the British Mandate (which were defined by the British as acts of terror).

When "we" did these things, they were not terrorist in nature. They were legitimate actions of a people fighting for its life and liberty. When the Palestinians do them, they become "proof" of everything we have been so keen to prove for years now.

It was embarrassing and irksome to hear the chief of staff scolding the Palestinians for "wasting their money on acquiring arms instead of seeing to their poor and hungry populace" - the words of a man whose soldiers - who follow the government's instructions - harass Palestinians morning, noon and night, impoverish them and starve them. No less embarrassing was the journalistic reporting of the seizure of the ship. The correspondents, excited by the heroism of our soldiers, unani mously adopted the self-righteous declarations of the chief of staff and the prime minister about the Palestinians and their murderousness and the terrorism that burns in their breasts like a second nature, almost.

Now come the days of celebration and rejoicing because "we told you so": We told you that the Palestinians do not keep agreements (while we of course stick to every agreement); we told you that they will do everything possible to acquire attack weapons (while we aim narcissus stems at the windows of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's window in Ramallah); we told you that there is no one to talk to and therefore we should keep tightening the noose around their necks (and in this way undoubtedly we will bring about a profound change in the "Palestinian character," so that they will agree to accept all our conditions); we told you that Arafat is in fact bin Laden (and we are disciples of the Dalai Lama).



In the attempt to smuggle in the arms by ship, the Palestinians seriously violated the agreements with them and the IDF must, of course, do all it can to prevent such escalation. Nevertheless, how can an entire people's sense of judgement be so dulled? How can we repeatedly ignore the big picture and the sharp sense that Israel, in its actions and in its failures to act, and especially in the malevolent behavior of its prime minister, keeps pushing the Palestinians to such actions so that time after time they will provide us with that "incontrovertible proof," in which there is in fact no real benefit to our interests?

These are disgusting days. Days of total befuddlement of the senses. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will wring every possible drop of propaganda out of this ship. The

media, for the most part, will run panting after him. The Israeli street, too exhausted and apathetic to think, will adopt any definite conclusion that will solve for it the internal and moral contradiction in which it lives and reinforce its sense of righteousness, which has been undermined at its base.

Who has the strength these days to remember the beginning, the root of the matter, the circumstances, the fact that what we have here is occupation and oppression, reaction and counter-reaction, a vicious circle and a bloody circle, two peoples that are becoming corrupt, violent and crazy with despair, a death trap in which we are suffocating more with every passing day

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January 7

## New Study Refutes Accusations of Incitement in Palestinian Textbooks

*A new report from George Washington University Professor Nathan Brown strongly challenges the cliché that Palestinian children are systematically taught to hate Israelis and Jews in their textbooks and school curriculum, and that this "incitement" is a major cause of the current uprising against Israeli occupation. An abstract of the report is included below, along with links to a number of other relevant reports and studies debunking this myth.*

### **Democracy, History, and the Contest Over the Palestinian Curriculum,**

*by Professor Nathan Brown.*

An independent research report by Professor Brown of The George Washington University debunking the myths that Palestinian textbooks promote violence November 2001. Abstract below, complete report:

[http://www.nad-plo.org/textbooks/nathan\\_textbook.pdf](http://www.nad-plo.org/textbooks/nathan_textbook.pdf)

### **Israel or Palestine: Who Teaches What History?**

*by Elisa Morena published in Le Monde Diplomatique July 2001*

<http://www.nad-plo.org/textbooks/textbook2.html>

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