IMPACT - SE

Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education

Al-Fateh – The Hamas Web Magazine for Children: Indoctrination to Jihad, Annihilation and Self-Destruction



مجلة الفاتح

A Report Compiled and Edited by IMPACT-SE Staff

The Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-SE, formerly CMIP), is a registered nonprofit, non-partisan research institute dedicated to peacemaking between peoples and nations by encouraging acceptance of the "other" and rejection of violent conflict resolution. To this end, it analyzes school curricula in the Middle East and worldwide to ascertain whether the material conforms to international educational standards in the fields of education for tolerance and peace, whether the "other" is recognized and accepted or stereotyped and demonized, and, if a conflict exists, whether peaceful conflict resolution is advocated. This is done using strict academic research criteria, based on UNESCO resolutions and declarations. The findings of its research are published and used to affect change in curricula through policy makers, international organizations, civil society and public opinion.

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List of Publications

- ***"Al Fateh," The Hamas Web Magazine for Children: A Draft Report*** *(October 2008)*
- ***The Attitude to the "Other" and to Peace in Tunisian School Textbooks: A Preliminary Report*** *(October 2008)*
- ***The West, Christians and Jews in Saudi Arabian Schoolbooks: A Research Update,*** (July, 2008)
- ***Palestinian Textbooks: From Arafat to Abbas and Hamas,*** *in cooperation with the AJC (March, 2008)*
- ***The Attitude to the 'Other' and to Peace in Iranian School Books and Teachers' Guides***, in cooperation with the AJC, (October 2006)
- ***Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks***, the New Textbooks for Grade 5 and Grade 10 (June 2005)
- ***Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks***, the New Textbooks for Grade 4 and Grade 9 (October 2004)
- ***La d•mocratie en danger: l'enseignement scolaire saoudien***. Pre•face d'Antoine Sfeir. Berg International. (October 2004)
- ***The West, Christians, War and Peace in Egyptian School Textbooks*** (March 2004)
- ***Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks***, the New Textbooks for Grade 3 and Grade 8 (June 2003)
- ***The West, Christians and Jews in Saudi Arabian Schoolbooks***, in cooperation with the AJC (January 2003)
- ***Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks and High School Examinations,*** 2000-2001, 2001-2002 (October 2002)
- ***Arabs, Palestinians, Islam and Peace in Israeli School Textbooks***, Updated 2000-2001, 2001-2002 (July 2002)
- ***Jews, Israel and Peace in Palestinian School Textbooks***, 2000-2001 and 2001-2001 (November 2001)
- ***Jews, Zionism and Israel in Syrian Textbooks*** (June 2001)
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Al-Fateh – The Hamas Web Magazine for Children: Indoctrination to Jihad, Annihilation and Self-Destruction

Executive Summary

Al-Fateh is the Hamas movement's web magazine for children and youth. As an educational instrument of the Hamas, it provides broad insight into the movement's ideology and educational approach. The website's consistent educational message to its young readers mirrors that of the Hamas movement's ideology and includes scathing hatred, disdain, deligitimization and demonization of the 'other' – the West, especially the US and Europe, the Jews, Israel and Zionism – as well as a call for establishing an Islamic state in entire Palestine and the annihilation of the State of Israel through violent liberation of the land in jihad (holy war).

The West in general, and especially the US and Europe, is portrayed as corrupt and imperialist and as an enemy of Islam in perpetuity. Islam is said to be at war with the West, over which it is destined to triumph. The Jewish people and the State of Israel are delligitimized, using blatantly racist and anti-Semitic language, including the portrayal of the Jews as enemies of mankind and killers of prophets. A total commitment to an armed and violent jihad, especially of the suicidal kind, is advocated, whereas compromise and political solution are rejected in principle, and peace agreements already in place, or Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and commitments aimed at such a solution, are not recognized.

The most extreme, cynical and disturbing aspect of the website is its pervasive indoctrination of the younger generation into the cult of martyrdom – helping to create the next generation of suicide bombers to join the violent jihad. Such doctrine and educational approach are in extreme violation of International Educational Standards based on UNESCO Resolutions, and the fundamental rights of children, as formulated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which in Article 6 recognizes that: "every child has the inherent right to life."

This report is based on examination of 145 issues of *Al-Fateh*, from the first (September 2002) to April 2009.

Selected Excerpts and Illustrations:

This issue is published under very difficult conditions as the Jewish enemy kills our people in beloved Palestine, while the United States, Britain and the other European countries, and India help it. The forces of darkness in the world hope to topple our people in Palestine…"
Issue 2, October 2002

America is the terror, my child… she is the plague that destroys my liver … she is the viper that scatters poison inside me.
Issue 15, October 15, 2003

…***Al-Fateh*** **is sad today over that which is transpiring in Palestine and Iraq, but it has heard word of impending victory, Allah willing, over the Jews and Zionists among the Americans, the Spaniards and the Australians, and from the Arabs that try to be Zionists…who betray their own people…**
Issue 8, April 2003

اليهود مجرمون

"The Criminal Jews"



Caricature of an "evil" Israeli soldier, merged with a caricature of a Diaspora Jew, reminiscent of prototypical European anti-Semitic cartoons. (*Issue 10, June 2003*).

Al Quds (Jerusalem) will remain as a trust in our hands and the hands of all Muslims, and they are to unite and gather for its liberation and the liberation of the land of Palestine from the impurity of the Zionists, the descendents of apes and pigs.
Issue 129, August 1, 2008

…**The soldiers' teeth stood out as they laugh and their teeth stick out as the fangs of wolves who grind the bones of a young lamb they hunted from its mother, their hearts as the heart of the wolves that have no human emotion in them, and then they proceeded to shoot them…**
Issue 38, October 15, 2004



Children are asked to color in the illustration showing a Jew brandishing a knife dripping with the blood of an Arab he just stabbed, lying dead in the lower right-hand corner
Issue 31, July 1, 2004.

Oh, our Aqsa [Mosque], we shall return; we are soldiers of God's religion
We will rejoice at the victory and kill the Jews by the sword.
Issue 140, January 15, 2009

…Negotiations and peace will not bring about the retrieval of the whole of Jerusalem and of the whole of Palestine.
Issue 144, March 15, 2009

They are shown their seat in Paradise at the moment they become martyrs and the angels surround them rejoicing in the processions of light that ascend to heaven… They now wish they could return to life again, fight the Jihad and be killed, then come to life again, fight the Jihad and die as martyrs…Should we grieve for their martyrdom? Never!
Issue 140, January 15, 2009



The Martyr Zeynab Abu Salam
Her head was severed from her pure body, and her veil remained in order to adorn it,
To Paradise, O Zeynab, oh sister of the men.
Issue 38, October 15, 2004

As Allah is my witness, The Jews have wreaked havoc in the land and spread corruption throughout it…I wanted to take revenge on them and kill as many of them as possible……raise the Koran in one hand and in the other the rifle…and we will meet in paradise with the help of Allah. To Jihad! Victory or martyrdom!
Issue 57 August 1, 2005

Introduction

IMPACT-SE has analyzed *Al-Fateh*[1] (http://al-fateh.net), an online Arabic-language magazine aimed at Arabic-speaking children and youth, to ascertain to what degree it conforms to international standards on education for peace and tolerance. In practice, it serves as an educational tool of the Palestinian Hamas movement, and was selected for research as the movement has not issued its own schoolbooks and since it provides broad insight into the movement's ideology and educational approach.

The site is comprised of a front page which is the 'homepage,' in which there are thirty to forty links to various sections and columns, some of which have permanent titles and others that change from issue to issue. Every two weeks a new 'homepage' is posted, along with the newly-written permanent columns such as: 'Opening Remarks' which serves as the magazine's editorial, 'Tales of Uncle Izz al-Din,' 'A *Shahid's* (martyr's) Will,' 'A *Shahid's* Story,' 'My Grandmother,' 'My Dear, the Girl of the Future,' 'The Noteworthy News,' and 'Pictures of the Children of Palestine.'

The website went online in September 2002, starting as a monthly publication. In October 2003 in became a bimonthly publication. It claims to have a large and constantly increasing audience. In May 2006 it reported 34 million hits during its first four years of operation, with the figure growing to 48 million in the following eight months. These figures are the website's assertion, and cannot be independently verified.

'Homepage'



'A *Shahid's* Story'



[1] The name chosen for the Web site is indicative of its ideology. Al-Fateh means "the conqueror," and was the title given to the Ottoman Sultan Mehmet II (1451-81), who conquered Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, in 1453, renamed it, and made it into the capital of the Ottoman Empire, while transforming many of its churches into mosques. It is also used in the web magazine to denote the saber-brandishing boy on horseback who appears on the cover of the report and the homepage.

The site is linked technically to other Hamas websites, but its ideological linkage and affiliation with the Palestinian Hamas movement[2] is most striking and evident in the support found throughout the magazine for the movement's ideology and terrorist activities.[3] The web magazine often quotes and praises Hamas leaders and members of its Military Wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, and, furthermore, identifies with the Muslim Brotherhood movement, extols its chief founders and ideologues, and portrays Palestine in its entirety as a Muslim endowment (*Waqf*), just as is done in the Hamas Charter.

The website's consistent educational message to its young readers mirrors that of the Hamas movement's ideology and includes scathing hatred, disdain, deligitimization and demonization of the 'other' – the West, especially the US and Europe, the Jews, Israel and Zionism – as well as a call for establishing an Islamic state in entire Palestine and the annihilation of the State of Israel through violent liberation of the land in jihad (holy war), and the portrayal of the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah as an example and role model. The violent jihad is not restricted to the Jews and Israel alone but rather applied to all of the above who are deemed enemies of Islam, and any notion of compromise or peace is ruled out. The most extreme, cynical and disturbing aspect of the website is its pervasive indoctrination of the younger generation into the cult of martyrdom – helping to create the next generation of suicide bombers to join the jihad. This report is based on examination of 145 issues of *Al-Fateh*, from the first (September 2002) to April 2009.

* Please note: All boldface lettering has been added by the editors of this report to highlight and emphasize certain parts of the excerpts, and does not appear on the website.

2 Hamas (the Arabic acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement) was founded in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmad Yassin as an armed organization, following several years of activity as a social and religious movement based in the Gaza Strip. It regards itself as a wing of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, and has never been a member of the PLO — the official Palestinian umbrella organization headed by the Fatah armed faction. In 2006 Hamas won the parliamentary elections in the Palestinian National Authority and formed the government, until friction with the Fatah-backed PA escalated to a Hamas coup and the ousting of President Mahmoud Abbas from the Gaza Strip in 2007.

3 The adjective and the noun "terrorist" are used in this essay to denote murderous militant activities deliberately directed at civilians and the civilian population at large. This definition applies regardless of the ideology that motivates terrorism and the goals it serves. It would apply to the means even if one sympathized with the ideology.

The West Regarded as Inferior to Islam

The West is depicted as decadent and inferior to the Islamic world on which it is said to have a corrupting influence — certainly morally, but also regarding many scientific discoveries over the centuries which, *Al-Fateh* tells its young readers, are of Islamic origin, though passed off by the West as their own.

> Today many scientists think that Columbus was not really the first to discover America, because he reached it hundreds of years after the Arabs and Muslims had reached it.
> *Issue 27, April 15, 2004*

Similarly, *Al-Fateh* asserts that the Arabs discovered gravity before Newton. The "legend" of Newton making his discovery while sitting under an apple tree is said to be a ruse designed to hide the fact that the idea was of Arabic provenance (*Issue 31, July 1, 2004). Al-Fateh* cites, among other scientific firsts by Arabs later appropriated by the West without acknowledgment, the notion that the world is not flat and the discovery of electricity.

Al-Fateh also claims that a charter of human rights emerged, not in France or America, but in Mecca in the seventh century, from the Islamic faith. While the nations of the world have violated their own proclamations concerning human rights, the emergence of Islam in Mecca brought:

> … equality between the slave and his master, between the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the man and the woman, the Arab and the non-Arab. And from these roots grew a strong Islamic society which has no oppressor or oppressed, and in which no man can steal the rights of the other.
> *Issue 13, September 2003*

As to the moral aspects of civilization, the West is regarded as a source of decadent and corrupting influence that should be avoided — from "Western imperialist clothing" (*Issue 61, October 1, 2005)* to television programs that "aim to make us live according to their ways in spite of the fact that this is far from what Allah intended for us" (*Issue 85, October 1, 2006). Al-Fateh* accuses the West of having an arrogant and disdainful attitude toward Muslims and expresses scorn and contempt for Western culture and values, as is evident in the following excerpt from editorials, one of which speaks of the celebration of Valentine's Day by Muslims:

> You may imagine how the West looks at us. They look at us disdainfully and derisively, with a glance full of arrogance… They have the right to do so, because we have celebrated their [holidays] while they have not even thought to celebrate ours; because we have sanctified anything that is related to them, while they have despised all our sacred things; because we

have distanced ourselves from our ideal values and clung to their decayed values.

But we will not let them have power over us. We will tell all our friends the truth about this Valentine so that they distance themselves from these vanities…
Issue 142, February 15, 2009

We have greatly disregarded our religion and values and [instead,] clung to the West's trivialities and directives. We have substituted our precious [values] for their cheap [ones].
Editorial, *Issue 139, January 1, 2009*

Al-Fateh touches upon the issue of gender as part of its broader effort to portray the inferiority of Western values:

"The Woman's World"
Many Orientalists accuse Islam of failing to grant the woman that which it grants the man. We do not see this phenomenon in reality, but from reading the history books we find something interesting, century after century, we see that **the nations of the West exploit the woman and deny her basic human rights more than any other nation**. The meaning of freedom has changed for the European woman and become entwined with the concepts of loss, escape and disintegration and has become a type of personal liberty upon which the laws of the Western countries have decreed, even suicide has become an only option for those despairing and lost and those who deviate from the norm in Western society.
Issue 20, January 1, 2004

The West as an Enemy of Islam

Although it relentlessly focuses on hatred and incitement to violence and annihilation of Israel, *Al-Fateh* has a wider perspective that also targets the West as a perceived enemy of Islam and ally of Israel, as a source of past colonialism and past and present imperialism, and as the perpetrator of crimes against Muslims. This doctrine of hate, it should be noted, is not usually framed in religious terms as a conflict with Christianity. One does not find many references to Christians and Christianity on the site. However, there are repeated references to the Crusades as a defining historical memory and to the Christian West as a crusading force then and now.

Al-Fateh refers to conflicts involving Western and Muslim countries as an attack on Islam that requires a response from all Muslims, and accuses the West of aiding and inciting the Jews to kill Palestinians:

> Muslims and their children everywhere are under a siege of injustice — in beloved imprisoned Palestine, in wounded Afghanistan, in Kashmir, in Chechnya, and in other parts of the world which are controlled by **the most despicable of God's creatures: the Jews, and their agents in crusader America** who are hostile to Arabism and Islam and in the West which has forgotten the advantage of the Arabs and Muslims over it and of its resurrection and culture ... in the West which carried out eight crusades against the Arab and Muslim land of *al-Sham* [Greater Syria] and in Egypt, and killed and stole and plundered, not sparing a young man or an old one, a young girl or an old woman … until the beaches of *al-Sham* and Alexandria were dyed in the color of pure and innocent blood. We see them in the new era invading our land, killing, imprisoning, stealing and robbing and offering Palestine to the lowest of Allah's creations…to the Jews…and aiding them against us in money, manpower and arms and **inciting them to kill our lads and women and children in beloved Palestine** and expelling our people from it.
> *Issue 4, December 2002*

Al-Fateh informs its readers that the West not only aids Israel and the Jews in their aggression and villainy, but is itself responsible for attacking Muslim countries.

> Our Muslim lands are under severe attacks in beloved Palestine, in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in Pakistan, in Chechnya and in the Balkans, in India and in Kashmir. The people and the lands are exposed to disasters which the **enemies of mankind**, our enemies, the Jews and their allies in the countries and evil on five continents, bring upon them.
> *Issue 5, January 2003*

The US, Britain and the other European countries (India is lumped in the same group) are accused of aiding the Jews in killing Palestinians:

> This issue is published under very difficult conditions as **the Jewish enemy kills our people in beloved Palestine, while the United States, Britain and the other European countries, and India help it**. The forces of darkness in the world hope to topple our people in Palestine…"
> *Issue 2, October 2002*

Al-Fateh vents its hatred for the former president of the United States and his country, and portrays him as a puppet of his Jewish masters, as well as Arabs and Arab rulers who are accused of being agents of the Zionists, and asks the readers to fill their hearts with hatred and lust for vengeance and pass it on to their offspring:

> I am concerned about you watching television, especially the news that is replete with crimes and massacres perpetrated by the Zionists and their agents in Palestine, in Gaza and Rafah, in the West Bank, in Jenin and its camp that stands steadfast in face of the criminal invading Jews and their agents, the settlers and the Arabs…who betray their people and religion… and they are cursed more than the Jews and debased more than the army of waifs (settlers), sons of the killer…And the Arabs who claim they are Muslims, watch the funerals of the savage massacres and stand idly by…they send no help to their brothers, their rulers don't dare to voice one word of protest or pleading before the modern-day Hulagu [Khan][4] – Sharon, the man of peace to **the Genghis Khan of our age, the light-headed [man] who resides in the Black House and carries out the instructions of the Jews** … they are liars and the young Bush imagines futile fancies, as he is young and has a small, black mind and a small, black heart…and I call you to watch the funerals of our beloved little ones, until these massacres are imprinted upon your souls, so that they would nourish in you the love of vengeance for them, vengeance upon the historical enemies of your nation and religion: **I refer to the Jews and the Crusaders who take orders from the Jews so that your hearts will fill with sacred hatred for these lowly people which you shall pass on to your sons and grandsons,** until the hour of vengeance which will be most terrible.
> *Issue 30, June 15, 2004*

> **America is the terror, my child… she is the plague that destroys my liver … she is the viper that scatters poison inside me.**
> *Issue 15, October 15, 2003*

[4] Hulagu Khan was a Mongol ruler and the grandson of Genghis Khan. He conquered much of southwest Asia and the Middle East including Baghdad, and toppled the Abbasid Caliphate. He was stopped by the Mamluks in the Battle of Ain Jalut in 1260, in the Jezreel Valley of the Galilee region of northern Palestine.

The attitude of *Al-Fateh* toward the West appears along a broad historical timeline, centered on Palestine and linking the period of the Crusades with World War I and the British mandate over Palestine, with the alleged role of Western colonial and imperialist designs in establishing the State of Israel in 1948, and with present day Western, and especially American and European, support for Israel.

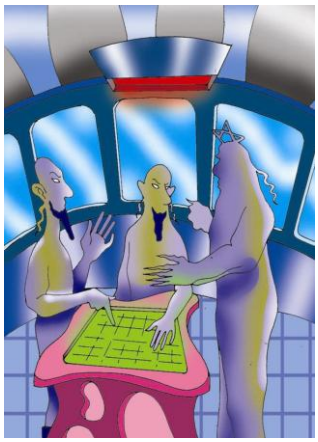
> The savage and backward feudal kings of Europe came at the head of huge armies as invaders and occupiers and seized many Arab cities on the Syrian coast.
> *Issue 142, February 15, 2009*

Al-Fateh quotes from Article 15 of the Hamas Charter in a story entitled "I am the City of Acre," making a link between the Crusades and the British conquest of Palestine from the Ottoman Empire during World War I:

> And see the crime that Britain has brought upon us, Britan which conquered Palestine in a Crusader spirit, as articulated by their commander, General Allenby, who said after the conquest of Jerusalem in 1917: **Today the Crusades have ended**.[5]
> *Issue 11, July 2003*

An illustrated science fiction story is used to portray the Jews of being the true power behind the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement.[6] The evil alien Jewish king (in the left-and illustration) is seen standing and consulting with his two ministers, "Sykes and Picot," over a chart of the Middle East, "planning to divide the Arab homeland and break the harmony that existed." (*Issue 100, May 15, 2007*)





[5] This phrase is an exact quote from the Hamas Charter, Article 15. See page 52.

[6] A secret agreement between Britain and France defining their respective spheres of influence and control in the Middle East after the expected downfall of the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

Islam at War with the West

The West is portrayed in *Al-Fateh* as an antagonist over whom Islam will claim eventual victory. The young readers are indoctrinated to hate and to feel obligated to wage holy war on various fronts, including Afghanistan and Iraq. Militant animosity toward the West is framed in terms of claims of Western oppression, attacks, and crimes, as well as of its moral inferiority. These claims lay the groundwork, together with religious fervor, for a call to jihad and for the belief that Islam will defeat the West. The West is lumped together with Jews, Zionism and Israel in this respect.

> **Jihad for Allah's sake expresses itself in a war against the heretics** … it is incumbent [upon the jihad fighter] to kill them himself with his own hands, to carry a weapon and fight **the Jews, the Serbs, and the Russians, and anyone [else] who attacks the Muslims.**
> *Issue 2, October 2002*

> Foreword – Our beloved children of Iraq
> We see you in our hearts before we see you on the television screen, **we see your martyrs who have been ripped to shreds by the missiles of the usurping Americans and English and the pieces their pure bodies have been scattered, heads here, hands there, legs in another place, their bodies…that were burned in the fire of the hostile invaders…**their souls that are drowning in the mire of the Jews, that draw upon the Jews exploitation, from their heresy, from their barbarism, which causes them to burn cruelly the children of Iraq…The killing, expulsion, starvation and intimidation that the American and English are carrying out and the harm visited upon their brothers in occupied Palestine by the Jews and the spies…who have sold their souls to the Jews and the Americans…***Al-Fateh*** **is sad today over that which is transpiring in Palestine and Iraq, but it has heard word of impending victory, Allah willing, over the Jews and Zionists among the Americans, the Spaniards and the Australians, and from the Arabs that try to be Zionists…who betray their own people…**
> *Al-Fateh* prays as it rides on its horse with its sharp sword in its hand and you can be clam when you are behind it, say with confidence: "Allah, destroy the exploiting and usurping Jews, Allah, bring victory to our warrior brothers, Allah, watch over those fighting in Palestine and anywhere…Grant them victory over their enemies…Allah, destroy them and destroy their Jewish and American masters…
> *Issue 8, April 2003*

> We are currently subjugated by the Jews, the Americans, and the English who occupy our holy land in Palestine, in Iraq, and in many Arab and Muslim states.… It is [incumbent] upon us, the lion cubs of Arabism and Islam, to be prepared to fight these abject people and to liberate our country from occupation.
> *Issue 28, May 1, 2004*

Al-Fateh teaches that Islam is bound to prevail eventually over the West because its just cause gives it the advantage, and the West, especially the American superpower, will collapse like all previous great empires known to history.

> See how they fell like the leaves of a tree in winter, the British Empire where the sun never set … also the French Empire which stretched from East Asia to Canada … and Hitler's empire, which he planned to last a thousand years.… Afterward the immense Soviet Union collapsed and went out of history. **Today America is the only one in the arena** … but this is not its final fate … **the judgment of Allah will fall upon it as it fell upon its predecessors.**
> *Issue 10, June 2003*

In the following excerpt, the city of Seville, Spain, pleads with readers to pray that it return to Muslim hands, along with the rest of the Spanish cities:

> I will give you information about myself: I am the city of Seville, the crown-city of Al-Andalus [Spain]. I was in the past the capital of the Kingdom of Seville… The Muslim Arabs conquered me in [the Muslim month of] Sha'ban, 94 AH/713 CE… At the beginning of [the Muslim month of] Sha'ban 646 AH Ferdinand III [of Castile] besieged and seized me after a siege that lasted a year and five months – due to the strength of my walls and fortresses…**I wish, my beloved ones, you prayed for me that I returned to the Muslims' hands with the rest of the cities of the lost Paradise [Spain]…**
> *Issue 66, December 15, 2005*

Deligitimizing Israel

The *Al-Fateh*/Hamas outlook on Israel, as clearly expressed in the content of this website, is one of uncompromising hatred for a country it does not recognize and views only in terms of wickedness, cruelty, blood lust and lies. Hostility and contempt for Israel are intertwined with the aspiration to annihilate it. The State of Israel, the historical rights of the Jewish people, and Jewish cities and towns within the State of Israel are deligitimized. The site denies any Jewish claim of ties to the land, making a three-pronged attack: on the claim of historical rights, on the link of the Jewish people to its homeland, and on the foundation of modern Israel upon the return of the Jewish people.

Al-Fateh asserts that the ancient Canaanites were the Arab ancestors of the Palestinians, whose claim to the land precedes that of the Jews. The site devotes a great deal of wording to indoctrinating youngsters to view the Jewish presence in the Land of Palestine/Israel as not only historically late but also insignificant, thus seeking to undermine the notion of a historical Jewish homeland and, consequently, the foundation of Zionist ideology on the right of the Jewish people to return to it:

> The Canaanite Arabs were the first to emigrate from the Arabian Peninsula to Palestine … and they established a strong country which lasted for more than 1,500 years and is called Palestine in the Land of Canaan.
> *Issue 66, December 15, 2005*.

Al-Fateh tells children that "tribes of the Arab Canaanites" have dwelt in Hebron for 5,000 years[7]:

> Palestine is an Arab land, where the Arab Canaanites have dwelt since ancient times, a long time before the arrival of the Jews in Palestine, and even when the Jews immigrated into Palestine, the Arab tribes lived there until the arrival of Islam, which made Palestine an Arab Islamic land … and since that time to our day the Muslim Arabs have never left, because this is their land and because the soil is painted in the blood of their forefathers who built it and defended it … and everything in it testifies to Palestine being Arab and Muslim, despite the arrogance of the Jews and imperialism that helps the Jews to occupy it (*Issue 9, May 2003*)

[7] There is a widespread trend among Arab intellectuals in the Middle East to "Arabize" all ancient nations of the region – save the Jews. Thus, according to modern Arab historians, the ancient Babylonians, Arameans, Phoenicians and Egyptians were all "Arabs" who emigrated from the Arabian Peninsula. In the Palestinian case, the Arabization of the Canaanites, who preceded the Jews in ancient Palestine, is meant to portray the Jews as interlopers in the land since antiquity, while the Arab Palestinians, as direct descendants of the "Arab" Canaanites, are ascribed additional legitimacy. In reality, the ancient Canaanites spoke a language very close to Hebrew, not Arabic.

Under the title of "The True History," readers are told of the falsification of history by the Zionists in present days and in the past, based on a history book found in Israeli schools:

> Once, I happened upon a book from the schoolbooks in the curriculum studied in the Zionist schools. This is a forged book, full of lies, deception and misdirection, as the Zionists – this is their custom, lie and disrupt history and falsify it, not just the present history but even ancient history. And I, who read this book, easily discovered these lies…I think that you too will discover such lies, such deception and forgery, as you are like me, reading the history of our precious land of Palestine, always, and this is the true history devoid of lies and forgery.
> *Issue 72, March 15, 2006*

Al-Fateh denies the link of the Jewish people to its homeland by failing to mention the existence of Jewish holy sites, while frequently mentioning Muslim sites, and through denying the Jewish provenance of the holiest site to Jews: the Wailing Wall, known also as the Western Wall, a remnant of one of the supporting walls of the compound of Herod's Temple, which was built on the ruins of Solomon's Temple.

> The Western Wall, a noble and honored Arab and Islamic remnant, one of the walls of the Al-Aqsa Mosque … the most ancient Islamic site in Jerusalem. The occupying Jews claim that this wall is all that remains of their ancient temple, called Solomon's Temple. In actual fact, the Jews' claim is false, faked and incorrect, and history and archeological research prove our statements. The ancient Jewish temple was completely destroyed by the Romans approximately 2,000 years ago. All archeological researchers prove that this wall was built in the Umayyad period … the Western Wall of the Al-Aqsa Mosque is thus an Arab-Islamic remnant, and, consequently, has no connection at all to Solomon's Temple.
> *Issue 57, August 1, 2005*

While denying the roots of the forebears of the Jewish people in the Land of Palestine/Israel and the Jews' link to it over two millennia, *Al-Fateh* refers to the return of the Jews to their land as a greedy, colonialist, and imperialist action against Islam, supported by Western powers (as seen in the previous chapter regarding the attitude toward the West):

> Beloved Palestine is collapsing under the cruel English imperialism collaborating with Jews against Arabism and Islam.
> *Issue 8, April 2003*

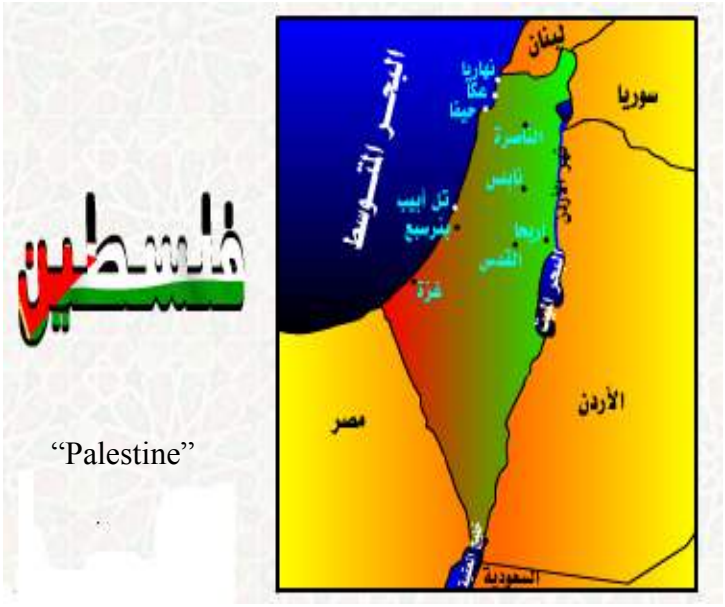
The site suggests that one motive for imperialist support in establishing the State of Israel was the desire of European countries to get rid of their Jews:

> The Jews looked for a land to settle in and the European states helped in order to be saved from them and their wickedness, and they chose the land of Palestine.
> *Issue 41, December 1, 2004*

The website frequently shows the map of the Middle East as if Israel were not part of it and avoids using the term "the State of Israel," instead using terms of derogation and condemnation to refer to it, e.g., "the cursed state," "the state of the monstrous entity," or "the criminal state." It also employs terms that deny Israel's right to exist, such as "the so-called State of Israel," "the Zionist entity," "the alleged entity," and "the thieving usurping entity." On the only occasion in which *Al-Fateh* uses the term "Israel" without such negative adjectives, it puts the word in quotation marks. Its young readers learn that:

> Palestine is an Arab Islamic country which borders on Lebanon in the north, Jordan and Syria in the east, and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. In the south and the southwest it borders on Egypt.
> *Issue 15, October 15, 2003*

Following is a map of the region without Israel, from the introductory page of Issue 103, July 1, 2007.



"Palestine"

Al-Fateh delegitimizes cities, towns and villages established in Israel within the pre-1967 boundaries (not in the West Bank), by refraining from describing them as 'Israeli,' and instead using the Arabic word for "colony," derived from a word connoting imperialism. Examples include Kibbutz Zikkim (*Issue 74, April 15, 2006*), Kibbutz Shamir (*Issue 78, June 15, 2006*), the city of Tel Aviv–Jaffa (*Issue 60, September 15, 2005*), and the city of Sderot, to which the adjective "stolen" is also applied (in 'A *Shahid's'* Story,' *Issue 76, May 15, 2006)*. This type of reference to Sderot is used to denote other villages and towns in the areas surrounding the Gaza Strip (such as Netiv Ha'asara), and is found in dozens of issues in the current events column 'Noteworthy News,' in which readers are updated on the latest towns and villages targeted and hit by Qassam rocket and mortar shell barrages launched from within the Strip. The appellation "Zionist" is oft used, always in a colonialist connotation, as in "the coastal Zionist town of Eilat" (*Issue 51, May 1, 2005*) or "Zionist Tel Aviv" (*Issue 69, February 1, 2006*).

The State of Israel is referred to as "the occupied territories of 1948," (*Issue 43, January 1, 2005*) and the term "occupied" is also applied to cities and regions within Israel, such as Netanya (*Issue 66, December 15, 2005)* and Haifa, in the last testament of suicide bomber Shadi Zakaria al-Tubasi: "…the hero of the brave martyrdom operation in a restaurant in the occupied city of Haifa in which he killed 16 Zionists and wounded 45 on March 31, 2002," (see *Issue 46, February 15, 2005*). The term is also applied to regions such as the entire North (Issue 91, January 1, 2007) and the southern Negev region (Issue 77, July 1, 2006).

Racist Demonization of the Jews

By demonizing Israel at every opportunity, even without connection to the subject at hand, *Al-Fateh* drives home its point that Israel/Zionism dispossesses the Palestinians. For instance, in an article on botany, children are taught about basil, *rihan* in Arabic, by mentioning two Arab villages with names derived from the plant — Umm Rihan and Rihaniyyah — and then the author adds:

> The first [village], in the Haifa region, was destroyed by the evil Zionists, who scattered its residents in every direction, and the second [village] was captured in the year 1948 by the evil enemy who tried to erase its Arab identity.[8]
> *Issue 65, December 1, 2005*

The site frequently attaches derogatory, condemnatory and even racist terms to the word Israelis, also referred to as Jews and/or Zionists. So, for instance, *Issue 8 (April 2003),* states:

> … criminal Zionists, the Jews are the lowest of the human race, Zionist spies or hateful Israelis.
> *Issue 8, April 2003*

One child writes on the site:

> [I will do] to the Jews what the hawk does when it catches sight of its prey, it pounces on it quickly from the sky … I don't want to cause pain to any person except the criminal Jews.
> *Issue 40, November 15, 2004*



The Inscription on the wall reads: 'The Islamic University' [of Gaza]. One man is telling a group of others: "**These Jewish Zionists are criminals and cowards and are a like a cancer** which has to be gotten rid of." (*Issue 8, April 2003*).

[8] The residents of Rihaniyya were originally Circassians from the Caucasus, who have zealously maintained their Circassian identity and have never adopted an Arab identity.

The site denies the Holocaust and accuses the Jews of its fabrication in order to reap financial benefits:



The inscription on the sack reads: "The Holocaust." The Jew on the right says to his friend: "We lied a lie which was believed." The Jew on the left responds: "Let us find a new lie, my friend." (*Issue 122, April 14, 2008)*

In an editorial, Jews are accused of being enemies of Islam, inherent tricksters and violators of treaties, for whom there is no place in Palestine:

> God will never forget you, for you are His hand which strikes – if He so wills – His, your and the religion's enemies.
> Talk to them [i.e., the Jews] about the justice of your cause and about the corruption of their faith.
> Tell them that the land of Palestine is a Muslim land and that it will remain Muslim. The Zionists [will] have no existence there, whatever they do, and no matter how much they destroy and shed blood.
> Tell them about your forefathers and about the Jews' forefathers and explain the difference between them.
> For they [the Jews' forefathers] violated [their] treaties, killed the innocent ones and transformed falsity into truth and truth into falsity through their trickery…
> As for our forefathers, they were glorious and eminent, kept [their] treaties the same way they protected their souls.
> Talk to them about the Jews' trickery against our Messenger Al-Mustafa [Muhammad] and that this trickery is to continue until the Hour of Judgment. The Jew will have no security, no matter how much he pretends to be innocent and pure, except those ones whom my Lord will have mercy on.
> *Issue 140, January 15, 2009*

The following racist reference to Zionists as decedents of animals is not unique and appears dozens of times in various issues throughout the years:

> Al Quds (Jerusalem) will remain as a trust in our hands and the hands of all Muslims, and they are to unite and gather for its liberation and the liberation of the land of Palestine from the **impurity of the Zionists, the descendents of apes and pigs.**[9]
> *Issue 129, August 1, 2008*

> ...Why our nation has become so cowardly and lowly, **fearing the apes**?!
> ...This is why you see me sad and depressed; that is why I hate all the Jews!
> Excerpts from a poem entitled "Save Gaza," *Issue 140, January 15, 2009*

In the column 'Stories of Uncle Izz al-Din' Jews are accused of killing the prophets and likened to evil wolves:

> …as if **they are wolves whose eyes blaze with evil, evil fills their hearts…They are indeed the murderers of the prophets**[10]…
> Issue 19, December 15, 2003

اليهود مجرمون

"The Criminal Jews"



Caricature of an "evil" Israeli soldier, merged with a caricature of a Diaspora Jew, reminiscent of prototypical European anti-Semitic cartoons. (*Issue 10, June 2003*).

[9] The appellation 'descendents of apes and pigs' is based on a Quranic verse in which it is told of a coastal Jewish community whose members went fishing on the Sabbath, despite a warning from Allah not to do so. As a result, the community members were turned into apes and pigs. See the Quran: Surah 2, verse 65; Surah 5, verse 60; and Surah 7, verses 163-166.

[10] This expression, which reappears in various issues, is reminiscent of classic Christian anti-Semitic portrayals of the Jews as the killers of Christ.

The following is a small selection of anti-Israeli hate phrases prevalent on the *Al-Fateh* site: "the filth of the settlers … their mothers are known while their fathers are anonymous … raised as lost dogs (*Issue 9, May 2003*)," "…cowardly Zionists, cursed Zionists, contemptuous Zionists, thieving and usurping Zionists, **satanic Jews**, the impurity of the Zionist Jews (*Issue 47, March 1, 2005*)," "…evil Zionists who do not have even one grain of culture in them (*Issue 63, November 1, 2005*)."

Stories and articles on this website, which addresses children, systematically portray Israel as thirsty for Palestinian blood and lusting to commit murder and acts of cruelty for the sake of pleasure. A prime example of such demonization can be found in the following excerpt from the a story told by a grandmother about Muhammad Al Dura, a Palestinian child killed in a gun battle between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen in the Gaza Strip in September 2000[11]:

> …He and his father arrived at the roadblock guarded by the criminal Jewish soldiers, the car was not allowed to pass and Muhammad went by foot with his father…there were demonstrations nearby…they chose a side road, suddenly a group of the criminal soldiers appeared in front of them…the soldiers descended on them as the wolves descend on their prey, and began to fire around them first without hitting them, Muhammad stood by his father and said: do not worry father, their bullets will not hurt us, we have done nothing to them, why should they kill us? His father responded: they are Jews, Muhammad… Muhammad was wounded by shrapnel…Muhammad's father began to shout in the direction of the ambulance (which could not move forward due to the fire) – the boy is dead! The boy is dead! Help us! One of the sniper soldiers laughed in scorn at this father…said in his criminal mind: the solution is that I rid him of his son, aimed the sniper rifle at Muhammad's chest, smiled and began to shoot and the bullets pierced Muhammad's heart…**The soldiers' teeth stood out as they laughed and their teeth stuck out as the fangs of wolves who grind the bones of a young lamb they hunted from its mother, their hearts as the heart of the wolves that have no human emotion in them**, and then they proceeded to shoot them…
> *Issue 38, October 15, 2004*

In this particular story, a girl tells her uncle of a particularly sadistic Jew, equates him with Pharaoh and proceeds to assert that the modern-day Pharaoh is the Israelites [Jews]:

> Shimon enjoyed torturing people, **as he saw the tears and heard the screaming of the tortured he would feel happiness and joy**, nothing

[11] It should be noted that the Enderlein vs. Karsenty trial in Paris, 2008, established that the TV report of a minute and a half broadcast on France 2 which depicted the Israeli soldiers as responsible for Al-Dura's death, had no basis in the entire 27 minutes of footage taken of the incident by the network cameraman. Contrary to France 2 reporter Charles Enderlein's claim that he had not included the footage of the death throes of Al Dura "because it was unbearable," the entire 27 minutes of the footage did not contain such a scene.

other than torturing the people caused him pleasure…This is what we studied in school about Pharaoh…He weakened the Israelites, slaughtered their sons and left their women to a life of slavery and **today the Israelites fill the role of Pharaoh!**
Issue 21, January 15, 2004

Children are asked to color in the illustration showing a Jew during the war of 1948 brandishing a knife dripping with the blood of an Arab he just stabbed, lying dead in the lower right-hand corner (*Issue 31, July 1, 2004*).



إقرأ ولوّن

"Read and Color"

A Call for Violent Jihad to Liberate Palestine

The deligitimization, dehumanization and demonization of Jews and Israel provide the basis and legitimacy for the numerous calls on the site to kill Jews:

> You will be in the ranks in the near future, the future in which we cleanse our holy land of the impurity of the Jews.
> *Issue 45, February 1, 2005*

> O God, you should deal with the aggressive Zionists
> O God, dissolve their unity and disperse them and show us the wonders of your power on them
> O God… kill them… and do not leave [even] one of them
> (Excerpts from a poem titled "O God, Help the People of Gaza")
> *Issue 140, January 15, 2009*

The characterization of Palestine as an Islamic endowment and its liberation as religious duty, as well as the harsh anti-Semitic incitement to kill Jews that is found in the following Prophetic Saying [*Hadith*], are found in articles 7 and 11 of the Hamas Charter as well (see page 51):

> Palestine is an Islamic [religious] endowment [*waqf*]. It is the Muslims' primary problem and its liberation is a personal religious duty of every Muslim. I recall the Prophetic Saying [*Hadith*] by God's Messenger [Muhammad]: "The Hour of Judgment will not arrive until you fight the Jews and kill them… and until trees and the rocks will say: **'O Muslim, o servant of God, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him,'** except the salt bush [*gharqad*], for it is [one] of the Jews' trees."
> *Issue 2, October 1, 2002*

Numerous testimonials of suicide bombers and other terrorists dubbed *shahids* quoted on the site serve a similar educational purpose. Following is an excerpt from the last testimonial of Sahil Na'aman Abu Hahal, killed in an Israeli military operation, which appears word for word in the website of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades along with a poem in his praise:

> I want to follow in the footsteps of the fighters in order to liberate this land from the impurity of the contemptible Jews, from the impurity of the evil and the corrupt and **I know clearly that my blood will be shed and my organs scattered and I will serve up my life, my property and my children for this religion and this beloved land**…and in return for the paradise of Allah.
> *Issue 50, April 15, 2005*.

The notion that the destruction of Israel is entwined with liberating Palestine is explicitly promoted:

> All Muslim children are the hope for the future and by their hands, with Allah's help, the accursed Jewish state will be totally destroyed.
> *Issue 43, January 1, 2005*

> The way to the complete liberation of the land is though the muzzle of a gun.
> *Issue 72, March 15, 2006*

In the following illustrated story, schoolchildren are asked to draw a drawing entitled: "when the sky is angry." A pupil (named Izz al-Din in reference to the Qassam Brigades) draws the following picture:

عندما تغضب السماء

"When the Sky is Angry"



> …until [the teacher] came to Izz al-Din's drawing. He looked at the drawing in wonder and said: "Look at what your friend Izz al-Din drew! He drew a sky raining down rocks that are stoning the Zionists! All of you applaud your friend Izz al-Din!
> *Issue 75, May 1, 2006*

A weekly section containing children's letters from around the world, contains a letter by a boy from Abu Dhabi who modified a poem originally by the famous Syrian poet Nizar Qabbani and renamed it "Gaza's Pupils," calling on Gazan children, at the height of the Israeli operation in Gaza, to wage war against Israel, which is likened to an aquatic monster:

> O Gaza's pupils…
> Strike, strike
> With all your might…
> Wage your wars and leave us [i.e., the other Arabs] alone
> We are the ones who flee from military service…
> We have stuck to our burrows
> And asked you to fight the sea monster
> *Issue 140, January 15, 2009*

The Web site provides educational stories like that of the boy Mahmoud who chose a toy gun as a reward for doing well at school and, upon receiving the promised gift, told his father that "this will become a real gun in my hands." The father praised him and said: "Oh, for my joy in you, Mahmoud, you have just become a man." (*Issue 72, March 15, 2006*).



Such stories are reinforced by pictures showing young boys with rifles and, to drive home the practical goal, pictures pointing to the killing of Israeli soldiers.



A boy plays at shooting Israeli soldiers (*Issue 3, November 2002*)

To instill this ideology, *Al-Fateh* publishes stories written, as it were, by cities within Israel proper that address children and "plead" with them to act to liberate them "from the hands of the abject Jews." The cities of Haifa, Acre, Tiberias, Safed, Nazareth, Lod, Beit Shean and Beersheba — all located within the sovereign State of Israel — "tell" the children:

> We await the pure fighters, [those who are already] free [and] who will liberate us from Zionist colonialism.
> *Issues ranging from January 2003 to February 1, 2004*



أنا حيفا الأسيرة ، أنتظر الفرج من الله القويّ الجبار ، على أيدي تلامذة القسام الأبطال ، من المجاهدين الفدائيين الأحرار ..
ولن يطول انتظاري لتحرري وسائر المدن والأرض الفلسطينية العربية والمسلمة..

"I am the imprisoned Haifa, awaiting my liberation by Allah, by means of the heroic Al-Qassam students, the esteemed fighters who risk their lives and face death. My expectation for my liberation, and the liberation of the rest of Palestinian Muslim cities, is that it will not take much longer [to accomplish]."
Issue 5, January, 2003

Jihad against Israel as Islamic Duty

Al-Fateh teaches its young readers that the only way to "liberate" the land and annihilate the State of Israel is through jihad.[12] The Web site interprets jihad not as a peaceful, spiritual, or ethical quest, as it is sometimes thought of in the Muslim tradition, but in the most radical sense of the term as a violent holy war that is a religious duty. *Al Fateh* tells children that jihad means making an effort (the word for "effort" in Arabic is derived from the same root as jihad), but insists on putting "effort" in the context of a holy war:

> If your father says to you "make an effort" … he means that you should invest all the effort you are capable of to fight your enemies.
> *Issue 2, October 2002*

The site incites children to take an active part in the total holy war by presenting hortatory messages from suicide bombers glorifying violent jihad, and calls upon its readers to express their loyalty to Islam by becoming jihad fighters, using the wills of suicide bombers to show their love of jihad and its sweet taste:

> I bless you with a blessing…which I send to you…the faithful, the righteous who desire Jihad and martyrdom… love of jihad and martyrdom rules my life, my soul, my feelings and my heart…and I see my helplessness and the helplessness of the Muslims in face of the war for Allah, may he be elevated. **It is difficult for the soul that has tasted the sweet taste of jihad and for which the suffering in it is tasty…to rest anywhere else than paradise…**Since we have sinned and abandoned the path of jihad, Allah has made the decedents of apes and pigs the rulers of the nation… And I said to myself: tomorrow I will meet the beloved Muhammad and his friends…I have seen in martyrdom a path to paradise for me. **O Muslims, life is jihad, your glory is jihad, and your existence creates a crucial connection to jihad.** You have no value under the sun unless you have drawn your weapons and exterminated the danger…of the infidels and usurpers. **The jihad is the basis of your call to Islam**, and the strength of your religion…you mustn't prefer the life of this world over the afterlife…whereas I am living in paradise…do not be sad my brothers as I am a *shahid* of paradise…and I will see you, with Allah's help, in paradise.
> (From the will of Ismail al-Ma'aswabi, a suicide bomber who detonated a car bomb, killing 2 Israeli soldiers and wounding one)
> *Issue 2, October 2002*

[12] An identical assertion is made in Articles 15, 16, 29 and 30 of the Hamas Charter. See pages 52, 53 and 55.

Oh, our Aqsa [Mosque], we shall return; we are soldiers of God's religion
We will rejoice at the victory and kill the Jews by the sword
(Excerpts from a poem titled "Al-Aqsa's Soldiers")
Issue 140, January 15, 2009

And thus we see that the entire land of Palestine is blessed and holy and that is why the jihad for its liberation from the Zionist aggressors is an individual duty for every Muslim when infidels capture Muslim lands. That is to say, it is currently required of every Muslim to fight the Jews who occupied Palestine — until they leave [the land] and return it to the Arab people.
Issue 2, October 2002

Al-Fateh further reinforces its educational message for children to join the ranks of the jihad warriors with this story and illustration in the column 'People I Love,' of an Islamic education teacher who tells pupils in the classroom about Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak, who was a scholar and jihad warrior in the eighth century. After giving an overview of his life, the teacher says:

…and his book about jihad has been printed, purchase it, read it and be jihad warriors (*mujahidin*) as he was.
Issue 15, October 10, 2003



The writing on the board reads: "The learned Imam, the man of actions, the ascetic, the jihad warrior, Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak."

The purpose of the holy war against Israel — the "united Arab jihad for the liberation of the stolen lands" (*Issue 78, June 15, 2006*) — is none other than complete annihilation, and it cannot stop until the purpose is achieved.

> We are in a constant jihad, fighting against the enemies of Allah who stole our lands in Palestine … we will always continue in the ways of jihad, and death for the sake of Allah, and he will be with us.
> *Issue 13, September 2003*

Christians, as well as Jews, are targeted for jihad in the following will of *shahid* Ahmed Almasalmeh:

> Praise the Lord, master of the universe, who cherishes the warriors and delivers victory to those who tell of his oneness, and who defeats the Jews, the Christians and the hypocrites.
> *Issue 36, September 15, 2004*

While advocating jihad as a total, unrelenting war of annihilation, *Al-Fateh* asserts the corollary of that position, too: rejecting any peaceful solution, or even negotiations that might lead in that direction.[13]

Al-Fateh has a column dedicated to Hajj Amin al-Husseini, the most prominent Palestinian leader in the 1940s, known for his collaboration with Nazi Germany. Among his statements quoted on the site is this exhortation to Palestinians never to make peace with the Jews:

> If you do not succeed in liberating Palestine, I am warning you not to conclude a peace agreement with the Jews, whatever the situation will be.
> *Issue 5, January 2003*

Among the more recent radical Palestinian leaders, Abd al-Aziz Rantisi, who was a senior Hamas figure in the Gaza Strip and a staunch opponent of the Oslo Accords and all subsequent agreements between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, is quoted by *Al-Fateh* in reference to Palestinian protests against negotiations and agreements. Rantisi praises the Palestinian demonstrators who:

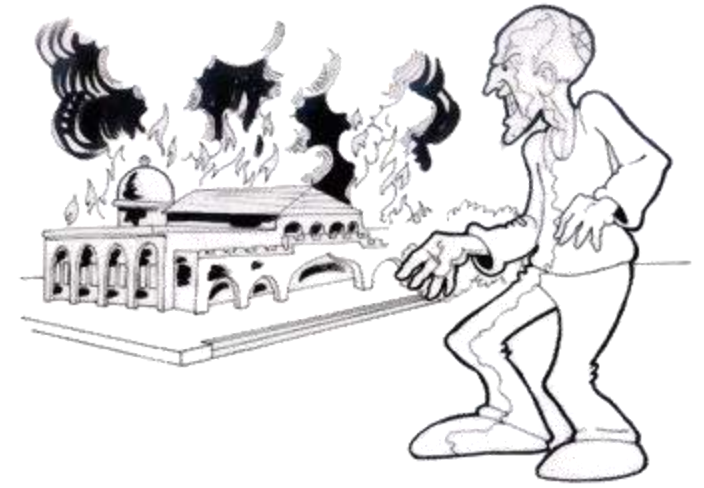
> …left their homes in order to tell the negotiators: "No to this ridiculous negotiation! Yes to continuing resistance. Yes to the gun!"
> *Issue 8, April 2003*

[13] A position identical to that found in Article 13 of the Hamas Charter. See page 52.

At a Gaza rally entitled "Remembering the Fire at Al Aqsa [Mosque],"[14] (see below), Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh is quoted in issue 107 (September 1, 2007) as declaring that: "We will not negotiate with anyone at any stage in order to concede Jerusalem or any right of our Palestinian people. No, we will never give up on any piece of land in Jerusalem or the blessed land of Palestine and we won't recognize the division [of Jerusalem], we won't accept the artificial geography in the public and secret rounds of negotiations."



At the same Rally, Hamas official Marwan Abu Ras is quoted as declaring that "The Al Aqsa Mosque will never be returned through the negotiations or over the negotiating table, but rather through the rifle that is held by the pure hand," and Hamas Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Ahmed al-Bahar, as emphasizing the essentiality of educating a generation that will carry on the campaign against Israel "as Jerusalem will never be returned but through Jihad in the way of Allah." (*Issue 107, September 1, 2007)*



The Jews are accused of torching the Al Aqsa Mosque and preventing fire trucks from putting out the blaze, as illustrated in the drawing of a Jew wearing a skullcap emblazoned with a Star of David sneering and watching the Mosque burn (*Issue 31, July 1, 2004*)

Former Hamas Minister of Culture, Atallah Abu al-Sabah, is quoted on the site as saying that:

> …Negotiations and peace will not bring about the retrieval of the whole of Jerusalem and of the whole of Palestine.
> *Issue 144, March 15, 2009*

[14] The Al Aqsa Mosque, located in the Old City of Jerusalem on part of the al-Haram ash-Sharif, or "Sacred Noble Sanctuary," along with the Dome of the Rock, was set ablaze on August 21, 1969 by Michael Dennis Rohan, an Australian member of an evangelical Christian sect known as the Worldwide Church of God, who was subsequently hospitalized in a mental institution, found to be insane and later deported from Israel.

The will of the *shahid* Mahmoud Ahmad Marmash, who killed 5 and wounded over 100 civilians in a suicide bombing at a shopping mall, contains the following personal message:

> Unfortunately, I see that many of the sons of this nation are killed and they are waiting and standing idly by, claiming that the solution to the problems is the solution of peace, and do you think that the Zionist enemy understands the message of peace and the peaceful solution?
> *Issue 29, May 15, 2004*

An additional method *Al-Fateh* deploys for implanting in its young readers' minds opposition to any peace agreement is the use of allegorical stories and images with a political moral.

One illustrated story concerns two rabbits who claim ownership of the same house. The rabbits agree to allow a cat, who pretends to be wise and pious, to be the judge in the dispute. In the end, the cat pounces on the rabbits and devours them with great pleasure. *Al-Fateh* supplies the moral:



From right to left:

- Oh sir…It is I, the rabbit…
- I can't hear…I can't hear…Come closer both of you, my dears.
- And in the end I took both of you so you would become my dinner tonight.
- The enemy is [always] the enemy, and will never be a friend.
  Issue 34, August 15, 2004

This perception of the impossibility of a peaceful solution to the conflict is further reinforced in a story about a girl who tells her uncle Izz al-Din about a senior official in the Israeli Ministry of Education who came to her school and gave a speech about the peace that should exist between the Arabs and the Jews and that they should live together in security and safety. The girl tells her uncle:

> I told him [the official]: "**Do you expect peace between the wolf and the lamb**…The wolf wants to devour the poor, weak lamb because it drank from a brook…Peace, honorable sir, with the wolf of occupation which took everything from us…imprisons our youths, our warriors will pursue them and kill them…" The pupils applauded me and whispered: "The occupation will fall, the occupation will fall, no peace with the enemies, no peace with the enemies…"
> *Issue 30, June 15, 2004*

Indoctrinating Children to Martyrdom

The site does not merely exhort children to take up arms to kill Israelis and become fighters in a jihad; it educates them to seek *shahadah* — martyrdom for the sake of Allah — and idealizes suicide bombings as an expression of devotion to Islam. It incites young people to aspire to take part in terrorist attacks, while presenting suicide bombers as role models. This is what they should aspire to and emulate.

> The coming of the [new] Hijri year coincided with the abominable massacre of Gaza, as if God was emphasizing to us the necessity of always returning to Him and obeying His orders, so that the enemies would not consider our blood, honor, property, history, glory and dignity to be unprotected…It was suitable for God to wake this nation up from its slumber. It was done by way of these devoted martyrs who sacrificed their fragrant blood, so that it would be a torch lighting the way for the heedless ones from among the sons of this great nation.
> Editorial, *Issue 139, January 1, 2009*

The Web site features numerous stories, articles, pictures, and games for children that convey admiration for terrorists and their actions, often related in detail. Among the many suicide bombers praised by *Al-Fateh* are perpetrators of the following attacks:

- the suicide bombing in downtown Netanya in March 2001 in which three civilians were killed and 53 wounded
- the suicide bombing at the Sharon shopping mall in Netanya in May 2001, in which five civilians were murdered and over 100 wounded
- a suicide bombing in June 2001 at the Dolphinarium Club in Tel Aviv frequented by teenagers — with a toll of 21 dead and 120 wounded
- a suicide bombing at a road junction in Jerusalem in June 2002, killing 19 civilians and injuring 74
- a suicide bombing in a crowded bus at the Meiron junction in August 2002, killing 9 civilians and injuring 48
- The shooting attack on the Ashdod port in March 2004, which left 10 civilians dead and 12 wounded
- a suicide bombing in the city of Dimona in February 2008, killing 1 civilian and injuring 11

In the section entitled 'My Grandmother,' the granddaughter complains of nightmares from the harsh sights in Gaza. Following are excerpts from the grandmother's response:

> The killed Muslims are in Paradise, and their [the Jews'] killed ones are in [Hell's] fire. They [i.e., the Muslims who were killed] have been granted martyrdom, which is the Muslims' hope and goal in this world. They died because their time has come, and had the Jews not killed them, they would have died [anyway]. But God wanted Paradise for them, so He granted them martyrdom…

Be reassured, my beloved one, that at the moment of their martyrdom they do not feel pain at all. They feel as if they are only pricked by a needle. Moreover, we see them on the television screen [i.e., reading their prerecorded statements] smiling, delighted and confident about God's promise to them. They are shown their seat in Paradise at the moment they become martyrs and the angels surround them rejoicing in the processions of light that ascend to heaven…

They now wish they could return to life again, fight the Jihad and be killed, then come to life again, fight the Jihad and die as martyrs…

Should we grieve for their martyrdom? Never! We grieve at the bereaved, the widows and the orphans, but when we bear in mind that God is with them and will not forget them, our souls find rest a little.

Issue 140, January 15, 2009

In short, *Al-Fateh* prepares its young readers to seek death like the *shahids* it glorifies and praises, and such preparation is also reinforced by systematically exposing the children to graphic images of torn limbs and dead bodies – desensitizing them to violence and death. Thus, *Al-Fateh* is creating the next generation of suicide bombers, as its fundamental educational mission.

A female suicide bomber, Zeynab Abu Salam, who killed two police officers when she blew herself up in Jerusalem in 2004, is praised on the site (*Issue 38, October 15, 2004*):



الاستشهادية زينب أبو سالم

انفصل رأسها عن جسدها الطاهر ، وبقي الحجاب يزينه
فإلى الفردوس الأعلى يا زينب .. يا أخت الرجال

The Martyr Zeynab Abu Salam

Her head was severed from her pure body, and her veil remained in order to adorn it,
To Paradise, O Zeynab, oh sister of the men

The Web site often uses stories of *shahids* or their last wills and testaments to convey the message of violent jihad till victory or death – a message found in the teachings of Ayatollah Khomeini.[15] One such last will and testament is that of Khaled Ali Rian, who was a member of the Izz al Din Al Qassam Brigades:

> We will say clearly to the treacherous Arab countries and to those responsible in the [Palestinian] Authority who trade in the blood of the *shahids,* of women and children: "Return from the path of supporting the Jews … because whoever helps a traitor is a traitor … [take the path] to war **until victory or to death in battle**."
> *Issue 13, September 2003*

> …the *shahid* reached the target, boarded bus no. 18, his hand on the detonation switch, his heart trusting in the mention of the name of Allah…**The Jews became to him as flies or locusts**…He who oppresses our people and grinds the bones of the children of the rocks and whose prayer leads him to commit a massacre deserves none other than this, and in his cry "Allahu Akbar" [God is great] he pressed down with his finger…**Allah, how great is *shahada*!**
> *Issue 25, March 15, 2004*

The last testament of the suicide bomber Jamal Abdel Ghani Rashid Nazer, who detonated a car bomb, ends with an identical message: "As Allah is my witness, The Jews have wreaked havoc in the land and spread corruption throughout it…I wanted to take revenge on them and kill as many of them as possible…and it is natural that the path to fulfilling my goal is the path of resistance… "My brothers, congregate around the resistance, raise the banner of Jihad…and trump the plans of the Jews that threaten your national unity, unite around the green banner of Islam, with swords you shall rule over their necks…raise the Koran in one hand and in the other the rifle…and we will meet in paradise with the help of Allah. To Jihad! **Victory or martyrdom!** Your brother and son, the living *shahid* Jamal Abdel Ghani Rashid Nazer." (*Issue 57 August 1, 2005*)

[15] Victory or death in battle is a recurring motive in teachings of the leader of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini, and appears in Iranian schoolbooks: "Either we all become free, or we will go to the greater liberty which is martyrdom… Either we shake one another's hand in joy at the victory of Islam in the world, or all of us will turn to the eternal life and martyrdom. In both cases victory and success are ours… Even if we are cut to pieces a thousand times, we shall not stop fighting the oppressors." (Imam Khomeini, *Islamic Viewpoint*, Grade 11 (2004) p. 29, in 'The Attitude to the 'Other' and to Peace in Iranian School Textbooks and Teachers' Guides,' 2006, p. 98: http://www.impact-se.org/docs/reports/Iran/Iran2006.pdf)

The sole exception to the rule is the following passage in which a thirteen-year-old girl, Yasmin Shamalawi, "the youngest Palestinian writer and media person," relates, among other things, to the conflict with Israel:

> Yasmin Shamalawi rejects violence as a means of confronting the other, believes in peace as a means of achieving the goals of the Palestinian people and rejects the killing of Israeli children just as she categorically rejects the killing of the children of Palestine. And she goes on to say: "I don't carry a rifle as the singer Umm Kulthum[16] once sang: 'I now have a rifle in my hands, take me with you to Palestine…' All I will make is a sincere and true call on behalf of the children of Palestine to the rulers of Israel, so that they may look at us and their own children through the perspectives of childhood and the future … and let us live together, as there is room for all in the land and in the heavens."
> *Issue 129, August 1, 2008*

Martyrs from the Iranian-inspired Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah and the organization itself are admired and honored as a movement of Islamic armed resistance, and it is looked up to as a source of inspiration for the readers, who are invited to support it. A last will and testament and a story about the *shahid* son of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah draw an explicit parallel between Hezbollah and the Palestinian groups, tell of the personal example provided by Nasrallah and his martyred son, and call on the readers to emulate the example of the Lebanese movement and its leader, while giving a backhand slap to nepotistic Arab leaders and those in the Fatah movement who accept negotiations toward a peaceful solution:

> We see how Hezbollah inflicted horror on [the Israelis] and defeated them, as did Hamas and the Islamic Jihad and those who have honor in Fatah… I wish that you would all be like Hezbollah, which is undefeatable.
> *Issue 24, March 1, 2004*

> The *shahid* Hadi, son of Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, who wanted to marry but preferred the marriage with the black-eyed [virgins] in heaven…His father did not deny it [martyrdom] from him and on the contrary, encouraged him…He had educated him since childhood for the love of *shahada*...Tell me, how many leaders sacrifice their sons for their people? They prepare their sons to inherit their power…
> *Issue 28, May 1, 2004*

[16] Umm Kulthum (1922-1975) is Fatima Ibrahim Elbeltagi, dubbed "The Star of the East," and considered the greatest Arab female singer of all time.

Al-Fateh expresses support and admiration for Hezbollah's operations for kidnapping Israeli soldiers for bargaining purposes. They are portrayed as brave and essential for the release of prisoners held in Israel. These prisoners are quoted as saying:

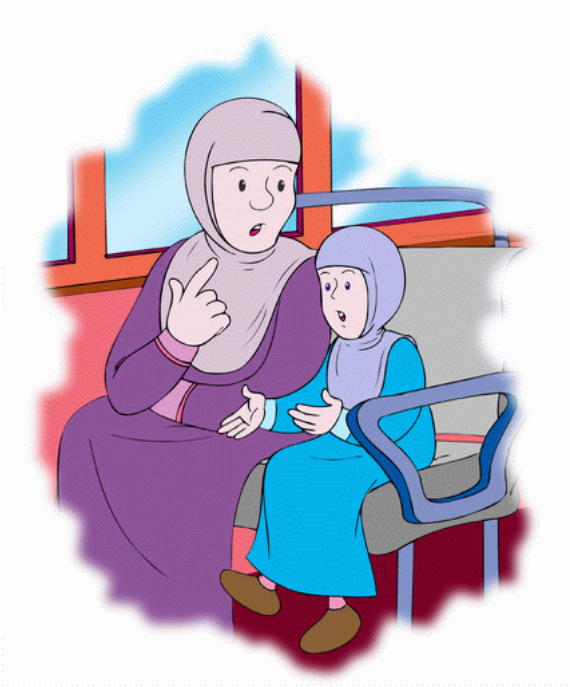
> With Allah's help we will meet again soon outside the prison: the Islamic resistance in Lebanon has kidnapped three Zionist soldiers, thus creating an opportunity for a prisoner exchange deal, of which we will hopefully be a part.
> *Issue 45, February 1, 2005*

Another issue praises the capture of Israeli soldiers. Here the reference is to three soldiers captured by Hezbollah in October, 2000:

> Soldiers were captured by the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon … [Hezbollah] pounced on their armored patrol shouting "Allah is the greatest." Like the eagle's grabbing maneuver, they caught them by surprise, fear overcame [the Israeli soldiers] and their weapons did not help them. [The Hezbollah fighters] dragged them by the scruff of their necks like rabbits … this was a professional operation.… Now secret contacts are under way to reach a deal on exchanging Palestinian prisoners for the soldiers of crime.
> *Issue 47, March 1, 2005*

In a story entitled "Izz al Din in Nafha Prison," a grandmother tells her granddaughter, on the way to visit Uncle Izz Al Din in an Israeli prison, that the Jews have killed the prophets and messengers of peace, and that the only way to release her uncle and other Palestinian prisoners is for Hamas to abduct Israeli soldiers for a prisoner exchange:

> Said Israa:
> -But they want peace, so they say.
> -They lie!! In the past they killed the messengers of peace, the prophets whom Allah sent for justice and peace, those whom he sent to bring the people out from the darkness to the light they killed…
> Said Israa:
> -And today they kill the successors of the Messenger of God, peace be upon him, such as my uncle Izz al Din. Now tell me, grandmother, how will my uncle and his prisoner brothers be released? Five years of agreements and negotiations have not succeeded, so



what can be done?

The grandmother replied swiftly:

-There is an alternative way that took place in the year of 85'…Prisoners for prisoners…The Jihad warriors [mujahedin] need to have prisoners in their possession…

-Do you mean that the jihad warriors should abduct from their soldiers?

-Yes, that is the only way in which the [Palestinian] prisoners will go free with heads held high, strengthened and dignified…There are attempts that the jihad warriors are carrying out…we will succeed with Allah's help and you uncle will go free just as he went free for the first time in the year 85'[17]…

Issue 35, September 1, 2004

The story of shahid Yasser Mohammad Taha specifically mentions Hamas' operations to abduct Israeli soldiers for the purpose of prisoner exchanges:

In one of the times he received an assignment form the warrior brother Muhammad al-Def to dig a tunnel into the occupied lands of 1948 and the purpose of the tunnel was to abduct Zionist soldiers and exchange them for prisoners from our people…

Issue 13, September 2003

[17] This is a reference to the 'Jibril Deal,' a prisoner exchange deal which took place on May 21, 1985 between the Israeli government and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command. As part of the agreement, Israel released 1,150 security prisoners held in Israeli prisons in exchange for three Israeli soldiers captured during the First Lebanon War. Among the prisoners released by Israel was Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin.

Al-Fateh's Affiliation with Hamas

Al-Fateh is technically affiliated with Hamas and, in its content, serves as a mouthpiece for Hamas' ideology, effectively indoctrinating the young to follow in its path.

I. The Technical Affiliation

The site was registered to an address in Lebanon, but after a substantial upgrade in March–April 2007, it was stated that *Al-Fateh* is based in London. The technical connection between *Al-Fateh* and other Web sites known to be affiliated with Hamas has been documented by the Society for Internet Research, based in Carbondale, IL, US. It has shown that *Al-Fateh* shares its server in Malaysia exclusively with the Palestine Information Centre and other Hamas-affiliated websites: http://palestine-info.info/http://www.palestine-info.net/, the portal leading to Palestine Info websites in 7 languages including English, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Russian, French and Bahasa (Indonesian), http://www.fm-m.com, and http://palestinegallery.com/. The multilingual Hamas news websites of the Palestine Information Centre sport images of Hamas members and statements left by Hamas leaders and suicide bombers identical to those found on *Al-Fateh* (http://al-fateh.net), and a link to the *Al-Fateh* site appears on the Palestine Information Center website in Arabic, under the link to the website of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Hamas has denied any connection to both the PIC and *Al-Fateh* sites, to prevent the countries that host the server from shutting them down, as was done to the Izz al-Din al-Qassam site in 2008.[18]

II. Content*: Al-Fateh* as a Mouthpiece of Hamas – Ideological Affinity

However, the relationship is more pervasive and fundamental than that. *Al-Fateh* functions in the service of Hamas. It mentions the movement countless times, praises Hamas leaders, and effusively rejoiced when Hamas won the Palestinian elections. It supports the the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, commemorates Hamas *shahids*, and publishes their last wills and testaments. The Hamas ideology is behind everything published by *Al-Fateh* and is the driving force behind the website's educational mission.

Just as the Hamas movement's affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood movement is pronounced in the Hamas Charter[19], the connection of *Al-Fateh* to the Muslim brotherhood is manifested in various informative stories of the life and achievements of senior Muslim Brotherhood figures: its founder Hassan al-Banna and its leading ideologue, Sayyid Qutb. In the following story, a grandson asks his grandfather what he is reading, and the grandfather replies that it is a collection of writings by the *shahid* Imam Hassan al-Banna, and then proceeds to tell of his life and martyrdom, and pledges to pass on the legacy of al-Banna to his grandson:

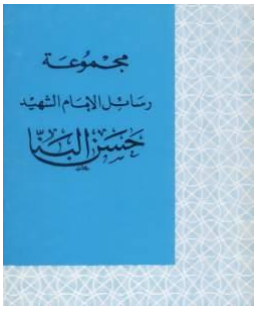
[18] See 'Russia shuts down Hamas Web site,' JTA, July 31, 2008.
[19] See the Hamas Charter Preamble and Articles 2 and 7: pages 50 and 51.



رجال أحبهم

الإمام الشهيد

حسن البنا



Top caption: "People whom I Love"
Middle caption: "The *Shahid* Imam"
Bottom caption: "Hassan al-Banna"

> Oh grandfather, and who is Hassan al-Banna? Where is he from? When was he born?
> - The grandfather replied: "Hassan al-Banna was born in the village of Mahmoudia – near Alexandria…The *shahid* Hassan al-Banna studied in Cairo, worked as a teacher, founded the group of the Muslim Brotherhood, fought with his Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian and Palestinian and Iraqi brothers in Palestine in 1948, and since Hassan al-Banna fought the Jews, and acted against the English colonialism, and revived the preparation of the Muslims to receive Islam in their souls, the criminals killed him. May Allah have mercy on him. **And I will advise you, oh my son, in the reading of these masterpiece writings of his.**
> *Issue 25, March 15, 2004*

In addition to likening the Jews to animals and accusing them of murder of innocents, in the following passage they are said to control the media and possess great wealth – a claim identical to that which is made in the Hamas Charter:[20]

> We must liberate it [Al Aqsa Mosque] from the Jews who sow corruption and destruction in this blessed land. They kill children, women, the elderly and young in cold blood, demolish houses, uproot trees, trample flowers like stupid, uninhibited farm animals. This happens since they posses the knowledge, the money, the weapons and the media as well, and we unfortunately do not posses anything of what they have.
> *Issue 36, September 15, 2004*

Al-Fateh expresses the same ideological positions that Hamas takes in its Charter:

> Summary – and thus we see that the entire land of Palestine is a blessed and holy land and so jihad for its liberation from the Zionist aggressors is the duty of every Muslim man and woman…"
> *Issue 35, September 15, 2004*

[20] See the Hamas Charter, Articles 17 and 22: pages 53-54.

Palestine is an Islamic endowment (*Waqf*) and its liberation is an obligation for every Muslim.
Issue 2, October 2002

Given this stance, the corollary, for *Al-Fateh,* as for Hamas, is jihad to liberate Palestine and remove the Jewish state. *Al-Fateh* urges the children to join the fight "to liberate Palestine from the Zionists and the Jews," (*Issue 73, April 1, 2006*) quoting Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of the Hamas movement.

Such a campaign does not allow for negotiations, compromise, and a peaceful solution. The illustration below makes a visual statement about Hamas' ideology and commitment to bloodshed, as well as highlighting the ideological affinity to Hezbollah and Iran.



Issue 109, October 1, 2007

The walls of Jerusalem are fashioned in the shape of the Arabic word "Palestine" At the top of the illustration it is written: "God save Palestine." The most noticeable element in the drawing is the hand holding a rifle. Basically, this is the logo of Lebanese Hezbollah, which took it from the Iranians, who have used it since 1979 as the symbol of the Islamic Revolution, but here it is employed with one visual difference: The Palestinian arm has a map of Palestine drawn on it, and just below it, we see the trunk and roots of a tree painted in the color of blood—the *Al-Fateh*/Hamas graphic expression of the way to liberate Palestine.

Al-Fateh consistently praises the Hamas movement, while tending to ignore other Palestinian organizations (there are scant references to other organizations, such as Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and more rarely, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades). An explicit example of this allegiance is the jubilant message published by *Al-Fateh* when Hamas emerged victorious in the 2006 Palestinian elections:

> Maybe the blessing of this year and this holy month is the success of our fighting brothers, people of the Hamas resistance, in the elections for the legislative council in our beloved Palestine. The warrior Palestinian people elected them because they are fighters and [so] love the fighters of the jihad, and hate the traitors … and the corrupt … a blessing to them and may we be blessed by them.
> *Issue 69, February 1, 2006*

The overwhelming majority of *shahids* glorified by *Al-Fateh* are members of the Hamas Military Wing – the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades. So, for instance, in the first seventeen issues, every column of "A *Shahid*'s Story" deals with Hamas operatives called Qassam *shahids*. Issue 17 (November 15, 2003) glorifies one of the most notorious among them, Yahya Ayyash — nicknamed "the engineer" because of his great expertise in preparing explosive devices — who was responsible for taking the lives of scores of Israelis. *Al-Fateh* describes Ayyash as "one of the heroes of the Islamic struggle over the land of Palestine." The Izz al-Din al-Qassam members are portrayed as brave heroes, and their suicide bombing operations as daring and successful. Expressions of high praise and admiration, such as "giants" and "lions," are often linked with them, and they are regarded as role models for young Palestinians to emulate. A case in point is the story of the *Shahid* Mahmoud, as told in Issue 21:

> Since the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Intifada [in 2000] and the start of jihad military activity against the plundering and occupying Zionist enemy, our *shahid* yearned to be active in the ranks of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades because of his love for them…He strove to realize his wish and knocked on all doors [to get help so he could] join.
> *Issue 21, January 15, 2004*

The recruitment of youngsters is advocated directly in the last will and testament of a terrorist, published in Issue 30:

> The soldiers of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades can cope with the occupation which tramples on our land and holy places. Therefore, it is up to you, brave children of my people, to back the brigades … until Muslim victory, with the help of Allah.
> *Issue 30, June 15, 2004*

A Hamas suicide bomber, Ayman Muhanna, is portrayed as a living saint and angel among men, and his mother expresses her thanks for his martyrdom:

> A *Shahid's* Story - Ayman Muhanna
> …if you want, **it is possible to call him an angel walking on earth** or a man from the dwellers of paradise who lives amongst the people of this world, seeking *shahada* and *istishad* (the act of martyrdom) from the day he joined the ranks of the warriors…As we write of the *shahids* the pen stops in embarrassment by what it is to write, should it write of their courage…or their virtues and description…
> The *shahid* was raised in the Sheikh Radwan Mosque…and was strict about observing his prayers…His mother tells: the *shahid* had a great part in the education and upbringing of the youth of the Sheikh Radwan Mosque, he educated them for the love of jihad for Allah and observance of prayers…I thank Allah for honoring us with his *istishad.*
> *Issue 8, April 2003*

Another among numerous examples of glorification of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam *shahids* can be found in the 'A *Shahid's* Story' column:

> Our Jihad fighter joined the propagandist work at a young age. He was leader of the Islamic bloc at the Al-Aqqad Middle School and a leading activist at the Al-Aqsa University in his region… He was chosen for the Hamas movement's general security apparatus, and immediately after the formation of the first military cells of A-Qassam Brigades, Ahmad was one of the extraordinary Jihad fighters in 2005. Ahmad took part in many Jihad missions that he was entrusted with… especially the heroic operation in which the Zionist soldier Shalit was kidnapped. He [also] took part in the shelling of the Zionist usurping settlements by mortars and by Grad and Al-Qassam rockets…
> *Issue 142, February 15, 2009*

Al-Fateh publishes statements that Hamas suicide bombers make before setting out on their mission and gives them a highly positive spin, encouraging young people to follow in their footsteps. A Hamas terrorist who killed ten Israelis in a shooting attack in the port of Ashdod wrote in his last testament published by *Al-Fateh*:

> Our soldiers follow in the path of Al-Qassam, our vigor is our honor, and jihad is the foundation. If you [should] ask "Who are you?" we will tell you that **we are the soldiers of Muhammad, and our name is Hamas.**
> *Issue 32, July 15, 2004*

Another Hamas terrorist responsible for a suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem that left nineteen dead, said in his testament, as quoted on the website:

> Thanks be to Allah who made me one of the sons of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades.
> *Issue 37, October 1, 2004*

Pride of place is given on the Web site to senior Hamas members who have been arrested or killed, such as Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of Hamas, and Yahya Ayyash, "the engineer." On the occasion of the anniversaries of Sheikh Yassin's killing by Israeli forces, the magazine praises and extols him, as is seen in the excerpt below from an editorial marking the fifth anniversary (*Issue 145, April 1, 2009*):

Lives

In

our hearts



إنه شهيد الفجر، الشيخ أحمد ياسين، مؤسس وزعيم حركة حماس، بأيدي قتلة الأنبياء، اليهود الصهاينة الجبناء .

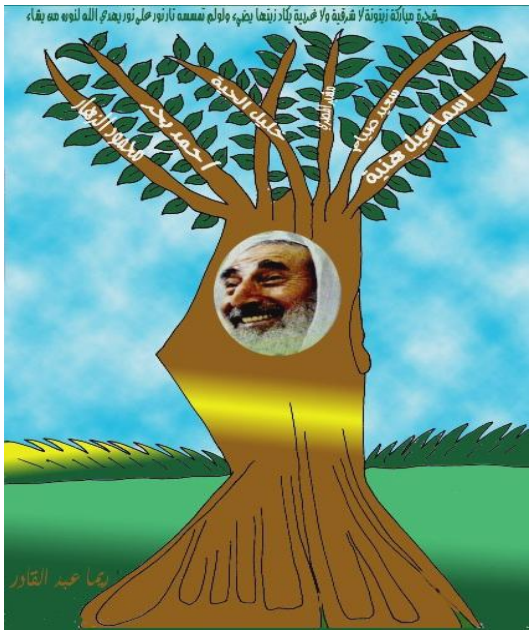
"Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder and leader of the Hamas movement is the *shahid* of dawn at the hands of the murderers of the prophets, the Zionist Jewish cowards."

One can learn of the status of Ismail Haniyyeh, the Hamas prime minister in Gaza, in *Al-Fateh*, from the conclusion of an article praising him:

> "اللهم احفظ بابا إسماعيل هنية" "God save daddy Ismail Haniyyeh."[21]
> *Issue 123, May 1, 2008*

[21] Note that the wording is parallel to that of the inscription in the illustration on page 43: "God save Palestine."

In the illustration below, Sheikh Yassin, whose picture appears in the center, constitutes the trunk of the Hamas tree, drawn in the shape of Palestine, from which various branches grow, bearing the names of Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyyeh, Mahmoud al-Zahhar, Ahmad Bahr, Khalil al-Hayyah, Sa'id Siyyam, Mushir al-Masri, and an empty branch signifying the next generation.



Issue 121, April 1, 2008

CONCLUSION

Al-Fateh is the Internet educational instrument of the Hamas movement that focuses on the younger generation. As such, it propagates Hamas ideology and indoctrinates Palestinian, and more generally Arab and Muslim, children, by taking a hostile and confrontational attitude toward the West in general, which is portrayed as corrupt and imperialist, by delegitimizing the rights of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, and correspondingly propagating intolerance, hatred and incitement to murderous violence toward the Jewish state and its citizens. It uses blatantly racist and anti-Semitic language, including the portrayal of the Jews as enemies of mankind and killers of prophets, and even Holocaust denial. It expresses total commitment to an armed and violent jihad relying on terrorist activities, especially of the suicidal kind, with the ultimate aim of annihilating the State of Israel and establishing an Islamic state in its stead. Compromise and political solution are rejected in principle, and peace agreements already in place, or Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and commitments aimed at such a solution, are not recognized.

The educational campaign involves the relentless indoctrination of the young into these ideological principles and into the commitment to carry them out. Children are guided, indeed molded, to hate and demonize the "other" — all non-Muslims and Westerners, and especially Jews, whether in Israel or elsewhere — to glorify bloody violence, and to aspire to become not just fighters but suicidal *shahids,* like the "martyrs" who are constantly praised by *Al-Fateh*. Children are effectively prepared to become the next sacrificial instruments in the violent jihad carried out by Hamas.

Such doctrine and educational approach are in extreme violation of all of the International Educational Standards based on UNESCO Resolutions.[22] This most extreme, consistent, and cynical violation perpetrated by *Al-Fateh*/Hamas, as it instructs its young audience in hatred and incites them to bloodshed and suicide, is against the fundamental rights of children, as formulated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which in Article 6 recognizes that: "every child has the inherent right to life."

[22] See Appendix II.

Acknowledgments:

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Appendix I: Selected Passages on Education and Ideology from the Hamas Charter[23]

The Charter
of the
Islamic Resistance Movement

18 August 1988

Preamble

Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam obliterates it, just as it had obliterated others before it (The Martyr, Imam Hassan al-Banna, of blessed memory).

Introduction

This Charter of the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS), unveils its face, reveals its identity, outlines its stand, explains its aims, speaks about its hopes, and calls for its support, adoption and joining its ranks. Our struggle against the Jews is extremely wide-ranging and grave. It will need all the loyal efforts we can wield.

Definition of the Movement

The Islamic Resistance Movement's Relation with the Moslem Brotherhood Group:

Article Two:

The Islamic Resistance Movement is one of the wings of Moslem Brotherhood in Palestine. Moslem Brotherhood Movement is a universal organization which constitutes the largest Islamic movement in modern times. It is characterized by its deep understanding, accurate comprehension and its complete embrace of all Islamic concepts of all aspects of life, culture, creed, politics, economics, education, society, justice and judgment, the spreading of Islam, education, art, information, science of the occult and conversion to Islam.

[23] Please note that all excerpts from the Hamas Charter, including captions between the articles, are exact quotations.

The Universality of the Islamic Resistance Movement:

Article Seven:

The Islamic Resistance Movement is one of the links in the chain of the struggle against the Zionist invaders. It goes back to 1936, to the emergence of the martyr Izz al-Din al Kassam and his brethren the fighters, members of Moslem Brotherhood. It goes on to reach out and become one with another chain that includes the struggle of the Palestinians and Moslem Brotherhood in the 1948 war and the Jihad operations of the Moslem Brotherhood in 1968 and after. Moreover, if the links have been distant from each other and if obstacles, placed by those who are the lackeys of Zionism in the way of the fighters obstructed the continuation of the struggle, the Islamic Resistance Movement aspires to the realization of Allah's promise, no matter how long that should take. The Prophet, Allah blesses him and grants him salvation, has said:

"The Day of Judgment will not arrive until the Muslims fight the Jews and the Muslims will kill them. Even if a Jew hides behind a rock or a tree, the rock or the tree will say: 'O Muslim, O worshipper of God! There is a Jew behind me. Come and kill him,' except the salt bush [*Gharqad*], for it is one of the Jews' trees.' (related by al-Bukhari and Moslem).

The Slogan of the Islamic Resistance Movement:

Article Eight:

Allah is its goal, the Prophet is its model, the Koran its constitution: Jihad is its path and death for the sake of Allah is the loftiest of its wishes.

Strategies and Methods

Strategies of the Islamic Resistance Movement: Palestine Is Islamic Waqf:

Article Eleven:

The Islamic Resistance Movement believes that the land of Palestine is an Islamic Waqf consecrated for future Moslem generations until Judgment Day. It, or any part of it, should not be squandered: it, or any part of it, should not be given up. Neither a single Arab country nor all Arab countries, neither any king or president, nor all the kings and presidents, neither any organization nor all of them, be they Palestinian or Arab, possess the right to do that.

Peaceful Solutions, Initiatives and International Conferences:

Article Thirteen:

Initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement. Abusing any part of Palestine is abuse directed against part of religion…There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors.

The Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine is an Individual Duty:

Article Fifteen:

The day that enemies usurp part of Moslem land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Moslem. In face of the Jews' usurpation of Palestine, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised. To do this requires the diffusion of Islamic consciousness among the masses, both on the regional, Arab and Islamic levels. It is necessary to instill the spirit of Jihad in the heart of the nation so that they would confront the enemies and join the ranks of the fighters. It is necessary that scientists, educators and teachers, information and media people, as well as the educated masses, especially the youth and sheikhs of the Islamic movements, should take part in the operation of awakening (the masses). It is important that basic changes be made in the school curriculum, to cleanse it of the traces of ideological invasion that affected it as a result of the orientalists and missionaries who infiltrated the region following the defeat of the Crusaders at the hands of Salah el-Din (Saladin). The Crusaders realized that it was impossible to defeat the Moslems without first having ideological invasion pave the way by upsetting their thoughts, disfiguring their heritage and violating their ideals. Only then could they invade with soldiers. This, in its turn, paved the way for the imperialistic invasion that made Allenby declare on entering Jerusalem: "Only now have the Crusades ended." General Guru stood at Salah el-Din's grave and said: "We have returned, O Salah el-Din." Imperialism has helped towards the strengthening of ideological invasion, deepening, and still does, its roots. All this has paved the way towards the loss of Palestine. It is necessary to instill in the minds of the Moslem generations that the Palestinian problem is a religious problem, and should be dealt with on this basis.

The Education of the Generations:

Article Sixteen:

It is necessary to follow Islamic orientation in educating the Islamic generations in our region by teaching the religious duties, comprehensive study of the Koran, the study of the Prophet's Sunna (his sayings and doings), and learning about Islamic history and heritage from their authentic sources. This should be done by specialized and learned people, using a curriculum that would healthily form the thoughts and faith of the Moslem student. Side by side with this, a comprehensive study of the enemy, his human and financial capabilities, learning about his points of weakness and strength, and getting to know the forces supporting and helping him, should also be included.

The Role of the Moslem Woman:

Article Seventeen:

The Moslem woman has a role no less important than that of the Moslem man in the battle of liberation. She is the maker of men. Her role in guiding and educating the new generations is great. The enemies have realized the importance of her role. They consider that if they are able to direct and bring her up they way they wish, far from Islam, they would have won the battle. That is why you find them giving these attempts constant attention through information campaigns, films, and the school curriculum, using for that purpose their lackeys who are infiltrated through Zionist organizations under various names and shapes, such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, espionage groups and others, which are all nothing more than cells of subversion and saboteurs. These organizations have ample resources that enable them to play their role in societies for the purpose of achieving the Zionist targets and to deepen the concepts that would serve the enemy. These organizations operate in the absence of Islam and its estrangement among its people. The Islamic peoples should perform their role in confronting the conspiracies of these saboteurs. The day Islam is in control of guiding the affairs of life, these organizations, hostile to humanity and Islam, will be obliterated.

Article Eighteen:

Woman in the home of the fighting family, whether she is a mother or a sister, plays the most important role in looking after the family, rearing the children and imbuing them with moral values and thoughts derived from Islam. She has to teach them to perform the religious duties in preparation for the role of fighting awaiting them. That is why it is necessary to pay great attention to schools and the curriculum followed in educating Moslem girls, so that they would grow up to be good mothers, aware of their role in the battle of liberation.

Supportive Forces behind the Enemy:

Article Twenty-Two:

For a long time, the enemies have been planning, skillfully and with precision, for the achievement of what they have attained. They took into consideration the causes affecting the current of events. They strived to amass great and substantive material wealth which they devoted to the realization of their dream. With their money, they took control of the world media, news agencies, the press, publishing houses, broadcasting stations, and others. With their money they stirred revolutions in various parts of the world with the purpose of achieving their interests and reaping the fruit therein. They were behind the French Revolution, the Communist revolution and most of the revolutions we heard and hear about, here and there. With their money they formed secret societies, such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions and others in different parts of the world for the purpose of sabotaging societies and achieving Zionist interests. With their money they were able to control imperialistic countries and instigate them to colonize many countries in order to enable them to exploit their resources and spread corruption there. You may speak as much as you want about regional and world wars. They were behind World War I, when they were able to destroy the Islamic Caliphate, making financial gains and controlling resources. They obtained the Balfour Declaration, formed the League of Nations through which they could rule the world. They were behind World War II, through which they made huge financial gains by trading in armaments, and paved the way for the establishment of their state. It was they who instigated the replacement of the League of Nations with the United Nations and the Security Council to enable them to rule the world through them. There is no war going on anywhere, without having their finger in it. The imperialistic forces in the Capitalist West and Communist East support the enemy with all their might, in money and in men. These forces take turns in doing that. The day Islam appears, the forces of infidelity would unite to challenge it, for the infidels are of one nation.

Our Attitudes Towards:

D. Arab and Islamic Countries:

Article Twenty-Eight:

The Zionist invasion is a vicious invasion. It does not refrain from resorting to all methods, using all evil and contemptible ways to achieve its end. It relies greatly in its infiltration and espionage operations on the secret organizations it gave rise to, such as the Freemasons, The Rotary and Lions clubs, and other sabotage groups. All these organizations, whether secret or open, work in the interest of Zionism and according to its instructions. They aim at undermining societies, destroying values, corrupting consciences, deteriorating character and annihilating Islam. It is behind the drug trade and alcoholism in all its kinds so as to facilitate its control and expansion.

E. Nationalist and Religious Groupings, Institutions, Intellectuals, The Arab and Islamic World:

Article Twenty-Nine:

The Islamic Resistance Movement hopes that all these groupings will side with it in all spheres, would support it, adopt its stand and solidify its activities and moves, work towards rallying support for it so that the Islamic people will be a base and a stay for it, supplying it with strategic depth an all human material and informative spheres, in time and in place. This should be done through the convening of solidarity conferences, the issuing of explanatory bulletins, favorable articles and booklets, enlightening the masses regarding the Palestinian issue, clarifying what confronts it and the conspiracies woven around it. They should mobilize the Islamic nations, ideologically, educationally and culturally, so that these peoples would be equipped to perform their role in the decisive battle of liberation, just as they did when they vanquished the Crusaders and the Tatars and saved human civilization.

Article Thirty:

Writers, intellectuals, media people, orators, educators and teachers, and all the various sectors in the Arab and Islamic world - all of them are called upon to perform their role, and to fulfill their duty, because of the ferocity of the Zionist offensive and the Zionist influence in many countries exercised through financial and media control, as well as the consequences that all this lead to in the greater part of the world. Jihad is not confined to the carrying of arms and the confrontation of the enemy. The effective word,

the good article, the useful book, support and solidarity - together with the presence of sincere purpose for the hoisting of Allah's banner higher and higher - all these are elements of the Jihad for Allah's sake.

F. Followers of Other Religions: The Islamic Resistance Movement Is A Humanistic Movement:

Article Thirty-One:

Islam confers upon everyone his legitimate rights. Islam prevents the incursion on other people's rights. The Zionist Nazi activities against our people will not prolong their invasion.

The Attempt to Isolate the Palestinian People:

Article Thirty-Two:

World Zionism, together with imperialistic powers, try through a studied plan and an intelligent strategy to remove one Arab state after another from the circle of struggle against Zionism, in order to have it finally face the Palestinian people only. Egypt was, to a great extent, removed from the circle of the struggle, through the treacherous Camp David Agreement. They are trying to draw other Arab countries into similar agreements and to bring them outside the circle of struggle. The Islamic Resistance Movement calls on Arab and Islamic nations to take up the line of serious and persevering action to prevent the success of this horrendous plan, to warn the people of the danger emanating from leaving the circle of struggle against Zionism. Today it is Palestine, tomorrow it will be one country or another. The Zionist plan is limitless. After Palestine, the Zionists aspire to expand from the Nile to the Euphrates. When they will have digested the region they overtook, they will aspire to further expansion, and so on. Their plan is embodied in the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," and their present conduct is the best proof of what we are saying. Leaving the circle of struggle with Zionism is high treason, and cursed be he who does that…There is no way out except by concentrating all powers and energies to face this Nazi, vicious Tatar invasion. The alternative is loss of one's country, the dispersion of citizens, the spread of vice on earth and the destruction of religious values.

Appendix II: Applied International Educational Standards based on UNESCO Resolutions

1. Does the curriculum promote tolerance[i], understanding and respect toward the "other," its culture, achievements, values and ways of life? Does it address the sources of intolerance[ii]?

2. Does the curriculum develop capabilities of non-violent conflict resolution?[iii]

3. Does the curriculum promote peace[iv] and peace processes? Does it promote international understanding and cooperation? Does it bring the pupil to understand and assume his or her responsibilities for the maintenance of peace?[v]

4. Is the curriculum free of wording, imagery and ideologies that would likely create prejudices and misconceptions, stereotypes, misunderstandings, mistrust, racial hatred, religious bigotry, and national hatred, as well as any sort of hatred or contempt for other groups or peoples?[vi]

5. Are all educational materials (textbooks, workbooks, teachers' guides, maps, illustrations, aids) up-to-date, accurate, complete, balanced, and unprejudiced, and do they use equal standards so as to promote mutual knowledge and understanding between different peoples?[vii]

6. Does the curriculum include full, adequate and objective data and critical analysis of the historical and contemporary factors underlying the contradictions, disputes, conflicts and tensions between countries and groups, together with study of ways of overcoming these contradictions?[viii]

[i] As defined in the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance Proclaimed and signed by Member States of UNESCO on 16 November 1995, Article 1.

[ii] Based on ibid, Article 4.2.

[iii] Based on the Integrated Framework for Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy, approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-eight session, Paris, November 1995, Article 9; and on the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance Proclaimed and signed by Member States of UNESCO on 16 November 1995, Article 5.

[iv] The goal of education for peace is the development in an individual of values which are universally recognized, regardless of different socio-cultural contexts. See ibid, Article 6.

[v] Based on UNESCO Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, adopted by the General Conference at its eighteenth session, Paris, 19 November 1974, Articles III.6, and IV.7.

[vi] Based on ibid, Articles III.6, IV.7 and VII.39; and on the Integrated Framework for Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy, approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its twenty-eight session, Paris, November 1995, Article 18.

[vii] Based on ibid, Articles VI.39 and X.45; and the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance Proclaimed and signed by Member States of UNESCO on 16 November 1995, Article 4.3.

[viii] Based on UNESCO Recommendation concerning education for international understanding, cooperation and peace and education relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms, adopted by the General Conference at its eighteenth session, Paris, 19 November 1974, Article V.14.