

The Reality For Israel Of The Palestinian Problem

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By Barry Shaw

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“The Yasser Arafat legacy of armed struggle is alive and killing today”



Itamar Ben-Gvir is the Minister of National Security. (Screencap: Al Jazeera)

Alqam Khaysi was a 21-year-old resident of east Jerusalem, a Palestinian who had requested and received Israeli citizenship.

He had no prior terror-related offenses although he liked being photographed holding heavy weapons and against a backdrop of the Al Aqsa Mosque atop the Temple Mount.

That was before he set out for the Neve Yaakov Synagogue to kill Jews.

Killed in his hate rampage were four men, a 14-year-old boy, and two women, aged 60 and 70. One of the women was a refugee from Ukraine. All the rest were Jews.

This Jerusalem synagogue attack was the deadliest shooting terror attack since 2011, when terrorists crossed into Israel from Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, killing eight Israelis.

There was an equally heavy toll to the shooting attack in 2008, when a gunman from East Jerusalem killed eight Israeli students at the Mercaz Harav yeshiva in the capital. Even heavier casualties resulted from the Arafat-led terror wave of suicide bombers that struck Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Netanya, and a double suicide attack at a bus station at Bet Lyd outside Netanya.

The day after Khaysi's deadly outrage, a 13 year-old Arab boy shot and wounded two Israeli Jews in Silwan in Jerusalem before being shot and by an armed civilian before being arrested by security forces.

The first Magen David Adom medic to arrive at the scene of the synagogue killings was Fadi Dekidek, is an Israeli Arab, and typical of the majority of Israeli Arabs who consider themselves as Israeli citizens living peaceful and productive lives.

However, some Arabs think of themselves as Palestinian Israelis, while others as Palestinians with Israeli documents. There is a subtle difference with the third category.

They are the Arabs that resent Israel and the presence of Jews.

The underlying policy of the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad is to label all Israeli Arabs as "Palestinians of the Interior," meaning Arabs that live in as yet unconquered Palestine. The central pillar of Palestinian nationalism is an unwavering ambition to claim a full Palestine "from the River to the Sea" as part of a staged annihilation of Israel.

To this cause, Israeli Arabs are labelled, not as traitors to the Palestinian cause, but as "Palestinians of the Interior."

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The Yasser Arafat legacy of armed struggle is alive and killing today. But so is the legacy of his unbending resolve to claim all of Israel as Palestine, whether that territory is given as a peace gesture or has to be conquered in blood and sacrifice.

Anyone who thinks that the “armed struggle” is a thing of the past has only to look at what unfolded in Jerusalem over the Shabbat commemorating the Holocaust to see that it continues under the deceptive rule of Mahmoud Abbas and under the brutally honest rule of Hamas whose influence has spread from Gaza into the alleyways of Jenin and onto the campus of Birzeit University, north of Ramallah, where Palestinian students vote overwhelmingly for Hamas candidates to the Student Unions.

Hamas openly admits this is their Palestinian agenda and the fate of Jews who stand in their way.

There are also official Arab organizations within Israel who are working to replace Israel. Part of that plan is for Arabs in Israel have a special status within institutions of the international community to grant the Israeli Arab minority a special status of “international protection.”

Let me make it clear. These people are not looking for a better life for Arabs in Israel. They are beavering away for a world without Israel. They are the enemy within.

Although their official manifesto hides their inevitable aim, the vision of these internal Arab groups, is to link up with external forces to liberate Palestine and forge one united Palestine from the river to the sea. Should they succeed, they would then turn their attention to the east, across the river, to claim the last vestiges of the old Ottoman Palestine, by replacing the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan headed by a minority king married to a Palestinian woman.

Jordan, a country in which the majority can rightly claim to be Palestinian with far more legitimacy than in Israel.

If Israel is in danger from a Palestinian agenda, so too is Jordan.



After 7 were murdered in Jerusalem on January 27, the Ministry of National Security released video of a terrorist's home being welded shut. (Screencap: Al Jazeera)

Talk of a two-state solution does nothing more than weaken Israel against the inevitable march of Palestinian ambition. A two-state fantasy has been flogged like a dead camel in the burning sands of the Middle East for fifty years by delusional, short-sighted, people who think they can see a distant oasis called peace.

So obsessed have these agenda-driven people become they fail to see that their distant oasis is a mirage and their peace camel died long ago, killed by Palestinian leaders driving a different agenda.

Evidence of this has been the reality behind agreements signed along the way by the Palestinians.

After signing the Oslo Accords on the White House lawn, Yasser Arafat admitted in a mosque, just before being readmitted into Israel and making Ramallah his stronghold, that, for him and his ultimate ambition, signing an agreement with Israelis was nothing more than the peace treaty of Hudabiyah that Mohammad signed with the Qurayshi tribe of Mecca in 628, only for him to strike and destroy them after they had been hoodwinked into a false sense of security.

Israel continues to suffer the consequences of this mistake to this day.

There are still too many politicians and diplomats, in the United States, in Israel, and in Europe, who refuse to admit the truth that the Qurayshi tribe and Mecca have become, for the Palestinian cause, Israelis and Israel.

It is time to look beyond the one-state and two-state delusions for other ways to solve the Palestinian problem.



Barry Shaw is the International Public Diplomacy Director at the Israel Institute for Strategic Studies. He is the Host of The View from Israel, and author of several books including Fighting Hamas, BDS & Anti-Semitism, BDS for Idiots, 1917 From Palestine to the Land of Israel, and A Tale of Love & Destiny.