

# Murderers and Proud of it

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By Robbie Friedmann

The Palestinians have long adopted the strategic approach that terror would lead to a state. But now that establishment of a Palestinian state seems further removed than after the issuance of the Roadmap, it is also clear they continue to not miss any opportunity to miss an opportunity. Perhaps it is not a state they are after. They could have had it decades ago and again in 2000 and had they behaved - in 2005. Perhaps what they want is terror for the sake of terror. Even if they do establish a state *through* terror it will be a state *for* terror. They act of aspiring to ruin their enemy not out of being despondent ("It's Aspiration, not Desperation: Understanding the Death Worship of the Palestinian Suicide Bomber," Itamar Marcus and Barbara Crook, *Jerusalem Post*, 29 January 2004).

This is best illustrated by using terror as a strategy - not merely as a tactic - and it is evident throughout the world including currently in Iraq where Israel is not a player and where Muslims kill more Muslims than anyone else. Indeed, the culture of death that glorifies murder and genocide has very little to do with territorial aspirations or with the Israeli-Palestinian dispute. It has to do far more with the idealization of genocide that is caused by the suicide of the perpetrator and by the idealization of death as a way of life and this is not an oxymoron ("[Contemporary Islamist Ideology Permitting Genocidal Murder](#)," Yigal Carmon, MEMRI, Special Report - Jihad & Terrorism Studies Project, 27 January 2004, No. 25).

Not all Palestinians are blowing \$100,000 a month to live lavishly in Paris, as Yasser Arafat's wife is doing, and the corruption of the Palestinian leadership does not mean the average Palestinian is corrupt. But it is also rather clear that those who live in misery - economic, psychological, political and physical - could point the finger at their leadership which has chosen terrorism over diplomacy and a total rejection of any reasonable offer that could have extricated them from their current predicament ("Palestinians' Misery Self-inflicted by Refusal to Renounce Terrorism," Craig Weiss, *Arizona Republic*, 25 January 2004).

Instead, the average Palestinian is offering support to the leadership by hailing suicide bombing and showing how proud they are of committing these atrocious murders ("Suicide Bomber's Family is Proud," Khaled Abu Toameh, *The Jerusalem Post*, 30 January 2004). Israel TV's Channel 2 recently broadcast a special report on terrorists jailed in Israel. One terrorist was featured who has a 500-year sentence of several consecutive life terms. He responded to a reporter's question about him being a terrorist with an answer that Israelis are the terrorists.

It is not just popular support that plays an important role in international terrorism. Iran is now playing host to a terror convention while at the same time it appears "in agreement" with general statements about the need to fight terrorism ("Tehran Terrorfest," Amir Taheri, *The New York Post*, 26 January 2004): "The other day at the World Economic Forum's inaugural session at Davos, Switzerland, Iran's President Muhammad Khatami repeatedly nodded his head in approval as forum founder Klaus Schwab called for the eradication of international terrorism. In

his own speech, Khatami called for a "dialogue of civilizations" as an alternative to war and terror. Meanwhile, militants from some 40 countries spread across the globe were trekking to Tehran for a 10-day "revolutionary jamboree" in which "a new strategy to confront the 'American Great Satan' will be hammered out."

Moreover, the situation in Iraq is not necessarily motivated by remnants of the Iraqi regime ("The Jihad on Iraq: Bad analysis and bad policy," Michael Ledeen, *National Review*, 26 January 2004): "Bad analysis leads inevitably to bad policy and our narrow focus on Iraq costs lives. Widespread terrorism and political demonstrations are not organized solely, or even primarily, by the shattered remnants of Saddam's Baathist regime, nor by the splintered pieces of al-Qaeda. The war against us in Iraq and Afghanistan is an existential struggle guided, funded and armed by tyrannical regimes in Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia because they are convinced - rightly enough - that if we succeed, they are doomed to fall in a regional democratic revolution. Their plan, modeled on the strategy that drove us out of Lebanon in the 1980s, was prepared long before we attacked....The mullahs know their best chance for survival is to defeat us in Iraq before we vigorously support their own people against them. Both our national interest and our national values demand that we give that support - political support, not further military action - now, before Iraq gets much worse."

This makes it abundantly clear - what should have been known for a long time - that what is peace for us means war for them. What is freedom for us means tyranny for them. And of course the opposite is true also. Hence negotiations with states and with terrorists groups (which regrettably do take place) have to take into account the absolute abuse of language by the terrorists and their supporters. And that is why the word of Iran and that of Libya should not be taken at face value except when they promise to kill. No amount of good will is going to change the terrorists' nature as the recent exchange of almost 500 terrorists for the bodies of three kidnapped and murdered Israeli soldiers - under U.N. eyes - and one kidnapped businessman ("[Israel and Hizbullah Trade Prisoners and War Dead in Flights to and From Germany](#)," Ian Fisher and Greg Myre, *The New York Times*, 30 January 2004) has demonstrated. It only increases the insatiable appetite of the terrorists to carry out more such attacks.

The terror attack in Jerusalem Thursday 22 January that murdered 11 and injured 50 proved the point once again. And for the umpteenth time U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell stated "this must stop" - if only the terrorists would have taken him seriously. Israel has decided to deviate from tradition and actually released a very graphic videotape of the bus attack ("Foreign Ministry Releases 'Bloody' Bus Movie," Tovah Lazaroff, *The Jerusalem Post*, 30 January 2004). This is a difficult clip to watch but it illustrates what one only imagines happens. Perhaps it might achieve some effect on those who have been too insensitive to the horrifying incidents as long as they happened to others. Watch the bus bombing video but expect some of the worse and most shocking images.

The brazenness of terrorist organizations goes way beyond perpetrating murder. Now that Hamas - a key terrorist organization - is being weakened and is threatened (even by its European supporters who outlawed it) it is "offering" Israel a 10-year "cease-fire" provided Israel withdraws from areas it captured in the 1967 Six-Day War ("[Hamas Proposes Ten Year Truce for Israeli Pullback](#)," Reuters, *Ha'aretz*, 26 January 2004). Of course, this will not bring an end to

Palestinian demands, which proves time and again - for those who need such proof - that territories captured in 1967 are not the problem but rather ANY territory Israel holds constitutes a challenge for the Arabs to have it for themselves. The Hamas leader clearly declares the temporary cease-fire will **not** bring an end to the conflict and to Palestinian demands. That is one reason why all peace advocates from Jimmy Carter to Thomas Friedman should cease discussing "peace" and start talking about the end of conflict.

That is also a good reason why the highly "touted" Roadmap fails to strike up the band these days. Actually, it appears as if the U.S. (and Israel) have given up on the Roadmap altogether ("News Analysis U.S. Folds Up Roadmap, Blaming the Palestinians," Ron Kampeas, JTA, Washington, 28 January 2004) as it seems to be banging its head against a Palestinian brick wall of non-diplomatic cooperation on one hand and aggressive terrorism on the other ("Middle East Madness," Editorial, *Toronto Star*, 30 January 2004).

Indeed, an Israeli analyst argues that the Roadmap was replaced by the vision of George W. Bush articulated in the 24 June 2002 speech ("[The Day the Roadmap Died](#)," Aluf Benn, *Ha'aretz*, 29 January 2004). This is a very encouraging development because it recognizes what was known for a long time - that the Palestinians are not serious about peace and that rewarding terrorism with a state - as was articulated in the Roadmap - was a grave error.

An Arab voice of reason was heard recently offering the right formula to fight terrorism. This from Algeria's ambassador to the U.S. ("Not Enough to Fight Terrorism Locally," Interview with Idriss Jazairy, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 28 January 2004). Yet his country blocked a U.N. Security Council vote to condemn the Jerusalem bus suicide bombing and the U.N. Secretary general failed also to censure the act ("[Israeli Criticizes U.N. Chief on Reaction to Bus Attack](#)," Warren Hoge, *The New York Times*, 31 January 2004).

The same ambivalent attitude is found in Jordan which urged a strong stand against terrorism ("Jordan Urges Arab Stand Against Suicide Bombings," Associated Press, *Ha'aretz*, 25 January 2004) yet it is strenuously opposed to Israel's security fence which is increasingly (as it is still being built) proving to be a good barrier against suicide bombing.

A new book on the intentions of Adolph Hitler - which is based on a second book by Hitler published after his death - concludes that he actually laid out his intention in a form of a strategic plan and that he indeed tried to execute it ("Did Hitlerism Die with Hitler? He Meant What He Said," Omer Bartov; *Hitler's Second Book: The Unpublished Sequel to Mein Kampf*, By Adolf Hitler, Edited by Gerhard L. Weinberg).

The author admits the information in the book is not new but the lesson is: "This is a book that should be read, rather, by contemporary journalists, political observers and all concerned people who have the stomach to recognize evil when they confront it. For one of the most frightening aspects of Hitler's book is not that he said what he said at the time, but that much of what he said can be found today in innumerable places: on Internet sites, propaganda brochures, political speeches, protest placards, academic publications, religious sermons, you name it. As long as it does not have Hitler's name attached to it, this deranged discourse will be ignored or allowed to pass. The voices that express these opinions do not belong to a single political or ideological

current, and they are much less easy to distinguish than in the 1930s. They belong to the Right and the Left, to the religious and the secular, to the West and the East, to the rabble and the leaders, to terrorists and intellectuals, students and peasants, pacifists and militants, expansionists and anti-globalization activists. The diplomacy advocated by Hitler is no longer relevant, but his reason for it, his legitimization of his 'worldview' is alive and kicking, and it may still kick us."

Nowhere is Hitlerism - in both its expansionist and genocidal forms - as evident as in the radical Islamist ideology of today, which is pervasive throughout the world and not only in Islamic strongholds. We are now taking Osama bin Laden's threats very seriously, but not yet seriously enough the culture of expansion and death promulgated by the Palestinians and their supporters throughout the Arab and Islamic world. They do not only want a "living space" ([Lebensraum](#)) or to kill the "sub-human" ([Untermensch](#)). They want to destroy what is not theirs and to rule the world and paint it green.

Indeed, some in Israel read the tea leaves correctly when interpreting action and rhetoric that are so vehemently anti-Israeli ("Confront the Evil," Isi Leibler, *The Jerusalem Post*, 27 January 2004) and also correctly point out that the "obscene level of anti-Jewish incitement is comparable to the worst days of the Nazis in the early 1930s' but also that it 'is often said the attitude toward Jews is a litmus test for the level of bigotry and intolerance in any given society.'" This test shows a miserable failure with regard to Israel as the world allows it to become not only attacked but also demonized. This, instead of staunchly supporting the only democracy in an area where official U.S. policy is to turn the former dictatorships and monarchies into democracies.

But even some Arab condemnations of terrorism pale in comparison to the vitriol they spew out against the leader of the battle against terrorism, namely President George W. Bush. Arab press reactions to [President Bush's State of the Union Address](#) (MEMRI, Special Dispatch - U.S. and the Middle East, 30 January 2004, No. 652) is symptomatic of the mind-set that permeates the Arab world. Bush is called a beater of "rums of war" by the Saudis. The Syrians define his achievements as "nothing but mistakes, errors and catastrophes." The Jordanian press - ironically and unintentionally - sets the people of the Middle East apart from "mankind" when stating that the Bush address is "a tragedy not only for mankind, but for the peoples of the Middle East." The Palestinians became experts in logic stating that "Bush's priorities are illogical." So did the Egyptian press when it stated "President Bush has ceased to act with logic and common sense." This is mainstream Arab journalism. It represents the government line and hence is reflective of the immense gap between the free West (particularly the U.S. and Israel) and the fixated Arab/Muslim regimes - even those "friendly" to the U.S. (and some who have peace treaties with Israel).

For those criticizing the measures being taken against terrorism - particularly those who state that they are exaggerated - the questions remain. How would they explain such gaps in Arab statements? How would they explain such hatred? How would they explain the actual terror and how would they explain the real threat? They will in all likelihood be among the first to complain when the next terror attack happens that not enough was done to protect us. The fight against terrorism is not a sprint but a marathon and it still has a very long way to go.