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A Society Not Ready for Statehood: Palestinian Children Who Kill and Their Adult Enablers

The Palestinian Authority claims it is ready and deserving of statehood. But a society that encourages its own children to engage in violence, to become armed combatants, to kill and to maim in pursuit of their parents' ambitions – contrary to the most elementary norms of human decency – is not ready, willing or able to accept the essentials of peaceful coexistence.

The fact is that the wave of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2015 – a wave of stabbings and knifings emulated far beyond the Middle East – has a particularly grotesque feature: child terrorists.

Palestinian children who directly perpetrate acts of terrorism, including murder, violate the most fundamental of human rights: the right to life. The Palestinian adults who encourage Palestinian child terrorism violate one of the most fundamental rights of the child: the right not to take part in armed conflict or hostilities.

There have been at least 142 separate terrorist attacks by at least 174 Palestinian children since September 13, 2015. As a result of these terrorist attacks by Palestinian children, 7 Israelis have been killed and 58 injured. Victims have included those who were children themselves.

The preferred method of murder, and attempted murder, by Palestinian child terrorists are stabbings or knifings, the modus operandi in 105 of the 142 attacks.

The breakdown of the known ages of Palestinian child terrorists is as follows: age eight – 2; age twelve – 4; age thirteen – 8; age fourteen – 15; age fifteen – 25; age sixteen – 45; age seventeen – 55. The exact age of the perpetrator under the age of 18 was unspecified in the cases of 20 additional offenders.

These totals do not include incidents where children are known to have been involved in terror but the exact numbers involved are unknown. In 2018 children have been repeatedly involved in violence along the Gaza border, both as perpetrators ([April 6, 2018](#), sent to the front lines; [April 20, 2018](#), engaged in a variety of attacks; [June 9, 2018](#), attack on Israeli military post; [June 24, 2018](#), arson attack; [August 3, 2018](#), infiltration of

Israeli territory), and as “[human shields](#).”

The breakdown of the known gender of Palestinian child terrorists is as follows: male – 101; female 32; gender unspecified – 41.

The Palestinian Authority has supported its claim that “Palestine” is ready for statehood by purporting to accede to international treaties. It claims, in particular, that it has been [bound](#) by legal obligations concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict since 2014, including the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*. This treaty states:

- **Article 1:** States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities.
- **Article 4:** 1. Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years. 2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

Palestinian authorities are clearly in violation of such prohibitions.

Despite the pretense of being part of the legal mainstream, after Palestinian child terrorists murdered two and injured nine in sixteen attacks in the fall of 2015, Palestinian UN representative Riyad Mansour made this declaration in the public hall of UN Headquarters on [November 23, 2015](#): “We are so proud that in this popular uprising that has started almost two months ago, that the backbone of this uprising are the youth of Palestine.” Since that time, Palestinian child terrorists have attacked Israelis at least another 113 times.

Information on these incidents is readily accessible. Videos, photographs, television programs, and social media outlets – from [Palestinian](#) and [Israeli](#) sources – provide a multitude of evidence (a) of Palestinian children engaged in armed conflict and (b) of Palestinian adults [encouraging it](#) in the political sphere, official media, [education system](#), and family unit.

However, the UN Secretary-General’s most recent annual [report](#) on Children and Armed Conflict, released in May 2018, turns Palestinian child terrorists into victims of Israeli defensive reactions. Writing about Palestinian children, it says: “two girls, three boys aged between 15 and 17 were killed in the context of stabbing or presumed stabbing attacks.” The report also never mentions “ Hamas.” It manages to find “worrisome” not the child stabbers, bombers and shooters, but “calls by Palestinian political actors for the participation of youth in stone-throwing against Israelis.” At least 32 Palestinian children were involved in carrying out terror attacks during the reporting period of the Secretary-General’s report.

The fact is that the UN is now an active enabler of the violation of the rights of Israelis and Palestinians: the basic rights to life and security of the person of the Israeli victims of Palestinian children engaged in terrorism, and the rights of Palestinian children not to be recruited or engaged in terrorism in the first place.

Here is a list of known acts of terrorism perpetrated by Palestinian children since September 2015:

PERPETRATOR AGE	PERPETRATOR GENDER (where identified)	DATE	METHOD OF ATTACK	ISRAELIS INJURED/KILLED
16	Male	14-Sep-15	Stone throwing	One killed, two injured
17	Male	7-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	8-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
17		9-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
16	Male	10-Oct-15	Stabbing	Two injured
16	Female	12-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
13, 15	Male	12-Oct-15	Stabbing	Two injured
16		14-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
16	Female	17-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
16	Male	17-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	17-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
16	Female	17-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
15, 17	Male	20-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
15	Female	21-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
four minors aged 12-14		23-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	24-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
17	Female	25-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
16, 17		27-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
17 (and 23)	Male	27-Oct-15	Stabbing	One injured
17	Male	30-Oct-15	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	6-Nov-15	Shooting	One injured
16	Male	10-Nov-15	Attempted stabbing	
12, 13	Male	10-Nov-15	Stabbing	One injured
16	Male	18-Nov-15	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	21-Nov-15	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	21-Nov-15	Stabbing	Four injured
16	Female	22-Nov-15	Attempted stabbing	
14, 16	Female	23-Nov-15	Stabbing	Two injured

16	Male	23-Nov-15	Stabbing	One killed
16	Male	27-Nov-15	Stabbing	One injured
17	Male	29-Nov-15	Stabbing	One injured
16		1-Dec-15	Stabbing	One injured
13	Male	4-Dec-15	Attempted stabbing	
16 (and 19)	Male	5-Dec-15	Stabbing	One injured
16	Female	13-Dec-15	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	17-Dec-15	Attempted stabbing	
17 (and 23)		27-Dec-15	Stabbing	Two injured
15	Female	27-Dec-15	Attempted stabbing	
12, 13		31-Dec-15	attempted stabbing	
17	Male	5-Jan-16	Stabbing	One injured
17 (and 18, 19)	Male	6-Jan-16	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	6-Jan-16	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	7-Jan-16	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	17-Jan-16	Stabbing	One killed
15		18-Jan-16	Stabbing	One injured
13	Female	23-Jan-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	23-Jan-16	Bomb	
17 (and 23)		25-Jan-16	Stabbing (also had pipe bombs and explosives)	One killed, one injured
Less than 12, 15, 16		30-Jan-16	Stabbing	One injured
14	Male	1-Feb-16	Attempted stabbing	
13, 13	Female	4-Feb-16	Stabbing	One injured
13	Female	9-Feb-16	Attempted stabbing	
16	Female	9-Feb-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Female	13-Feb-16	Stabbing	Two injured
17	Male	14-Feb-16	Stabbing	
15, 15	Male	14-Feb-16	Shootings (also stone throwing, knives)	
15, 15	Male	16-Feb-16	Pipe bombs	
14, 14	Male	18-Feb-16	Stabbing	One killed, one injured
17	Female	21-Feb-16	Attempted stabbing	
14	Male	21-Feb-16	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	21-Feb-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	26-Feb-16	Attempted stabbing	
17, 17		2-Mar-16	Stabbing	One injured
14	Female	3-Mar-16	Stabbing	One injured
17	Male	8-Mar-16	Stabbing	One injured
17	Male	9-Mar-16	Attempted stabbing	

17	Female	15-Mar-16	Attempted stabbing	
14	Male	16-Mar-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	19-Mar-16	Stabbing	One injured
15	Female	25-Mar-16	Attempted stabbing	
12, 12	Male	14-Apr-16	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	27-Apr-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	May-16	Terror tunnel operations	
3 minors aged 16 and 17	Male	10-May-16	Stabbing	Two injured
16		19-May-16	Attempted stabbing	
"About ten years old"	Male	22-May-16	Stone throwing	
17	Female	23-May-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	30-May-16	Stabbing	One injured
17	Male	30-Jun-16	Stabbing	One killed, one injured
17	Female	5-Jul-16	Attempted stabbing	
15	Female	14-Aug-16	Attempted stabbing	
14, 14	Male	4-Sep-16	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	16-Sep-16	Stabbing	One injured
17 (and 20)	Male	19-Sep-16	Attempted stabbing	One injured
15	Male	20-Sep-16	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	23-Sep-16	Attempted stabbing	
7 minors between 16 and 17 years old		6-Oct-16	IEDs	
17	Male	15-Oct-16	Stabbing	One injured
15	Male	18-Oct-16	Stone throwing	
16	Male	20-Oct-16	Stone throwing	One injured
8, 8	Male	27-Oct-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Female	1-Nov-16	Attempted stabbing	
16		25-Nov-16	Attempted stabbing	
16	Female	19-Dec-16	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	16-Jan-17	Stone throwing	
17	Female	10-Feb-17	Attempted stabbing	
17, 17		20-Feb-17	Shootings	
16	Female	15-Mar-17	Car ramming	One injured
16	Male	17-Mar-17	Molotov cocktail	
16	Male	22-Mar-17	IEDs	
17	Male	23-Mar-17	Molotov cocktail	
14	Male	31-Mar-17	Molotov cocktail	
17	Male	1-Apr-17	Stabbing	Three injured

16	Male	26-Apr-17	Attempted stabbing	
16	Female	7-May-17	Attempted stabbing	
A "minor"	Male	10-May-17	Pipe bombs	
14	Female	20-May-17	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	22-May-17	Attempted stabbing	
A "minor"		24-May-17	Pipe bombs	
17	Female	30-May-17	Attempted stabbing	
17, 17		30-May-17	Attempted stabbing, Molotov cocktails	
16	Female	1-Jun-17	Stabbing	One injured
17 (and 20)		12-Jul-17	Explosives	
17	Male	24-Jul-17	Stabbing	One injured
17	Male	19-Aug-17	Stabbing	One injured
"youth of about 15"	Male	12-Sep-17	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	13-Sep-17	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	8-Nov-17	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	17-Nov-17	Car ramming and attempted stabbing	One injured
17	Male	26-Nov-17	Attempted stabbing	
16	Male	27-Nov-17	Attempted shooting	
17		12-Dec-17	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	17-Dec-17	Pipe bombs	
16	Male	28-Dec-17	Pipe bombs	
15 (and 18, 23)	Female	11-Jan-18	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	9-Feb-18	Attempted stabbing	
17	Male	13-Feb-18	Pipe bombs	
17, 17	Male	18-Feb-18	Attempted infiltration of Gaza border fence	
16, 16		11-Mar-18	Pipe bombs	
16	Male	28-Apr-18	Molotov cocktail	
14, 14		1-May-18	Pipe bombs	
16	Male	14-May-18	Attempted infiltration of Gaza border fence and border fence sabotage	
14	Male	14-May-18	Attempted infiltration of Gaza border fence	
15	Male	8-Jun-18	Border riots	
15	Male	27-Jun-18	Attempted infiltration of Gaza border fence	
17	Male	28-Jun-18	Attempted infiltration of Gaza border fence, Molotov cocktails	

13 or 14	Male	29-Jun-18	Attempted infiltration of Gaza border fence and border fence sabotage	
16	Male	7-Jul-18	Attempted stabbing	
15	Male	22-Jul-18	IEDs, Molotov cocktails, and stone throwing	
17	Male	26-Jul-18	Stabbing	One dead, two injured
17 (and 18)		28-Jul-18	Attempted shooting	
14		30-Aug-18	IEDs	