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# THE 10 LIES ABOUT ISRAEL ALL OF THE CLICHÉS REGARDING ANTI-JEWISH HATRED by Fiamma Nirenstein

Translation by Bonnie Rose for the Federazione Associazioni Italia Israele

*My very deep and loving thanks to **Bonnie Rose** who translated with great expertise of the English language, my little book “Le 10 Bugie su Israele” and contributed in this way to the most just war of our time, a war for the survival of the Jewish People in name of the Western Judeo Christian alliance against violence and hate.*  
**Fiamma Nirenstein**

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## **Preface**

In occasion of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Italy and Israel, the Federazione delle Associazioni Italia Israele has decided to publish this synthetic, but significant book by Fiamma Nirenstein "The 10 Lies About Israel" to contrast the false narratives that are continually spread by the press and on social media regarding Israel.

Just as the Nazi propaganda teaches, repeating lies continuously about Jews and the State of Israel, even from its inception, generates in the vast public a false conviction that this is truth.

Moreover, there is even more of a necessity to bring clarity after the October 7th, 2023, terrorist aggression perpetuated by Hamas when the largest number of Jews were murdered in one single day only after the Holocaust.

To speak the truth about Israel is an urgent need also because we are in front of a monstrous wave of antisemitism, comparable to that of the 1930s which lead up to the Holocaust and the lies about Israel fuel antisemitic hatred in the western world.

This book was published for the first time in 2016 as an annex to "Il Giornale", but this edition was extensively revised and updated by the author, Fiamma Nirenstein, who has done an incredible job in creating this book as an accurate handbook for those who want to know the truth about Israel.

Thank you Fiamma!

The Federazione would also like to give particular thanks to Gianluigi Mazzufferi who inspired the reprinting of the book and tireless organizer of the event. And, together with him, also Domizia Carafòli for the support given to the project, Paolo Formiconi the editing and reprinting director, the Società Europea di Edizioni S.r.l. in the person of Davide Valeri for the granting of the waiver. A special thanks goes to Nicoletta Tiliacos for assisting in the revision of the text.

The object of this book is not only to correctly inform, but also to supply an agile tool for countering, even publicly, the lies of the haters of Israel.

**Bruno Gazzo**, President of the Federazione Associazioni Italia Israele

Genoa, March 2024

## **Introduction**

There is an urgent need to tell the truth about Israel. For many years, thoughts about Israel have been polluted to the point of asphyxiation by a well-prepared series of lies that over the decades have become a widespread mentality, and which fuel not only incitement to terrorism in the Arabic world but also antisemitic hate in the western world. The ignorance that comes with it is an abyss of shame. Young people who demonstrate in the streets against Israel don't know anything other than stupid myths and lies, while they ignore even the most elementary facts of its history and relevance. Hardly anyone knows when, where and how the State of Israel was born and what it means for "Palestine" to take its place "from the river to the sea."

Which river? Which sea? The anti-Jewish hatED one. The rest is unknown. The same idea of the "two states for two people" is so far from the crowds that it feeds on lies, because when they say "States", they mean only one, a Palestinian state which actually doesn't exist and never has. Basic knowledge of history and facts is substituted by prejudice, accusations, fantasies, antisemitic inventions that have as their objective the destruction of Israel in its essence as the homeland of the Jewish people. The lies were purposely fabricated to negate the most evident of truths: its right, like with every other people, to live in peace in its land, especially after centuries and millennium where it was demonstrated as an impossibility for Jews to even survive once dispersed and divided. These are lies that destroy the most logical and basic rights, that of defending oneself, and living. And it's tragically contradictory that the western crowds that march against Israel pretending to destroy, in the name of human rights, the Country that probably more than any other in the world seeks to protect those rights. And, in an area in the Middle East, where in all of the surrounding Countries, like with the Palestinians in Gaza and the Palestinian Independence, those rights are simply nonexistent and are violently negated. Homosexuals are persecuted, women are forcibly and often cruelly

forced to be submissive often to abusive husbands children are exposed to a violent culture and bred into the cult of terrorism at school and in the family, with the goal of becoming a “martyr” as the desirable ambition.

The rebuttal of lies about Israel has become indispensable because we find ourselves facing a monstrous wave of antisemitism, comparable to that in the 1930s which led to the Holocaust. Now, as then, the wave of anti-Jew hate is built on the systematic reinvention, brick by brick, of the history and of the Jewish contemporary reality, that is manifested throughout its monstrous power after antisemitism exploded, explicit as never before, during the attack of October 7, 2023, which Hamas perpetrated against the unarmed civilians in the kibbutz and villages along the Gazan border. The atrocities with which 1,400 men, women, and children were killed and 253 were kidnapped ranging all ages and all health conditions, having taken place according to criteria imaginable only in the history of Nazi barbarism or in the dark centuries of blind and deaf conquests: children were killed and burned in their mothers’ arms, infants were decapitated, parents murdered in front of their children, women were raped and killed, pregnant women were eviscerated, the elderly cut up into pieces and defaced, Filipino and Thai workers and Bedouins were murdered with hatchets, reduced to trunks without heads and limbs, or kidnapped. It’s difficult to even believe one’s own eyes, but as a journalist I had to watch this in the film that the Hamas terrorists produced, who had even orchestrated to publicize all of this to terrorize the Jews and the entire world in an attempt to bring Israel to destruction and abandonment. The cries of “Yehud, Yehud”, “Jew, Jew”, resounded like that of “Juden” from the Night of Broken Glass, and survivors of the Holocaust were killed. A young terrorist's recorded phone call to his mother was heard, as he, with enthusiasm and excitedly called his family to their jubilation, because he too could finally boast of having “killed the Jews”. The content mother congratulated her son, and this should have made clear what we have known for decades: the boundless hatred of the Palestinians is pervasive; it’s racial and religious character is equivalent to its fierceness. Its objective, with the October 7th attack, is unmistakable: to eliminate the State of Israel off the face of the map along with every Jew.

And nonetheless, given this abomination, international solidarity was only seen in the immediate days of shock. Immediately after, the season of doubts, lies, distinctions, and even the justification of that which was perpetuated by Hamas began. All of this, while important institutions, to begin with the UN and all its derivatives, the European Union, the Universities, could have taken the opportunity to correct the behavior that allowed an explosion of that incredible tsunami of antisemitism. Instead, thanks to Antonio Guterres, the UN general secretary, a pass was offered to antisemitic propaganda which over the years has raged against Israel and against its right to exist, and to the UN which began to emerge the most surprising antisemitic hate never seen since the times of nazi-fascism.

The Jewish State has officially become the object of blame and defamation, a true central objective of hate against the People of the Book, who have suffered continuous pogroms over the millennia. First religious, mainly Christian, then racial, those nazi-fascists, followed by communist social and political hatred which has inaugurated the phase up until today: Israel is depicted as the archenemy of human rights, and which is connected to the gang of global oppressors designed by Stalinism, which doesn’t forgive Israel the “guilt” of practicing a concept of liberal and capitalistic democracy that likens it to the United States. On this path, after diverse mutations that have this same mark, the day after the October massacre Guterres pulled the frightful actions of Hamas on the human rights stage: the Palestinians, according to him, suffer from an occupation which has lasted 75 years (meaning from the birth of the State of Israel) and from a lack of having their own state (which they have always stubbornly refused, despite Israel’s numerous offers). Referring to October 7th, Guterres said, without any shame: “There are reasons for this, it doesn’t happen out of the blue.”

This point of view is woven into a photograph from an invented Israeli history and politics, regarding the past and the present, according to the idea of Hitler’s propaganda strategist Goebbels, who said: “Repeat a lie a hundred, a thousand, a million times and it will become a reality.”

Arafat was the brilliant founder of this Palestinian political approach: leader of the PLO, born in Egypt, Nobel Prize winner; on one hand he negotiated a peace treaty that he never really intended on securing with Prime Minister Ehud Barak at Camp David, in the presence of the American President Bill Clinton, and on the other hand, he invented the great terrorism, which still today is the model of all of the most cruel groups in the world. Arafat is, above all, the terrorist who conceived the massacre of the Israeli athletes in Munich, the massacre of the children on the school buses, the sequel of the hijacked airplanes and the mass attacks at the synagogues. He is also the one who projected and put into place the second Intifada, which between 2000 and 2005 saw almost 2000 innocent deaths. Most importantly, Arafat managed to weave a completely

new mythology of the Palestinian people, and he did so at the suggestion of the Vietnamese military commander Giap: the key to success was in rewriting the entire history of the world in an "anti-imperialist" key, making it a central part of world politics, as well as the battle between the oppressed and oppressors. This was when the "Palestinian question" was founded, which has become the forceful platform of anti-western third world culture and which has depicted Israel as a colonialist, imperialistic, capitalistic Country... it is the reinvention of the Palestinians as a persecuted and occupied people upon which, unexpectedly, the Jewish people had fallen, unexpectedly, devoid of any relationship with what Arafat continued to designate as a land not to be conquered, but to be reconquered at any cost.

It's all about a gigantic lie, founded on the invention of a past which never existed in a land which has never been Palestinian. The greatness and incongruence of this lie can be seen even in the ridiculous attempt to make Jesus Christ a "Palestinian", instead of a holy Jew in his time, as is evident, or in the outrageous appropriation (endorsed by UNESCO) of the city of Jerusalem, the cradle of Judaism and therefore of all monotheistic religions, a city mentioned in the Bible 669 times, while never being mentioned even once in the Koran.

The historical lie successfully transferred itself to the moral one, making Israel, beginning with a perverse UN resolution from 1975, a racist country. Today they even say it is an "apartheid", something which contradicts the entire reality of which can be seen, perceived, and is known when it is evident that within the justice administration, politics, Parliament, hospitals, and even the military we find all faiths and ethnicities, considered equal in the Israeli legislation.

The choice of the moral delegitimization, which treacherously clings above all to the cliché of an "illegitimate occupation", is an indication of the precise direction in which all the lies about Israel are going in: that of the obliteration, the destruction of the Jewish State and the elimination of its people, in the historical moment in which one designs its fabulous realization, rich technological and cultural success, health and scientific benefits for the entire world, miracles which brought it to the victory in wars which were always in defense against continuous aggressions by their enemies, starting from 1948.

The West's sense of guilt after the Holocaust, the fear of the strength of an Islamic world antagonistic to Western culture and increasingly invasive, with the waves of migration in Europe and America. This together with the left-wing third world culture that we were just talking about became the trench in which Arafat was able to lay the foundations of the worst of all the crazy Palestinian accusations, repeated in these days of war. A war that Israel neither looked for nor wanted, but that it must combat to defeat the ferocious cruelty and the threat of Hamas. The insane, abominable accusation is that which makes Israel something comparable, even superimposable to the worst of all enemies of the Jews, namely Hitler. The "Nazification" of Israel, of which the great historian of antisemitism Robert S. Wistrich spoke, is a monetary stream in a movement which now marches to the chant of "Free Palestine", with banners, posters, and slogans that invite all to finish the work of Hitler by killing all Jews, namely destroying Israel "from the river to the sea", while at the same time obscenely superimposes a swastika on the white and blue flag with the Star of David.

It is worth repeating: the lies about Israel have been validated by major international institutions, first of all by the UN, with a diplomatic court, with the help of the European Union, and they have become truths in the common sense of an ignorant and simplistic world of youth, with the false idea that the refusal of peace and the continuous situation of tension and war were due to Israel's mythical "occupation" of "Palestinian lands" that have never existed in history. The same is true regarding the fact that there has never been a refusal by Israel to a territorial compromise, in reality reposed by all of the Israeli leaders, from the right and the left; and always refused, from the 1948 partition and then the three "nos" in 1968, followed by a continued Palestinian refusal, accompanied with an explicit policy of indoctrination and incitement to extermination, and from multiple, very cruel actions of terrorism against women and children in all of Israel. All of this, without forgetting about the continuous bombardment from Gaza by Hamas, with daily missiles pointed toward civil buildings, schools, streets, houses, workplaces, in all of Israel.

Regardless of this, the UN resolutions against Israel are numerous, incomparable in number to those dedicated to countries who seriously violate all human rights, like Iran and Syria. At the same time, the condemnation for occupation against Israel are not even comparable to those dedicated to other Countries, those which discuss the occupation of extraterritorial space, like Morocco, China and Turkey.

But of all the inconceivable offenses suffered by a Country that remains pertinaciously democratic, despite wars and continuous aggressions, a country that today faces a war declared by its strategists to be "the most difficult in the world", above and below ground (while the enemy uses every civil building and every person as shields and warriors, against all civil common sense), the worst came from the International Court of Justice in The Hague. The ICJ is in fact discussing the accusation against Israel by South Africa in conducting a "genocidal" policy against the Palestinians.

Nothing is farther from the truth or paradoxical. During the war that Hamas initiated on October 7, 2023, Israel has maintained toward the civilians in Gaza the highest moral conduct that any military has ever displayed: advising the times of the bombings, creating corridors to flee and interrupting combat so that they can be used, practicing the continuous delivery of humanitarian aid, not only water, food and medicine but also fuel – an even bizarre choice - and acting with all possible caution even in battle, paying the price of slowness, in losses, in suffering of the soldiers who continue to fight with valor and determination, while aware of the presence of hostages on the ground, including children, the elderly, as well as suffering and abused girls and boys.

One thing you cannot ask of Israel, which is to lose, to retract, to stop fighting for its survival. Because this is the final truth: that the people of Israel live in liberty and in democracy for itself and for the whole world that truly believes in human rights. And for this, while we write these lines in wartime, we know that Israel will win not by physical force, but because of its spirit.

**Fiamma Nirenstein**

## **Lie n. 1: The Jews are colonizers of the land of others**

The lies about Israel all tend to describe the construction and development of the State of Israel in terms of a criminal enterprise, and the Jews are treacherously assimilated to the category of colonizers. Palestinians present themselves to the world as the homeowners who have been evicted by a domineering foreign, Israel. But this is not the case. There has never been a "Palestinian" civil state or nation, much less an Arab-Palestinian nation. Of course, there are ancient residents of the area, other than the most ancient civilization of them all, that of the Jews. But there has never been a Palestinian culture or language, nor a state governed by Palestinian Arabs. Instead, Israel had already become a nation in 1312 BC, two thousand years before the birth of Islam. The first king of Israel, Saul, was from 1020 BC. Two years later, the great figure of King David appeared. In 960 BC Solomon built the first great sanctuary in Jerusalem. In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar II of Babilonia destroyed the First Temple in Jerusalem which stood on the hill the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, sits today. It's not explicitly mentioned in the Koran other than simply "Al-Aqsa", which means "the farthest", interpreted later in referenced as Jerusalem which is a city very far from Saudi Arabia, where you have Mecca and Medina, the first two sacred cities for Islam, mentioned in the Koran about 100 times. Jerusalem, in the Hebrew Bible, appears 669 times, and the term Zion 154. After the destruction of the First Temple and the Babylonian exile, the Jews that were able to remain or return to their homeland after Cyrus the Great's edict, issued in 538 BC, rebuilt their nation and the Second Temple, until 70 AD when it was destroyed by the Romans. Emperor Titus forced the Jews into slavery, deporting many to Rome, which can be seen in the bas reliefs on the Arch of Titus, a true photograph in which the enslaved Jews carried on their shoulders the seven-armed candelabra, the Menorah, which today is an institutional symbol of the State of Israel.

Subsequently, while the Jews maintained a persecuted and precarious presence, which however almost always saw them as the majority in Jerusalem, especially in the last two centuries, various dominations followed: Greeks, Romans, Maccabees, Byzantines, Arabs, Egyptians, Crusaders, Mamluks, Ottoman Turks and then the English, who substituted the Ottoman Empire with the British Mandate established by the League of Nations (1936-1948). In the context of decolonization, the mandate was committed to allowing the Jews, the true indigenous people of the area and the relative majority in Jerusalem since 1863, to build their State.

# Lie n. 2: The term Palestina and the founding of the Palestinian State

The name Palestine, given by the Romans to indicate one of the provinces of their Empire, has nothing to do with a pre-existing nation, but with one of many peoples who reached the banks of Israel from the Mediterranean and who are not identified with the present Palestinian people. Already extinct for several hundreds of years at the time of Emperor Hadrian, this group of people were the Philistines, of Aegean-Cretan origin, certainly not Arab. The Palestinian Arabs essentially came from Syria and Jordan and became considerably numerous only after the birth of Zionism. Even the Arab leaders included Palestine in the territories called "Great Syria" and the Palestinians grew in number flocking from various surrounding Countries only when Zionist pioneers opened the doors to work opportunities in that abandoned land, that no one had ever taken care of before them, after drying up the malaria infested swamps by the sweat of the brow of many immigrants, as did for example the parents of Ytzhak Rabin. More than 90 percent of the Arabs in the area immigrated during the first Alyots, the mass immigration of Jews starting in 1880, contemporarily and independently, both from Yemen as well as from Europe. There is no ethnic or historic difference between the Arab mass of the Country and that of the 22 Arab nations in the area. Historically, a Palestinian State has never existed. If it has finally decided to exist, it will have to negotiate its boundaries with Israel. This would warrant the famous decision, now almost a magical formula in hopes for a solution to the conflict, to designate two States for two peoples, or in other words, to proceed with the foundation of a Palestinian state.

After October 7th, the Biden Administration, the UN, the European Union, and some Arab allies would therefore like to designate a solution to the conflict based on an immediate creation of the "two state solution". But the reality, which is ruthlessly revealed to those who verify the reality of the situation, is that the Palestinians themselves do not seek this solution at all but draw their borders and their hopes with the prospect of destroying Israel and completely replacing it after having obliterated it "from the river to the sea". The leader of Hamas, Khaled Mashal, explicitly expressed the Palestinian attitude: "After October 7th there is a renewed hope for a Palestine "from the river to the sea", from the north to the south... we refuse the "two State for two peoples" solution because this would require us to recognize the legitimacy of the Zionist entity, and this is unacceptable." This position is supported by the majority of the Palestinians, who when asked to comment on the atrocities of October 7th, 72% (including the raping, decapitating, kidnapping, etc.) applauded the massacre, while 74.7% desire a State which completely replaces Israel.

The radicalization chosen by the Palestinians, not only Hamas but also by Fatah, in the education of children, that are brought up in the culture of violence and idolatry of the Shahid, the terrorist "martyrs" whose images line the walls of the schools and city, while the lowest stylistic features of classical anti-Semitism are disseminated in summer courses and on television shows, make it very difficult to imagine a good neighborly relationship with a Palestinian state. The Palestinian Authority's government, after October 7th, still spends about \$2.8 million a month in salary for Hamas terrorists, who are now in Israeli prisons, and who perpetuated the massacre in Gaza. The PA has never condemned the attack, and, by the dozens, lethal attacks against innocent Israeli citizens continue to arrive from its cities without ceasing. From cafes in Tel Aviv to the streets of Jerusalem, to the gas stations in Eli: no one is safe in Israel and, when they speak of "occupation", the Palestinian leaders in reality are referring to the entire territory of Israel, which they strike indiscriminately. The trust that, from the birth of the Oslo Agreements, made it possible to create a common police force between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, which is often violated by the use of arms by the Palestinian police to commit terrorist attacks. By asking Israel today to give confidence to a Palestinian state within the limits and with rules established unilaterally, in addition to definitively violating and destroying the Oslo agreements, would have the only characteristic of giving the Palestinians a reward in recognition, funds, international aid, general support, as a result, consequence, reward, of the monstrous operation conducted by Hamas on October 7: It has been said, mocking the idea, that Sinwar would thus become the Ben Gurion of the Palestinian people. Only a direct negotiation, as established by the UN and also by the Oslo Agreements, can help the two parties to have an interaction. But this can happen only after Israel has removed from the Palestinians, defeating Hamas, every ambition to destroy the Jewish State. A Palestinian State must be born for peace and not for a new war, which would always be lethal, therefore the demilitarization and its deradicalization must be guaranteed. Both Germany and Japan, after WWII, were able to rebuild their prospective history as democratic States, but this happened only after their unconditional

surrender and a long “reconstruction”, that was seen it the complete dismantling of their war leadership. Violence was uprooted from their educational system, just as the use of weapons.

## Lie n. 3 The Esplanade of the Mosques cancels the Temple Mount

All of the heaps of lies about Jerusalem and its attempt to negate its Jewish roots is concentrated around the Temple Mount. The Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock are admirable buildings, which were respectively completed in 705 and 691 AD. The Dome was copied from the Holy Sepulcher, having existed already for several centuries. Today, these buildings which are considered the symbol of Islam, were built on the exact site of the First and Second Temple, the Beit ha-Miqdash, the most important place of memory in the world for the Jews. Here is where the Wailing Wall sits, remnant of the western wall that supported the embankment of Herod's temple, which was one of the wonders of the world. One can still see the sacrificial stone, the staircase from which the Jewish masses who came for pilgrimages went to the ritual baths and then the forbidden areas (marked in writing) where only priests could enter, and all this next to the hill of Tzion, conquered in battle by King David around 1010 BC, when he decided to make Jerusalem his capital. Below is the Kidron Valley, in the Old Testament and the New Testament called the “Valley of the Kings”, because of the tombs that are there, or the “Valley of Jehosaphat”. Princes, queens, prophets, many from the line of David are buried here. The Jewish heritage is complete. Christ, as a child, went on his pilgrimage during Passover, as every Jewish boy in Israel, together with Mary and Joseph (it's the episode in the New Testament where he preaches to the Doctors of the Law), and one can still see the stairs which the families took and the shops underneath. But Arafat chose the path of denying the evidence, and he continually and threateningly insisted on repeating that the “Site of the Mosques” is the only denomination that cancels that of the “Temple Mount”, that UNESCO voted a mystifying and very damaging decision declaring the “Mount” pure Islamic heritage. It is a disgrace filled with consequences, including violent signs of terrorism, where Palestinian propaganda tirelessly continues to suggest to their own young people that Israel wants to change the “status quo” established in '67, which confers to the Waqf, the Islamic religious authority with its headquarters in Jordan, the jurisdiction of its Islamic holy places. “To die for Al-Aqsa” is one of many slogans both in vogue and merely propaganda, given the fact that Israel has no intention of possessing the Mosques, even though it's rather controversial that, right above, in the holiest place for the Jewish people, it's even forbidden for the Jews (few, controlled, contested) to pray during visits.

## Lie n. 4: The blood accusation

After the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, the antisemitic attack against the Jewish people, this time identified with Israel, took on new dimensions never before seen since the Holocaust, from New York to Milan. The convergence of the extreme left and “woke” culture with the new Islamic immigration has created an identification between anti-western and anti-third world hate and anti-Israeli hate. A long list of untruths led aggressiveness from crowds in squares all over the West demanding that Israel be wiped off the map, accusing it of genocide, occupation, apartheid, war crimes: in other words, having become like Nazi Germany. Deaf and blind attacks, full of lethal blame, are now a part of everyday life. The secretary general of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, just two days after the aggressions of Hamas accused Israel to have in some way caused the carnage after “75 years” of oppression of the Palestinians. In June 2016, at the European Parliament, Abu Mazen, the president of the Palestinian National Authority, received a standing ovation with a speech in which it renewed the traditional “blood accusation”, already the cause of pogroms and bloody persecutions since the Middle Ages, proclaiming in front of European parliamentarians that some rabbis had suggested to the Israelis to poison Palestinian waters. Today anyone in the streets or in Universities who accuses the Israeli army of cruel, thoughtless, even deliberate massacres of women and children, without even trying to understand what the most serious analysts explain every day, is applauded: in Gaza the military has only tried to put a stop to, in a war that was necessarily initiated by the terror of Hamas, the power of an vile terrorist organization which dominates Gaza and that over the past dozens of years has attacked Israeli civilians with thousands of missiles and terrorist attacks, and after having murdered 1,400 people has forced 200 thousand civilians to leave their homes and their work. The war in Gaza is characterized by the systematic use of the population and civilian structures as human shields by Hamas; schools, mosques, hospitals, connected to a huge network of underground galleries hundreds of kilometers

long which protect missile launchers, weapons, Hamas men and they hide the poor Israeli hostages, all of whom were enlisted and incorporated into a nazified society, a terrorist organization, whether it is an accomplice or acts in spite of itself. When the “blood libel” is used, the accusation of blood, against Israel it’s no less than going down the same old, terrible street. Even if at times one is forced to change his mind publicly: responding to Israel’s indignant reactions regarding the spread of lies about poisoned Palestinian water, Abu Mazen’s staff released a note of denial which stated. Having become clear that the alleged statements by a Rabbi regarding the poisoning of Palestinian wells in reality lacked proof, the president Mahmoud Abbas has affirmed that he had no intentions of harming Judaism or of offending the Jews”. But we all know that the retraction of an accusation always has a minimum effect compared to the original accusation, that effortlessly continues to circulate. As in the BBC case, which had to retract twice its accusations against Israel for having bombed the Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza (in reality the missile responsible for the explosion was Hamas’s) and for having purposely “targeted” the sick and hospital personnel: “In reality – the BBC corrected, referring to the Israeli military – it was collaborating with medical personnel and patients”. But, in the end, the new black legends continue.

The press had an explosive role in building a completely inaccurate idea of Israel. On the basis of a French reportage, all newspapers and world news repeated that in 2002 in Jenin there had been a massacre similar to the one in Srebrenica, and they released the manifesto by which Arafat launched the intifada, according to which the child, Mohammed Al Dur, had certainly and maliciously been killed by the Israelis in 2000, which several non-Israeli investigative sources later declared to be false. Cruel and brutal stories were invented regarding the inhabitants of the settlements, with the intention of portraying them as a gang of crazy racists. But in reality, out of these 400 thousand people, only a very small part persecuted by Israeli law committed crimes, receiving up to the maximum prescribed punishment, life in imprisonment, when it came to sanctioning a murder.

The new Israelifobic antisemitism has become a flag, conscious and unconscious, of all of the great international institutions. The European Union, the United Nations and the Human Rights Council based in Geneva dedicate to Israel every year one third of their condemnation resolutions, instead of giving them to Syria, Iran, China, Eritrea ... Then there’s UNESCO which, as we have already mentioned, recently established that the Site of the Mosques, with all of Jerusalem, belongs entirely to the Islamic tradition, erasing with one wipe of a hand the Jewish heritage proven by a thousand historical testimonies. All of these organizations are part of the club which has continued to criminalize and delegitimize Israel of its own mission, which pushes the possibility of peace further away, and which today with the request of a ceasefire, in essence guarantees the survival of Hamas.

## **Lie n. 5: The occupation of Palestinian territories is the principal cause of the conflict**

In the discussion of October 7th, which has now become a dividing date of the new launch of antisemitism, sometimes the latter is attributed to the “occupation”, of the “Palestinian territories”, and that we refer with incredible frivolousness to “75 years” ago, that is at the birth of the State of Israel. Guterres, the EU leaders, the protagonists of public demonstrations, Democrat University professors affirm with great carelessness and self-assurance that for the past 75 years the Palestinians have suffered oppression (another key word) by the State of Israel, which is occupying their land. According to this myth, the occupation is the principal cause of the lack of peace. All of this is false. Israel, which is made up of Judea and Samaria, has always been the epicenter of the origin and the life of the Jewish people, even during the years of a forced exile that, however, was never total. Many cities, like Safed and in part Jerusalem, where the expulsion of the Jews was targeted and bloody, they always stayed Jewish. Given that Israel is the only Jewish State, the control of the territory is indispensable for its existence and survival. In 1950, Jordan illegally annexed Judea and Samaria, calling them “West Bank”, and even though the international community never accepted this occupation, no one ever even dreamed of contesting the legality of the situation, like is being done with Israel since 1967.

Going back 75 years, to the inception of the State of Israel, this all happened legally. The right to a homeland for the Jewish people, recognized in 1917 with the Balfour Declarations, was ratified by the Sanremo Declarations, which in 1920 “disassembled” the Ottoman power which governed the Middle East. In 1922, the League of Nations affirmed “the historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine and for the land



that will rebuild their national home in that Country”, and in November 1947, with a majority vote by the United Nations, a territorial division was defined called a partition: the State of Israel is not at all, and in no way, established as a replacement for a Palestinian state, which never existed, nor by rejecting the existence of Arabs in Mandatory Palestine under the British. If the Arabs had not so opposed a violent armed refusal to the partition voted by the United Nations, the decision of the Jews to live in peace with the Arabs would have immediately resulted in two States, one next to the other. The peaceful coexistence has always been the polar star of the democratic and semi social State of Israel born in 1948: It is the Arabs - led by the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, who shared with Hitler the genocidal project of the extermination of the Jews - who created the Nazi conflict against the Jews and practiced the inherited genocidal and eliminatory decision against them from the Arab world. Even the question of the refugees is not without injustices and/or Israeli aggressions, but it all started by Arab aggression. Israel is limited to defending itself from Arab attacks, of which the Palestinians were only a small part: the same word “Palestinian” refers not to the Arabs, but to the Jews that live in Mandatory Palestine.

It's not true that the occupation from 1967 has consequently resulted in the confrontation still in act today: even in 1920, the terrorist attacks started to flow at an ever so frenetic rate, which simply testifies the Arab refusal of a Jewish presence. Let's remember the attacks in 1929 in Hebron and Safed, two of the cities where, together with Jerusalem and Tiberias, there has always been a Jewish majority and where real *pogroms* were perpetrated, which cost the lives of hundreds of Jews.

The settlements of 1967 were born as indispensable defense garrisons, without which, as we now clearly see, Israel would have been forced into an indefensible dimension, and as a memory of an ancient Jewish presence on territories that were under Jordanian domination until the Six-Day War, in June 1967. Israel was forced to face war with Jordan which occupied Judea and Samaria otherwise it would have been mortally wounded, in its core and in Jerusalem. Israel fights exclusively in auto defense against an inspired war with the sole objective in destroying it. The abused term “occupied Palestinian territories” has no basis and is not supported by any historic or legal documentation. The agreements signed over the years by Palestinian leaders and the Israelis do not state that those territories are destined to a Palestinian State, but only specify that the dispute regarding their destiny must resolve itself through negotiations, as established by the UN resolutions. It is to note that Israel immediately offered an international accommodation that included the withdrawal of the occupied zones, to only find themselves faced with that refusal from the other side which, it's good to keep very clear in mind, has always been the final position and the flag of every negotiation between Palestinians and Israelis.

Following their unexpected victory in the Six-Day War, Israel offered to negotiate for the restitution of their new conquests (Sinai and Gaza, from Egypt, and the West Bank, from Jordan). However, the Arab League, reunited in Khartoum in 1967, produced the famous resolution of “Three Nos”, with which established: no to peace, no to negotiations and no to the recognition of Israel.

This is where the long road of offers with which Israel tried on every occasion, with governments from the left and the right, to give back the “Territories” in exchange for peace. A formula reiterated over time. In November 1967 the UN Security Council adopted resolution 242 to resolve the diatribe regarding the “Territories”: they did not at all define them “illegal” and they did not at all dictate, as Arafat continued to repeat and as the EU today supports, the restitution “of all the Territories”, but rather the withdrawal “from the Territories”. It also specifies that the two parties must agree to a “peaceful and reciprocal agreement that will guarantee that both parties live in peace within their secure and recognized borders.” The resolution therefore speaks of conferring “territories” to the Palestinians in a way suited to the two parties, and this means that the two parties must find an agreed solution between themselves, not imposed from above or by third parties, keeping in mind Israel's need to safeguard its safety.

The claim that the occupation is the cause of the conflict is simply a malicious, superficial and nonrealistic description; in other words false. The claim that it has existed for the past 75 years is to proclaim that one must cancel the existence of the State of Israel. Unfortunately, we see this genocidal intent present and proclaimed in many expressions of solidarity with the Palestinians.

In reality, the story about Israel having the upper hand, from the Oslo Agreements to the fourth offer for a Palestinian State which includes also part of Jerusalem, has been the occasion, contrary to the legitimate expectations, for an increase of violence and Palestinian refusal. The “no” by Arafat at Camp David, in July

of 2000, followed by a second, bloody Intifada with 200 Israeli deaths, the refusal of Abu Mazen's refusal to undertake peace talks without preconditions (as established by ONU Resolution no. 242), and his claims that the '67 borders are considered a *sine qua non* of refusal for the Jewish State, go together with the incredible quantity of terrorist attacks which, even after October 7th, have plagued Israeli cities, from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv, from the towns of the "territories" up to Haifa and Lake Tiberias.

## Lie n. 6: The Palestinians as perennial victims

The victimization of the Palestinians is a form of great moral corruption: Based on the lie that they were forcefully displaced from their territory and that they are oppressed by Israeli persecutors, was seen after the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 in how their supporters ended up justifying and supporting the most appalling acts of terrorism. In particular, it is unacceptable that the UN, again, affirm the usefulness and therefore the need to continue to support UNRWA, that is to say the agency that deals with Palestinian refugees, after sixteen of its members were discovered in the ranks of those who committed the atrocities in the kibbutzim of Israel and that evidence of the collusion and complicity of a number of its members with Hamas's terrorist policy continues to emerge. But even beyond the question of the terrorists, the UNRWA theme is exactly what demonstrates the misunderstanding to which they base the victimization of the Palestinians. It is an extremely powerful, super financed UN organization which manages five million people defined as "refugees" according to parameters which differ from those applied to any other refugee in the world. All the refugees in the world, in fact, with the exception of the Palestinians, are sustained by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) with the objective to resettling them following their geographical displacement, taking care of their well-being, work, language and education. For example, this is what happens with the Muslim and Hindu refugees involved in the exchange of populations on the Pakistan India border, and in thousands of other cases, which is the same thing that happened in Europe after the Second World War. UNRWA, which enjoys a budget of one and a half billion dollars (now partly reduced by the current scandal, because some countries have decided to suspend the funding of the agency) differs totally from the general organization for refugees managed by UNHCR because for the Palestinians there is not and there must not be any policy of absorption or relocation. This means that from generation to generation they remain "refugees" for life, transmitting to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren a perpetual status (the only case in the world) and that, above all, perpetual, thanks also to the management of the education of the young generations entrusted to UNRWA, the lethal clash against Israel. The refugee, according to UNRWA, "is a person who lived in Palestine between June 1946 and May 15, 1948, and who has lost its ability to sustain himself as a result of the 1948 conflict". Then, as we've said already, while Israel accepted the UN partition, the Arab states attacked and invited the Arab residents to leave, with the promise to accompany them back home. In this way, 700 thousand refugees were created, against the approximately 800 thousand Jewish refugees in the Arab countries, who never asked to perpetuate their status, but who adapted themselves to living in the countries that gradually welcomed them (it happened to the Italian refugees in Istria, after the Second World War: none of their descendants were allowed to consider themselves "refugees"). Instead, UNRWA has the political mandate to perpetuate refugee status, even to one who holds a passport from another country. In 1965, the third generation was included, and in 1982 it was further extended. Perpetuate the idea of "returning", and above all, the armed return of the "victims" makes peace impossible. We know that the UNRWA Telegram channel which has over three thousand members during the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre welcomed photos and enthusiastic comments from its teachers, some of whom later occupied the role of incarcerators of hostages in Gaza. It does not come with any surprise seeing as the walls of the UNRWA schools are decorated with portraits of the "shahid", the terrorist martyrs, and in the Askar summer camp, near Nablus (only one of many examples), when the children speak about their aspirations they declare their intentions to become *shahid* killing as many Jews as possible, and they reel off in their head all the names of the terrorists who died during their missions. This is what UNRWA teaches.

Another little-known chapter on the topic of victimization ignores that, starting from the 1995 Interim Agreement and the Hebron Agreement of 1997, the Palestinians have acquired a great amount of independence in managing their own present and future, which is necessarily interrupted by military intervention when the safety of Israeli citizens (for example during the Second Intifada, when daily terroristic incursions bloodied the Israeli territory) is impossible to control unless present, with blocks and checks often very dangerous for the Israeli guards themselves, who often fall victim to attacks.

According to the above-mentioned agreements, the Israeli army evacuated all the major Palestinian cities, leaving full possession to Arafat. These are the so-called "Territory A", which have been under the complete jurisdiction of the Palestinians since the mid-1990s. The idea was to put an end to the attacks and the conflict, through a territorial restitution that would design an embryo of a State. This was a great and very promising first step, to perfect with successive agreements: everyone remembers the "Declaration of Principles", in 1993, with the famous handshake between Rabin, Arafat and Clinton at the White House. The new agreements were supposed to stay in effect for a maximum of five years, during which time a definite and shared structure would be negotiated. Instead, suicide terrorism exploded which mowed down more than one thousand Israeli civilian victims. After the first Palestinian general elections in 1996, the Israeli administration was dissolved and 98 percent of the Palestinians from that moment did not want to live under occupation, because they regulate themselves and govern themselves with their own laws, their own scholastic and sanitary system, their own press and TV. Thus, an autocratic system was created, managed by a totally corrupt ruling class, despite the existence of a parliament, whose entire life is based on the rejection of Israel. Abu Mazen's power is uncontrolled, the general elections are by now a thing of the past, which haven't reconvened since 1996 (in 2006 there were the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, won by Hamas, from then on nothing), the children grow up in the cult of war against the Jews (they always say "the Jews" with a hatred and a contempt, to indicate the Israelis). The popular dream is not peace, which Israel sings about and paints on every occasion, but to eliminate Israel, not the perfection of the agreements but to overcome them in the name of the annihilation of the Jewish State. It is very significant the fact that Abu Mazen has never condemned the atrocities of October 7<sup>th</sup>, and that on an international level his points of reference, like those of Hamas, are Russia and Iran.

## **Lie n. 7: the racist, apartheid, genocidal State of Israel**

In 2001 in Durban, South Africa, the "UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" inaugurated a new phase of antisemitism, under the astute aegis regarding the battle against what are rightly counted among the greatest and most unacceptable violations of human rights. It was transformed into a racist, discriminatory, xenophobic, and intolerant conference against Israel. From the idea of "Israel Country of Apartheid", of which South Africa has been the champion since then and not by chance, the black legend on which the other paradoxical idea of Israel as a "genocidal" state has taken shape and momentum. Imagining that the Jewish State is a racist one is the most terrible and repugnant thing that anyone could imagine. Everyone remembers what the South African apartheid was like: a system governed by the birth and death of citizens by laws which determined the life of each person according to their skin color. Nothing like this happens in Israel and has never happened. Israel is a multiracial society with many colors even within the Jewish people, and the Arab population actively participates in the exercise of political rights and does not suffer any foreclosures with respect to education, worship, or work. Arab Israelis enjoy complete equality, electing their own representatives in the Knesset, Arab Israeli judges sit on the Supreme Court, they are managers of hospital wards, and front-line officers in the army and police. Unlike the Arab States where the State religion rules, Israel considers Judaism, Islam and Christianity as official religions and guarantees complete equality. The incitement to racism in Israel is a crime punishable by law.

The idea launched from Durban is that of accusing Israel of the most repugnant crimes in the contemporary world, to denounce it as a rogue state to be boycotted and erased, just as what happened to apartheid South Africa. Based on this accusation, "apartheid weeks" are organized every year in universities around the world and now also take place in some Italian universities. On the grounds of these accusations, the vast movement BDS (Boycott Divestment Sanctions) which desires to repeat for Israel the delegitimization implemented at the time for South Africa. The BDS is an extremist and violent movement aimed at the destruction of Israel, and in fact it is sustained also by Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood. Moreover, it is a hypocritical movement because, while it systematically boycotts academics, sports, researchers, representatives of society, it is careful not to exclude from the market the many indispensable products of Israeli science and industry in the medical and technological sectors.

In 1975, the UN passed the mysteriously famous "Zionism equals Racism" resolution. But the only connection that Jews have with racism and apartheid is passive; that is what they have suffered: the use of

the ghettos aimed at their segregation followed by racial criteria, just like the attempt to systematically eliminate them physically. In Israel, there is not a trace of racism nor apartheid, the accusation is too stupid to be taken seriously; In Israel there is only that rate of racism that unfortunately exists in any democratic society and is monitored and restrained by law. In the Israeli legislation, there is no distinction between race, ethnicity, religion, except for the immediate admission to Israeli citizenship, reserved only for Jews, which is common in many countries, also in Italy. Israel does not prohibit anyone from practicing their own religion and customs and it's actually the only country in the Middle East where this happens. This can be seen by making a quick visit to the Knesset or to the hospitals. The malls with their shops and recreation areas, are a frenetic crossroads of people from every ethnicity and religious creed, Jews, Christians, and Muslims, all together. At the coin-operated games moms line up with their children, where they are wearing the Islamic veil or the wig that very religious Jewish women wear. Even now, after October 7<sup>th</sup>, Arab Israelis rightly keep their role in society intact.

It is true that there are many measures, mostly in the Territories and the entrances to the Green Line, where the Arab part of the population suffers from long lines and interrogations, but as always, the security problem is overlying and is to save all Israeli citizens, Arabs included, because also amongst them many have died during the Jihadist terrorist attacks. And who can negate that from Hebron, from Bethlehem, from Ramallah thousands of armed terrorists entered who committed massacres? Of course, it's true that the border with Gaza is closed, but one only needs to think about Hamas' genocidal antisemitic and anti-western program, sanctioned by its own Constitution Charter, and about how much blood it shed inside and outside the Green Line, to understand that racism has nothing to do with the defense measures that Israel is forced to apply.

The delegitimization of Israel has become a huge industry, unfortunately the major industry in the Palestinian world. The Israelis are continually painted, represented according to the same old stereotypes, along with the weapons: the nose, plus the machine gun; the money, plus the blood of children on their lips. This is how Ariel Sharon was depicted in a cartoon competition in London: naked, holding a bunch of babies hanging from his bloody mouth as he munches on them. If the Jews are this cruel and racist, it's extremely difficult to understand how in 2014 the Jerusalem Post reported a survey declaring that 73 percent of Arab Israelis prefer to live under the Israeli jurisdiction and not under the Palestinian one. Regarding the rights practiced and recognized by Israel, just think of the system of recognition of LGBTQ rights which gives good reasons to all homosexuals in the Middle East, including hundreds of Palestinians, to flee to Israel when they are persecuted, as they are everywhere in the Islamic world, sometimes even with the death penalty. One case among many is that of Payam Feili, a gay Iranian poet who fled to Israel in 2016, where he obtained political asylum. Nonetheless, even this, for Israel's enemies, becomes suspicious and a harbinger of accusations, as if Israel's commitment to respect and protect the rights of homosexuals is only propaganda to cover the violation of other human rights (the so-called "pinkwashing").

The truth is that Israel is a paradoxically free country in a state of war, a phenomenon more unique than rare. The Israeli press, like the TV and media in general are extremely active in proposing without limits contrasting and shouted opinions; the world in which opinions challenge and confront each other and the political class is continually called into question, even ridiculed. The attitude toward Christians and Muslims is defined by law as equal, the three religions are considered equal even if the other two are a minority, and in Israel freedom of religion is guaranteed for everyone from the declaration of rights in 1948. On the contrary, under the Jordanian domination of Jerusalem (1949-1967) the Jews were not allowed to even go to the Western Wall, also known as the Wailing Wall, and under the Ottomans they could only pray in a small area in front of the holiest site for Judaism, while now everyone can access their holy site, from San Sepulcher to the Esplanade of the Mosques. Even the enormous influx of tourists is regulated according to the needs and the (self-imposed) rules of the various religions so much so that it is not disputed that Muslims are given the right of access to Mosques only on certain days and certain times, based on the will of the Waqf. The limited access to the Mosques by the Israelis, and only in particular cases, are due to serious security threats and not for religious reasons. We are very far from the Muslim bans on praying according to their faith in the places controlled by them and, if we compare, for example, the Israeli attitude with that of any Islamic State, we can see that the level of democratic openness towards freedom of worship is incomparable to the Saudis or the Palestinians themselves.

# Lie n. 8: The Israelis are criminals of war who are committing systematic genocide

The huge paradox of accusation of genocide brought against Israel by South Africa to the International Court of Justice in The Hague mid-January 2024, after Israel suffered the genocidal attack by Hamas on October 7<sup>th</sup>, is proof of how much energy has been put into the complete delegitimization of the Jewish state for decades. The Court, with its first opinion issued on January 26<sup>th</sup>, did not accept the suggestion to impose a ceasefire on Israel, but while rejecting the substance of the accusation, left the door open to further discussions and checks in the future, consequently agreeing to the continuation of this crazy discussion. The accusation speaks of a programmed genocide, which sounds like that of the Nazis, beginning with the expulsion of the Palestinians from their land in 1948. This is the real news: Those who recognize that Israel has the right to exist are now shamelessly opposed by a reading which, by supporting the colonial and criminal nature of the Jewish State, promotes its cancellation, just like what happened in apartheid South Africa. The historiographical base of the term genocide was provided at the end of the 1980s in texts from the Israeli historian Benny Morris, who, however, completely revised his initial assumption in 2005, where he supported the idea of authentic ethnic cleansing at the time of the 1948 war of defense. Such an artificial hypothesis and the lack of documentation to support it, to subsequently force Morris to distance himself from his own thesis, and to make him conclude that during the flight of the Arabs who left their homes during the war there was no Israeli scheme, but a congeries of reasons linked to the conflict situation, which was also very harsh for the Israeli soldiers, many of whom had just escaped the Holocaust.

The idea of a genocidal vision since Israel's inception is so absurd that if it weren't so widespread by now, especially in this period of mass antisemitism, it would not deserve a response. But the turning of the tables, or better the transformation of Jews from victims into executioners, constitutes a great retroactive and recent justification to anti-Jewish hate: yesterday for persecuting the Jews, today for the continuous political and terroristic torture that Israel is subjected to.

Israel did not expel the Arabs, who at the time were not called Palestinians, from their home, much less programmed their physical destruction. Studies show that the same founder of the State of Israel, David Ben Gurion, had and preached the opposite, and from the beginning hoped for a peaceful coexistence with the Arab minority: "We neither want nor need to oust the Arabs. Here, there is room for both of the two peoples." It was the Arab rejection of the UN resolution on the Partition, in 1947, accepted instead by the Jewish leadership, that pushed five Arab countries to send their armies to oust the Jews from these lands. If anything, it was Azzam Pasha, the first head of the Arab League, to announce a program of ethnic cleansing in genocidal character: "This will be a war of annihilation, a memorable massacre equal to those of the Mongols and the Crusades."

It is common knowledge that a large portion of the Palestinians left their homes as a result of the Arab invitation (broadcast by radio from Syria) to clear out, to allow the troops which were advancing to have a rapid victory, who would then bring the fugitives home at gunpoint. In Haifa, where the largest eviction took place, the Histadrut, or the all-powerful Jewish trade union, the major pillar of Zionism, begged the Arabs to stay, but to no avail. Partly due to the natural fear of the conflict, partly to the Arab invitation, and some bloody episodes typical of a life and death war – but however, it must be remembered, the Jews would never have chosen to fight, which was demonstrated by the fact that they accepted the partition - displaced those who would later become the Palestinian refugees from their homes.

The idea of considering Israel genocidal manipulates and flips historical facts, accusing the Jews of acts that they themselves suffered. The great growth of Palestinians themselves, both in Gaza and in the Palestinian Authority, and Arab Israelis in Israeli territory, is crystal clear proof that no genocide has been committed. The same living conditions of Palestinians are optimal within the Arab world and in the context of their authoritarian leadership, which programs only war instead of wellbeing for the population and uses huge international subsidies accordingly.

Today, the responsibility of a great number of deaths in the war in Gaza is due to cynical use of civil structures (hospitals, schools, residential homes) and of the citizens themselves in a war without uniforms, in which missile launchers and weapons are hidden everywhere and anyone can be used as a human bomb and can

find themselves in a battle, without any rules. Needless to say, the numbers are not verifiable, inflated both by propaganda purposes of Hamas, which has already declared that the more deaths it can boast the more this will constitute a reason for political and religious satisfaction, and by the fact that there are tens of thousands of deaths in battle belonging to the ranks of soldiers without uniforms, or Hamas terrorists.

The popular spreading of the concept of a genocidal Israel, the attribution to Israel the intention to come against Hamas not to destroy an enemy whose presence on the border is impossible to tolerate, because it has promised new incursions and because therefore Israeli citizens cannot return to their homes on the border, is a completely new phenomenon and clearly has an antisemitic character and inspiration.

The word "genocide" itself was coined in 1944 by the scholar Raphael Lemkin, whose entire family was exterminated by the Nazis in Poland. Israel has never pursued any plan of the destruction of the Palestinian people. It has never pursued even the idea to carry out a campaign or a policy aimed at destroying the ethnic or national structure of the Palestinians. This, referring to the Jews, is essentially part of the Palestinians plans: both Hamas and the PLO, anticipate the destruction of the state of Israel already in their programmatic maps, one for religious reasons, the other for political objectives, and furthermore in their history of declarations and mass terroristic acts, where neither children nor unarmed citizens have ever been spared.

Israel has never massacred masses of unarmed Palestinians unlike Jordan with the Black September in 1970; it has never expelled 400 thousand Palestinians from Kuwait in 1990; it has never caused the dispersion of 390 thousand refugees in Syria since the beginning of a local conflict in 2011; it has never trapped and killed 18 thousand in the Yarmuk camp in Syria.

To dismantle once and for all the obscene accusation of genocide against Israel, one only needs to look at real data. The most trusted calculations define the number of original refugees at approximately 550 thousand. It must be remembered that, in those same years, 800 thousand Jews were expelled from Arab countries, the majority of whom were permanently relocated to Israel and then around the world, including Italy. The Palestinian refugees, multiplied by the millions to the fourth generation, continue to revendicate their right to return wiping out Israel. Anyway, had Israel wanted to wipe out the Palestinians, they have done an incompetent job seeing as they have multiplied in number. In Gaza, certainly the hottest spot of the Israel – Palestinian conflict, where various bloody wars periodically take place, in July of 1994, 731 thousand inhabitants lived there, while today there are two and a half million. The Territories and Gaza have had an increase in the Palestinian population from approximately one million one hundred thousand people in 1950 to five and a half million today.

The truth is that Israel has never caused and is not causing any genocide. Genocides in history have similar and unequivocal characteristics: systematic killing of the population, starving the population, keeping the population from medical care, and making their lives impossible from a civil liberties standpoint. Today, according to the UN Human Development Report, the development of Palestinians in the areas managed by ANP, in terms of life expectancy and everything related to it, i.e. education, healthcare, nutrition, has an average standard like that of medium-high Arab countries.

Israel is not directly responsible for the Palestinian development, but it doesn't hinder it and it is committed to assisting in its infrastructures, from electricity to Internet, even though Israel's technicians are often attacked and even killed. Instead, what often happens is that the thirteen-year-old daughter of Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas' chief police, or the wife of Abu Mazen, the president of ANP, and above all children in Gaza (whom I actually met together with Syrian children wounded in the war in Israeli hospitals) are hospitalized free of charge and treated in Israel. In February 2024, a sister of Haniyah, was assisted during a difficult birth in the Israeli Soroka hospital in Beersheva. During the second Intifada, Ariele Eldad, at the time a famous dermatologist, who then went on to become a parliamentarian in the Knesset for a rightwing party, when a young terrorist with severe burns caused by an attack was brought to him, he ordered him to be treated with continuous skin grafts for a long period of time. When the hospital administration told him to end the treatment, Eldad took his bed to the director's office and threatened a sit-in. Israel doesn't only limit its care to Palestinians, but it transports and cares for numerous wounded which arrive to the northern border of the Golan Heights. Among those killed on October 7, and among the kidnapped, there are many people who, from the kibbutzim, took constant care of the lives of the Palestinians of Gaza, displaying good will and neighborliness. People who accompanied people from Gaza who requested them from the border to the medical centers. This did not save them from the genocidal fury of Hamas.

## **Lie n. 9: Israel makes disproportionate use of military force**

The international community and the press are obsessively focused on the “proportionality” notion, while they sustain that the response to the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre is excessive and dictated by a sense of vendetta, which doesn’t take into consideration innocent civilians. To begin with, the term “proportionality” does not take into consideration the number, but the proportion between military advantage which results in a war operation and the danger which is eventually inflicted on those who find themselves involved. The hosts of lawyers who day by day consider whether to hit a building, must decide if the risk that someone is hiding inside, after the hundreds of widespread warnings that the army spreads with leaflets and telephone calls, is proportionate in respect to the threat posed by a missile launcher hidden in that building for schools and passers-by (for example) in Sderot. This is a very delicate job, that Israel does unsparingly. And it is the cynicism with which homes, schools, hospitals with people inside that are used for military purposes, the fact that children are sent toward soldiers (which has happened time and time again) with bombs and firearms, and the fact that soldiers are lured into traps by citizens waving white flags to create large numbers of casualties. The journalist and writer Douglas Murray explained very well that using the idea of proportionality is preposterous after what happened in the Israeli towns starting from October 7<sup>th</sup>: “Proportionality, according to the accusers, should mean – says Murray – that Israel, after planning a musical festival in Gaza, would be to deliberately rape the same number of women that were raped at the Nova Festival, and to kill the same number of young people ... or in a town of the same size as Sderot, going door to door, killing the same number of children that were killed in Sderot and shooting in the head the same number of pensioners in the kibbutz”. One must note, and here we can continue to follow the affirmations of Murray, that “Israel seems to be the only Country in the world which doesn’t have permission to win a war. The request for a ceasefire comes from all over the world, and, in fact today, this diminishes Israel's pure and simple right to security, to which it is entitled like any other State. The number of those killed in Gaza, which every news broadcast and every message on the Internet talks about, is itself a misunderstanding and a scam. At the time of writing, it is claimed that twenty-two thousand civilians and six thousand fighters have been killed, while Israel estimates that the latter amount to more than twelve thousand. For everyone, however, we must consider the number killed by Israel and those who were mistakenly mowed down by Hamas missiles and weapons on its territory. It has been calculated that more than two thousand Hamas missiles have fallen in the territory of Gaza (including the one in the Al Ahli hospital parking lot which killed dozens of people). To this, we must add the percentage of civilians killed in the latest war which is much less in respect to the civilians killed in all other known wars, including those in Yemen, Sudan, Congo, Syria, Iraq, Myanmar. However, even considering the combatant-civilian ratio as four to one, it is a lower number than that of urban warfare conflicts fought by a professional army, which is ten civilians for every combatant. If Israel's data is accepted, the ratio becomes two civilians for every terrorist killed. Keeping the relationship low costs Israel daily, painful losses of draftees and reserve soldiers, who leave their homes and jobs to defend the Country from the deadly danger posed by Hamas”.

## **Lie n. 10: Palestinian terrorism is different than the terrorism in the rest of the world**

There are those who love to imagine that Palestinian terrorism is a war of liberation fought by combatants for freedom, by “resistants”. To begin with, given that contrary to popular belief, Palestinian terrorism is based not on the request of a Palestinian State but on the ambition to destroy the State of Israel (extending antisemite hate for all Jews all over the world, who are attacked, killed, kidnapped, wounded from Palestinian terrorism), it corresponds precisely to the definition of terrorism as ethnic or religious hate, directed toward innocent civilians through violent and murderous means. Palestinian terrorism literally created world terrorism, financed at its beginning and over the course of time inflated by alliances and support throughout the extreme Muslim world. Its alliances are not based on its original identity to the Sunni part of that world, led by the Muslim Brotherhood, but border on a deadly relationship with the Shia of Iran and Hezbollah. The first to take up arms alongside Hamas' terrorist atrocities of October 7 were Iran's major proxies, the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah, and with them the Shiite Houthis of faraway Yemen. This is an alliance which only

understands cruelty, death, and violence. Every human and civil principle is, in fact, so blatantly denied that one has to wonder how it's possible that the international movement that claims to fight for human rights does not realize the murderous, fascist, anti-women and anti-homosexuals, anti-dissident, anti-Western World and anti-Semitic hatred that characterizes the very existence of that alliance.

Palestinian terrorism is the father and the mother of all terrorisms, that of Isis as well as that of Al Qaeda. Its undeniable intention is to force the world to accept its objectives, while destroying the State of Israel and the Jewish people. From the Red Brigades to the Red Army Faction (the Baader-Meinhof Gang), all the world's worst terrorist gangs have been implicated in trades, far beyond the Middle East, with the murderous aims of Arafat, his followers, and his successors, up to the present day. It was Arafat who started the school of hijacking airplanes, in lethal explosions amid civilian life, from schools to airports to restaurants and even synagogues and churches attacked by jihadists. It was Arafat the great maestro of kidnapping and in the slaughtering of children, athletes, the elderly and women. Israel is perhaps the Country that has suffered the most for that wound which today the entire world is forced to comprehend. It is estimated, roughly and at best an underestimation, that from September 1993, in violation of the Oslo agreements, until September 2000, the Palestinians caused three hundred deaths in terrorist actions, and then more than 1,500 during the four years of the Intifada, to which hundreds more are added, up to 1,400 on 7 October 2023. But already this same year, before the terrorism arrived principally from Gaza, Israeli cities were bloodied by waves of terror in the West Bank, which resulted in 35 deaths and hundreds wounded. Until 2015, Israel counted 3,773 deaths caused by terrorism, horrors against civilians that would have brought to their knees any European Country. In Israel, one only needs to sit at a café or take a bus or go to the supermarket to be a target; Palestinian terrorists strike to cause suffering to families, mothers, and children.

And yet, how many times have we heard the accusation: "The Israelis target children"? It's so crazy, to anyone who knows the Israeli mentality, that it doesn't deserve an answer. However, it is necessary to write a few words, because it's an accusation which has taken root: apart from the falsities which have been written regarding this subject, like the news, which was then proven wrong, of the killing of three children on the beach in Gaza during the 2014 war, it's true however that children often become victims of the Israeli-Palestinian war. At times, Israelis are forced, by what's called asymmetric war, to strike objectives of common civil use because they are utilized at launching ramps for missiles against the Israeli civil population. This is where the cynical and programmed choice to use children, and civilians in general, as human shields come into play.

A completely different matter is the massacre of children that Palestinian terrorism targets with the deliberate intention of targeting them. The little girl shot in the head by a sniper was only a few months old (Shalhevet Pass, 2001), entire families were exterminated along with newborns (Fogel Family, Itamar, 2012), parents were killed in front of their children (Michael Marc, 2016). Slaughtered children (Hallel Ariel, 2016), high school students kidnapped and killed like dogs (Eyal, Gilad, Naftali, 2014), a young boy enticed online by a young Palestinian girl to Ramallah and then chopped into pieces in a garage (Ofir Rahum, 2001; the perpetrator of the deadly ambush, Mona Awana, was released in 2011 in the exchange of 1,027 terrorists to free the soldier Gilad Shalit, kidnapped in 2006 by Hamas): these are just a few examples of the atrocious, constant action of a terrorism comparable in cruelty only to that of Al Qaeda and ISIS, especially after the targeted, specific, planned atrocities of October 7th.

It's outrageous and very concerning how, as the general secretary of the UN at the time, Ban Ki-moon, during the Climate Conference in Paris in 2015, asked for a minute of silence for all of the victims of terrorism in the world and in the list of all of the Countries affected by this plague omitted Israel, as if to say that killing Jews is something permitted by the international public opinion. It is a pure form of contempt for the Jewish dead, which has been clear since the times of the Second Intifada. The aberrant common lectio is that it is part of the war of liberation of the Palestinian people.

The truth is that Palestinian terrorism existed many years before the European Union and the UN like to define as the "cause" of the present terrorism, meaning the frustration regarding the growth of settlements in the Territories. In essence, Israel is held responsible for the horrors perpetrated against its own citizens by some reprehensible but marginal extremists, while the Palestinian people are reportedly ready to compromise. Of course, it's true that among the Palestinians there are those who want peace, but this is a sentiment that has never been openly expressed. In reality, terrorism is a, if not "the", basic choice of the



Palestinian war against Israel. It is explicitly so, as far as Hamas is concerned, and implicitly, as far as Fatah is concerned.

The truth is that Arafat financed national and international terrorism with substantial donations from Western taxpayers, paid into the funds of Palestinian organizations through numerous mechanisms, both the EU and the UN. The same education of young generations of Palestinians looks to the large terroristic operations, very relevant also before Gaza: the massacre of the Maalot school children (1974, 25 hostages killed); the massacre of the 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics in Munich; the hijacking at Entebbe, in 1976, of Air France with 248 passengers onboard, that were freed thanks to the Israelis through an operation which cost the life of Yoni Netanyahu; the attacks on Fiumicino in 1973 and 1985, brought to mind by the attack on Brussels airport in 2016. The idea that terrorism can be the principal instrument to capture attention, and therefore polarize fear and confusion to one's advantage, is nothing less than a creation of Arafat's, subsequently developed in various forms, up to the attacks on the Twin Towers and then in Madrid, London, and Paris.

The attack against Jews is always central and revindicated, but not due to territorial requests, but rather in the name of a refusal with a strong ideological and religious characterization, which considers a Jewish presence on the Islamic Ummah a wound to be erased. It can be said that the genocidal approach of current Palestinian terrorism is, not surprisingly, connected with Hitler's extermination programs. Haj Amin al-Husseini, the Gran Mufti of Jerusalem and the Pasestinian leader in the 1930s and 1940s, was Hitler's friend and associate and was the first Palestinian to consider the expulsion of the Jews through their physical elimination as the goal, which he did not fail to advocate for the leader of Nazism. This attitude has very deep roots in extreme Islam: the Hamas Charter (1988) prescribes killing Jews one by one: "The Last Hour would not come until the Muslims fight against the Jews and the Muslims would kill them, and until the Jews would hide themselves behind a stone or a tree and a stone or a tree would say: Muslim or Servant of Allah there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him." (Art. 7)

These words are often repeated within Fatah. Even Abu Mazen, the President of the National Palestinian Authority, on Sept. 16, 2015, in a speech on TV said: "We welcome every drop of blood poured out for Jerusalem. Pure blood, clean blood, blood that rises to Allah; with the help of Allah every martyr will be rewarded in paradise and every wound will be rewarded." During the same occasion he said: "The Jews are filth, profane and contaminate Jerusalem." In fact, the Palestinian autonomy provides a reward to its martyrs: it pours more than ten percent of its annual budget of three and a half billion dollars into the pockets of Palestinian prisoners or the families of suicide or murdered terrorists. These are higher figures than a normal salary, going from around 400 to 3,500 dollars a month. Obviously, the longer the detention, or the more serious the crime, the more the expense increases over time. When the terrorist is released from prison, he has the right to a guaranteed job and plays a very enviable role socially, enough to arouse the emulation of young people.

The hatred of the Jews can be defined as metaphysical, inspired largely by the religious purpose of the defense of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, depicted in the imagination and by the mass media as being in constant danger. The message by social networks and mass media is that becoming a *shahid*, martyr, is a worthy cause in defending the Mosque. The veneration toward the *shahid* in the Palestinian society is a strong reason for emulation, the reason for which, apart from the large operations, many young men with knives in their hands, known as the "solitary wolves", look for Israeli victims and, as we often see, their own death. All this is a cause for glorification throughout Palestinian society. Today, the emulation of Hamas's terrifying acts risks taking the cruelty and danger of Palestinian terrorism to a higher level.



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