

Chapter Eleven: Terror

The Palestinian Authority formally rejects terror. It accuses Israel of falsely presenting the Palestinians as terrorists. Nevertheless, one finds positive references to terrorist activity against Israeli civilians. Such is, for example, the adulatory attitude towards the Fida'i, a term reserved nowadays for members of the Palestinian armed organizations, and the regarding of jailed terrorists in Israel as prisoners-of-war. This reflects the regard in which they are held in the Palestinian Authority, which has created a separate Ministry of Prisoners of War Affairs³⁴.

“[The State of Palestine] rejects threats, or the use, of force, violence and terror, against its territorial integrity and political independence, or [against] the territorial integrity of any other country, without prejudice to its natural right to defend its territories and independence.”

[وَأَنَّهَا تَرْفُضُ التَّهْدِيدَ

بِالْقُوَّةِ أَوْ الْعَنْفِ أَوْ الْإِرْهَابِ] وَأَوْ بِاسْتِعْمَالِهَا ضِدَّ سَلَامَةِ أَرْضِيهَا
وَاسْتِقْلَالِهَا السِّيَاسِيِّ، أَوْ سَلَامَةِ أَرْضِي أَيِّ دَوْلَةٍ أُخْرَى، وَذَلِكَ دُونَ
الْمَسَاسِ بِحَقِّهَا الطَّبِيعِيِّ فِي الدِّفَاعِ عَنِ أَرْضِيهَا وَاسْتِقْلَالِهَا.

“Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Palestine”, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 73**

“The occupier [i.e., the Israelis] spreads everywhere the lie that the Palestinian struggle is terror. In the Declaration of the Establishment of the [Palestinian] State there is something that reveals the falseness of this allegation. I will discuss this issue.”

١٤ - يعمّم المحتلّ أكذوبة تزعم أنّ النضال الفلسطيني إرهاب، وفي (إعلان قيام الدولة) ما يكشف زيف هذا الزعم. ناقش هذه القضية

(Assignment, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 76**)

Despite this, the Palestinian organizations' armed attacks from southern Lebanon on Israeli towns and villages (prior to 1982) are presented as a struggle for the homeland's sake.

“Youths of Saleh’s kind fall every day on the soil of the south [i.e., south Lebanon]. We bury them, and with them we bury our sorrow. We have no time for sorrow so long as the homeland is [our] past, present and future.”
 (“An Evening Visitor”, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 45**)

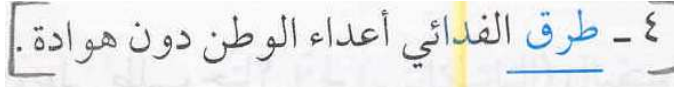
³⁴ See 2001 Report, p. 80.

Fida'i

“**Activity:** The *Fida'i* is the subject of many Arab and Palestinian poems. I will read some of them in the collections of the two Palestinian poets Ibrahim Tuqan and Abd al-Rahim Mahmud.”

(**Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 80**)

- “The *Fida'i* struck the enemies of the homeland without leniency.



- “Talk about the *Fida'i* freely.”



(Language exercises, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 2 (2002) p. 119**)

“The story ‘An Evening Visitor’ depicts the saga of the Palestinian struggle against the occupation through the person of Abu Saleh. His personal crisis began with the killing of his son Saleh in Jerusalem on the first day of the June War [1967] by the Israeli occupation army. He departed from the homeland as a result of this to Jordan, joined the *Fida'i* activity in Amman and then moved with the forces of the Palestinian Revolution to south Lebanon, leaving his family in Amman... The story... is characterized by [its] depth and ability to depict the saga of the Palestinian Resistance...”
(“An Evening Visitor”, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 45**)

“He was wearing the uniform of the *Fida'is*... He had decided to go to the East Bank [Jordan] to join the *Fida'i* activity.”
(“An Evening Visitor”, **Reading and Texts, Grade 8, Part 1 (2002) p. 44**)

Prisoners-of-War

“The teacher asked the students: How can we celebrate Independence Day this year? Safa’ [said]: We will invite the families of the martyrs and of the prisoners-of-war in order to honor them.”

(**Civic Education, Grade 3, Part 1 (2002) p. 7**)