

## Chapter XI: Terror

### 71. Overview

Embracing and supporting Palestinian terrorism against Israel is a common theme in the textbooks. The term "terror [irhab]" is never used to denote Arab activities. This term is reserved exclusively for Israel. It is Israel who, according to these textbooks, plants bombs in crowded areas.

For Palestinian terrorism, the Syrian textbooks use the terms "revolution", "Palestinian Resistance", "Armed Struggle" or "the Fidai Action". Fidai is best translated into English as "a fighter ready to sacrifice his life for a cause". All these terms refer to attacks against Israeli citizens and Jews around the world, and are depicted as operations against military targets. A close examination of the cases surveyed in the textbooks reveals the true nature of these attacks.

Whatever the label, Palestinian terrorism is considered legitimate and worthy of Arab support. The Syrian textbooks also try to rally the students around this issue, using appropriate exercises.

Palestinian terrorism is also considered one of the best ways of achieving victory, recovery of both land and dignity and bringing about the destruction of Israel.

### 72. The Term Terror [irhab] is Reserved Exclusively for Israel

"In spite of all the means of coercion the enemy has, the methods of oppression it uses and the terror, murder and torture it resorts to..." (Grammar, Grade 10, p. 55)

"Israel relies on terror as a method for carrying out its aggressive aims against the peaceful inhabitants, like planting explosives in crowded areas in some of the Arab cities." (National-Socialist Education, Grade 8, p. 106)

### 73. The Portrayal of Palestinian Terrorism as Military Activity

"They conduct brave Fidai operations in which they attack the enemy, blow up its tanks and armored cars and arouse dismay in the souls of its soldiers, until it becomes convinced at last that the usurper cannot survive and that the land [belongs] to its owners." (Reader, Grade 5, pt. 1, p. 111)

"What we read today in the papers and the magazines and what we hear through the various communication media about these extraordinary heroic [actions] carried out by those heroic martyrs, like penetrating

enemy camps and blowing up their vehicles and installations - these are unusual heroic actions written down with pride and glory in the pages of our Arab nation's modern history." (Islamic Education, Grade 6, p. 20)



Reader, Grade 5, pt.1, p. 109

"[Dalal al-Maghribi] died as a martyr on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road in the occupied land, after she had hoisted, with her Fedai comrades, the flag of Palestine over a Zionist truck for four hours during day-time." (Reader, Grade 6, pt. 2, p. 97.)



\*[In March 1978 a group of several Palestinian terrorists, led by a woman, came from Lebanon on a boat and took over a civilian bus on the coastal road between Haifa and Tel Aviv. Thirty eight Israeli civilians, men, women and children, were killed on the bus.]

"Fatmah Barnawi is a young woman of Jerusalem who took part in raising the flag of the armed revolution in the occupied land of Palestine and followed the road of the difficult struggle in the framework of the Palestinian Resistance." (Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 8, p. 161)\*

\*[Fatmah Barnawi was arrested in Jerusalem in 1967 following her attempt to plant a bomb in the "Zion" cinema while it was full of civilian spectators.]

"Our group will... attack in the morning the fortress of Jeddin and the colony that is located below its walls. You will be proud, my father, [to

hear] that I am one of those Fedais." ("A Letter from a Fidai", Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 7, p. 66)\*

\*[The "fortress" of Jeddin is an archaeological site in northern Israel. It has no military significance at all, as is the case with the nearby kibbutz of Yehiam.]

#### 74. Supporting Palestinian Terrorism

"Our Palestinian brethren had sacrificed their blood until the whole world heard their voice and knew about their cause. They are still dying on the field of honor after inflicting upon the enemy heavy casualties in lives and property in defense of their land. We should add to this Jihad the Arabs' assistance to them." (Reader, Grade 6, pt. 2, p. 95)

"The Fedai Action finds respect and appreciation in the hearts of the citizens" (Grammar and Dictation, Grade 6, p. 37)

"An amazing luster and a thunder-like roar turned the house of Bassem's father [together] with those [who were] inside it into a mass of fire. Bassem refused to have the foreigners dwell in his house. [Question:] Do you agree with what Bassem did? Do you have a desire to do what Bassem did? Why?" ("The Small Lemon Tree", Short Stories, Grade 5, pp. 17-18)

"Write a news-item for the school radio about a group of Fedais who set up an ambush for the enemy, using the following verbs (do not write more than four lines): resist, ambush, move, hide, surprise, fire, demolish, capture." (Homework, Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 7, p. 34)

"I collect information about one of the heroic Fidais and write it down in my notebook." (Homework, Reader, Grade 5, pt. 1, p. 114)

#### 75. Terror Leads to Victory, Recovery of Land, Dignity and to Israel's Destruction

"By the Fedais' arms you will win tomorrow, O Palestine." (Principles of Grammar, Dictation and Script, Grade 5, p. 49)

"The events have proven that the Armed Struggle is the best way to recover [both] land and dignity." (Reader and Literary Texts, Grade 9, p. 102)

"The revolutionaries of the occupied land shall not surrender until the land becomes purified of the invaders' filth." (Grammar, Eloquence and Prosody, Grade 11, p. 21)