Textbooks Propagate Martyr Cult and Honor Terrorists

Assassination at the 1972 Olympics is taught as a “strike against Zionist interests”

Physics lesson in Grade 7. Newton’s second law is explained by means of the first Intifada

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The Palestinian Authority (PA) has completed its curricular reform—as of this semester, all new textbooks for Grades 1-12 are in use. But the new texts are apparently even more radical than the old ones, as currently shown by a study.

Analysts from the organization “IMPACT-se” have documented dozens of examples of the veneration of terrorists and a martyr cult in the new materials.
A female terrorist who murdered 38 Israelis, among them 13 children, is venerated as a hero and role model in the materials. The attack during the 1972 Olympics in Munich (11 deaths) and airline hijackings are taught to have been successes. To a great extent, Israelis do not exist at all or are merely mentioned as “Zionist occupiers.” And also myths that are openly hostile towards Jews are propagated in the textbooks, the study says. The curriculum would be used in schools in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip which is controlled by the Hamas terror group - and this way, these materials reach about 1.3 million children.

Explosive: The German Federal Government supports the education sector of the Palestinian Authority with grants in the amount of millions. And it does so both by means of the EU’s financing programs and directly.

In December 2017, the German Federal Government concluded a financing contract with the Palestinian Ministry of Education in the amount of 32 million euros and for a term of four years, a speaker of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development declared in response to an inquiry by BILD. In addition, there is financial support within the framework of financing programs with other German states. As recently as in September, yet another payment in the amount of 25 million euros was approved by the budget committee for this purpose.

The money will mainly be invested in infrastructure, the German Federal Government emphasizes. Nevertheless, the German Federal Government should take these accusations very seriously, the speaker continued: “For this reason,
we support independent investigations of the new Palestinian textbooks, based on scientific criteria.” The results are expected already at the beginning of 2019. No representative of the German Federal Government had [reportedly] been involved in the preparation of the new texts, and no means were specifically provided for the books.

“German Federal Government Has Duty to Care for the Children”

The director of the study, Marcus Sheff of “IMPACT-se,” was shocked by the new textbooks: “Even if physics is taught in a better way with the new curriculum – what does it help if, at the same time, the children are instilled with this veneration of martyrs? This is not a way to build a society that will be sustainable in the future. This is a way to develop a society of blood, of violence and of continuing conflict,” Sheff tells BILD.

He appeals to Germany to use direct funding as leverage in order to effect changes in the Palestinian Authority. “This kind of massive financial help also entails responsibility, a duty of care for Palestinian children,” Sheff told BILD. “While we are sitting here today, about 1.3 million children are at school and are learning this hateful garbage. These children have to be protected from being radicalized by the Palestinian Authority.”

This hatred must be removed from the textbooks, replaced by peace and tolerance, demands Sheff. “Palestinian children need an idea of what peace looks like. They need an understanding of the Israeli side, and they must be taught that the goal is not a one-state solution without Israel. Instead, they learn “sacrifice yourself for this one state.” Radicalization comes from two directions in these textbooks – from a nationalist and a religious side. “A toxic mixture,” says Sheff.

Make Funding Subject to Conditions

Budget expert Michael Leutert (Linke / “the Left“) demands that the German Federal Government draw conclusions. Radical teaching materials authored by the Palestinian Autonomy are by no means a new problem. “If we intend to take ourselves seriously, we must begin to make at least binational aid money subject to certain conditions, “Leutert tells BILD.

It is “absurd” that nothing has changed concerning the contents of the textbooks, as these only exacerbate the conflict. “The indoctrination of children in schools of repressive regimes is highly dangerous. I grew up in the GDR, and I know what I am talking about,” Leutert continued.
This Is the Way Palestinian Children Are Taught

Typically, the new textbooks are used uniformly both in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as well as in the Gaza Strip. The Hamas terror group which controls the latter had no objections against the new materials.

"With our new study, we have, for the first time, an overall view of all reforms made by the Palestinian Ministry of Education—the curriculum is more radical than anything that we have seen before, and this goes for all disciplines," says Marcus Sheff. "If you teach math to young people by using the addition of martyrs of both intifadas, you can use even arithmetical problems for radicalization. The same applies to teaching first-graders the letters of the alphabet by using words such as “attack” and “martyr.”

Proposed subject for discussion: The role of Palestinian women and their sacrifice in view of the “Jewish-Zionist Occupation.” From the textbook for Islamic Education, Grade 5. Photo: rawafed.edu.ps

The 1972 attack during the Munich Olympics is taught in Grade 11 as a “strike against Zionist interests abroad.“ At the time, eight armed members of the Palestinian terror organization “Black September” raided the quarters of the Israeli team at the Olympic village and took eleven team members as hostages. Eleven Israeli athletes and a Bavarian policemen were killed.

In Grade 10, the airline hijackings by the “Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine” (PFLP) are addressed briefly. After 1968, this Palestinian terror organization hijacked a number of passenger aircraft, among them also several belonging to Lufthansa. In the textbooks, these events, too, are uncritically presented within the context of “Operations against Zionism.”

Martyrdom and Jihad are “the most important things“ in life, says a Grade 5 textbook. “It is much sweeter to drink from the bitter cup of honor than to live a good and long life accompanied by humiliation.“
A map of Palestine without Israel, Social Sciences, Grade 6
Photo: rawafed.edu.ps

On maps, Israel is often completely omitted such as here, on a map taken from a social sciences text for Grade 6. Title: Map of Palestine. The land would supposedly reach “from the Mediterranean in the West and the Jordan River in the East as well as from Lebanon and Syria in the North to the Gulf of Aqaba and Egypt in the South” it says. Israel does not exist there.