Briefing on the "Attitude to the Jews in schoolbooks issued by the PA Ministry of the Endowments and Religious Affairs"

January 2008
Research criteria of school material:

- UNESCO's recommended criteria:
  1. Is the data given accurate and complete?
  2. Are illustrations, maps, and graphs up-to-date and accurate?
  3. Are the achievements of others recognized?
  4. Are equal standards applied?
  5. Are political disputes presented objectively and honestly?
  6. Is wording likely to create prejudice, misapprehension, and conflict avoided?
  7. Are the ideals of freedom, dignity, and fraternity being promoted?
  8. Is the need for international cooperation, for the formation of common human ideals and the advancement of the cause of peace, as well as the enforcement of the law, emphasized?

- IMPACT SE added criteria of analysis:
  9. How are other peoples, religions, and communities perceived? Are they recognized, accepted as equal, and respected? Or are they presented in a stereotyped and prejudiced way?
  10. Does education foster peace? Does it support a peace process? Is there room for improvement?
Reports available on our website: http://www.edume.org

- **Arabs and Palestinians in Israeli Textbooks** (September 2000)
- **Jews, Zionism and Israel in Syrian Textbooks** (June 2001)
- **Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks and High School Final Examinations** (October 2002)
- **The West, Christians and Jews in Saudi Arabian Schoolbooks**, in cooperation with the AJC (January 2003)
- **Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks: the New Textbooks for Grades 3 and 8** (June 2003)
- **The West, Christians, War and Peace in Egyptian School Textbooks** , in cooperation with the AJC (March 2004)
- **Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks, the New Textbooks for Grades 4 and 9** (October 2004)
- **Jews, Israel and Peace in the Palestinian Authority Textbooks, the New Textbooks for Grades 5 and 10** (June 2005)
- **The Attitude to the “other” and to Peace in Iranian Schoolbooks and Teacher's Guides**, in cooperation with the AJC (October 2006)
- Forthcoming: **Jews, Israel the West and Peace in Palestinian Authority Textbooks for Grades 11 and 12 and the Religious Classes** , in cooperation with the AJC (February 2008)
Holy Qur'an and Its Studies, Grade 11 (1996)
The noble [Qur'anic] verses forbid [the Muslims of] befriending Jews and Christians…

Holy Qur'an and Its Studies, Grade 11 (1996) p. 104
Distortion of the Torah by the Jews

The noble [Qur'anic] verses also tell that the Jews distorted the word of Sublime God and changed [things] in the Torah, which He revealed to them. They interpreted its meanings in accordance with what they want and desire, so that it would suit their whims and answer their wishes. By that they have deviated from Sublime God's religion. The [Qur'anic] verses tell that the result of this distortion has been the denial of Muhammad's prophecy whose mention had appeared in the book of the Torah and Moses – peace upon him – had ordered his people to follow and obey him.
The [Qur'anic] verses explain to Muhammad, God’s messenger, that this is the Jews' deep-rooted nature, which does not change: they violate treaties, oppose the truth, accuse the prophets of lying and disbelieve what Sublime God revealed to His prophets and messengers. That was the Jews' attitude to Jesus – peace upon him – to a point that they plotted to kill him.
The Jews' Hostility to the Believers

The noble [Qur'anic] verses began with the description of the Jews' relations with the believers. [The Jews] were described as the most hostile people to the believers. Why is this hostility to the believers, which is deeply rooted in the Jews' souls, the trace of which we feel to this very day?

The Holy Qur'an informs us more than once of the reason for this hostility: The Jews are people of stubbornness and rejection of truth. They are enemies of [Divine] guidance and good. Selfishness and egoism have subdued them. Therefore, they are malicious to the Muslims out of envy for the guidance to the religion of truth, with which Sublime God has honored them.

*Holy Qur'an and Its Studies, Grade 11 (1996) p. 136*
What the [Qur'anic] Verses Guide to
...Caution against the Jews' trickery and deception, for they are enemies of Sublime God, of His religion [i.e., Islam] and of the Believers [i.e., the Muslims].
Have you seen the Jews' trickery and their attempt at corrupting the Muslims and casting dissension in their ranks?

The Prophet's Biography and Muslim History, Grade 11 (1996) p. 140
Sublime God knows their cunning and hypocrisy and knows about their enriching themselves with forbidden money as well as their desire for sin.

Holy Qur'an and Its Studies, Grade 11 (1996) p. 111
The Jews have been known among the people as being greedy, avaricious, coward, weak, envious and humiliated. If you penetrated into the deeps of their souls you would find out that hostility, hatred and desire for corruption and for making other [people] corrupted gnaw on their society and divide their ranks.

Holy Qur'an and Its Studies, Grade 11 (1996) p. 115
What the [Qur'anic] Verses Guide to

...Caution and awareness [are needed] in dealing with the Jews for fear of [their] treachery and betrayal. For this is their nature throughout the ages.

Holy Qur'an and Its Studies, Grade 11(1996) p. 38
...The Jews who occupy the land of the Muslims in Palestine and part of the Levant [Al-Sham] and create havoc in the land. They shed the blood of the innocent; expel the people of the country; desecrate the holy places; demolish houses; and take control of the Muslims' lands.
...God's Messenger said: "The Hour of Resurrection will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews. The Muslims will kill them, and when a Jew would hide behind a rock or a tree the rock or the tree would say 'O Muslim, O worshipper of God! There is a Jew behind me; come and kill him', except the salt bush, which is the Jews' tree."
...This Prophetic Saying is one of the Prophet's evident miracles. It is a prophecy of a concealed matter, which is to take place at the End of Days. It is certain good news for this nation [i.e., the Muslims] that victory will be its ally and that its trial with the Jews is bound to end in victory over them...

...When Imperialism spread its influence over the Muslim world and partitioned the Muslims' lands, it brought the Jews from the various countries of the world and made them settle in Palestine, which was groaning under British Imperialism. The Imperialist states started encouraging the Jews to immigrate to Palestine, facilitated their living there, enacted laws and provided for the circumstances, which would enable the establishment of the Jews' state in Palestine, until it was actually done in 1948.

Thus began the modern conflict between the Arabs and the Jews over the land of Palestine...

The noble Hadith carries to the Muslims the good tidings of victory, makes their hearts confident and sends hope into their souls...

Noble Hadith and Its Studies, Grade 11 (1996) pp. 200-203
...In this Hadith the Prophet also notifies that the fighting between the Jews and the Muslims is approaching and that it will end in the Muslims' victory and in the Jews' defeat, to a point they – due to their intense cowardice and fear – will not feel safe against the Muslims' attack, and will not feel secure in any place of hiding. No tree and no rock would shelter them...