

“ Neither the liberation of the Gaza Strip nor the liberation of the West Bank or even Jerusalem will suffice us. Hamas will pursue the armed struggle until the liberation of all our lands. We don't recognize the State of Israel or its right to hold onto one inch of Palestine. ”

MAHMOUD ZAHAR, PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY FOREIGN MINISTER FROM THE HAMAS PARTY, AUGUST 2005



Hatred Unmasked Hamas Speaks

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

Hatred Unmasked Hamas Speaks

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Introduction

Hamas is a terrorist organization formed in late 1987 as an outgrowth of the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. Its primary, stated goal is the destruction of the State of Israel.

Since the early 1990s, Hamas has waged a brutal campaign against Israelis, using suicide bombers as its weapon of choice.

Hamas presents a threat not only to Israel. Its radical ideology targets all Westerners and those who support the freedoms of liberal societies. Hamas seeks to make Islam the dominant religion worldwide, and to forcefully impose its strict interpretation of *Sharia*, Islamic law, upon all people.

In January 2006, Hamas won Palestinian parliamentary elections, making it the majority power in the Palestinian Authority (PA). To continue receiving financial aid and diplomatic recognition, the Quartet, comprised of the European Union, Russia, the United Nations, and the United States, set three conditions by which the Hamas-led PA would need to comply: recognition of Israel, honoring past Palestinian agreements with Israel, and renouncing violence.

Despite the fact that Hamas and Fatah, the other major player in the PA, formed a national unity government in February 2007, Hamas has yet to acquiesce to any of these three conditions.

As a Hamas spokesman put it, “We will never recognize Israel. There is nothing called Israel, neither in reality nor in the imagination.”

Indeed, Hamas does not hide its intentions. The best guide to those intentions is Hamas itself, whose rhetoric we present in the following pages.

Hamas Charter (1988)¹



In line with the group's charter, the Hamas emblem includes a flag of "Palestine" without any demarcation noting the State of Israel

"Israel will rise and will remain erect until Islam eliminates it as it had eliminated its predecessors."

"For our struggle against the Jews is extremely wide-ranging and grave, so much so that it will need all the loyal efforts we can wield, to be followed by further steps and reinforced by successive battalions from the multifarious Arab and Islamic world, until the enemies are defeated and Allah's victory prevails."

"Israel, by virtue of its being Jewish and of having a Jewish population, defies Islam and the Muslims. 'Let the eyes of the cowards not fall asleep.'"

"The time will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews [and kill them]; until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry: 'O Muslim! There is a Jew hiding behind me, come on and kill him!'"

"Jihad is [Hamas's] path and death for the sake of Allah is the loftiest of its wishes."

Hamas Speaks: The West

"Today, the Arab and Islamic nation is rising and awakening, and it will reach its peak, Allah willing.... It will regain the leadership of the world. Allah willing, the day is not far off."²

— Khaled Meshal, Damascus-based leader of Hamas, February 2006



Khaled Meshal, the Damascus-based political leader of Hamas

"Tomorrow, our nation will sit on the throne of the world. This is not a figment of the imagination, but a fact. Tomorrow we will lead the world, Allah willing."³

— Meshal, February 2006

"The West brought all this freedom to its people, but it is that freedom that has brought about the death of morality in the West. It's what led to phenomena like homosexuality, homeless[ness], and AIDS."⁴

— Mahmoud Zahar, Palestinian Authority foreign minister from the Hamas Party, October 2005

"[President George W.] Bush is the enemy of God, the enemy of Islam, an enemy of Muslims."⁵

— Abdul Aziz Rantissi, deceased Hamas leader, May 2004

"I don't trust the term 'moderate.' We are already moderate. But if people believe we will be moderate in the Western style, or a pro-Israeli style, that's not moderate. That's corruption."⁶

— Zahar, September 2005

"We say to this West, which does not act reasonably, and does not learn its lessons: By Allah, you will be defeated."⁷

— Meshal, February 2006

"To hell with you all [the West]."⁸

— Meshal, February 2006

Hamas Speaks: Israel

“I dream of hanging a huge map of the world on the wall at my Gaza home which does not show Israel on it. I hope that our dream to have our independent state on all historic Palestine [will materialize].”⁹

— Zahar, April 2006

“This dream will become real one day. I’m certain of this because there is no place for the State of Israel on this land.”¹⁰

— Zahar, April 2006

“Hamas will be active in the resistance [terrorism] as well as in the political domain. There is no contradiction.”¹¹

— Ismail Haniyeh, Palestinian Authority prime minister from the Hamas Party, January 2006

“The Americans and Europeans say to Hamas: Either you have weapons or you enter the legislative council. We say [we will have] weapons and the legislative council. There is no contradiction between the two.”¹²

— Haniyeh, January 2006

“If you do not vote Hamas, God will punish you at the end.”¹³

— Hamas electoral campaign message, January 2006



Senior Hamas official and
Palestinian Authority Foreign
Minister Mahmoud Zahar

“Just as Islamic Iran defends the rights of the Palestinians, we defend the rights of Islamic Iran. We are part of a united front against the enemies of Islam.”¹⁴

— Meshal, December 2005

“It is our fate in Hamas and it is our fate as Palestinians to die as martyrs.”¹⁵

— Haniyeh, April 2004

“Every time a martyr falls, Hamas is strengthened.”¹⁶

— Haniyeh, April 2004

“The resistance is the Palestinians’ main tool and option and will remain so.”¹⁷

— Zahar, October 2005

“The resistance is a tool used to liberate the occupied territories. [Ed. Hamas uses the word “occupied” to refer to the entire State of Israel.] Once these lands are free, we can speak about other issues. The resistance is not a train that can just be stopped.”¹⁸

— Zahar, October 2005

“The resistance and the steadfastness of our people forced the Zionists to withdraw. The resistance is capable of ending the Israeli occupation and achieving all our rights. The armed struggle is the only strategy that Hamas possesses.”¹⁹

— Meshal, August 2005

“She [Hamas suicide bomber Re’em Al-Riyashi] is not going to be the last because the march of resistance will continue until the Islamic flag is raised, not only over the minarets of Jerusalem, but over the whole universe.”²⁰

— Zahar, January 2004



Hamas’s concept of
“occupation” refers to
all of Israeli territory,
not just the West Bank



Ismail Haniyeh, left, the Palestinian-based Hamas leader and Palestinian Authority prime minister, and Khaled Meshal, the Syrian-based Hamas leader, appear together at a press conference

“Hamas has never proposed to change or amend its charter [calling for the destruction of Israel]. The platform presents a realistic view that reflects Hamas’s goals for the next four years. Had we spoken of eliminating and eradicating Israel within this period, we would have been deceiving our people and repeating false slogans. But this does not stand in contradiction [to the fact that] we place emphasis on the elimination and non-recognition of Israel.”²¹

— Salah Al-Bardawil, candidate on Hamas list for the Palestinian Legislative Council, January 2006

“Before Israel dies, it must be humiliated and degraded. Allah willing, before they die, they will experience humiliation and degradation every day. America will be of no avail to them. Their generals will be of no avail to them. The last of their generals has been forgotten. Allah has made him disappear. He’s over. Gone is that Sharon behind whose back they would hide and find shelter, and with whom they would feel relatively secure. Today they have frail leaders, who don’t even know where our Lord placed them.”²²

— Meshal, February 2006

“Allah willing, we will make them [Israelis] lose their eyesight; we will make them lose their brains.”²³

— Zahar, February 2006

“Israel is not a legitimate entity, and no amount of pressure can force us to recognize its right to exist.”²⁴

— Zahar, February 2006

“We will not stand against the resistance, we will not condemn any operation and will never arrest any mujahid [holy warrior].”²⁵

— Meshal, February 2006

“History proves that this [Israel] is the land of the Palestinian people and we will never give up any part of it. If our generation will not succeed to liberate all of historical Palestine, then that mission will be for the following generations.”²⁶

— Zahar, October 2005

“We will never recognize Israel. There is nothing called Israel, neither in reality nor in the imagination.”²⁷

— Nizar Rayyan, Hamas spokesman, February 2007

“The issue of recognition [of Israel] was not addressed at all. In the platform of the new [coalition] government, there will be no sign of recognition [of Israel], regardless of the pressures that the United States and the Quartet would exert.”²⁸

— Ahmed Youssef, Hamas political advisor, February 2007



A Palestinian child, adorned in Hamas regalia, points a gun

Hamas Speaks: The Jews

“We are a nation that drinks blood, and we know that there is no blood better than the blood of Jews. We will not leave you alone until we have quenched our thirst with your blood, and our children’s thirst with your blood. We will not leave until you leave the Muslim countries.”²⁹

— Hamas suicide bomber’s parting message, posted on the official Hamas website, February 2004

“In the name of Allah, we will destroy you [Jews], blow you up, take revenge against you, [and] purify the land of you, pigs that have defiled our country.... This operation is revenge against the sons of monkeys and pigs.”³⁰

— Hamas suicide bomber’s parting message, posted on the official Hamas website, February 2004

“Even the churches where the Americans pray are led by Jews who were converted to Christianity, but they were converted to keep controlling the Americans.”³¹

— Mohammed Abu Teir, Hamas parliamentary member, April 2006



A Hamas suicide bomber appears in a video released after a “martyrdom operation”

Hamas Speaks: *Sharia* [Islamic Law]

“The number one thing we will do is take *Sharia* as a source for legislation. *Sharia* has a soul in it and is good for all occasions.”³²

— Abu Teir, January 2006



A Hamas militant dressed in a uniform embroidered with Islamic fundamentalist teachings

“We will take such measures [*Sharia*] because we look at examples in the West, like Sweden. They have the highest level of coeducation and the highest level of suicides.... We would like our children to have a protected environment. We don’t want any distractions for our boys or girls.”³³

— Abu Teir, January 2006

“Are these the [liberal] laws for which the Palestinian street is waiting? For us to give rights to homosexuals and to lesbians, a minority of perverts and the mentally and morally sick?”³⁴

— Zahar, October 2005

“A man holds a woman by the hand and dances with her in front of everyone. Does that serve the national interest? If so, why have the phenomena of corruption and prostitution become pervasive in recent years?”³⁵

— Zahar, October 2005

“I hardly understand the point of view of the West concerning these issues. The West brought all this freedom to its people but it is that freedom that has brought about the death of morality in the West. It’s what led to phenomena like homosexuality, homelessness and AIDS.”³⁶

— Zahar, January 2006

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