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Palestinian Child Terrorists: Children Who Kill and Their Adult Enablers

The wave of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2015 – a wave of stabbings and knifings emulated in European cities – has a particularly grotesque feature: child terrorists.

Palestinian children who directly perpetrate acts of terrorism, including murder, violate the most fundamental of human rights: the right to life. The Palestinian adults who encourage Palestinian child terrorism violate one of the most fundamental rights of the child: the right not to take part in armed conflict or hostilities.

The Palestinian Authority has supported its claim that “Palestine” is ready for statehood, and responded to the UN General Assembly’s formal recognition of “non-member observer state” status of the “State of Palestine,” by formally acceding to international legal prohibitions on children in armed conflict.

In violation of those legal obligations there have been at least 79 separate terrorist attacks by Palestinian children since September 13, 2015.

The preferred method of murder and attempted murder by Palestinian child terrorists are stabbings or knifings, the modus operandi in 66 of the 79 attacks.

The breakdown of the known ages of Palestinian child terrorists is as follows: age 8 – 2; age 12 – 4; age 13 – 7; age 14 – 10; age 15 – 13; age 16 – 22; age 17 – 36.

The breakdown of the known gender of Palestinian child terrorists is as follows: male – 52; female 21; gender unspecified – 26.

Legal obligations voluntarily assumed by the Palestinian Authority concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict include the *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict*, which states in part:

- **Article 1:** States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities.
- **Article 4:** 1. Armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State should not,

under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years. 2. States Parties shall take all feasible measures to prevent such recruitment and use, including the adoption of legal measures necessary to prohibit and criminalize such practices.

This treaty was [acceded](#) to by the “State of Palestine” on April 7, 2014.

Yet after Palestinian child terrorists had murdered two and injured nine in sixteen attacks in the fall of 2015, Palestinian UN representative Riyad Mansour made this declaration in the public hall of UN Headquarters on [November 23, 2015](#): “We are so proud that in this popular uprising that has started almost two months ago, that the backbone of this uprising are the youth of Palestine.” Since that time, Palestinian child terrorists have attacked Israelis at least another 60 times.

Palestinian leaders and parents incite terrorism. Palestinian children become terrorists. Israelis exercise the right of self-defense. Palestinian leaders and parents incite more terrorism. The real cycle of violence in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Here is a list of known acts of terrorism perpetrated by Palestinian children:

PERPETRATOR AGE	PERPETRATOR GENDER (where identified)	DATE	METHOD OF ATTACK
17, 17 (and 18, 18, 19)	male	13-Sep-15	stone throwing
16		10-Oct-15	stabbing
16	female	12-Oct-15	stabbing
13, 15	male	12-Oct-15	stabbing
17	female	17-Oct-15	stabbing
16	male	17-Oct-15	attempted stabbing
16	male	17-Oct-15	stabbing
15, 17	male	20-Oct-15	stabbing
15	female	21-Oct-15	attempted stabbing
16	male	24-Oct-15	attempted stabbing
17	female	25-Oct-15	attempted stabbing
16, 17		27-Oct-15	attempted stabbing
17	male	30-Oct-15	attempted stabbing
16	male	10-Nov-15	attempted stabbing
12, 13	male	10-Nov-15	stabbing
16	male	18-Nov-15	attempted stabbing
16	female	22-Nov-15	attempted stabbing
14, 16	female	23-Nov-15	stabbing

16	male	23-Nov-15	stabbing
17	male	29-Nov-15	stabbing
17	male	29-Nov-15	molotov cocktail
16		1-Dec-15	stabbing
13	male	4-Dec-15	attempted stabbing
17 (and 23)		27-Dec-15	stabbing
12, 13		31-Dec-15	attempted stabbing
16 (and 18)	male	6-Jan-16	attempted stabbing
16	male	7-Jan-16	attempted stabbing
16	male	17-Jan-16	stabbing
15		18-Jan-16	stabbing
13	female	23-Jan-16	attempted stabbing
17	male	23-Jan-16	attempted pipe bomb
17 (and 23)		25-Jan-16	stabbing (also had pipe bombs and explosives)
Less than 12, 15, 16		30-Jan-16	stabbing
13, 13	female	4-Feb-16	stabbing
16	female	9-Feb-16	attempted stabbing
17	female	13-Feb-16	stabbing
17	male	14-Feb-16	stabbing
15, 15	male	14-Feb-16	shootings (also stone throwing, knives)
15, 15	males	16-Feb-16	attempted pipe bombs
14, 14	male	18-Feb-16	stabbing
17	female	21-Feb-16	attempted stabbing
14	male	21-Feb-16	attempted stabbing
16	male	21-Feb-16	attempted stabbing
17, 17		2-Mar-16	stabbing (knife and a wooden club)
14	female	3-Mar-16	stabbing
17	male	8-Mar-16	stabbing
17	male	9-Mar-16	attempted stabbing
17	female	15-Mar-16	attempted stabbing
14	male	16-Mar-16	attempted stabbing
17	male	19-Mar-16	stabbing
15	female	25-Mar-16	attempted stabbing
12, 12		14-Apr-16	attempted stabbing
underage: 2 persons		11-May-16	stabbing
16		19-May-16	attempted stabbing

17	male	30-May-16	stabbing
17	male	30-Jun-16	stabbing
17	female	5-Jul-16	attempted stabbing
14, 14	male	5-Sep-16	attempted stabbing
16		16-Sep-16	stabbing
17 (and 21)	male	19-Sep-16	attempted stabbing
15	male	20-Sep-16	attempted stabbing
15	male	23-Sep-16	attempted stabbing
17	male	15-Oct-16	stabbing
15	male	18-Oct-16	stone throwing
8, 8	male	26-Oct-16	attempted stabbing
17	male	16-Jan-17	stone throwing
17	female	11-Feb-17	attempted stabbing
17, 17		20-Feb-17	shootings
17		23-Mar-17	molotov cocktail
14	male	31-Mar-17	molotov cocktail
17	male	1-Apr-17	stabbing
16	male	26-Apr-17	attempted stabbing
16	female	7-May-17	attempted stabbing
underage: 1 person	male	10-May-17	pipe bombs
14	female	20-May-17	attempted stabbing
underage: 1 person		24-May-17	pipe bombs
17	female	30-May-17	attempted stabbing
17, 17		30-May-17	attempted stabbing, molotov cocktails
17	male	25-Jun-17	molotov cocktail

Information on these incidents is readily accessible. The Palestinian UN ambassador publicly supported child terrorism at the UN itself. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas [embraced](#) and shook hands with one of the child terrorists following his attack. Videos, photographs, television programs, and social media outlets – from [Palestinian](#) and [Israeli](#) sources – provide a multitude of other evidence both of Palestinian children engaged in armed conflict and Palestinian adults (from the political sphere to the [education system](#) – run by the UN’s own refugee agency [UNRWA](#) – to the family unit) promoting such behavior.

Shockingly, however, the UN Secretary-General’s most recent annual [report](#) on Children and Armed Conflict, released in April 2017, contains the following statement specifically about Palestinian children: “Limited information is available about the recruitment or use of children.”

Since the Secretary-General's claim is manifestly untrue, the United Nations is not merely engaged in a feeble cover-up. The fact is that the UN is now an active enabler of the violation of the rights of Israelis and Palestinians: the basic rights to life and security of the person of the Israeli victims of Palestinian children engaged in terrorism, and the rights of Palestinian children not to be recruited or engaged in terrorism in the first place.