Holocaust Denial in the Middle East

Arab and other Middle Eastern leaders teach that the Holocaust is nothing more than Israeli propaganda used to undermine the Palestinian-Arab cause. Freedom of the press does not exist in the Arab world, so the population is rarely exposed to the truth about the Holocaust.

The Palestinian-Arab leadership repeatedly denies the Holocaust and teaches its children to do the same.

- Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas wrote his dissertation arguing that Zionists collaborated with Nazis to increase Jewish migration to Palestine.\(^i\)
- Younis al-Astal, a prominent Hamas-sponsored cleric, stated that Holocaust education should be considered a war crime.\(^ii\)
- Textbooks used in Palestinian-Arab schools discuss WWII at length, but ignore the systematic extermination of 6 million European Jews.\(^iii\)
- Fatah leader Hatem Abd al-Qader said that Holocaust education "is a great danger to the developing Palestinian mentality...As for the so-called Holocaust, it has already been moved into the museum of history."\(^iv\)
- "When the history of the Holocaust is taught [in Palestinian-Arab schools], it must be explained to the pupils that the Holocaust was significantly inflated and that we...were forced to live with its results." - Dr. Musa Al-Zu'but, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council
- Professors at Al-Quds University in eastern Jerusalem condemned students who visited Auschwitz in early 2014 for repeating "lies and fabrications" about the Holocaust.\(^v\) The professor who led the trip was later forced to resign after pressure and intimidation from his colleagues.\(^vi\)
- A PA-funded children's publication published a young girl's essay that glorifies Hitler in 2011.\(^vii\) Some PA schools regularly quote Hitler and promote the Nazi leaders' messages.

Leaders in the rest of the Middle East also deny the Holocaust. Here are just a few examples:

- Following a 2012 UN decision to introduce Holocaust education to Palestinian-Arab children in refugee camps, Jordanian teachers protested, claiming that such studies will undermine the Palestinian-Arab cause.\(^ix\)
- The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, said in 2014 that the historic reality of the Holocaust is "unknown" and questioned if it actually occurred.\(^x\)
- A leader of Egypt's top secular party (Ahmed Ezz El-Arab) in 2011 called the Holocaust "a lie" and Anne Frank's memoir "a fake." He also said the 9/11 attacks were "made in the USA."\(^xi\)
• Hassan Nasrallah, head of the Iranian-funded terrorist group Hezbollah, frequently denies the Holocaust and calls for the murder of Jews and the destruction of America and Israel.\textsuperscript{xii}

\textsuperscript{1} Tablet Magazine: \textit{Sorry, New York Times, Abbas Still a Holocaust Denier}, April 27, 2014
\textsuperscript{2} The World Post: \textit{Hamas Leader Denies Holocaust, Objects to U.S. Plan to Teach Gaza Children about the Holocaust}, August 31, 2009
\textsuperscript{3} Palestinian Media Watch: \textit{Holocaust Denial and Distortion}
\textsuperscript{4} Middle East Media Research Institute: \textit{An Israeli Arab Initiative to Visit Auschwitz}, April 25, 2003
\textsuperscript{5} Middle East Media Research Institute: \textit{An Israeli Arab Initiative to Visit Auschwitz}, April 25, 2003
\textsuperscript{7} Haaretz: \textit{Did Auschwitz trip lead to Palestinian professor’s resignation?} June 8, 2014
\textsuperscript{8} Palestinian Media Watch: \textit{Holocaust Denial and Distortion}
\textsuperscript{9} The Jewish Press: \textit{Arab Teachers' Rejection of Holocaust Education Highlights Arab Anti-Semitism}, October 17, 2012
\textsuperscript{10} The Anti-Defamation League: \textit{ADL Condemns Clear Holocaust Denial by Ayatollah Khamenei During his National Address}, March 21, 2014
\textsuperscript{11} The Washington Times: \textit{Egypt party leader: Holocaust is ‘a lie.’} July 5, 2011
\textsuperscript{x} Zionist Organization of America: \textit{Terrorist Leader & Holocaust Denier Hizballah’s Nasrallah Calls Israel "Cancerous Tumor" That Must Be "Eradicated,"} August 12, 2013