

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."^v - 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.^{vi} The professor who led the trip was later **forced to resign** after pressure and intimidation from his colleagues.^{vii}
- A PA-funded children's publication published a young girl's essay that **glorifies Hitler** in 2011.^{viii} 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.**^{xii}

ⁱ Tablet Magazine: *Sorry, New York Times, Abbas Still a Holocaust Denier*, April 27, 2014

ⁱⁱ The World Post: *Hamas Leader Denies Holocaust, Objects to U.S. Plan to Teach Gaza Children about the Holocaust*, August 31, 2009

ⁱⁱⁱ Palestinian Media Watch: *Holocaust Denial and Distortion*

^{iv} Middle East Media Research Institute: *An Israeli Arab Initiative to Visit Auschwitz*, April 25, 2003

^v Middle East Media Research Institute: *An Israeli Arab Initiative to Visit Auschwitz*, April 25, 2003

^{vi} Haaretz: *Palestinian Students Condemned for Auschwitz Visit*, January 4, 2014 (See:

<http://www.haaretz.com/blogs/outside-edge/.premium-1.583159>)

^{vii} Haaretz: *Did Auschwitz trip lead to Palestinian professor's resignation?* June 8, 2014

^{viii} Palestinian Media Watch: *Holocaust Denial and Distortion*

^{ix} The Jewish Press: *Arab Teachers' Rejection of Holocaust Education Highlights Arab Anti-Semitism*, October 17, 2012

^x The Anti-Defamation League: *ADL Condemns Clear Holocaust Denial by Ayatollah Khamenei During his National Address*, March 21, 2014

^{xi} The Washington Times: *Egypt party leader: Holocaust is 'a lie.'* July 5, 2011

^{xix} Zionist Organization of America: *Terrorist Leader & Holocaust Denier Hezbollah's Nasrallah Calls Israel "Cancerous Tumor" That Must Be "Eradicated,"* August 12, 2013