Palestinian Authority Human Rights Abuses

• The PA continues to assault the basic human rights of the Palestinian-Arabs it claims to represent.

• The PA neglects women’s rights, gay rights, freedoms of expression and religion, and other basic freedoms to which all should be entitled.

• The Palestinian Authority (PA) is the internationally recognized governing body of the Palestinian-Arabs in Judea and Samaria (also known as the “West Bank”).

No Women’s Rights:

• Honor killings (the killing of women by relatives for acting “dishonorably”) in PA-controlled territories doubled in 2013. Laws curtailing these vicious murders are limited and contain exceptions for “extenuating circumstances.”

• Palestinian-Arab women in the PA do not receive the same citizenship rights as men. Women may not pass their nationality to their spouses and children.

No Freedom of Religion or Expression:

• The PA suppresses freedom of expression by jailing journalists who write negatively about PA leaders.

• The PA persecutes Palestinian Christians. This persecution has intensified significantly, resulting in mass migrations of Christians from Bethlehem.

• The PA jailed a man for six months in 2013 for ‘liking’ a post on Facebook that depicted PA President Mahmoud Abbas in a negative fashion.

Persecution of the LGBTQ Community:

• The PA severely persecutes homosexuals. Its security forces torture, beat, and interrogate people suspected of being gay.

Perpetuating a Cycle of Violence:

• The PA makes selling land to Jews a crime punishable by death.

• From June 2007 through December of 2011, PA security forces detained more than 13,000 Palestinian-Arabs. The PA tortured 96 percent of them, causing the death of six detainees and causing “chronic illness” in others.

• The Ramallah-based Independent Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) reported that the PA’s mistreatment and torture of its own citizens rose 50 percent in 2013.

• In January 2014, PA policemen used live ammunition to disperse Palestinian rock-throwers in the center of Ramallah.

• In January 2014, the ICHR received repeated complaints about “arbitrary and unlawful arrests of Palestinians by the PA and Hamas.”
The Algemeiner: Honor Killings in Palestinian Authority Territory Double in One Year, February 12, 2014
Times of Israel: Gay Palestinian to Court: Deport Me and I’ll be Killed, May 25, 2012
The Jerusalem Post: UK-Based Arab HR Group Accuses PA of Abuse, December 30, 2012
Gatestone Institute: Palestinian Authority Human Rights Violations Ignored by Media, West, February 11, 2014
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