

I am responding to the U.N. Commission of Inquiry's request for submissions in the category of 'Underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict in and between the Occupied Palestinian Territory¹ (sic), including East Jerusalem² (sic), Israel; as well as systematic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial, or religious identity."

¹Disputed Territory

² Eastern Jerusalem

This submission should not be understood as an endorsement of the Commission of Inquiry, nor its anomalous open-ended mandate which seeks to dismantle Israel under the pretense of concern for Palestinians.

The following article describes just one incident of hundreds and it illustrates:

- 1) Palestinians indiscriminately attack civilians as in this instance on a crowded bus
- 2) Palestinian media praise the attackers
- 3) Palestinian adults incite children to violence by glorifying the attackers
- 4) Administrators and teachers at Palestinian schools reject dialogue and even contact in order to foment hate in the hearts of the children they are entrusted to nurture and educate.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-anti-israel-poisoning-starts-young-1463526232>

The Anti-Israel Poisoning Starts Young

Palestinian schools honor the killers of my father, a teacher. This would break his heart.

By Micah Lakin Avni
May 17, 2016

My father, Richard Lakin, a 76-year-old retired elementary-school principal from Connecticut, was on a bus in Jerusalem last October when two young Palestinian men boarded and began shooting and stabbing passengers indiscriminately. Two passengers were killed that awful day and 16 injured, including my father. Despite the efforts of first responders and the nurses and doctors at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital, my father died two weeks later. He had been shot in the head and stabbed multiple times in the head, face, chest and stomach.

Over the past seven months I've spent a lot of time trying to understand what would cause two educated Palestinian men in their early 20s to board a public bus and butcher a group of innocent civilians, many of them senior citizens. I'm sorry to report that the Palestinian

reaction to the attack has led me to believe that the “peace process” is more one-sided than ever.

PHOTO

Richard Lakin died in October 2015, two weeks after he was critically wounded in a Palestinian terrorist attack on a public bus in Jerusalem PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS

My father grew up a fighter for civil rights in America. He took those values with him in 1984 when he emigrated to Jerusalem, where he taught English to Arabs and Jews. He was a kind, gentle-hearted man who dedicated his life to education and promoting peaceful coexistence.

Yet Palestinian newspapers [praised](#) Baha Alyan, one of the terrorists who murdered my father, as a “martyr and intellectual.” Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has met with the families of the attackers and praised them as “martyrs.” A Palestinian scout leader [said](#) Baha Alyan, who was shot and killed by a security guard before he could kill more innocent passengers, was “an example for every scout.”

Muhammad Alyan, the father of Baha Alyan, has been [invited](#) to speak at Palestinian schools and universities about his son the “martyr.” He recently spoke to children at Jabel Mukaber Elementary School in East Jerusalem, about a half a mile from where my father lived. Tragically, many Palestinian children, perhaps most, are still taught to honor terrorists and fight for the destruction of Israel.

All of this would break my father’s heart. In 2007 he published a book called “Teaching as an Act of Love” summarizing his life’s work and educational philosophy. The message of his book is that every child is a miracle that should be nurtured with love. After Baha Alyan’s father visited Jabel Mukaber Elementary School, I asked school officials if I could come and share my father’s message of peace and coexistence. My offer was rejected.

As long as Palestinian leaders nurture a culture of hate, encouraging school children to go out and kill, more violence is inevitable. By encouraging hatred, they distance all of us from the love and belief in peaceful coexistence for which my father stood.

My father's book begins with a quote from William Penn : "I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

My father lived by those words. If only his murderers had as well.

Mr. Avni is the CEO of Peninsula Group Ltd., a publicly traded Israeli commercial finance institution.

Article submitted by Lynn C. Koss, USA