

Submission sheet

Individuals, groups and organizations wishing to submit information and documentation to the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (hereafter the “COI”) are kindly asked to fill in this sheet with any information they are able to provide, and attach it to their submissions.

It is not a requirement to provide all requested information if not available, though particular attention should be given to filling in the section on consent.

Unless indicated otherwise in the form, the COI will consider all materials received to be usable in its reports, but without attribution as to the source

Name of submitting individual/entity	Shmuel Baron
Contact of submitting individual/entity	Email(s): baronshmuel65@gmail.com Telephone/WhatsApp/Signal/Other: Web Address: Agree to be contacted by the COI: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Relationship of submitting entity/individual to the alleged victim/s	
Human rights violation/s or abuses alleged to have occurred	
Violations of the laws and customs of war (international humanitarian law)	One of the root causes of violence in April/May 2021, is the Palestinian program to refute the Jewish narrative in order to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Jewish people.
Date/s of incident/time period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 29 and 30, 2021, the Ramallah branch of the al-Quds Open University⁽¹⁾ held a conference sponsored by Mahmoud Abbas. It was the first conference on “The Zionist Narrative Between Deconstruction and Destructuring,” part of a larger program called “Deconstructing the Zionist Narrative,” conducted by the University and Fatah social organizations (al-Quds Open University website in Arabic, July 5, 2021). • PA Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh gave a speech at the conference reiterating the Palestinian claim that no connections

exist between the Hebrews, the Israelis and the Jews, and today's Jews are actually Khazars, a Turkic-speaking tribe which converted to Judaism only in the 6th century CE. Shtayyeh added that Israel is not a state but rather a "tool" put in place to protect foreign interests. Other speakers reiterated the same points, stressing the claim that the Jews had no links to Jerusalem (Wafa, June 29, 2021). The speech was not posted to Shtayyeh's Facebook page, which usually reports his speeches and appearances. The al-Quds Open University's English website gives no information beyond the name and date of the conference (the Arabic website, based on reports from Wafa, provides fuller information).

- It was not the first time **the Palestinian Authority (PA) leadership, led by Mahmoud Abbas, twisted, misrepresented and rewrote history in general and of the Jews in particular.** The theme is elaborated upon extensively in one of his books and in his speeches over the years. His main theses are that the State of Israel is a Western colonial settlement, Jesus was a Palestinian, and the Palestinians are the descendants of the Canaanites who came before the Patriarch Abraham. Regarding Jerusalem, he says the Palestinians believe they have the rights to the city because after the Canaanites founded it 5,000 years ago, Allah promised it would be the capital city of the Palestinian state [sic].
- **PA ministry of education and UNRWA textbooks contain** often reference the rejection of Israel's right to exist and promote **historical misrepresentations and factual inaccuracies.** An examination of PA textbooks and teachers' guides carried out by Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center (ITIC) researchers revealed that one of the most prominent, persistent themes was the delegitimization of the State of Israel and the Jewish presence in the Land of Israel, including denial of existence of sites sacred to Judaism.^[2]
- The **objectives of the Palestinians' twisting history, perpetuating inaccuracies** and deliberately distorting names, providing incorrect dates and introducing anti-Semitic elements are to cast into doubt and **deny the existence of the Jewish people and its historical connections to the Land of Israel, foster hatred for Israel and the Jews** and sabotage any chance of

significant dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. Its objectives are also reinforcing Palestinian nationalism, establishing the exclusive Palestinian “right” to the Land of Israel, **inculcating the Palestinian public with the concept of “resistance” to Zionism** and convincing the international community to deny **the right of the State of Israel to exist as the national homeland of the Jews.**

- In his opening speech at the conference **Mahmoud Abbas himself boasted** that international world opinion was gradually moving towards an acceptance of the Palestinian narrative, adding that was especially true in the United States and Europe. He said local Palestinian communities throughout the world were very active in promoting the Palestinian narrative, and that they had to continue in order to reach the decision makers in the countries where change was taking place.

The al-Quds Open University Conference

- On June 29 and 30, 2021, **the Ramallah branch of the al-Quds Open University** held a conferences whose theme was “The Zionist Narrative Between Deconstruction and Destructuring.” It was sponsored by Mahmoud Abbas and held as part of the inter-organizational collaboration of the members of Fatah’s social organizations, NGOs and the al-Quds Open University. It was attended by Palestinian academics, members of the PLO’s Executive Committee, Fatah’s Central Committee and researchers from Jordan and Egypt. The conference was part the program conducted by the university and Fatah social organizations to deny the Zionist narrative (al-Quds Open University website in Arabic, July 5, 2021).



The conference in Ramallah. According to the sign at the right, the conference was sponsored by Mahmoud Abbas (Wafa, June 29, 2021).

- The conference opened with a **recorded speech of Mahmoud Abbas** boasting that international world opinion was gradually shifting towards accepting the Palestinian narrative, especially in the United States and Europe. In most countries, he claimed, there was increasing activity in the local Palestinian communities which should be harnessed towards exerting pressure on the decision makers in those countries. The objective, he said, was to stress the strength of the Palestinian people, their right to the land and a Palestinian state whose capital was east Jerusalem. Recent events, he claimed, especially the tension in Jerusalem, proved the Palestinian people, wherever they were, were strong and wanted their rights [sic] (Palestinian TV, June 19, 2021).
- **Muhammad Shtayyeh**, speaking in person, explained how to wage the war of narratives against Israel. He said to strengthen the Palestinian narrative Israel had to be clearly distinguished and separated from Judaism and Zionism. "History," he said, "has to be understood and it must be clearly stated that the Hebrews, Jews and Israelis are not the same thing." He claimed the Patriarch Jacob

was also called “Israel,” therefore the Israelites were the children of Jacob, and 1,300 years separated Jacob from Moses. Thus, 1,300 years separated the Israelis from the Jews, so the logical conclusion [sic] is that there is no connection between the Israelis and the Jews. Therefore, he said, the key question was clearly, who were the Jews of today? Obviously, he claimed, **today’s Jews were the Khazars who joined Judaism in the 6th century CE.**^[3] He also claimed Israel was not a country but rather a “tool” established to protect foreign interests. **He “quoted” Theodor Herzl as telling Lord Balfour** that if the British wanted a country that would serve Britain’s interests in the Middle East and the Suez Canal, the Jews were prepared to do it (Wafa, Palestinian TV, June 29, 2021). However, **Herzl died in 1904**, while the **Balfour Declaration**, which expressed British support for a national homeland for the Jews in the Land of Israel, **was issued on November 2, 1917.**

- Other speakers reiterated the themes. For example, **al-Quds Open University president Dr. Younes Amro** claimed there was no connection between the Jews and city of Jerusalem, it was only a “connection of war,” as noted in the Bible story of King David, who purchased Araunah the Jebusite’s “threshing floor”^[4] to build a temple to worship his God. Therefore, Dr. Amro claimed, the Jews have no religious connection of Jerusalem, only the Muslims and Christians do. Jerusalem, he claimed, is the place of peace from which both Muhammad and Jesus ascended to heaven. Christians make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, and it is the third most important city for Islam [after Mecca and Madinah], he said (Wafa, June 29, 2021).
- The conference in Ramallah was part of a **program formed by Muhammad Shtayyeh and Ataf Abu Sayif, the Palestinian minister of culture**, at the end of 2020 to declare 2021 the year of spreading Palestinian “heritage” around the world through reinforcing and defending the Palestinian narrative, especially the issue of Jerusalem, choosing Palestinians living abroad as the main vector. (Dunia al-Watan, June 29, 2021). **Dr. Abd al-Karim Najam, chairman of the conference’s organizing committee**, told Ma’an TV that the program to understand the Zionist story by dissembling the parts and analyzing them had been authorized by Fatah. He

	<p>claimed the Zionist story was “fake” and based on the Torah [the first five books of the Old Testament], and the Zionists’ only objective in spreading it was to “occupy the land of the Palestinians” (Ma’an TV YouTube channel, June 30, 2021).</p>
Place of incident	Village/township/city: Judea & Samaria, Gaza, East Jerusalem Province:
Name/s of alleged victim/s gender, age	Name: Gender: Age: Father’s name: Nationality: Profession: Phone number/email: Address:
Identification of those allegedly responsible	Name of alleged perpetrator if known: Mahmoud Abbas, PA Chairman Mohammad Shtayyeh, PA Prime Minister Marwan Awartani, PA Minister of Education Ataf Abu Sayif, the Palestinian minister of culture Younes Amro, al-Quds Open University president Dr. Abd al-Karim Najam State or non-state entity with which perpetrator is affiliated, if any: Palestinian Authority Any identifying marks of the perpetrator which indicate their affiliation, such as the colour or pattern of their uniform and uniform’s insignia:
Description of the incident(s)/allegations (2000-word limit)	Detailed description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the incident(s) or alleged violation(s), including dates, specific locations (e.g. street, building) and number and types and name(s) of victim(s) - the context in which they took place - alleged perpetrators - alleged motive <p>Please also include information on the impact of these violations, as well as age and gender-sensitive considerations (e.g. how these violations affected women and men, girls and boys differently).</p>
Description of the State’s response, (500-word limit)	Indicate whether the incident was reported to the authorities: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, which authorities: Information on any investigations, judicial processes, decision/judgements and sentences, including reparations, in response to the incident:

Methodology employed in the collection of information	Please provide a description of the methodology employed in the collection of the information shared- primary, secondary sources, means of verification, etc., along with how informed consent was gained from the information provider. If needed, attach a copy of the relevant standard operating procedures followed.
Consent	<p>Please indicate whether you, the person submitting the information, agree to the following use of the information by the COI with or without personally identifiable data:</p> <p><u>INFORMED CONSENT TO USE THE INFORMATION:</u></p> <p>1. Use internally and publicly (e.g. public report, press release), with <input type="checkbox"/> without <input type="checkbox"/> personally identifiable data. Agree</p> <p>2. Use internally only (within the COI), with <input type="checkbox"/> without <input type="checkbox"/> personally identifiable data. Agree</p> <p><u>INFORMED CONSENT TO SHARE THE INFORMATION:</u></p> <p>1. Raise the case with national authorities, courts or accountability mechanisms that respect international standards (including due process) with <input type="checkbox"/> without <input type="checkbox"/> personally identifiable data. Agree</p> <p>2. Share info with national human rights institutions, with <input type="checkbox"/> without <input type="checkbox"/> personally identifiable data. Agree</p> <p>3. Refer to national or international organizations (including UN human rights mechanisms and other UN entities) providing victim assistance (e.g. ICRC, medical, legal), with <input type="checkbox"/> without <input type="checkbox"/> personally identifiable data. Agree</p> <p>5. Share info with international and regional courts – including the International Criminal Court (ICC) -, or accountability mechanisms of other States that respect international standards (including due process) with <input type="checkbox"/> without <input type="checkbox"/> personally identifiable data. Agree</p> <p><u>Additional Details on Consent:</u></p> <p>Please indicate if consent to provide this information to the CoI has been received from the alleged victims (any consent given must be provided by the victim or by relatives or legal representatives on their behalf, or by a parent/legal guardian in case of a child) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>; consent provided by: _____</p> <p>If necessary, please explain:</p>
Description of any broader issues not related	Description should be succinct, highlighting issues of relevance to the mandate of the COI, and include concrete examples whenever possible.

to specific violations (2000-word limit)	Please also include information on the impact of these violations, as well as age and gender-sensitive considerations (e.g. how these violations affected women and men, girls and boys differently) as relevant.
Any other human rights NGOs to whom you reported the incident	If appropriate, please provide name and contact information of any other person or organization to whom the incident was reported.
Additional materials (documents, images, videos, etc) relevant to the incident(s)/allegation(s)	Please indicate, if you are aware of, or in possession of, any additional materials from other sources (including the media and NGOs) in which the above incident(s)/allegations are cited, that are deemed relevant/useful. The COI may follow-up at a later date in order to receive the material(s) indicated. Date of publication: Published: 20/07/2021 Title: Palestinians rewrite history, part of a program to refute the Jewish narrative in order to delegitimize the State of Israel and the Jewish people by promoting the Palestinian narrative Source (author/organisation): The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center Web link; https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2021/07/E_116_21.pdf Type of material: 1 Document <input type="checkbox"/> (total doc); Images <input type="checkbox"/> (total images); Video <input type="checkbox"/> (total videos); Other (please specify)