

facts straight before you decide to criticize anyone. Zayid says that the Palestinians are fighting for "the right to control their own lives". The truth is, over the past 20 years, Israel has given much support to these Palestinian refugees. They have improved sanita-

"... fighting for the right to control their own lives"

tion, built schools, universities and hospitals, and more. This is not the common picture of pure abuse as the media portrays. In a country as economically strained

as Israel, this effort should be applauded. This is more than can be said for the neighbouring Arab countries. Where have they shown their support for their brothers? The surrounding Arab countries occupy 20 times the land of Israel. Why hasn't any assimilation taken place? Secondly, Zayid states, "I would hardly characterize the throwing of stones as violent." Come on! Let's get a little realistic. Since the start of the uprising, Israeli soldiers and citizens have been injured and even killed as a direct result of stone-throwing on the part of the Palestinians. Thirdly, it is not government policy to beat Palestinians and break their limbs. To straighten you out, there was one incident where an Israeli colonel

authorized this, and he was consequently arrested and is currently being tried. How many Arab colonels have been tried for doing the same thing? It is ironic that Zayid says the "irrefutable facts about the plight of the Palestinians are continually dismissed" when she has presented no facts.



As for the letter (Jan. 18) by I. Heritage, this person clearly knows nothing about the facts in this situation. Firstly, Israeli soldiers executing themselves rather than opening fire on demonstrators is a myth. No doubt this piece of information was obtained from the same source where Heritage found all his other information. Secondly, the PLO is the most malignant terrorist organization in the world; this has been substantiated. If Mr. Heritage took some time to research his opinions before publishing them, he would see that the PLO is accountable for over 2500 civilian casualties in Israel alone and deaths worldwide. They have admitted to this and it is common knowledge. Thirdly, how dare he say that the news from Israel is censored? In Israel

today, there are more foreign reporters than in any other country in the world covering the Intifada issue. Mr. Heritage's blatant hatred of Israel is reflected in his bigoted and narrow-minded views of the present situation there.

Certainly, there have been deaths in Israel since the uprising, but these deaths have occurred on both sides. The ironic thing is that over 160 Palestinians have been killed, not by Israelis, but by other Palestinians. These Palestinians were killed because there were seen as cooperating with Israel. And this isn't the first time such incidents have taken place. Similarly, when President Sadat of Egypt made peace with Israel in 1979, he was assassinated soon after because of his actions. The fact is, in the last few months, more Arabs have been killed by Arabs than by the Israeli forces. Judge Israel by the facts, not solely by the media coverage.

Finally, one point about the recent letter entitled "Leiten Up" by Dr. Zayid. I find it ironic that a known anti-Zionist speaker is trying to make people believe his "unbiased" views on Israel. In his letter, Dr. Zayid states that the PLO is not a terrorist organization. Here are the facts:

— February 1970 — PLO

bombs a Swissair airliner, causing the deaths of 38 passengers and 9 crew members.

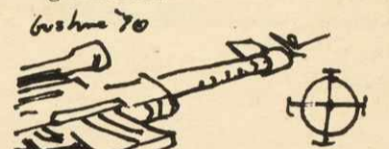
— Munich 1972 — PLO (under the guise Black September) murders 11 Israeli athletes at the Olympic Games.

— Moshav Elqosh 1973 — A mother of five murdered by PLO terrorists who infiltrated the community.

— Kiryat Shmona 1974 — PLO terrorists enter Israel and attack a civilian apartment complex, killing 8 children, 3 women, and 5 men.

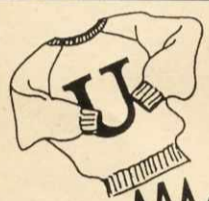
— Ma'alot 1974 — PLO terrorist squad storms a local elementary school, killing 24 children and wounding 62 others.

These are but a few examples of what Dr. Zayid's honourable PLO stands for. Actually, between the years 1968 and 1989, the PLO made 351 terrorist attacks in 57 countries worldwide, resulting in countless deaths. How can Dr. Zayid claim that the PLO is not a terrorist organization?




Instead of looking ahead and trying to find a solution to the problems in the Middle East, Zayid is looking back, thus contributing to the deterioration of the situation. It is cooperation, not hatred, that will bring peace to the Middle East.

Amir Nevo
Bill Chernin

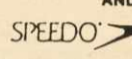
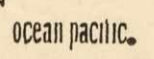


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