

**HAMAS AND THE STATE OF ISRAEL:
PEACE IS A VERY DISTANT HOPE**

One morning, while **TARGET** () was staying in the Hotel Vier Jahreszeiten Kempinski, in Hamburg, Germany, a conversation was held with a relatively new face, standing behind the Reception Counter on the Ground Floor.

The brief conversation was held with a young man, obviously of Arab descent, being a little less than 30 years old. He was having trouble in trying to master the basics of the German language.

This well-dressed, swarthy skinned young man said that he was a native of Palestine and that he had been employed by the hotel as a receptionist!

He said that he had come to Germany in the middle of the winter of 2010 in order to study the hospitality industry and, then, at the end of his training, he would return to his country, Palestine (?), where he would use his newly acquired knowledge in the country of his birth.

When **TARGET** commented, matter of factly, that there was no country, bearing the name of Palestine (except in the Bible), this soft-spoken, very polite young man said that he had a passport, issued by the Government of Palestine, that could prove that he had spoken the truth.

It was, at this point, that the conversation ended rather abruptly lest **TARGET**'s probing should upset this young man – and his obvious dream of being a citizen of a country.

The Palestinian territories, as they are known, widely, are The West Bank and The Gaza Strip.

There is no country, named Palestine, although the General Assembly of the United Nations, on November 29, 2012, determined to afford Palestine, non-Member Observer Status in the United Nations.

But that is a long way from the Palestinian territories, being recognised as a sovereign state.

The Palestinian people want a country of their own and, for many years, delegations have been lobbying the United Nations to recognise the Palestinian territories as a country to be known as Palestine.

Today, the Palestinian territories comprise the 5,640 square-kilometre landmass, known as The West Bank, and the 365 square-kilometre landmass, known as The Gaza Strip.

Israel strongly objects to the idea of permitting an enemy to be parked on its doorstep due to the fact that The Gaza Strip is governed by Hamas, a militant, Palestinian-Islamic movement that, inter alia, (i) is dedicated to the absolute destruction of the State of Israel and its entire human population and (ii) the creation of the Islamic State of Palestine.

Israel, The United States of America as well as Canada and six other countries voted against giving the Palestinian territories the non-Member Observer Status in the United Nations.

The human population of The Gaza Strip and The West Bank is estimated to be about 4.50 million people, 80 percent of whom are known to be Sunni Moslems.

Hamas makes the claim that it is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Hamas is an offshoot of The Society of the Muslim Brotherhood, a transnational, Islamic organisation that was founded in 1928 in Egypt.

The present, interim Government of Egypt has declared that The Society of the Muslim Brotherhood is a terrorist group and has banned it in the country, having jailed its leaders along with an estimated 16,000 members and supporters.

On March 24, 2014, some 529 members of The Society of the Muslim Brotherhood were sentenced to death by an Egyptian Court.

All of this begs the question, of course: How did this young Palestinian come to Germany and obtain a position in Germany, working as a receptionist in a five-star hotel?

Most of the 4.50 million, Palestinian residents do not possess foreign passports, allowing them to travel, internationally.

How then, did this young man obtain a passport from another country?

Since there is no airport in operation in the Palestinian territories, what was this young man's mode of transport, allowing him to fly to Germany?

The Present Crisis

Recently, Hamas is known to have been very active in attacking Israel with rockets after its operatives had abducted three Israeli youths (on June 12, 2014), the youths, hitch-hiking on their way home to Israel.

Israel, immediately, reacted to the abductions and subsequent murders and took note of the fact that Hamas praised the murders without admitting any responsibility.

What transpired was that there was an almost immediate escalation of tensions between Hamas and the Government of Israel.

Last week (July 8 through to July 12), Hamas fired more than 600 rockets at Israeli cities with Hamas, making the claim that, henceforth, all Israelis were legitimate targets.

Israel retaliated and it was reported that more than 110 Palestinians had died in more than 129 Israeli air strikes on The Gaza Strip, last Wednesday, alone.

Many of the dead and wounded were innocent civilians.

By last Friday, it was officially reported by the Israeli military that it had struck at more than 1,100 locations in The Gaza Strip.

Last Thursday, the President of Israel, Mr Shimon Peres, confirmed that 40,000 army reservists had been called up and that ground offensives were imminent.

Unconfirmed reports claimed that, last Friday evening, not less than 20,000, heavily armed Israeli soldiers, along with scores of tanks were poised on the border of The Gaza Strip, awaiting orders to proceed in order to wipe out the Hamas rocket launches and neutralising the Hamas leadership in the region.

Israeli tanks have been poised to invade The Gaza Strip since last Wednesday and it is well understood that any ground invasion would result in a tragic number of deaths, not only of Hamas operatives and their supporters, but of the innocent Palestinians, resident in the region.

Last Thursday, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Ban Ki Moon, said that the situation in the Palestinian territories and in Israel was ‘*on a knife-edge*’.

He, also, said that the region ‘*cannot afford another, full-blown war*’.

But a full-blown war appears to be inevitable.

Last Friday, on the official website of Hamas’s military wing, it was stated that the terrorist organisation is prepared for a contracted fight with its archenemy, Israel.

The website said, among other things:

‘So far, Hamas has utilised only a little of what it has prepared for the Zionist enemy. We have prepared ourselves for a very long battle, not for a week or ten days, as some have said, but for many long weeks.’

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel went on record, last Friday, stating that Israeli forces were fighting Hamas with ‘*increasing intensity*’.

He said:

‘No international pressure will prevent us (Israel) from operating with full force against a terrorist organisation that calls for our destruction.’

For What Reason Did Hamas Kill The Israeli Youngsters

Israeli intelligence has pointed the finger of suspicion for the killing of the three Israeli youths at Salah al-Arouri, a well-known Hamas operative, formerly a resident of The West Bank, but who has, now, taken refuge in Turkey where he lives quite openly.

Hamas was founded in 1987 and is considered, by the United States of America, as being a foreign terrorist organisation that is, among other things, a stumbling block to Arab-Israeli peace in the Middle East.

It is known that Hamas has strong ties to The Islamic Republic of Iran and that a portion of its funding has come from this theocracy.

Peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian territories have been frozen since 2010, and the recent outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Hamas in The Gaza Strip threatens to erode the prospects for renewed talks in the near term.

As far back as March 21, 2000, the Director of US Central Intelligence Agency, Mr George J. Tenet, Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on The Worldwide Threat in 2000, said, inter alia:

‘I am also very concerned about the continued threat Islamic extremist groups pose to the Middle East Peace Process. The Palestinian rejectionist groups, HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement) and PIJ (Palestine Islamic Jihad), as well as Lebanese Hizballah continue to plan attacks against Israel aimed at blocking progress in the negotiations. HAMAS and PIJ have been weakened by Israeli and Palestinian Authority crackdowns, but remain capable of conducting large scale attacks. Recent Israeli arrests of HAMAS terrorist operatives revealed that the group had plans underway for major operations inside Israel.’

Mr Tenet’s reference to ‘*crackdowns*’ probably referred, to some extent, at least, to the arrests of Hamas operatives, including, no doubt, Salah al-Arouri who had been arrested and charged by Israeli Authorities on numerous occasions.

He spent about 17 years in and out of various Israeli prisons for a number of offences, one of which was ‘*his leadership role in the Hamas Movement*’.

Under interrogation by Israeli intelligence officers, he admitted, quite openly, to receiving about \$US96,000 to buy weapons in August of 1992 and providing \$US45,000 to Hamas operative Musa Muhammed Salah Dudin *‘to be used for weapons to conduct attacks’*.

Musa Muhammed Salah Dudin was found to have been involved in the murder of an Israeli soldier, named Yuval Tutange, in December of 1992.

Together with Musa Muhammed Salah Dudin, Salah al-Arouri played a central role in resurrecting the Hamas Qassam Brigades in The West Bank.

Hamas sets aside about \$US70 million, annually, from its annual budget for the Qassam Brigades.

Salah al-Arouri, then, went on to play key roles in rebuilding Hamas’s terrorist cell networks, many of which are operational to this day.

Hamas is known to have obtained some of its funding from US-based financiers in addition to funds, channeled to it from the Middle East.

Salah al-Arouri encouraged Hamas operatives to engage in kidnapping plots of Israelis since, in his words, Israelis are legitimate targets.

In 1994, a spokesman for Hamas was quoted as saying, following the kidnapping of an American-Israeli, Mr Nachshon Wachsmann:

‘The kidnapping is not an end; it is a means for the release of all of our (Hamas) prisoners.’

Unfortunately for Israel and the majority of the 4.50 million people who live in The West Bank and The Gaza Strip, Hamas is one of the two main political factions that holds sway in the region in which it operates – when it is not terrorising Israelis who might wander into the Palestinian territories, that is.

As long as Hamas continues with its bellicose activities, which includes stepping up its rocket attacks on Israel and the abducting and killing of Israelis, it is very obvious that there is little hope for peace between it and the State of Israel.

But it is quite clear that Hamas does not want peace with its Jewish neighbour: It has gone on record on a number of occasions, stating that it wants to expunge Israel from the face of the world, once and for all.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been funding, in part, the financial requirements of Hamas – and continues so to do – has similar goals as the offshoot of The Society of Muslim Brotherhood: The eradication of the State of Israel and the death to all Jews in this *‘illegitimate state’*, as Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Hoseini-Khamenei has gone on record in a number of his speeches to the 81 million of the faithful of the country that he rules.

-- **E N D** --

TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to editor@targetnewspapers.com. **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*