

Arab Death Squads

Muslim leadership in the Middle East has now endorsed the use of death squads against Israelis. There was a time when the United States considered Mohammad Abbas a “partner for peace.” That was never the case, which is becoming increasingly obvious. The partners of the Palestinian Authority, which govern the Arabs living on the West Bank of the Jordan River, are terrorists such as Islamic Jihad.

Who is Mohammad Abbas? He is the American-backed dictator of the Palestinian Authority, which is supposed to govern Muslim-Arab life on the West Bank of the Jordan River. There was only one election held which placed Abbas into power, and there will never be another one. Abbas is the successor to murderer and terrorist Yasser Arafat, whose many millions of corrupt dollars made their way to Switzerland so that his family could live well in Europe.

Abbas and his Palestinian Authority, instead of using the millions of dollars in foreign aid to build a society, have funneled the money into their personal accounts, pet projects, and terrorist agenda. The Palestinian Authority, together with its Arab partners in Syria, Jordan and Egypt continue to keep Palestinian Arabs in concentration camps throughout the region. These camps become incubators for terrorists and other malcontents who are promised that one day they will drive Jews and Christians living in Israel into the Mediterranean Sea.

Abbas has also been masterful, along with other Arab regimes, in teaching hate on an unprecedented scale. Perhaps never before in history have we had U.S. and European funded organizations specifically teaching hate, murder and mayhem to children. Terrorists are not only applauded and endorsed in most of the Arab world, but streets and public buildings are named after them. How can there ever be peace with Palestinian Arabs so long as they are taught the virtues of death?

A recent article in The New York Times, quoted the Facebook page of a recent terrorist who killed an Israeli at knifepoint, saying, “We are people who love death while our enemies love life.” That is absolutely the truth. Judeo-Christian culture teaches the value of a purposeful life. Life is always preferred over death, and that is the reason why we work for peace and better human conditions. We may argue whether Republicans or Democrats are more able to fulfill our national goals and aspirations, but we all subscribe to the importance of life. Not so in the Arab world. Fundamentalist Muslims, and many in the so-called more moderate community, clearly are taught to prefer death. Being a “martyr,” which is just another word for a murderer, is looked upon as something valuable, courageous, and to be sought after.

We often say that Islam is the offspring of the child of Abraham, and therefore we Jews, Christians and Muslims are of the same family. In the Judeo-Christian world, G-d

made it very clear that Abraham was not permitted to sacrifice his son for any cause or purpose. Judaism during the entire Biblical period was at war with any culture that sacrificed its children to the gods. Unfortunately, too many Muslims today have forgotten the lesson taught to Abraham and instead follow a distorted Koranic view that teaches the value of child sacrifice.

Terrorist death squads operating in Israel and other places are fomented, encouraged, and ultimately paid for by leaders such as Abbas who rule rump, corrupt regimes. The United States has a deceptively simple solution to this problem: defund terrorist regimes, impose strict sanctions, and aid those who fight for the right to live peacefully. The United States must have a consistent and unrelenting policy to isolate terrorist regimes and to work with our European and Asian partners to do the same. The United States is still the most powerful economic force in the world, although we are probably being surpassed by China, and we have a lot to say about who prospers in the world.

Anyone should be able to walk the streets in Israel or any other nation in the world and not have to fear state-encouraged or state-funded murderers. The principle that life is sacred must be made clear. The U.S. taxpayer will brook no financial or diplomatic support of dishonorable leaders such as Mohammad Abbas.

Abbas and his ilk may want to return to the 12th Century, stripping women and “non-believers” of the right to exist, but the issue is how the rest of the world will respond to that? So far, we have either fought the wrong battle in the wrong place, or we have equivocated with terror. With a consistent, clear guiding hand, the United States can change the matrix in connection with how we address the modern threat of state-sponsored or encouraged terrorism.

My father, may his soul rest in peace, once said, “I pity only the poor person who is too dumb to know the difference between his friends and his enemies.” I have seen that principle violated time and time again. The United States, unfortunately, sometimes does not seem to know the difference between its friends and its enemies. Perhaps the future will bring a more clear and understandable vision to our own leaders and decision-makers.

*Clifford A. Rieders, Esquire
Rieders, Travis, Humphrey, Harris,
Waters, Waffenschmidt & Dohrmann
161 West Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 323-8711 (telephone)
(570) 323-4192 (facsimile)*

Cliff Rieders, who practices law in Williamsport, is Past President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and a member of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority. None of the opinions expressed necessarily represent the views of these organizations.