

PALESTINE

EXPO:

EXPOSING

THE HATE

**On the 6th and 7th July 2019,
the Friends of Al Aqsa organisation
will host the Palestine Expo 2019.**

It is billed as a “fun, family day out providing visitors with a unique immersive experience. Palestine Expo is a chance to bring people together to celebrate Palestine.”

Surely that can't be a bad thing, right?

Wrong.

In reality, aside from the great art, music and cuisine on offer, the Expo's organisers provide a platform to anti-Israel, Antisemitic and Holocaust-denying speakers whose sole aim is to demonise and delegitimise Israel whilst supporting and whitewashing the crimes of the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza.

Sadly for Palestinians and Israelis, messages of peace and coexistence will NOT be heard from the speakers at this Expo.

**Let's take a closer look at the Expo's
organisers, Friends of Al Aqsa (FOA)**

Founded in 1997 by a British optician, Ismail Patel, FOA describes itself as “a UK based non-profit making NGO concerned with defending the human rights of Palestinians and protecting the sacred al-Aqsa Sanctuary in Jerusalem”.

Seems fairly noble, right?

Wrong.

FOA ignore the very real human rights violations of Palestinians by the PA and Hamas who rule the West Bank and Gaza respectively, with an autocratic and kleptocratic iron fist. The Al Aqsa Mosque, atop the holy Temple Mount, is under the control of the Islamic Waqf. Despite the Temple Mount being holy to Jews and Christians too, non-Muslims are not allowed to pray there. Despite this, Israel has repeatedly confirmed that it has no desire to change the status quo on the Temple Mount.

Nothing then for FOA to protect there!

FOA is one of the more extremist Islamist organisations at work in Britain today. It has supported the charity 'Interpal' (proscribed by the US Treasury) which is linked to the Muslim Brotherhood (MB). FOA are closely involved in several Islamist organisations such as the British Muslim Initiative (BMI) which is a front group for Hamas. One of its co-founders, Muhammad Sawalha, is a senior Hamas activist. Hamas is an internationally proscribed terrorist group. While the FOA's stated purpose is to protect “Palestinian rights”, it actually supports Hamas, its ideology, and terrorism (the so-called “resistance”)

FOA collaborates with the Iranian-funded so-called human rights organisation known as the Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), in organising events such as Al Quds day, at which public support is expressed for the Iranian proxy Jew-hating genocidal terror group Hezbollah. As of early 2019, Hezbollah has now been banned in its entirety in the UK.

Some of the speakers at this year's Palestine Expo include:

Ilan Pappé is an international leader within the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement. He is an Israeli professor of History at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom. In 2011 Pappé was discredited as *“one of the world’s sloppiest historians; at worst, one of the most dishonest”* by fellow and renowned Israeli historian Benny Morris. For decades, Pappé has exploited his academic pulpit to propagate the historically and currently false claim that Israelis are committing an ‘ethnic cleansing’ of Palestinians, as well as the lie that Israel is an ‘apartheid’ state.

Joseph Massad is a professor of modern Arab Politics and Intellectual History at Columbia University (Columbia). He denies the Jewish connection to Israel, likens Jews to Nazis, propagates allegations that *“the Jewish state is a racist state that does not have a right to exist”*, maliciously describes Zionism as an *“anti-Semitic project”* and supports and indeed promotes the BDS movement. A 2004 documentary film titled ‘Columbia Unbecoming’ featured Columbia students giving testimony that Massad had either intimidated them or treated them unfairly because of their pro-Israel views.

Issa Amro is a Palestinian activist from Hebron who is often described as the *“Palestinian Ghandi”*. However, the evidence against Amro confirms that he is certainly not “non-violent”. Past charges against him confirm that he has repeatedly taken part in riots, attacks on soldiers and civilians, incitement and interference with security forces. In one of the events described in an indictment, Amro violently attacked a civilian, forcibly took the victim’s camera, and then destroyed the camera by smashing it on the ground, all while spitting on the victim.

Huda Elmi is a member of Labour’s National Executive Committee who has aggressively criticised the NEC’s adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Antisemitism (IHRA) as *“incredibly disappointing”*. Ms Elmi’s claim that the author of the IHRA (Kenneth Stern) has criticised its current use is only partially true. Stern’s only caveat was with regard its usage on campuses. But for everyone else, Stern’s message is clear: the definition should be used more than it is. Stern has also said that in his view, accusing Israel of apartheid and boycotting it are linked to Antisemitism.

Andy Slaughter is the Labour MP for Hammersmith and has long been close to the Palestinian Forum in Britain (PFB), a Hamas front with a chilling record of promoting some of the very worst hate preachers. Slaughter is a keen supporter of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), a group whose peddling of Antisemitic material was recently reported on by the Evening Standard. On Friday 8th December 2017, Slaughter was amongst those demonstrating outside the US Embassy where chants of *“Death to America”* and *“Death to Israel”* were belted out, as well as *“Jews, remember Khaybar the army of Muhammad is returning”*. That demo was also supported by the PFB, the PSC and the organisers of this Expo, Friends of Al Aqsa.

It is worth noting that the overwhelming majority of this year’s Palestine Expo speakers seem to oppose the existence of a Jewish-majority state within any borders. Simply put, whilst championing the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and sovereignty, too many of the speakers vociferously seek to deny this same right to the Jews, and the Jews only.

It is a sad indictment on such people, and their supporters, that their so-called ‘support’ for the Palestinian people is overwhelmingly predicated on the demonisation, deligitimisation and ultimate denial of the right of a UN member state to exist at all.

This Expo has interactive installations, specifically designed for its younger visitors.

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians is a complex one between two sides. Targeting young visitors to this Expo with interactive installations which seek to demonise Israelis and hold them solely responsible for the decades-old conflict is both irresponsible and counter intuitive to encouraging negotiations, and ultimately peace, between both sides.

BDS: Have a go at knocking down apartheid in a game of BDS bowling.

The BDS movement, by its own admission, does not recognise the right of Israel, a UN member state, to exist in any borders. Its tactics include blatant Antisemitism, intimidation and bullying. Recent research confirms that the BDS movement has over 100 ties with designated terror groups and that 30 BDS operatives, including murderers who served time in prison, now hold senior positions within BDS-promoting NGOs.

Education: what obstacles will you face on your journey to school? Walk towards the oversized book to find out.

Since its creation, the Palestinian Authority (PA) has used its school system to poison entire generations, indoctrinating them and promoting violence. The UK government gives British tax pounds to the PA for its education system. While the stated goal of these contributions is to promote peace, in actuality, the money is being spent to teach the rejection of peace in favour of the adoption of violence. 75 PA schools are named after terrorists and Nazi collaborators. Hamas's education system in Gaza is no different, only insofar as Hamas uses its schools from which to conduct its terrorist activities, a practice against international law. Educating children to hate is nothing short of child abuse.

Child prisoners: See what state a child's bedroom is left in after Israeli troops arrest them during a night raid.

Too many Palestinian children have historically been forced to commit terrorist acts by Palestinian adults and are indoctrinated from an early age. This child abuse begins in the home and is encouraged throughout society. If these children were taught about peace and coexistence, they wouldn't be caught up in the conflict. As a result of the prevalence of children being encouraged to commit acts of terror by their families and leaders, Israel's soldiers need to be as wary of the children as they are of some of the adults.

Water: Fill up the buckets and watch the scale tip when measuring water disparity between Israel & Palestine.

The water libel against Israel is an oft-used one but is easily refuted with facts. All water issues are dictated by the mutually agreed 1995 Oslo II Interim Agreement. Israel is not solely responsible for the flow of water to the Palestinians. This is the co-responsibility of the Palestinian Water Authority too, which has, over a long period of time, refused to cooperate with Israel to upgrade and repair its leaky infrastructure in the West Bank. Israel's national water company has recently begun work on an upgraded pipeline to Gaza that will increase the flow of drinkable water into the Strip. However, this work has to be conducted under heavy military guard out of fear that Gazan terror groups will open fire on the crews as the pipeline-laying work nears the border. It is not unknown for Hamas to destroy its utilities infrastructure and blame Israel in the international arena.

Checkpoints: Walk with the most vulnerable Palestinians who pass through checkpoints daily. Will you be able to answer their questions?

Every country balances freedom and safety to differing degrees, depending on its circumstances. Over the last year, for example, European states have had to vastly increase

their security measures due to the increased threat of Isis-inspired terrorism. In the last decade, all airports have greatly increased safety precautions.

Even though the vast majority of Palestinians enter, work, and leave with no problem, Israel nonetheless has to remain vigilant due to the ongoing threat of terrorism and so must choose between three options:

1. Simply allow no travel, which would predominantly harm the Palestinian society and economy.
2. Allow unrestricted access – and then, following the inevitable increase in terrorism, be forced to implement option 1.
3. Settle for the current compromise between competing needs.

Apartheid wall: See how you interact with your family during a meal with the Apartheid wall cutting through the dinner table. A symbol of how families are separated by the wall.

The so-called wall is a fence, not a wall. About 97% of the fence is made of chain-link material. The remaining 3% is concrete, and is designed and situated to repel sniper fire in particular areas. It was built in response to thousands of suicide bombings and rocket attacks on Israeli citizens by Palestinian terrorists sponsored and armed by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. In the years since the construction of the fence, terrorist attacks have declined by more than 90%. Its route has been changed on several occasions in order to alleviate burdens on the Palestinians living adjacent to it. The security fence was built to keep out terrorists, not Palestinians and to refer to it as an apartheid wall is, at best disingenuous and at worst, mendacious.

Settlements: 3D settlements placed on the disappearing maps will show you the density and increase of Israeli settlements over time.

It is often suggested in the media that the so-called settlements are the main barrier to peace. However, during the illegal occupation, by Jordan, of the West Bank between 1949-1967, not a single Israeli settlement existed and the Arab states and Palestinians still refused to even think about peace with Israel. The main settlement blocs in the West Bank have always been recognised as becoming a part of Israel under a negotiated peace plan, with equivalent land swaps, and this has been acknowledged, and signed up to, by the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank. Israel has removed some smaller settlements, and in 2005, unilaterally withdrew from settlements in the West Bank and entirely from the Gaza strip, a move which has resulted in ongoing and relentless terror attacks by Hamas.

Sport in Palestine: Score some goals and have a kick about in the football area where you can learn how occupation restricts the beautiful game.

Regrettably for the youth in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas hijack the 'beautiful game' in their efforts to demonise and delegitimise Israel, rather than encouraging its use as a bridge to coexistence and peace. In 2018, Jibril Rajoub, the head of the Palestinian Football Association, was suspended for a year from soccer matches and fined 20,000 Swiss francs (\$20,300) by the FIFA disciplinary board, for inciting hatred and violence. FIFA is currently investigating Rajoub for allegedly glorifying terror and inciting violence. Hamas's seemingly perpetual war against Israel and its disregard for its civilian infrastructure leaves Gazan youth often unable to progress their football careers.

A&E in Gaza: Feeling unwell? Visit doctors in the Gaza hospital and see the difference in treatment Palestinians receive.

One of the fundamental aims of the laws of armed conflict is the protection of hospitals, ambulances, and medics from attack. International law grants this group special protection from attack during active conflict. In Hamas's Gaza, hospitals are command centres, ambulances are transport vehicles, and medics are human shields. Hamas's actions in this

regard are flagrant violations of international law. In addition to this, Hamas continue to misappropriate funds, using up hundreds of millions of dollars to construct terror tunnels and carry out rocket attacks into sovereign Israeli territory, rather than allocating finances to much needed healthcare and other public facilities.

UN tent: Hear personal stories from three generations on the impact of the Nakba and importance of the Right to Return. Set in a 1948 UN tent.

It is documented fact that the vast majority of Palestinians left their homes of their own accord, encouraged to do so by the leaders of the Arab states who declared war on the nascent state of Israel and promised a victory by driving the Jews into the sea.

The issue of the Palestinian refugees is unique in that the title of 'refugee' is an inherited one and so today, in addition to the estimated 30-50,000 remaining original Palestinian refugees from 1949, every descendant is classified as a refugee, despite their never having been to, let alone lived in, Israel.

Alongside the Palestinian refugees were the Jewish refugees from Arab lands, who were forcibly expelled from the countries in which they had lived. Unlike the Palestinian refugees who are still treated as second class citizens in their host countries such as Lebanon, the Jewish refugees were absorbed by Israel and other countries such as America. Bearing in mind the swelling of numbers of Palestinian refugees due to the United Nations Works and Relief Agency's (UNWRA) unique definition of refugee status, no Israeli government, whether left or right wing, will ever agree to a blanket right of return, as doing so would be tantamount to committing national suicide, flooding Israel with millions of Palestinians and destroying Israel's Jewish character. The so-called 'Right of Return' is simply a code phrase for the destruction of Israel. Notwithstanding this nefarious demand, Israel has, in past negotiations, offered a right of return to the original refugees from the 1948/1949 War of Independence. Despite this and other far reaching concessions offered by different Israeli governments, the Palestinian leadership has consistently refused and walked away from negotiations without making any counter offers.

Celebrating culture and heritage is something that everyone can and should enjoy. Giving a platform to proven Antisemites, Holocaust revisionists and other anti-Israel personalities and encouraging children to hate does not constructively serve the needs and aspirations of the Palestinian people.

For those sincerely wishing to see an end to this decades-old conflict, efforts should be made to bring both sides together rather than drive them farther apart. One way to start is to celebrate culture and coexistence, not hatred.

