

From the Writings of
Rabbi Ephraim Sprecher z"l

A Modern Day Amalek

**N.B. This was written more
than 13 years ago - yet...**

Over 9000 rockets and mortar shells have been fired at Israel since the Gaza withdrawal and the expulsion of almost 10,000 Jews from their homes in Gush Katif in the summer of 2005. The sporadic rocket fire continues until today. Why does Hamas reject any peace with Israel or even the existence of Israel itself?

There are the public proclamations by Hamas for the destruction of Israel and the killing of Jews wherever they may be. It is not just Hamas because recently, PA TV reported that the reason why Palestinians should have children is so that their blood should be a “fertilizer” to saturate the land of Palestine by killing Jews. This statement comes from the so called “moderate” Palestinian Authority. Also, PA Mufti Muhammad Hussein gave a hate filled speech that was broadcast on PA TV. He said, “The hour of redemption will not come until you fight all the Jews. The Jew will hide behind stones and trees. Then the stones or trees will call, ‘Oh Muslim martyr, servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill

him.” Mufti Muhammad Hussein is following in the footsteps of the late Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, who, in a meeting with Adolf Hitler in 1941 at the Reich Chancellery, urged Hitler to speed up the annihilation and extermination of the Jews. In fact, according to certain Holocaust historians, the Mufti, Haj Amin al-Husseini, was one of the architects of the Final Solution.

Jews everywhere, not just in Israel, are referred to by Hamas as inherently evil, as responsible for all the evils of the world, as defilers of Islam and as “the sons of apes and pigs”. On February 6, 2012, the PA signed a pact with Hamas for a unity government.

This is genocidal anti-Semitism. From where does this cult of murderous hatred come?

In Parshat Ki Teitzei, the Torah describes the Amalekite unprovoked terrorist attack on the weakest and most defenseless members of the Jewish people. This is exactly where Hamas aims their rockets at Jewish kindergardens and school buses. Rashi on Parshat Ki Teitzei describes what makes Amalek’s hatred towards us unique and different from all other Jew-hating nations. He explains that Amalek’s hate for us is greater than his love for his own life. Amalek is willing to destroy himself in order to kill us. This is precisely the tactic of

Hamas's suicide bombers – glorifying suicide in order to murder Jews. The mother of the terrorist, who slaughtered the Fogel family including children, praised her son as a hero on PA TV. She told the PA reporter that she wished her other sons would also murder Jews. In a recent survey, a majority of the Palestinians justified suicide bombings against Israel and were willing to sacrifice their own children to murder Jews.

There is an amazing verse in T'hilim 83:8, where the Psalmist compares Amalek to Philistia as the arch-enemies of Israel. Arafat always claimed that the Palestinians are the descendants of the ancient nation of Philistia. Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik ruled that any nation that displays this irrational hatred towards Jews, i.e. who are willing to destroy their own lives in order to murder Jews, can halachically be defined as Amalek even today. According to this halachic ruling, (perhaps) Hamas would qualify as being a full-fledged member of the Amalekite nation.

-ESP

Ed. note: I removed the ? from Rabbi Sprecher's title.

So too, my editing of the word (perhaps)

Y'HI ZICHRO BARUCH