

DESPITE THE LAW: UNRWA SCHOOL CONTINUES OPERATING IN JERUSALEM'S QALANDIYA VILLAGE

1 Despite the fact that the law forbidding UNRWA activity in Israel, and especially in Jerusalem, has been in effect for practically a year, a UNRWA school appears to be still functional in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Kafr Akeb. A UNRWA flag flies proudly above it, as can be seen just over the security barrier (see photo). The school serves students from the Calandia refugee camp, part of which is in Jerusalem and part in PA-controlled area. There are many indications that the school is run by UNRWA.

It is likely that the "excuse" for the continuing UNRWA activity is that the student body comes from the PA areas and not Jerusalem – but this actually does not excuse anything: For one thing, PA residents are forbidden from entering the municipal borders of Jerusalem, where the school is located. In addition, UNRWA is banned from holding any sort of activity anywhere in Israel.



2 Israel continues to respond sharply to attempts to enter Jerusalem from PA-areas through and over the security fence. Israeli forces fired this week at a large group of Arabs attempting to infiltrate, and injured eight of them, requiring their hospitalization. The incident occurred outside Kafr Wadi Al-Humus, near Sur Baher, between East Talpiyot and Har Homa. Just a few weeks ago, at the Ramot Intersection in the capital, six Israelis were murdered by terrorists who infiltrated in precisely that manner.



Some of the would-be infiltrators lying on the ground

3 Arab reactions to the Gaza ceasefire agreement in Jerusalem were, not surprisingly, mixed. Two opinions are most prevalent: Extremist Islamic elements portrayed the agreement as a victory for Hamas, while the general public saw it mainly as an opportunity to return to normal life and upgrade to the level to which they had grown accustomed before the war. The return of Arab security prisoners from Israeli prison was not publicly commemorated – most likely due to the increased presence of Israeli forces and their stated goal of preventing displays of celebration.

4 The slow but steady process of adaptation by growing segments of the Arab neighborhoods to the fabric of shared life with the Israeli public continues. Arab students walk around the main streets of these neighborhoods with Israeli identifying symbols, some of them even semi-official. In the southern neighborhoods, one can see motorcycles belonging to resident volunteers of the United Hatzalah organization, and on Salah al-Din Street, in broad daylight, a conservatively-dressed high school girl was seen wearing a Magen David Adom backpack.



5 Regarding a report claiming that the Red Cross in Jerusalem is seeking a local franchisee for its operations in the city – this is does not appear to be connected to the closure of UNRWA institutions.

In the past, the Red Cross was a very dominant body in the capital. For instance, during the First Intifada, the Red Cross financed convoys of buses for family visits to Arab security prisoners. These buses were then used for other activities such as visits to the Temple Mount for prayers and the like. Since then, the organization's activities, particularly its allocation of financial resources, have decreased, and today it deals mainly with specific cases of prisoners in Israeli prisons. The organization's Jerusalem offices are located in the Shimon HaTzadik neighborhood.

OVERVIEW:

Khaled Sabah



One of the leading terrorists who has already been released from Israeli prison in the current ceasefire deal (because he did not directly murder anyone) is a top leader of Hamas in Jerusalem, named Khaled Sabah. Back in 2019, he was appointed as head of financial matters in Hamas in Jerusalem, and later became the coordinator of Hamas operations in the city. At one point, Sabah the father was arrested, together with one of his sons, for involvement in an incident of family violence, but was released on a paltry bail sum of 5,000 shekels. At least three of his sons are Hamas terrorists themselves; one was freed from Israeli prison in a recent exchange for hostages after he stabbed a Jew in the Old City, and two others are in prison for planning attacks.

In 2022, he traveled to Turkey with his family as "tourists." There he and his sons met with Turkish Hamas leaders of the "Jerusalem Group," who themselves had been released from Israeli prison in the Gilad Shalit deal. His sons received firearm training, and he received a sum of a quarter of a million dollars in cash for his Hamas activities in Jerusalem, including to recruit additional terrorists. For this purpose, Sabah utilized a charity organization named Zakat – he became its Director-General – which had been operating on the Temple Mount before being closed by Israel for its funding of terrorism and incitement. In a police raid of its offices, huge sums of cash were found; it is estimated that it spent nearly 30 million shekels on its activities – some 10% of which was spent by the Sabah family itself.

When Sabah was arrested, nearly the full sum of a quarter-million dollars given him by the Turkish Hamas terrorists was found in his home. He was in direct contact with, and gave money to, Rami Fahouri, a member of the terrorist gang Shabab Al-Aqsa, which was responsible for the murder of policeman Yossi Kirmeh and former Knesset worker Levana Malichi in 2016 in Jerusalem.

The State of Israel failed to bring about his conviction on significant terrorism charges, and he was convicted only of money laundering. For this reason he cannot now be expelled from Israel, and is expected to return safely to his home in southern Jerusalem.

