

# Holocaust Denial in the Middle East:

The Latest Anti-Israel Propaganda Theme



Anti-Defamation League®

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## **HOLOCAUST DENIAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST: The Latest Anti-Israel Propaganda Theme**

A longtime phenomenon in the West, Holocaust denial now regularly occurs throughout the Middle East — in speeches and pronouncements by public figures, in articles and columns by journalists, and in the resolutions of professional organizations. While some voices oppose this deliberate distortion of the historical record, the main tenet of Holocaust denial — that Jews invented the Holocaust story in an attempt to advance their own interests — appears to be an increasingly accepted belief for large numbers of people in Arab and Muslim states. The growing affinity for the Middle East demonstrated by Western Holocaust deniers — hard-pressed by anti-hate legislation in their native countries — underscores the fact that the Middle East is one of the few regions in the world today where governments do not condemn, and sometimes even sponsor, such anti-Semitic propaganda.

### **Holocaust Denial: From West to East**

The effort to deny the basic facts of the Holocaust has its roots not in the Middle East but in Europe and the United States, and it stretches back, if not to the Nazis themselves, then to the years immediately following World War II. Early forms of Holocaust denial took shape in the late 1940s in the writings of Maurice Bardeche, a French fascist; American historian Harry Elmer Barnes, and a French concentration camp survivor, Paul Rassinier. Their ideas over time helped inspire a sizeable literature and a small industry that persist on the fringes of Western culture, especially among neo-Nazis, conspiracy theorists and extreme anti-Semites. The deniers' central idea — that Nazis never attempted to annihilate European Jewry — often takes the form of elaborate, pseudo-scholarly arguments, all founded, ultimately, on notions of a vast international Jewish conspiracy, on belief in a universal Jewish hatred of non-Jews, and on Jewish "rapaciousness."

To make their claims credible, Holocaust deniers are forced to reject enormous volumes of historical evidence from World War II. Records from the period, including thousands of pages of evidence used immediately after the war in the Nuremberg trials, are dismissed as forged by a secret committee; survivors are rejected as greedy charlatans; American GI's who saw the death apparatus in the camps are told that they were duped by the American military itself, which was also complicit in the conspiracy. As for a motive (for why would Jews claim

that millions of their brethren were killed in WWII?): deniers claim that the Jews wanted to defraud the West of billions of dollars in reparations and other payments; to “purchase” world support for the creation of the state of Israel; to demoralize “Aryans” and the West so that the Jews could more easily take over the world.

Since the 1980s, Holocaust denial has become increasingly popular in the Middle East. To some extent, this is due to the efforts of propagandists in the West to export their creed to that region. Especially since the mid-1990s, deniers have been burdened by legal challenges arising from anti-hate legislation in Canada, Europe and Australia, and some have turned to the Middle East — already awash in various anti-Israel and anti-Jewish beliefs — for refuge and support. But indigenous Middle Eastern deniers should not be dismissed as mere dupes of their Western counterparts; in the ongoing propaganda wars of the Middle East, Holocaust denial can be a potent weapon, and it is wielded by numerous politicians, writers and religious authorities to advance their own agendas.

The Arab perception of the Holocaust has never been monolithic, and has often been influenced by the vicissitudes of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The perception that the West created Israel out of guilt over the attempted genocide of the Jews during World War II is widespread in the Middle East; coupled with their hostility towards Israel, this leads many Arabs to complain that they are “paying” for the sins of the West. This opinion was especially widespread among Palestinian opinion-makers — until the breakdown of the 2000 Palestinian-Israeli peace process, when many came to view the recognition of any historical Jewish suffering as a political liability, and the Palestinian Authority-controlled media outlets increased their dissemination of Holocaust denial (see below).

Another, more troubling approach to the Holocaust also exists in the Middle East. Hatred of Israel has led some Arabs to embrace Nazism itself, and to applaud its attempted genocide of the Jews. “[Give] thanks to Hitler,” wrote columnist Ahmad Ragab recently in the Egyptian newspaper, *Al-Akhbar*.<sup>1</sup> “He took revenge on the Israelis in advance, on behalf of the Palestinians. Our one complaint against him was that his revenge was not complete enough.” Nazi-style anti-Semitism has in fact had a long history in the Middle East, beginning as early as 1937, when Nazi leaders conducted propaganda campaigns in the region.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> April 20, 2001. Despite Western criticism, Ragab reiterated his beliefs on April 25, 2001, and May 27, 2001.

<sup>2</sup> The growth of the Jewish population in Palestine, coupled with the importation of European anti-Semitic ideas in the second half of the 19th century (including spurious racial concepts and conspiracy theories involving Jewish greed and power), had created a receptive audience.

The Mufti of Jerusalem during World War II, Hajj Amin al-Husayni, attempted to establish an alliance between Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy and Arab nationalists, for the ultimate purpose of conducting a Holy War of Islam against “international Jewry.”

Several Nazi-influenced political parties arose in the Middle East in the 1930s and 1940s, some of which went on to play important roles in shaping the leadership of Arab nations in the post-World War II period. Egypt, Syria and Iran are widely believed to have harbored Nazi war criminals, though they do not admit doing so. *Mein Kampf* has been published and republished in Arabic since 1963.

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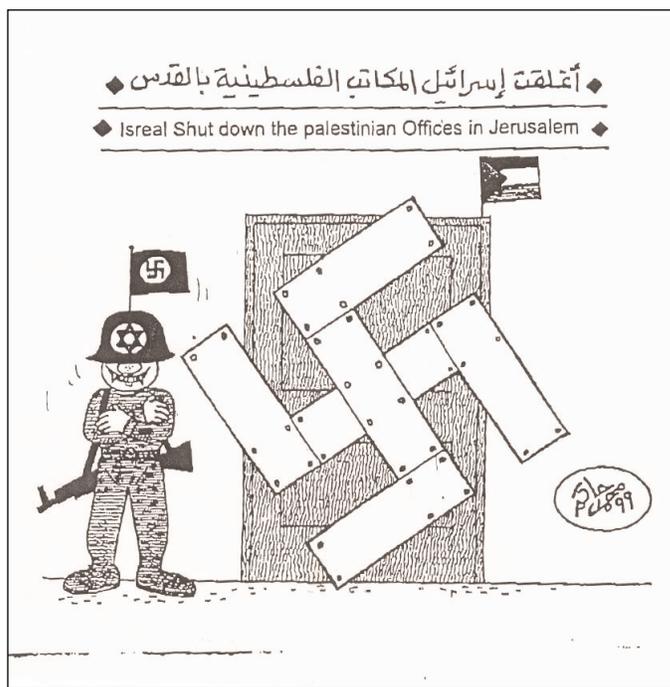
**‘[Give] thanks to Hitler,’ wrote columnist Ahmad Ragab recently in the Egyptian newspaper, *Al-Akbbar*: ‘He took revenge on the Israelis in advance, on behalf of the Palestinians. Our one complaint against him was that his revenge was not complete enough.’**

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But now another approach to the Holocaust has arisen in the Middle East: to deny it ever occurred. In some cases, Holocaust denial is actively sponsored by national governments — by Iran, for example, which has become a sanctuary for Western Holocaust deniers fleeing legal entanglements in their home countries, and whose leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, suggested in 2001 that the statistics of Jewish deaths during the Holocaust had been exaggerated. The numerous expressions of Holocaust denial that have appeared in *Teshreen*, Syria’s main daily newspaper, which is owned and operated by the ruling Baath party, suggests that the Syrian government also condones the propaganda. The same holds true for the Palestinian Authority, whose newspaper, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadeeda*, and television station have frequently denied basic facts of the Holocaust in their reporting.

In other Middle Eastern countries, however, denying or minimizing the extent of the killing of Jews during World War II has been adopted by opposition parties and dissident factions that oppose attempts at normalizing relations — legal, diplomatic, economic — with Israel or the United States. For these factions, Holocaust denial is a tool to discredit their government rivals, who have allegedly been “taken in” by Israeli Holocaust propaganda, and to increase popular hatred of Israel. This is true in Jordan, for example, where anti-normalization organizations sought to hold Holocaust-denial conferences in 2001 but were opposed by the Jordanian government. (Despite government opposition, the strongly anti-Zionist Jordanian Writers’ Association was able to hold a conference; see below.) The Lebanese government also opposed the attempts of several foreign organizations to hold a Holocaust-denial conference in Beirut in 2001.

It is no coincidence that Holocaust denial, which has been embraced by those governments and groups that oppose Israel and Western-style democracy, only rarely appears in countries like Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Middle Eastern governments that are on good terms with the West and are not currently active players in the Arab-Israeli conflict have little reason to disseminate such lies. This underscores the fact that whether it is adopted by neo-Nazis, white supremacists or Middle Eastern anti-Israel parties, Holocaust denial is essentially a propaganda tool. In the Middle East, it has been adopted by those who already sought to portray Jews as hook-nosed, foul-smelling, greedy conspirators intent on world domination by way of ritual murder, the use of chemical weapons, and the deliberate poisoning of Arab populations. For those who circulate these lies, the claim that Jews created the story of the Holocaust in an attempt to defraud the world of billions and elicit support for the creation of Israel is simply another weapon in their propaganda arsenal.



This cartoon likening “Israel” to Nazis was distributed by the Arab Layers Union at the World Conference on Racism’s NGO Forum in Durban, South Africa, in August 2001.

The phenomenon of Arabs embracing Holocaust denial is in some respects puzzling, even perverse. Since the Six-Day War, Arab opinion makers have consistently used World War II-era associations in describing Israel and its actions. Israeli leaders have been compared with Hitler, and its army with the SS; Palestinian refugee camps have been dubbed “concentration camps.” Associating Israel with Nazi Germany in general remains a standard rhetorical device. But, especially of late, propaganda demonizing Israel as “Nazi” competes in Arab media and politics with propaganda that denies the existence of the Nazi Holocaust.

An example of this contradiction — condemning Israel with Nazi labels while denying the worst of the Nazi crimes — can be found in the Syrian daily, *Teshreen*, on January 31, 2000. In the space of a single column, (“The Plague of the Third Millennium”), editorialist

Muhammad Kheir Al-Wadi called on the international community to “adamantly oppose the new Nazi Plague that breeds in Israel,” while claiming that Zionists “invented” the notion of a “Nazi Holocaust in which the Jews suffered.” The intellectual bad faith underlying such a formulation appears to be irrelevant to many Middle Eastern writers.

### 1970s-1990s: First Flickerings

One of the earliest attempts by a Western Holocaust denier to gain entree to the Middle East transpired in the late 1970s, when Ernst Zundel published a four-page pamphlet entitled, “The West, War, and Islam,” and sent it to the heads of state of several Middle Eastern countries. Zundel was born and raised in Germany, but immigrated to Canada in 1957, where he published pro-Nazi propaganda for years under the name Christof Friedrich. “The West, War, and Islam” was a paranoid, fear-mongering essay that attempted to warn the Islamic world of its purported enemies — the most important being the “international Zionists,” who were attempting to “goad the West into a future criminal war” against it.<sup>3</sup> Zundel ended the essay with a plea for funds to help him fight against “Zionist misinformation campaigns” and dispel the myth of the “so-called Holocaust” from which, he claimed, Zionists gain so much of their power. Zundel never indicated whether his essay elicited any responses from those to whom he sent it, but his use of Canadian mail services to disseminate the essay led to his prosecution by the Canadian government.<sup>4</sup>

In 1983, in an early public example of denial from an indigenous Middle Eastern source, a Palestinian named Mahmoud Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen) wrote *The Other Side: The Secret Relationship between Nazism and the Zionist Movement*. In the book, Abbas suggested that the six million figure was “peddled” by the Jews but that in fact “the Jewish victims may number six million or be far fewer, even fewer than one million.” In 1995, reports of the book’s existence reached the Western press, largely because of the public prominence that Abbas had attained as the chief PLO architect of the Oslo peace accords and cosigner of the

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<sup>3</sup> Zundel wrote that these enemies included the “international Zionists” (aided and abetted, however, by “millions of brainwashed Christians” who have fallen prey to “the Zionists’ domination of the mass media”); the “international secret societies” (including “politicized Freemasonry” and its “cover organizations” such as the Kiwani Rotary and Lions Clubs, who together comprise the same “globalist satanic structure” and who are dedicated to the advance of “world crime, corruption, vice, poverty, war, revolution, collapse and chaos”); the “international bankers” (the “focal point for the dark forces arrayed against all mankind”) and the forces of “international communism.”

<sup>4</sup> (See ADL publication, *Hitler’s Apologists* (1994).)

1993 Declaration of Principles in Washington. The California-based Simon Wiesenthal Center publicly called for Abbas to clarify his position on the Holocaust, but no clear statement was forthcoming. In an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv*, Abbas tried to frame the issue in terms of realpolitik. "When I wrote *The Other Side*...we were at war with Israel," Abbas said. "Today I would not have made such remarks...Today there is peace and what I write from now on must help advance the peace process."



From his Web site:  
Ahmed Rami as a  
Moroccan army officer

Less equivocally, in the late 1980s a former Moroccan army officer, Ahmed Rami, began publicly to deny the Holocaust and to disseminate anti-Israel propaganda in Sweden. Rami had fled north after being sentenced to death in Morocco for his role in a 1972 coup attempt against King Hassan II. There he eventually founded "Radio Islam," an anti-Semitic program that also featured attacks on accepted Holocaust history. In October 1990, Swedish courts ruled that Rami and "Radio Islam" were guilty of incitement against Jews; Rami received six months in prison and Radio Islam was shut down. Two years later, Rami was a featured speaker at the annual conference of the Institute for Historical Review, the leading Holocaust-denying organization in the United States. He eventually reestablished Radio Islam as an Internet site, but was again prosecuted in Swedish courts on charges of inciting racial hatred, and was convicted and fined in October 2000. Radio Islam continues to maintain its Web presence from servers in the United States; though it no longer makes audio broadcasts, its site features an extensive collection of Holocaust-denial and other anti-Semitic documents.

Other attempts to undercut or minimize the history of the Holocaust date back to the early 1990s. According to David Bar-Illan ("The PLO Has Not Softened its Propaganda," *The Jerusalem Report*, May 31, 1996), for example, the PLO-affiliated Palestinian Red Crescent published an article in the July 1990 issue of its magazine, *Balsam*, which advanced the now de rigueur claim that Jews concocted "the lie concerning the gas chambers" to gain support for the establishment of Israel. The article also suggested that the Nuremberg trials of Nazi war criminals were set up by "Jews and their friends" for the purpose of establishing the Holocaust as historical fact. Bar-Illan claims that similar articles appeared in the Cyprus-based PLO journal, *El Istiqlal*.

## 1990s-2001: Normalizing Denial

Since the mid-1990s, English-language reporting on the Arab-Israeli conflict and peace process has increased dramatically. Several independent organizations have begun to monitor peace-related developments throughout the region, including the statements, policies, and attitudes of regional governments, politicians and media. The close coverage provided by the Middle East monitoring organizations shows that Holocaust denial is popular in Arab media throughout the Middle East and the Palestinian Authority. This is true even in Egypt and Jordan, the two Arab countries that have taken steps to normalize relations with Israel. Among the newspapers that have consistently featured Holocaust denial are the Jordanian daily, *Al Arab Al-Yom*, the Syrian daily, *Teshreen*, the English-language Iranian *Tehran Times*, and the Palestinian Authority's *Al-Hayat Al-Jadeeda*. Several noted religious leaders in the region have also rejected the facts of the Holocaust, including Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin of Lebanon, Sheik Ikrima Sabri of Jerusalem and Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

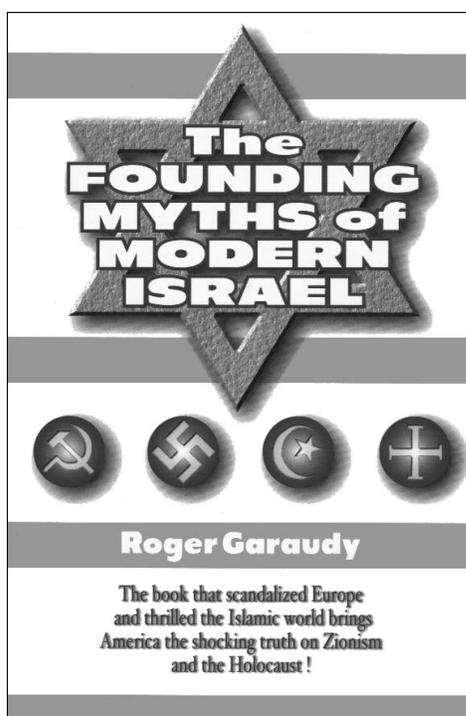
On July 4, 1998, for example, the establishment Jordanian newspaper *Al-Arab Al-Yom* told its readers that “most research prepared by objective researchers” has “proven in a manner beyond the shadow of a doubt” that the Holocaust is “a great lie and a myth that the Zionist mind spread in order to lead the world astray.” Earlier that year (April 27, 1998), the same newspaper had published an article claiming that “there is no proof” that the Holocaust occurred, except for “the conflicting testimonies of a few Jewish ‘survivors.’” On July 14, 1998, the Egyptian newspaper, *Al-Akhbar*, stated that regarding the crematoria remaining at Buchenwald and Auschwitz, “even if these crematoria operated day and night, it would take dozens of years to burn six million people and not merely three years.” A Lebanese politician, Dr. Issam Naaman wrote in a London-Arab newspaper on April 22, 1998, that “Israel prospers and exists by right of the Holocaust lie and the Israeli government’s policy of intentional exaggeration.” Other significant contemporary examples of Holocaust denial in the Middle East can be found in the Appendix.

## Western Deniers in the Middle East

Several Holocaust deniers have turned to the Arab world for help when facing prosecution in various countries for illegal activities. Wolfgang Fröhlich, an Austrian engineer who testified on behalf of Swiss denier Jurgen Graf in 1998 about the impossibility of Zyklon-B gas being used for executing humans, sought refuge in Iran in May 2000, claiming that his arrest by Austrian police was imminent. He reportedly still resides in that country. Graf himself, who

was convicted of inciting racial hatred by promulgating Holocaust denial in Switzerland in 1998, also resides in Iran, to which he fled rather than face a 15-month jail term. According to the Institute for Historical Review, Graf is presently living in Tehran “as a guest of Iranian scholars.” Since his arrival in Iran, Graf has authored an online book entitled *Holocaust Revisionism and its Political Consequences*. The relationship between either Fröhlich or Graf and the Iranian government is not clear.

The best known flare-up of Holocaust denial in the Middle East occurred in response to the trial of Roger Garaudy in France in 1998. Garaudy was charged with violating a 1990 French law that makes it illegal to deny historical events that have been designated as “crimes against humanity,” and with inciting racial hatred. These charges stemmed from his 1995 book, *The Founding Myths of Modern Israel* (*Les mythes fondateurs de la politique israélienne*), in which he stated that there was no Nazi program of genocide during World War II, and that Jews essentially fabricated the Holocaust for their financial and political gain. Garaudy was convicted on these charges in 1998.



Before, during and after the trial, he was hailed as a hero throughout the countries of the Middle East — the trial was covered by media from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. Formerly Roman Catholic and Communist, Garaudy had converted to Islam in 1982, and married a Jerusalem-born Palestinian woman, but this alone did not explain the outpouring of support he received; the “revisionist” message of his book — whose Arabic translation was a best-seller in many of the region’s countries — clearly resonated across the region. The former president of Iran, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, announced in a sermon on Radio Tehran that his personal scholarship on the subject had convinced him that “Hitler had only killed 20,000 Jews and not six million,” and added that “Garaudy’s crime derives from the doubt he cast on Zionist propaganda.” The main establishment news-

paper in Egypt, *Al-Ahram*, defended Garaudy in a March 14, 1998, article that argued that there is “no trace of the gas chambers” that are supposed to have existed in Germany, and that six million Jews could not have been killed in the Holocaust because “the Jews of Germany numbered less than two million” at the time. Numerous professional and social organizations throughout the region issued statements supporting Garaudy as well, including the Palestinian Journalists’

Syndicate, the Palestinian Writers Association, the Jordanian Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Qatar Women's Youth Organization, the Federation of Egyptian Writers and the Union of Arab Artists.

Support for Garaudy did not end merely with words. Seven members of the Beirut Bar Association volunteered to defend the writer in France, and Egypt's Arab Lawyers' Union also dispatched a five-

man legal team to Paris in Garaudy's support. The United Arab Emirates daily, *Al-Haleej*, was inundated with contributions and messages of support for Garaudy after it published an appeal on his behalf. The most surprising contribution came from the wife of United Arab Emirates leader Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan al-Nahayan, who gave the equivalent of \$50,000, in cash, to cover the maximum fine that Garaudy would be required to pay if found guilty.

Possibly inspired by the outpouring of support for Garaudy, other Holocaust deniers have also cultivated contacts in the Muslim world. Mark Weber, the director of the Southern California-based Institute for Historical Review, the largest Holocaust-denial organization in the United States, has reportedly been interviewed several times on Iranian state radio (IRIB—Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting). The *Tehran Times*, which published excerpts of one of the interviews, quoted Weber as saying that World War II air photos of Auschwitz “inspired” him to “search all the archives” in the pursuit of the truth of the Holocaust story. “At last I came to the conclusion,” he said, “that the Holocaust had been exaggerated and that the Zionists enjoy too many political advantages.” IRIB ran Weber's interviews on its English-language segments, and also interviewed Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel in German and Ahmed Rami in Arabic.

Bradley Smith, who spent much of the 1990s trying to place Holocaust-denying advertisements in college newspapers, reported in the June 2000 issue of his newsletter, *Smith's Report*, that his secretary, Audrey Jones, had attempted to establish contacts with Arab organizations:

A few days ago Audrey suggested that she begin to try to network among our Arab friends. I said okay, why not? We might find one who has some money and will let go of it, and we might get some interesting help in other ways. She has a lot of things to do but each day she would try to network with an Arab organization. On the fifth day she got her first response...

The response, as reported by Smith, was not overwhelming; it amounted to a Virginia-based Arab organization placing a link to Smith's Web site on its own Web site. (“Contributions?”

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**The former president of Iran, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, announced in a sermon on Radio Tehran that his personal scholarship on the subject had convinced him that ‘Hitler had only killed 20,000 Jews and not six million.’**

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Smith mused. “That’s in the laps of the gods.”) Nor has Smith reported on any further connections between his own Committee for Open Debate of the Holocaust (CODOH) and Arab organizations. Audrey Jones, however, has since struck out on her own. Using the pseudonym, MacKenzie Paine, she mixes Holocaust denial and anti-Israel rhetoric in essays that she sends out to her “Bully Buster” listserv, which she claims has several hundred subscribers. She frequently includes reports from a Jordanian man, Ibrahim Alloush, on his efforts to spread Holocaust denial in his native country.

### **Banned: The 2001 IHR Conference**

Yet another example of the growing ties between Western Holocaust deniers and the Arab world came to light in December 2000, when the Institute for Historical Review announced that its 14th revisionist conference would take place in Beirut, Lebanon, in early April 2001. In previous years the IHR held its conventions closer to home, in places like Orange County, California, and Los Angeles. In another break with IHR tradition, the Beirut conference would have a theme: *Revisionism and Zionism*. IHR was aided by its Swiss counterpart,



*Association Vérité et Justice*, founded by Jurgen Graf. Scheduled speakers were to include Roger Garaudy, Robert Faurisson, Fredrick Toben and Mark Weber; speeches would be given in Arabic, French and English. IHR also pointedly announced that no one — including journalists — whose passport contained an Israeli entrance or exit stamp would be permitted to attend.

Soon after the conference was announced, several Jewish organizations voiced their concern about the possibility that the conference would lead to increased anti-Semitism in the region. The Simon Wiesenthal Center went so far as to urge the Lebanese government to intervene in the matter, saying that in the interests of regional peace, the conference must not go on. “There is a wide range of viewpoints as to how peace can be reached in your region,” the Wiesenthal Center wrote to the Lebanese ambassador, “but certainly the introduction and acceptance of Holocaust

denial into the mainstream of Lebanon and the Arab world is not one of them. It will only poison hearts and minds of the uninformed and further fan the flames of hate and mistrust in the region.” Others also urged the Lebanese government to ban the conference, including, according to reports in the Arab press, the U.S. State Department. French news organizations announced that 14 independent Arab intellectuals had also denounced the conference, including Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, Lebanese writer Elias Khoury and Palestinian-American professor Edward Said.

By the end of March 2001, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri had announced that his government would not permit the conference to take place. “Lebanon has more important things to do than holding conferences that hurt its international standing and smear its name,” al-Hariri said. News of the ban was applauded by Western politicians and writers, many of whom expressed the hope that the ban presaged growing cooperation between Israel and Arab countries. On March 30, IHR and *Vérité et Justice* officially announced that the conference was called off, though some free-speech advocates in the West decried the decision.

The cancellation inspired another group, the anti-normalization Jordanian Writers’ Association, to host a conference of its own, whose theme was described as “What Happened to the Revisionist History conference in Beirut?” Scheduled speakers included Lebanese, Jordanian and Syrian writers, one of whom pledged to read the paper Robert Faurisson had intended to give at the Beirut conference. Though the Jordanian authorities caused the postponement of JWA’s conference at least twice (while the Jordanian king was visiting the United States), the conference eventually took place in Amman on May 13, 2001. According to one of the organizers, Ibrahim Alloush, the participants resolved to condemn the 14 Arab intellectuals who had opposed the Beirut conference, and to establish an “Arab Committee of Historical Revisionism.”

## **Conclusion**

Although Holocaust denial has traditionally been limited to the fringe movements of Western neo-Nazis and white supremacists, it has in recent years found a new home in the Middle East. There, the potent anti-Semitic assumptions that Holocaust denial is founded upon — most importantly the myth of the world Jewish conspiracy — make it a political weapon of choice for those who would increase their own influence at the expense of Israel and regional stability. Whether wielded by governments, opposition parties, professional organizations or journalists, Holocaust denial in the Middle East is a troubling and still-evolving phenomenon that bears continued watching.

## APPENDIX

The following is a partial listing of expressions of Holocaust denial in major Arab media:

On August 25, 1997, a Palestinian Authority cultural affairs television program featured an interview with Hassan al-Agha, a Palestinian author and professor at the Islamic University in Gaza City:

*Moderator:* It is well known that every year the Jews exaggerate what the Nazis did to them. They claim there were six million killed, but precise scientific research demonstrates that there were no more than 400,000. Has the complex which the Jews have as a result of the Nazis' actions created within them psychological burdens which they are now releasing against the Palestinians?

*Al-Agha:* The truth is I do not think so. Psychological baggage after 40 or 50 years....I am skeptical....But I do think that we are talking about an investment. They have profited materially, spiritually, politically and economically from the talk about the Nazi killings. This investment is favorable to them and they view it as a profitable activity so they inflate the number of victims all the time. In another 10 years, I do not know what number they will reach....As you know, when it comes to economics and investments, the Jews have been very experienced ever since the days of *The Merchant of Venice*.

David Bar-Illan, a spokesman for then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, released the transcript of the program to Western reporters, who covered the incident in English media. Several days later, Radwan Abu Ayash, head of the Palestinian Broadcast Corporation, announced that Al-Agha's remarks did not reflect the opinion of the Palestinian Authority, but defended them as "freedom of expression."

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"Israel prospers and exists by right of the Holocaust lie and the Israeli government's policy of intentional exaggeration...the glue which holds the Jews together is the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust and the thousands of Jews who were destroyed in it..."

Lebanese writer and politician Dr. Issam Naaman,  
writing in the London Arab newspaper, *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*.  
April 22, 1998  
(translated by the Antisemitism Monitoring Forum)

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“The entire Jewish State is built on the great Holocaust lie...What is the proof that Hitler and the Nazis murdered six million Jews in gas chambers? There is no proof at all, except for the conflicting testimonies of a few Jewish ‘survivors.’ If six million Jews had been burned, mountains of ashes would have been created, but we have never heard of this. There are also no ovens that are capable of burning millions without someone noticing the smell. There is no proof that such a number of Jews lived in Germany in the 1930s. Their number was less than four million and half of them fled to the Soviet Union during the war....

“Hitler did not kill the Jews because they were Jews, but rather because they betrayed Germany. In any case, he murdered 300,000 Jews and that is the real number that he killed. At this opportunity mention should be made of the fact that the Jewish State murdered a larger number of Palestinians and Arabs over 50 years. The Holocaust is not what happened to the Jews in Germany, but rather the crime of the establishment of the State of Israel on the ruins of the Palestinian people.”

Mahmoud Al-Khatib, writing in the Jordanian newspaper, *Al-Arab Al-Yom*  
April 27, 1998  
(translated by the Antisemitism Monitoring Forum)

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“The Catholic Church in particular and the church in general should not be made to apologize to the Zionists and Jews for the Hitlerian legend...[the Holocaust is] a tissue of lies, as has been revealed by Western scientists, and it is being used to blackmail the world.”

Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin, head of Lebanon’s Shiite Council, as reported by the Agence France-Presse, March 22, 1998. He was responding to the Vatican’s release of “We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah,” a document that accepted the culpability of some Christians for the perpetration of the Holocaust.

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“Everywhere, the Jews have been the subjects of hatred and disdain because they control most of the economic resources upon which the livelihoods of many people are dependent. The clearest example of this is Shakespeare’s play, *The Merchant of Venice*, in which the merchant Shylock represents the image of the greedy, cunning, evil, and despised Jews. And yet, how have the Jews succeeded in brainwashing American and European public opinion and changing the image of the Jew to that of a wise, brave, ingenious and creative person to whom the world’s eyes are turned?

“There is no alternative but to say that the success of the Jews is not coincidental but rather the result of long years of planning and a great investment of effort in order to obtain their wretched control over the world’s media...When Nazi persecutions of the Jews began, the winds began blowing in their favor. What Hitler did to the Jews actually exposed the Jewish plot. World public opinion, manipulated by the Jews, took advantage of these [persecutions], disseminating stories about a collective massacre. They concocted horrible stories of gas chambers which Hitler, they claimed used to burn them alive. The press overflowed with pictures of Jews being gunned down by Hitler’s machine guns or being pushed into gas chambers. The [press] focused on [suffering] women, children and elderly people in order to rouse empathy and claim reparations, donations, and grants from around the world.

“The truth is that such persecution was a malicious fabrication by the Jews. It is a myth which they named ‘The Holocaust’ in order to rouse empathy. Credible historians challenge this Jewish [myth], calling for [more] persuasive evidence to be presented. The Los Angeles Historical Society declared that it would grant US\$50,000 to anyone who could prove Jews had been gassed to death.<sup>5</sup> Jews exerted intense pressure and cast accusations of anti-Semitism everywhere in order to silence this challenge. Even if Hitler’s onslaught facilitated the persecution of Jews to some degree, Jews certainly benefited from its aftermath...”

From “Jewish Control of the World Media” by Seif Ali Al-Jarwan,  
writing in the Palestinian newspaper, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadeeda*.

July 2, 1998

(translated by MEMRI)

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“Most research prepared by objective researchers in connection with what is called the Jewish Holocaust has proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Holocaust is a great lie and a myth that the Zionist mind spread in order to lead the world astray...”

From “Their Holocaust and Our Cemetery,”  
in the Jordanian newspaper, *Al-Arab Al-Yom*.

July 4, 1998

(translated by the Antisemitism Monitoring Forum)

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<sup>5</sup> A reference to a 1980 challenge issued by the Institute for Historical Review, a California-based Holocaust denial organization. Holocaust survivor Mel Mermelstein responded to the challenge to submit proof that Jews had been gassed at Auschwitz; when the IHR failed to comply with its promised terms, Mermelstein filed suit to collect the reward. In July 1985, the lawsuit was settled in Mermelstein’s favor, with the approval of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

“The Jews invented the myth of mass extermination and the fabrication that 6 million Jews were put to death in Nazi ovens. This was done with the aim of motivating the Jews to emigrate to Israel and to blackmail the Germans for money as well as to achieve world support for the Jews. Similarly, Zionism based itself on this myth to establish the State of Israel....I continue to believe that the Holocaust is an Israeli myth which was invented to blackmail the world.”

From “The Holocaust, Netanyahu and Me,”  
in the Egyptian newspaper, *Al-Akhbar*,  
September 25, 1998  
(translated by the Antisemitism Monitoring Forum)

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“The campaign of Jewish blackmail began in Switzerland and later extended to Germany, Romania and other Western countries. This raises many legitimate doubts concerning everything connected with the myth of the Nazi ovens used for the destruction of the Jews. Many authors and researchers around the world have concluded that all the stories about this matter were exaggerated and fabricated, since many Jewish officers served in the Nazi command, among whom several were close to Hitler. It is therefore impossible that any nation in the world would be compelled to pay reparations to fictitious victims of dubious tragedies...”

Damascus Radio, November 7, 1998  
(translated by the Antisemitism Monitoring Forum)

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Clue: Jewish center for eternalizing the Holocaust and the lies.

Answer: Yad VaShem (the official Israeli Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem)

From the February 18, 1999, crossword puzzle of Palestinian Authority newspaper,  
*Al-Hayat Al-Jadeeda*.  
(translated by USA Today, April 4, 2001)

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“Zionism hides the dark chapters of its black history. It invents stories regarding the Nazi Holocaust in which the Jews suffered and inflates them to astronomic proportions...”

“The problem is not in the Zionist ambition to forge history, but rather in the Zionist organizations’ ambitions to revive their distorted version of history and use it to deceive international public opinion, win its empathy, and blackmail it....”

“Israel and the Zionist organizations strive for two goals: first, to be granted more funds from Germany and European states and institutions; second, they want to use the legend of the Holocaust as a sword hanging over the necks of all those who oppose Zionism who are accused of anti-Semitism....”

“The Zionists try to strangle any voice that reveals the truth... However, these voices [Holocaust deniers like Roger Garaudy and David Irving who were mentioned in the text] and other such voices have already left their marks on European public opinion and media who have started to raise questions that refresh the memory and establish the truth that was distorted by the Zionists....”

“This stream [of Holocaust deniers] has cast fear in the hearts of the Zionist movement that quickly convened a conference on the Holocaust in Stockholm in order to turn the Zionist lies into common knowledge....”

“The Zionist effort does not stop at paralyzing human memory, it also tries to shatter logic and distort reality. Israel, that presents itself as the heir of Holocaust victims, has committed and still commits much more terrible crimes than those committed by the Nazis. The Nazis did not expel a whole nation nor buried people and prisoners alive, as the Zionists did.”

From “The Plague of the Third Millennium,” by editor Muhammad Kheir al-Wadi,  
*Teshreen* (Syria’s leading daily newspaper), January 31, 2000  
(translated by various news agencies)

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“There have been many massacres in the world. Why is this Holocaust in particular more important?...When it comes to our cause, nobody pays attention — whether it is the Crusader massacres against Muslims or the massacres against Palestinians committed by Israelis. And we don’t keep using and using these massacres to remind the world what we are owed.”

“I never deny that the Holocaust happened, but we believe the number of 6 million is exaggerated. The Jews are using this issue, in many ways, also to blackmail the Germans financially. The Holocaust is the reason that there isn’t a bigger noise against Israel as an occupying force. The Holocaust is protecting Israel.”

“It’s certainly not our fault if Hitler hated the Jews. Weren’t they hated pretty much everywhere?”

Sheik Ikrima Sabri, Mufti of Jerusalem  
*The New York Times*, March 26, 2000

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A conservative Iranian newspaper insisted Sunday it had proved the Holocaust was a “fraud” after a British MP reportedly protested the paper’s articles about the World War II genocide.

The *Tehran Times* said its “thorough research” had “proved that the issue of (the) Holocaust is nothing but a fraud” and said it was “determined to reveal the facts... in order to defuse the plots of the Zionists.”

Citing the official IRNA news agency, it said British MP Louise Ellman had filed a complaint with Iran’s ambassador to London, Gholamreza Ansari, about a recent editorial in the paper that said the Holocaust was “one of the greatest frauds of the 20th century.”

The paper said Sunday that Israel, using the Holocaust and “similar excuses,” had “made the West their hostage to blackmail the governments in that part of the world.”

Agence France-Presse, May 14, 2000

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“There is evidence which shows that Zionists had close relations with German Nazis and exaggerated statistics on Jewish killings. There is even evidence on hand that a large number of non-Jewish hooligans and thugs of Eastern Europe were forced to migrate to Palestine as Jews. The purpose was to install in the heart of the Islamic world an anti-Islamic state under the guise of supporting the victims of racism and to create a rift between the East and the West of the Islamic world.”

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei  
*The Jerusalem Post*, April 25, 2001

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There is evidence which shows that Zionists had close relations with German Nazis and exaggerated statistics on Jewish killings. There is even evidence on hand that a large number of non-Jewish hooligans and thugs of Eastern Europe were forced to migrate to Palestine as Jews. The purpose was to install in the heart of the Islamic world an anti-Islamic state under the guise of supporting the victims of racism and to create a rift between East and the West of the Islamic world.

*Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei*  
*The Jerusalem Post, April 25, 2001*