

Media “Misleading” on Palestinian Prisoners

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ALLEGATIONS regarding Israeli treatment of Palestinian prisoners - a group that includes many convicted terrorists guilty of murder, bombings of buses and cafes, and other atrocities - gain international visibility through hunger strikes.

In the South African media, and in articles by Shannon Ebrahim, in particular, the false comparisons between convicted Palestinian terrorists and many non-violent South African prisoners at Robben Island during Apartheid South Africa are very misleading. The wave of accusations against Israel began last month, when the PLO marked the annual "day of solidarity with prisoners". This day was originally started to celebrate the release of a Fatah terrorist in exchange for a kidnapped civilian.

The current hunger strike follows in that tradition, with the participation of members of terrorist organisations such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Islamic Jihad, and Fatah terror groups.

As in previous years, a - number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) joined the public relations campaign, promoting the hunger strikers while failing to acknowledge the reasons for their jail sentences - convictions for violent crimes.

Addameer, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Defence for Children International-Palestine, War on Want, American Muslims for Palestine, and Amnesty International issued statements of support and condemning Israel.

The NGOs leading this False analogies with apartheid SA an affront media campaign also support discriminatory BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) against Israel, and have alleged ties to terror groups.

A primary example is Addameer (funded by Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and others), an official affiliate of the PFLP terrorist organisation. Addameer's media campaign consisted of infographics and a social media campaign urging people to engage in BDS and organise protests and demonstrations against Israel. In addition, Human Rights Watch's new Israel and Palestine director and other NGO activists, claiming to promote universal human rights, retweeted the PFLP affiliate's materials.

Other PFLP-linked NGOs intensely engaged in promoting "Prisoner's Day" and the hunger strike include the Alternative Information Centre (funded by Sweden, France, and the EU). Instead of promoting peaceful dialogue and co-existence, these NGOs are exacerbating tensions by advocating on behalf of convicted terrorists and calling for the immoral international isolation of Israel.

False analogies comparing the status of Palestinian prisoners convicted of violent acts to the brutalities suffered by the black population during apartheid in South African desecrate the memory of its victims and are an affront to those that suffered from institutionalised racist discrimination.