26 Muslim Scholars Denounce "Fascist" Israel, Claim Jerusalem Will Be Capital of a New Caliphate

by Hugh Fitzgerald



A group of Muslim "scholars" in the U.K. has issued a joint letter condemning what they call "fascist" Israel. <u>Breitbart has the story</u>:

Twenty-six "Muslim scholars" based in Britain have called for "fascist" Israel to be returned to the Arabs, and expressed their hope that "Jerusalem will be the capital of the Islamic Caliphate when it returns, Allah willing."

The word "fascist" is here thrown out like so much confetti; it demands to be defined. The essence of fascism includes an authoritarian or despotic central government, contempt for electoral democracy, militaristic nationalism, hatred of political and cultural liberalism, a belief in a natural social hierarchy and the rule of elites. There are "fascist" or quasi-fascist states in the Middle East, run by and for members of a particular group or party, along with oldfashioned monarchies (as Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates), and authoritarian regimes (as in Egypt and Turkey). Fascist rule is often accompanied a cult of personality, celebrating The Infallible Leader, as happened with Mussolini, Hitler, and Franco. Fascist states in the Middle East include Syria, under the rule of the Assad family and their instrument, the secular Ba'ath Party. The Ba'ath Party served to disguise the Alawites, who, though they constituted only 12% of the Syrian population, under the Assad family's rule maintained an iron grip on the country. Another fascist state, in the true sense, was Iraq under Saddam Hussein; Saddam had his own version of the Ba'ath Party, which was officially open to all — Arabs and Kurds, Shi'a and Sunnis, even Christians. But Ba'athist rule in Iraq was meant to disguise the Sunni Arab despotism that Saddam had created; some joked sardonically that he imposed not just rule by Sunni Arabs, but confined that rule to Sunni Arabs from Tikrit, Saddam's home town. Since Sunni Arabs were only 19% of the Iraqi population, it was useful for Saddam, in the same way as it was for Assad in Syria, to maintain the fiction that Ba'athists, of all ethnicity and sects, and not Sunni Arabs, ruled. Tariq Aziz, his Christian foreign minister, was particularly useful, as a way of suggesting the Ba'athist regime was truly open to all.

Another fascist state in the Middle East is Iran, which has been ruled since 1979 by theocratic fascists who brook no dissent, torture, jail, and murder political opponents, and hold farcical elections where the candidates for the Majlis, which is a merely consultative body, are pre-selected by the

clerical Council of Guardians. There are no competing political parties, the decisions of the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, are final, and a cult of personality offers limitless reverence for the late Ayatollah Khomeini. Endless demonstrations whip up frenzied crowds, a Middle Eastern version of the Nuremberg rallies, with flag burnings and endless cries of "Death to America!," "Death to England!" (an historic enemy), and of course, "Death to Israel!"

There are "fascist" states in the Middle East — Syria, Iran, Iraq under Saddam; there are monarchies/emirates/sheikdoms, as in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, the Emirates, and Jordan; there are authoritarian regimes, as Turkey and Egypt. But Israel is not among them. Israel turns out to be not just a full-bore democracy, but the only true democracy that exists between Europe and India.

Israel displays none of the characteristics of a fascist state. It is, in fact, the quintessential anti-fascist state. It's a rip-roaring, freewheeling, and wide open electoral democracy, with no holds barred between candidates and parties. To call it a "vibrant" democracy hardly does it justice. The press is not just free, but at times positively outrageous in its attacks on Israel's leaders and policies. For examples, just read the news daily Ha'aretz, where no Israeli politician is safe. All citizens of Israel - Jews, Muslim and Christian Arabs, and those who are neither Arabs nor Jews — have the same political rights. They all vote, they can all run for office. There is an all-Arab political party, and Arabs also belong to mainly Jewish parties, including those on the nationalist right. There are Arabs who sit in the Knesset where as they can, if they wish, rant freely against the Jewish state. There are Arabs who sit on the Supreme Court, who serve in the diplomatic corps, representing Israel's interests abroad, and who attain high positions in the Israeli bureaucracy.

Israel's politicians, far from exhibiting any authoritarian

impulses, are constantly having to justify their policies and themselves; in the kaleidoscope of Israeli politics, there is constant realignment of political forces; today's political enemy may be tomorrow's political ally, and vice-versa. One-party rule is an impossibility. Netanyahu has held the post of Prime Minister longer than anyone, but he is hardly capable of authoritarian rule; he has to fight anew for his political life every day; his power is challenged not just by those in rival parties, but by those in his own party. He, and his family (his wife Sara, his son Yair) are subject to personal attacks in the media that in a "fascist'"state would be impossible.

Israel has a strong military, but there is no militarism. There are none of those bemedalled generals one finds in other militaries; Israel's military insignia are modest; there is no threat of military coups; there is respect for, but no heroworship of, military men, no parades of goose-stepping soldiers or displays of missiles on the North Korean or Russian or Iranian model. Israelis have a quiet confidence in their armed forces, a mainly citizen's army that consists both of draftees and a smaller cadre of professionals. In the Israeli military, the soldiers are encouraged to challenge, should they find the performance of their officers wanting. A more egalitarian force can scarcely be imagined. And, of course, there is no Supreme Leader in Israel held up as infallible, as befits a "fascist" state. No Hitler, no Mussolini, no Ayatollah Khomeini or Saddam Hussein..

For those "26 Islamic scholars" in the U.K., Israel is "fascist" not because it meets the defining criteria, but because that word had become an all-purpose term of political opprobrium. It is one of the two words — the other is "racist" — that signifies irredeemable political evil. Naturally these Muslim scholars think it should be applied to that mighty empire that threatens all of its neighbors, the Jewish state of Israel. The Qur'an depicts the Jews (Robert Spencer has

compiled the list) as "inveterately evil and bent on destroying the wellbeing of the Muslims. They are the strongest of all people in enmity toward the Muslims (5:82); as fabricating things and falsely ascribing them to Allah (2:79; 3:75, 3:181); claiming that Allah's power is limited (5:64); loving to listen to lies (5:41); disobeying Allah and never observing his commands (5:13); disputing and quarreling (2:247); hiding the truth and misleading people (3:78); staging rebellion against the prophets and rejecting their quidance (2:55); being hypocritical (2:14, 2:44); giving preference to their own interests over the teachings of Muhammad (2:87); wishing evil for people and trying to mislead them (2:109); feeling pain when others are happy or fortunate (3:120); being arrogant about their being Allah's beloved people (5:18); devouring people's wealth by subterfuge (4:161); slandering the true religion and being cursed by Allah (4:46); killing the prophets (2:61); being merciless and heartless (2:74); never keeping their promises or fulfilling their words (2:100); being unrestrained in committing sins (5:79); being cowardly (59:13-14); being miserly (4:53); being transformed into apes and pigs for breaking the Sabbath (2:63-65; 5:59-60; 7:166); and more."

Naturally the state of such wicked people as the Jews could not possibly be a thriving democracy (though Muslims, it must be recalled, are unimpressed with democracy). Israel can only be a "fascist state."

5Pillars describes itself as "the largest regulated Muslim news site in Europe & the Americas" — but has been described by Lead Commissioner for the Commission for Countering Extremism Sara Khan as "Islamist" — published the open letter on its website, and invited "Any Muslim scholar who would like to sign this open statement" to get in touch.

The statement, which 5Pillars say was "spearheaded by Shaykh Asrar Rashid from Birmingham", asserts that the signatories "do not recognize 'Israel' as a legitimate state."

So what else is new? Since 1948, the Arab and Muslim states have refused to recognize Israel "as a legitimate state." Only two Arab states, Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, signed peace agreements recognizing Israel, in order to receive certain benefits (for Egypt, that meant the return of the entire Sinai; for Jordan, it included agreements to help the economy through trade and tourism, and included debt forgiveness from the U.S.).

"'Israel' must return the entirety of Palestinian land," they demand.

The Jews in the Land of Israel were making their own colossal history on their own tiny land, for several thousand years before islamized Arabs came out of the Arabian desert, beginning in the mid-7th century, to conquer most of the Middle East, including the territory of the Jews. For those Muslim Arabs, the real history of Palestine began only upon their arrival. Everything before then belonged to the pre-Islamic world of the Jahiliyya, or Time of Ignorance, a period of little worth and no interest to its conquerors, who possessed the only truth worth having, the truth of Islam.

The "Palestinian land" they now demand back was never possessed by the "Palestinian people." Before the Jewish state was declared, Palestine was controlled by Great Britain as holder of the Mandate for Palestine, and before Great Britain, for four centuries Palestine was ruled by the Ottoman Turks, and before the Turks, the rulers were the Mamluks from Egypt. Before the Mamluks, the area formed part of, successively, the Rashidun, Umayyad, and Abbasid Caliphates. There never was a separate "Palestinian [Arab] land" nor, as many now realize, was there even a separate "Palestinian people" until they were invented, for propagandistic reasons, after the Six-Day War.

Not content with describing Israel as a "fascist state," the 26 "Muslim scholars" in the U.K. made the following claim:

"Palestinians have no link to the holocaust [sic] and the crimes of the Second World War against the Jewish people."

"Palestinians have no link to the holocaust"? Let's see. The indisputable leader of the "Palestinians" in the inter-war period and during World War II was Haj Amin el Husseini, the Mufti of Jerusalem. He was in up to his neck in collaborating with, approving of, even encouraging, the Nazi mass-murder of Jews; he urged the Nazis to prevent any Jews from escaping to Palestine from Europe. A friend of Eichmann and Himmler, el-Husseini helped to plan the Nazi genocide. Robert Spencer has the horrifying details, of which very few in the West seem aware:

From 1941 to 1945, al-Husseini lived in Berlin, where he became close friends with Adolf Eichmann and Heinrich Himmler, and met with Adolf Hitler. Eichmann's assistant, Dieter Wisliczeny, testified at the Nuremberg Trials that the mufti had been a central figure in the planning of the genocide of the Jews:

The Grand Mufti has repeatedly suggested to the Nazi authorities—including Hitler, von Ribbentrop and Himmler—the extermination of European Jewry. He considered this a comfortable solution to the Palestine problem....The Mufti was one of the initiators of the systematic extermination of European Jewry and had been a collaborator and adviser of Eichmann and Himmler in the execution of this plan. He was one of Eichmann's best friends and had constantly incited him to accelerate the extermination measures. I heard him say, accompanied by Eichmann, he had visited incognito the gas chambers of Auschwitz."

Eichmann denied this, but in any case, there is no doubt of the fact that the mufti was openly calling for the mass murder of Jews. In a broadcast on July 7, 1942, the mufti exhorted Muslims in Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Palestine to kill Jews, basing his exhortation on a flagrant lie: A large number of Jews residing in Egypt and a number of Poles, Greeks, Armenians and Free French, have been issued with revolvers and ammunition in order to help them against the Egyptians at the last moment, when Britain is forced to evacuate Egypt....

The Mufti's broadcast continued:

You must kill the Jews, before they open fire on you. Kill the Jews, who have appropriated your wealth and who are plotting against your security. Arabs of Syria, Iraq and Palestine, what are you waiting for? The Jews are planning to violate your women, to kill your children and to destroy you. According to the Muslim religion, the defense of your life is a duty which can only be fulfilled by annihilating the Jews. This is your best opportunity to get rid of this dirty race, which has usurped your rights and brought misfortune and destruction on your countries. Kill the Jews, burn their property, destroy their stores, annihilate these base supporters of British imperialism. Your sole hope of salvation lies in annihilating the Jews before they annihilate you.

Al-Husseini also actively intervened on numerous occasions to ensure that Jews were not deported from Europe—thereby ensuring that extermination was the only option left for the fanatical Nazi Jew-haters. As late as July 25, 1944, al-Husseini wrote to Joachim von Ribbentrop, the German minister for foreign affairs:

I have previously called the attention of your Excellency to the constant attempts of the Jews to emigrate from Europe in order to reach Palestine and asked your Excellency to undertake the necessary steps so as to prevent the Jews from emigrating. I had also sent you a letter, under date of June 5, 1944, in regard to the plan for an exchange of Egyptians living in Germany with

Palestinian Germans, in which I asked you to exclude the Jews from this plan of exchange. I have, however, learned that the Jews did depart on July 2, 1944, and I am afraid that further groups of Jews will leave for Palestine from Germany and France to be exchanged for Palestinian Germans....It is for this reason that I ask your Excellency to do all that is necessary to prohibit the emigration of Jews to Palestine, and in this way your Excellency would give a new practical example of the policy of the naturally allied and friendly Germany towards the Arab Nation.

Al-Husseini was a committed collaborator with the Nazis, traveling from Berlin to Bosnia in 1943 to raise up a Muslim SS company, which was responsible for killing ninety percent of the Jews in Bosnia, as well as for the burning of numerous Serbian churches. He noted the convergence of the goals of Islamic jihad and those of the Nazis. "It is the duty of Muhammadans in general and Arabs in particular to...drive all Jews from Arab and Muhammadan countries.... Germany is also struggling against the common foe who oppressed Arabs and Muhammadans in their different countries. It has very clearly recognized the Jews for what they are and resolved to find a definitive solution [endgültige Lösung] for the Jewish danger that will eliminate the scourge that Jews represent in the world."

In a 1944 broadcast, he made that "definitive solution" explicit: "Kill the Jews wherever you find them. This pleases God, history, and religion." His call was an echo of the Qur'an's call to "kill them wherever you find them" (2:191, 4:89) and to "kill the idolaters wherever you find them." (9:5)

When those 26 Islamic scholars claim that the Palestinians had nothing to do with the Holocaust, they are flatly, grotesquely, contradicting the facts. They have ignored the

words and deeds of the most important Palestinian leader, Haj Amin el Husseini, the admirer of Adolf Hitler, the good friend of Adolf Eichmann and Heinrich Himmler, and a direct participant in the Final Solution, who raised an S.S. brigade responsible for killing 90% of the Jews in Bosnia. Identified by the Allies as a war criminal, El Husseini only escaped punishment by making it to Cairo, where he was protected by the Muslim Brotherhood, and continued to call for Jihad against the Jews. He died, unrepentant and unpunished, in Cairo in 1974. This leader of the "Palestinians" was not just "linked" to the Nazi murders, but was as significant a promoter of the Holocaust as any non-German.

Repeating their theme of Israel as a "fascist" state, the "26 Muslim scholars" in the U.K. who recently denounced Israel ended their letter with this:

We condemn the continued fascist Zionist oppression which has cost the Palestinian people their freedom, homeland and lives for over seventy years.

There has been "no Zionist oppression" of the Arabs in Israel. Israeli Arabs have full civil and religious rights. No one prevents them from their religious observances, or seeks to make the practice of their religion more difficult. Israeli Arabs vote, stand for election, belong to any party they choose, including an all-Arab party hostile to the state, and hold seats in the Knesset where they roundly criticize the government. Arab judges sit on Israel's supreme court. Arabs serve as diplomats. Arabs are not subject to the military draft, but may serve as volunteers, if they wish, as ever more of them do.

As for the Arabs in Gaza and the West Bank, for 19 years, from 1948 to 1967, the Gazan Arabs endured Egyptian rule, which was far more oppressive than that of Israel between 1967 and 2005. Since 2005, when Israel left Gaza, the Gazan Arabs have again

had to endure oppressive Arab rule, this time by the staggeringly corrupt Hamas, two of whose leaders — Mousa Abu Marzouk and Khaled Meshal — each stole at least \$2.5 billion from the foreign aid meant for the people of Gaza. The Israelis did what they could to help the Gazans, transferring to them 3,000 greenhouses in perfect working order; it was the Palestinians in Gaza who destroyed those greenhouses. In the West Bank, similarly, Jordan's rule over the local Arabs — the "Palestinians" — between 1948 and 1967, was more invasive and harsh than that of the Israelis since 1967. Israel's policy was always to give the local Arabs in Judea and Samaria (a/k/a West Bank) as much autonomy as was consistent with Israeli security; it was the Palestinian terrorists themselves whose attacks triggered greater security measures by Israel. In times of quiet, the Israelis were not just willing but eager to leave the local Arabs alone.

The signatories insist that Islam "does not promote anti-Semitism and Arabs are also a Semitic people", and claim that Islamic rulers treated Christians in the region with benevolence "until the Zionist occupation ended the mutual tolerance that had existed for over a millennium."

We are expected to believe that Christians were treated by Islamic rulers "with benevolence" until the "Zionist occupation ended the mutual tolerance" between Christians and Muslims" that "had existed for over a millennium." By "mutual tolerance" they are attempting to hide the reality of what Christians endured as dhimmis under Muslim rule: this "tolerance" — allowing them to live and to practice their religion — existed only insofar as the Christians accepted the many onerous conditions imposed on them as dhimmis, including most notably the Jizyah tax, which was paid — ideally in humiliating circumstances — by non-Muslims to the Muslim state. When the Caliph Al-Hamid in Cairo in 1009 ordered the destruction of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, was he treating the Christians "with benevolence"? Were the

Muslim attacks on Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land, during the eleventh century, which helped to trigger the Crusades, an example of Muslims treating Christians "with benevolence"? Was the persecution of the Copts in Egypt under both the Umayyad and Fatimid caliphates an example of Muslim rulers treating Christians "with benevolence"? What about the persecution, and forced conversions, and murders, by Muslim Arab conquerors, of the Christian Berbers in North Africa? And in Andalusia, where we now know that the "convivencia" (co-existence) under benevolent Muslim rulers was a myth, the Christians so tirelessly waged their Reconquista, an 800-year-war to push out the Muslim invaders, precisely because there was no such "benevolence."

The signatories insist that Islam "does not promote anti-Semitism and Arabs are also a Semitic people..."

"Islam does not promote antisemitism" because Arabs "are also a Semitic people"? This idiotic sleight-of-word is hardly worth discussing. It's irrelevant whether the Arabs are also considered by ethnographers to be a "Semitic" people. The point is that the Qur'an is full of dozens of harsh denunciations of the Jews, whom Muslims are commanded to despise and hate as a people. Antisemitism has always been defined not as "hatred of Semitic peoples," but as "hatred of the Jews." Antisemitism is everywhere in Islam: in Qur'anic verses, in the hadith, in the furious sermons preached against the Jews in hundreds of thousands of mosques worldwide, in the cursing of Jews (as "those who have earned Allah's wrath") that is embedded in the Fatiha that devout Muslims recite 17 times a day, while saying their five daily prayers. Haj Amin El Husseini was the most sinister in effect, but hardly the only Muslim leader to promote antisemitism. The current head of Al Azhar, Mohammed el-Tayeb, has repeatedly broadcast his hatred of Jews. So has Sheik Youssef Al-Qaradawi, who is the most widely-read Sunni cleric in the world; his attacks on Jews, based on the Qur'anic text and on Islamic history reach tens of millions of Muslims. The late Ayatollah Khomeini, the founder and first Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was a profound antisemite. One of his regime's early acts was to execute, for supposed contacts with Israel, the unofficial leader of Iran's Jews, Habib Elghanian. And no demonstration in the Islamic Republic is complete without shouts of "Death to Israel!" or "Death to Jews!" Yet these "26 Muslim scholars" in the U.K. would have us believe that Islam "does not promote antisemitism."

"Jerusalem will be the capital of the Islamic Caliphate when it returns, Allah willing," they conclude.

Some of Judaism's holiest sites are located in the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount and Western Wall in Jerusalem; the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs in Hebron; and Joseph's Tomb in Nablus.

Jerusalem had been the holiest site in Judaism for at least 2000 years before Muslim Arabs arrived in Palestine in the 7th century. "Palestine" was the toponym the Romans gave to what had previously been known as "Judea," in an attempt to efface the Jewish connection to the land. During the 1,400-year history of Islam, though Muslims ruled the city during two periods, of 450 and 780 years, no one tried to make Jerusalem the capital of any Muslim entity. The capitals of the Rashidun Caliphate were Medina and Kufa. The capital of the Umayyad Caliphate was Damascus. The capitals of the Abbasid Caliphate included Kufa, Anbar, Baghdad, Raqqa, Samarra, and Cairo. The capital of the Ottoman Caliphate was Istanbul. There was also, in Islamic Spain, an independent Umayyad caliphate, with its capital in Cordoba.

But Jerusalem was never among those capitals. The Ottoman Turks, who ruled over large parts of the Middle East and North Africa, might have chosen Jerusalem as the capital of their caliphate, strategically placed as the city was between the

Turkish homeland and the Arab peoples in the Middle East and North Africa who were the subjects of Ottoman domination, but no such move was ever contemplated during the more than 400 years when the Turks held Jerusalem. From 1948 to 1967, when Jordan held the eastern part of Jerusalem including the Old City, the Jordanians officially recognized two capitals — Amman and Jerusalem — but did not move a single office from Amman to Jerusalem. The part of Jerusalem held by Jordan between 1948 and 1967 remained a dusty backwater, not thought fit even to be the capital of tiny Jordan, much less of a future caliphate. Between 1948 and 1967, save for King Abdullah of Jordan, not a single Arab or Muslim leader even bothered to visit the city.

Why then are these "26 Islamic scholars" calling now for Jerusalem to become what it never was even when Muslims possessed it, the capital of a caliphate? They are doing it only to undermine the claim of the Zionists, by exaggerating the city's significance to Muslims. Ever since Israel came into possession of all of Jerusalem, including the Old City, by force of arms in June 1967, the Muslims have been claiming that Jerusalem is a "city holy to three faiths." This formula has been accepted in the credulous West. But distinctions must be made. Jerusalem in its entirety is not holy in the same way, with the same degree of intensity, to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. As a city, it is holy only to Jews and to Christians; for Muslims it's not the entire city that is holy, but only the Haram al-Sharif (the Arabic term for the Temple Mount), with the Al-Agsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock built on top. And for Muslims these sites come third in importance after Mecca and Medina, which indeed are "holy cities" — the Two Noble Sanctuaries — to believing Muslims. But for Jews, and for Christians, Jerusalem comes first.

The mendacity of this manifesto by "26 Islamic scholars" is breathtaking. From a Muslim world full of fascist and despotic states, they single out the one true and inspiring democracy,

Israel, that displays not a single one of the characteristics of fascist states: no one-party rule, no denial of civil or religious rights to anyone, full participation by all citizens in an electoral democracy, no militarism, no infallible Supreme Authority, and a lively political free-for-all that bespeaks a culture that is the very opposite of fascism.

The "26 Islamic scholars" also have the gall to flatly deny any connection between the "Palestinian people" and the Holocaust, when they know perfectly well that the leader of the "Palestinians" before and during World War II, Haj Amin el Husseini, spent the war years, from 1941 to 1945, in Berlin, where he became good friends with Adolf Eichmann and Heinrich Himmler, and spoke with Hitler about the Jewish question and its "final solution." He urged the Nazis not to allow any Jews to escape to Palestine, but to keep them trapped in Europe, where he knew they would be killed. He is reported even to have visited Auschwitz with Eichmann. Those "26 scholars" certainly know, too, that El Husseini personally raised three S.S. divisions of Bosnian Muslims who were directly responsible for the murder of 90% of Bosnian Jews. If, as the "scholars" claim, the 'Palestinians had "nothing to do with the Holocaust, why was the "Palestinian" leader, Haj Amin el Husseini, sought by the British as a war criminal after World War II? He managed to escape to Cairo, where he lived out his days, an Arab war criminal among many German war criminals. So many things to reminisce about, so many thigh-slapping memories of the good old days in Nazi Berlin, when the Jews got what they deserved.

When these "26 Muslim scholars" denied any connection of the "Palestinians" to the Holocaust, they inadvertently raised the most damning of subjects: not only Haj Amin el Husseini's promotion of the Holocaust in every way he could, but the role of other pro-Nazi Arabs during the war, and then, after the war, in helping Nazi war criminals to escape punishment, and to find safety, and support, in Cairo and Damascus. During the

war the Prime Minister of Iraq, Rashid Ali al-Gaylani, was an open collaborator with the Germans. In Egypt, Anwar Sadat also engaged in espionage for the Germans; for this, he was imprisoned for two years by the British. That chapter of his biography is rarely mentioned; it would merely complicate the picture — the public hates complications — of someone now presented, quite incorrectly, as a a veritable Prince of Peace.

In Egypt, after the war, hundreds of German war criminals escaped justice. There were German scientists building missiles for the Egyptians to rain death on Israeli civilians. There was Johann von Leers of the Waffen S.S., who helped the Egyptians with anti-Jewish propaganda, and dozens of former high officers from Goebbels' propaganda ministry, too, who lent their expertise in the propaganda war against Israel. In Damascus, there was the infamous Alois Brunner, an S.S sadist who taught the Syrian secret police how to interrogate and torture their victims. By denying any connection of the "Palestinians" to the Holocaust, these "Muslim scholars" not only opened themselves up to a crushing rebuttal of their claim — the evidence about Haj Amin el Hussein's activities in Nazi Berlin and Bosnia is overwhelming — but raised the even more damning matter of the wider Arab-Nazi connection, with so many war criminals finding refuge in Egypt and Syria. It's not only the "Palestinians," but other Muslim Arabs, too, who were enthusiastically on the side of the Nazis during the war, and helped Nazi war criminals find new lives after the war, especially in Egypt and Syria. They were happily employed, applying their expertise to weapons development, anti-Jewish propaganda, and methods of interrogation and torture that had worked so well in the Third Reich. By denying any link between the Holocuast and the "Palestinians," those 26 Muslim scholars have opened the door to a wider discussion of the Arab-Nazi connection both during and after the war. It's a subject they might better have passed over in silence. Too late.

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