

A Few (Jihad Terrorist) Individuals Of High Net Worth

by Hugh Fitzgerald



We hear endlessly about the economic misery of the “Palestinians” in Gaza, and the West Bank, or about the wretched condition of those who continue to live in the “refugee” camps of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria. We learn of their high unemployment rates, but not about why, most reluctantly, Israel has felt compelled to no longer admit any Arab workers from Gaza, and to limit, and exhaustively vet, those from the West Bank who are still let into Israel to work. For the Israelis will not knowingly admit into their midst people who seem determined to do them harm, no matter how much the U.N. disapproves. The Israelis realized that the threat level from guest-workers coming from Hamas-ruled Gaza was much higher than that from workers coming from the West Bank – tens of thousands of such workers enter Israel each day, though news reports may well lead you to be unaware of that fact – and that a complete ban on Gaza workers was necessary. Israel’s critics lambast the state when it refuses to let Arabs in to

work, and lambast the state when it lets them in, complaining that those Arab workers are exploited. In fact, the Arab workers are paid exactly the same amounts as Jews doing the same jobs and, furthermore, receive twice what they would be paid if they worked in the "Palestinian" territories.

And beyond these guest-workers with their Israel-level salaries, there are spectacular tales of success among the "Palestinians"; these rags-to-riches stories deserve to be recognized as the marvels of economic achievement that they are. Pride of place goes to Nobel Prize winner Yassir Arafat, who at his death was said to possess a fortune of at least \$1 billion, and possibly as much as \$3 billion. He had an elaborate system for diverting funds contributed by foreign donors for the "poor Palestinians"; he also accommodated those who wanted to buy influence with him – everyone from the Saudis to the KGB added to his vertiginous take.

Mahmoud Abbas has not been quite as successful as Arafat. But he hasn't done at all badly, considering his circumstances.

First, he does not command the unchallenged allegiance, as Arafat did, of all the "Palestinians." Hamas, which controls Gaza, opposes Abbas and the "Palestinian" Authority; Abbas' writ runs only in the West Bank. Nonetheless, he has done a creditable job of helping himself. According to Arafat's economic adviser Muhammad Rashid, Abbas had taken at least \$100 million, as of 2014, from the aid funds meant for the "Palestinians." Second, Arafat was the "Palestinian" leader, that is leader of the PLO, from 1969 to his death in 2004, which gave him 35 years to pile up his billions. That's more than twice as long as Abbas has been in power, and as a consequence, his fortune runs only into the hundreds of millions. How much more he has added to that 2014 estimate of \$100 million in the past four years is not known, but many "Palestinians" have been scandalized by the continued level of corruption and have even dared to protest some of Abbas' extravagances. Public outrage forced Abbas to give up his

specially-built \$17.5 million dollar Presidential Palace, and to transform it into the National Library. The Palestinian Authority announced earlier this year that it had purchased a luxurious private jet for Abbas with \$50 million in public funds, causing an outrage, but in that case, Abbas did not retreat; he was determined to keep his \$50 million dollar jet, and he has. A [*Jihad Watch*](#).