

**Institute for Monitoring Peace
and Cultural Tolerance in School Education**

**2007-2008
Annual Report**

IMPACT-SE

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Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends, Colleagues and supporters,

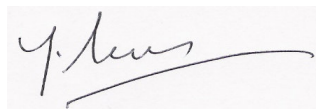
It has been an eventful year, one of challenges and achievements. We have changed our name (from CMIP) to one that more accurately reflects the nature of our endeavors, begun a process of upgrading and overhauling our website, created and filled the position of Director of Communications and broadened our International Advisory Board to include such figures as Dominique Sopo of SOS Racisme.

We have broadened the scope of our research activities and concluded three new reports: an analysis of the Palestinian Authority curriculum, a Research Update on the Saudi Arabian schoolbooks and the forthcoming (fall, 2008) report on Al Fateh: The Hamas Web Magazine for Children. We have published a number of papers and op-eds on Iran and the Palestinian Authority in academic journals and newspapers, and are to present a paper on Anti-Semitism in Middle Eastern schoolbooks at the International Conference on Anti-Semitism in November 2008. IMPACT-SE presented its Iranian Report at a panel at the Washington DC Hudson Institute in March 2008, presented in June 2008 its 2008 Palestinian Authority report to members of the international press and received worldwide coverage, and briefed Israeli and foreign diplomats and young leaders on the Israeli and Palestinian curricula. None of this would have been possible without your generous support, and for that we thank you.

My vision for IMPACT-SE, in addition to enlarging the span of our research, honing our professionalism and involving expert scholars from other countries, includes assuming an instrumental role in bringing about the international community to demand from its members that their school education follow minimal international standards, namely the teaching of international commitments regarding peaceful conflict resolution and the advocacy of respect, tolerance and peace with other peoples, religions and nations. In this context, I envision us issuing an annual or biannual report on the extent to which each member of the international community respects these minimal standards.

The coming year looks to be just as intensive as the last. We have a daunting list of projects awaiting us, including the writing and publication of a report on the Tunisian curriculum, continued mapping and analysis of curricula in European and US Muslim academies, updating our research on the Israeli schoolbooks and compiling international standards for textbook analysis, to name but a few. I am sure that with the continued support of our friends, colleagues and dedicated staff, we will achieve our goals. We truly hope you will join us in our efforts.

Sincerely,
Yohanan Manor



Chairman

Reports, Papers and Op-eds

Arabs and Palestinians in Israeli School Textbooks: Changing the Perception of the “Other” – November 2007

This article by Dr. Yohanan Manor was published in *Israel on Israel*, by Michel Korinman and John Laughland, Vallentine Mitchell & Co Ltd (12 Nov 2007). The present analysis is based on the findings of two surveys carried out by CMIP of 500 Israeli school textbooks that were in use in the school years 1999-2000 and 2001-2002. On one hand, the results confirm other researchers' observation of a radical turning point that occurred in the middle of the 80s, and, on the other, they surpass them in highlighting an active preparation for coexistence with the Arabs and the Palestinians. [[Read More](#)]

program in 2003 and that its weapons program remains on hold. This revelation has created much consternation in Congress on both sides of the aisle [[Read More](#)]

Analysis: "Palestinian Textbooks: From Arafat to Abbas and Hamas"

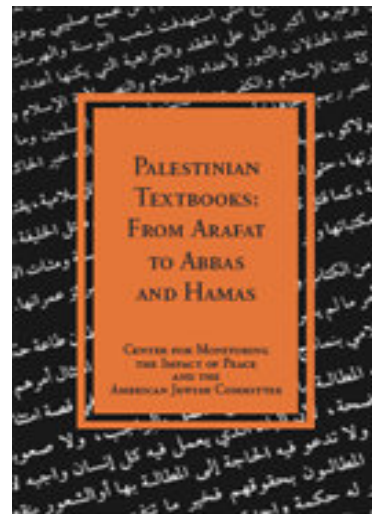
By Dr. Arnon Groiss - March 2008

This timeline gives the outside observer an excellent opportunity to examine whether political changes within the PA have had an impact on the PA curriculum so far as the attitudes to the “other” and to peace are concerned. Comparing the forty-two books issued for grades 11 and 12 with their predecessors, one can determine that some changes did occur, although the fundamentals remained intact. [[Read More](#)]

State Sponsored Child Abuse in Iran: Iran's violations of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

By Shayan Arya and Nir Boms - November 7, 2007

As this paper shows, Iran is committing serious violations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child while cynically remaining a signatory. It has an intricate system of legislation that enables the government to veto its own constitution that secures children's rights. It is endangering children by encouraging them to seek death and is instilling in them hatred toward different cultures and religions via its educational curriculum. [[Read More](#)]



"Jihadist indoctrination in the schools" Washington Times, by Nir Boms - December 17, 2007

A new U.S. intelligence assessment suggests that Iran may have halted its nuclear weapons

AJC-CMIP Report: "Scant Progress in Revising Palestinian Textbooks"- March 20, 2008

Seven years after the Palestinian Authority began publishing text for use in West Bank and Gaza schools, there still is no recognition of the State of Israel and no advocacy of peace with it. Instead, the textbooks promote violent struggle, while hateful descriptions of Jews and the West remain prevalent. [[Read More](#)]

The Gharqad



[It is told] by Abi Hurayrah that God's Messenger said: "the Day of Judgment will not arrive until the Muslims fight the Jews and the Muslims will kill them. Even if a Jew hides behind a rock or a tree, the rock or the tree will say: 'O Muslim, O worshipper of God! There is a Jew behind me. Come and kill him', except the salt bush [Gharqad], for it is one of the Jews' trees."

The West, Christians, Israel and Jews in Saudi Arabian Schoolbooks: A Research Update, p. 14

Research Update reveals Lack of Change in Saudi Curriculum - July, 2008

The Saudi Arabian school curriculum has recently been at the eye of a media storm due to the controversy surrounding the Islamic Saudi Academy in Virginia, and the pledge made by the Saudi government in 2006 to remove texts promoting intolerance, hatred and extremism from its curriculum by the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year. In July, IMPACT-SE completed an update on its 2003 report on the Saudi curriculum. Its findings are striking: Significant progress has yet to be made, in stark contrast with the Arabian kingdom's effort to present itself as a leading moderate power in the Middle East and the proponent of the 2002 Arab peace initiative. [[Read More](#)]

Presentations, Panels and Briefings

Pre-Annapolis Briefing on the Latest Developments in Israeli and Palestinian Authority School Education: The Newest Textbook Translations - November 25, 2007.

This presentation was made at a press conference, which took place on November 25, 2007. It presents the Institute's latest findings on the fundamentals of Israeli and Palestinian education, i.e. their attitude to the "other" and to peace, with special emphasis on the latest books. [[View Presentation](#)]

Supporting documents:

- o Open Letter to the Delegations Taking Part in the Annapolis Summit [[view PDF](#)]
- o Fundamentals of Palestinian Education Attitudes toward the "Other" and Peace in the New Palestinian Syllabus [[view PDF](#)]

"Attitudes toward Jews in schoolbooks issued by the PA Ministry of Endowments & Religious Affairs"

Briefing, Jerusalem, Jan. 8, 2008.

Eradicating incitement from Palestinian schools has been a central theme in negotiations since the Oslo accords. President Bush himself has demanded that educators "Teach values and moral responsibility in schools." In light of President Bush's visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, CMIP hosted this briefing to examine religious textbooks for 7th-12th grade students in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Supporting documents:

- o Summary [[View PDF](#)]
- o Presentation Slides [[View PDF](#)]

Discussion Panel on "Iranian Textbooks: Preparing Iran's Children for Global Jihad"

Hudson Institute, Washington, DC, March 10, 2008

As debates rage over Iran's nuclear intentions, educational textbooks may serve as one of the more candid guides for discerning this regime's worldview and ideology. IMPACT-SE researchers, Arnon Groiss and Shayan Arya, covered the Iranian report's detailed findings and discussed the implications for the United States and the rest of the international community.

[[View Presentation](#)]



IMPACT-SE presents the Fundamentals of Palestinian and Israeli Curricula to Young Leaders from Latin America - August, 2008

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested IMPACT-SE present its findings on the Israeli and Palestinian curricula, as part of a workshop for young leaders from Latin America entitled “Coexistence in the Holy Land.” IMPACT-SE Chairman, Dr. Yohanan Manor, and Director of Communications, David Oman, presented the findings to the young leaders, stressing the importance of our work for peace-building between the two peoples.

Australian Embassy in Israel briefed by IMPACT-SE on Palestinian Curriculum - August, 2008

At the request of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, IMPACT-SE briefed the Second Secretary of the Australian Embassy in Israel on its updated research concerning the school curriculum of the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

Media Coverage

"Clouds Over Annapolis"

FrontPage Magazine, November 28, 2007

The article uses CMIP's studies to demonstrate the importance of education reform as "not just a key factor for Israel and the Palestinians, but also for the Arab countries that are participating in the Conference as well." [[Read More](#)]

Special Interview with Dr. Arnon Groiss: "Iran Educates Children to 'Seek Martyrdom'"

CBN News, December 19, 2007

During Iran's war with Iraq in the 1980s, Ayatollah Khomeini sent thousands of Iranian children directly into minefields. He promised that they'd see heaven as their reward. Today's Iranian leadership is quite unpopular with its growing younger generation -- the Mullahs are attempting to reclaim this group one textbook at a time. [[Read More](#)]

"American Jewish Committee Studies New Palestinian Textbooks" - The Bulletin, *February 22, 2008* [[View PDF](#)]

"Texts of Hate"

FrontPage Magazine, March 13, 2008 [[View PDF](#)]

IMPACT-SE's Report on Iran in the World Media: January 2007 - March 2008

IMPACT-SE's [report on Iranian schoolbooks](#) continues to be widely noticed by the media worldwide. In February and March 2008, three more articles were added to this partial list of news articles and blogs in several languages. [[Read More](#)]

- o "Iran Schoolbooks Teach Jihad, Martyrdom, Study Shows" - *CNSNews.com*, March 12, 2008 [[View PDF](#)]
- o "Study: Iran Indoctrinating Children in Islamic Supremacism" - *The Sun*, March 19, 2008 [[View PDF](#)]
- o "Politics: A Textbook Tale of Two Reports" *Inter Press Service*, March 21, 2008 [[View PDF](#)]

IMPACT-SE Report on Iranian Textbooks Discussed on Iranian VOA Program March 25, 2008

IMPACT-SE's Researcher Shayan Arya participated in an hour long discussion on the popular Persian program "Round Table," produced by Voice of America (VOA), regarding the Iranian school curriculum and [IMPACT-SE's report](#). Dr. Saeed Paivandi of Paris-8 University, who just published a similar report regarding Iran's educational system under the Islamic regime for the Freedom House, also participated.

"Palestinian Hate-Education Continues" *American Thinker*, April 2, 2008 [[Read More](#)]

IMPACT-SE Report on Palestinian Textbooks receives Worldwide Coverage - June 3, 2008). [[Read Full Report](#)]

IMPACT-SE Director of Research Dr. Arnon Groiss presented its latest report -- "Palestinian Textbooks: from Arafat to Abbas and Hamas" -- at Jerusalem's Media Central, to 18 journalists of the international press, as well as Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, on June 3, 2008. Following the presentation, detailing the concluding analysis of the seven-year Palestinian Authority schoolbook publication project, IMPACT-SE Chairman Dr. Yohanan Manor joined in a lively question and answer session, which spilled over into informal discussions, long after the presentation had ended. *Associated Press* Correspondent Diaa Hadid's coverage of the event was picked up by over 120 media outlets worldwide, including the *International Herald Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Jerusalem Post* and *Fox News*, to name but a few. It is worthwhile noting that the response to the report by the spokesman for Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad included a "call for tolerance" in PA textbooks -- resonating one of the principal goals of IMPACT-SE. (See: "[Report: Palestinian textbooks portray Jews badly,](#)" (*Associated Press*, June 4, 2008).

Reactions

The Real Problem with Palestinian and Israeli Schoolbooks: A Response to IPCRI's Statement of March 23, 2008 [[Read Response](#)] - April 2008

The IPCRI report can be found at the IPCRI website at <http://www.ipcri.org> under Papers and Articles/Education for Peace.

Making an Impact

IMPACT-SE Advises Head of Israeli Delegation to the Joint Israeli-Palestinian Committee on the Culture of Peace - April 4, 2008

IMPACT-SE Chairman, Dr. Yohanan Manor, and Director of Research, Dr. Arnon Groiss, briefed the head of the Israeli team to the negotiations in the Joint Israeli-Palestinian Committee on a Culture of Peace, Mr. Daniel Taub, and other Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, on the status of the school curricula in the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and offered suggestions and practical recommendations regarding this important aspect of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.



IMPACT-SE Recommendations to be incorporated in Proposed Amendments to 2007 Iran Human Rights Act

IMPACT-SE made a number of recommendations regarding amendments to clauses pertaining to the issues of censorship in Iran, oppression of religious and ethnic minorities, incarceration, torture and expulsion of university students, violation of international treaties in the area of human rights, the call for global war, martyrdom and hatred in Iranian schoolbooks, and the necessary measures as part of the US response to the said issues within the framework of the (US Congress) 2007 Iran Human Rights Act, which has yet to be passed, but is due to be resubmitted in the 111th US Congress with the recommendations incorporated.



Forthcoming

IMPACT-SE Report on the Tunisian Curriculum

IMPACT-SE is currently compiling a comprehensive analysis of the school curriculum of Tunisia. The schoolbooks display an unprecedented positive attitude toward the "other", despite a biased presentation of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Yet, even within the tendentious presentation, there exist positive trends hitherto unknown in Middle Eastern curricula studied by IMPACT-SE. An interim report is to be completed by November 2008.

IMPACT-SE to take part in the International Conference on Anti-Semitism

IMPACT-SE Director of Research, Dr. Arnon Groiss, is to attend the November 2008 International Conference on Anti-Semitism in Pilsen, the Czech Republic, where he will present a paper on the image of the Jews in Middle Eastern schoolbooks (Palestinian, Egyptian, Syrian, Saudi Arabian and Iranian), both throughout history and within the context of the present conflict. The paper shall attempt to measure the extent to which religious and political factors shape that image, as well as

the extent of the cultural influence of Western anti-Semitism on Middle Eastern anti-Jewish concepts.

IMPACT-SE to release Report on Hamas Web Magazine for Children

IMPACT-SE is due to release in fall 2008 its comprehensive report on Al-Fateh, the Hamas web magazine for children, based on a study of over six years.



مجلة الفاتح

Al-Fateh: The Hamas Web Magazine for Children