

Chapter Five: *Jihad*, Martyrdom and Terror

Jihad

Compared to the relatively detailed material on this subject in the previously published books for grades 3 and 8⁴², this latest issue of textbooks for grades 4 and 9 features only a few brief references to Jihad. Moreover, one specific quotation explicitly states that military Jihad is but one form of this religious commandment in Islam, which is true, but so far has not been presented to the students in this way. On the other hand, the importance of Jihad in its military form is emphasized.

Struggle is better than submission...

Linguistic Sciences, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 62

It is forbidden to run away from the enemy. It is one of the seven mortal sins [mubiqat, in Islam]

[Qur'an] Recitation, Grade 9, (2003) p. 79

The term "*Jihad*" mostly refers to fighting, though fighting is only one of its forms.

Linguistic Sciences, Grade 9, Part 2 (2004) p. 42

Pilgrimage [*hajj*] is the fifth pillars of Islam's [five] pillars [of faith]... The Prophet considered it the best of deeds after the belief in God and [after] the *Jihad* in His cause. Abu Hurayrah [one of Muhammad's companions] said: "The Prophet was asked: 'Which of [all] deeds is best?' He said: 'Belief in God and His Messenger.' He was then asked: 'Then, which one?' He said: '*Jihad* in the cause of God.' He was then asked: 'Then, which one?' He said: 'A blessed pilgrimage.'"

Islamic Education, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 62

The [Qur'anic] surah... urges the waging of a *Jihad* against those who stand opposed to the Islamic mission, and enumerates the rewards of the *Jihad* fighters in God's cause.

Islamic Education, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 9

[One] of the benefits of *Jihad* is that it distinguishes the sincere *Jihad* fighters.

Islamic Education, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 7

⁴² PA3 pp. 50 - 53

Martyrdom

The general trend of exalting martyrdom is found in this latest issue as well, though the relevant references are noticeably fewer. The martyr's rewards according to Islam are discussed and verses of poetry that speak of martyrs and martyrdom are quoted in language exercises.

...Enumeration of the rewards of the martyrs who were killed in defense of their religion and nation.

Islamic Education, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 4

...Enumeration of the rewards of the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives in the cause of God. Their sacrifice shall not be in vain, and their deeds shall not be lost. Rather, God will accept that [their martyrdom] from them, will forgive them all their sins, will place them at the high position in Paradise with the prophets and the messengers, and will decree strength and dignity for their nation.

Islamic Education, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 6

Why did the martyrs deserve the great rewards mentioned in the [Qur'anic] verses?

Islamic Education, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 7

Three [types of people] will [be able to] intercede [for ordinary human beings]: the prophets, then the [religious] scholars, and then the martyrs.

Islamic Education, Grade 4, Part 1 (2003) p. 58

If I fall, then take my place, O comrade in struggle
Carry your weapon. Let not my blood which flows from the weapon frighten you

Look at my lips that were closed upon the winds' folly
I have not died. I am still calling you behind the wounds

Linguistic Sciences, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 22

The following two quotations have been taken from a poem titled "the Martyr" which is taught in full in grade 7. It talks, inter alia, about the flow of blood and about a body skirmished over by beasts of prey⁴³.

I shall carry my soul in my palm and toss it into the abyss of destruction.

Linguistic Sciences, Grade 9, Part 2 (2004) p. 63

By your life! I see my death but I hasten [my] steps towards it

⁴³ See PA1 p. 73

I see my death without my stolen right, and without my country, as a desired one

Linguistic Sciences, Grade 9, Part 1 (2003) p. 52

Terror

As in the earlier issues, the Palestinian Authority's newly-published textbooks do not openly support terrorist activity against Israeli individuals. But they continue to embrace Palestinian individuals who participated in such activity and were killed or imprisoned. The textbooks define such people as martyrs and prisoners-of-war, respectively.

We all cooperate in honoring the families of the martyrs and the prisoners-of-war ...

Islamic Education, Grade 4, Part 1 (2003) p. 61

What is our duty towards the families of the martyrs, the wounded and the prisoners-of-war?

Islamic Education, Grade 4, Part 1 (2003) p. 63

What can the [public] institutions do for each [of the following]:

- Orphans
- Prisoners-of-war

Civic Education, Grade 4, Part 2 (2004) p. 24

Suddenly the boy remembered his father behind the jail bars. His mother took him several months ago to visit his father there. He remembered his father touching his cheeks and hair with his finger through the openings in the grill that is fixed to the bars... He said: "When will my father come out of prison so that I can live with him..."

Our Beautiful Language, Grade 4, Part 2 (2004) p. 3

Oral expression: Let us orally express the joy of the prisoner-of-war and his family when he comes out of the detention camp.

Our Beautiful Language, Grade 4, Part 2 (2004) p. 13

Let us research and write [an essay] about one of the Palestinian martyr leaders.

National Education, Grade 4, Part 2 (2004) p. 45