

# Arab Media Review: Anti-Semitism and Other Trends

May 2004



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On the cover: *Al-Watan*, Oman government-backed daily, May 18, 2004

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# Introduction

Anti-Semitism is widespread throughout the Arab and Muslim world, manifested in every segment of society. The following report is a compilation of select anti-Semitic expressions in the Arab and Muslim world in May 2004.

As in recent months, alleged Jewish/Israeli control of U.S. foreign policy, especially with regard to Iraq, and references to Mel Gibson's film, "The Passion of the Christ," with Israel depicted as crucifying Arabs, continued as major themes. Newspapers continued to feature anti-Semitic caricatures and themes that include demonic images of Jews/Israel as animals, conspiracy theories of Jews plotting to control the world, anti-Semitic blood libels and depictions of the stereotypical Jew (big nose, black coat and hat, skull cap etc.) along with Jewish symbols such as the Star of David. Jews and Israelis are compared to Nazis using symbols such as the swastika.

Material in this compilation was translated by ADL from the original Arabic or from English language sources in the Middle East.

# Bahrain

## Cartoons

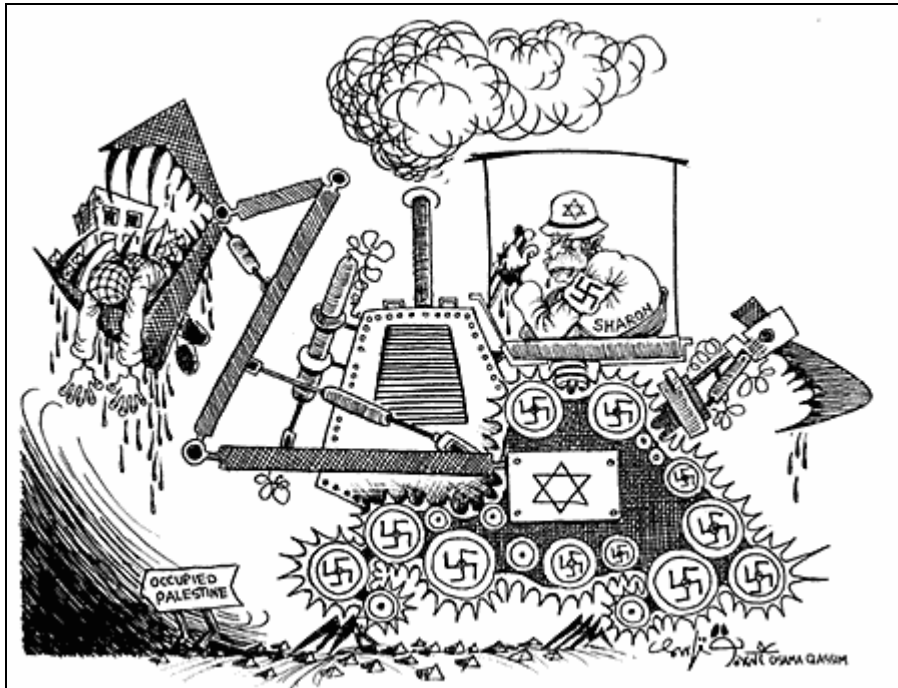


*Akhbar al-Khalij*, May 21, 2004

The cartoon's headline: "The prison of Abu Ghureib - Baghdad".

# Egypt

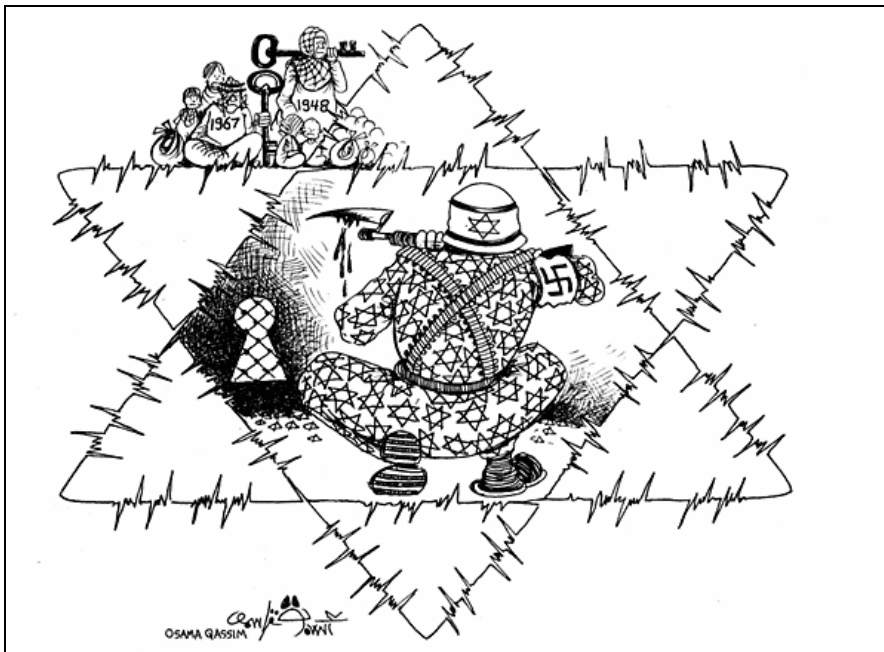
## Cartoons



*Al-Ahram weekly*, May 27 - June 2, 2004



*Al-Wafd*, May 26, 2004 (The cartoon also appeared on May 31st)  
Bush and Sharon are pointing to "The Arab Summit" and laughing.



*Al-Ahram weekly*, May 13-19, 2004

## Newspapers

- “Rafah and the Crucifixion of Christ –

We did not witness the crucifixion of Christ but we witness now the crucifying of Rafah in the same manner and the same criminal view. Christ was crucified thousands of times in the miserable human history. The Palestinian people received the biggest portion compared to the others, as the arrogant people of the Zionist crime such as Sharon crucified it some times...”

**Dr. Muhammad as-Sayyid Sa'id, “Rafah’s Call”, *Al-Ahram*, May 24, 2004**

- “...What is the difference between the Zionist Jews and the German Nazis?
  1. The German Nazis in Germany wanted to expand in such a way that they were the first to take their lebensraum. As for the Israeli Jews, they came from tens of countries in order to occupy the land of Palestine and expand it...
  2. The Nazis used prisons, concentration camps, torturing and killing, and the Zionists were not behindhand...
  3. The Nazis burned entire Soviet villages and cities, killed their inhabitants and uprooted their trees. The Israelis did the same things in hundreds of Palestinian villages...
  4. The Nazis used weapons that are unacceptable internationally and the Israelis use those weapons.
  5. The Nazis invented the term ‘the pure German race’ and the Israelis took out the term ‘God’s chosen people’ from the notebooks of past centuries.
  6. The Nazis despised the international agreements and the Israelis continue to regard them with disdain and reject them with clear arrogance and haughtiness.
  7. If the Nazis looked upon the Slavic people, Jews and the Gypsies with disdain, then the Jews are behaving with the same disregard and are being haughty towards all of the world’s people.
  8. The Zionists used the terror groups of Hagana and Stern, and the Nazis used the SS groups, the Commandos and others.
  9. The Nazis transformed Germany into a closed, racist, isolated and hated country. Most of the governing Jews in Israel are doing it until today, as Israel is an closed and isolated country, of which most of its citizens are employed in security and spying activities...
  10. If Gobles, the German Minister of Propaganda, believed in ‘lie, lie and lie’, then Sharon and his ancestors from among Israel’s leaders were,

and are still, ‘lying, lying and lying’, and this is one of their characteristics.

11. If the German Nazi Diplomacy transformed their Embassies and delegations to spying dens, the Israelis by far exceeded the Nazis, since Embassies and some members of the Jewish Diaspora (communities) became nests not only for spying but also for terror, kidnapping and the fabrication of facts.
12. As Nazism was a dark and obscure horizon with no future, Zionism is entering the same way. The Israelis will not be able to be happy in life if they will continue to hold the unjust political Zionism. Most of the Jews will not be able to recall their humanity with their staying in the big Zionist prison – a prison of the establishment of their freedom on account of others’ freedom, and their happiness on the account of the suffering of others.

Those are some of the common points between Nazism and Zionism, i.e. the Zionazism that Israel’s heads and spiritual leaders operate... “

**‘Abed al-Malik Khalil (from Moscow), “Zionazism”, *Al-Ahram*, May 22, 2004**

- “... And Muslims and Christians curse the reprehensible crime of the Jews equally...

At the same time, the film raised in the spectators’ minds the association between the old era’s Jews that dominated Christ, and the present day Israelis that killed Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and Dr. Ar-Rantisi and Abu ‘Ali Mustafa and others from among the Headquarters of the Palestinian National Action, and that kill tens of members of the Palestinian people every day everywhere.”

**Jaber ‘Asfour, “The Passion and the People’s Committee”, *Al-Ahram*, May 17, 2004**

- “...The first thing that was brought up about the film *The Passion* is the old and the new question simultaneously – why don’t we exculpate the Jews today from a crime that was stuck to their fathers’ generations and of which they had no part from close-up or from afar, – as they reiterate – or conversely, isn’t it from the most important legal principles that the crime is personal and therefore, so is its punishment...

In response to these questions and others we say that the legal principle is true, but it is totally unacceptable since there are crimes that go beyond those who committed them and the punishments pertain to those. Even if those are not physical punishments, they are much deeper and painful than the body can endure...

...And that is how the Jews continue until today through their fathers' way. They did not turn from (the sin) and did not abandon their old methods. Thus they did not benefit from the pardon that Christ gave them when he said: I pardon them...

...Re the question – when will the Jews be exculpated from Christ's blood? We say that yes, there is a chance for penitence – they know well before others. This (will happen when) they admit their fathers' sin that was stuck to them as legal representatives of them..."

\* The writer is the Head of the Evangelical Faction in Egypt

**Dr. Al-Qiss Safwat al-Bayadhi, "The Passion of Christ – and Why Do we not Exculpate the Jews from it?", *Al-Ahram*, May 11, 2004**

- "...Since the Jews were not slaves of the colonized Rome, the regular spectator's memory goes back only to the Zionist lie that the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. The Zionist propaganda succeeded in making this lie concerning the old era's Jews accepted. No one even thinks of doubting its truth, and even Maria confirmed that to the Christian west. The Israelites' slavery in Egypt, should it be added to the German crematories in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, makes the Jews victims of the whole human history, and they get all of the rights.

The film *The Passion* was an excuse to the world's Jews to raise a storm that will remind the west, time and again, that they are the victims of lies that convict them unjustly, and that the Christian west should change even what was said through the modern era, the origin of Christianity, that the Jews that were of the Jesus Christ period implored and implored until the Roman governor had to obey their request and consequently, ordered the crucifixion of Jesus, may peace be upon him, as every Christian in the world believe, in all of their communities..."

\* The writer is from the College of Arts, Cairo University

**Dr. Lili 'Anan, "...And Another Reading of the Film", *Al-Ahram*, May 11, 2004**

- "...In spite of the fact that the Jews went through the horrible suffering of the Holocaust to the extent of the negation of their ability to take the part with other people in life. But unfortunately, they are accused of repeating the same thing with the Palestinians by adopting the logic of collective punishment through which Hitler controlled the Jews in Europe unjustly and with hostility".

**Dr. Muhammad Qudri Sa'id, "Israel – The Morals and the War", *Al-Ahram*, May 9, 2004**

- “...Only a few hours passed on the same day until the answer came by Crown Prince ‘Abdullah Bin ‘Abed al-‘Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister when he said definitely: 95% of the terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia are being initiated by the Zionist finger...

But those who are familiar with the course of events were convinced that there is no doubt that Zionist instigators are behind these daily attempts...

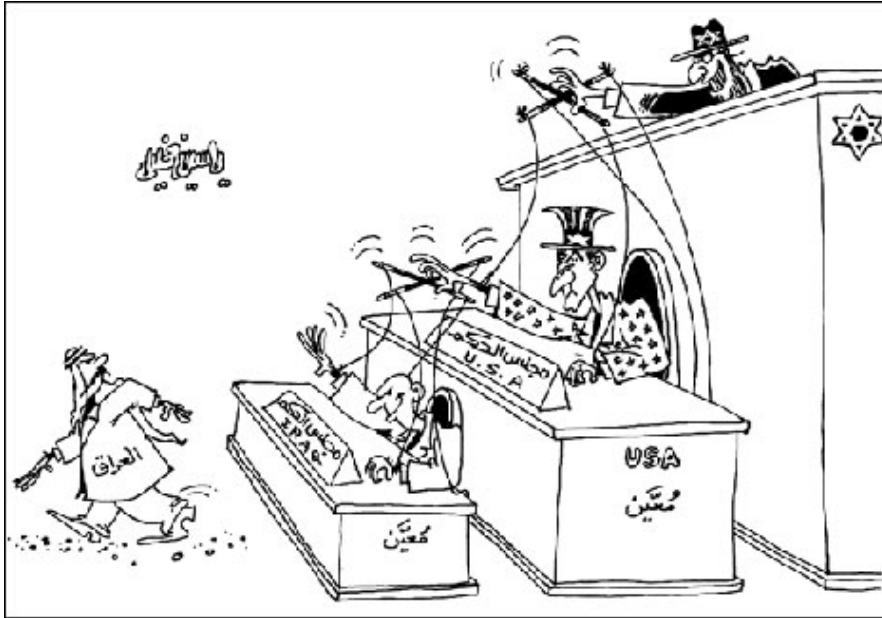
The following scenario can be preferred concerning the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack, which Saudis participated in committing, as perhaps it was supported by the Mossad which warned America about it through superficial information for the sole purpose of being cleared from any guilt, if there was any. Amongst the proofs to that are the entry of Muhammad ‘Ata to America with an expired validity visa and the discovery of an Israeli spy network close to the place. The Israeli aim was that the entire world, with America and Europe in the foreground, be one against the Muslims and to give America the opportunity to invade the Arab and Muslim countries under this justification...

This is what outweighs the scenario of suspected groups behind this attack, and the Mossad is not the least”.

**Amin Rizq (Jeddah), “The Mossad Fingers Are Playing in Saudi Arabia”, *Al-Ahram al-‘Arabi*, May 8, 2004**

# Oman

## Cartoons



*Al-Watan*, May 20, 2004

The Jew is playing the American "Governing Council" like a puppet on a string. The American Government Council is doing the same to the Iraqi "Governing Council".



*Al-Watan*, May 18, 2004

# Palestinian Authority

## Cartoons



*Al-Hayat al-Jadida*, May 4, 2004

A Jew is lighting the fire (Sharon), on which a pot full of water and the Arab is boiling.

# Saudi Arabia

## Newspapers

- Saudi Crown Prince, 'Abdullah Bin 'Abed al-'Aziz, said concerning the involvement of Zionism in the terrorist actions in Yanbu:

"... You know who is behind all of this... Zionism is behind it - that was clarified. It was clarified to us, and I say that it is not 100 percent, but 95 percent, that the Zionism's hands are behind what happened. Unfortunately, they misled some of our sons....

But we are certain that Zionism is behind everything. That is what was proved. I am not saying 100 percent but 95 percent..."

(From *Ar-Riyadh*, May 2, 2004)

**"He Received the Princes, the Ministers, Officials and University Lecturers... Amir 'Abdullah: Our Country is a Target and Zionist Hands Are Behind What Happened", *Ar-Riyadh*, May 2, 2004**

# Arab Newspapers

***Akhbar al-Kahlij (Bahrain)*** - A pro-government daily and Bahrain's oldest newspaper; editor in chief - Anwar Muhammad 'Abd ar-Rahman.

***Al-Ahram (Egypt)*** - an Egyptian daily owned by the Egyptian government: the president appoints the editor. He (as the editor of the other government owned dailies, *al-Gumhuriyya* and *al-Akhbar*) is given substantial leeway in his editorial practices, assuming he avoids certain “taboos”. *Al-Ahram* is the largest Arabic paper in the world and has established the *Al-Ahram* Regional Press Institute.

***Al-Ahram al-'Arabi (Egypt)*** - a weekly published by the Dar al-Ahram publishing house. The editor-in-chief of the newspaper is Usama Saraya, but the chairman of the publishing house is Ibrahim Nafi', who is Al-Ahram's editor in-chief. Although both newspapers are published by the same publishing house, al-Ahram and al-Ahram al-'Arabi are different. The editorials in al-Ahram are always supportive of government positions, while the editorials in Al-Ahram al-'Arabi are critical of the government and also other countries. The paper publishes very strong anti-Israeli views. In addition, Sheikh Qardhawi has a platform to publish his views there, which in turn, gives the paper a religious dimension.

***Al-Wafd (Egypt)*** - *Al-Wafd* is the main opposition paper in Egypt. The paper criticizes the regime on a wide range of issues - from economy to internal and foreign policy. However, it is important to note that the criticism is on subjects that are allowed by the regime. The paper is one of the most acceptable channels of opposition activism, since the Egyptians see themselves as supporters of freedom of the press, and the paper is supposed to be concrete proof of this idea. *Al-Wafd* expresses extreme anti-Israel and anti-Semitic views, in articles and cartoons.

***Al-Watan (Oman)*** - a government-backed daily. The paper was established in 1971 and its editor-in-chief is Muhammed Bin Suleiman at-Tani.

***Al-Hayat al-Jadida (Palestinian Authority)*** – the PA daily.

***Ar-Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)*** - A Saudi daily, one of the four principal Saudi papers (the three others are: *al-Madina*, *al-Jazira* and *al-Watan*). The paper presents a relatively conservative attitude, while emphasizing (as most of the Saudi papers) its praise of the Royal family.

Generally, the Saudi government lays severe limitations on the freedom of press and has a strict censorship, even on the foreign press that enters Saudi Arabia. Since the Saudi press is government-oriented, it concentrates on praising the Saudi Royal Family. Of course, opposition or independent newspapers do not exist in Saudi Arabia. However, the London based Saudi press has more independent features.



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