

The Palestinian Authority Launched A Propaganda Campaign to Support Its Appeal to the UN

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The Palestinian Authority launched a propaganda campaign to support its appeal to the UN. The campaign is intended to show internal Palestinian support for the move, strengthen international support and calm Israeli apprehensions (by downplaying the issue of the “right of return”). It will probably be reinforced by broad – and potentially violent – popular activities, even though the Palestinians aspire to contain the events. The appeal will be played out on the background of the break-in to the Israeli embassy in Cairo and Turkey's inflammatory declarations.

Overview

1. On September 8 the Palestinian Authority launched a propaganda campaign called “Palestine: State Number 194” to support its appeal to the UN, with the theme of “statehood recognition.” The campaign began with a communiqué to the UN Secretary General sent through the UN representative in Ramallah. On September 9 and 10 demonstrations (of between dozens and several hundred demonstrators) were held at the usual friction points in Judea and Samaria (Bila'in, Nili'in and Nebi Saleh). Further demonstrations and popular protests are expected throughout the Palestinian Authority territories and among Palestinian communities abroad, represented by the PA as nonviolent, although in our assessment most of them have the potential for violence.

2. The campaign is supposed to last for three weeks. It began on September 8 (with a low profile) and is expected to peak on September 21 and 23, with the opening session of the General Assembly and a speech by Mahmoud Abbas, respectively, and continue until the end of September. During those three weeks propaganda events will be held in the Palestinian Authority, the Arab world (where the Israeli embassy in Jordan may be a focus of demonstrations¹) and abroad (especially in the United States and Britain). The campaign met with difficulties in the Gaza Strip because of Hamas' ideological reservations concerning the Palestinian Authority appeal to the UN.

3. The campaign has already been launched, but so far it has not gathered momentum in the Palestinian arena or abroad for a variety of reasons: in Judea and Samaria the local population is occupied with daily life and does not expect the move in the UN to bring about a fundamental change. In the Gaza Strip the campaign met with difficulties because of Hamas' basic reservations regarding the entire issue. The campaign still has not gathered massive support abroad, and the dramatic events in the Middle East during recent months have overshadowed the Palestinian move. However, as the date of the General Assembly's opening session approaches, the motivation of supporters in Judea and Samaria, the Arab-Muslim world and abroad is likely to increase, and the profile of both the propaganda campaign and accompanying popular activities may become higher.

For the complete report, see http://www.terrorism-info.org.il/malam_multimedia/English/eng_n/html/pa_e007.htm