



MEMO

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Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh: Far from a Moderate

Press accounts describing Hamas Prime Minister-designate Ismail Haniyeh as a “moderate” or “pragmatist” distort or ignore the track record he has built as a terrorist leader. He ran Hamas’ “security” wing, which executes Palestinians it views as collaborators or heretics. He also personally ran the office of the late Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, who authorized suicide bombings in Israel and called on the Iraqi people to “become human bombs” against U.S. soldiers in Iraq. Even as Hamas tries to project a “moderate” image in the West after its election victory, Haniyeh has not deviated from Hamas’ basic approach. He rejects Israel’s right to exist and the Roadmap, calls for the continuation of violent jihad and advocates governing all of Palestine by Islamic law. Like Hamas itself, Haniyeh will need to go a long way before he can be considered a partner for peace. He has shown no indication that he plans to move in that direction.

Haniyeh Says Elections Will Not End Attacks:

- “The resistance is a principle and a legitimate right for the Palestinian people. It will not be relinquished. Hamas has entered the PLC just to protect the resistance program and resistance men until the Palestinian people restore all their rights. There is no contradiction at all for Hamas to be in the resistance and at the PLC.”—*Al-Jazeera, 1-26-06*
- “The constants and the strategy of Hamas do not change according to circumstances. Hamas will stay faithful to jihad, to resistance, to guns, to Palestine and to Jerusalem. ... Hamas will enter the Palestinian legislative council on the platform of resistance.”— *Middle East Online, 1-20-06*
- “Hamas will be active in the resistance as well as in parliament in the political domain. There is no contradiction.” He added that the future state should include “all of Palestine” including Israel and be governed by laws “inspired by sharia [Islamic law].”—*Interview with Agence France Press, 1-22-06*
- “Hamas will continue to follow its strategic path, to continue our resistance to liberate all the land.”—*Agence France Press, 8-23-05*

Haniyeh Refuses to Recognize Israel’s Right to Exist:

- “Dialogue with Israel is not on Hamas' agenda. Hamas does not recognize the Zionist entity and views resistance as the only way to fight the occupier. We tried resistance and we saw that we got very good results. The Palestinian people know that the intifada and the resistance are the only solutions.”—*Al-Jazeera, 1-18-06*
- “The resistance is a project that aims toward recovering our occupied land and holy sites and allowing the refugees to come back. It is not limited to responding to [Israeli] strikes.”—*The Jerusalem Post, 6-5-04*

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Haniyeh Advocates Violence and Rejects Peace:

- “We tell you today that Hamas will go on until we raise flags over the Dome of the Rock. ... They have tried to pressure Hamas to abandon resistance and to abandon arms. They tried to pressure Hamas to abandon its strategic choice in Palestine, all of Palestine. They tried to pressure Hamas to recognize the legitimacy of the occupation ... but they failed. ... All the attempts, pressures and blackmail failed. We say Hamas will not change its constant principles.”—*Reuters, 1-20-06*
- “We employ the resistance, steadfastness and unity to expel the occupation. ... Hamas will work to defeat this occupation, hand in hand with all Palestinian forces and factions.”—*Al-Jazeera, 1-26-06*
- “We assert that the weapon of resistance is a legitimate weapon because it is the one that defends the Palestinian people, and it resists the incursions and all acts of aggression and plunder which our Palestinian people are subjected to. ... Any discussion about the disarmament of the resistance is in vain, and the Palestinian people cannot comply with it and they cannot interact with it.”—*Al Arabiya TV, 1-21-04*
- “Jihad is the only option to liberate Palestine.”—*The Daily Telegraph (Sydney, Australia), 12-11-00*