

This is the evaluation of the legendary Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat by an old and wiser Palestinian.

1964 was the fateful year when Yasser Arafat founded the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) while living in Egypt. Fifty years have come and gone and what has he, his organization and its offshoots accomplished for the PALESTINIANS. In II Chronicles 21:20 we observe the summary of King Jehoram of ancient Israel. For me as a fellow Palestinian who has observed Arafat's life for the past fifty years this statement fits him perfectly "...to no one's sorrow, departed....".

P stands now for "**Palestinians**" who have been scandalized, demonized and traumatized throughout the world because of the PLO. It also stands for Planned Liquidation Organization as future parents were killed through violent activities and resulted in widows and widowers who lost their loved ones in these tragic years of fighting. In the Intifadah alone, 500 Israelis and 2000 Palestinians have perished and five times that many on both sides, have been injured for life.

A stands for "**Atrocities**" and killing of Palestinians by Palestinians who are accused (rightly or wrongly) of collaborating with Israel by identifying terrorists. Neither judge nor jury were involved in these outright murders at the hand of Arafat's goons who are fellow Palestinians.

L stands for "**Losers**". Somehow Arafat and his supporters time and again have sought out every possible door to loose the window of opportunity towards solving their problems with Israel when sincere international mediators offered help.

E stands for "**End**" of an era of fifty years by the death of Arafat and hopefully an end to brutality and destruction, which the PLO has caused by the civil war in 1971 in the Kingdom of Jordan, then in Lebanon in 1986 and for the past several years in Israel. Maybe now new Palestinian leaders can establish a more peaceful coexistence with their Israeli neighbors.

S stands for "**So**" many years that have characterized our people with bloodshed, brutality, bungled peaceful solutions, bitter rivalries and hopeless existence. It is time for change. The election of leaders by violence or intimidation should be over. Democracy will work wonders when fear is conquered.

T signifies "**Terrorism**", which has demonstrated to the world the terrible consequences of hate instead of tolerance. In my new book Islam, a Threat or a Challenge there are 18 pages listing the atrocities and terrorist attacks beginning in 1948, on foreign soil and in the land itself.

I reminds me of the "**Injection**" of billions of dollars for the Palestinians by numerous foreign countries. The finances have been squandered on elegant homes for PLO Leaders, fruitless projects and internal corruption by other Palestinian officials.

N identifies Arafat as "**Mr. No**". Somehow he managed to say "NO" for 50 years to every effort of solving the thorniest problem in the Middle East in modern times.

I meaning "**Insensitivity**" to unfulfilled dreams and broken hearts, which will never be mended because of the philosophy of the PLO "Not liberation for the many Palestinians but subjugation by the few". I can assure you that the management style of the Palestinian leadership can be called "Do as we say or die within a day".

A stands for "**Accusing**" Israel, America or other countries for all the PLO mistakes, misdeeds and miscalculations, which have never produced anything but tears, fears and too many liars. Yes, there have been rights and wrongs on both sides. But again living in the past has neither been of much help, nor solved our problems.

N stands for "**No**", No to the outdated ideology of the past and the counter-productive strategies of the militants. We must also say yes to a better future filled with faith, hope and trust in each other. We must learn to forgive each other if we want to continue claiming to be the children of Abraham. Let this legacy of Abraham, who was characterized by being a peacemaker inspired peaceful coexistence in the land of the prophets, so many centuries ago, be our goal. The true peacemaker Jesus, the Messiah, taught me to tolerate, then forgive and finally love the Israeli people despite the violent death of my father, uncle and cousin plus the loss of our home in Nazareth in 1948. The 56 previous years have been an exercise in futility by a people who claim to worship the same God and follow the teaching of his prophets. Enough is enough!

Our children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren deserve a better future rather than a bitter one. We need to seek a more promising tomorrow than the daily diet of death and destruction. Forgiveness is definitely better than vengeance. Love should be chosen over hate. And coexistence over a wall of separation.

We must alert our Palestinian people that Israel is not our enemy. In fact they are our cousins and relatives. It is time for the family-feud to be resolved. When you and I look into the mirror as Palestinians we can discover the secret enemy. Do not change the mirror change your heart. It can be done. Japan attacked America and drove the USA into World War II. However, after four bloody years, two atomic bomb explosions and millions of casualties peace was achieved. Now the two nations are best of friends and enjoy some of the highest per capita income in the world. Therefore, we can declare ourselves as peacemakers from now on and stop being troublemakers. With the creator God as our guide and compassionate nations as our allies peace once again can prevail. PLO can mean in the future "Palestinians Loving Others".

Dr. Anis Shorrosh, D. Min., D. Phil.

P. O. Box 949, Fairhope, AL 36532

Telephone: (251) 680-7770 or Facsimile (251) 621-0507

Web site: www.islam-in-focus.com or E-mail: asea777@truthincrisis.com