

# **Republican Perspective**

**6 June 2018**

**by John Littig**

## **A Moment of Silence**

The U.S. Department of State maintains a list of foreign terrorist organizations. Among the criteria, it states that the organization “must threaten the security of U.S. nationals or the national security (national defense, foreign relations, or the economic interest) of the United States.”

The Islamic Resistance Movement ( Hamas ) is on the list. This is not a concoction of the Trump administration, or even the Bush-43 administration. Hamas has been on the list since Oct. 8, 1997---during the Clinton administration. (Incidentally, Hamas is also on the European Union’s comparable list.)

Hamas, from its territory in Gaza, regularly attempts to launch attacks into Israel, whether by breaching the border fence, tunneling under it, firing rockets toward Israeli towns, deploying kite bombs, throwing Molotov cocktails, and so on. In addition, Hamas pays substantial blood money to the families of suicide bombers and others for killing Israelis.

On May 14, the U.S. consummated the relocation of its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This was of course met with renewed riots and attacks from across the Israel-Gaza border. The Israelis responded with gunfire, leaving 62 Palestinians dead on that day.

Naturally, the best bet for Hamas would be to declare this to be a slaughter of innocents by the wicked Israelis. So of course that was the picture Hamas painted for consumption in the West. But for the local Palestinian populace, Hamas gave a different story. On the Palestinian news outlet Baladna TV, Hamas official Salah al-Bardawil declared that almost all of

the slain were heroic Hamas fighters. Translation: we terrorists led the charge and we terrorists suffered the casualties.

The United Nations Security Council weighed in by holding a moment of silence on May 15 for the Hamas dead. Fortunately, our ambassador Nikki Haley avoided this travesty by purposely arriving late to the Security Council meeting.

The U.N.'s action was no surprise. It would have been a shock if they had missed an opportunity to take an anti-Israel position. The surprise came from an American high school.

Beacon School is an elite public high school in New York City and is known for taking lefty positions. For example, students held a faculty-approved walkout to protest the election of President Donald Trump.

Even so, it came as a shock to many students on May 15 when the school's public address system announced a moment of silence for those killed in the Gaza clash. Parents were furious. Here are examples: "Mourning Hamas terrorists? It's disgraceful." "I am extremely upset because I did not send my child to a New York City public school to pray for Hamas operatives." "I just don't think any school should be promoting a moment of silence for terrorists."

The moment of silence was announced on the public address system by a student---almost certainly with faculty approval. Parents and the New York Post say school principal Ruth Lacey has been unresponsive to their attempts to contact her. Perhaps she is taking an extended moment of silence which is preventing her from speaking with the press and with the incensed parents of her students.

"What if it was terrorists in ISIS," one parent wondered. "No school would be having that over the loudspeaker."

Don't bet on it.

Update: On June 2, after this column had gone to print, nypost.com carried a brief article stating that the principal had sent a letter to parents saying: “I regret that the announcement offended anyone in our school community....I will take every care to ensure school-wide announcements are carefully reviewed.”