

Calderan was photographed in Ramallah at the start of his run, draped in a Palestinian Authority banner and backed by a photo of the late PLO terrorist chief Yasser Arafat.

After the discrepancy was pointed out, Guinness confirmed that Calderan did indeed begin the run in Ramallah, and only then proceeded to Jerusalem, but steadfastly maintained "no politics [were] intended." Nonetheless, the runner managed to obtain photo shoots besides the Judea-Samaria security barrier, something that even Roman Catholic Pope Benedict XVI was unable to arrange during his own recent visit to the region.

All Jerusalem photos, in fact, were shot with the much-disputed barrier clearly in view -- either with Calderan jogging alongside the wall, or with it clearly in the background. Captions sent to the media read: "Freedom Jump Border" and "Max Run Wall."

Guinness insisted the pictures had "nothing to do with UNRWA. We were responsible for him inside Gaza only." And yet, early on Guinness had stated from the outset, "Yes, it is an UNRWA thing."

The brochure that described the week-long run, expected to end next Friday, said it is being filmed for a special news documentary.

A "confrontation" between the film's director and the runner helps describe the spiritual reasons for the run, according to the brochure, which adds that the documentary reports the reflections of both on the "actual Middle Eastern situation."

Calderan "will have to face the limitations of a precarious geopolitical situation," as he makes his run across the Arab-controlled lands, the brochure notes.

In another apparent contradiction to Guinness' insistence on "no politics intended," film director Cinzia Torrini is described in the text as "determined in not realizing a mere report of the run." The brochure says that the director will "contextualize the event following its political dynamics and cultural and religious contradictions, characterizing this Middle East's areas."

The actual physical challenge of the run does not enter the picture until he reaches the Egyptian stretch, the text explains.

The film will be shot using Jerusalem, Mt. Sinai, Qumran, Bethlehem, Jericho, and the Jordan River as backdrops for the interview --- all, except Mt. Sinai in Egypt, disputed areas currently under negotiation between Israel and the PA.

The prospectus for the documentary goes on to say:

"The production will employ a very well integrated and expert troupe, prepared to meet any difficulty that could be found during the realization of a documentary carried out in war places, the production will employ two teams operating on two different aspects: the first one will mainly follow Calderan's run, the other one will be more involved in the geographic and cultural context.

"In such an important historical moment, attracting the international interest and where new opportunities are being opened for the peace between Israel and Palestine, the Italian State, with its attention and cooperation to the project, confirms its importance."

The reference by the documentary team to the Palestinian Authority as Palestine, a sovereign nation, thus also attempts to create a literary, if not diplomatic, *fait accompli*.

The run is expected to result in a book plus DVD, to be distributed on Italian Free TV (Rai 3), as well as through an international distribution network. (© A7 Syndications 05/24/09)

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