

Gabriel I. Haritos (Symi, 1907 - Rhodes, April 9, 1990) was a Greek lawyer and politician, the first elected Mayor of Rhodes (1946-50) and later a Member of Parliament with the Greek political party, the "National Radical Union (EPE)" (1956-1963).

When he attended the Gymnasium, he developed partisan activity and in an episode in 1926 at the Venetian High School of Rhodes, along with 2 classmates he took down the Italian flag from the building and raised the Greek flag, provoking the reactions of the Italians. The conquerors arrested the young students and exiled them, with Haritos being displaced in Symi Island.

Haritos studied law at the University of Athens with great difficulty, working at the same time. In 1932 he started practicing law in Rhodes. Later he stepped up his partisan actions, resulting in his imprisonment, again by the Italians.



On August 6, 1946 he was elected as the first Mayor of Rhodes after the end of the Italian Occupation, sealing a 630 year old slavery.

In memory of his Jewish compatriots who perished in the Holocaust, he named the square, which was the center of the Jewish quarter, "Jewish Martyrs' Square".

During the negotiations between Israel and the Arabs under the auspices of the UN, Gabriel Haritos, as Mayor of Rhodes, was chosen by Greek diplomacy to manage Greece's good services with the framework of the host country's duties. The negotiations took place at the "Rodon" hotel and led to the establishment of the State of Israel.

Gabriel Haritos died in Rhodes in 1990, and his name was given to Central Square in the town of Rhodes in front of his house.