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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nechanma Aloni

FROM: Asaf Bressler

DATE: 6 April 2011

RE: **The Palestinian Return Center and its board of trustees' activities and ties with terror entities – Shortened Version**

This research will present the "Palestinian Return Center" (PRC) radical Islamic agenda, and its deep involvement in radical activities designated to harm the state of Israel and to impose a radical Islamic ideology on the European agenda. These points will be illustrated through its board of trustees' members' activities. In order to base the research main claim that the PRC is in fact part of Hama's mechanism in Europe, a significant part was dedicated to explore the history of Hamas. As it will present further on Hamas's ideology and strategies are intertwined in the PRC activities.

Background

The PRC was founded and registered in the UK on 1996 (Exhibit 8045). From the information being gathered it can be determined that PRC has two official objectives, strengthen the Palestinian awareness among Palestinian immigrants¹ in Western Europe, and to present the Palestinian problem to the non-Arab/Muslims citizens of Western Europe countries. PRC mainly focuses on organizing activities and conferences among its targeted crowds. The PRC dedicates significant efforts to educational activities such as issuing academic studies, issuing general publications, building educational centers etc. As it will be presented further on in this research all of the PRC members' possess an academic education.

Israel Security Agency (Shabak) published on its website an announcement (Exhibit 8039) informing that On December 5, 2010 the Israeli defense minister, Mr. Ehud Barak, signed on a warrant declaring that the PRC is an illegal organization (Exhibit 8101). Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) specifies that the decision to declare on the PRC as an illegal organization was taken due to the fact that the PRC is Hamas's coordinating branch in Europe, and that the PRC activists are high rank Hamas members that are operating for Hamas's cause, and maintain direct link with senior Hamas members including those in Damascus.

The announcement (Exhibit 8039) lists four members of the PRC board of trustees that are Hamas members, Majid Al-Zeer, Zaher Birawi, Majdi Akeel² and Ghassan Faour which according to the announcement is a member of Interpal board of trustees. The announcement (Exhibit 8039) points out that the PRC is very dominant in organizing radical activities against Israel and has ties with radical organizations such as IHH, the "Muslim Brotherhood", and ECESG³ and also maintains ties with members of Hamas's funds in Europe and representatives of Hamas in Gaza. Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) specifically says that the PRC is part of Hamas activity within the Palestinian European community and especially the British one. Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) points out that the PRC

¹ PRC defines them all as exiling refugee communities deported from their homeland Palestine.

² Please notice that Majdy Akeel is also Interpal activist

³ The announcement (Exhibit 8039) gives PRC member Arafat Madi (will be discussed further on) as an example to a dominant activist in organizing the May 2010 flotilla ride to Israel.

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activity is part of Hamas's worldwide campaign trying to buy an international legitimacy to its Ghazzan Leadership, and aims to delegitimize the state of Israel among the European population.

The PRC declares on its website that one of the reasons to its formation (if not the main one) was the alleged disregard of the “Oslo Accords” from the Palestinian refugee issue (Exhibit 8038).

“The various peace initiatives, especially the Oslo accords, showed the criminal disregard for the rights of Palestinian refugees who have now endured their suffering for over 60 Years. It failed to recognize or guarantee the basic rights of the Palestinian refugees. This somber realization highlighted the need to raise the profile of the most enduring problem in this crisis, the refugees, through a detailed study of their plight from various points of view to inform various international stakeholders and hopeful shape better informed decision making.”

Reviewing the reason for the founding of the PRC it is significant that PRC was established precisely in 1996. In his book “*Hamas a history from within*” writes Azzam Tamimi that the time period between 2000-1994 and especially the year 1996 were crucial to Hamas.

“This is the phase in which the movement stood against the tide of peaceful political settlement with the Zionist enemy in the aftermath of the conclusion of the Oslo Accords on 13 September 1993. The campaign against the movement was peaked in 1996 in the form of an alliance among local, regional and international powers as expressed on the Sharm al-Sheikh summit – or what was called the war on terror summit... despite the measures adopted to undermine the movement and suppress its resistance, the movement was able to emerge from the crisis much stronger and much more effective both militarily and politically.”⁴

This determination made by Tamimi may indicate why Hamas needed to form an entity that will grasp to whatever reason or excuse it can, in order to fail the peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report published on March 2, 2011 (Exhibit 8100) also indicates that the main reason behind the formation of the PRC was the objection to the "Oslo Accords". This report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that PRC uses the Palestinian refugees issue as an "instrument" to fail every peace initiative between Israel and the Palestinians. This report (Exhibit 8100) also indicates that the PRC main goal is to motivate the return of the Palestinian refugees into the state of Israel, as part of a long term strategy that will cause to its elimination and the creation of an Islamic state instead. Although The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) points out that the mentioned activists of the PRC are avoiding linking their self with Hamas, due to negative possible outcomes that might get them entangled with the UK authorities, the information being gathered in this research indicates that PRC has an affinity with Hamas's radical ideology and more. Regardless to the determination of the Israeli Ministry of Defense, the information thus compiled illustrates numerous circumstantial proofs supporting the claim that the PRC is part of Hamas and receives guidance and/or direction from it.

A profound research in Hamas's history proved that the PRC operates according to Hamas's nature, guiding lines and strategies. In fact the PRC operates according to the guiding lines of "The Philadelphia Meeting". This meeting took place between the dates of October 3-1, 1993 in the city of Philadelphia, USA between Hamas members. According to FBI intelligence report (Exhibit 8046) the meeting was held in order to examine ways to fail the peace treaty between Israel and the Palestinians, and to maintain Hamas's legitimacy and activity within the Palestinian territories in the post “Oslo Accords” era. This FBI report reveals important decisions taken by these Hamas members during that meeting, regarding its modus operandi.

⁴ Tamimi, Azam. **Hamas a history from within** (Northampton, Massachusetts: Olive branch press, 2007), p.277

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The PRC Board of Trustees

1. Majid Khalil Musa Al-Zeer

PRC CEO since 1996. Al-Zeer is a 49 years old UK citizen, born in Bethlehem in 1962 and belongs to Al-Ta'amra tribe. On 1967 his family left to Kuwait. In 1992 he immigrated to the UK, apparently after the first gulf war where Palestinians were deported from Kuwait. He is married and has four or five children. He owns a degree in civil engineering from Kuwait University, and M.A. degree from the University of East London⁵. He is a member of the "British Association of Journalists" and the president of the "Palestinians in Europe Conference" (Exhibit 8040) (Exhibit 8042) (Exhibit 8044) (Exhibit 8095) (Exhibit 8100). According to The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) Al-Zeer joined Hamas shortly after its formation and was belonged to the Judea and Samaria area. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that Al-Zeer kept his ties with Hamas even after he became a British citizen, it also indicates that Al-Zeer mentioned in various interviews that he is a descendant to a jihadist family, and that he is related to one of Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades martyrs.

Hamas

During a television interview to Al-Jazeera on May 5, 2010 (Exhibit 8040) Al-Zeer explained that every year the PRC chooses a topic that it is a main Palestinian issue, and turns it into an issue being discussed on during that specific year in the PRC activities. In referring to the PRC's 2010 yearly issue during that interview (Exhibit 8040) he stated that it is going to be the Palestinian prisoners' year⁶ alongside with the right of return. According to a report published in Al-Jazeera website on March 2, 2010 (Exhibit 8041) Hamas government in Gaza also declared on the year 2010 as the prisoners' year (Exhibit 8041). One of the PRC main propaganda tools is an annual conference being held in one of the Western European countries capital cities each year. These conferences are being held under the frame of an organization called the "Palestinians in Europe Conference", which Al-Zeer is its president. In the "Palestinians in Europe Conference"⁷ took place in Milan on 2009, Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's Prime Minister, gave a video speech to the crowd (Exhibit 8049). Please notice that according to the Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) Hamas was outlawed in the EU and due to this fact Hamas's officials cannot enter Europe and therefore their speeches are recorded and broadcasted. According to a report published in SANA, Syria's official news agency website on August 22, 2008 (Exhibit 8063), Khaled Mashal, Hamas's political bureau chief, and Al-Zeer participated together in a conference that took place in Damascus and its issue was the "Palestinian refugee problem". Please notice that Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) indicates that the PRC members have ties with Hamas's leadership in Damascus. On December 14, 2010 the Syrian Ba'ath Party published in its official website a post indicating on a conference being held in Damascus (Exhibit 8064). This Conference's topic was the creation of an organization that will protect the Palestinian right of return. According to the post Mashal and Al-Zeer addressed the crowd, and both talked about the importance of the Palestinian unity and the Palestinian right of return. After the closure ceremony of the conference, the new organization published an announcement calling to avoid any negotiation with Israel. In a post published in the website of "Thabit [solid] Organization for the Right of Return" on October 25, 2007 it is mentioned that Al-Zeer participated in a conference alongside with Osama Hamadan, Hamas representative in Lebanon (Exhibit 8056). Furthermore the "Palestinians in Europe Conference" website publishes on its main webpage a link to Al-Quds TV channel, which belongs to Hamas (Exhibit 8067).

⁵ His case study was the Palestinian refugees.

⁶ Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons

⁷As mentioned Al-Zeer is its president

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Another example for the PRC involvement with Hamas can be found in a report published in the Saudi news website, "Al-Madina" (Exhibit 8062). This report tells about an Islamic scholars' conference that took place in Saudi Arabia. According to the report Al-Zeer thanked the Saudi government for its support to the Palestinian people among the Islamic nations. Al-Zeer also said that the Saudi efforts in promoting Islam are successful and where ever there is an Islamic community, especially in Britain, the Islamic institutes are flourishing. Also In this conference participated, Hasan Abu Hashish, the head of the Palestinian information ministry⁸. Abu Hashish talked about that great role of Saudi Arabia in spreading the word of Islam among, Islamic communities and all around the world and mentioned its continuous assistant to the Palestinian people. Please notice that on January 18, 2010 Qaradawi's official website published a report telling that Abu Hashish condemned in a press conference Fatah's announcement against Qaradawi saying that he harms the Palestinian people (Exhibit 8066).

The Palestinian information ministry publishes on its website a list of organizations that assist the Palestinian society in various life issues. Within that list the PRC website stand alongside with Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades website, Qaradawi website etc. (Exhibit 8103). The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that Al-Zeer was also the Editor of the PRC's magazine called "Al-Awda" [the return]. This report tells that (Exhibit 8100) the magazine contains a pro Hamas agenda, such as resentment against the peace process, praise words to the (Palestinian) Jihad, and "Jihad warrior" Sheikh Ahmad Yasin etc.

The Al-Jazeera show that Al-Zeer was participated in on May 5, 2010 (Exhibit 8040) is called "Mubasher Maa" [Live with], where callers are calling the studio and talking to the guest. During the show Al-Zeer called to non-Palestinian Arab callers to take action and help to the Palestinian cause. Al-Zeer emphasized that the Palestinian issue is an Arab [national] and Islamic problem and even turned to his Palestinian listeners and told them that:

"Those who see the Israeli Palestinian dispute as a local regional problem [rather than a religious/national struggle] are committing a crime against the Palestinian cause."

Please notice that The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that the same kinds of words are being heard during the conferences in Europe. It should be mentioned that these kinds of statements are revealing the PRC Hamas agenda. For example article 32 in Hamas's charter says:

"Leaving the circle of struggle with Zionism is high treason, and cursed be he who does that".

Furthermore Article 14 in Hamas's charter says:

"The question of the liberation of Palestine is bound to three circles: the Palestinian circle, the Arab circle and the Islamic circle... Since this is the case, liberation of Palestine is then an individual duty for very Muslim wherever he may be. On this basis, the problem should be viewed. This should be realized by every Muslim."

⁸ Belongs to Hamas government in Gaza

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In a panel took place in one of Al-Jazeera's talk shows on December 21, 2001 Al-Zeer pointed out that the Palestinian armed struggle against Israel reached a lot of Palestinian achievements and there for the Palestinians must not forget that they possess a useful option (Exhibit 8043).

Interpal

In the May 5, 2010 interview (Exhibit 8040) Al-Zeer also said that the PRC is cooperating with other Islamic/Arab organizations in its activities. An example to the PRC's cooperation with other Islamic/Arab organizations is a post published on June 22, 2001 in "Islam web" website telling about a massive Islamic rally took place in London for supporting the "Al-Aqsa Intifada". The post tells that part of the organizations that participated in that rally were the PRC and Interpal (Exhibit 8053).

Interpal, who was declared a terror organization in Israel and in the US according to the Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039), apparently has an intense relationship with the PRC. Examining Al-Zeer's/PRC activities over the years, it seems that beside the fact that two of the PRC members are Interpal members, PRC is covering and protecting Interpal activities. For example PRC published on its website a post (Exhibit 8061) condemning legal actions taken by the Israeli government against Interpal. It should be mentioned that in this post the PRC also urges its supporters to connect British officials and explain them that Israel is harming the British sovereignty.

Qaradawi, IRAN and Hezbollah

Al-Zeer's activities reveals more of his radical Islamic agenda, and ties with other radical entities. He is a member of the "Al-Quds [Jerusalem] International Organization" (Exhibit 8040). "Al-Quds International Organization" is a fundamental Islamic organization managed by Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi aiming to free Jerusalem from its "Jewish occupation" (Exhibit 8055). This organization was declared in Israel as an illegal (Exhibit 8102).

The PRC is also presented in "Muasasa Al-Shahid Filsatin" [The Shahid Institution of Palestine] website as an organization that helps the Palestinian refugees. This website provides information on the PRC and lists its 4 board of trustees' members. It should be mentioned that "Muasasa Al-Shahid Filsatin" is an Iranian/Hezbollah affiliated organization, full of incitement against Israel etc. For example this website presents a chart where the user can look for names of martyrs. A random check showed at least three names of suicide bombers who committed suicide attacks in Israel on June 1 2001, August 9 2001 and March 27 2007 (Exhibit 8068). Please notice that this research will present more of the Iranian connection to the PRC. A post published in the "Muslim Brotherhood" website (Exhibit 8064) referring to the 2008 Damascus conference where Khaled Mashal and Al-Zeer participated, delivers more details regarding the guests' identity that also participated in that conference alongside with Al-Zeer. For example Ali Akbar Mohtashamipur, former Iranian minister of interior and one of Hezbollah architects, Abd Al-Manam Abu Al-Futuh, high rank member of the "Muslim Brotherhood", Mahathir Muhammad, the former Malaysian Prime Minister who is known for his anti-Semitic opinions and Nijati Jilani, member of "Al-Quds International Forum", which is part of Qaradawi's "Al-Quds International Organization". The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) published a picture of Al-Zeer, Mohtashamipur, Muhammad, and Mashal sitting together on the distinguished guests' stage.

2. Zaher Khaled Hassan Al-Birawi

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According to The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report published on September 16, 2010 (Exhibit 8069) and The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) Birawi aka Abu Khaled is a Hamas activist, born in the village of Asira Al-Shimaliyah on 1961 and today resides in Britain. In 1988 he was questioned by the Israeli security forces on suspicion of participation in rioting in his village and of incitement to rioting. He denied the allegations. In the early 1990s he went to Britain to study. There he became involved in Islamic activities, especially those affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. In 1996 he entered the Gaza Strip (for a short period of time) and worked at the Islamic University. During his intensive ongoing activity in Britain, he has been careful not to identify himself publicly with Hamas or even with the "Muslim Brotherhood" in order to avoid entanglements with the British authorities and the legal system. However while in Britain he serves as Hamas' Judea and Samaria representative in the movement's institutions and conferences which took place outside the Palestinian territories. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center reports (Exhibit 8069) (Exhibit 8100) tells that Birawi was or still is a member in the PRC board of trustees (Exhibit 8078) and even its board of trustees' chairman. Please notice that PRC website is no longer presents him as a member. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center reports (Exhibit 8069) (Exhibit 8100) say that Birawi is intensively involved in the activity of other organizations and institutions in Britain. Until recently he was chairman of an organization called the Palestinian Forum in Britain (PFB), and today he is responsible for its public relations. He is also on the board of trustees of an institution called Education Aid for Palestine (EAP), some of whose activists are affiliated with Hamas. The EAP was established in 1993 by Issam Yussuf of Interpal.

Reviewing The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8069) regarding Birawi's activities reveals that he is involved in at least four interrelated activities with the Hamas activist, Muhammad Swallha. Between 2003 and 2001 he was the chairman of the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB), affiliated with the British branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. According to the report (Exhibit 8069) Muhammad Sawalha was one of that Association's founders. Birawi is also a senior activist in the British Muslim Initiative (BMI), affiliated with the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood in Britain and headed by Muhammad Sawalha. The report (Exhibit 8069) continues and tells that Birawi directs the programs and he is the lead presenter on Al-Hiwar TV, an Arabic-language television channel broadcasting from London and affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. Al-Hiwar TV engages in propaganda collaboration with Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV in the Gaza Strip. Indeed the channel's programs are full of an anti-Israel, anti-west and pro Hamas and radical Islamic propaganda.

Hamas, Iran, George Galloway, and the Convoys

A good public example for Birawi's radical Islamic ideology is his show "Palestinian Panorama" which is a stage for extreme Islamic propaganda. The show that aired on December 2010 dealt with the subject of 23 years of commemoration to the first Intifada (Exhibit 8070). The guest panel was assembled from two guests, Muhammad Swallha who was presented as a writer and researcher and Ibrahim Darwish, a scholar who is apparently a Jordanian-Palestinian resides in the UK. The majority of the show was dedicated to the glorification of Hamas movement during the first Intifada and emphasizing its great devotion to the Palestinian cause, and the great role of Islam encouraging the uprising. During the show Sawalha and Darwish made a few interesting comments and showed an extraordinary knowledge regarding Hamas's modus operandi. Within this show parts of an old Hamasi Intifada documentary movie were aired. In the last part the show part of that movie was aired and showed the public being

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incitement by Muezzin calls and violent rallies where children took part. At the end of that video segment Birawi appeared overly satisfied with himself and said “How Beautiful”.

When referring to Birawi's ties with George Galloway the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8069) indicates on Birawi's relations with George Galloway in the context of the convoys to Gaza. According to this (Exhibit 8069) report in the recent years Birawi has been intensively and continuously involved in sending convoys to the Gaza Strip through Galloway's organization, “Viva Palestina”. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8069) assumes that Birawi may serve as a kind of liaison between “Viva Palestina” and Hamas. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8069) also indicates that Birawi participated in the convoy which confronted the Egyptian security forces in January 2010, and that some of the members of that convoy did eventually enter the Gaza Strip were received by senior Hamas figures. Birawi also was involved in organizing the Mavi Marmara flotilla and participated in its launching from Istanbul on May 22. Birawi was also the spokesman for Viva Palestina “Life line 5” mostly overland convoy that left London on September 18, 2010 and headed towards Gaza.

Media publications regarding “Life line 5” convoy are showing visually, Birawi's intensive involvement in those activities and in fact are reflecting his and the PRC ties with Hamas and their devotion to the radical Islamic anti-Israeli agenda. The Iranian channel, “Press TV” that covered convoy no. 5 travel presented Birawi in one of the reports as the official spokesman of the convoy (Exhibit 8072). In this report Birawi emphasized to “Press TV” reporter that the people of Gaza democratically elected their government, and because America and Israel did not like it, they chose to punish the people of Gaza by sieging them. This remark defending Hamas made by Birawi clearly validates the determination that he is Hamas member or at least an enthusiastic supporter.

More of the “Press TV” reports regarding “Life line 5” convoy are proving that Birawi and in fact the PRC is Hamas. For example in a report (Exhibit 8072) where George Galloway⁹, the convoy's leader, held a press conference in Syria, he said that Israel is the enemy. Birawi translated his words into Arabic for the crowd. On the stage with them set Sawallha who later on said to “Press TV” reporter that he does not afraid of Israel. Another report of “Press TV” shows the convoy members visiting the graves of the Mavi Maramara dead. In that event Birawi said to the crowd that these dead shorted the life of the occupation (Exhibit 8081). In a phone interview made with Sawallha on Al-Hiwar TV channel (Exhibit 8082) during the convoy, he referred to the issue of the Egyptian refusal to let the convoy enter Gaza, and said that although the difficulties, eventually Palestine will be liberated. In that same interview the correspondent said that part of the convoy activists met with Musa Abu-Marzuk, Khaled Mashal's deputy, and asked Sawallha what is his opinion regarding Marzuk's statement to the activists that, the convoy's delay aim is to destroy a good method that eventually will break the siege. Further media reports are revealing the true nature of the convoy members and their radical Islamic ideology. For example in a report telling on rallies of the convoy members being held in Syria, it can be seen that a large number of the participants are devout Muslims (Exhibit 8074). In the report telling about the convoy's arrival to Gaza (Exhibit 8075), the reporter tells that the convoy members were accepted by Hamas officials. In this report Sawallha is being seen shaking hands with them. Furthermore the reporter continues and tells that the convoy members also were accepted by “Hamas Prime Minister Ismail

⁹ Please notice that he has a show on “Press TV” channel.

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Haniya”¹⁰. On a report published in the Syrian channel “Al-Dunia” (Exhibit 8083) regarding the convoy’s arrival to Gaza, it can be seen a group of veiled women and to their heads a green headbands says (in Arabic) “Izz Al-Din Al-Qassam Brigades”. This report was full of scenes were people carrying Islamic flags and slogans were seen, also Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri was interviewed and blessed the participants.

More of Birawi’s/PRC Hamasi relations can be seen in an interview that he made with Ismail Haniyeh on March 2009 in Al-Hiwar channel (Exhibit 8099). Regardless to the well seen excitement on Birawi’s face he flattered incessantly to Haniyeh. In the beginning of the interview Haniyeh thanked Al-Hiwar channel for its support in the Palestinian cause, thanked Galloway for the convoy launching¹¹, and emphasized the importance of these convoys.

IHH organization published on its website a report and photos from a press conference being held with the convoy’s arrival to Istanbul. In these photos Birawi, Sawallha and Galloway are being seen standing together on the stage (Exhibit 8076) (Exhibit 8077). Both Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) and another report (Exhibit 8079) published by The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center published on October 5, 2010 clearly determines that the PRC is involved with violent convoys sending to Israel’s shores and borders. These two documents indicate that another PRC member name Arafat Madi, is one of the organizers of these convoys and other anti-Israeli activities. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) also indicates that Madi is a Hamas member.

According to Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) and The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8079) Madi is also the chairman of ECESG¹², which is a pro Hamas umbrella organization that involved in campaigns trying to delegitimize the state of Israel. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8079) adds and tells that ECESG offices are located within the PRC’s one and that their phone and fax numbers are identical. ECESG published on its website a list of organizations forming the campaign (Exhibit 8080), the first organization appearing is the PRC. Please notice that in the phone interview made with Sawallha on Al-Hiwar TV channel (Exhibit 8082), he was presented as the deputy chairman of ECESG. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that the idea to establish the ECESG was taken during the PRC’s annual conference being held in Denmark at 2008. This report (Exhibit 8100) also indicates that Majid Al-Zeer is also involved in flotillas launching. Please notice that The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) bases this claim referring to a media indication, where Al-Zeer said that ECESG plans to launch more marine convoys.

July 7, 2005 London Terror Attacks

The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8069) indicates that in the early 1990s Birawi began his career in Britain as spokesman for Leeds Grand Mosque. In her book “*Londonistan*” writes the author Melanie Phillips that in this mosque one of the London July 7, 2005 suicide bomber used to pray.

¹⁰ Haniya is being seen delivering a speech to them.

¹¹ Galloway’s first convoy to Gaza

¹² Stands for “The European Campaign to end the siege on Gaza”

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“The Imam of the Leeds Grand Mosque - where one of the London bombers, Abdullah Jamal, used to pray - has delivered sermons proclaiming the supremacy of Islam and a conviction that Christians and Jews are plotting to under main it.”¹³

Phillips continues to write that in this mosque the Imam waged a campaign of incitement against non-Muslims, and justify the usage of suicide attacks against them. The Leeds Grand Mosque website published an annual report written by Birawi, and presents him as the mosque’s board of trustees chairman between the time period of July 23, 2004-September 25, 2005 (Exhibit 8071).

3. **Majdy Muhammad Hassan Akeel**

The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center reports (Exhibit 8079) (Exhibit 8100)¹⁴ describe Akeel as a Gazan¹⁵ born in 1953 that lives in Britain and serves as the Manchester area representative of Interpal (Exhibit 8085). He is member of the PRC board of trustees (Exhibit 8095) and his name was also mentioned in the two trials of the HLF. According to US legal documents Akeel participated in HLF fund raising activities (Exhibit 8098). Akeel was a lecture in Gaza Islamic university. Shabak announcement (Exhibit 8039) says that he is a Hamas member.

Interpal Activities

Three Media reports can indicate on Akeel’s involvement in Interpal activities and in fact are reflecting Interpal’s radical Islamic ideology. In a YouTube video (Exhibit 8084) published in Michael Lavalette¹⁶ YouTube channel Akeel is seen delivering a speech to a crowd, during an Islamic rally took place in the UK during January 2009 and opposed operation “Cast Lead”. In this video Akeel is surrounded with enthusiastic Muslim supporters and gets accepted with the calls of “Allah Akbar”. He was presented to the crowd as Abu Muhammad of Interpal. Akeel’s main highlights from that speech were: “The war in Gaza is against all the Ummah [Islamic people] and the humanity”, “The Zionist ruined mosques in Gaza and cut people to pieces”, “your [the crowd] Dawah [Islamic devotion] is stronger than F-16 and nuclear bombs”, “Every single Muslim is Gaza”. Please notice that when referring to the mosques issue, Akeel mentioned that Israel ruined the martyr Ibrahim Al-Makadmeh mosque. Al-Makadmeh was a senior Hamas member and was assassinated by Israel. Akeel ended his speech in saying that he hopes that all of that crowd will celebrate the victory in Gaza and pray in Al-Aqsa mosque. He also expressed his hope that the martyrs of Gaza will intersect for the crowd in heaven.

In another YouTube video uploaded in January 2009 (Exhibit 8086) (Exhibit 8087), Akeel is being seen again delivering a speech. Akeel talked to a crowd of pro-Palestinian/human rights activists during a gathering against operation “Cast Lead”, where a call to make the alleged humanitarian convoys was raised. Akeel was invited to make his speech and was presented as the “northern resource development manager” of Interpal. During that speech Akeel talked about the hard life of Palestinians under war and incited against the state of Israel. He said that Israel blocked the ways to Gaza, and now the Palestinians have shortage of food. He continued and emphasized “that we [Muslims/Arabs] are not against the Jews but against the Zionists who are committing crimes against all the humanity”. During his speech Akeel called to donate whatever people can for the sake of the people of Gaza, and thanked other charity organizations that helped. All the charity organizations he thanked them were Islamic. In this gathering Galloway was also attend and delivered a speech (Exhibit 8088). He asked the people to donate money

¹³ Phillips, Melanie. **Londonistan** (New York, New York: Encounter Books, 2006), p.90-89

¹⁴ According to Exhibit 8100 he is aka Abu Shamla, but in one of the media exhibits he is also called Abu Muhammad

¹⁵ Please notice that often in his speeches he keeps mentioning this fact

¹⁶ British left wing politician

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and started his incitement campaign against Israel. He said that the Palestinian resistance will never break and *“that we are all Palestinians”* and was applause. It should be mentioned that Galloway compared between Israel and Nazi/Fascist acts, when asked the crowd to resist Israel like in the Spanish civil war. He ended his speech by shouting long live the Palestinian resistance.

In the last YouTube video (Exhibit 8089) Akeel is delivering a speech in Interpal’s fundraising event that took place in Manchester on March 13, 2010. This event can also indicate on Interpal/PRC true radical Islamic anti-Semitic nature, moreover this event apparently was Muslim crowd designated. The event was opened in reading Sura (chapter) Al-Isra [The night journey] from the Quran, and even before it the host called to donate in the “Viva Palestina” stand and to buy Islamic merchandise, that their incomes will be transferred to the Palestinians (Exhibit 8090). Not for nothing this Sura was chosen, and that due to the fact that it describes the prophet Muhammad night journey from Mecca to Jerusalem. Please notice that opening this kind of event with Quran reading indicates on Interpal’s Islamic perception¹⁷. Furthermore all speakers in that event were devout Muslims. Part of the speakers was convoy travelers who returned from Gaza and asked to tell their experiences. They told about the Israeli brutality against them, and linked their experiences to the Islamic believe.

When the host invited Akeel to deliver his speech, he described him as a man who participates in every Palestinian related event and collects money (Exhibit 8089). In this speech Akeel was relatively moderate. He mentioned the fact that the "Isra" took place in the holy land and that Jews, Christians, and Muslims lived there all together until “someone” occupied it and deported the original people of Palestine. Towards the end of his speech he asked to thank the crowd in the name of the people of Gaza, and asked them to be generous in their donations. Another speaker in that event was Interpal’s chairman, Ibrahim Hewitt (Exhibit 8085). In his speech (Exhibit 8091) (Exhibit 8092) Hewitt fearlessly reveled his opinions on senior British politicians, the state of Israel and the British Jewish community, and in fact incited against these three entities.

The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that on March 2009 Akeel joined Galloway's "Viva Palestina" convoy to Gaza, the same convoy where Galloway was seen publically giving money to Hamas. This report (Exhibit 8100) infers that during Akeel's staying in Gaza he transferred money to Hamas's government on the behalf of Interpal. This report (Exhibit 8100) also assumes that Interpal uses "Viva Palestina" convoys to transfer money to Hamas.

4. **Ghassan Faour**

Member of PRC board of trustees (Exhibit 8095) and Interpal board of trustees (Exhibit 8096). The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8079) describes him as key figure in the "Union of Good". The few media indications where Faour is mentioned can indicate also on the PRC Hamasi guiding lines. A good example for this claim is a report (Exhibit 8097) published in the “Muslim Brotherhood” website which tells on the launch of the “first annual week for Palestinian victims” which took place in Europe. The report declares on the joint cooperation of European, Palestinian and Islamic organizations to delegitimize Israel.

“Representatives of European, Palestinian and Islamic institutions in Europe promised, during their participation in the first annual week for victims of Palestine which kicked off last week on Wednesday, to continue their efforts to expose Israel’s war crimes in the Gaza Strip.”

¹⁷ Please notice that on Interpal's logo the plant earth is colored in green, Islam's color.

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According to this report Faour took part in the activities in highlighting the history of the Palestinians, and the massacres committed against them. The report ends with the telling that Hamas sent letter of thanks to members of European delegations visited Gaza.

The PRC Ties with Interpal

The indications gathered during that research point on a link between the PRC and Interpal. As shown previously two members of the PRC board of trustees are members of Interpal. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) adds and indicates that Interpal might assists in financing the PRC. This report (Exhibit 8100) assumes that due to the fact that Interpal assists Hamas, it is possible that PRC is receiving financial help from it. For example please notice that Majdy Akeel's role in Interpal is donations collector.

On the contrary to the assumption above, the ideological link between the PRC and Interpal is much brighter. For example the joint participation in various activities as shown, the joint ride of Akeel on March 2009 with Galloway's "Viva Palestina" convoy to Gaza, the usage of the term apartheid in Interpal gathering, and the repeated mantra of Interpal members that they are not against Judaism but against Zionism. Focusing in the last two mentioned facts reveals Interpal's link to the PRC and even to Hamas. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that the PRC is constantly presenting the state of Israel as an apartheid state. In Interpal's gathering on March 13, 2009 the event's host compared between Israel and South Africa, and even compared between Hamas and Nelson Mandela without referring directly to Hamas, and said that even Mandela was called a terrorist (Exhibit 8093) (Exhibit 8094). Furthermore Akeel and Hewitt kept on mentioning during their speeches, that they are not against Judaism but against Zionism. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) points out that these kinds of declarations are aligning with the PRC propaganda mechanism of differentiating between the Jewish faith and the "Zionist Project".

This thinking is in fact proving the Hamasi ideology of both PRC and Interpal. Hamas's charter article 31 specifically says:

"Under the wing of Islam, it is possible for the followers of the three religions - Islam, Christianity and Judaism - to coexist in peace and quiet with each other. Peace and quiet would not be possible except under the wing of Islam. Past and present history are the best witness to that.

It is the duty of the followers of other religions to stop disputing the sovereignty of Islam in this region, because the day these followers should take over there will be nothing but carnage, displacement and terror. Every one of them is at variance with his fellow-religionists, not to speak about followers of other religionists. Past and present history are full of examples to prove this fact."

Article 36 of Hamas's charter completes it by declaring:

"It [Hamas] will only serve as a support for all groupings and organizations operating against the Zionist enemy and its lackeys."

Furthermore due to the insufficient information regarding Faour in comparing to the other members, it can be assumed that he might possess a senior role in Hamas.

The PRC Finance

The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that on its website the PRC declares that it finances its activities from donations being given from people who believe in

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its causes. The report (Exhibit 8100) indicates that the PRC does not specify who the donators are. A significant question mark is fluttering above that riddle. The Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) assumes that except Interpal the PRC is also being financed by funds related to Hamas and/or the "Muslim Brotherhood". It can be assumed the one of them, for example can be ESECG. The Terrorism Information Center report (Exhibit 8100) also indicates that Sheikh Sultan Al-Qasimi, the ruler of Sharjah Emirate (UAE) donated money to the establishment of the "Palestinian Culture Center" in London formed by the PRC.

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