

# Legal Assault: How the ICC Has Been Weaponized Against the U.S. and Israel

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**Cour  
Pénale  
Internationale**

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**International  
Criminal  
Court**



Jerusalem Center  
for Public Affairs



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**Jerusalem Center  
for Public Affairs**

*In collaboration with*

**NGO MONITOR**



## **The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)**

Founded in 1976, the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA), is a leading research and applied diplomacy institute specializing in national security, foreign policy, and public diplomacy. Dr. Dore Gold, former Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry and former ambassador to the United Nations, headed the Jerusalem Center since 2000.

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# Preface

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by **Amb. Dore Gold**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has returned as a central issue of debate in American foreign policy. But the debate this time not only influences American interests but also the interests of its key allies, especially Israel. In March, 2019, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned that Washington would impose restrictions on any ICC staff member who investigated U.S. or allied personnel.

This past October, the State Department revoked the U.S. visa of Fatou Bensouda, the ICC's Chief Prosecutor, after she declared her intention to conduct an investigation of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. In March 2020, she authorized an investigation into alleged war crimes committed in Afghanistan since 2003. This included members of the CIA and U.S. military forces.

Since the ICC was created in 1998 through an international treaty, known as the Rome Statute, the U.S. has been highly ambivalent about the court. The Western powers further empowered the ICC in the aftermath of the UN's failure to prevent genocide during 1994 and 1995, with the slaughter of 8,000 Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica during the Balkan Wars, and the mass murder of 800,000 members of the Tutsi tribe in Rwanda by that country's Hutu majority. The ICC was established amidst growing calls to put an end to impunity for those who engaged in the mass slaughter of civilians or ethnic cleansing as well as other heinous acts.

While President Bill Clinton did sign the Rome Statute in 2000, he did not send it to the U.S. Senate for ratification, which would have been necessary for it to become a binding commitment of the United States. In 2002, the Bush administration took this one step further, notifying the UN Secretary General that the U.S. no longer had any intention of ratifying the Rome Statute.

The ICC is based on the principle of complementarity—that is, it only has jurisdiction if an alleged crime occurred in a state that has no effective legal system to prosecute it, due to a lack of capacity or political will. Nonetheless, American critics of the court rightfully are concerned that the ICC could be abused so that warrants could be issued to drag American military personnel in front of the court, regardless of the fact that the U.S. military has its own system for investigating allegations of military misconduct.

Israel's concerns have been similar to those of the U.S. These concerns stem from Israel's bad experience with multilateral institutions in the past that have made

baseless allegations against IDF soldiers to the effect that they engaged in war crimes. The UN Human Rights Council issued the Goldstone Report in 2009 asserting that Israeli soldiers deliberately killed Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Subsequently, Justice Goldstone renounced this central conclusion contained in his own report. But the experience served as a warning of how international investigations can be abused and colored by the prejudices of those involved.

The U.S. has been cognizant of the dangers that an abused ICC could pose for Israel. U.S. law prohibits economic support for the PA if it prompts a process that places Israelis under an ICC investigation. Such an initiative would also provide grounds for closing the PLO's Washington offices as well, which occurred in September 2018.

Both the U.S. and Israel have been concerned with the politicization of the ICC. At the time of the vote for the Rome Statute, the head of the Israeli delegation, Judge Eli Nathan, explained how politicization of the ICC's founding document caused Israel, a proponent of the court, to vote against it. Nathan, who was a Holocaust survivor, spoke about leading Jewish legal minds who, after the Holocaust, called for bringing war criminals to justice. He saw the ICC emanating from Jewish ethics, and concluded: "This was...our idea."

But the Rome Statute went beyond the most heinous crimes like genocide, aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, and gave the ICC jurisdiction on political issues like settlements. Plenty of third world countries backed this change, but it was inconsistent with what the original drafters had in mind.

In 1998, during discussions over the text of the Rome Statute, the issue raised was settlements, but the debate between states over the ICC illustrated that any legal issue might be weaponized and converted into a political assault against America and Israel by using the mechanism of the ICC. The U.S. has been aware of this problem, which explains why, like Israel, it could not back what started as a noble cause but later became a seriously flawed idea.

This paper describes one aspect of the politicization of ICC - how radical NGOs, some of which are affiliated with terror organizations, collaborated in filing official complaints against the United States and Israel.

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*Ambassador Dore Gold has served as President of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs since 2000. From June 2015 until October 2016 he served as Director-General of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously he served as Foreign Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the UN (1997-1999), and as an advisor to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.*

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# Executive Summary

Fatou Bensouda, the Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court (ICC), has undertaken efforts to launch two simultaneous investigations of alleged crimes against humanity: One against the United States, for crimes it allegedly carried out in Afghanistan, and another against Israel, for crimes it purportedly committed in the Palestinian Authority controlled territories, which the prosecutor is ready to consider as the “state of Palestine,” though such a state does not exist.

What is notable about these parallel efforts by the ICC to investigate both the United States and Israel is that the NGOs and individuals pursuing both cases are closely related. The two international NGOs advancing the case against the US, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), are closely related to the Palestinian NGOs that brought the complaint against Israel to the ICC (Al-Haq, Palestinian Center for Human Rights, Al Mezan and Al-Dameer) and were intimately involved in their submissions to the court.

The above referenced complainant organizations to the ICC against Israel and the United States - Al-Haq, Al-Dameer, Al Mezan and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights - maintain strong ties to the designated terror organizations Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), according to a report



*Palestinian NGOs first submission to the ICC in 2015  
(Left to right: Jabarin and Fatou Bensouda)  
Al-Haq's website, published 11/23/15, accessed 04/20*

published in 2019 by the Israeli government.<sup>1</sup> They are far from being human rights organizations as they have falsely represented themselves, as they maintain close ties to terror organizations designated by US State Department and the European Union. For example, Shawan Jabarin, Executive Director of Al-Haq since 2006, is a former senior operative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and has served multiple prison sentences for his terror affiliated activity.<sup>2</sup> Israel's Supreme Court called Jabarin "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" for his simultaneous terror-affiliated activity and his leadership of the Al-Haq "Human Rights" group.<sup>3</sup> In May 2018, Visa, Mastercard, and American Express shut down online credit card donations to Al-Haq due to the group's ties to the PFLP. Shawan Jabarin has been denied exit visas by Israel and Jordan.<sup>4</sup> Leaders of the other Palestinian NGOs have similarly maintained close ties to the PFLP, Hamas and other Palestinian terror groups. They have been active in working against US policy in the Middle East, condemning the US Administration's declarations regarding the Golan Heights, Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.

It is not only that Al-Haq, PCHR and Al Mezan are members of FIDH, but Al-Haq's director, Shawan Jabarin, is the secretary general of FIDH. Moreover, Raji Sourani, the general director of PCHR, is the former vice president of FIDH. Nada Kiswanson van Hooydonk and Katherine Gallagher, who represented the victims, FIDH and CCR in the case against the US, were also engaged with the Palestinian submission. Kiswanson was the head of Al-Haq's office in The Hague, and Gallagher, who represents CCR in the Afghanistan case, was part of the delegation that submitted the Palestinian NGOs' opinion to the ICC prosecutor.

It should be noted that CCR and FIDH are also deeply involved in other legal aspects of anti-Israel activities, including boycott, sanctions, and divestment (BDS) initiatives, and that the four Palestinian NGOs that filed the complaint to the ICC have close relationships with terror organizations designated by the European Union and the US State Department, especially with the PFLP. As noted above, Shawan Jabarin was convicted of terror activities in the PFLP and imprisoned for three years.<sup>5</sup>

Moreover, the impartiality of ICC prosecutor Bensouda in those cases is doubtful due to the special nature of her relations with FIDH. In the past few years FIDH and Bensouda have maintained close ties, as described on FIDH's website, as a "close relationship with the Court."<sup>6</sup> In 2015, Bensouda visited FIDH's headquarters in Paris, and in 2019, she participated in FIDH's 40th Congress as one of the main speakers.<sup>7</sup>

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1 [https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists\\_in\\_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists_in_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf) (P.38)

2 [https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists\\_in\\_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists_in_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf)

3 [https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists\\_in\\_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists_in_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf)

4 [https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/al\\_haq/](https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/al_haq/)

5 [https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists\\_in\\_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists_in_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf)

6 FIDH, [Fatou Bensouda, ICC Prosecutor, Visits FIDH](#), published 04/02/15, accessed 04/20

7 FIDH, [Facebook](#), published 10/17/19, accessed 04/20

It may come as little surprise that, according to Jordanian sources, the prosecutor hinted to the Palestinians that the entire process of her conducting a preliminary examination as to whether the court has the authority to proceed with investigating the case against Israel was meant only to protect the court from criticism, while she had already decided to move the case forward.<sup>8</sup>

In short, the particularly close relationships between the accusing organizations in both cases reveal the politicized nature of these complaints. Moreover, the overlapping connections between the Palestinian NGOs and terror groups and between Bensouda and FIDH raise serious questions about objectivity and intent.

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8 JFRA News, Pompeo: "[The Palestinian Authority is not a state](#)" ... investigating the crimes of Israel in The Hague (Arabic), published 03/05/20, accessed 04/20

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# Background

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On March 5, 2020, the International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, authorized the opening of an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Afghanistan since 2003 by members of Afghan and foreign forces, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and US military forces.<sup>9</sup>

This decision was met with severe criticism from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who described the ICC as an “unaccountable political institution, masquerading as a legal body.”<sup>10</sup>

The decision appears to be the result of a joint operation conducted by various international legal organizations that pressured the ICC into investigating the situation in Afghanistan, and specifically the United States. A cause of particular concern is the correlation between this investigation and the ICC investigation against Israel; indeed, the same key people and organizations are involved in both cases.

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9 International Criminal Court, SITUATION IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN, published 03/05/20, accessed 04/20

10 US Department of State, ICC Decision on Afghanistan, published 03/05/20, accessed 04/20



*International Criminal Court,  
The Hague, the Netherlands (2015)*

# US-Afghanistan case

In April 2017, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Center for Constitutional rights (CCR) and other international organizations called on the ICC to investigate the situation in Afghanistan.<sup>11</sup> This call followed a FIDH delegation to The Hague (April 3-7, 2017), composed of Afghan civil society groups and US activists, who met with representatives of the ICC in order to demand accountability for the situation in Afghanistan.<sup>12</sup> Seven months later, in November 2017, the ICC prosecutor requested to initiate an investigation into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in relation to the armed conflict in Afghanistan.<sup>13</sup>



11 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Human rights groups call for the opening of an ICC investigation into the situation in Afghanistan](#), published 04/13/17, accessed 04/20

12 Ibid

13 International Criminal Court, [Afghanistan](#), accessed 04/20

However, two years later, in April 2019, the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber rejected the prosecutor's request.<sup>14</sup> Following that decision, CCR and other legal representatives increased their pressure and filed the Victims' Notice of Appeal.<sup>15</sup> After a protracted process of submissions,<sup>16</sup> appeals<sup>17</sup> and hearings,<sup>18</sup> the ICC eventually reversed the Pre-Trial Chamber decision and authorized a full investigation of crimes in and related to Afghanistan in March 2020.<sup>19</sup>

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14 International Criminal Court, PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER II (p.15), published 04/12/19, accessed 04/20

15 International Criminal Court, Victims' Notice of Appeal, published 06/10/19, accessed 04/20; International Criminal Court, Victims Notice of Appeal Annex I, published 06/10/19, accessed 04/20; International Criminal Court, Victims Notice of Appeal Annex II, published 06/10/19, accessed 04/20

16 International Criminal Court, Request Seeking Leave to File Amicus Curiae Submissions on Behalf of Human Rights Organizations in Afghanistan, published 10/07/19, accessed 04/20; Center for Constitutional Rights, Victims of U.S. Torture, Indefinite Detention Appeal ICC Ruling That Blocked Investigation, published 10/01/19, accessed 04/20

17 International Criminal Court, THE APPEALS CHAMBER, published 11/26/19, accessed 04/20

18 International Criminal Court, Appeals Hearing, published 12/05/19, accessed 04/20; International Criminal Court, Appeals Hearing, published 12/06/19, accessed 04/20

19 International Criminal Court, SITUATION IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN, published 03/05/20, accessed 04/20

# Key Players Behind the US Investigation

## International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)

FIDH is a France-based international non-profit umbrella organization founded in 1922 and consists of 184 human rights organization from 112 countries.<sup>20</sup> FIDH focuses on litigation, advocacy and providing support to local human rights member organizations.<sup>21</sup> Moreover, it actively takes part in research on alleged human rights violations and lobbying of national and international official governmental bodies.<sup>22</sup> Due to FIDH's extensive connections and influence, in some cases its actions have succeeded in bringing about divestment from Israel or, at the very least, international pressure.<sup>23</sup> Since 2004, FIDH had maintained a permanent Hague-based representation to the ICC that facilitates various interactions.<sup>24</sup>

In the past few years it seems that FIDH and the ICC Chief Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, have maintained close ties, in what was described on FIDH's website as a "close relationship with the Court."<sup>25</sup> In 2015, Bensouda visited FIDH's headquarters in Paris, and in 2019, she participated in FIDH's 40th Congress as one of the main speakers.<sup>26</sup>

## Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR)

CCR is a 501(c)3 non-profit legal and educational organization founded in New York in 1996.<sup>27</sup> CCR is committed to "dismantling systems of oppression and fighting for justice through litigation, advocacy, and narrative shifting."<sup>28</sup>

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20 FIDH, [Contact](#), accessed 04/20; FIDH, [About](#), accessed 04/20

21 FIDH, [Litigation](#), accessed 04/20; FIDH, [International Advocacy](#), accessed 04/20; FIDH, [About](#), accessed 04/20

22 Al-Haq, [The Conference "Threshold from Occupation to Annexation" Concluded](#), published 11/06/18, accessed 04/20; Al-Haq, [Twitter](#), published 05/06/18, accessed 04/20

23 FIDH, [the end of the Orange and Partner contract](#), published 06/10/18, accessed 04/20

24 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Amicus-Brief](#), published 10/15/19, accessed 04/20

25 FIDH, [Fatou Bensouda, ICC Prosecutor, Visits FIDH](#), published 04/02/15, accessed 04/20

26 FIDH, [Facebook](#), published 10/17/19, accessed 04/20

27 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Who we are](#), accessed 04/20

28 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Mission and Vision](#), accessed 04/20

**Fatou Bensouda**Prosecutor - International Criminal Court  
(ICC)**Lin Hsin-Yi**Executive Director the Taiwan Alliance  
to End the Death Penalty - Taiwan**Márta Pardavi**Co-president Hungarian Helsinki  
Committee - Hungary**Paulina Acevedo**Journalist, NGO Observatorio Ciudadano -  
Chile**Ahlem Belhadj**Member and former President, Tunisian Association of  
Democratic Women - Tunisia

*Bensouda Participating in FIDH's 40th Congress as a Main Speaker,  
FIDH's Facebook page, published 10/17/19, accessed 04/20*

The organization is highly involved in lawfare campaigns targeting the State of Israel, such as filing lawsuits against Israeli officials<sup>29</sup> and US-based companies cooperating with Israel.<sup>30</sup> Moreover, it takes an active role in attempts to counter or overturn anti-BDS legislation in the US,<sup>31</sup> organizing delegations<sup>32</sup> and portraying Israel's actions as "the genocide of the Palestinian people."<sup>33</sup> Furthermore, in 2019, the Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) filed a lawsuit against the organization US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR), which is legally represented by CCR,<sup>34</sup> for conspiring to provide financial aid to designated terrorist organizations such as Hamas. It also claimed that USCPR materially supported the launch of incendiary terror balloons and kites launched from Gaza into Israel as well as actively promoting and sponsoring the "Stop JNF Campaign" aimed specifically at targeting and harming KKL-JNF.<sup>35</sup>

29 The Electronic Intifada, [Lawsuit filed against Israeli General in U.S. Court for war crimes](#), published 12/15/05, accessed 04/20; Center for Constitutional Rights, [Matar et al v. Dichter](#), accessed 04/20; Center for Constitutional Rights, [Doğan v. Barak \(Amicus\)](#), accessed 04/20

30 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Corrie et al. v. Caterpillar](#), accessed 04/20

31 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Recent BDS Developments: Anti-BDS Legislation and the MLA](#), accessed 04/20; Center for Constitutional Rights, [Legal Groups Urge FL Lawmakers to Withdraw Unconstitutional Anti-Boycott Bill](#), published 10/21/15, accessed 04/20

32 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Center for Constitutional Rights Executive Director and Board Chair Both Denied Entry into Israel](#), published 05/01/18, accessed 04/20

33 Center for Constitutional Rights, [The Genocide of the Palestinian People: An International Law and Human Rights Perspective](#), published 08/25/16, accessed 04/20

34 USCPR, [Palestinian Rights Organization Challenges Meritless Lawsuit Filed Against It](#), published 03/06/20, accessed 04/20

35 JNF, [KKL-JNF, terror victims file lawsuit against US charity allegedly funneling donations to Palestinian terror groups](#), published 11/15/19, accessed 04/20

## Katherine Gallagher

Katherine Gallagher is a human rights attorney who is a senior staff attorney at CCR and also served as the vice president of the International Board of FIDH.<sup>36</sup> Gallagher has been highly involved in the Afghanistan case,<sup>37</sup> supports it publicly,<sup>38</sup> promotes it in her role at CCR,<sup>39</sup> and calls for the ICC “to hold the US accountable for crimes in Afghanistan.”<sup>40</sup> On January 31, 2018, CCR submitted a case to the ICC concerning two men detained at Guantanamo, in support of the Afghanistan case. Currently, Gallagher serves as victims’ representative in the Afghanistan case.<sup>41</sup>

## Nada Kiswanson

Nada Kiswanson van Hooydonk is a Swedish-Palestinian lawyer<sup>42</sup> who serves as the legal representatives of victims in the Afghanistan case.<sup>43</sup> She has worked for many years for Al-Haq and was the director of its European offices in The Hague and Brussels.<sup>44</sup> The offices were strategically located next to the European Parliament headquarters<sup>45</sup> and the International Criminal Court.<sup>46</sup>

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36 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Katherine Gallagher](#), accessed 04/20

37 HuffPost, [Where Will U.S. Torturers Be Held Accountable?](#), published 02/27/14, accessed 04/20

38 Katherine Gallagher, [Twitter](#), published 03/05/20, accessed 04/20

39 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Accountability for International Crimes in Afghanistan](#), accessed 04/20

40 The Guardian, [The ICC must hold the US accountable for crimes in Afghanistan](#), published 02/16/18, accessed 04/20

41 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Human Rights Group Urges International Court to Investigate U.S. Officials, Contractors](#), published 01/31/18, accessed 04/20

42 Human Rights Defenders World Summit, [Nada Kiswanson](#), accessed 04/20

43 International Criminal Court, [THE APPEALS CHAMBER](#), published 10/24/19, accessed 04/20

44 Al-Haq, [PCHRO: The EU fails to uphold international law in its relations with Israel](#), published 07/26/12, accessed 04/20

45 European Parliament, [Website](#), accessed 04/20

46 International Criminal Court, [About](#), accessed 04/20

# Correlation with the ICC Investigation Against Israel

On December 20, 2019, the International Criminal Court prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, announced that there existed sufficient evidence to begin investigating “war crimes” allegedly committed by Israel in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza.<sup>47</sup>

This decision was a result of an ongoing lawfare campaign organized and coordinated by four Palestinian organizations: Al-Haq, Al-Dameer, Al Mezan and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, which hold strong ties to the designated terror organizations Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).<sup>48</sup>



47 International Criminal Court, [Statement of ICC Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, on the conclusion of the preliminary examination of the Situation in Palestine, and seeking a ruling on the scope of the Court's territorial jurisdiction](#), published 12/20/19, accessed 04/20

48 European Council, [COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#), published 01/08/19, accessed 04/20; US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 04/20; Government of Canada, [Currently listed entities](#), accessed 02/20; Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 04/20

The four organizations submitted six reports to the ICC between 2015 and 2018. Katherine Gallagher and Nada Kiswanson, both significant players in the Afghanistan case, were also heavily involved in the Israel case.

In preparation for the first submission, Al-Haq opened an office in The Hague, where the Office of the Prosecutor is located,<sup>49</sup> and appointed Kiswanson to be its representative there.<sup>50</sup> Al-Haq's office enabled it to speedily submit reports and conduct lawfare with unfettered access to the highest international legal bodies.



**Palestinian NGOs first submission to the ICC in 2015**  
(Left to right: Gallagher, Jabarin, Fatou Bensouda and Kiswanson)  
*Al-Haq's website, published 11/23/15, accessed 04/20*

Kiswanson and Gallagher both attended the handing over of the first submission in 2015 along with Al-Haq representative Shawan Jabarin.<sup>51</sup>

Gallagher also attended the third submission, of a 145-page file on the Israeli closure of the Gaza Strip in 2016.<sup>52</sup> Kiswanson, along with Jabarin, filed the fourth submission on alleged crimes committed by Israel in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 2017.<sup>53</sup>

Currently, Gallagher serves as the legal representative of victims in the Palestine case, and on March 16, 2020, she submitted the victims' observation to the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber.<sup>54</sup>

Moreover, on April 13, 2020, during a webinar on the "Israel-Palestine at the International Criminal Court," Gallagher was quoted as saying "the way the United States is treating the ICC both to protect its own and to protect Israeli officials is the way dictatorships operate" (01:00:23).<sup>55</sup>

49 Nada Kiswanson, [LinkedIn](#), accessed 02/20; ICC, [Contact us](#), accessed 04/20

50 Frontline defenders, [NADA KISWANSON](#), accessed 04/20; Al-Haq, [PCHRO: The EU fails to uphold international law in its relations with Israel](#), published 07/26/12, accessed 04/20

51 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 04/20

52 Al-Haq, [Investigate Persecution Arising out of Ongoing Gaza Closure, Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Urge ICC Prosecutor](#), published 11/22/16, accessed 02/20

53 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submit Evidence to the ICC Prosecutor on Crimes Committed in West Bank](#), published 09/20/17, accessed 02/20

54 International Criminal Court, [PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER I](#), published 03/16/20, accessed 04/20

55 YouTube, [WEBINAR: Israel-Palestine at the International Criminal Court](#), accessed 04/20



*Shawan Jabarin and Raji Sourani During Their Advocacy Mission in the US, Which Was Organized by CCR (Left to right: Warren, Jabarin, Sourani and Gallagher)  
Palestinian Center for Human Rights' website, published 04/17/16, accessed 04/20*

In addition, Al-Haq, PCHR and Al Mezan, three of the four terror-affiliated organizations involved in the Israeli investigation, are coalition members of FIDH,<sup>56</sup> which led the Afghanistan case. FIDH promotes a one-sided agenda regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, utilizing various measures such as involvement in CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) in an attempt to inflict financial harm on Israel.<sup>57</sup> Moreover, it seems that members of these three Palestinian NGOs hold significant positions in FIDH, such as Shawan Jabarin, Al-Haq's Director General,<sup>58</sup> who currently serves as the secretary general of FIDH,<sup>59</sup> and Raji Sourani, PCHR's Director General, who served as vice president of FIDH.<sup>60</sup>

Additionally, CCR is a coalition member of FIDH<sup>61</sup> and has supported the ICC investigation of Israel.<sup>62</sup>

CCR also hosted both Jabarin and Sourani on an advocacy mission in the US in 2016, during which they met with its executive director, Vincent Warren.<sup>63</sup>

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56 FIDH, [About](#), accessed 04/20

57 Plateforme-Palestine, [Denounce the banks and insurance companies that are involved in Israeli settlements](#), published 12/20/16, accessed 04/20

58 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq and partners hold briefing for diplomatic community in Palestine](#), published 02/20/20, accessed 04/20

59 FIDH, [Our organization](#), accessed 04/20

60 PCHR, [Raji Sourani](#), accessed 04/20

61 FIDH, [Our organizations](#), accessed 04/20

62 Center for Constitutional Rights, [Facebook](#), published 12/31/14, accessed 04/20; Palestine Legal, [#JusticeDelegation Statement: in Solidarity with Palestine](#), published 05/14/18, accessed 04/20

63 Palestinian Center for Human Rights, [Sourani and Jabarin on International Advocacy Mission in the U.S.A.](#), published 04/17/16, accessed 04/20

# U.S CASE Vs. ISRAEL CASE

## U.S. SUBMISSION



**NADA KISWANSON**

Legal Representative of Victims



**KATHERINE GALLAGHER**

Legal Representative of Victims

**fidh**

**FIDH**

International Federation  
of Human Rights

## ISRAEL SUBMISSION



**NADA KISWANSON**

Lawyer, Al-Haq



**KATHERINE GALLAGHER**

Lawyer, Center for  
Constitutional Rights (CCR)



**SHAWAN JABARIN**

FIDH's Secretary General /  
Al-Haq Director



**RAJI SOURANI**

FIDH's former vice president /  
PCHR's General Director

# Appendix

*NGO Monitor's comprehensive data base contributed to this appendix*

## Government Funding of the ICC Submissions

In the years 2015-2018, in which six reports against Israel were submitted to the ICC by four terror-affiliated Palestinian NGOs, several governments and government agencies provided the NGOs with financial support, with some directly financing the submissions against Israel.

### USAID

The United States Agency for International Development donated a total amount of \$394,500 to Al-Dameer in 2009-2018.<sup>64</sup>

### The European Union (EU)

The EU donated €296,600 to Al-Haq and €449,997 to Al Mezan in 2018.<sup>65</sup> In 2016, Al-Dameer and the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO) received a joint grant of €446,482 from the European Union titled "contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to association in the Gaza Strip."<sup>66</sup> Moreover, the EU provided PCHR with a three-year grant (2019-2021) of €320,187 to support training courses in Gaza.<sup>67</sup>

### UNDP

In 2014-2017 Al-Haq, Al Mezan and Al-Dameer received financial support from the UN Development Program joint project "Sawasya: Strengthening the Rule of Law in the oPt: Justice & Security to the Palestinian People."<sup>68</sup> The project is funded by the UNDP, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).<sup>69</sup> In 2016, Sawasya launched a partnership with Al Mezan, Al-Dameer and Al-Haq, in order to develop case files and investigations, culminating in the submission of a file to the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court.<sup>70</sup>

64 USAID, [data](#), accessed 04/20

65 European Union, [Financial Transparent System](#), accessed 04/20

66 Ibid

67 PCHR, Closure of the work of the ninth session in the field of "human rights and mechanisms for promoting the right to health" (Arabic), published 01/20, accessed 04/20; European Union, [Financial Transparent System](#), accessed 04/20

68 UNDP, [Program board meeting](#) (p.6), accessed 04/20; Al-Dameer, [strengthening the capabilities of the project team on the procedural and substantive sides](#), published 04/03/16, accessed 04/20

69 Ibid

70 UNDP, [ANNUAL PROGRAMME NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT REPORTING PERIOD](#), accessed 04/20

## Ireland

Irish Aid, the Irish government's program for overseas development,<sup>71</sup> donated €80,000 to Al-Haq in 2016,<sup>72</sup> 2017<sup>73</sup> and 2018.<sup>74</sup> It also granted PCHR the same amount in 2016<sup>75</sup> and 2017.<sup>76</sup>

## Spain

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), which is attached to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,<sup>77</sup> provided a joint grant of €324,025 to both Al-Haq and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights in 2016 for a period of 18 months.<sup>78</sup>

It also donated €250,000 to PCHR in 2017 for supporting "Justice, women and gender-based violence in Gaza."<sup>79</sup>

## Norway

According to the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), a directorate under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,<sup>80</sup> Al-Haq received \$193,738 (2,000,000 NOK) in 2017.<sup>81</sup>

In addition, Al Mezan received \$95,089 (1,000,000 NOK) in 2015-2016.<sup>82</sup> Al Mezan is a partner of a joint project funded by the Norwegian government via Save the Children Norway (Redd Barna Norge), aimed at monitoring child rights in Palestine and reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This project received \$1,173,303 (12,339,000 NOK) in 2016 and \$1,107,977 (11,652,000 NOK) in 2018.<sup>83</sup>

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71 Irish Aid Website, [About Us](#), accessed 04/20

72 Irish Aid, [Annual report 2016](#) (p.67), accessed 04/20

73 International Aid Transparency Initiative, [Al Haq - Irish Aid 2017 funding 12/12/2017](#), accessed 04/20

74 International Aid Transparency Initiative, [AL-HAQ-IRISH AID 2018 FUNDING](#), accessed 04/20

75 Irish Aid, [Annual report 2016](#) (p.67), accessed 04/20

76 Irish Aid, [Civil Society Organizations which received funding of amounts between €50,000 and €100,000 through Irish Aid in 2017](#), accessed 04/20

77 Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, [Website](#), accessed 04/20

78 Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, [HORIZONTAL AND FINANCIAL MULTILATERAL COOPERATION MANAGEMENT](#) (Spanish), accessed 04/20

79 Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, [Data](#), accessed 04/20

80 Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation Website, [About NORAD](#), accessed 04/20

81 Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation Website, [Data](#), accessed 04/20

82 Ibid

83 Ibid

## United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNOCH donated \$173,480 to Al Mezan in 2018.<sup>84</sup>

### Switzerland

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) donated to Al-Dameer in the years 2018-2019.<sup>85</sup>

### Italy

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) donated €11.696,00 to Al-Haq in 2018.<sup>86</sup>

### Netherlands

In 2018, Al Mezan received €202,055 from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.<sup>87</sup>

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84 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, [occupied Palestinian territory 2018 \(part of 2018-2020 HRP\)](#), accessed 04/20

85 Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, [Support to Israeli and Palestinian HR/IHL CSOs](#), accessed 04/20

86 The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, [Land and Rights - Paths of Social and Solidarity Economy in Palestine](#), accessed 04/20

87 Open Aid NL, [Al Mezan Center for Human Rights](#), accessed 04/20

# Al-Haq

## “Law in the service of man”



## Main Findings

Al-Haq is a self-declared human rights organization which has global connections and a far-reaching influence. Using its status among international legal bodies, Al-Haq provides legal justification for the delegitimization campaigns against the State of Israel.

Al-Haq’s staff is closely tied to the US-designated terror organization the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

By partnering with other coalitions and organizations in the BDS network, Al-Haq manages to maintain and improve its status as a leading figure in the ongoing anti-Israel lawfare

## Background

Al-Haq is a Palestinian NGO based in Ramallah that claims to promote human rights and the rule of law in the Palestinian Authority.<sup>88</sup> The organization was founded in 1979, and describe itself as “one of the first human rights NGOs in the Arab world”.<sup>89</sup> Registered in the Palestinian Ministry of Justice (RA-2283-LS),<sup>90</sup> Al-Haq is the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists (Geneva), a member of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and also holds a special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).<sup>91</sup>

88 Al-Haq, [About Al-Haq](#), accessed 05/19; Palestine Ministry of interior, [NGO List \(Arabic\)](#), accessed 04/19

89 Al-Haq, [A Brief History of Al-Haq](#), accessed 05/19

90 Palestine Ministry of Justice, [List of NGOs](#) (Arabic), accessed 07/19

91 Al-Haq, [About Al-Haq](#), accessed 05/19

The bulk of Al-Haq's work focuses on legal actions against the State of Israel on both regional and International levels such as in the UN<sup>92</sup> and the ICC.<sup>93</sup> This includes conducting research and reports on the involvement of international companies in Israel,<sup>94</sup> documenting alleged violations of Palestinian human rights,<sup>95</sup> obtaining arrest warrants against Israeli officials such as Tzipi Livni<sup>96</sup> and Ehud Barak,<sup>97</sup> launching advocacy missions briefing official policy-makers,<sup>98</sup> and providing evidential materials for international lawsuits against the State of Israel.<sup>99</sup>

## Endorsement of the BDS Movement

Al-Haq's representatives participated in the 2001 Durban World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance,<sup>100</sup> where the foundations and framework of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement were established.<sup>101</sup> Moreover, Al-Haq's General Director, Shawan Jabarin, declared that "Al-Haq principally support BDS as a non-violent campaign" and "banning and boycott will bring us closer to ending the occupation."<sup>102</sup>

The organization plays a key role in the BDS campaigns against the State of Israel by cooperating with other organizations in the BDS network,<sup>103</sup> and by providing legal documentation to justify those campaigns.<sup>104</sup>

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92 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Attends the Second Annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights](#), published 12/02/13, accessed 05/19

93 Al-Haq, [Four Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submit File to the ICC Prosecutor: Israel is Unable and Unwilling to Conduct Genuine Investigations and Prosecutions](#), published 23/12/18, accessed 06/19

94 FIDH, [Report reveals links between five French banks and insurance companies and the Israeli settlements](#), published 03/29/17, accessed 04/19; Al-Haq, [Press Release: Al-Haq and Others Send Letter to Booking.com](#), published 01/29/19, accessed 05/19; Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Communicates with Honda Regarding its Operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory \(OPT\)](#), published 04/30/18, accessed 05/19

95 Al-Haq, [Human rights violations in the West Bank : in their own words](#), published 1983, accessed 06/19

96 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Position Paper on the Threat to Universal Jurisdiction in the Wake of the UK Arrest Warrant Against Tzipi Livni](#), published 10/13/10, accessed 06/19

97 Al-Haq, [Al Mezan and Al-Haq Regret London Magistrates' Court Decision Not to Issue Arrest Warrant against Israeli Defence Minister for Alleged War Crimes in Gaza](#), published 10/13/10, accessed 06/19

98 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Concludes Advocacy Mission in the United States](#), published 05/19/19, accessed 05/19; US Palestinian Community Network, [Palestinian human rights giants in DC 4-17; Stop the JNF in Chicago 4-18](#), published 04/15/16, accessed 05/19

99 United Nations, [Report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict](#), published 09/25/09, accessed 06/19

100 UN General Assembly, [Report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance](#), published 01/02, accessed 05/19

101 BDS Movement, [UNITED AGAINST Apartheid, Colonialism and Occupation DIGNITY & JUSTICE for the Palestinian People](#), published 10/08, accessed 05/19

102 Mondoweiss, [BDS call for boycott should not ignore states' responsibility to uphold international law](#), published 08/27/15, accessed 05/19

103 Cairo Institute, [Joint Open Letter to the High Commissioner Re UN Database on Business Enterprises with Activities Related to Israeli Settlements in the OPT](#), published 11/27/18, accessed 05/19; Relief Web, [25 organizations call for an end to demolitions of Palestinian homes and obstruction of aid](#), published 02/11/14, accessed 05/19

104 Al-Haq, [Feasting on the Occupation: Illegality of Settlement Produce and the responsibility of EU Member States under International Law](#), published 2013, accessed 05/19; BDS Movement, [Al Haq: Substantial grounds for holding Italian firm Pizzarotti responsible for war crimes](#), published 07/09/13, accessed 05/19; Al-Haq, [Pillage of the Dead Sea: Israel's Unlawful Exploitation of Natural Resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#), published 07/12, accessed 05/19

# Al-Haq's Connection to Terror

One of Al-Haq's self-assigned missions is to "promote the rule of law and respect for human rights."<sup>105</sup> At the same time, some Al-Haq staff members, including its Executive Director, have strong ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a designated terror organization in the United States,<sup>106</sup> EU,<sup>107</sup> Israel<sup>108</sup> and Canada.<sup>109</sup>

## Shawan Rateb Jabarin (Director General)



In 1985, Shawan Jabarin was convicted for recruiting and arranging training for members of the PFLP. He was arrested several times between 1992-1994 and was placed in administrative detention.<sup>110</sup> An Israeli statement to the UN noted that he "had not discontinued his terrorist involvement and maintains his position in the leadership of the PFLP."<sup>111</sup>

According to an article published by the Al-Quds newspaper, Jabarin spoke at a PFLP event on behalf of the organization in 1999.<sup>112</sup> Furthermore, Jabarin has been denied exit visas by both Israel and Jordan several times.<sup>113</sup>

Even though Jabarin denies ties to the PFLP,<sup>114</sup> the Israeli Supreme Court described him as "Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" for his dual role as a director of a human right organization on the one hand, and a leading figure in a designated terror organization on the other.<sup>115</sup> In an Israeli governmental report revealing ties between BDS NGOs and terror organizations, Shawan is described as a senior PFLP member.<sup>116</sup>

105 Al-Haq, [Vision, Mission and Goals](#), accessed 05/19

106 US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 06/19

107 European Council, [COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#), published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19

108 Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 06/19

109 Government of Canada, [Currently listed entities](#), listed as of 11/13/03, accessed 06/19

110 United Nations, [Decision No. 16/1994](#), published 09/28/94, accessed 04/19

111 Ibid

112 Al-Quds, [Memorial at Beit Sahour for the deceased Elias Graise](#), published 03/06/99, accessed 04/19

113 FIDH, [Fact-finding mission to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories](#), accessed 04/19

114 France 24 Arabic, [YouTube](#), published 07/22/15, accessed 05/19

115 The National, [Shawan Jabarin is an activist to some, a terrorist to others](#), published 12/11/13, accessed 06/19; The Daily Beast, [Shawan Jabarin's Controversial Appointment to Human Rights Watch Board](#), published 02/15/11, accessed 06/19

116 Israel Ministry of Strategic affairs and Public diplomacy, [Terrorists in Suits](#), accessed 05/19

## Ali Jaradat

	Age:	64 years
	Address:	Al Bireh
	Marital Status:	Married
	Profession:	Journalist and Writer
	Date of Arrest:	24.07.2016
	Prison:	Ofer Detention Center, Prison, and Military Court (66 Beit El Settlement Compound)
	District:	Ramallah
	Legal Status:	Administrative Detention

*"Despite the physical siege inside the prison, a person can live as a free man if all means available were used to develop himself, a book being the most important mean." Ali Jaradat*

Addameer, "Ali Jaradat," last update 03/30/17, accessed 05/19

Ali Jaradat is a Palestinian writer and journalist,<sup>117</sup> who worked as a researcher at Al-Haq.<sup>118</sup> He was editor-in-chief of Al-Hadaf,<sup>119</sup> the PFLP's official magazine.<sup>120</sup> He was detained five times by the Israeli authorities, the last time being on 24 July, 2016.<sup>121</sup> Jaradat was arrested again on October 31 by Israeli security forces, for his involvement with the PFLP.<sup>122</sup>

## Suha Jarrar

*The Prisoner's Center for Studies, Israeli authorities release Palestinian parliament member Khalida Jarrar, published 06/03/16, accessed 06/19*

Suha Jarrar has worked at Al-Haq as an Environmental policy researcher since 2017.<sup>123</sup> Her mother, Khalida Jarrar, is a member of the PFLP,<sup>124</sup> and has been arrested numerous times by the Israeli authorities. Khalida was released in March 2019 after spending twenty months in administrative detention.<sup>125</sup>

Following her release, Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Hamas' Political Bureau, called Khalida to congratulate her.<sup>126</sup> The U.S. Department of State has classified Hamas as

117 Addameer, [prisoners](#), published 03/30/17, accessed 06/19

118 Al-Haq, [30 Years of Defending Human Rights in Palestinian Territories](#) (p.109), published 2009, accessed 05/19

119 PFLP, [About the writer](#), accessed 04/19

120 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [Historical documents of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), accessed 05/19

121 Addameer, [Ali Jaradat](#) (Arabic), last update 03/30/17, accessed 05/19

122 Al-Hadaf, [a serious of arrests at the West Bank affects Khalida Jarrar, the writer Ali Jaradat and others](#) (Arabic), published 10/31/19, accessed 11/19

123 Suha Jarrar, LinkedIn, accessed 05/19

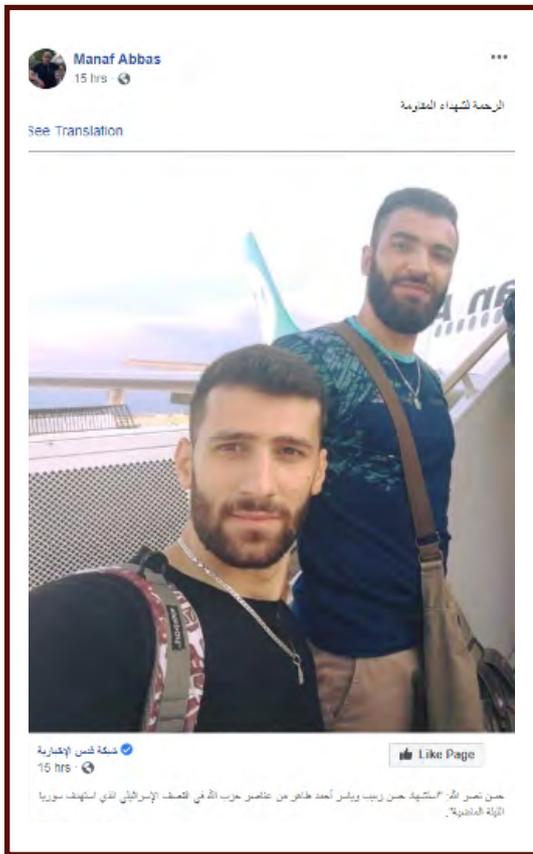
124 Donia Al-Watan, [The PFLP commemorate the first anniversary of the martyrdom of its member Moataz Washaha](#) (Arabic), published 02/27/15, accessed 05/19

125 Al-Jazeera, [Israel frees Khalida Jarrar after 20 months without trial](#), published 03/01/19, accessed 05/19

126 Alresalah, [Haniyeh calls Jarrar after her release from the occupation's prison](#) (Arabic), published 03/04/19, accessed 05/19

a terror organization<sup>127</sup> and Haniyeh as a Designated Global Terrorist.<sup>128</sup> In 2015, while Suha's mother was arrested, Suha and her sister Yafa wrote her a letter saying they are proud of her actions. The letter was published on the PFLP's official website.<sup>129</sup>

## Manaf Abbas



Manaf Abbas is the visual documentation coordinator at Al-Haq.<sup>130</sup> In August 2019, Abbas mourned the death of two Hezbollah members, Hassan Zeinab and Yasser Ahmed Taher, on his Facebook profile, describing them as "martyrs."<sup>131</sup> Hezbollah is a designated terror organization in the United States,<sup>132</sup> EU,<sup>133</sup> Israel,<sup>134</sup> Argentina<sup>135</sup> and Canada.<sup>136</sup>

*Manaf Abbas, Facebook, published 08/26/19, accessed 08/19*

*Translation from Arabic:  
(May God) have mercy on the martyrs of the resistance*

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- 127 US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 05/19
- 128 US Department of State, [State Department Terrorist Designations of Ismail Haniyeh, Harakat al-Sabireen, Liwa al-Thawra, and Harakat Sawa'd Misr \(HASM\)](#), published 01/31/18, accessed 05/19
- 129 PFLP, [What did Yafa and Suha and Jarrar write to their mother?!](#) (Arabic), published 04/07/15, accessed 05/19
- 130 CMI Commissioned Report, [Review report: Al-Haq](#), published 11/14, accessed 07/19
- 131 Manaf Abbas, [Facebook](#), published 08/26/19, accessed 08/19
- 132 US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 06/19
- 133 European Council, [COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#), published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19
- 134 Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 06/19
- 135 The New York Times, [Argentina Designates Hezbollah Terrorist Group on 25th Anniversary of Bombing](#), published 07/18/19, accessed 08/19
- 136 Government of Canada, [Currently listed entities](#), accessed 06/19

## Ziad Hamidan

Ziad Hamidan is the head of training and capacity building unit at Al-Haq.<sup>137</sup> In 2002, Israel refused to authorize Hamidan to travel to a conference in Madrid.<sup>138</sup> Additionally, Ziad has shown support on social media for the death of Rabah Muhanna, a PFLP leader in Gaza.<sup>139</sup>

## Public Support for Terrorists

In 2001 Al-Haq supported the release of its former staff member,<sup>140</sup> attorney Daoud Darawi, after he was arrested for his connections to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the PFLP,<sup>141</sup> both designated terror organizations in the United States,<sup>142</sup> EU,<sup>143</sup> Israel<sup>144</sup> and Canada.<sup>145</sup> Darawi was also on the PFLP list for the 2005 Palestinian parliamentary elections.<sup>146</sup> During the second Intifada in 2002, Al-Haq offices were raided by the IDF.<sup>147</sup>

	<b>Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association</b> <u>Sahar Francis</u> General Director		<b>Addameer Association for Human Rights</b> <u>Khalil Abu Shammala</u> General Director
	<b>Al-Haq</b> <u>Shawan Jabarin</u> General Director		<b>Al Mezan Center for Human Rights</b> <u>Issam Younis</u> General Director
	<b>Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights</b> <u>Nidal Alazza</u> General Director		<b>Defence for Children International Palestine Section</b> <u>Rifat Kassis</u> General Director
	<b>Ensan Center for Human Rights and Democracy</b>		<b>Hurryyat - Centre for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights</b> <u>Helmi Al-araj</u> General Director
	<b>Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights</b> <u>Issam Aruri</u> General Director		<b>Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies</b> <u>Iyad Barghouti</u> General Director
	<b>Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling</b> <u>Maha Abu Dayyeh</u> General Director		<b>The Palestinian Center for Human Rights</b> <u>Raja Sourani</u> General Director

*Badil, PHROC Open Letter to UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon on Hostilities in the Gaza Strip, accessed 05/19*

137 Al-Haq, Center for Applied International Law has concluded its annual lawyers' session on an introduction to international law (Arabic), published 08/25/15, accessed 05/19

138 FIDH, Fact-finding mission to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, accessed 04/19

139 Daoud Darawi, Facebook, published 05/05/19, accessed 05/19

140 Al-Haq, 30 Years of Defending Human Rights in Palestinian Territories (p.109), published 2009, accessed 04/19

141 Google groups, Daouarawi Update, published 09/17/01, accessed 05/19; Al-Haq, IN NEED OF PROTECTION, published 2002, accessed 05/19

142 US Department of State, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 06/19

143 European Council, COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2019/25, published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19

144 Israel Ministry of Justice, List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals, accessed 06/19

145 Government of Canada, Currently listed entities, accessed 06/19

146 Al-Ayam, The PFLP is running separately for Elections (Arabic), published 12/04/05, accessed 05/19

147 United Nations, CHR/58th session/High Commissioner for Human Rights' statement – Press release (Geneva), published 04/02/02, accessed 05/19

# Al-Haq's Global Influence

In 2009, Al-Haq founded the Center for Applied International Law, which aims to research, educate and train activists and students in order to influence decision making on national and international levels.<sup>148</sup> This center hosts seminars, workshops, internships, summer schools, delegation (of student groups and diplomats) and conferences on international humanitarian law and human rights.<sup>149</sup> It claims to be the first center in the Palestinian Authority that specializes in the practical application of international law.<sup>150</sup> This center helps Al-Haq to gain global reach and recognition among the academic, legal and political communities.

## Partnerships and Coalitions

Al-Haq is a member of numerous local and international coalitions supporting the BDS Movement, which allows it to expand its collaborations and reach worldwide.<sup>151</sup>

Al-Haq is a member of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO), an umbrella organization of Palestinian NGOs that are based in the West Bank, Israel and Gaza.<sup>152</sup> Al-Haq is also member of the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ).<sup>153</sup> Both PNGO and CCPRJ are members of the BDS National Committee (BNC).<sup>154</sup> Moreover, Al-Haq is a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), a coalition of several Palestinian NGOs<sup>155</sup> supporting the BDS Movement.<sup>156</sup>

Al-Haq is also a member of International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), a federation of 184 human rights organizations from around the world<sup>157</sup> supporting the BDS Movement.<sup>158</sup> Both organizations are members of the EuroMed Rights Network (EMRN),<sup>159</sup> a network of more than 80 human rights organizations,<sup>160</sup> among them

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148 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Center for Applied International Law](#), published 08/17/11, accessed 04/19

149 Ibid

150 Al-Haq, [YouTube](#), published 09/20/16, accessed 05/19

151 Al-Haq, [Vision, Mission and Goals](#), accessed 05/19

152 Al-Haq, [About Al-Haq](#), accessed 05/19

153 Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem, [Coalition members](#), accessed 05/19

154 BDS Movement, [Palestinian BDS National Committee](#), accessed 05/19

155 Al-Haq, [PHROC Sends Letter to UN High Commissioner and Special Rapporteurs on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders](#), published 06/16/16, accessed 05/19

156 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\) statement on BDS movement](#), published 02/09/16, accessed 06/19

157 FIDH, [Our member organizations](#), accessed 05/19

158 BDS Movement, [International Federation of Human Rights declaration in support of right to BDS](#), published 06/08/16, accessed 05/19

159 EuroMed Rights, [Members](#), accessed 05/19

160 EuroMed Rights, [Website](#), accessed 05/19

BDS-supporting groups Human Rights Watch,<sup>161</sup> Amnesty International<sup>162</sup> and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS).<sup>163</sup>

## Labor Unions

In the past few years, Al-Haq has tried to apply pressure on unions around Europe in order to encourage divestment from Israeli companies<sup>164</sup> and the boycott of Israeli goods.<sup>165</sup> By partnering with unions in various European countries, Al-Haq has managed to pressure governments and state-owned companies to put an end to involvement with Israel and in some cases to support the BDS Movement.<sup>166</sup>

For example, in 2009, a delegation of 11 trade unionists from the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) visited Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The delegation was followed by STUC's decision to consider supporting the call for boycott, disinvestment and sanctions against Israel. After meeting with officials from Al-Haq, the Stop the Wall Campaign and the Palestinian Academic Boycott of Israel (PACBI), STUC decided to officially support the BDS Movement.<sup>167</sup>

In addition, in May 2015, Al-Haq, along with French NGOs and two French unions – the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) and the Union Syndicale Solidaires – which both support the BDS Movement,<sup>168</sup> published a report about the involvement of Orange S.A. (formerly France Télécom S.A.) with the Israeli telecommunication company Partner.<sup>169</sup> This report was published as part of the “Made in Illegality” campaign,<sup>170</sup> designed to pressure officials in Belgium, France and the EU to “stop supporting the settlements



161 The Nation, [Human Rights Watch calls on businesses to withdraw from Israeli settlements](#), published 01/19/16, accessed 06/19

162 BDS Movement, [BNC welcomes Amnesty International position on Right to BDS](#), published 04/24/16, accessed 06/19

163 BDS Movement, [Organizations in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine call for G4S boycott](#), published 04/17/13, accessed 06/19; EuroMed Rights, [Our Members](#), accessed 05/19

164 Al-Haq, [Israel/Palestine : Termination of contract between Partner and Orange](#), published 01/06/16, accessed 05/19

165 Electronic Intifada, [New Al Haq report says governments within their rights to sanction Israel over settlement enterprise](#), published 09/12/12, accessed 06/19

166 Al-Haq, [Israel/Palestine : Termination of contract between Partner and Orange](#), published 01/06/16, accessed 05/19

167 Scottish Trade Union Congress, [STUC General Council Delegation to Palestine and Israel 2009](#), accessed 05/19

168 BDS France, [Signatures of the BDS France campaign](#), accessed 05/19

169 Al-Haq, [Israel/Palestine : Termination of contract between Partner and Orange](#), published 01/06/16, accessed 05/19

170 Ibid

economy.”<sup>171</sup> Al-Haq and Solidaires Unitaires Démocratiques (another French union) are members in this campaign.<sup>172</sup> Following the release of the report, Orange’s CEO announced that his company would terminate its contract with Partner.<sup>173</sup>

In addition, in March 2017 Al-Haq, together with French unions CGT, Union Syndicale Solidaires and other French NGOs, issued a report demanding that French banks withdraw all direct or indirect funding from Israeli banks and companies facilitating Israeli settlements.<sup>174</sup>

Moreover, Shawan Jabarin, Director General of Al-Haq, visited Norway in April 2017 where he warned of “the risk of Israeli annexation of Palestine.”<sup>175</sup> During his visit, Jabarin met with representatives from the Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees (Fagforbundet),<sup>176</sup> the largest union in the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO).<sup>177</sup> A month later, on May 12, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions endorsed a full “international economic, cultural and academic boycott of Israel.”<sup>178</sup>

In addition, in 2018 French unions CGT, Union Syndicale Solidaires, the French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT) along with other French NGOs and Al-Haq published a report about the involvement of French companies in the construction of the Jerusalem Light Rail.<sup>179</sup> A month later Systra, a French state-owned company, withdrew its involvement in the construction of the “Red” and “Purple” light-rail lines after it faced questions from several trade unions, which denounced its involvement in the project.<sup>180</sup>

## Internships and Academic Visits

Al-Haq maintains a robust database of reports, articles and documents describing supposed violations of international humanitarian law,<sup>181</sup> as part of its ongoing lawfare against Israel. As mentioned earlier, Al-Haq founded the Center for Applied International Law to train activists and students who will eventually influence local and national decision makers.<sup>182</sup> Al-Haq does so by “enriching” the academic and legal field regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, assisted by interns from across

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171 Made in Illegality, [Website](#), accessed 05/19

172 Made In Illegality, [We](#) (French), accessed 05/19

173 Al-Haq, [Israel/Palestine : Termination of contract between Partner and Orange](#), published 01/06/16, accessed 05/19

174 Al-Haq and others, [French Banks' Dangerous Liaisons with the Israeli Settlement Enterprise](#), published 03/17, accessed 05/19

175 Prio, [Palestine: the Threshold from Occupation to Annexation](#), accessed 05/19

176 Frifagbevegelse, [LO can influence Norway's official line in the Israel and Palestine conflict](#) (Norwegian), published 05/05/17, accessed 05/19.

177 Fagforbundet, [Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Employees](#), accessed 05/19

178 BDS, [Norway's Largest Trade Union Federation Endorses Full Boycott of Israel to Advance Palestinian Human Rights](#), published 05/12/17, accessed 05/19

179 Al-Haq, [French Company Withdraws from Jerusalem Light-Rail](#), published 07/02/18, accessed 05/19

180 Ibid

181 Al-Haq, [Library](#), accessed 05/19

182 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Center for Applied International Law](#), published 08/17/11, accessed 04/19

the world,<sup>183</sup> and by cooperating with well-known academic and research institutes.<sup>184</sup> Its “Rachel Corrie International Internship Program”<sup>185</sup> is named after the anti-Israel activist Rachel Corrie, a member of the BDS-supporting organization the International Solidarity Movement (ISM).<sup>186</sup>

**INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2018-2019**

**OVERVIEW**

The International Law and Human Rights (ILHR) Fellowship Program is coordinated by the [Center for Human Rights and Global Justice](#) (CHRGJ) and the [Institute for International Law and Justice](#) (IILJ), with support from the [Public Interest Law Center](#) (PILC). The ILHR Fellowship Program is designed to provide NYU School of Law students with the opportunity to gain education in the theory and practice of international and human rights law.

**Middle East and North Africa**

- Al-Haq (Ramallah, West Bank)
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Amman, Jordan and/or Beirut, Lebanon)

*Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2018-2019, accessed 05/19*

New York University’s International Law and Human Rights Fellowship Program, coordinated by three NYU-affiliated law centers, the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice (CHRGJ),<sup>187</sup> the Institute for International Law and Justice (IILJ)<sup>188</sup> and the Public Interest Law Center (PILC),<sup>189</sup> offered its students an option to intern at Al-Haq in 2018.<sup>190</sup>

Also, students from the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights at the University of Chicago can choose to intern with Al-Haq.<sup>191</sup>

Furthermore, Al-Haq is in Georgetown University’s list of NGOs in which law students can choose to intern during the summer, or for post-graduate employment.<sup>192</sup>

**Georgetown Law, Human Rights Organizations, accessed 07/19**

**Organizations Based Outside the United States**

- [Section 27 \(AIDS Law Project\)](#) (South Africa)
- Al Haq** (West Bank)
- [Amnesty International: International Secretariat](#) (UK)
- [Anti-Slavery International](#) (UK)
- [Article 19](#) (UK)
- [Centre for Equal Rights in Accommodation](#) (Canada)
- [Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation](#) (South Africa)
- [Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions](#) (Switzerland)
- [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#) (Denmark)

183 Omar Shalabi, [LinkedIn](#), accessed 05/19; Bina Ahmed, [LinkedIn](#), accessed 05/19

184 International Institute of Social Studies, [Al-Haq](#), accessed 06/19

185 Al-Haq, [The Rachel Corrie International Internship Program](#), accessed 07/19

186 International Solidarity Movement, [ISM’s response to the Rachel Corrie verdict](#), published 08/28/12, accessed 08/19

187 Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, [About CHRGJ](#), accessed 08/19

188 Institute for International Law and Justice, [About us](#), accessed 08/19

189 Public Interest Law Center, [Website](#), accessed 08/19

190 Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, [INTERNATIONAL LAW & HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2018-2019](#), accessed 05/19

191 Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, [Host Organizations](#), accessed 05/19

192 Georgetown Law, [Human Rights Organizations](#), accessed 07/19

Al-Haq's Rachel Corrie internship is also listed on the Lewis and Clark Law School website,<sup>193</sup> and on that of Central European University.<sup>194</sup>

In 2017, Prof. Ni Aolain from the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center visited Al-Haq's offices in Ramallah.<sup>195</sup> Following the visit, the university center hosted a discussion in which representatives from Al-Haq and other organizations from the BDS Movement were present.<sup>196</sup>



## Delegations

Al-Haq "advocates for Palestinian rights" by hosting diplomatic delegations, and meeting with government officials. For example, in 2019 a delegation of Chilean officials met with Al-Haq staff in Ramallah.<sup>197</sup> For several years Al-Haq has been calling for the UN database of companies involved in Israeli settlements to be published,<sup>198</sup> and even launched a social campaign to that effect that was endorsed by the BDS Movement.<sup>199</sup> Two weeks after the visit, 62 members of Chile's parliament asked UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, Chile's ex-president, to publish a UN-mandated database of companies that have business dealings with Israel's settlements.<sup>200</sup>

Additionally, on July 11, 2018, the Irish upper house, Seanad Éireann, passed the Control of Economic Activity Bill 2018, which bans the importation or sale of goods or services from settlements condemned by the United Nations and European Union as "illegal." The bill was proposed by Independent Senator Frances Black.<sup>201</sup> Members of the Fianna Fáil Party, the Irish Republican Party that voted in favor of the bill, had met with Al-Haq officials during their visit to the Palestinian Authority.<sup>202</sup> Moreover, Deputy Niall Collins, a member of the Fianna Fáil Party, specifically

193 Lewis and Clark Law School, [International law](#), accessed 07/19

194 Central European University, [Al-Haq - Employment ad Internships](#), accessed 07/19

195 University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, [Facebook](#), published 04/12/17, accessed 05/19

196 University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, [Facebook](#), published 09/28/18, accessed 05/19

197 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Receives a Delegation of Chilean Members of Parliament](#), published, accessed 05/19

198 Al-Haq, [UN HIGH COMMISSIONER MUST RELEASE DATABASE ON COMPANIES INVOLVED IN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS](#), published 3/13/19, accessed 05/19

199 BDS Movement, [Facebook](#), published 03/17/19, accessed 05/19

200 BDS Movement, [Twitter](#), published 05/31/19, accessed 06/19

201 Irish Times, [Bill banning Israeli settlement goods passes in Seanad](#), published 07/11/18, accessed 05/19

202 House of the Oireachtas, [Control of Economic Activity \(Occupied Territories\) Bill 2018 \[Seanad\]: Second Stage \[Private Members\]](#), published 01/23/19, accessed 05/19

thanked Dr. Susan Power, an Irish citizen and head of legal research and advocacy at Al-Haq,<sup>203</sup> for helping to promote this legislation.<sup>204</sup> Al-Haq congratulated the Irish senators for supporting this bill.<sup>205</sup>

## Offices

Al-Haq's is based in Ramallah<sup>206</sup> but the organization has maintained offices around the world. In 2012, Al-Haq opened its European offices in The Hague and in Brussels, which were directed by Nada Kiswanson.<sup>207</sup> The offices were strategically located next to the European Parliament headquarters<sup>208</sup> and the International Criminal Court,<sup>209</sup> enabling Al-Haq to speedily submit reports and conduct lawfare with unfettered access to the highest international legal bodies.

In 2016, the Dutch authorities began investigating death threats made to Al-Haq's then-Europe office director Kiswanson.<sup>210</sup> She no longer works for Al-Haq,<sup>211</sup> and it is not certain whether the office still operates.

Furthermore, in 1990 two employees of Al-Haq, Charles Shamas<sup>212</sup> and Jim Fine,<sup>213</sup> opened the "Al-Haq Foundation for Human Rights" in Bristol, Pennsylvania.<sup>214</sup> Shamas, co-founder of Al-Haq Ramallah, is listed as the foundation's treasurer<sup>215</sup> and Fine, a former Al-Haq employee,<sup>216</sup> is listed as the director. The Al-Haq Foundation in Pennsylvania is registered under Fine's home address.<sup>217</sup>

**AL-HAQ FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
NONPROFIT

**Company Number** 1602830

**Status** Active

**Incorporation Date** 7 September 1990 (almost 29 years ago)

**Company Type** Non-Profit (Non Stock) - Domestic

**Jurisdiction** [Pennsylvania \(US\)](#)

**Registered Address** 120 WALNUT ST BRISTOL PA 19007-0 Bucks  
United States

**Directors / Officers** [CHARLES ANTHONY SHAMAS](#), treasurer  
[JAMES FINE](#), president

*Open Corporates, AL-HAQ FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, accessed 04/19*

203 New Internationalist, [How the UN turned a profit from Israeli settlements](#), published 11/9/18, accessed 04/19

204 House of the Oireachtas, [Control of Economic Activity \(Occupied Territories\) Bill 2018 \[Seanad\]: Second Stage \[Private Members\]](#), published 01/23/19, accessed 05/19

205 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Thanks Irish Senators for Voting in Solidarity with the Palestinian People and Urges Continued Support for the Occupied Territories Bill, 2018](#), published 11/30/18, accessed 05/19

206 Al-Haq, [About Al-Haq](#), accessed 05/19

207 Al-Haq, [PCHRO: The EU fails to uphold international law in its relations with Israel](#), published 07/26/12, accessed 05/19

208 European Parliament, [Website](#), accessed 06/19

209 International Criminal Court, [About](#), accessed 06/19

210 Reuters, [Dutch investigate death threats against Palestinian ICC activist](#), published 08/11/16, accessed 05/19

211 Nada Kiswanson, [LinkedIn](#), accessed 05/19

212 Al-Haq, [30 Years of Defending Human Rights in Palestinian Territories](#) (p. 9), published 2009, accessed 05/19

213 Ibid

214 Open Corporates, [AL-HAQ FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS](#), accessed 04/19

215 Ibid

216 Al-Haq, [30 Years of Defending Human Rights in Palestinian Territories](#) (p.109), published 2009, accessed 05/19

217 Home Metry, [Pennsylvania](#), accessed 05/19

Both Shamas and Fine are also leading figures in other BDS-supporting organizations; Shamas is a member of Human Rights Watch,<sup>218</sup> and Fine holds several positions in the Quaker organization American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).<sup>219</sup> Although the foundation is still registered as active in Pennsylvania,<sup>220</sup> it has not published any official documents and no activity has been detected. Further, it is unclear whether it operates as Al-Haq's office in the United States, since there is no evidence of the connection between the two entities.

## Al-Haq's Involvement with other BDS Organizations

Al-Haq is one of the first "human rights" organizations established in the Arab world,<sup>221</sup> which made it a significant member of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement. Two of Al-Haq's co-founders, Jonathan Kuttub<sup>222</sup> and Charles Shamas,<sup>223</sup> are both leading members of other BDS organizations such as Nonviolence International<sup>224</sup> and Human Rights Watch.<sup>225</sup> Al-Haq also attended the Durban Conference in 2001,<sup>226</sup> where the BDS Movement was formed.<sup>227</sup>

Moreover, Al-Haq's director, Shawan Jabarin, attended a global BDS conference in Bethlehem in October 2009 along with other key figures from the BDS Movement such as Omar Barghouti (BDS National Committee),<sup>228</sup> Ameer Makhoul (Al-Quda Association),<sup>229</sup> Jamal Juma' (BDS National Committee,<sup>230</sup> Stop the Wall<sup>231</sup>), Dalit

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218 The Nation, [Human Rights Watch calls on businesses to withdraw from Israeli settlements](#), published 01/19/16, accessed 06/19; European Center for Law and Justice, [UN: ISRAEL IN THE DIPLOMATIC CROSSHAIRS AGAIN](#), accessed 05/19

219 AFSC, [What you should know about AFSC's support for the BDS movement](#), published 01/07/19, accessed 06/19; AFSC, [Congress Affirms Iraq Withdrawal Date of December 31, 2011](#), accessed 05/19

220 Open Corporates, [AL-HAQ FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS](#), accessed 04/19

221 Al-Haq, ["A Brief History of Al-Haq,"](#) accessed 05/19

222 Nonviolence International, [Staff and Board](#), accessed 05/19

223 Al-Haq, [30 Years of Defending Human Rights in Palestinian Territories](#) (p. 9), published 2009, accessed 05/19

224 Nonviolence International, [Staff and Board](#), accessed 05/19; Nonviolence International, [Mennonites Vote to Divest During 2017 National Convention](#), published 07/11/17, accessed 08/19

225 European Center for Law and Justice, [UN: ISRAEL IN THE DIPLOMATIC CROSSHAIRS AGAIN](#), accessed 05/19; The Nation, [Human Rights Watch calls on businesses to withdraw from Israeli settlements](#), published 01/19/16, accessed 06/19

226 UN General Assembly, [Report of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance](#), published 01/02, accessed 05/19

227 BDS Movement, [UNITED AGAINST Apartheid, Colonialism and Occupation DIGNITY & JUSTICE for the Palestinian People](#), published 10/08, accessed 05/19

228 BDS Movement, [BNC Statement on Israel's Ongoing Campaign to Silence Omar Barghouti & Repress BDS](#), published 03/22/17, accessed 06/19

229 Al-Quds Association, [Organization](#) (Spanish), accessed 06/19

230 BDS Movement, [India Scraps \\$500M Military Deal With Israel Amid Rising Popular Concern About India's Complicity in Israeli Crimes](#), published 11/21/17, accessed 06/19

231 Stop the Wall, [Jamal Juma', Coordinator Of The Stop The Wall Campaign, In Israeli Jail](#), published 12/20/09, accessed 06/19

Baum (Who Profits, AFSC),<sup>232</sup> Ingrid Jaradat Gassner (BDS National Committee<sup>233</sup> Badil<sup>234</sup>) and many more.<sup>235</sup>

Shawan Jabarin also attended a public meeting at the Al Bireh Municipality Hall along with Dr. Mustafa Barghouti (BDS National Committee and representative of Palestinian National and Islamic Forces)<sup>236</sup> and Nasser al-Khudwa (head of the Arafat Institution and former Palestinian minister of foreign affairs).<sup>237</sup>

Over the years Al-Haq has collaborated with numerous organizations in the BDS network. For instance, on May 8, 2019, Al-Haq, along with the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), carried out a series of meetings with the offices of 15 members of the US Congress, along with EU and UN officials regarding what they view as “the pro-annexation policy” of the United States and its support in Israel.<sup>238</sup>

In 2016, Marya Farah and Aseil Abut-Baker, both legal researchers at Al-Haq, documented and presented Israel’s “theft of natural resources” at an event in Washington, DC, organized by Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP),<sup>239</sup> another leading organization in the BDS Movement.<sup>240</sup>

In 2018, Al-Haq together with hundreds of international NGOs, most of which support the BDS Movement, signed a joint letter to the UN high commissioner for human rights asking her to publish an online database of businesses active in Israeli settlements.<sup>241</sup> Moreover, members of the US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN) delegation to the Palestinian Authority in 2018 met with Al-Haq to discuss their work on the local and international levels. USPCN emphasized Al-Haq’s impactful work, calling it “the most prominent human rights organization in Palestine,” despite its public support for terror and its ties to the PFLP. It is also worth noting that it has been labeled by the Israeli government as a supporter of terror and as a semi-terrorist organization.<sup>242</sup>

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232 AFSC, [Website](#), accessed 06/19

233 BDS Movement, [Legal experts back Palestinian BDS as ‘free expression,’](#) published 12/09/16, accessed 06/19

234 Badil, [Lobbying the UN and International Community](#), accessed 06/19

235 Al-Jazeera: Cross-Cultural Understanding, [Israeli Colonialism, Occupation, and Racism](#), published 10/30/09, accessed 06/19

236 BDS Movement, [BDS worldwide spread creates Israeli government panic](#), published 02/17/14, accessed 06/19

237 Stop the Wall, [July 9 - Popular Resistance Marks 6th Anniversary Of ICJ Decision](#), published 07/06/10, accessed 06/19

238 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq Concludes Advocacy Mission in the United States](#), published 05/19/19, accessed 05/19

239 Jewish Voice for Peace DC Metro, [Facts on the ground: human rights and natural resources in Palestine](#), accessed 05/19

240 Jewish Voice for Peace, [JVP SUPPORTS THE BDS MOVEMENT](#), accessed 06/19

241 Cairo Institute, [Joint Open Letter to the High Commissioner Re UN Database on Business Enterprises with Activities Related to Israeli Settlements in the OPT](#), published 11/27/18, accessed 05/19

242 US Palestinian Community Network, [Day 5 of the Delegation: USPCN Reconnecting with Old Friends and Making New Ones](#), published 06/06/18, accessed 04/19

# Al-Haq's Financials

In the past few years Al-Haq has not been financially transparent, since the only information available on its website relates to the years 2004-2009.<sup>243</sup> Although Al-Haq began listing its partners in later years, it does not make any of its financial dealings or records available to the public. According to Al-Haq's financial statements for the aforementioned years, the organization received donations from numerous governments and government agencies such as Belgium,<sup>244</sup> the Netherlands,<sup>245</sup> Spain,<sup>246</sup> Norway,<sup>247</sup> Ireland (through Irish Aid),<sup>248</sup> the Canadian International Development Agency,<sup>249</sup> the European Union,<sup>250</sup> the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation,<sup>251</sup> the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA),<sup>252</sup> the United Nations Development Program and the European Commission.<sup>253</sup>



243 Al-Haq, [Transparency](#), accessed 04/19

244 Al-Haq, [Donors](#), accessed 04/19

245 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/08, accessed 04/19

246 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/09, accessed 04/19

247 Ibid

248 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/07, accessed 04/19

249 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/04, accessed 04/19

250 Ibid

251 Al-Haq, [Donors](#), accessed 04/19

252 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/06, accessed 04/19

253 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/05, accessed 04/19

Furthermore, in 2004-2009 Al-Haq received financial support from American foundations such as the Ford Foundation,<sup>254</sup> Open Society Foundations<sup>255</sup> and Rights & Democracy.<sup>256</sup>

European Christian organizations, among them Global Ministries of the United Protestant Churches in the Netherlands,<sup>257</sup> Christian Aid<sup>258</sup> and EED,<sup>259</sup> also donated to Al-Haq in the years mentioned.

Moreover, Al-Haq has received financial support from several international NGOs such as Diakonia,<sup>260</sup> Bread for the World (Brot für die Welt),<sup>261</sup> ICCO,<sup>262</sup> the Welfare Association,<sup>263</sup> Weltfriedensdienst e.v.,<sup>264</sup> the Heinrich Boll Stiftung,<sup>265</sup> the Arab Human Rights Fund,<sup>266</sup> the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation<sup>267</sup> and the NGO Development Center.<sup>268</sup>

## Conclusion

Al-Haq, founded in the 1970s, has maintained strong affiliation to designated terror organizations Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, US-designated terror organizations whose violent agendas are diametrically opposed to the values that Al-Haq claims to champion. It has also managed to establish, consolidate and strengthen its position as a prominent leader in Palestinian civil society and in the ongoing lawfare campaigns targeting the State of Israel. It has used its respected status as a senior so-called human rights organization to lend legitimacy and justification to the BDS Movement and its delegitimization campaigns against Israel. Similarly, Al-Haq's human rights advocacy did little to dissuade it from supporting in 2001 the release of its former staff member, attorney Daoud Darawi, after he was arrested for his connections to Palestinian Islamic Jihad and the PFLP.

254 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/04, accessed 04/19

255 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/07, accessed 04/19

256 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/09, accessed 04/19

257 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/04, accessed 04/19

258 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/06, accessed 04/19

259 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/08, accessed 04/19

260 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/07, accessed 04/19

261 Al-Haq, [Donors](#), accessed 04/19

262 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/09, accessed 04/19

263 Al-Haq, [Donors](#), accessed 04/19

264 Ibid

265 Ibid

266 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/09, accessed 04/19

267 Ibid

268 Al-Haq, [Financial Statement](#), published 12/31/08, accessed 04/19

# Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)



## Main Findings

PCHR board members, including its director Raji Sourani, hold strong ties to the designated terror organizations Hamas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), with some board members even being former members of terror groups' "military" wings.

The organization functions as a documentation, research and information hub regarding human rights and international law in the Gaza Strip.

PCHR has hosted conferences, supposedly on human rights, but which have been attended by individuals such as Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and Hamas international relations officer Basem Naim.

One PCHR member was imprisoned in Israel for collaborating with a Hezbollah commander who brutally killed four Israelis, including children.

Despite its strong terror connections, PCHR receives donations from governmental entities in various European countries. It also receives donations from international organizations considered to be reputable such as Oxfam Novib and Grassroots International.

## Background

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in the Gaza Strip.<sup>269</sup> Established in 1995 by a group of Palestinian lawyers and human rights activists, the organization claims to be dedicated to "protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and upholding democratic principles" in

the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.<sup>270</sup> The organization functions as a documentation, research and information hub regarding human rights and international law in the Gaza Strip. PCHR holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations<sup>271</sup> and is an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists (Geneva).<sup>272</sup> PCHR has offices in Gaza City, Jabalya, Khan Yunis, all in the Gaza Strip, and in the West Bank.<sup>273</sup> It does not officially support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement. However, it is a member of several coalitions that do.<sup>274</sup>

## Partners

PCHR is a member of several international and regional coalitions, most of which endorse the BDS Movement.<sup>275</sup> Partnering with other coalitions in the BDS network enables PCHR to extend its influence within the field.<sup>276</sup>

Along with other Palestinian NGOs, PCHR is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),<sup>277</sup> a coalition fully supportive of the BDS Movement.<sup>278</sup> It is also a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network,<sup>279</sup> a network of more than 80 human rights organizations,<sup>280</sup> many of which support the BDS Movement such as Human Rights Watch,<sup>281</sup> Amnesty International,<sup>282</sup> the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS),<sup>283</sup> etc.<sup>284</sup>

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270 Ibid

271 Ibid

272 Ibid

273 PCHR, [Contact](#), accessed 08/19

274 FIDH, [FIDH supports the right to participate in and call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions](#), published 07/20/16, accessed 08/19; Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\) statement on BDS movement](#), published 02/09/16, accessed 06/19

275 FIDH, [FIDH supports the right to participate in and call for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions](#), published 07/20/16, accessed 08/19; Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\) statement on BDS movement](#), published 02/09/16, accessed 06/19

276 Action Group, [Calls for International Protection of Palestinian Political Prisoners](#), published 04/29/17, accessed 08/19; Badil, [\(PHROC\) Position Paper: Withdrawing ESCWA Report is Complicity: Rima Khalaf, Richard Falk and Virginia Tilley and the New Approach to End Occupation](#), published 03/22/17, accessed 08/19

277 FIDH, [Organizations](#), accessed 06/19

278 BDS Movement, [International Federation of Human Rights declaration in support of right to BDS](#), published 06/08/16, accessed 06/19

279 EuroMed Rights, [Our members](#), accessed 08/19; PCHR, [About PCHR](#), accessed 08/19

280 EuroMed Rights, [Website](#), accessed 05/19

281 The Nation, [Human Rights Watch calls on businesses to withdraw from Israeli settlements](#), published 01/19/16, accessed 06/19

282 BDS Movement, [BNC welcomes Amnesty International position on Right to BDS](#), published 04/24/16, accessed 06/19

283 BDS Movement, [Organizations in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine call for G4S boycott](#), published 04/17/13, accessed 06/19

284 EuroMed Rights, [Our Members](#), accessed 05/19

Furthermore, PCHR is a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC),<sup>285</sup> a coalition comprised of several Palestinian NGOs<sup>286</sup> supporting the BDS Movement.<sup>287</sup>

PCHR is also a member of the Kumi Now (Rise Up) project, together with other Israeli and Palestinian NGOs<sup>288</sup> aiming to change the status quo in the Palestinian Authority and Gaza by promoting non-violent resistance, advocacy and legal action.<sup>289</sup> Finally, PCHR is affiliated with the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, and the Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR).<sup>290</sup>

## Collaboration

PCHR collaborates with numerous local and international organizations in the BDS Movement.

### Stop the Wall (STW)

In 2006 PCHR collaborated with Stop the Wall, a member of the BDS National Committee (BNC),<sup>291</sup> in the campaign “Stop support for Israel’s war crimes.”<sup>292</sup> The campaign was launched after a New Zealand judge issued an arrest warrant for Moshe Ya’alon, former Israeli Chief of Staff, who eventually managed to leave the country without being arrested.<sup>293</sup>

The BNC was created in 2008 and is the coordinating body for the BDS Movement worldwide.<sup>294</sup> The first and primary member of the BNC is the Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine,<sup>295</sup> known outside the Palestinian territories as the “Palestinian National and Islamic Forces” (PNIF). PNIF is composed of five US-designated terrorist organizations:<sup>296</sup> Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).<sup>297</sup>

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285 FIDH, [Joint Press Statement by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council - PHROC, on the Events of the 70th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba and the Relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem](#), published 05/15/18, accessed 08/19

286 Al-Haq, [PHROC Sends Letter to UN High Commissioner and Special Rapporteurs on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders](#), published 06/16/16, accessed 05/19

287 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\) statement on BDS movement](#), published 02/09/16, accessed 06/19

288 Kumi Now, [Who is Kumi](#), accessed 08/19

289 Kumi Now, [About us](#), accessed 08/19

290 PCHR, [About PCHR](#), accessed 08/19

291 BDS Movement, [Palestinian BDS National Committee](#), accessed 08/19

292 PCHR, [URGENT ACTION ALERT](#), published 11/30/06, accessed 08/19

293 Ibid

294 BDS Movement, [Palestinian BDS National Committee](#), accessed 09/19

295 See the original members: BDS Movement, [BNC Statements](#), published 09/08, accessed 01/19 and the members today: BDS Movement, [Palestinian BDS National Committee](#), accessed 01/19

296 US State Department, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), accessed 01/19

297 Jerusalem MCC, [Statement Issued by the National and Islamic Forces](#), published 02/10/01, accessed 01/19; National and Islamic Forces, [Facebook](#), published 11/15/16, accessed 01/19; Seraj, [Palestinian national and Islamic forces confirm rejection of negotiations](#), published 05/15/13, accessed 01/19

## Al Mezan

PCHR collaborated with Al Mezan, another Palestinian NGO operating in Gaza,<sup>298</sup> and the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), in the “Free the Holy Land Sea” campaign, calling for an end to Israel’s blockade of the Gaza Strip.<sup>299</sup> Al Mezan holds strong ties to the designated terror organization Hamas,<sup>300</sup> and its general director, Issam Younis, has shown support for Hamas as a movement and as a government.<sup>301</sup>

## Unadikum

PCHR, together with Al Mezan and Unadikum – a Spanish BDS-supporting organization<sup>302</sup> – launched a campaign for Palestinian security prisoners in 2014.<sup>303</sup> Unadikum and its members openly support organizations that have been designated as terror outfits by the US<sup>304</sup> and the EU,<sup>305</sup> such as the PFLP,<sup>306</sup> Hezbollah<sup>307</sup> and the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades.<sup>308</sup>

## USCPR

PCHR and other leading organizations in the BDS Movement such as the BNC<sup>309</sup> and the US Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI)<sup>310</sup> were mentioned in the “Student divestment campaigns” handbook<sup>311</sup> issued by the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, known today as the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR). This handbook provided an overview of campus divestment strategies for student BDS activists, which it said could be assisted by PCHR and other BDS organizations’ divestment campaigns.<sup>312</sup>

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298 PCHR, [PCHR & Al Mezan Call for Investigating the Explosion in El-Bureij Refugee Camp](#), published 02/18/18, accessed 06/19; PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Hold Press Conference to Declare Submission of Forth Substantive Communication to ICC on Israeli Settlement Activity in oPt](#), published 09/20/17, accessed 08/19

299 End the Blockade, [Contacts](#), accessed 06/19

300 Hamas, [Top Hamas leader discusses humanitarian issues with ICHR](#), published 12/12/18, accessed 06/19

301 Ma’an News Agency, [An open letter to the Hamas movement](#), published 11/04/12, accessed 06/19;

302 Unadikum, [BDS Israel](#) (Spanish), accessed 08/19

303 Unadikum Brigades, [YouTube](#), published 06/15/14, accessed 08/19

304 US State Department, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), accessed 10/19

305 European Union Council Decision 2012/333/CFSP, [updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Decision 2011/872/CFSP](#), published 06/05/12, accessed 10/19

306 Manu Abu Carlos, [Facebook](#), published 03/31/14, accessed 06/19; Manu Abu Carlos, [Facebook](#), published 04/25/13, accessed 06/19; Manu Pineda, [Twitter](#), published 12/11/11, accessed 06/19; Agripina Cardui, [Facebook](#), published 03/18, accessed 03/19; Joaquin Nebot Rosello, [Facebook](#), published 05/04/14, accessed 06/19; Nora Fernandez Espino, [Facebook](#), published 05/11/18, accessed 07/19; Zakaria Bakr Abu Ayed, [Facebook](#), published 12/28/14, accessed 06/19; Valeria Cortes, [Facebook](#), published 01/17/14, accessed 06/19; Manolo Polo, [Facebook](#), published 04/11/13, accessed 06/19

307 Nora Fernandez Espino, [Facebook](#), published 11/19/18, accessed 07/19; Valeria Cortes, [Facebook](#), published 01/26/14, accessed 06/19

308 Nora Fernandez Espino, [Facebook](#), published 08/04/14, accessed 07/19; Valeria Cortes, [Facebook](#), published 08/26/15, accessed 06/19; Valeria Cortes, [Facebook](#), published 05/14/15, accessed 06/19; Cristian Santiago, [Facebook](#), published 08/28/14, accessed 06/19

309 BDS Movement, [Palestinian BDS National Committee](#), accessed 08/19

310 USACBI, [Website](#), accessed 08/19

311 BDS Movement, [Divest Now](#), accessed 08/19

312 Ibid

PCHR also collaborates with other Palestinian NGOs engaging in continuous lawfare campaigns against the State of Israel such as organizing diplomatic briefing with Al-Haq,<sup>313</sup> publishing joint press releases with Al-Dameer<sup>314</sup> and organizing workshops with Al Mezan.<sup>315</sup>

## Significant Interactions

In 2016, the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) in Washington hosted the “Palestine: human rights and humans wronged” event, featuring Raji Sourani of PCHR and Shawan Jabarin of Al-Haq.<sup>316</sup> The conversation was moderated by Phyllis Bennis, an important figure in the BDS field. Bennis is the director of the New Internationalism Project at IPS,<sup>317</sup> a board member of Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)<sup>318</sup> and co-founder of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights (USCPR).<sup>319</sup> The event was co-sponsored by leading organizations from the BDS Movement such as Code Pink,<sup>320</sup> the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC),<sup>321</sup> US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN),<sup>322</sup> Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro,<sup>323</sup> and others.<sup>324</sup>

## Scope of Work

PCHR mainly engages in activities that entail legal action against the State of Israel. To this end, its work mainly consists of publishing pro-Palestinian posters,<sup>325</sup> producing weekly reports on the situation in Gaza,<sup>326</sup> advocating for Palestinian rights,<sup>327</sup> providing legal aid and counsel to individuals and groups,<sup>328</sup> hosting international

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313 Al-Haq, [Diplomatic Briefing: “The Great Return March: One Year On”](#), published 03/15/19, accessed 08/19; The United Nations, [Promotion and protection of human rights – CHR – NGO statement](#), published 01/31/04, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [Al-Haq and PCHR call on ICC Prosecutor to move forward on 2009 Palestinian Declaration](#), published 10/05/13, accessed 08/19

314 PCHR, [Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights Call Upon Israel, Egypt and the International Community to Resolve the Crisis at the Rafah Border Crossing](#), published 01/23/08, accessed 08/19

315 PCHR, [Al-Haq and Al Mezan Organize Joint Workshop Titled: “Shrinking Freedom Space for Civil Society,”](#) published 08/06/19, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Holds Press Conference on 3rd Legal Submission to ICC on Gaza Closure](#), published 11/22/16, accessed 08/19

316 Institute for Policy Studies, [Palestine: Human Rights and Humans Wronged](#), accessed 08/19

317 Institute for Policy Studies, [Phyllis Bennis](#), accessed 08/19

318 Jewish Voice for Peace, [Facebook](#), accessed 08/19

319 Institute for Policy Studies, [Phyllis Bennis](#), accessed 08/19

320 Code Pink, [BDS is the Peace talk](#), published 05/19/19, accessed 06/19

321 AFSC, [What you should know about AFSC’s support for the BDS movement](#), published 01/07/19, accessed 06/19

322 USPCN, [Day 6 of the Delegation: Child Political Prisoners and Healthcare in Palestine](#), published 06/07/18, accessed 06/19

323 Jewish Voice for Peace, [JUNE 2018 MEDIA WATCH – JVP HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL](#), published 06/01/18, accessed 06/19

324 Institute for Policy Studies, [Palestine: Human Rights and Humans Wronged](#), accessed 08/19

325 PCHR, [Posters](#), accessed 08/19

326 PCHR, [Weekly reports](#), accessed 08/19

327 Grassroots International, [Palestinian Center for Human Rights \(PCHR\)](#), accessed 08/19

328 PCHR, [Organization and Units](#), accessed 08/19

delegations,<sup>329</sup> obtaining arrest warrants against Israeli officials,<sup>330</sup> conducting research,<sup>331</sup> gathering supposedly incriminating evidence against Israeli policies in the Gaza Strip,<sup>332</sup> submitting reports to the International Criminal Court<sup>333</sup> and the United Nations,<sup>334</sup> hosting fellowships and training sessions for law students<sup>335</sup> and organizing workshops and seminars related to human rights.<sup>336</sup>

In addition, as part of its lawfare campaign against Israel,<sup>337</sup> PCHR frequently describes Israel as an “apartheid state”<sup>338</sup> and accuses it of carrying out “ethnic cleansing”<sup>339</sup> and “war crimes”<sup>340</sup> against the Palestinians. Also, during operation “Protective Edge” in 2014, PCHR’s director Raji Sourani<sup>341</sup> compared Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the world’s formerly most wanted terrorist<sup>342</sup> Osama bin Laden.<sup>343</sup>

PCHR has a bigger impact on the international community than other Gaza-based NGOs engaging in lawfare against Israel due to its presence in global conferences,<sup>344</sup> delegations<sup>345</sup> and campaigns.<sup>346</sup> PCHR also cooperates with leading organizations in the BDS Movement,<sup>347</sup> which has enabled it to build a reputation as a leading figure in ongoing anti-Israel lawfare projects.<sup>348</sup>

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329 RESCOP – BDS, [Twitter](#), published 07/26/18, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR Receive International Delegations](#), published 10/25/18, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR Receives Delegation from Norwegian Representative Office](#), published 10/16/16, accessed 08/19

330 PCHR, [U.K. Changes Universal Jurisdiction Law to Provide Safe-Haven to Suspected Israeli War Criminals](#), published 09/19/11, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [URGENT ACTION ALERT](#), published 11/30/06, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [Facebook](#), published 05/14/14, accessed 09/19

331 PCHR, [SPECIAL REPORTS AND STUDIES](#), accessed 08/19; PCHR, [Fishermen](#), accessed 08/19

332 PCHR, [PCHR documents](#), accessed 08/19

333 PCHR, [Palestine to the ICC](#), accessed 08/19; Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 09/19

334 PCHR, [SUBMISSIONS TO THE UN](#), accessed 08/19

335 PCHR, [Bertha Justice Fellowship Project in Partnership with PCHR](#), accessed 08/19

336 PCHR, [Organization and Units](#), accessed 08/19

337 PCHR, [Occupied lives](#), accessed 08/19

338 PCHR, [Report Apartheid against the Palestinian people](#), published 03/13/11, accessed 08/19

339 Al Quds Association, [Raji Sourani \(PCHR\) testifies before the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People \(CEIRPP\) \(Spanish\)](#), published 04/09/19, accessed 08/19

340 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 09/19

341 PCHR, [Board of Directors](#), accessed 08/19; PCHR, [Raji Sourani](#), accessed 08/19

342 US Department of Defence, [Website](#), accessed 09/19

343 Democracy Now, [Palestinian Human Rights Lawyer Raji Sourani Likens Netanyahu to Bin Laden for Killing Civilians](#), published 07/21/14, accessed 09/19

344 Rumbo a Gaza, [Facebook](#), published 06/18/18, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR Participates in the 3rd Arab Regional Conference Held by the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States](#), published 07/30/19, accessed 08/19; Russell Tribunal, [Twitter](#), published 10/06/12, accessed 08/19

345 RESCOP – BDS, [Twitter](#), published 07/26/18, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR Receive International Delegations](#), published 10/25/18, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR Receives Delegation from Norwegian Representative Office](#), published 10/16/16, accessed 08/19; Facebook, [Webinar: Virtual Delegation Pt.2 – Gaza](#), accessed 06/19; Webinar: Virtual Delegation Pt.2 – Gaza, [Facebook](#), accessed 08/19

346 End the Blockade, [Contacts](#), accessed 06/19; Unadikum Brigades, [YouTube](#), published 06/15/14, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [URGENT ACTION ALERT](#), published 11/30/06, accessed 08/19

347 BDS Movement, [Divest Now](#), accessed 08/19

348 Institute for Policy Studies, [Palestine: Human Rights and Humans Wronged](#), accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR Hold a Meeting with International and Palestinian NGO’s](#), published 08/20/06, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR granted Bruno Kreisky Prize for Outstanding Achievements in the Area of Human Rights](#), published 09/25/02, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [PCHR Awarded Human Rights Prize of Andalucia 2009](#), published 12/09/09, accessed 08/19

In addition, PCHR is very active on social media platforms such as Facebook (with more than 40,150 likes)<sup>349</sup> and Twitter (with almost 13,000 followers).<sup>350</sup> In 2016, during World Press Freedom Day, PCHR launched a social media campaign titled “No to Silencing the Press,” aimed at “unveiling the Israeli crimes committed against journalists” as well as the “Palestinian Authority violations against journalists, opinion makers and bloggers in West Bank and Gaza Strip.”<sup>351</sup> In the same year, PCHR launched the “lighting Gaza” advocacy campaign on Facebook and Twitter,<sup>352</sup> aimed at raising awareness of the electric power crisis in Gaza.<sup>353</sup>



*Lighting Gaza Campaign (Arabic), Twitter, accessed 08/19*

*Translation: Lighting Gaza campaign, organized by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights and other civil institutions in the Gaza Strip*

## Raji Sourani's Personal Terror Record

PCHR director Raji Sourani was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison by Israeli authorities in the late 1970s for his membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).<sup>354</sup> The PFLP is a designated terror organization in the United States,<sup>355</sup> EU,<sup>356</sup> Israel<sup>357</sup> and Canada.<sup>358</sup>

349 PCHR, [Facebook](#), accessed 09/19

350 PCHR, [Twitter](#), accessed 09/19

351 PCHR, [Millions around the World Followed PCHR's "No to Silencing the Press" campaign concluded today](#), published 05/03/16, accessed 08/19; Jaldia Abubakra, [Facebook](#), published 05/20/2019, accessed 08/19; BDS Alacant, [Facebook](#), published 11/29/14, accessed 08/19

352 Lighting Gaza Campaign (Arabic), [Twitter](#), accessed 08/19

353 PCHR, [PCHR Creates Page on Social Media for "Lighting Gaza" Campaign](#), published 02/04/16, accessed 08/19

354 Washington Report, [A Matter of Principle: Gaza Human Rights Lawyer Raji Sourani](#), published 01/01/95, accessed 06/19

355 US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 06/19

356 European Council, [COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#), published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19

357 Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 06/19

358 Government of Canada, [Currently listed entities](#), accessed 06/19

Following his release, he renounced his PFLP affiliation,<sup>359</sup> but he has continued to hold regular meetings with its leaders.<sup>360</sup> His serving in 2002 as the lawyer for Ahmed Sa'adat,<sup>361</sup> the secretary general of the PFLP, is further testament to his affiliation or support for the terror group.<sup>362</sup>

Sa'adat was sentenced to 30 years in Israeli jail for planning the 2001 murder of Israeli minister Rehavam Ze'evi and for his leadership position in the PFLP.<sup>363</sup> This apparent support continued all the way into 2017 when Sourani attended and spoke at Ahmed Sa'adat's book launch, organized by the PFLP in Gaza.<sup>364</sup>



Sourani also has clear ties to members of the Hamas terror organization. In 2011, for example, he met in Cairo with Musa Abu Marzouk, a member of Hamas' Political Bureau.<sup>365</sup> The same year, Sourani met with Khaled Mashal, chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau.<sup>366</sup> The US Department of State has designated both Marzouk and Mashal as Global Terrorists.<sup>367</sup>

359 Washington Report, [A Matter of Principle: Gaza Human Rights Lawyer Raji Sourani](#), published 01/01/95, accessed 06/19

360 The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [PFLP Delegation Congratulate Raji Sourani](#) (Arabic), published 09/29/13, accessed 06/19

361 AP, [Court Orders PLO Militant's Release](#), published 06/03/02, accessed 09/19

362 European Council on Foreign relations, [Ahmed Sa'adat \(PFLP\)](#), accessed 08/19

363 Efrat Weiss, [Israel Sentences PFLP Leader to 30 Years in Prison](#), published 12/25/08, accessed 09/19

364 The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [PFLP in the Gaza Strip launches the book "Echoing the Restriction" of Commander Ahmed Sa'adat](#) (Arabic), published 11/14/17, accessed 08/19

365 Google Groups, [a delegation of the Reconciliation and National Reconciliation Committee meets with Dr. Musa Abu Marzouk](#) (Arabic), published 06/05/11, accessed 08/19; Hamas, [Hamas to foil all plans targeting Palestinian rights and constants](#), published 06/29/19, accessed 08/19

366 PCHR, [Sourani Meets with Chairman of Hamas Political Bureau, Mr. Khaled Mashal](#), published 12/24/11, accessed 08/19

367 US Department of the Treasury, [Recent OFAC actions](#), published 8/21/03, accessed 08/19

Moreover, in 2012 Ismail Haniyeh welcomed a delegation of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) to the Gaza Strip.<sup>368</sup> Sourani is a member of the IADL executive committee.<sup>369</sup> Years later in 2017, Haniyeh met with a delegation of human rights and civil society institutions headed by Sourani.<sup>370</sup> During operation “Protective Edge” in 2014, Sourani described Hamas as a “resistance group,” saying “they are a part of us, part of our chemistry.”<sup>371</sup>

In 2013, a delegation of PFLP leaders visited the PCHR office in the Gaza City to congratulate Sourani for winning the “alternative Nobel Prize.”<sup>372</sup> Later in 2014, the PFLP in Gaza again organized a ceremony to honor Sourani for winning the prize.<sup>373</sup>



*Raji Sourani: PCHR, PFLP honors Lawyer Raji Sourani for Winning “Alternative Noble Prize,” published 02/20/14, accessed 09/19*

*Translation: Ceremony honoring the honorable Raji Sourani for winning the Alternative Nobel prize, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine*

Furthermore, in 2006 PCHR hosted a conference titled “the New Palestinian Government and the Human Rights Agenda.”<sup>374</sup> Among the participants were Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas’ Political Bureau,<sup>375</sup> and Basem Naim, a member of the

368 Ma’an News, [Haniyeh meets delegation of international lawyers in Gaza](#), published 09/27/12, accessed 08/19

369 IADL, [Officers and Bureau members](#), accessed 08/19

370 Hamas, [Haniyeh Meets Human Rights and Civil Institutions Delegation](#), published 02/28/17, accessed 08/19

371 Democracy Now, [YouTube](#), published 07/21/14, accessed 09/19

372 The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [Delegation of the PFLP congratulates Professor Raji Sourani](#) (Arabic), published 09/29/13, accessed 08/19

373 PCHR, [PFLP honors Lawyer Raji Sourani for Winning “Alternative Noble Prize,”](#) published 02/20/14, accessed 09/19

374 PCHR, [Conference: The New Palestinian Government and the Human Rights Agenda \(21 - 22 June 2006\)](#), accessed 08/19

375 Hamas, [Ismail Haniyeh](#) (Arabic), accessed 08/19

Hamas International Relations Office.<sup>376</sup> Hamas is a designated terror organization in the US,<sup>377</sup> EU,<sup>378</sup> Canada<sup>379</sup> and Israel,<sup>380</sup> and the US Department of State has designated Ismail Haniyeh as a Global Terrorist.<sup>381</sup>



*Ismail Haniyeh (L) and Raji Sourani (R), (PCHR, Conference: The New Palestinian Government and the Human Rights Agenda (21 - 22 June 2006), accessed 08/19*

## **PCHR's connections to Hamas and the PFLP**

In 2014, PCHR hosted the Swedish Right Livelihood Award Foundation's solidarity delegation in the Gaza Strip; the members met with Haniyeh.<sup>382</sup>



*Raji Sourani (L) and Ismail Haniyeh (R): PCHR, "Right Livelihood Foundation's" Delegation Ends its Solidarity Visit to Gaza, published 10/30/14, accessed 08/19*

376 Hamas, [Hamas conducts meeting with Gulf to halt normalization, Naim says](#), published 01/06/19, accessed 08/19

377 US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 08/19

378 European Council, [COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#), published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19

379 Government of Canada, [Currently listed entities](#), accessed 08/19

380 Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 08/19

381 US Department of State, [State Department Terrorist Designations of Ismail Haniyeh, Harakat al-Sabireen, Liwa al-Thawra, and Harakat Sawa'd Misr \(HASM\)](#), published 01/31/18, accessed 05/19

382 PCHR, ["Right Livelihood Foundation's" Delegation Ends its Solidarity Visit to Gaza](#), published 10/30/14, accessed 08/19

In 2017, PCHR hosted a delegation of the Hamas Information Office headed by Mushir al-Masri, a Hamas member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), along with Fawzi Barhoum, Hamas' spokesperson, Taher al-Nunu, media advisor to the head of the Hamas Political Bureau, and Salamah Ma'rouf, head of the Government Information Office in Gaza.<sup>383</sup>

Moreover, several board members of PCHR have strong ties to the PFLP and Hamas. As a consequence, over the years Israeli authorities have refused to grant exit permits from Gaza to multiple staff members of the PCHR.<sup>384</sup>

For instance, PCHR board member Jaber Wishah<sup>385</sup> is a former commander of the "military" wing of the PFLP.<sup>386</sup> He was imprisoned by Israel for his collaboration with terrorist Samir Kuntar,<sup>387</sup> a Hezbollah commander who committed a deadly terror attack in 1979, killing four Israeli civilians.<sup>388</sup> One of Kuntar's victims was a four-year-old girl whom he killed by beating her head repeatedly with a rifle butt.<sup>389</sup> Wishah's mother, Um Jaber Wishah, acted as a foster mother, according to Arabic media, to Kuntar and supported him until his release from Israeli prison in 2008.<sup>390</sup>

PCHR board member Nadia Abu Nahla<sup>391</sup> is the executive director of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC).<sup>392</sup> In 2018, online credit card donations facilities were withdrawn from WATC due to its ties to terror groups.<sup>393</sup>

Iyad Alami, a lawyer and the head of Legal Aid Program and Legal Unit at PCHR,<sup>394</sup> has in the past represented and defended several Hamas leaders, among them Hamas' spokesperson and co-founder,<sup>395</sup> Abdel Aziz Rantisi.<sup>396</sup>

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383 PCHR, [During His Meeting with Delegation from Hamas Movement, Sourani Says: "Reconciliation Shall Be Strategic and Irreversible Choice,"](#) published 12/05/17, accessed 09/19

384 UN Refugee Agency, [Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders Annual Report 2009 - Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory,](#) published 06/18/09, accessed 09/19

385 PCHR, [Board of Directors,](#) accessed 08/19

386 PFLP, [PFLP delegation pays condolences to Um Jaber Wishah on the martyrdom of Samir Kuntar,](#) published 12/16/15, accessed 09/19; Al-Bayan, [the freed Palestinian prisoner, Jaber Washah, told Al-Bayan that the Palestinian prisoners in the Israeli jail is reaching a boiling point](#) (Arabic), published 09/23/99, accessed 08/19

387 Ibid

388 The New York Times, [Commander of Hezbollah Freed by Israel Is Killed in Syria,](#) published 12/20/15, accessed 08/19

389 The Times of Israel, [Terror chief Samir Kuntar killed in reported Israeli strike in Syria,](#) published 12/20/15, accessed 10/19

390 Electronic Intifada, [Palestinian mother's solidarity with 40 adopted prisoners,](#) published 03/17/09, accessed 09/19; PFLP, [PFLP delegation pays condolences to Um Jaber Wishah on the martyrdom of Samir Kuntar,](#) published 12/16/15, accessed 09/19

391 PCHR, [Board of Directors,](#) accessed 08/19

392 Palestine Today, [Nadia Abu Nahla demands that women be given a positive distinction in the local election list](#) (Arabic), published 08/21/16, accessed 08/19

393 UK Lawyers for Israel, [Credit Card Donations to Terrorist linked NGOs terminated,](#) published 05/03/18, accessed 08/19

394 PCHR, [Director of PCHR's Legal Aid Unit Participate in the ECCHR's Annual Alumni Meeting,](#) published 11/10/15, accessed 09/19; PCHR, [Head of Legal aid program,](#) accessed 09/19

395 Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, [Abdel Aziz Rantisi,](#) published 04/18/04, accessed 09/19

396 AP, [Court Releases Hamas Spokesman,](#) published 06/04/98, accessed 09/19; Spiegel Online, [Palestinian Lawyers Take on Israel,](#) published 06/05/09, accessed 09/19

Reyad Al-Zanoun, another board member of PCHR,<sup>397</sup> is also a member of the Muslim Brotherhood,<sup>398</sup> which has been designated as terrorist by the State of Israel,<sup>399</sup> Russia,<sup>400</sup> Egypt,<sup>401</sup> Saudi Arabia<sup>402</sup> and the United Arab Emirates.<sup>403</sup>

Additionally, PCHR collaborates with terror-affiliated NGOs such as Al-Haq,<sup>404</sup> Al Mezan<sup>405</sup> and Addameer,<sup>406</sup> which have staff members<sup>407</sup> with strong ties<sup>408</sup> to the PFLP and Hamas.<sup>409</sup>

Moreover, PCHR has supported Hamas and PIJ engineered and controlled Great March of Return (GRM),<sup>410</sup> which was described as a civilian, non-violent protest of Palestinians in Gaza, aiming to highlight their so-called right of return.<sup>411</sup> However,

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397 PCHR, [Board of Directors](#), accessed 08/19

398 The Palestinian Information Center, [An interview with Dr. Abdel Rahman Baroud about the Palestinian Islamic trend 1948-1967 \(Arabic\)](#), published 05/24/10, accessed 08/19

399 Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 08/19

400 Religare, [Decision of the RF Armed Forces on the recognition of a number of foreign organizations as terrorist](#) (Russian), published 06/24/04, accessed 10/19

401 The New York Times, [Egypt, Dealing a Blow to the Muslim Brotherhood, Deems It a Terrorist Group](#), published 12/25/13, accessed 10/19

402 Bloomberg, [U.A.E. Supports Saudi Arabia Against Qatar-Backed Brotherhood](#), published 03/09/14, accessed 10/19

403 Ibid

404 PCHR, [Al-Haq and PCHR call on ICC Prosecutor to move forward on 2009 Palestinian Declaration](#), published 10/05/13, accessed 08/19; [Al-Haq and Al Mezan Organize Joint Workshop Titled: "Shrinking Freedom Space for Civil Society"](#), published 08/06/19, accessed 08/19

405 PCHR, [PCHR, Al-Haq and Al Mezan Organize Joint Workshop Titled: "Shrinking Freedom Space for Civil Society,"](#) published 08/06/19, accessed 08/19; PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Holds Press Conference on 3rd Legal Submission to ICC on Gaza Closure](#), published 11/22/16, accessed 08/19

406 PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Hold Press Conference to Declare Submission of Fourth Substantive Communication to ICC on Israeli Settlement Activity in oPt](#), published 09/20/17, accessed 08/19

407 United Nations, [Decision No. 16/1994](#), published 09/28/94, accessed 04/19; Al-Quds, [Memorial at Beit Sahour for the deceased Elias Graise](#), published 03/06/99, accessed 04/19; The National, [Shawan Jabarin is an activist to some, a terrorist to others](#), published 12/11/13, accessed 06/19; The Daily Beast, [Shawan Jabarin's Controversial Appointment to Human Rights Watch Board](#), published 02/15/11, accessed 06/19; PFLP, [About the writer](#), accessed 04/19; Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [Historical documents of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), accessed 05/19; PFLP, [What did Yafa and Suha and Jarrar wrote to their mother?!](#) (Arabic), published 04/07/15, accessed 05/19

408 Al-Watan Voice, [A celebration on the occasion of the release of Comrade Jammal Abu-Jamal](#), published 04/14, accessed 07/18; Raymonda Tawil, [Let's give them a bouquet of roses](#), published 03/13, accessed 07/18; Al-Maan News, [PFLP marks the 8th anniversary to the death of Abu-Ali Mustafa](#), published 08/09, accessed 07/18; Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 07/18; Samidoun, [Prisoner rights leader Abdul Latif Ghaith banned from entering the West Bank or leaving Palestine](#), published 10/04/14, accessed 07/18; Al-Maan News, [Israel renews detention of Palestinian lawmaker Khalida Jarrar](#), published 06/18, accessed 07/18; PFLP, [Ordering the leader Comrade Khalida Jarrar to administrative detention will not suppress the resistance](#), published 07/15/17, accessed 07/18; Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 07/18; Addameer, [Khalida Jarrar](#), accessed 07/18; Addameer, [2003 Annual Report](#), published 04/07/04, accessed 07/18; Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 07/18; Addameer, [2003 Annual Report](#), published 04/07/04, accessed 07/18; PFLP, [A PFLP celebration to its veteran activists](#), published 02/14, accessed 07/18; Al-Wafa News, [Israel forces prevented political conference in a hotel in Jerusalem](#), published 03/06, accessed 07/18

409 Hamas, [Members of the political bureau](#) (Arabic), accessed 06/19; Ma'an News Agency, [An open letter to the Hamas movement](#), published 11/04/12, accessed 06/19; Hamas, [Top Hamas leader discusses humanitarian issues with ICHR](#), published 12/12/18, accessed 06/19

410 PCHR, [67th Great March of Return: 118 Civilians Injured, Including 45 Children, 2 Women, 3 Journalists, and 4 Paramedics by Israeli Forces](#), published 07/19/19, accessed 08/19; HPC, [Accountability for the victims of IHL and IHRL violations during the great march of return in the ARA](#), accessed 08/19

411 Middle East Eye, [Palestinians in Gaza call for millions to join Great March of Return anniversary](#), published 03/15/19, accessed 07/19; Mondoweiss, [Organizer of the Great March of Return says protests in Gaza 'must go on,'](#) published 06/18/19, accessed 07/19

these marches were frequently accompanied by terror acts against the State of Israel, such as the launching of incendiary kites,<sup>412</sup> Molotov cocktails and burning tires.<sup>413</sup> The GRM is controlled by a “high committee”<sup>414</sup> composed of representatives from designated<sup>415</sup> terror organizations such as Hamas,<sup>416</sup> the PFLP<sup>417</sup> and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).<sup>418</sup> Furthermore, Ismail Haniyeh has publicly supported the GRM events and has participated in some of them.<sup>419</sup> In its publications, PCHR ignores the fact that the GRM is controlled by terror organizations and is accompanied by violent acts. Rather, it accuses Israel of “targeting peaceful protesters.”<sup>420</sup>

## Financials & Registration

PCHR is registered as a non-profit private shareholder company located in Gaza.<sup>421</sup>

It has not published its audit reports since 2008, during which its revenue totaled \$1,642,525.<sup>422</sup> This marked an increase of 93.5% since 1997.<sup>423</sup> While the organization does provide information on its key donors, it does not specify the value of the grants received from each donor.<sup>424</sup>

In the past years, PCHR has received financial support from Christian organizations such as Dan Church Aid and Christian Aid.<sup>425</sup>

Moreover, PCHR had received donations from government entities such as the Representative Office of Finland, Representative Office of Norway, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Irish Aid, San Sebastian Municipal Council, Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), European Commission (through Oxfam), United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for

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412 The Atlantic, [Photos: 25 Fridays of Protest in Gaza](#), published 09/20/18, accessed 07/19

413 Amnesty International, [SIX MONTHS ON: GAZA’S GREAT MARCH OF RETURN](#), published

414 Alnour Radio, [The Supreme National Commission for the Great March of Return and Breaking the Siege calling for participation in the march of the millions on Saturday](#) (Arabic), published 03/28/19, accessed 07/19

415 European Council, [COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#), published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19; US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 05/19; Government of Canada, [Currently listed entities](#), accessed 06/19; Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 06/19

416 Quds Press, [Gaza...the establishment of permanent tents on the border in preparation for the Great Return march](#) (Arabic), published 03/27/18, accessed 07/19

417 Albayan, [The GRM National Committee to Albayan: the marches confuse Israel](#) (Arabic), 02/09/19, accessed 07/19

418 Quds Press, [Gaza...the establishment of permanent tents on the border in preparation for the Great Return march](#) (Arabic), published 03/27/18, accessed 07/19

419 Hamas, [Hamas Chief calls on Palestinian people to participate in One-Million Demonstration of Land and Return](#), published 03/27/19, accessed 07/19; Hamas, [One-Million Protest of Land and Return, Top Hamas Officials Participate in the First Anniversary of Great Return March](#), published 03/30/19, accessed 07/19

420 PCHR, [On the 69th Great March of Return 66 Civilians Injured by Israeli forces: 28 Children, 2 journalists and 4 Women Including a Paramedic](#), published 08/02/19, accessed 08/19

421 PCHR, [About the center](#) (Arabic), accessed 08/19

422 PCHR, [Annual Report 2008](#), accessed 09/19

423 PCHR, [Annual Report 1997](#), accessed 09/19

424 PCHR, [Funding](#), accessed 08/19

425 Ibid

Victims of Torture (UNVFVT).<sup>426</sup>

Donations to PCHR have also come from international organizations and foundations such as the NGO Development Center (NDC), Bertha Foundation, Arab Human Rights Fund (AHRF), Open Society foundation, Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD), Iris O'Brien Foundation, Trocaire, Terre des hommes foundation (TDH), Kvinna Till Kvinna Foundation (KTK) and Oxfam Novib. The BDS- supporting organizations Al-Quds Association and US-based Grassroots International<sup>427</sup> have also donated to PCHR in recent years,<sup>428</sup> and in 2014 the Samuel Rubin Foundation gave a grant to PCHR through Grassroots International.<sup>429</sup>

In 2018, PCHR along with three other Palestinian NGOs that had a donations page operated by Grassroots International had their credit card facilities withdrawn due to their connections to designated terror organizations and the BDS Movement.<sup>430</sup>

According to its website, PCHR only receives donations through wire transfer to the following bank accounts: Al Quds Bank in Gaza (455513), UPI Banca in Italy (10268) and Bank of New York in the United States (8901122769).<sup>431</sup>

In addition, PCHR only accept donations from organizations and individuals that “support universal values of human rights and the use of international humanitarian law to end the occupation of Palestine,” and does not accept anonymous donations.<sup>432</sup>

## Conclusions

PCHR, founded in the 1990s, has established itself as one of the leading organizations in the ongoing anti-Israel lawfare campaigns. It partners and collaborates with other Palestinian organizations and coalitions engaging in the same field of work, which allows it to gain local and global recognition and prominence. Although it claims to be dedicated to protecting human rights and promoting the rule of law, many of its board members and staff, including its founder and director, have longstanding and alarming ties to designated terror organizations such as the PFLP and Hamas. One of its board members was even imprisoned for collaborating with a Hezbollah terrorist who killed four Israelis, brutally beating one of them, aged four, to death with his rifle butt.

Despite its many encounters with PFLP officials, its frequent meetings with the highest echelons of the Hamas terror movement and open praise for the Gaza-ruling organization, PCHR continues to receive funding from organizations that claim to champion human rights such as Grassroots International. In addition, funding has flowed into PCHR's coffers from international governmental organizations in Norway, Spain, Ireland and Finland and from the UN.

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426 Ibid

427 Al-Quds Association, [Website](#), accessed 08/19; Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine, Sister groups, accessed 08/19

428 PCHR, [Funding](#), accessed 08/19

429 Samuel Rubin Foundation, [FY2014 Grantees](#), accessed 08/19

430 UK lawyers for Israel, [More credit card facilities closed down for terrorist linked NGOs](#), published 05/04/18, accessed 09/19

431 PCHR, [Donate to PCHR](#), accessed 08/19

432 Ibid

# Al Mezan Center for Human Rights



## Main Findings

- | Al Mezan engages in lawfare against the State of Israel on a regional and international level.
- | The organization does not operate on its own, but rather partners with other organizations, networks and coalitions from the BDS Movement.
- | The organization maintains strong connections to the US-designated terror organization Hamas.
- | Al Mezan functions as a documentation, research and information hub regarding human rights and international law in the Gaza Strip.

## Background

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights is a Palestinian non-governmental organization based in the Gaza Strip. The organization's main office is located in the upscale A-Rimal neighborhood of Gaza City, while another two offices are located in Jabaliya and Rafah.<sup>433</sup> Established in 1999, Al Mezan "aims to promote, advocate and protect human rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights, in the Gaza Strip."<sup>434</sup> Al Mezan endorses and supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement,<sup>435</sup> engages in lawfare and takes legal measures against the State of Israel on the regional and international levels.<sup>436</sup>

433 Al Mezan, [Contact Us](#), accessed 06/19

434 Al Mezan, [About us](#), accessed 06/19

435 BDS Movement, "[Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS](#)," published 07/09/05, accessed 06/19

436 Al Mezan, "[During Al Mezan's Participation in Human Rights Council Session 37, EU Votes Contradict 'FAC' Conclusions on Accountability](#)," published 03/27/18, accessed 07/19; Al Mezan, "[Al Mezan, PCHR, and Al-Haq's Joint Urgent Appeal to the UN Special Procedures ahead of the One-Year Commemoration of the Great Return March in the Gaza Strip](#)," published 04/07/19, accessed 07/19; Al Mezan, "[Justice Denied: Gaza human shield survivors and the systemic failure of Israel's military investigation system to provide accountability](#)," published 09/05/18, accessed 07/19

The organization holds a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council,<sup>437</sup> and is a member of the World Organization Against Torture.<sup>438</sup>

## Members & Staff

### Issam Younis

Younis is the director general of Al Mezan Center for Human Rights<sup>439</sup> and a member of Gaza's Al-Azhar University's board of trustees. He also serves as vice chairman of the board of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program.<sup>440</sup> Younis holds senior positions in other BDS-affiliated organizations including as the commissioner general of the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR).<sup>441</sup> He is also a policy advisor at Al-Shabaka Palestinian Policy Network<sup>442</sup> along with other BDS key figures such as Omar Barghouti, co-founder of the BDS Movement.<sup>443</sup>

### Dr. Azmi Shuaibi

Shuaibi is a board member of Al Mezan<sup>444</sup> and of MIFTAH, a Palestinian NGO advocating for Palestinian rights on both the local and international levels.<sup>445</sup> He is also a consultant for the Coalition for Integrity and Accountability's (AMAN) Board of Directors.<sup>446</sup>

## Partners

Al Mezan is a member of several international and regional coalitions, most of which endorse the BDS Movement. Partnering with other coalitions in the BDS network allows Al Mezan to expand its field of work and impact.

For example, it is a member of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network (ESCR Network),<sup>447</sup> composed of over 280 social movements, NGOs and advocates across the world.<sup>448</sup>

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437 UN, "[Committee on NGOs Recommends 23 Organizations for Consultative Status With the Economic and Social Council](#)," published 05/28/10, accessed 06/19

438 Al Mezan, "[Memberships](#)," accessed 06/19

439 Al Mezan, "[Organization Chart](#)," accessed 06/19

440 Institute for Middle East understanding, "[Expert](#)," accessed 06/19

441 ICHR, "[About ICHR](#)," accessed 06/19

442 Al-Shabaka, "[Profiles](#)," accessed 06/19

443 Al-Shabaka, "[BDS: A Global Movement for Freedom & Justice](#)," 07/09/15, accessed 06/19

444 Al Mezan, "[Organization Chart](#)," accessed 06/19

445 Miftah, "[About Us](#)," accessed 06/19

446 Aman, "[Board Members](#)," accessed 06/19

447 ESCR-Net, "[Members](#)," accessed 06/19

448 ESCR-Net, "[Who are we](#)," accessed 06/19

Along with other Palestinian NGOs, Al Mezan is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH),<sup>449</sup> whose membership is fully supportive of the BDS Movement<sup>450</sup> and of the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN).<sup>451</sup>

Al Mezan is also a member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN),<sup>452</sup> a network of more than 80 human rights organizations,<sup>453</sup> many of which support BDS groups, for example Human Rights Watch,<sup>454</sup> Amnesty International,<sup>455</sup> the Cairo Institute for Human rights Studies (CIHRS),<sup>456</sup> etc.<sup>457</sup>

Furthermore, Al Mezan is a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), a coalition of several Palestinian NGOs<sup>458</sup> supporting the BDS Movement,<sup>459</sup> and of the Kumi Now (Rise Up) project, together with other Israeli and Palestinian NGOs<sup>460</sup> aiming to change the reality in the Palestinian Authority and Gaza by promoting non-violent resistance, advocacy and legal action.<sup>461</sup>

Finally, Al Mezan is a member of the Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network. However, no evidence was found during this research that the coalition supports BDS.<sup>462</sup>

## Collaboration

Al Mezan collaborates with numerous local and international organizations from the BDS Movement.

In 2012, it participated in the World Social Forum – Free Palestine in Brazil as part of its membership in the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC).<sup>463</sup> This event gathered international pro-Palestinians activists and NGOs to discuss

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449 FIDH, "[Organizations](#)," accessed 06/19

450 BDS Movement, "[International Federation of Human Rights declaration in support of right to BDS](#)," published 06/08/16, accessed 06/19

451 Aman, "[About us](#)," accessed 06/19

452 EuroMed Rights, "[Members](#)," accessed 05/19

453 EuroMed Rights, "[Website](#)," accessed 05/19

454 The Nation, "[Human Rights Watch calls on businesses to withdraw from Israeli settlements](#)," published 01/19/16, accessed 06/19

455 BDS Movement, "[BNC welcomes Amnesty International position on Right to BDS](#)," published 04/24/16, accessed 06/19

456 BDS Movement, "[Organizations in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine call for G4S boycott](#)," published 04/17/13, accessed 06/19

457 EuroMed Rights, "[Our Members](#)," accessed 05/19

458 Al-Haq, "[PHROC Sends Letter to UN High Commissioner and Special Rapporteurs on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders](#)," published 06/16/16, accessed 05/19

459 Al-Haq, "[Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\) statement on BDS movement](#)," published 02/09/16, accessed 06/19

460 Kumi Now, "[Who is Kumi](#)," accessed 06/19

461 Kumi Now, "[About us](#)," accessed 06/19

462 Al Mezan, "[Memberships](#)," accessed 06/19

463 US Social Forum, "[About the World Social Forum Free Palestine](#)," accessed 06/19

the position of the BDS Movement in the Palestinian “resistance.”<sup>464</sup>

In 2014, Al Mezan joined the call “against the Apartheid wall” endorsed by the BDS National Committee (BNC) and other organizations from the BDS network.<sup>465</sup>

Al Mezan participated in the “Obliterated Families” project, a multimedia documentary that recorded the lives of families in the Gaza Strip during the 2014 Israel-Hamas conflict.<sup>466</sup> Later, in 2015 Al Mezan collaborated with Visualizing Palestine in a joint campaign initiative documenting “Israel’s attacks against the Gaza Strip during 2014.”<sup>467</sup> Moreover, Al Mezan along with the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), an NGO operating in Gaza,<sup>468</sup> and the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), took part in “Free the Holy Land Sea” campaign, calling to end the blockade on the Gaza Strip.<sup>469</sup> In 2019, Al-Haq, PCHR and Al Mezan attended the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva to debate issues relating to human rights violations in the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza Strip.<sup>470</sup>

## Scope of Work

The bulk of Al Mezan’s efforts are dedicated to delegitimizing the State of Israel. This entails advocating for Palestinian human rights before international judicial bodies,<sup>471</sup> obtaining arrest warrants against Israeli officials,<sup>472</sup> conducting research and gathering supposedly incriminating evidence against Israeli policies in the Gaza Strip,<sup>473</sup> publishing brochures containing visuals of alleged human rights violations,<sup>474</sup> and submitting reports to the International Criminal Court.<sup>475</sup>

Al Mezan also monitors and documents human rights violations in the Gaza Strip and compiles statistics on casualties.<sup>476</sup> Using its media center, Al Mezan publishes press releases, briefs, statements and position papers.<sup>477</sup>

464 Addameer, “PHROC to Participate in World Social Forum-Free Palestine,” published 10/02/12, accessed 06/19

465 Stop the Wall, “Joint Call to Action: July 2014 - Month against the Apartheid Wall!” published 05/09/14, accessed 06/19

466 Obliterated Families, “About,” accessed 06/19

467 Relief Web, “Gaza’s Untold Story: From Displacement to Death,” published 09/17/15, accessed 06/19

468 PCHR, “PCHR & Al Mezan Call for Investigating the Explosion in El-Bureij Refugee Camp,” published 02/18/18, accessed 06/19

469 End the Blockade, “Contacts,” accessed 06/19

470 UN, “Human Rights Council holds general debate on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories,” 03/18/19, accessed 06/19

471 Al-Haq, “Al-Haq and Al Mezan participate in UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,” published 07/14/16, accessed 06/19

472 Al-Haq, “Al Mezan and Al-Haq Regret London Magistrates’ Court Decision Not to Issue Arrest Warrant against Israeli Defence Minister for Alleged War Crimes in Gaza,” published 10/01/09, accessed 06/19

473 PHROC, Situation of Human Rights Defenders in the OPT, published 11/07/16, accessed 06/19

474 Al Mezan, “Brochures,” published 06/21/19, accessed 06/19

475 Al Mezan, “JOINT PRESS RELEASE: Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submit Evidence to the ICC Prosecutor on Crimes Committed in West Bank,” published 09/20/17, accessed 06/19; Al Mezan, “Investigate Persecution Arising out of Ongoing Gaza Closure, Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Urge ICC Prosecutor,” published 11/23/16, accessed 06/19

476 Al Mezan, “Statistics,” accessed 06/19

477 Al Mezan, “Media Center,” accessed 06/19

In addition, Al Mezan hosts workshops on international humanitarian law<sup>478</sup> and holds legal training for lawyers<sup>479</sup> and students<sup>480</sup> in Gaza.

As part of its lawfare campaign against Israel, Al Mezan employs rhetoric and narratives intended to portray Israel as an apartheid state<sup>481</sup> that commits “ethnic cleansing” against the Palestinians.<sup>482</sup> In 2019, Al Mezan published a report on the attack on “unarmed protesters” at the Great March of Return riots in the Gaza Strip,<sup>483</sup> which Hamas leaders have attended and publicly supported.<sup>484</sup>

Another function carried out by Al Mezan is to operate as an information hub in the field of human rights in the Gaza Strip.<sup>485</sup>

Al Mezan does not operate independently within the BDS Movement, but rather through partnerships with coalitions that use its information,<sup>486</sup> enabling it to expand its field of work and impact.<sup>487</sup>

## Red Flags

### Terror Connections

In 2012, Al Mezan’s general director, Issam Younis, met with Hamas official<sup>488</sup> Khaled Mashal in Cairo.<sup>489</sup> Following the visit, Younis published an open letter in support of Hamas as a movement and as a government, declaring: “I remain an advocate of the right of Hamas to govern and I absolutely reject the double standards employed by the international community towards the movement.”<sup>490</sup>

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478 Al Mezan, “[Women in Gaza Join Al Mezan’s Latest Workshop on “Legal Protection of Civilians Under International Humanitarian Law,”](#) published 06/13/19, accessed 06/19

479 Al Mezan, “[Fifteen Years in a Row: Al Mezan Delivers Annual “Legal Skill Development” Training,](#)” published 11/29/17, accessed 06/19

480 Al Mezan, “[Al Mezan Launches Annual “Pass the Word” Program for 17th Year,](#)” published 02/11/18, accessed 06/19

481 Al Mezan, “[PHROC Calls for Immediate and Decisive Confrontation of Israel Legalizing Piracy,](#)” published 12/08/16, accessed 06/19; Al Mezan, “[On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)” (Arabic), published 03/21/17, accessed 06/19

482 Al Mezan, “[Al Mezan Condemns Israeli Authorities’ Forcible Dispersal of Peaceful Demonstrations, Calls of Immediate Release of Prominent Human Rights Activist and Detainees,](#)” published 07/16/13, accessed 06/19

483 Al Mezan, “[Attacks on Unarmed Protesters at “Great March of Return” Demonstrations,](#)” published 04/23/19, accessed 06/19

484 Hamas, “[Hamas Chief calls on Palestinian people to participate in One-Million Demonstration of Land and Return,](#)” published 03/27/19, accessed 06/19

485 Al Mezan, “[Areas of action,](#)” accessed 06/19

486 Amnesty International, “[SIX MONTHS ON: GAZA’S GREAT MARCH OF RETURN,](#)” accessed 06/12

487 International Middle East Media Center, “[Al Mezan and Partners: Briefing Note on Torture and Ill-treatment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for Side Event, 37th Human Rights Council Session,](#)” published 04/21/18, accessed 06/19

488 Hamas, “[Members of the political bureau](#)” (Arabic), accessed 06/19

489 Ma’an News Agency, “[An open letter to the Hamas movement,](#)” published 11/04/12, accessed 06/19

490 Ibid

In 2018, Younis also met with Ismail Haniyeh,<sup>491</sup> head of Hamas' Political Bureau,<sup>492</sup> as the commissioner general at the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR).<sup>493</sup>

Hamas is a designated terror organization in the US,<sup>494</sup> EU,<sup>495</sup> Canada<sup>496</sup> and Israel.<sup>497</sup> The US Department of State has classified both Ismail Haniyeh<sup>498</sup> and Khaled Mashal<sup>499</sup> as Designated Global Terrorists.

In addition, Al Mezan collaborates with terror-affiliated NGOs such as Al-Haq<sup>500</sup> and Addameer,<sup>501</sup> both of which have staff members<sup>502</sup> with strong ties<sup>503</sup> to the designated terror organization the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).<sup>504</sup> In 2017, Al-Haq and Al Mezan were invited to speak at a UN forum in New York. In response, Israeli officials accused the UN of "colluding with supporters of terrorism seeking to harm Israel."<sup>505</sup>

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- 491 Hamas, "[Top Hamas leader discusses humanitarian issues with ICHR](#)," published 12/12/18, accessed 06/19
- 492 Hamas, "[Members of the political bureau](#)" (Arabic), accessed 06/19
- 493 ICHR, "[About ICHR](#)," accessed 06/19
- 494 US Department of State, "[Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#)," listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 05/19
- 495 European Council, "[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#)," published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19
- 496 Government of Canada, "[Currently listed entities](#)," accessed 06/19
- 497 Israel Ministry of Justice, "[List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#)," accessed 06/19
- 498 US Department of State, "[State Department Terrorist Designations of Ismail Haniyeh, Harakat al-Sabireen, Liwa al-Thawra, and Harakat Sawa'd Misr \(HASM\)](#)," published 01/31/18, accessed 05/19
- 499 US Department of State, "[U.S. Designates Five Charities Funding Hamas and Six Senior Hamas Leaders as Terrorist Entities](#)," published 08/22/03, accessed 06/19
- 500 Relief Web, "[New report by Al Mezan and Al Haq on the violations against civil society organizations in OPT](#)," published 07/02/07, accessed 06/19
- 501 Addameer, "[Joint Report: Occupation Forces Arrested 3500 Palestinians during the First Half of 2018](#)," published 07/10/18, accessed 06/19
- 502 United Nations, [Decision No. 16/1994](#), published 09/28/94, accessed 04/19; Al-Quds, [Memorial at Beit Sahour for the deceased Elias Graise](#), published 03/06/99, accessed 04/19; The National, [Shawan Jabarin is an activist to some, a terrorist to others](#), published 12/11/13, accessed 06/19; The Daily Beast, [Shawan Jabarin's Controversial Appointment to Human Rights Watch Board](#), published 02/15/11, accessed 06/19; PFLP, "[About the writer](#)," accessed 04/19; Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, [Historical documents of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), accessed 05/19; PFLP, [What did Yafa and Suha and Jarrar wrote to their mother?!](#) (Arabic), published 04/07/15, accessed 05/19
- 503 Al-Watan Voice, "[A celebration on the occasion of the release of Comrade Jammal Abu-Jamal](#)," published 04/14, accessed 07/18; Raymonda Tawil, "[Let's give them a bouquet of roses](#)," published 03/13, accessed 07/18; Al-Maan News, "[PFLP marks the 8th anniversary to the death of Abu-Ali Mustafa](#)," published 08/09, accessed 07/18; Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 07/18; Samidoun, "[Prisoner rights leader Abdul Latif Ghaith banned from entering the West Bank or leaving Palestine](#)," published 10/04/14, accessed 07/18; Al-Maan News, "[Israel renews detention of Palestinian lawmaker Khalida Jarrar](#)," published 06/18, accessed 07/18; PFLP, "[Ordering the leader Comrade Khalida Jarrar to administrative detention will not suppress the resistance](#)," published 07/15/17, accessed 07/18; Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 07/18; Addameer, "[Khalida Jarrar](#)," accessed 07/18; Addameer, [2003 Annual Report](#), published 04/07/04, accessed 07/18; Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 07/18; Addameer, [2003 Annual Report](#), published 04/07/04, accessed 07/18; PFLP, "[A PFLP celebration to its veteran activists](#)," published 02/14, accessed 07/18; Al-Wafa News, "[Israel forces prevented political conference in a hotel in Jerusalem](#)," published 03/06, accessed 07/18
- 504 US Department of State, "[Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#)," listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 06/19; European Council, "[COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#)," published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19; Israel Ministry of Justice, "[List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#)," accessed 06/19; Government of Canada, "[Currently listed entities](#)," accessed 06/19
- 505 The Tower, "[Partners of Hamas, PFLP Address UN Anti-Israel Event](#)," published 06/30/17, accessed 06/19

## Financials & Registration

Al Mezan is not financially transparent and only once publicized its list of donors in 2016. Beyond this, the organization does not provide any financial statement or information about its annual income, except for its account details at Quds Bank.<sup>506</sup> According to its website,<sup>507</sup> in 2016 the organization received donations from government entities such as the Representative Office of Norway to the Palestinian Authority, the UN Program of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP), the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat,<sup>508</sup> the European Commission, the Palestinian Central Election Commission and the state-supported<sup>509</sup> organization Medico International (Germany).<sup>510</sup>

Al Mezan also received financial support from international NGOs and foundations such as Diakonia, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, Open Society Foundations (OSF), ICCO and Kerk in Actie, the Norwegian Refugee Council and the BDS-supporting organization known as American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).<sup>511</sup>

Code Pink, a leading organization in the BDS Movement,<sup>512</sup> has served as Al Mezan's fiscal sponsor for grants from the Cultures of Resistance Network.<sup>513</sup>

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506 Al Mezan, "[Donate](#)," accessed 06/19

507 Al Mezan, "[Donor Partners in 2016](#)," accessed 06/18

508 Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland joint secretariat funded international humanitarian law organizations operating in the Palestinian Authority and Gaza.

509 Germany is donating money to Medico International through the German Federal Foreign Office (AA) and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

510 Medico International, "[Annual report 2017](#)," published 07/18, accessed 06/19

511 Al Mezan, "[Donor Partners in 2016](#)," accessed 06/18; AFSC, "[What you should know about AFSC's support for the BDS movement](#)," published 01/07/19, accessed 06/19

512 Code Pink, "[BDS is the Peace talk](#)," published 05/19/19, accessed 06/19

513 Cultures of Resistance Network, "[Al Mezan Center for Human Rights \(via Code Pink\)](#)," accessed 06/19

# Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights

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## Main Findings

Al-Dameer engages in lawfare against the State of Israel on a regional and international level, partnering with other organizations and coalitions from Palestinian civil society.

It plays a significant role in lawfare campaigns against Israel, such as producing and submitting reports, together with other Palestinian legal NGOs, to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Most of Al-Dameer's former and current board members have strong ties to the designated terror organization the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Al-Dameer has close ties with other terror-affiliated NGOs operating in Gaza and in the West Bank, and has shown public support for members of designated terror organizations.

Despite its strong ties to the PFLP, the organization continues to receive donations from governments and non-governmental entities such as the European Union and US charities.

## Background

Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights is a Palestinian non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Gaza City.<sup>514</sup> Established in 1993 by a group of Palestinian lawyers, human rights activists and the Ramallah-based NGO Addameer,<sup>515</sup> the organization claims to be dedicated to playing "a leading role in the development, respect, protection, dissemination and promotion of human rights in Palestinian

514 Al-Dameer, [Evacuation of Responsibility](#) (Arabic), accessed 12/19

515 Addameer, [Our work](#), accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Evacuation of Responsibility](#), accessed 12/19

society.”<sup>516</sup> In 1996, due to the difficulties of traveling between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Al-Dameer decided to become administratively and financially independent from the office in Ramallah, although it claims a “high-level of coordination and communication between both offices,” with the two representing each other in their respective parts of the Palestinian territories as well as in international conferences and forums.<sup>517</sup>

Al-Dameer endorses and supports the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement<sup>518</sup> and engages in legal actions against the State of Israel in both regional<sup>519</sup> and international arenas.<sup>520</sup>

## Partners

Al-Dameer is a member of several international and regional coalitions, most of which endorse the BDS Movement.

The organization is a member of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC),<sup>521</sup> a coalition of several Palestinian NGOs supporting the BDS Movement.<sup>522</sup> The PHROC submits reports and letters to the International Criminal Court<sup>523</sup> and the United Nations, in which it condemns the State of Israel.<sup>524</sup>

Furthermore, Al-Dameer is a member of PNGO,<sup>525</sup> an umbrella organization of Palestinian NGOs that are based in the West Bank, Israel and Gaza.<sup>526</sup> PNGO is

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516 Ibid

517 Al-Dameer, [AL-DAMEER ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – GAZA](#), accessed 12/19

518 BDS Movement, [Palestinian Civil Society Call for BDS](#), published 07/09/05, accessed 12/19

519 Al-Dameer, [On the anniversary of the Nakba, the occupation forces deny the rights of the Palestinian people and commit crimes in violation of all international covenants and agreements](#) (Arabic), published 05/15/18, accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Al-Dameer Association holds the occupation fully responsible for the life of the sick detainee / Sami Abu Diyak](#) (Arabic), published 11/18/19, accessed 12/19

520 PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Al-Dameer calls on the international community to take immediate action to stop the Israeli crimes in occupied Jerusalem](#) (Arabic), published 07/23/17, accessed 12/19

521 FIDH, [Joint Press Statement by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council - PHROC, on the Events of the 70th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba and the Relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem](#), published 05/15/18, accessed 12/19

522 Al-Haq, [PHROC Sends Letter to UN High Commissioner and Special Rapporteurs on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders](#), published 06/16/16, accessed 12/19; Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\) statement on BDS movement](#), published 02/09/16, accessed 12/19

523 PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 12/19; Al-Haq, [“Four Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submit File to the ICC Prosecutor: Israel is Unable and Unwilling to Conduct Genuine Investigations and Prosecutions,”](#) published 12/23/17, accessed 12/19

524 United Nations, [PHROC Open Letter to UN Secretary General on Hostilities in the Gaza Strip – PHROC/Non-UN document](#), published 07/15/14, accessed 12/19; FIDH, [Joint Press Statement by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council - PHROC, on the Events of the 70th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba and the Relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem](#), published 05/15/18, accessed 12/19; Cairo Institute, [Joint Open Letter to the High Commissioner Re UN Database on Business Enterprises with Activities Related to Israeli Settlements in the OPT](#), published 11/27/18, accessed 12/19

525 Al-Dameer, [Evacuation of Responsibility](#) (Arabic), accessed 12/19

526 Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network, [Mission and vision](#), accessed 12/19

a leading member in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee (BNC),<sup>527</sup> which operates as the coordinating body for the BDS Movement worldwide.<sup>528</sup> Al-Dameer is also a member of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), the Child Rights International Network (CRIN), the Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene group (EWASH), the Civil Network to Protect the Right to Freedom of Associations and the Palestinian Coalition Against Torture.<sup>529</sup>

## Collaboration

Al-Dameer collaborates with numerous local and international organizations from the BDS Movement. As part of its membership in several Palestinian civil society coalitions,<sup>530</sup> Al-Dameer partners with the Gaza-based NGO Al Mezan<sup>531</sup> and the Ramallah-based NGO Al-Haq,<sup>532</sup> both leaders in the lawfare campaigns against Israel.<sup>533</sup> Additional significant partners of Al-Dameer include the Gaza-based NGO the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR)<sup>534</sup> and Addameer,<sup>535</sup> a Ramallah-based NGO that promotes security prisoners' rights.<sup>536</sup> Together, they engage in legal actions targeting Israel,<sup>537</sup> for example calling for the UN database of companies involved in Israeli settlements to be published.<sup>538</sup>

Furthermore, in 2014, Al-Dameer collaborated with Visualizing Palestine in a campaign documenting "Israel's attacks during the 2014 offensive against the Gaza Strip."<sup>539</sup>

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527 BDS Movement, [About](#), accessed 12/19

528 BDS Movement, [Palestinian BDS National Committee](#), accessed 12/19

529 Al-Dameer, [Evacuation of Responsibility](#), accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [About Us](#) (archived), accessed 12/19

530 FIDH, [Joint Press Statement by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council - PHROC, on the Events of the 70th Anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba and the Relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem](#), published 05/15/18, accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Evacuation of Responsibility](#), accessed 12/19

531 Al Mezan, [8 Years after Killing Rachel Corrie: Al Mezan, Al Dameer, and GCMHP Call to Secure Justice for Her and Victims of Human Rights Violations](#), published 03/31/13, accessed 12/19

532 Al-Haq, [About](#), accessed 12/19

533 Al-Haq, [Al-Haq and Al Mezan participate in UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#), published 07/14/16, accessed 12/19; Al-Haq, [Al Mezan and Al-Haq Regret London Magistrates' Court Decision Not to Issue Arrest Warrant against Israeli Defence Minister for Alleged War Crimes in Gaza](#), published 10/01/09, accessed 12/19

534 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 12/19

535 Relief Web, [Palestinian Human Rights NGOs Council Letter: Israel's Accession to the OECD](#), published 05/04/10, accessed 12/19

536 Addameer, [Our Work](#), accessed 12/19

537 Al-Haq, ["Four Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submit File to the ICC Prosecutor: Israel is Unable and Unwilling to Conduct Genuine Investigations and Prosecutions,"](#) published 12/23/17, accessed 12/19; Palestinian Center for Human Rights, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), accessed 12/19

538 Cairo Institute, [Joint Open Letter to the High Commissioner Re UN Database on Business Enterprises with Activities Related to Israeli Settlements in the OPT](#), published 11/27/18, accessed 12/19

539 Relief Web, [Gaza's Untold Story: From Displacement to Death](#), published 09/17/15, accessed 06/19

Also, in 2013 Al-Dameer's former executive director<sup>540</sup> Khalil Abu Shammala participated in the "Gaza conference" in London, hosted by the BDS-supporting organization<sup>541</sup> the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC).<sup>542</sup> Other participants included Raji Sourani, director of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR),<sup>543</sup> and Mona El-Farra, a consultant for the Union of Health Work Committees.<sup>544</sup>

Moreover, in 2010, Al-Dameer joined the campaign to preserve Mamilla Jerusalem Cemetery, along with US legal consuls and Palestinian NGOs operating in Jerusalem such as Al-Haq, Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center, Addameer, etc.<sup>545</sup> As part of this campaign, the organizations sent a petition to UN officials and the government of Switzerland asking them to take "urgent action on human rights violations by Israel."<sup>546</sup>

## Scope of Work

### Lawfare against Israel

The bulk of Al-Dameer's efforts are dedicated to defaming and delegitimizing the existence of the State of Israel. This entails advocating against Israel before international judicial bodies,<sup>547</sup> submitting reports to the International Criminal Court,<sup>548</sup> meeting with European government officials,<sup>549</sup> publishing videos<sup>550</sup> and brochures containing visuals of alleged human rights violations,<sup>551</sup> conducting research<sup>552</sup> and issuing position papers on Israeli policies in the Gaza Strip.<sup>553</sup>

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540 Gerasa News, [Abu Shammala left Gaza and ran off to Jordan \(Arabic\)](#), accessed 12/19

541 Palestine Solidarity Campaign, [Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions \(BDS\)](#), accessed 12/19

542 Palestine Solidarity Campaign, [PSC update: support Palestinian prisoners](#), published 03/22/13, accessed 12/19

543 Palestinian Center for Human Rights, [Raji Sourani](#), accessed 12/19

544 American Friends Service Committee, [Mona El-Farra](#), accessed 12/19

545 Mamilla Campaign, [PETITION FOR URGENT ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY ISRAEL](#), published 02/10/10, accessed 07/19

546 Ibid

547 Al-Dameer, [Al Dameer Testifies before UN Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices against Palestinian People in the Occupied Territories](#), published 07/16/12, accessed 12/19; Al-Haq, [Joint Letter of Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submitted to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights during her Visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories](#), published 10/11/10, accessed 12/19; Al-Haq, [Joint Open Letter on the Collective Punishment of Palestinian Political Prisoners Held in Israeli Prisons](#), published 10/06/11, accessed 12/19

548 PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 12/19; Al-Haq, ["Four Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submit File to the ICC Prosecutor: Israel is Unable and Unwilling to Conduct Genuine Investigations and Prosecutions"](#), published 12/23/17, accessed 12/19

549 Al-Dameer, [Al Mezan and Al Dameer's Directors Meet the Irish Foreign Minister](#), published 02/25/10, accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Al Mezan and Al Dameer's Directors Meet with European Union's Foreign Minister](#), published 01/25/12, accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Facebook](#), published 02/27/19, accessed 12/19

550 Al-Dameer, [Video](#), accessed 12/19

551 Al-Dameer, [The outcome of the occupation forces' violations on Friday \(72\) of the great return marches, corresponding to August 30, 2019 \(Arabic\)](#), published 08/30/19, accessed 12/19

552 Al-Dameer, [Studies and Researches](#), accessed 12/19

553 Al-Dameer, [A position paper issued by Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights on Israeli threats to implement the Forced Nutrition Law against Palestinian prisoners \(Arabic\)](#), published 05/15/17, accessed 12/19

Moreover, the organization monitors the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip by publishing press releases,<sup>554</sup> reports<sup>555</sup> and a magazine titled *Al-Dameer Voice* (in Arabic: *Saut Al-Dameer*).<sup>556</sup>

In addition, as part of its lawfare campaign against Israel,<sup>557</sup> Al-Dameer frequently accuses Israel of carrying out “war crimes”<sup>558</sup> and “collective punishment”<sup>559</sup> against Palestinians and of attempting to carry out a “racist plan” to “Judaize Jerusalem” in favor of the Jewish population over the Palestinians.<sup>560</sup>

In the past few years, Al-Dameer has collaborated with other Palestinian NGOs engaging in legal actions against the State of Israel, such as PCHR, Al-Haq and Al Mezan.<sup>561</sup> The four NGOs have submitted six reports to the ICC on the “violation of human rights” and “war crimes” allegedly committed by Israel in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.<sup>562</sup>

## Supporting the BDS Movement

Al-Dameer supports and endorses BDS campaigns worldwide. For example, in 2014 it supported the campaign run by the BDS organization Addameer against the G4S security company.<sup>563</sup> This campaign called on the Gates Foundation to stop funding G4S, a British firm that provides security services and equipment to Israel’s Prison Service.

In 2016, Al-Dameer, together with other PHROC members, signed a pro-BDS statement, describing it as “an important nonviolent counter-narrative and alternative for achieving the enjoyment and exercise of freedom, dignity, and justice.”<sup>564</sup>

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554 Al-Dameer, [Press Releases](#), accessed 12/19

555 Al-Dameer, [Annual reports](#), accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Special Reports](#), accessed 12/19

556 Al-Dameer, [Al-Dameer Voice Magazine](#), accessed 12/19

557 FIDH, [Obstacles to justice and redress for Palestinian victims : joint statement issued by Palestinian, Israeli and Int’l NGOs](#), published 04/26/13, accessed 12/19; Addameer, [The Goldstone Report at the UN General Assembly: States Must Uphold International Law to Ensure Accountability for the Victims of War Crimes in Gaza](#), published 10/11/19, accessed 12/19

558 Al-Dameer, [Al-Dameer Association holds the occupation fully responsible for the life of the sick detainee / Sami Abu Diyak](#) (Arabic), published 11/18/19, accessed 12/19; Al-Dameer, [Israeli Enforcement of Buffer Zone Area in the Gaza Strip](#), published 03/22/12, accessed 12/19

559 Al-Haq, [Illegal collective punishment measures against women and children: The case of Nadia Abu Jamal and her family](#), published 02/01/17, accessed 12/19

560 Al-Dameer, [Al-Dameer calls on the international community to take immediate action to stop the Israeli crimes in occupied Jerusalem](#) (Arabic), published 07/23/17, accessed 12/19

561 PCHR, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Deliver Submission to the International Criminal Court on Alleged Israeli, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity during 2014 Gaza offensive](#), published 11/23/15, accessed 12/19; Al-Haq, [“Four Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Submit File to the ICC Prosecutor: Israel is Unable and Unwilling to Conduct Genuine Investigations and Prosecutions,”](#) published 12/23/17, accessed 12/19

562 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organisations Submit File to ICC Prosecutor: Investigate and Prosecute Pillage, Appropriation and Destruction of Palestinian Natural Resources](#), published 10/26/18, accessed 01/20

563 Samidoun, [call to action: Join Palestinian political prisoner’s day: Free all Palestinian political prisoners! Tell Bill Gates to Divest from G4S!](#), published 04/03/14, accessed 12/19

564 Al-Haq, [Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council \(PHROC\) Statement on BDS Movement](#), published 02/08/16, accessed 12/19

In addition, Al-Dameer's former director Khalil Abu Shammala<sup>565</sup> signed a petition in 2011 calling on the Dutch government to divest from the Veolia transport company and to block it from being awarded tenders for public projects.<sup>566</sup> The call came as a result of Veolia's involvement in constructing the Jerusalem Light Rail, which the BDS Movement described as a "violation of human rights."<sup>567</sup> In 2013, a French court ruled that this construction was legal under international law.<sup>568</sup>

In 2019, Al-Dameer signed the PHROC statement, in which it condemns the US entry ban on Omar Barghouti,<sup>569</sup> co-founder of the BDS Movement and the representative of the Palestinian Campaign for Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI).<sup>570</sup> In this statement, PHROC described the BDS Movement as a "peaceful resistance and solidarity movement."<sup>571</sup>

## Terror Connections

### Al-Dameer board's connection to terror

Most of Al-Dameer's board members have strong ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a designated terror organization in the United States,<sup>572</sup> EU,<sup>573</sup> Israel<sup>574</sup> and Canada.<sup>575</sup>

For example, Younes Al-Jero, chairman of Al-Dameer's board,<sup>576</sup> is a former senior member of the PFLP.<sup>577</sup> He worked for more than 35 years with Rabah Muhanna,<sup>578</sup> a member of the PFLP Political Bureau in the Gaza Strip.<sup>579</sup> In 2019, when Muhanna died, Jero eulogized him as "a brave man with a strong vision."<sup>580</sup>

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- 565 The New York Times, [Hamis Moves to Enforce Water Pipe Ban in Gaza](#), published 07/17/10, accessed 12/19
- 566 BDS Movement, [Veolia-controlled company participating in a public tender in The Netherlands](#), published 06/23/11, accessed 12/19
- 567 BDS movement, [Veolia and Alstom feel the heat – BNC calls for intensifying pressure!](#) published 11/25/10, accessed 12/19
- 568 Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, [Veolia & Alstom Lawsuit \(Re Jerusalem Rail Project\)](#), accessed 12/19
- 569 Badil, [PHROC Condemns U.S. Entry Ban on Omar Barghouti](#), published 04/23/19, accessed 12/19
- 570 BDS Movement, [BNC Statement on Israel's Ongoing Campaign to Silence Omar Barghouti & Repress BDS](#), published 03/22/17, accessed 08/19; BDS Movement, [BDS worldwide spread creates Israeli government panic](#), published 02/17/14, accessed 12/19
- 571 Badil, [PHROC Condemns U.S. Entry Ban on Omar Barghouti](#), published 04/23/19, accessed 12/19
- 572 US Department of State, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 06/19
- 573 European Council, [COUNCIL DECISION \(CFSP\) 2019/25](#), published 01/08/19, accessed 06/19
- 574 Israel Ministry of Justice, [List of Terrorist Organizations and Individuals](#), accessed 06/19
- 575 Government of Canada, [Currently listed entities](#), accessed 06/19
- 576 Al-Dameer, [Council of directors](#), accessed 12/19
- 577 PFLP, [The PFLP in Gaza honors the members of the Central and Oversight Committee who gave up their positions](#) (Arabic), published 01/16/14, accessed 01/20
- 578 PFLP Lebanon, [the late fighter Rabah Muhanna...in the eyes of his companions and lovers - Bisan Al-Sharafi](#) (Arabic), published 05/08/19, accessed 01/20
- 579 PFLP, [Comrade Rabah Muhanna: The prisoners' leadership is the only reference for a solution to the strike](#), published 05/14/12, accessed 01/20
- 580 Ibid

Ahmed Huneideq and Yahyah Al-Ghalban, both Al-Dameer board members,<sup>581</sup> are also former members of the PFLP.<sup>582</sup> Al-Ghalban was a member of the PFLP's Central Committee<sup>583</sup> and was described as a "comrade" on the PFLP's website.<sup>584</sup> Also, Khalil Abu Shammala, Al-Dameer's former director,<sup>585</sup> is a member of the PFLP.<sup>586</sup>

Additionally, the secretary of Al-Dameer's board, Raafat Salha,<sup>587</sup> represented the PFLP at a joint conference of Fatah, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) on the Bar Association elections.<sup>588</sup> Both Hamas and PIJ are terror organizations, according to the US Department of State.<sup>589</sup>

Another leading member of Al-Dameer's board, Dr. Jalal Shabat,<sup>590</sup> spoke at the 49th anniversary of the opening of Al-Quds Open University in Gaza, before the university's staff and the PFLP leadership.<sup>591</sup> Shabat, a professor at Al-Quds Open University,<sup>592</sup> congratulated members of the PFLP and praised the "national efforts and the enormous sacrifices that the Popular Front has made to protect the Palestinian national project."<sup>593</sup>



*Dr. Jalal Shabat at the 49th anniversary of the opening of Al-Quds Open University in Gaza next to students and the PFLP leadership in Gaza, (PFLP, Students celebrate the glorious start of the Al-Quds Open University campus in Gaza (Arabic), published 12/08/16, accessed 01/20)*

- 581 Al-Dameer, Council of directors, accessed 12/19
- 582 Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, The PFLP in Gaza honors the members of the Central and Oversight Committee who gave up their positions (Arabic), published 01/16/14, accessed 01/20
- 583 Wafa, A political meeting for the Popular Front in Khan Yunis calls for deepening the national dialogue (Arabic), published 01/22/07, accessed 01/20
- 584 PFLP, In continuation of its visits, the front leadership organizes an extensive inspection tour in Khan Yunis (Arabic), published 03/16/15, accessed 01/20
- 585 The New York Times, Hamas Moves to Enforce Water Pipe Ban in Gaza, published 07/17/10, accessed 12/19
- 586 PFLP, The Popular Front: Threatening letters against Khalil Abu Shammala are dangerous and we will not allow them to continue (Arabic), published 01/27/15, accessed 12/19
- 587 Al-Dameer, Council of directors, accessed 12/19
- 588 Palinfo, "Fatah" overturns on forming a consensual list for the lawyers bar elections (Arabic), published 04/06/12, accessed 12/19
- 589 US Department of State, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, listed as of 10/08/1997, accessed 12/19
- 590 Al-Dameer, Council of directors, accessed 12/19
- 591 PFLP, Students celebrate the glorious start of the Al-Quds Open University campus in Gaza (Arabic), published 12/08/16, accessed 01/20
- 592 Al-Quds Open University, CV, accessed 12/19
- 593 PFLP, Students celebrate the glorious start of the Al-Quds Open University campus in Gaza (Arabic), published 12/08/16, accessed 01/20

In addition, Ilham Garghoun, a former Al-Dameer board member,<sup>594</sup> participated in a PFLP seminar on the electricity crisis in Khan Younis in 2015.<sup>595</sup> The conference was hosted by Jamil Mazher,<sup>596</sup> a member of the PFLP's Political Bureau and leader of its branch in Gaza.<sup>597</sup>



*Jamil Mazher (left) and Ilham Garghoun (right), (PFLP, during a seminar on the electricity crisis in Khan Yunis, Mazhar confirms that the decision-makers are the cause of the crisis (Arabic), published 12/07/15, accessed 12/19)*

Furthermore, Al-Dameer's executive director, Hala Jaber,<sup>598</sup> and secretary of the board, Raafat Salha,<sup>599</sup> are also board members of the Union of Health Work Committees (UHWC),<sup>600</sup> a Gaza-based organization that is affiliated with the PFLP.<sup>601</sup> The organization was described by USAID as the "PFLP's health organization," alongside other institutes such as the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (UPWC).<sup>602</sup> Moreover, UHWC has organized several events with the PFLP.<sup>603</sup>

594 Al-Dameer, Board of Directors (Arabic, archived), accessed 01/20

595 PFLP, during a seminar on the electricity crisis in Khan Yunis, Mazhar confirms that the decision-makers are the cause of the crisis (Arabic), published 12/07/15, accessed 12/19

596 Ibid

597 PFLP, Mass march in Gaza remembers Abu Ali Mustafa, demands to break siege: Full remarks by Comrade Jamil Mizher, published 08/27/17, accessed 12/19

598 Al-Dameer, Work Staff, accessed 12/19

599 Al-Dameer, Council of directors, accessed 12/19

600 Union of Health Work Committees, Annual Report 2016, accessed 12/19

601 PFLP, Home (archived), accessed 04/19

602 USAID, Palestinian Institutional Configurations in the West Bank and Gaza under Four Autonomy Scenarios, published 05/93, accessed 12/19, page 4

603 Palestinian Creatives, Facebook, published 07/25/10, accessed 12/19; PALDF, PFLP News (Arabic), published 05/07/06, accessed 12/19

Al-Dameer has been described as a PFLP affiliate.<sup>604</sup> Indeed, the PFLP has often defended Al-Dameer. For example, in 2009 the terror group condemned the raids on Al-Dameer's office in Gaza, insisting that the organization is merely "a national and professional institution, which plays an important and effective role in defending human rights in the Gaza Strip."<sup>605</sup>

As mentioned above, Al-Dameer was established in cooperation with Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, a Ramallah-based NGO defending security prisoners' rights.<sup>606</sup> Most of Addameer's current and former board members (Abdul-Latif Ghaith,<sup>607</sup> Yaqoub Odeh,<sup>608</sup> Ayman Nasser,<sup>609</sup> Mahmoud Jeddah,<sup>610</sup> Bashir al-Khairi,<sup>611</sup> Dawoud Darawi,<sup>612</sup> Mahmoud Al-Safadi<sup>613</sup> and Anas Barghouthi<sup>614</sup>) are also PFLP members.

Furthermore, Addameer's former accountant Samer Arbid<sup>615</sup> was arrested in September 2019 for planning the PFLP terror attack in which 17-year-old Rina Shnerb was murdered.<sup>616</sup> Arbid was held in administrative detention many times for his involvement with the PFLP.<sup>617</sup>

Moreover, in December 2019, Al-Dameer, ICHR, PNGO and the Prisoners Committee of the Palestinian National and Islamic Forces (PNIF) held a joint conference on the state and treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.<sup>618</sup> PNIF is also a member

604 Palinfo, [Arrow Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights, affiliated with the Popular Front, condemned the Israeli threat to its deputies](#) (Arabic), published 05/31/06, accessed 01/20

605 Ma'an News, [The Popular Front condemns the raid on Al-Dameer headquarters in Gaza](#) (Arabic), published 11/15/09, accessed 01/20

606 Addameer, [Our work](#), accessed 12/19; Addameer, [Contact us](#), accessed 12/19

607 Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 01/20; Al-Watan Voice, [A celebration on the occasion of the release of Comrade Jammal Abu-Jamal](#) (Arabic), published 04/14, accessed 01/20

608 Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 01/20; Al-Wafa News, [Israel forces prevented political conference in a hotel in Jerusalem](#) (Arabic), published 03/06, accessed 01/20

609 Addameer, [Staff](#), accessed 01/20; Psakdin, [Decision on case #2715/12](#) (Hebrew), published 01/13, accessed 01/20

610 Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 01/20; B'nai Birth Canada, [Protest Planned against Florida Senator Who Met Anti-Israel Groups](#), published 08/16, accessed 01/20; Paul Miller, [What Links Progressive Intersectionality? Blame the 'Zionists,'](#) *Algemeiner*, published 06/14/17, accessed 01/20

611 Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 01/20; PFLP, [PFLP commemorated the 13th anniversary to the martyrdom of the Shahid leader Abu-Ali Mustafa and revived its loyalty to him](#) (Arabic), published 08/14, accessed 01/20

612 Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 01/20; Al-Haya Al-Jadeeda News, [Sa'adat announces on his candidacy for the top of the list to the elections](#) (Arabic), accessed 01/20

613 Addameer, [Board](#), accessed 01/20; Al-Watan Voice, [A Palestinian prisoner in the Israeli jail opens a website](#) (Arabic), published 06/04, accessed 01/20

614 Addameer, [Human Rights Defender and Lawyer Anas Barghouthi arrested and detained](#), published 09/18/13, accessed 01/20; RefWorld, [Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories: further information: Anas Barghouti freed on bail, facing trial](#), 10/25/13, accessed 01/20

615 Addameer, [Our Staff](#) (Arabic), accessed 01/20

616 PFLP, [Samer Arbid ...the parapet, the flag and the compass](#) (Arabic), published 09/30/19, accessed 01/20; Jerusalem Post, [Rina Shnerb's alleged murderer linked to European-funded BDS affiliates](#), published 10/03/19, accessed 01/20

617 Addameer, [The situation of the prisoners and the detainees in the Israeli jail](#) (Arabic), p.88, accessed 01/20

618 Al-Dameer, [Facebook](#), published 12/22/19, accessed 12/19



PNIF, Facebook cover photo, published 11/15/16, accessed 01/20

of the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC),<sup>619</sup> the coordinating body for the BDS Movement worldwide.<sup>620</sup> PNIF was founded by Yasser Arafat and is composed of five US-designated terrorist organizations:<sup>621</sup> Hamas, the PFLP, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).<sup>622</sup> In addition, members of PNIF include Khaled al-Batsh, a senior member of PIJ,<sup>623</sup> Jamil Mezher, a member of the political bureau of the PFLP,<sup>624</sup> Mouin Oukal, a senior Hamas leader,<sup>625</sup> and Wasel Abu Yousef, secretary-general of the PLF.<sup>626</sup>

In 2017, Al-Dameer condemned the arrest and detention of Khalida Jarrar,<sup>627</sup> a senior member of the PFLP<sup>628</sup> and its representative in the Palestinian Legislative

619 See the original members: BDS Movement, "BNC statements," published 09/08, accessed 01/19 and the members today: BDS Movement, "Palestinian BDS National Committee," accessed 01/19. A check of the website shows they have always been members

620 BDS Movement, [Palestinian BDS National Committee](#), accessed 12/19

621 US State Department, [Foreign Terrorist Organizations](#), accessed 12/19

622 Jerusalem MCC, [Statement issued by the National and Islamic Forces](#), published 02/10/01, accessed 12/19; National and Islamic Forces, [Facebook](#), published 11/15/16, accessed 12/19; Seraj, [Palestinian national and Islamic forces confirm rejection of negotiations](#), published 05/15/13, accessed 12/19

623 Ma'an News Agency, [National and Islamic Forces meet Deputy Secretary of FEDA](#), published 05/14, accessed 03/18; Independent, [The election of Netanyahu is the best thing for the Palestinian people': An audience with Khaled al-Batsch the leader of Islamic Jihad](#), published 03/24/15, accessed 12/19; The Palestinian Information Center, [Facebook](#), published 05/13/16, accessed 12/19; Institute for Palestine Studies, [Between Hamas and the PA: An Interview with Islamic Jihad's Khalid al-Batsch](#), published 03/15/13, accessed 12/19

624 PFLP, [Facebook](#), published 08/07/18, accessed 12/19

625 Watania.Net (Arabic), [National and Islamic Forces organize a meeting in Gaza](#), published 11/23/17, accessed 12/19

626 Donia Al-Watan (Arabic), [Adnan Rarib: PLF is an historical organization full of heroic operation and we will not allow to attack it](#) (Arabic), published 10/11/18, accessed 12/19

627 Al-Dameer, [Al-Dameer Association condemns the arrest of the Legislative Council member, Khaleda Jarrar, and a number of citizens in the West Bank by the Israeli forces](#) (Arabic), published 07/02/17, accessed 12/19

628 PFLP, [MP Khaldia Jarrar belongs to the Prisoners Advocacy Conference in Europe with an important word](#) (Arabic), published 06/02/15, accessed 12/19; PFLP, [PFLP: Ordering the leader Comrade Khalida Jarrar to administrative detention will not suppress the resistance](#), published 07/15/17, accessed 12/19

Council.<sup>629</sup> Jarrar is a former vice-chairperson, director<sup>630</sup> and board member of Addameer and was so until 2017.<sup>631</sup> In 2018, Al-Dameer also condemned the arrest of Salah Hammouri, Addameer field researcher, who was arrested in 2005 for his involvement with a PFLP terrorist cell that planned to assassinate Israel's former Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.<sup>632</sup>

## Financials & Registration

Al-Dameer is not financially transparent and only ever published its list of donors in 2005-2007.<sup>633</sup> Beyond this, the organization does not provide any financial statements or annual income reports.

According to its website, up until 2007, Al-Dameer received donations through wire transfer to its account in Cairo Amman Bank (0250071371300).<sup>634</sup>

In recent years, the organization has received donations from government entities such as the Swedish Consulate,<sup>635</sup> Norwegian People's Aid,<sup>636</sup> the United States Agency for International Development – USAID (\$394,500 in 2009-2017)<sup>637</sup> and the joint donor program of Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland, also known as the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat (\$366,700 in the years 2014-2017).<sup>638</sup> Another key donor to Al-Dameer is the European Union, which sponsors many of the organization's publications<sup>639</sup> and events.<sup>640</sup>

In addition, the organization received donations from US-based foundations such as the Ford Foundation<sup>641</sup> and the National Endowment for Democracy.<sup>642</sup>

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629 PFLP, MP Khalda Jarrar belongs to the Prisoners Advocacy Conference in Europe with an important word (Arabic), published 06/02/15, accessed 12/19

630 Addameer, Annual Report 2003, published 04/07/13, accessed 12/19

631 Addameer, Board and General Assembly, accessed 12/19; Addameer, Prisoners, accessed 12/19

632 Al-Dameer, Facebook (Arabic), published 09/30/18, accessed 01/20; Adameer, Salah Hammouri, accessed 01/20; PFLP, Comrade Salah Hamouri on his release: There is no option but resistance, published 12/20/11, accessed 01/20

633 Al-Dameer, Donors, accessed 01/20

634 Ibid

635 Ibid

636 Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights, Funders/Donations, accessed 01/20

637 US Aid, Data Query, accessed 01/20

638 Human rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat, Secretariat Core Funding Recipients, accessed 01/20

639 Al-Dameer, 2017 Annual Report (Arabic), accessed 01/20

640 Amad, Al-Dameer hosts a workshop titled "The reality of the right to freedom of association in accordance with Palestine's international obligations" (Arabic), published 12/31/19, accessed 01/20; Al-Dameer, Facebook, published 08/05/18, accessed 01/20

641 Al-Dameer, Donors, accessed 01/20

642 Amad, Al-Dameer Association for Human Rights opens an advanced TOT training course (Arabic), published 08/26/19, accessed 01/20

## Conclusions

As a Palestinian NGO located in the Gaza Strip, Al-Dameer plays a leading role in lawfare campaigns against the State of Israel. Its activities involve the collection of documents and evidence intended to incriminate Israeli policies in the Gaza Strip. It also collaborates with other Palestinian legal organizations such as PCHR, Al-Haq and Al Mezan. The evidence it compiles is often submitted to international judicial bodies, such as the ICC. To date, these four NGOs have submitted six reports to the ICC. In December 2019, the ICC Chief Prosecutor announced her conclusion that there are solid grounds to investigate Israel for committing “war crimes” in the West Bank and Gaza. While it cannot be stated conclusively that Al-Dameer was responsible for bringing about this decision, it is reasonable to assume that the organization, together with the other NGO mentioned, contributed to the evidence collection process that led to the ICC prosecutor’s conclusion.

Despite Al-Dameer’s staff hold alarming ties to designated terror groups, and the fact that the organization has shown public support for terrorists, it continues to receive substantial funding from governments and government entities such as the European Union, the Sweden Consulate, Norwegian People’s Aid, USAID and the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat.

# About the Authors

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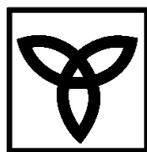
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