



Creating Accountability:

# European Money supporting Palestinian Terror and Hate

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# Executive Summary

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Over the past few years, a black stain has developed on the record of the EU and member states, regarding their actions in the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The EU and member states are giving financial support to a range of governmental and non governmental actors, who are involved in a bevy of criminal and immoral acts. European taxpayer money is paying the “wages” of jailed Palestinian murderers, funding NGOs whose staff are proven Palestinian terrorist recruiters and trainers, and supporting radical NGOs who seek to demonise the State of Israel and support the hateful BDS movement. The EU has to fundamentally change the destination of its donations, in order to support the constructive, rather than the harmful, players in the region.

This report will analyse three key areas, in which there is currently problematic EU and member state funding

1. **Government payments to terrorists:** The Palestinian Authority receives hundreds of millions of euros a year in European support, yet spends over **€100 million** a year paying the “salaries” of murderers sitting in Israeli jails; giving large payments to people for their services – the killing of innocent Israelis.
2. **NGOs with links to terrorist organisations:** There are numerous European funded NGOs which are staffed and managed by highly questionable individuals, with proven links to designated terror groups.
3. **NGOs with radical agendas that hate Israel and further peace:** There are numerous NGOs who receive extensive European support who seek not to bring peace, but simply to demonise and attack Israel. These organisations support the hateful BDS movement, and are a central part in a worldwide campaign to demonise the Jewish State.

European policymakers must change the current situation. It is unconscionable that European taxpayer money goes to terrorists serving life sentences for the murder of Israeli innocents. European money cannot flow to organisations whose members have been heavily involved in terrorist organisations with blood on their hands. If the European Union wants Israel to see it is a friend rather than an antagonist, it must stop funding organisations whose sole aim is to blacken the image of the Jewish State.



# Government payments to terrorists<sup>1</sup>

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Under Palestinian law, Palestinians in Israeli jails for “participating in the struggle against occupation” receive a government salary. Terrorists with blood in their hands thus receive money directly from the Palestinian government, for their “services” to the Palestinian cause – the murder of innocents.

Just to give one example – on September 9th 2003, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a café in Downtown Jerusalem, killing seven people. Two of those killed were David and Nava Applebaum; Nava Applebaum, aged 20, was due to get married on the next day, and her father David had taken his daughter out for coffee the night before her wedding – the night before the happiest family occasion was turned into unspeakable suffering and tragedy.

Fast forward to March 2017; Ibrahim Muhamed, a Hamas commander who was involved in the operation, is serving 54 life sentences in an Israeli jail, for his part in that attack, in addition to others. He receives **4,000 shekels a month** from the Palestinian Authority, which next year will rise to **6,000 shekel a month** because of the length of time he has spent in jail. (This “salary” is actually also exceptionally high – a Palestinian civil servant earns 2,882 shekels a month on average.)

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1 This section is based primarily on the extensive research conducted by Palestinian Media Watch. Their full report can be found here <http://palwatch.org/STORAGE/special20%reports/PMW20%report20%,PA20%billion20%dollar20%fraud.20270416%.pdf>, and this paper aims to summarise the key elements of their research



In 2015, the first year in which the payments were to be made by the PLO rather than from the PA, the PA transferred an extra 481 million shekel (\$144 million) to the PLO – exactly the amount needed for the prisoners wages



This is just one example of what is actually a massive operation. In 2014, the Ministry of Prisoner Affairs, which made the payments to the jailed terrorists, was the third largest office of the Palestinian government. During the year 2014, it gave out **\$144 million** to Palestinian terrorists in Israeli jails.

Prison Term	Monthly Salary
Over 3 Years	387\$
3-5 Years	554\$
5-10 Years	1,108\$
10-15 Years	1,662\$
15-20 Years	1,939\$
20-25 Years	2,216\$
25-30 Years	2,770\$
Over 30 Years	3,324\$

(The monthly salary provided by the Palestinian Authority for Palestinian terrorists in an Israeli jails. The salary increases with the length of the jail term.)

This moral outrage, undertaken by the Palestinian Authority (who is supposed to be Israel's "peace partner") is terrible as it stands – but how is it possible that European governments still give money to the Palestinian Authority, knowing that a large portion of it will go to terrorists?

In 2014, the Palestinian Authority faced international pressure to stop their payments to terrorists. So they announced they will no longer make the payments to the prisoners; the payments would now be made by the PLO. The Palestinian Authority is the autonomous government of the Palestinian people set up in 1994 after the Oslo accords, whereas the PLO is the internationally recognised party who represent the Palestinian people founded in 1964. So the Palestinian Authority, the government, would not be making any payments to terrorists – the payments would hereon in be made by the PLO, the party. The PA Ministry of Prisoner Affairs was closed, and the PLO Commission of Prisoner Affairs was opened.

But this was a total farce, as nothing actually changed – the payments are still made by the Palestinian Authority, and the supposed change in policy was a pure scam. The "new" PLO Commission was still lead by the government minister, Isaa Karakeh, who had run the Prisoner's Ministry, it maintained the same website that it previously had, and decisions still required the approval of Mahmoud Abbas. Karakeh went on Palestinian radio to ensure his people that this change was made "due to monetary and financial threats to the Palestinian Authority," and reassured his listeners that President Abbas "confirmed that this change in no way affect importance and significance of the prisoners issue." A spokesperson for the Palestinian Authority said the change was purely to "provide

political and legal cover for the issue.”

What the Palestinian Authority did is merely to use the PLO as a front organization for the payments to terrorists, whilst the money still actually came from the PA. In 2015, the first year in which the payments were to be made by the PLO rather than from the PA, the PA transferred an extra **481 million shekel (\$144 million)** to the PLO – exactly the amount needed for the prisoners’ wages. So the PA still took the international aid it got, and transferred it to terrorists, it now just argued that the front organisation is actually giving the money.

To this day, it is clear that the Palestinian Authority are still in charge of the payments made to prisoners, and the evidence for this is incontrovertible. In January 2015, Hamas accused the Palestinian Authority that they were not doing anything to help the people of Gaza. The PA Ministry of Finance made an announcement, detailing all the help they gave to the people of Gaza, and included that they pay the prisoner salaries of Gazans – six months after the payments had supposedly been transferred to the PLO. In March 2015, when there was a complication with the finances of the Palestinian Authority, the Ministry of Finance announced an assurance to confirm that the prisoners would still be paid that month.

The full absurdity came to light in December 2015. Palestinian media reported that “PA cuts salaries of 60 prisoners in Israeli jails.” In all the media coverage and political statements from the Palestinians, the clear address of who was in charge of the payments was the Palestinian Authority. Isaa Karake himself, the head of the PLO Commission, the man who supposedly was in charge of the prisoners payments, publically attacked the PA government for their decision to stop paying some of the prisoners. But if there really was an independent PLO Commission making the decisions, then Isaa Karake would be in charge of the decisions, and the PA no longer have anything to do with it?!

The Palestinian Authority is, to this day, paying terrorists for their murder of innocents. An arrangement involving such a front organization would immediately be closed down in the event of fraud or tax evasion – how much more so when what is being discussed is taxpayer money going to murderers! European support of the Palestinian Authority must be conditional on these outrageous payments to terrorists stopping.



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# Funding of NGOs with strong links to terror<sup>2</sup>

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Many hundreds of NGOs operate in the context of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, and many of them receive European funding for their work. Yet behind many of the labels of “human rights”, “social welfare” and “legal aid” often lies a far more menacing story, as current and former terrorists receive this funding from the European taxpayer.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was founded in 1967 by George Habash, and was in fact one of the pioneers of international terrorism. In the 60s and 70s, they hijacked a total of seven passenger planes, as well as carrying out other terrorist attacks at airports and shopping malls in Israel. It was the PFLP who took part in the hijacking in October 1976 which led to Israel undertaking the famous “Entebbe” raid. In October 2001, the PFLP assassinated Rechavam Ze’evi, an Israeli government minister. Throughout the second intifada they carried out numerous terrorist attacks against innocent Israelis, and as recently as November 2014, the PFLP took responsibility for the murder of four Jews in a synagogue in Jerusalem. The PFLP is a designated terrorist organisation in the EU, USA, Canada as well as Israel.

Yet somehow, the EU and member states fund organisations with exceptionally close links to the PFLP. Addameer, an NGO which has received over **€500,000** in European government support, is listed by the PFLP as an affiliate of the organisation. Its chairman has been banned by Israel from international travel due to his personal links to the PFLP, and the vice chairman was convicted of incitement to violence when she called for the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers to use as bargaining chips to achieve the release of Palestinian prisoners. Addameer campaigns regarding the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails – should the EU be funding this organisation if its vice chairman believes that kidnapping IDF soldiers is a legitimate tactic?

Another NGO, Defense for Child International has received **€600,000** from the EU, plus a similar sum from individual member states, over the past few years. Some of its board members are convicted PFLP terrorists – Mahmoud Jiddah, one board member, sat in an Israeli jail for seventeen years for grenade attacks against Israeli civilians in 1968. It is not only the board members who are connected to the



Isaa Karaka. photo: raya.ps

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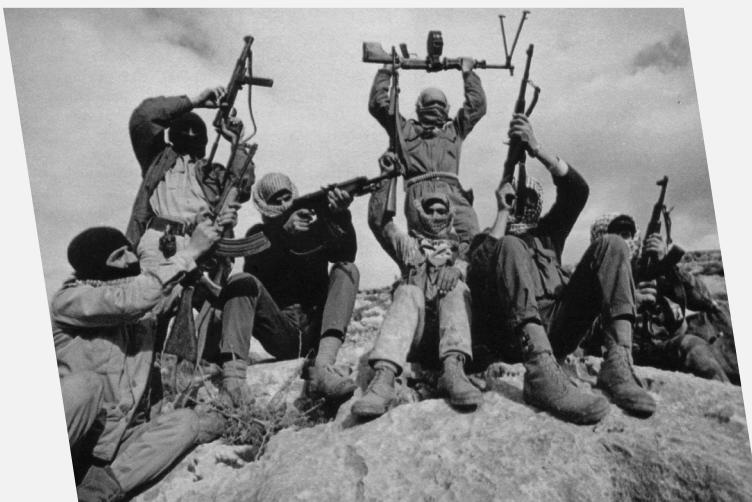
2 Much of the information in this section is based on the extensive research of NGO Monitor, primarily, this report - <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/nm/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/PFLP-Report-English.pdf>



PFLP – one Defense for Children employee died in 2014, and the PFLP hailed him as a PFLP commander.

The list goes on. The director of Al Haq (a Palestinian NGO which lobbies international courts against Israel, and which has received over **€1,000,000** of European funding) has served time in Israeli jail for arranging PFLP training, and has faced numerous travel bans for his terrorist activities. Health Work Committee, an NGO that has received hundreds of thousands of Euros from European governments has PFLP members as founders, directors and employees. The Co-Director of Alternative Information Center, which receives EU funding, is Nasser Ibrahim, who previously was the editor of El Hadaq, the weekly publication of the PFLP.

This is the theatre of the absurd. Members of a heinous terrorist organisation are deeply embedded in a closely linked network of NGOs, who hide behind the cloak of “human rights” and “social welfare” to get European funding. European governments must have clear guidelines as to which NGOs they fund – it shouldn’t be too much to demand that an organisation which purportedly defends human rights, may not employ a convicted terrorist.



**Terrorists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.**



**A march of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, 2012**



# Funding of NGOs pushing radical and harmful agendas.<sup>3</sup>

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The EU funds numerous NGOs in the region, but many of the NGOs funded are engaged in work that makes peace less likely. The BDS campaign is a campaign that attempts to coerce Israel into policy changes, by selling a warped narrative to the world about supposed Israeli monstrosity. Federica Mogherini has [explicitly stated](#) that “the EU rejects the BDS campaign’s attempt to isolate Israel, and is opposed to any boycott of Israel.”

Yet the EU actively funds many NGOs that are drivers of the BDS movement. NGO Monitor reviewed 100 EU grants to projects in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, and found that 29 of them were given to NGOs who support BDS. In total, 42 out of 180 EU grantees support BDS.

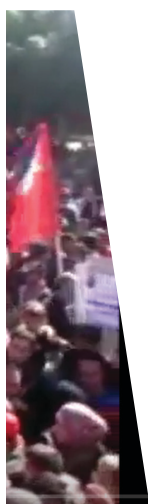
In the year 2014, a group of twelve Palestinian performing arts groups received close to one million Euros in EU funding, as part of an EU cultural programme. During the same time that they were receiving the money, the twelve groups released a joint statement calling for the cultural boycott of Israel, accusing Israel of war crimes. So the EU condemns BDS, but fund many of its supporters in the region.

As well as funding organisations who support the boycott of Israel, European governments also fund other highly politicised and anti-Israel organisations. Hamoked: The Center for the Defence of the Individual, has received some **€3.8 million** from foreign governments since 2012. In that time, it has represented 48 Palestinian terrorists in court – terrorists who have the blood of 50 Israelis on their hands. They petition Israel’s High Court to prevent the IDF from destroying the homes of these terrorists. Were an EU government to petition the Supreme Court of Israel on a policy issue of national defence, it would rightly be seen as a breach of international norms and state sovereignty. So why does it become acceptable to give millions of Euros to NGOs to do that work?

Israelis also are getting increasingly frustrated by what they perceive to be the undermining of their democracy by European

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<sup>3</sup> This section is based primarily on the research of NGO Monitor contained in this report - <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/eu-funding-ngos-active-anti-israel-bds-campaigns/> and this report (Hebrew) by Im Tirtzu - <https://imti.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/In-Service-of-European-Governments.pdf>



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governments. There are numerous NGOs who receive most of their funding from the EU and member states, and thus many feel that these politically active organisations are now merely the puppets of foreign governments. Yesh Din, an NGO who frequently petitions Israel's Supreme Court, receives 93% of its funding from foreign governments. In fact, the EU gave Yesh Din **€150,000** specifically earmarked for a project in which Yesh Din lobbied for a change of Israeli law. Israelis find this perplexing – how would European governments react if the Israeli government funded lobbyists trying to change Swedish or Dutch law?

The EU supporting actors in the region, who are at the forefront of the global movement to boycott Israel, and who are engaged in highly politicised (and anti-Israel) work. This has made Israelis increasingly antagonistic to the EU, and the EU must change its policies for perceptions of it to change.

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