FEATURE: INTERNAL INTELLIGENCE DOCUMENTS EXPOSE CONNECTION BETWEEN BDS AND TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

BLOODY RELATIONS

BDS, the anti-Israeli boycott organization, presents itself to the world as a "human-rights organization" and a staunch supporter of "non-violent resistance" while receiving ample funds from peace organizations and foreign governments. Internal intelligence documents that reached "Yedioth Aharonot" reveal a secret connection between BDS organizations and terrorist groups – including terrorists who, in some cases, murdered Israelis. The PFLP, Hamas, and even Iran have managed to attack Israel repeatedly – without even firing one bullet. BDS's terrorist connection exposed: The full story.

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"The pleasant weather brought a large crowd of women, men, and children to the shining store. Next to the butcher's stand in the meat department, Meir Sasson assisted Yosef Gabbai. He went to the large refrigerator to take another slab of meat... and then the explosion. 10:45: darkness descended on the large store. Hundreds of food cans flew off their shelves and laid strewn on the polished floor. The bread and Challah loaves piled in front of the meat stand were torn apart and flew everywhere. The giant showcase at the storefront was shattered. Meir Gabbai, an employee in the meat department: 'I heard the blasts and ran into the meat storage room. I didn't know what was

happening. Afterwards I saw a woman without a leg. Her blood splattered all over my coat. I helped carry her out. There was another dead person [then still injured]... 'My leg', he muttered, 'my leg'. As if in a dream he felt himself being carried him from that hell to the ambulance".

(Yedioth Aharonot, Gidon Reiber, Sunday, February 22 1969)

One of the perpetrators of that bombing in the Shufersal supermarket that Friday was Yakub Auda. Auda was convicted and sentenced to three life sentences. In 1985, a mere 17 years after he was jailed, he was released as part of the Jibril Agreement together with 1,149 other prisoners in return for three IDF POWs. In a special ceremony for PFLP (People's Front for Liberation of Palestine) veterans in 2014, Auda told those present that the organization "was built on the blood of martyrs and great leaders", and in 2017, he spoke at a convention of Hamas and PFLP veterans. Auda is described on the PFLP's web page as a "Comrade", a title reserved only loyal members.

Despite being an aging terrorist, Auda has another role. From internal intelligence documents which reached "Yedioth Aharonot", it appears that Auda is also a board member of an organization called "Addameer" ("conscience" in Arabic). This organization strives to boycott Israel as part of the BDS campaign. Auda no longer kills Israelis physically these days, but instead targets the State of Israel.

The document, many of which are exposed here for the first time, highlight many of the connections shared between the BDS movement and the terrorist organizations Hamas, PFLP, Hezbollah, and even direct ties to Iran. The material points out that despite the movement's repeated claims that it is a peaceful human rights movement, a large part of its activists in are terrorists with Jewish blood on their hands. They also reveal that many entities, including European governments,

American philanthropic organizations, and even the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, directly or indirectly fund in the millions of dollars the very same BDS organizations employing these terrorists.

The documents were collected by the "Maaracha" ("Campaign"), a specialized task force established by the Ministry of Strategic Affairs led by Minister Gilad Erdan. An ex-IDF intelligence officer, Dr. Shay Har-Zvi leads the task force's research department. "Traditionally, BDS tries to present itself, everywhere, as a peaceful movement, but we discovered many ties between various BDS organizations and terrorism", explains Har-Zvi. "In all of this, one of the pivotal findings was the 'whitewashing' of activity through civil society organizations and a concealment of past involvement with terrorism. Civil society organizations provide a perfect cover for these operatives to spread their agenda around the world."

Tzahi Gavrieli, Director of the National Task Force, explains: "Today, the livelihood of worldwide BDS activity, approximately 250 organizations, is philanthropic donations. When your livelihood comes from such means, you must be careful not to harm the sources, which may be funds, governments, or crowdfunding. Anything related to terrorism in the past or the present is a "red flag" that may harm their funding. The concealment of terrorism is critical for them, and our role is to expose it".

"Not Above Murder"

BDS is an umbrella organization of sorts, uniting the activity of scores of Palestinian and pro-Palestinian organizations, as well as specific boycott activities of other NGOs, especially in Europe and the US. Since its founding in 2005, the magic phrase repeated again and again in BDS's declarations is "non-violent resistance". Some of its speakers take care to note that the inspiration for their activity includes persons such

as Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. But the reports given to us paint BDS activities in a much bloodier color.

According to these documents, the terrorist organization with the greatest ties to BDS is the PFLP. A reminder: PFLP is recognized as a terrorist organization in Israel, the US, and the EU. Since its foundation by George Habash following the Six Day War, the organization hijacked planes (the best known among them was hijacking the plane to Uganda in collaboration with the German "Revolutionary Cells", which lead to Operation Thunderbolt), as well as mass-scale terrorist operations in the 1970's and 1980's (the Ben-Gurion Airport Massacre, the Night of the Gliders). Since 2000, the organization was responsible for the assassination of minister Rehavam Ze'evi Z"L, a series of suicide bombings, and even took responsibility for the slaughter at the Har Nof synagogue in 2014.

Two months ago, a convention was held in the city of Helsingør in Denmark, reminiscent of the underground conventions organized by George Habash in the 1970's: the organization's red flags were displayed, and the main speaker was Khaled Barkat from the PFLP, which he, according to these documents, is a member of the PFLP's political bureau in Lebanon.

But this convention, unlike Habash's conventions, was not an underground event. Barkat appeared in the open and pictures of the event can readily be seen on the internet. Another major difference was that the conference was not a PFLP sponsored affair, but rather of a BDS organization called "Samidoun".

Samidoun is one of the leading American BDS organizations calling for a boycott on Israel. Barkat is married to the organization's manager and international coordinator, Charlotte Keats. In an interview Barkat gave on the occasion of the convention in Denmark he said, "Boycotts were pivotal in overthrowing the Apartheid regime in South Africa, and this will happen here [Israel] as well".

Three months ago, a man named Mustafa Awad was arrested by Shin-Beit at the Allenby Border Crossing when he tried to enter Israel. Awad, as noted in his arrest warrant, was connected to Barkat. In the charges against him, it was said that Awad was connected to Hezbollah and even trained by them. It was also uncovered that immediately before trying to enter Israel, he erased his Facebook account and left his laptop in the hands of a PFLP activist in Jordan. It is yet unknown what he planned to do in Israel, but one thing stands out about him: according to the documents in our possession, Awad was a member of Samidoun up to his arrest, and was a leading member of its Belgian branch.

Dr. Har-Zvi: "Awad's example is exactly the same modus operandi of people who managed to root themselves in civil society organizations, which are anti-Israeli delegitimization organizations, and which are intimately related to terrorist organizations". Examples for this abound. Let's go back, for example, to Addameer, which, as we noted, employs Yakub Auda, the terrorist from the supermarket bombing. It appears that this organization is very busy. In 2013 the organization participated in the "Love Under Apartheid" campaign; in 2015, they led the boycott against the security company G4S, which operated in Israel. In 2016, the organization, among others, filed a complaint to the UN about the taking away of Omar Barghouti's rights – one of the BDS's leaders and founders. In 2017, Addameer called for a boycott on HP due to their presence in Israel.

According to the documents, alongside Auda, another board member is Mahmoud Jiddah. Jiddah was convicted and sentenced to three life sentences after throwing hand grenades at Israelis on Strauss St. in 1968. They also revealed that Abdul-latif Ghaith, chairman of the board and one of the organization's founders, was a member of the PFLP

political bureau, and thus was forbidden to leave Israel. Jiddah and Ghaith have another commonality to talk about: both were released in the Jibril deal after 17 years in Israeli prison.

Khalida Jarrar was, until recently, vice president of the organization. Jarrar was held in administrative detention several times, among other things under suspicion of membership in PFLP and incitement to kidnap soldiers as bargaining chips with Israel. Adv. Sahar Francis, the organization's CEO, was charged with obstructing justice and destroying evidence at a terror scene – but was acquitted. The organization's member Yusuf Habash (George Habash's nephew) was also a PFLP member in the past, and there is another interesting name: Sumud Saadat, who is no other than the daughter of PFLP chairman and number one prisoner – Ahmed Saadat, convicted in planning the assassination of Minister Rehavam Ze'evi.

But despite the terrorist past and connections to PFLP, Addameer managed to collect \$498,700 from the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat, a body funded by Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland, for 2014-2017. In May 2016, the Basque Cooperation Development Agency (AVCD) signed an agreement with Addameer for "assisting Palestinian prisoners", including providing the organization with \$199,988.

Gavrieli: "There is something big here, and this is the financial aspect of the boycott industry. When you have funds coming from governments, funds, or crowdsourcing, and you have a constant stream of money, you ask yourself what is preferable: to hold a grenade or a rifle, or wear a suit and tour the world, visit international conventions, speak with senior officials about human rights, and get paid in Euros?"

The reports also show that an additional BDS organization employing former terrorists is "Al-Haq" ("The Justice" in Arabic). Al-Haq defines itself as a "Palestinian human rights NGO" which enjoys EU funding. Some of

these funds may also reach places unrelated to human rights. Al-Haq, for example, took part in 2013 in a false campaign claiming that Israel steals water from Palestinians in an effort to prevent cooperation between Mekorot (the Israeli water corporation) and Dutch companies. In 2015, Al-Haq led the campaign against Orange, which probably led to the company's divestment from Israel and end of its partnership with Partner. Furthermore, in 2017, it called for a ban on importing goods from the West Bank, and pressured the French government to immediately divest itself financially from the Israeli banking system. But from the documents that reached us it appears that this civilian activity, causing much economic damage to Israel, is managed in collaboration with PFLP members.

Shawan Jabarin, for example, chairman of Al-Haq since 2006, served as one of the PFLP leaders and is connected to West Bank PFLP activists. Jabarin was convicted and sentenced in the part due to his military activity in the PFLP and served several terms in prison. Jabarin was barred for many years from leaving Israel. On one occasion, Israeli Supreme Court justices exposed confidential information about him, stating that Jabarin "probably operates as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, in some hours of the day he chairs a rights organization, and in others he is a terrorist who was not above murder and attempted murder, totally unrelated to rights, and which deny the most basic right, without which no other rights exist – the right to live".

Jabarin is not the only one in Al-Haq who has a terrorist history. Ziad Muhammed Shahada Khamidian, who has been working for Al-Haq for over a decade and now heads the organization's training department. Previously though, he was placed under administrative detention in 1996 and again in 2005 and 2007 due to his PFLP activities. Also, Zahi Abed al-Hadi Muhammed Jaradat has been working for Al-Haq for several years as a manager of operations, fundraising, and budgetary management. Jaradat was arrested several times in the past due to his

PFLP activity and jailed for four years. The documents reveal with Al-Haq also enjoys millions of dollars in European financial aid by European governments and organizations.

Now it is time to introduce another organization, DCI-P, Defense for Children International — Palestine. You would be forgiven for thinking this organization strictly deals with the realities of Palestinian childhood, but it also supports BDS. The intel we received reveals that the organization's former CEO and one of its founders, Rifat Auda Kassis, is one of the writers of "Kairos Palestine", an internet document which is one of the most important BDS documents in the anti-Israeli boycott campaign among churches and Christians around the world. But it goes even further: this organization is also related to PFLP. Hashem Abu-Maria, the organization's community mobilization unit, was killed in 2014 in violent clashes in Beit-Umar near Hebron. After his death, the PFLP published a proclamation, usually reserved for martyred fighters and not a coordinators in human rights organizations, saying, "In the name of the PFLP's imprisoned chairman, Ahmed Saadat; his second-incommand, Comrade Abu Ahmed Fuad; all leaders, cadres, and front members, and the Palestinian masses, the PFLP mourns the death of our friend, holy leader Hashem Khader Abu-Maria, 47 years old, who was killed by occupation forces on Friday afternoon in Beit Umar, Occupied Palestine".

The intel reports also state that, in addition to Abu-Maria, DCI-P includes additional former or current PFLP members. For example, Hassan Abed Al-Juad, journalist and one of the PFLP leaders in Bethlehem; Khalima Anu-Saleb, convicted of PFLP affiliation in the late 1980's and sentenced to three years in prison; and the above-mentioned Mahmoud Jiddah, who threw the grenades on Strauss St. in Jerusalem.

Leila Khaled is a famous terrorist, who in her youth was involved in PFLP terrorist activities including an attempt to hijack an El-Al airplane. This did not prevent two BDS organizations from using her services for

fundraising purposes: the first is ECCP, an umbrella organization of sorts uniting several organizations and governments in pro-Palestinian activity (fundraising was conducted jointly with Samidoun). The other is BDS South Africa, a pivotal organization in the worldwide boycott campaign, and which tried to remove Israel last year from the FIFA institutions.

Itai Reuveni, from the "NGO Monitor" think tank explains: "The unique and weird thing here is that these organizations are accepted by the international community. For example, Al-Haq's CEO, convicted at court in PFLP membership, sits on the board of one of the world's largest human right platforms, FIDH. These people have been successful in infiltrating the mainstream of humanitarian discourse and of international law".

How do former and present terrorists conceal their past from the institutions supporting them?

"The phenomenon is whitewashing anything related to attacking Israelis. Suddenly they do not flaunt their past so much. There is an attempt here to whitewash the terrorist organizations as legitimate organizations despite being defined as terrorist organizations and having much blood on their hands".

"Gaza Sends its Regards"

PFLP involvement in BDS activity is only part of the story. From the documents we received it appears that Hamas also has a finger in the pie. The documents show that Hamas' main collaboration with BDS takes place in Britain. One of the central BDS organizations there is PRC, the "Palestinian Return Centre", defined by the Shin-Beit as the organizational and coordinating arm of Hamas in Europe". It was once headed by Zaher Birawi, who recently served as chairman of PFB ("Palestinian Forum in Britain") and a senior member of BMI ("British-Muslim Initiative"). It is a small wonder that both call for a boycott of

Israel. According to the documents we received, "Birawi is connected to Hamas even today". Muhammed Sualha, a member of the Hamas political bureau, and who participated in the Hamas senior member delegation to Moscow in 2017, is also a part of BMI.

These organizations, together with other British organizations such as FOA ("Friends of Al-Aqsa") and PSC ("Palestine Solidarity Campaign") led last year a campaign marking a century since the Balfour Declaration, including a massive demonstration in London and a petition calling for a British apology, and more.

PSC claims that it focuses of Palestinian rights. In practice, PSC is the largest and most prominent delegitimization organization in Britain (and one of the largest in Europe in general), and its head, Hugh Lanning, was barred in the past from entering Israel. In 2017, this organization caused much concern for the fans of the legendary alternative rock star Nick Cave after they exerted pressure against him for a planned performance in Israel. Unlike others (such as Lana Del Rey), Cave did not budge and ultimately played in Israel.

FOA is mostly a one-man show run by Ismail Patel, documented in 2011 warmly embracing Ismail Haniyeh (Hamas's leader in Gaza) as part of "Miles of Smiles" (a convoy of activists which entered Gaza). Patel, who participated in the Marmara flotilla, has been leading a campaign for boycotting goods such as Israeli dates, as well as calling on international companies such as Coca-Cola and McDonald's to cease their presence in Israel.

There is also another connection between Hamas and European BDS organizations –the Norwegian organization NPA. NPA published a report calling the Norwegian [governmental] pension fund to divest their investments from companies operating in Israel, such as Motorola, HP, and G4S. But alongside calls for a boycott on Israel, NPA (an acronym if "Norwegian People's Aid"), funded between 2012 and 2016

empowerment activities for young men in which Hamas and PFLP also participated. Furthermore, between 2001 and 2008 they supplied various services in Iran in the country's energy sector. One of NPA's donors is USAID, the American international development agency. Last April, after American authorities discovered the connection between the group and the terrorist organizations and Iran, they issued a two million dollar fine.

According to Reuveni, "In Europe, the Europeans see this as 'show us how our money caused violent activity', and they uphold this in the narrowest possible sense. They say outrageous things such as 'he did his time' or 'he says he no longer supports throwing grenades on crowds'. In the US, it is easier: the laws about funding and supporting terrorist-related organizations are very clear, and it is much easier to explain this".

Conferring to the documents, Hamas is collaborating with BDS also in the US, such is the case with AMP ("American Muslims for Palestine"), which calls for a boycott of Israel, and which is responsible, among other things, for a campaign calling to "Stop Apartheid in Israel". Leading figures in the organization who were involved in the past in funding Hamas found their way into senior positions. For example, Hussein Khatib, a former senior member of HLF, an organization defined by the US as "Hamas America" (which was closed by the FBI after it was exposed that they transferred millions of dollars to Hamas). Khatib is now a board member in AMP alongside Saleh Sarsour, who also serves a board member of AMP. An FBI report to the US treasury from 2001 showed that Sarsour's brother told Israeli officials (after his imprisonment in Israel) about his brother's involvement in fundraising for Hamas' Military Wing through a bank account of a furniture store in Milwaukee.

Prof. Dan Diker, from the Jerusalem Center for Public and State Affairs and an expert on the BDS movement explains, "The genetics of AMP

and the dismantled organizations are the same genetics, which are Hamas. BDS is perceived as a non-violent idea and as the only option the Palestinian Authority has to fight Israel for its freedom. What is BDS really? It's an organization hijacking terms such as "human rights" and of "freedom", words the West identifies with as ideals, while cynically exploiting them to cover the true identity of BDS—radical extremist organizations using any means at their disposal to attack Israel's right to existence as a Jewish State".

An Attack against Israel's Image

PFLP and Hamas are two terrorist organizations, and it is clear why they would like to paint their activity as "non-violent" and "peaceful" under the umbrella of BDS. But the documents we received show that a new player has joined them recently, a world terrorist superpower, and a country deemed anything but against "non-violent activity" — Iran.

From a detailed study prepared in recent months by the Ministry for Strategic Affairs and which is being exposed here for the first time, it shows how the Iranians are deeply involved in various BDS campaigns around the world. Naturally, in the Iranian case, contact with boycott activists is very covert, and is mostly expressed by meetings.

The Iran connection to BDS is global. Lets' start with Spain: Podemos ("translation from Spanish: "We Can"), is a leftist political party with representatives in the Spanish parliament and a long list of pro-BDS activities under their belts. Its activities are mostly focused towards the politics, but not only. For example, in August 2015 Podemos supported a BDS campaign which led to the cancellation of the Jewish singer Matisyahu's performance at a music festival in Valencia.

Alongside these activities, the Anti-Financial Crime units of the Spanish Police discovered that between 2013 and 2015 that the party's leader, Pablo Iglesias, received thousands of Euros directly from Iran. According to Spanish media outlets, the money trail went through

hosting a television show produced by an Iranian company. Iglesias claims that everything was legal, and that he will gladly present any material needed to the authorities.

In Britain, the report identifies ties between Iran and BDS organizations such as IHRC (an acronym of the "Islamic Human Rights Committee") which supports Hezbollah, and an organization named "Innovative Minds", whose leader, Abbas Panjwani, is considered a staunch support of Hezbollah and Nasrallah. Masud Shehraza, IHRC's Director, and Panjwani attended a convention in Indonesia about the Palestinian cause which was also attended by senior Hezbollah officials. The two organizations often collaborate in joint boycotts against Israel in Britain.

Besides for supporting BDS in Europe, Iran also warmly embraced several American organizations. The MSA report shows that the most prominent organization in terms of ties to Iran is CodePink, a women's feminist "peace movement" which voices opinions about many topics in the US. One of them is boycotting Israel. Examples of such include CodePink leading a campaign against Airbnb to stop advertising apartments for rent in the West Bank, and against Re/Max to stop its business activity in the settlements, as well as calling for the expulsion of Israeli soccer teams located within the West Bank from FIFA. They even tried preventing Israeli performers and artists from playing in the US. For example, the organization worked to cancel Idan Raichel's concert in New York (the concert did take place, although there were demonstrations against it).

The MSA report show that in recent years CodePink also ran many campaigns for Iran, and it is possible to identify direct ties between the group and its people and senior Iranian officials. Medea Benjamin and Judy Evans, two senior CodePink activists, met in 2008 with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Two months later, the two of them travelled to Iran and met with several deputies of the Iranian president. In 2014, relations

warmed up, and Benjamin spoke at the anti-Israeli (and anti-American) convention New Horizon held in Tehran.

Minister of Strategic Affairs, Gild Erdan: "Terrorist organizations, Iran, and delegitimization and boycott organizations all operate towards the same goal – the destruction of Israel as the Jewish State – and they empower and support each other. The terrorist organizations shoot and kill Israeli citizens, and delegitimization organizations try to harm Israel's ability to respond to this terrorism by smearing Israel. This is the same campaign by different means, which are no less dangerous in the intermediate and long term. If in the past we knew one type of terrorism, i.e. "bloody terrorism", today the name of the game is "conceptual terrorism".

How do you intend to handle this phenomenon?

"In the economic sphere, we coordinate with decision makers around the world to attack the funding sources of these organizations and close their bank accounts. We have already brought about the closure of accounts of delegitimization organizations in five European countries. We further legislation and legal moves against the delegitimization organizations by presenting evidence showing them as bodies infested with anti-Semitism and discrimination. We showcase their connections to terrorist organizations, and the anti-Semitic and extreme nature of the campaign for defaming and smearing the State of Israel in the world. Our activities are aimed at attacking their reputation and status while preventing them from hijacking worldwide public opinion. We will ensure that all boycott activists in the world will know that harming Israel carries with it a terrible price."

"BASELESS ACCUSATIONS BY POLITICAL ELEMENTS"

Waste? Lack of transparency? No achievements? Recently, much criticism has been raised against the Ministry of Strategic Affairs related to BDS. We confronted Ministry Erdan with the primary claims

In recent months, there is much public and media criticism of the Ministry of Strategic Affairs' activity against BDS. Claims range from lack of transparency about the millions of shekels used, questions about its effectiveness successes, to claims for working in "grey areas" regarding information collection. This week we presented the primary claims to Minister Erdan.

Minister Erdan, why don't you act in a transparent manner regarding the funds allocated to fighting BDS?

"Everyone knows that it is irrational to expose our modus operandi when fighting a rival striving to harm Israel, in the same manner that we don't present the IDF commands modus operandi to Hamas. What the Ministry can publish without harming the struggle against the boycott organizations – we published, all the while dutifully adhering to oversight from the Ministry of Justice. We must maintain a balance between the transparency required to inform the public about where the Ministry's funding goes to, and the activities necessary to foil the boycott organizations' attacks against Israel.

There is a claim that this is wasted money. MK Stav Shaffir for example claims that you don't have even one achievement in the fight against BDS.

"MK Shaffir's false and political claims against the ministry are unfitting. The Ministry's activities were presented to her in great detail over multiple meetings, including when I was present. The Ministry changed its policy from defense to offense against BDS. This is the first time there is a government which understands who the organizations, contexts, actions, and activists of the boycott organizations are, including their ties to terrorist groups. This is the first time we exposed the faces and goals of the boycott organizations, leading to action against them by political, economic, and financial bodies around the world. For the first time, there is a dramatic stop of the flow of money to boycott organizations in several European countries. For the first time, the leaders of the Free World, such as Merkel, Theresa May, Macron, and more speak out against the boycott movement. 25 American states legislated, at the state level, against the BDS, and a motion has been submitted for federal legislation to follow suit as well. For the first time, there is a decline in the number of boycott decisions from 2015 in campuses around the US. For the first time in 2018, no professional associations decided to vote in favor of anti-Israel boycotts. Scores of boycott decisions against Israel around Europe were foiled, thanks to the diligent activity of pro-Israel legal professionals, and there are even more activities, but of which we cannot speak about publicly.

And what about the claims that you are active in grey areas?

"Everything the Ministry does is always supervised by the Ministry's legal counsel. The two "gatekeepers" – the Attorney General and the Accountant General – supervise the Ministry's activity. These false claims are baseless, and they come solely from elements with a political agenda to criticize our fight against the BDS, which we are incredibly proud of."