

December 8, 2014

Finn Church Aid

- Website: <http://www.kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/en/us/>
- Finnish NGO; **founded** in 1947.
- **Operates** in over 20 countries worldwide.
- **Claims** that its “actions are guided by international human rights standards and principles such as equality and non-discrimination, participation and accountability.”
- **Aims** to “contribute to positive change by supporting people in the most vulnerable situations within fragile and disaster-affected areas.”
- According to its **website**, FCA “is the largest Finnish development cooperation organisation and the second largest provider of humanitarian aid.”
- According to its **2012 annual report**, the Finn Church Aid Foundation is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors appointed by the Council for International Relations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland.
- **Member** of **Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP)**; a long-term partner of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.
- Founding member of the **ACT Alliance**, which promotes **boycotts, divestments and sanctions (BDS)** campaigns against Israel. Also **partners with** the **World Council of Churches (WCC)** and the **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)**. Both WCC and EAPPI play key roles in mobilizing **church BDS efforts** globally.
- FCA is also a **member** of Act Alliance’s regional council, **Act Palestine Forum (AFP)**, which aims to “bring an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine in accordance with UN resolutions...” APF’s role, as an indirect subsidiary of WCC, is to act as middleman between international funding agencies (such as FCA) and local partners.
- FCA maintains a **partnership agreement** with the Humanitarian Aid Office ECHO of the European Commission and is a member of **APRODEV**, the EU lobbying arm of the WCC, which seeks to “support a just peace that ends the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.”
- **Funding**: **Donors** include Finland, EU (ECHO and Europeaid), UK (DFID), USAID, and UNDP. In 2013, FCA had a **total income** of €31.8 million; receiving 12.8 million from the Finnish MFA, 373,000 from the EU, 218,000 from **ICCO** (Netherlands), and 1.7 million from other international funding sources, including the ACT Alliance and the UNDP.
- **2013 annual budget** for “Middle East Office” of approximately €1.8 million. FCA does not list NGO grantees. However, based on information submitted to the **Israeli Registrar of Non Profits**, Finn Church Aid gave radical Israeli NGO **Zochrot** 185,905 NIS in 2013 and 94,840 NIS in the first quarter of 2014. Zochrot supports a “one state” formula or “de-Zionized Palestine” and accuses Israel of “ethnic cleansing,” “massacres,” and “ongoing destruction of Palestinian localities,” based on the **2001 Durban strategy of demonization**.
- In 2010-2013, FCA provided **€170 000** to the WCC for a project, in conjunction with EAPPI and the Jerusalem Interchurch Centre; In 2011, provided **\$24,445** to the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) /Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees; and in 2014, provided an **undisclosed amount** to the International Orthodox Christian Charities.

- In 2014, Finn Church Aid was [responsible](#) for distributing €350,000 to [UNRWA](#) following the 2014 Gaza War, disregarding UNRWA's close ties to Hamas and the incidents of [deadly missiles being found in UNRWA schools](#) during the fighting.
- **Political Advocacy:** In 2014, Finn Church Aid and EAPPI [traveled](#) to major university campuses in Finland, alleging that Israel victimizes and discriminates against the Palestinian population and "vindictively persecutes" Palestinian children.
- Listed as a sponsor of the September 29-30, 2013 conference, "[From Truth to Redress: Realizing the Return of Palestinian Refugees](#)," organized by [Zochrot](#). This event advocated a "one state" framework and included lecture topics on the logistics of materializing a Palestinian "right of return," which would effectually mean the end of Israel as a Jewish state. (See NGO Monitor's factsheet on [Zochrot's Support for "One State."](#) May 1, 2014).
- Supports the [EAPPI](#) volunteer program, which claims to "provide protective presence to vulnerable communities, monitor and report human rights abuses." EAPPI promotes BDS campaigns, accuses Israel of "apartheid," and promotes the Palestinian "right of return."
- Was a signatory to the 2012 report "[Trading Away Peace](#)," which repeats the [BDS agenda](#) and calls on EU and individual European governments to wage political warfare through various forms of economic sanctions against Israel.
- Published a 2009 report "[Failing Gaza: No rebuilding, no recovery, no more excuses](#)" – together with [Amnesty International](#) UK, [Trocaire](#) (Ireland), [Diakonia](#) (Sweden), [Oxfam International](#), [Christian Aid](#) (UK), [Broederlijk Delen](#) (Belgium), CAFOD (UK), [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#), and others – advancing the [unsupported legal claim](#) that Gaza remains occupied and the false allegation of "collective punishment" in order to "prove" the central thesis that "primary responsibility [for the humanitarian crisis in Gaza] lies with Israel."