

April 20, 2015

NGO Monitor Submission to the UN Secretary General for the Report on the Elimination of Racism

NGO Monitor has prepared this submission for the UN Secretary General as he prepares his report on the Elimination of Racism pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 69/162. We hope that this information will contribute to the final report.

Antisemitism is a very virulent and enduring form of racism that has unfortunately been reemerging to levels not seen since the 1930s, in the period leading up to the Holocaust. Throughout Europe, Jews have been deliberately targeted, violently attacked and murdered at synagogues, schools, kosher markets, and museums. Jews wearing yarmulkes (skull caps) or other religious markings are subject to harassment and violence. Crowds at soccer matches chant “Jews to the gas” and other genocidal taunts. Mass demonstrations in European capitals, ostensibly to protest Israeli actions towards the Palestinians, are rife with antisemitic and Nazi sloganeering and imagery. University campuses have seen extreme targeting and singling out of Jews. In Iran, state-sponsored Holocaust denial and calls to “wipe Israel off the map” are entrenched. Arab media is filled with vitriolic antisemitism and blood libels.

While some in the international community offer token condemnations, these horrific events can be partly traced to actions by States, UN bodies, and “civil” society actors engaged in enabling and promoting Jew-hatred. Any report addressing the elimination of racism must address these factors in detail.

Background on NGO Monitor

NGO Monitor¹ is a Jerusalem-based research institution that tracks the activities, campaigns, and funding of NGOs operating in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is a project of the Amuta for NGO Responsibility, an NGO in Special Consultative status with ECOSOC since 2013.

For more than a decade (following the NGO Forum of the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa), NGO Monitor has published numerous detailed and systematic research studies on the issues of NGO transparency, accountability, antisemitism, international law, human rights, humanitarian aid, and the laws of armed conflict. These works include *Best Practices for Human Rights and Humanitarian NGO Fact-Finding* (Nijhoff 2012), “IHL 2.0: Is there a Role for Social Media in Monitoring and Enforcement” (*Israel Law Review* 2012), and “From Durban to the Goldstone Report: The Centrality of Human Rights NGOs in the Political Dimension of the Arab-Israeli Conflict”, (*Israel Affairs* 2012).

Members of NGO Monitor’s Advisory Board include Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel; Harvard Professor Alan Dershowitz; Colonel Richard Kemp, former commander of British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan; Hon. Alexander Downer AC, former Foreign Minister

¹ www.ngo-monitor.org

of Australia, UN Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Cyprus, and currently Australian High Commissioner to the UK; Hon. Michael Danby MP, senior member of the Australian Labor Party; R. James Woolsey, former US Director of Central Intelligence; former Member of Italian Parliament, Fiamma Nirenstein; US Jurist and former Legal Advisor to the State Department, Abraham Sofaer; UCLA Professor and President of the Daniel Pearl Foundation, Judea Pearl; Harvard Professor Ruth Wisse; former US government official, Elliot Abrams; Einat Wilf, former member of Knesset with the Israel Labor Party and advisor to Shimon Peres; Douglas Murray, Director of the Centre for Social Cohesion, best-selling author and commentator; and British journalist and international affairs commentator, Tom Gross.

2001 UN World Conference Against Racism (WCAR)

General Assembly Resolution 69/162 states that “the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action remains a solid basis and the only instructive outcome of the World Conference, which prescribes comprehensive measures for combating all the scourges of racism.” Similarly, it notes that the WCAR is “among the 20 major achievements of the Office of the High Commissioner since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993” and praises “the efforts made by civil society in support of the follow-up mechanisms in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.”

These accolades, however, are misplaced. The Durban Conference, contrary to its intended goals, itself became an instrument of racism, directed at Israel and Jews. Professor Irwin Cotler, Canadian MP and former Justice Minister, Nelson Mandela’s lawyer, and a member of the Canadian delegation, characterized Durban as a “festival of hate” and noted that “**the conference against racism that became a racist conference against Jews**” (emphasis added).²

The antisemitic agenda was driven by Iran and several Arab states, as well as many non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The tenor was set during the preparatory conferences, particularly in Tehran, held in February 2001. Despite assurances from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Mary Robinson, the Iranian government did not grant visas to Israeli and Jewish representatives. Conference participants affirmed that “human rights are universal, indivisible, inalienable, irrespective of... race, national or ethnic identity,” but Jews and Israelis were excluded.

At the Durban conference, Israel was singled out for attack, and an antisemitic atmosphere permeated the event, prompting the US, Israel and other countries to walk out. The conference revived the canard of the bigoted 1975 General Assembly Resolution, “Zionism is racism.”

However, the NGO Forum was even worse. Palestinian NGOs distributed copies of the antisemitic forgery, “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion”, and leaflets depicting Hitler with the caption, “What if I had won? The answer: There would be No Israel and No Palestinian bloodshed.” Andrew Srulevitch, former Executive Director of UN Watch, one of the groups

² http://www.mefacts.com/cached.asp?x_id=11248

represented by the Jewish Caucus, described the forum as one of “mob rule.” During the debate, he commented that “ten minutes after it was voted that each victim group would be allowed to express its own victimization in their own way, a key paragraph on anti-Semitism was deleted. There was no opportunity for Jewish delegates to respond. It was clearly a kangaroo court.”

In addition to excluding discrimination against Jews from the official documents, Jewish representatives were subjected to verbal assaults and threats of physical violence. Jewish Caucus delegate Anne Bayefsky commented, “like all Jewish participants, I felt concern for my safety.” Moreover, “the Jewish Center in Durban was forced to close because of threats of violence.”

Major international NGOs, including Amnesty International and the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (later renamed Human Rights First), were complicit in the exclusion of representatives of Jewish non-governmental organizations. Bayefsky also reported that Human Rights Watch (HRW) advocacy director, Reed Brody indicated that representatives of Jewish groups were unwelcome. Shimon Samuels, from the Simon Wiesenthal Center and chair of the Jewish caucus, noted that Amnesty, HRW, and Save the Children “had let the Jews down in Durban.”

The NGO Forum’s final declaration, adopted by consensus and without dissent, singled out Israel for rebuke calling for “a policy of complete and total isolation of Israel as an apartheid state ... the imposition of mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation, and training) between all states and Israel.”

The NGO declaration libeled Israel, falsely accusing it of “perpetration of racist crimes against humanity including ethnic cleansing, acts of genocide.” In a further attempt to denigrate and erase Jewish suffering, the declaration redefined antisemitism to mean “anti-Arab racism.”

Based on the tainted legacy of 2001, several countries boycotted the 2009 follow-up conference, and no NGO forum was convened.

Nevertheless, the impacts of Durban continue to be felt. In the aftermath of the conference, the Forum’s declaration became an action plan (the “Durban Strategy”) for the radical pro-Palestinian NGOs that helped draft the document, as well as for many of the international NGOs that supported it to target Israel. It also served as cover for these groups to engage in blatant acts of antisemitism. Disturbingly, these activities have received extensive support from governments and UN institutions.

The Durban Strategy is Antisemitism

The Durban Strategy as developed at the WCAR is itself a form of “new” antisemitism. British lawyer Anthony Julius observes that this new antisemitism “became hegemonic in the 1990s and 2000s.... It is to be distinguished from the ‘old antisemitism’ because it takes Israel and the Zionist project as its collective term for the Jews.” Nevertheless, it is “continuous

with the ‘old antisemitism’ in its principal stratagems and tropes, while novel in its specific focus upon the Jewish State—uniquely evil and without the right to exist.”

Significantly, under the Durban Strategy, Jewish self-determination rights (Zionism) and the existence of a Jewish state per se (not specific policies or territorial disputes) are the causes of “racism,” “apartheid,” and “occupation.” As such, NGO campaigns based on the Durban Strategy meet the working definition of antisemitism developed by the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, and recommended for adoption by the United Kingdom’s All-Party Parliamentary Groups Against Antisemitism (the United States State Department has adopted similar language).

The guidelines note the following as forms of contemporary antisemitism:

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.

Harvard Law Professor Alan Dershowitz has also presented criteria that distinguish antisemitism from legitimate criticism of Israeli policies or actions. Dershowitz’s criteria include:

- Comparing Israel to the Nazis or its leaders to Hitler, the German army, or the Gestapo. Denying, minimizing, or trivializing the Holocaust as part of a campaign against Israel.
- Characterizing Israel as “the worst,” when it is clear that this is not an accurate comparative assessment.
- Singling out only Israel for sanctions for policies that are widespread among other nations, or demanding that Jews be better or more moral than others because of their history as victims.
- Blaming Israel for the problems of the world and exaggerating the influence of the Jewish state on world affairs.

Governmental and UN Funding Used to Promote Antisemitism

As antisemitism rises and reaches crisis levels in Europe, NGOs that claim to promote human rights and humanitarian agendas in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and executing the Durban Strategy have fueled and exacerbated hatred of and discrimination against Jews, promoting antisemitic themes and imagery, as at the Durban Conference. These groups, which include international, Palestinian, and Israeli NGOs, also fail to report on or condemn antisemitism and incitement against Jews.

Despite the extensive evidence of NGO antisemitism – egregious examples are provided below – governments, in particular in Europe, continue to fund these groups with hundreds of millions of dollars, pounds, euros, and kroner, and enable the problematic activities and rhetoric.

For instance, BADIL, a rabidly anti-Israel NGO, has been awarded \$251,000 in core funding for 2014-16 by Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands³ through the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat.⁴ These governments, which ostensibly provide funding to support human rights and international law, are instead enabling an NGO that has engaged in egregious antisemitism (see below).

Project-based funding, which is ostensibly provided for a specific project, with its own intended outcomes and objectives, can be abused, as well. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), an NGO receiving massive funding from countries such as the EU, UK, Australia and others, has been active in anti-Israel lobbying for years. However, its founding director, Dr. Swee Ang Chai, has also promoted virulent classical antisemitism (see below).

Moreover, funding is fungible. Justifications that NGO projects are unrelated to a grantee's wider agenda and expressions of antisemitism belie government funders' full responsibility for the activities of their grantees. Moreover, there is no doubt that if these groups had engaged in anti-black or LGBT discrimination, they would not receive funding from these governments. Yet, antisemitic activity does not serve as a bar to funding.

The harmful effects of this government support for NGOs are sustained by the secrecy that governs funding processes and shields NGO funding from public scrutiny. This lack of transparency is manifest in government websites and databases that do not provide basic information (i.e. amounts, project descriptions) on NGO grants, the refusal of funding agencies to release documentation on evaluations and decision making, and the refusal of government officials and diplomats responsible for allocating funds to NGOs to respond substantively to inquiries.

The ongoing government funding for NGOs that engage in antisemitic activities and use antisemitic rhetoric highlights the persistent double standard: **Hatred of Jews is tolerated in a way that would be unthinkable for other racial, ethnic, or religious groups.** Likewise, Jewish and Israeli targets are often denied the right to define what constitutes discrimination against them.

Main Forms of NGO Antisemitism

As seen in the following examples, when conducting anti-Israel campaigns, and especially during periods of intense conflict (e.g. the 2014 Gaza War), NGOs frequently use opposition to Israeli policies and purported anti-Zionism as cover for antisemitism. This is usually tied to accusations of Israeli "war crimes" and human rights violations, which undergird these campaigns. They regularly include a radical fringe of Jews, recruited in an attempt to deflect accusations of antisemitism, double standards, and demonization – which is itself a form of

³ For more information on the funding and activities of BADIL, see www.ngo-monitor.org.

⁴ <http://www.rightsecretariat.ps/>

antisemitism. These groups include international NGOs (Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch), Palestinian NGOs (MIFTAH, BADIL, Sabeel, Kairos Palestine, Electronic Intifada, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme), and Israeli groups (Alternative Information Center, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions).

Contrary to NGO claims that they are engaging in “legitimate criticism” of Israel, the NGO rhetoric, publications, and activities as noted often violate accepted standards, including the EU⁵ and U.S.⁶ definitions of antisemitism.

The following provides several examples of NGO promotion of antisemitism in their campaigning:

Blood libels, “Protocols,” Classical Antisemitism

Since the Middle Ages, massacres of Jews have been triggered by “blood libels” – the charge that Jews ritually murdered Christian children and used their blood to bake Passover matzah (unleavened bread) and/or to prepare sacramental wine. Similarly, “the myth⁷ about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions,” notoriously featured in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, have frequently driven antisemitism, particularly Nazi racial antisemitism.

These pernicious canards have been revived by NGOs, often in the context of calling for boycotts, sanctions, and other punishments for supposed Israeli wrongdoing.

The Lancet Medical Journal and Medical Aid for Palestinians

Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) donors include: The EU, UK, Australia, Ireland, Trocaire (Ireland), Netherlands,⁸ UNICEF, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), and Big Lottery Fund (Britain). According to its own financial reports,⁹ MAP claims to have received over £153,000 from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) but this information is not included in the DFID database¹⁰ beyond a project that ended in 2010.

On July 23, 2014, *The Lancet* published An Open Letter for the People of Gaza,¹¹ which accused Israel of “war crimes” while ignoring Hamas’s crimes of rocket fire and terror tunnels from Gaza into Israeli territory. The letter included unsubstantiated allegations including claims of use of illegal weaponry by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and the utilization of those weapons to deliberately kill civilians. It denied Israel’s right to self-defense, failed to mention Hamas at all, and accused Israel of carrying out a propaganda campaign that “justifies the creation of an emergency to masquerade a massacre.” The letter, written by Drs. Mads Gilbert, Iain Chalmers, Paola Manduca, and Swee Ang Chai (see below), ends with the

⁵ <http://www.european-forum-on-antisemitism.org/working-definition-of-antisemitism/english/>

⁶ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

⁷ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

⁸ For more information on the funding and activities of MAP, see www.ngo-monitor.org.

⁹ <http://www.map-uk.org/downloads/annual-review/2012-2013-MAP-Annual-Report-and-Financial-Statements.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/>

¹¹ <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2814%2961044-8/fulltext>

statement, “We declare no competing interests.” Yet, all four authors are associated with highly politicized NGOs engaged in anti-Israel campaigning.

The Lancet also allowed its website to be used to collect over 20,000 email signatures to “support the letter,”¹² demonstrating the editorial board’s active role in backing the letter.

The July 23, 2014 “Open Letter” was not the first time Dr. Swee Ang Chai advanced harsh and unjustifiable attacks against Israel in *The Lancet*. A February 2009 article of a similar nature was removed from *The Lancet*’s website shortly after publication, following exposure of its “factual inaccuracies.”¹³

On August 14, 2014, Dr. Paola Manduca forwarded an email from Dr. Swee Ang Chai with the subject line “CNN Goldman Sachs & the Zio Matrix”¹⁴ to the Italian Google group Sempre Contro la Guerra. Ang wrote in her email, “This is shocking video please watch. This is not about Palestine - it is about all of us!” The email also contained, in bold red lettering, “SEE THIS VIDEO BEFORE IT IS REMOVED FROM CIRCULATION - Please do pass on to others who you think would be interested and would pass on>>>The whole world needs to know.”

The video¹⁵ made by white supremacist, David Duke,¹⁶ is described as “reveal[ing] how the Zionist Matrix of Power controls Media, Politics and Banking and how each Part of this Tribal matrix supports and protects each other!” The video labels the Federal Reserve Bank as “the Zio Club FED,” calls NBC News anchor Brian Williams a “good Shabbez goy Zioscript reader,” identifies U.S. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan as a “Zio tribalist,” and states, “Zios invaded and took over Walt Disney Corp. just as they invaded and took over Palestine.”

The David Duke video was not the first time Paola Manduca had disseminated antisemitic content:

- On September 9, 2014 Manduca posted an article by Paul Larudee¹⁷ with the subject line “israel and parassites” (sic). The article’s main theme is that Israel, through the American Jewish community, is a “parasite” feeding off the host/victim nation – the United States – by controlling key U.S. institutions. This “Jew as parasite” theme was prominent in Nazi ideology.¹⁸ Larudee wrote:
 - “the Israel Lobby has grown with few constraints, fed by its domination of the American Jewish community, extensive control of publishing and the media...”
 - “Israel now controls US policy in the Middle East...”

¹² <http://www.thelancet.com/gaza-letter-2014>

¹³ <http://www.thepeoplesvoice.org/TPV3/Voices.php/2009/03/05/lancet-withdraws-gaza-article-author-res>

¹⁴ [http://www.ngo-monitor.org/data/images/File/CNN Goldman Sachs & the Zio Matrix.pdf](http://www.ngo-monitor.org/data/images/File/CNN%20Goldman%20Sachs%20&%20the%20Zio%20Matrix.pdf)

¹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zw9EhjyU3JU&feature=youtu.be>

¹⁶ <http://www.adl.org/combatting-hate/domestic-extremism-terrorism/c/david-duke.html>

¹⁷ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/data/images/File/israel_and_parassite.pdf

¹⁸ <http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/weltparasit.htm>

- “Israel has thus constructed a strangler fig network of roots and vines that is feeding itself from the resources of world’s most powerful nation while gradually starving that nation... if a strangler fig is allowed to thrive, its host will wither and die, and only its form will remain as an empty shell for as long as the parasite continues to survive.”
- Manduca posted an email¹⁹ on May 1, 2014 titled “Egyptian ruler General Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi is a Jew.” In it, Manduca describes Judaism as a “‘blood determined’ religious group with ethnic and racist background and imperialist and genocidal in the context of Palestine.” (sic)
- On August 24, 2014 Manduca posted an article by Gilad Atzmon,²⁰ who is described by the Anti-Defamation League²¹ as an “anti-Semite.” In the article uploaded by Manduca, Atzmon wrote, “America is not the first or second super power to be brought down by Jewish power.” He also wrote, “I think that a ‘goyim defense league’ is a necessary development. I have come to believe that resistance to Jewish politics and power is the only thing that can save world peace as well as the Jews.”
- On April 16, 2013 Manduca forwarded an email²² that provided a conspiracy theory behind the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing: “There is no mention of billions made by investors with inside knowledge; no mainstream media tried to investigate the short selling and the US stock market collapse that happened hours BEFORE the bombings (who profited?)... Let us hope that someone in the FBI is smart enough to look more carefully at the clues in Boston and find the real culprits behind these bombings instead of buying the Zionist spin.”

The fact that *The Lancet*, a reputable UK-based medical journal, readily published inflammatory and unverified materials from the same doctors who distributed virulently antisemitic materials, is highly problematic. These instances may have contributed to antisemitic feelings and incidents within the UK.²³

Similarly, Dr. Swee Ang Chai founded Medical Aid for Palestinians as a UK charity in 1984. This NGO has also been used as a vehicle to promote antisemitism.

MAP utilizes politicized language accusing Israel of “indiscriminate attacks”²⁴ and “collective punishment”²⁵ against Palestinians while alleging that Israeli defensive measures are “arbitrary.” MAP also holds ongoing programs where Israel is consistently demonized. A central theme in its work is describing the founding of the State of Israel as the “nakba”

¹⁹ <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/data/images/File/'Egyptian ruler General Abd al-Fattah al-Sisi is a Jew'.pdf>

²⁰ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/data/images/File/Son of Death_ ury avney and gilad atzom.pdf

²¹ http://archive.adl.org/main_anti_semitism_international/gilad-atzmon-anti-semite.html#.U_2rHGNabk8

²² <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/data/images/File/Boston bombings.pdf>

²³ <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/505431/More-than-1-000-campaigners-gather-to-rally-against-anti-Semitism-in-Britain>

²⁴ <http://www.map-uk.org/news/archive/post/133-gaza-crisis-mapas-response>

²⁵ <http://www.map-uk.org/campaign-with-us/gaza-crisis-an-open-letter-to-david-cameron>

(catastrophe) thereby using Palestinian nationalist references. MAP is also a partner with *The Lancet*²⁶ medical journal in The Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA).

Antisemitic statements have been made at MAP events and are also evident on MAP's website.

- At a December 2013 joint MAP-LPHA event²⁷ held at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health,²⁸ a third Gaza "open letter" author, Sir Iain Chalmers, made a comment echoing the antisemitism of the Duke video. In an audio recording²⁹ of the event, Chalmers decries how "Zionists" have "control in so many different domains" and how *The Lancet* is one publication "they [Zionists] cannot suppress." Chalmers also mused over the "interesting figure" of "six million" in relation to the number of non-Jews "whose lives" the "Jewish state... controls."
- While speaking at a 2012 MAP event,³⁰ "Pitching for Palestine," *The Lancet's* editor Horton described an invented situation in which Palestinians have no access to health care whatsoever, blamed Israel, and called for a global "uprising" against Israel:

And when the world sees the reality of Palestinian society, right now, today, this second, there will be an uprising. And there will be shame and horrors (sic) on Israel.

- In 2008, when MAP received the proceeds from an anti-Israel Christmas campaign³¹ organized by Jews for Boycotting Israeli Goods. "Bethlehem Now: Nine Alternative Lessons and Carols for Palestine," an event that offered an "alternative carol service,"³² to "highlight current reality³³ in the Holy Land," was held at Anglican St. James Church in Piccadilly, London. The alternative carols demonized Israel, including³⁴ "Twelve Days of Christmas," which was sung as,³⁵ "Twelve assassinations/Eleven homes demolished/Ten wells obstructed/Nine sniper towers/Eight gunships firing/Seven checkpoints blocking/Six tanks a-rolling/Five settlement rings. Four falling bombs/Three trench guns/ Two trampled doves/And an uprooted olive tree." Lord Carey of Clifton, former Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke out³⁶ against the event, arguing that it demonstrated that "anti-Semitism and hostility to Jews still lurked beneath the surface in Christian circles in Britain." Referring to

²⁶ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/the_lancet_a_history_of_exploiting_medicine_for_political_warfare_against_israel

²⁷ <http://www.map-uk.org/press-releases/launch-of-crucial-new-research>

²⁸ <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/>

²⁹ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/Chalmers_clip.mp3

³⁰ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD8QRZcuK4o&list=UUC1fq7yHzg6_iHFnz05AiSQ#t=06m30s

³¹ <http://www.jpost.com/Jewish-World/Jewish-News/UK-NGOs-use-Christmas-to-attack-Israel>

³² <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3644656,00.html>

³³ <http://www.jpost.com/Jewish-World/Jewish-News/UK-NGOs-use-Christmas-to-attack-Israel>

³⁴ <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3644656,00.html>

³⁵ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/report-israeli-envoy-to-u-k-accuses-church-service-of-being-anti-semitic-1.259248>

³⁶ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/report-israeli-envoy-to-u-k-accuses-church-service-of-being-anti-semitic-1.259248>

the carol service, he added: “Such actions strengthen an anti-Israeli agenda, trivialize the political issues and nourish an anti-Semitic culture.”

- MAP’s website, includes a page titled “Stage a production of Seven Jewish Children,”³⁷ encouraging the producing of this play. The playwright is Caryl Churchill, a patron of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.³⁸ The page also contains links to a video performance³⁹ of the play and a downloadable script.⁴⁰ This play has been strongly criticized for its stereotyping of Jews. One critic wrote⁴¹ that this “is not a play about Israel... but it is a play explicitly about Jews. [Churchill’s] response to Gaza is to accuse Jews of having undergone a pathological transformation from victims to oppressors... It is Jewish thought and behaviour that links the play together, not Israel. The words Israel, Israelis, Zionism and Zionist are not mentioned once in the play, while Jews are mentioned in the title and in the text itself.” Another critic called the play “a blood libel”⁴² saying it was “the mainstreaming of the worst anti-Jewish stereotypes – for instance, that Jews glory in the shedding of non-Jewish blood.”
- MAP’s William Parry interviewed⁴³ Roger Waters, formerly of the rock band Pink Floyd. Parry asked Waters, “You spray painted ‘We don’t need no thought control’ on the separation wall in 2006. That can be read on different levels. How did you mean it?” Waters replied:

The **pro-Israel lobby in the US controls not just Congress but the Executive branch** as well. If a politician, Republican or Democrat, says one word against Israel around Congress or in Washington, that is **the end of their political career. This is not democracy** and it is entirely **counterproductive to the welfare and interests of American citizens.** (emphasis added)

In *Counterpunch* Waters is clear what he means by “pro-Israel lobby”

The **Jewish lobby** is extraordinary (sic) powerful here and particularly in the industry that I work in, the music industry and in rock’n roll as they say. I promise you, naming no names, I’ve spoken to people who are terrified that if they stand shoulder to shoulder with me they are going to get f**ked.

Amnesty’s Kristyan Benedict’s Tweets

Although Amnesty claims that it does not accept donations⁴⁴ from governments or political parties, in 2008 the organization received a 4-year grant from the UK Department for

³⁷ <http://www.map-uk.org/fundraise-for-us/7-jewish-children>

³⁸ <http://www.palestinecampaign.org/about/patrons/>

³⁹ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/stage/video/2009/apr/25/seven-jewish-children-caryl-churchill>

⁴⁰ <http://www.map-uk.org/downloads/get-involved/fundraise/SevenJewishChildrenScript.pdf>

⁴¹ <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2009/may/01/carylchurchill-theatre>

⁴² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_libel

⁴³ <http://www.map-uk.org/news/archive/post/67-pink-floyd-co-founder-roger-waters-speaks-to-map>

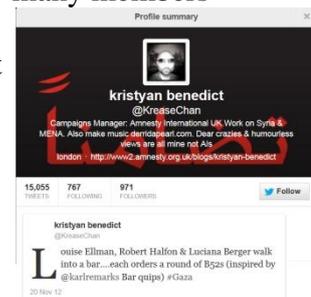
⁴⁴ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/who-we-are/faq#how-ai-works>

International Development (DFID), totaling £3,149,000.⁴⁵ In 2010, AI received £842,000 from DFID. Amnesty International and its branches have also received funding⁴⁶ from the European Commission, the Netherlands, the United States, and Norway.

Amnesty-UK's Campaign Manager for the Middle East and North Africa, Kristyan Benedict,⁴⁷ has a strong anti-Israel obsession, fuelled by global conspiracy theories. In an interview with Labour Friends of Palestine⁴⁸ (February 9, 2011), Benedict stated,

“The USA plays both Arab and Israel sides to generate money, power and control. The main reasons are: The Arms Trade: The conflict makes loads of money for the ‘weapons trade’. Israel always pushes the buttons to make all the surrounding Arabic states such as Syria, Lebanon feel insecure. So they then buy weapons off other states and this is a great profit-making industry... Also, it seems that many in the current coalition are driven by a feeling of ‘ethnic supremacy’.”

Benedict's antisemitism was most pronounced in an incident during the November 2012 conflict in Gaza. In response to a British Parliamentary session where many members supported Israel's operation, Benedict tweeted an attempted “joke,” suggesting that three Jewish MPs are warmongers. This tweet prompted an inquiry by John Mann MP, chair of the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group against Antisemitism, seeking clarification on Amnesty's policies towards preventing antisemitism.



Following the public criticism, Amnesty-UK launched disciplinary proceedings⁴⁹ against Benedict. After a few weeks, he was forced to apologize⁵⁰ for the “inappropriate and offensive” tweet, but Amnesty refused to acknowledge the antisemitism behind the incident, and Benedict remained on staff.

Following the 2014 Gaza war, Benedict posted a tweet (November 2014) comparing Israel to the Islamic State,⁵¹ claiming that “Israeli regimes [sic] response to our Gaza report: Amnesty is 'a propaganda tool for Hamas & other terror groups' (#JSIL?).” Amnesty's arms control campaigner, Rasha Abdul-Rahim, has also disseminated posts with the #JSIL hashtag.

The Twitter tag “#JSIL” stands for “Jewish State in Levant” and is meant to compare Israel and Judaism with the international terrorist organization ISIL/ISIS, implying that Israel's

⁴⁵ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/FIN40/013/2010/en/1efe033e-9922-4495-b4f7-36198a545a0f/fin400132010en.pdf>

⁴⁶ <http://www.amnesty.org/sites/impact.amnesty.org/files/PUBLIC/documents/AI-Ltd-and-AI-Charity-Ltd-Report-and-Financial-Statements.pdf>

⁴⁷ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/amnesty_uk_and_kristyan_benedict

⁴⁸ <http://www.lfpme.org/articles-p181>

⁴⁹ <http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/91684/amnesty-takes-disciplinary-action-over-officials-jewish-mps-tweet>

⁵⁰ <http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/94787/amnesty-international-orders-official-kristyan-benedict-apologise-antisemitic-twe>

⁵¹ <http://t.co/2lsTne8yeN>

activities are tantamount to the mass public executions and beheadings performed by ISIL. When confronted, Amnesty minimized community concerns saying:⁵² “This tweet was made in a personal capacity by a member of staff. It’s being investigated internally.” Amnesty has provided no details as to the status of this investigation, nor any results.

Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat

Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Netherlands⁵³ has allocated \$13 million to jointly fund Israeli and Palestinian NGOs through the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat⁵⁴ (the “Secretariat”). The donor countries are responsible for “deciding on the general framework and policy for the HR/IHL Secretariat; approving operational manuals and standard forms for the Secretariat; approving annual work plans and budget for the Secretariat; approving funding as proposed by the Secretariat; deciding to open Calls for Proposals for project support; approving annual narrative reports and audited financial statements by the Secretariat; and the Steering Committee commissions the mid-term review or any other external evaluation of the programme.”

The funds are managed by the Institute of Law at Birzeit University (IoL-BZU), a highly troubling partnership, that raises significant questions regarding the supporting governments’ commitment to combatting antisemitism.

In February 2014, IoL-BZU published a 15-page report, “Advocating for Palestinian Rights in conformity with International Law: Guidelines”⁵⁵ (English and Arabic). This document is a strategic manual for exploiting legal terms and rhetoric to demonize and isolate Israel, as well as to emphasize that Israel regardless of its borders is among “racist regimes which are absolutely prohibited in their entirety.” This report was posted prominently⁵⁶ on the Human Rights Secretariat Facebook page.

In September 2014, Ha’aretz exposed a policy at the university barring Jews from the Birzeit campus.⁵⁷ The report received little outrage among Birzeit’s government funders and it does not appear they have taken any steps to end the policy. Moreover, the IoL-BZU continues to administer the Secretariat’s program.

BADIL

*BADIL is funded by the Secretariat (joint funding of Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands), DanChurchAid (Denmark) and Trócaire (Ireland).*⁵⁸

BADIL, a Palestinian NGO that focuses on promoting the so-called “right of return,” and recipient of extensive funding from the Secretariat, has repeatedly been linked to antisemitic images and rhetoric. In one example, an antisemitic cartoon⁵⁹ won a monetary award in

⁵² <http://www.thejc.com/news/world-news/125161/amnesty-manager-compares-israel-islamic-state>

⁵³ For more information on funding from these states, see www.ngo-monitor.org

⁵⁴ <http://www.rightsecretariat.ps/>

⁵⁵ <http://lawcenter.birzeit.edu/iol/en/project/outputfile/6/986afcc6c9.pdf>

⁵⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/HRIHLSecretariat>

⁵⁷ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/haaretz-writer-booted-from-palestinian-school-because-shes-israeli/>

⁵⁸ For more information on the funding and activities of BADIL, see www.ngo-monitor.org

⁵⁹ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/data/images/Image/badil_cartoon.jpg

BADIL's 2010 Al-Awda Nakba caricature competition. The cartoon is a blatant representation of classic antisemitic tropes, including a Jewish man, garbed in traditional Hasidic attire, with a hooked nose and side locks. He stands above a dead child and skulls, holding a pitchfork dripping with blood. Another antisemitic image that was posted on the BADIL website, a monstrous octopus, is identified with a Star of David on its head and tentacles dripping with blood. The image of the "octopus" recalls the most virulent antisemitic imagery from the Nazi era. (See examples in Appendix A).

While antisemitic images, mentioned above, were removed from BADIL's website, after NGO Monitor contacted BADIL's donors, countless other offensive caricatures are still displayed. Many of the caricatures **call for the elimination of Israel and incite violence**. (See Appendix A). Moreover, while the Swiss government temporarily froze BADIL's Secretariat funding after the antisemitic cartoons were publicly revealed, the funding was renewed in 2014. There is no public documentation that an in-depth investigation was conducted regarding the explicitly antisemitic imagery or that controls were established to prevent a further occurrence. Indeed much of the offensive imagery remains on BADIL's website, as noted above.

In 2007, BADIL launched "A Call to Action" to mark 60 years of "Nakba." The campaign called upon "global civil society" to take part in "BDS, legal actions, media work, and public education and publicity campaigns." One program sought to enlist journalists "to organize a targeted campaign to expose the lies of AIPAC and the Anti-Defamation League and to expose the Jewish and Zionist community's double standards regarding Nakba & Occupation." Several large, European-government funded NGOs including Trocaire (Ireland), DanChurchAid (Denmark), and Oxfam Solidarity Belgium co-sponsored these activities.

MIFTAH

*MIFTAH donors in 2012-13 include:*⁶⁰ *International Republican Institute (United States), Norway, NGO Development Centre, United Nations Development Programme, Ireland, United Nations Population Fund, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Germany), National Endowment for Democracy (US), UN Women, Oxfam Novib (Netherlands), Arab Fund, U.S. Consulate and the British Council. In 2013, Miftah also received EUR 70,000*⁶¹ *from Ireland.*⁶²

MIFTAH published on its website an Arabic-language article in response to U.S. President Obama's support for Israel and his celebration of the Passover Seder, repeating the antisemitic blood libel. The author wrote, "Does Obama in fact know the relationship, for example, between 'Passover' and 'Christian blood' ...?!...the Jews used the blood of Christians in the Jewish Passover..." After significant public criticism, MIFTAH removed

⁶⁰ <http://www.miftah.org/Mact/MiftahActivityReport2012.pdf>

⁶¹ <https://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/allwebsitemedia/20newsandpublications/publicationpdfsenglish/irish-aid-2013-annual-report.pdf>

⁶² For more information on the funding and activities of MIFTAH, see www.ngo-monitor.org

the article, but attacked⁶³ the blogger who exposed the article for “smearing” the organization and downplayed the centrality of the blood libel in the article.

Theological Antisemitism

In the past decade, Christian pro-Palestinian activists have introduced resolutions calling on their respective churches to boycott Israel and divest from companies doing business in or with Israel. Through the use of regressive theological language these groups seek to weaken and disrupt Jewish-Christian relations as a means of diluting Christian support for Israel, particularly in North America.

This trend is the result of a concerted strategy developed by Palestinian Christians to synthesize Christian theology with Palestinian nationalism. The name given to this body of thought is Palestinian Liberation Theology, developed by Rev. Naim Ateek of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center of Jerusalem. This doctrine creates a theological framework for the advancement of the Palestinian nationalist agenda within Christian churches, and simultaneously revives religious antisemitic themes such as supersessionism (replacement theology).

Other Palestinian Christian NGOs (Holy Land Trust, Christ at the Checkpoint in Bethlehem, Kairos Palestine, and others) also promote this agenda.⁶⁴ In January 2014 the Israel Palestine Mission Network⁶⁵ of the Presbyterian Church (USA) published “Zionism Unsettled: A Congregational Study Guide,”⁶⁶ a 72-page glossy booklet presented as a theological argument against Zionism. This “study guide” was condemned⁶⁷ by Presbyterian⁶⁸ and Jewish leaders alike as one that “expresses demonization, distortion and imbalance,” and as “teaching⁶⁹ [Presbyterians]⁷⁰ that their Jewish neighbors are inherently racist and prone to abusing the rights of others.”

A radical fringe of Jews participate both in the promotion of Palestinian Liberation Theology and in defending groups such as Sabeel from accusations of antisemitism. Jewish Voice for Peace’s Rabbinical Council issued a “Statement of Support for the Sabeel Institute”⁷¹ that declared, “As rabbis and people of faith, we stand in solidarity with the work of Sabeel.”

⁶³ <http://www.miftah.org/Display.cfm?DocId=25950&CategoryID=2>

⁶⁴ This complements BDS strategists (<http://www.bdsmovement.net/2008/faith-based-125>) who view the churches as a key target for promoting the BDS agenda: “Religious institutions are seen in many communities as embodying important moral and ethical principles... Not only will successful divestment campaigns (in the churches) financially weaken the Occupation, but will raise both the public profile and legitimacy of the BDS campaign.”

⁶⁵ <http://israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/>

⁶⁶ <http://israelpalestinemissionnetwork.org/main/component/content/article/70/256-zionism-unsettled>

⁶⁷ <http://www.bdsinthepews.org/presbyterian-church--usa-.html>

⁶⁸ http://pfmep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=138:auburn-seminary-statement-on-zionism-unsettled&catid=151:press-releases&Itemid=364

⁶⁹ <http://www.christianpost.com/news/jewish-leaders-outraged-over-presbyterian-leaders-zionism-unsettled-study-guide-114820/#XZboXhEOKg17cSgC.99>

⁷⁰ http://pfmep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=138:auburn-seminary-statement-on-zionism-unsettled&catid=151:press-releases&Itemid=364

⁷¹ <http://epfnational.org/PIN/jewish-voice-for-peace-support-for-sabeel/>

Christian Aid

Christian Aid is funded by the British, Irish, Scottish⁷², U.S., Norwegian, and EU governments.⁷³

Christian Aid is a UK-based charity that claims to facilitate vital humanitarian assistance around the globe. At the same time, Christian Aid's anti-Israel campaigns display deep hostility towards the Jewish State, which it blames entirely for Palestinian suffering. During the July/August 2014 Gaza conflict, Christian Aid's disproportionate criticism of Israel reflected a double standard inconsistent with the concept of universal human rights.

For example, Christian Aid released statement⁷⁴ that claimed "the scale of destruction and suffering in Gaza is unprecedented; the current crisis should not be a surprise to anyone. It is the result of decades of political failure and continuous Palestinian displacement." The statement was not only false, it ignored the massive scale of destruction in other contemporaneous conflicts, such as the concurrent violence in Syria, Iraq, and Ukraine, and has perpetuated the canard that crimes committed by Israel and Jews overshadow similar or worse events elsewhere.

One of Christian Aid's partners, Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Center (and its UK branch, UK Friends of Sabeel) perpetuates theological antisemitism. Sabeel promotes a radical reinterpretation of the Bible based on "liberation theology," which claims that Palestinians represent a modern-day version of Jesus' suffering. This rhetoric is used to demonize Israel and Judaism.

Sabeel and Supersessionism

Governments providing funds to Sabeel include the Netherlands (via Dutch church-based aid organizations Kerk in Aktie and ICCO), Sweden (via Diakonia), and Canada (via the Catholic Organization for Development and Peace).⁷⁵

In delegitimizing Israel and Zionism, Sabeel's Palestinian Liberation Theology draws from, and revitalizes, historic Christian anti-Jewish teachings, especially replacement theology and deicide imagery.

Sabeel's founder Naim Ateek is on record saying or writing the following:

- "We share the Old Testament with Jewish people. And the heart of it, how do we re-interpret the text, is it an exclusive theology of land or an inclusive theology of land... It's a theology that opens up the whole world. For us Christians 'God so loved the world' it doesn't say 'God so loved the Jewish people'" (snickers in audience).⁷⁶

⁷² <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/aboutus/institutional-funding/institutional-funding.aspx>

⁷³ For more information on the funding and activities of Christian Aid, see www.ngo-monitor.org

⁷⁴ <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/July-2014/christian-aid-statement-on-gaza-impunity-must-end.aspx>

⁷⁵ For more information on the funding and activities of Sabeel, see www.ngo-monitor.org

⁷⁶ Sabeel Conference: "A Time for Truth; A Time for Action", First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, CA – March 5 – 6, 2010 (verbatim transcript).

- The “Jewish religion sees non-Jews as the strangers in the land,⁷⁷ without rights... That is why many of our people do not want to have anything to do with God. The god they see before them is a bigot, racist, land grabber, discriminator, prejudiced, hateful killer.. The true God must re-emerge. The God we have come to know in Christ is the God of peace, not war; the God of love, not violence; the God of justice and love, not injustice and hate.”
- “The tragedy of many Zionists today is that they have locked themselves into the nationalist concept of God. They are trapped in it and they will be freed only if they discard their primitive image of God for a more universal one...”⁷⁸

The Presbyterian Israel Palestine Mission Network, Divestment and Antisemitism

Within various mainline denominations in the U.S., Canada, UK, Europe, South Africa, and Australia are thousands of pro-Palestinian activists who accept and promote Palestinian Liberation Theology. In the last decade, these activists have formed single-issue caucuses within their respective denominations to promote the Palestinian national agenda mainly through attempts at advancing divestment and boycott resolutions and various other initiatives that deny Israel’s right to exist. High-profile church-based campaigns will continue in 2015-2016, with events in the United Church of Christ (June 2015); Episcopal Church (June/July 2015); Presbyterian Church (USA- June 2016); United Church of Canada (April 2015); and Methodist Church of Britain (April 2016).

Previous efforts have been met with varying degrees of success depending on the denomination. However, the greatest impact has been serious friction between Jewish communities and some of these denominations.

An important case in point is the Presbyterian Church (USA). Within the PCUSA, the main group advocating BDS is the Israel Palestine Mission Network (IPMN), with the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship following suit.

Evidence⁷⁹ unearthed from the IPMN Facebook page shows that the group’s leaders demonstrate a strong undercurrent of overt anti-Jewish bigotry. Numerous postings uploaded to this site by IPMN members over a period of two years demonstrate an ongoing pattern of expressions of antisemitism, including: a “Zionist controlled America [has a] desperate lust” for war with Iran; “Jewish interests” are “corrupting” the US government, and the media is “owned” and “operated” by these same “Jewish interests”; the “Christian Holy Land” is “occupied” by the “zionist (sic) instigator”; Racial theories of Jewish origins claiming Ashkenazi Jews are not racially “Semitic,” are actually “Khazars,” and therefore should not be in the Middle East; Israeli Jews should be ethnically cleansed: “Helen Thomas was right, ‘Go back to Russia, Germany...’ Just leave.”; “IRAN! Thank God for them! The only Zionist-free land left on earth.”

⁷⁷ <http://web.archive.org/web/20040223153025/http://www.sabeel.org/old/conf2001/ateek.htm>

⁷⁸ Justice and Only Justice: A Palestinian Theology of Liberation, Orbis Books, 1989.

⁷⁹

<http://nebula.wsimg.com/fc9189cf0608a51be600c475ec2784fb?AccessKeyId=87CC33514E883A55A586&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

The bigotry expressed by IPMN members and tolerated by IPMN leaders and PCUSA staff is a moral failing of the church. Serious steps must be taken by the church to remedy this situation, including an apology to the Jewish community, for the church to be able to claim any moral standing on the Middle East

Christmas Campaigns

NGOs and well-known charities consistently exploit the Christmas season for anti-Israel campaigns. NGO Monitor analysis⁸⁰ has shown that these groups use offensive, inflammatory rhetoric in Christmas carols, holiday messages and cards, nativity scenes, and other products. Groups such as Christian Aid (UK), Kairos Palestine, Sabeel, War on Want (UK), Amos Trust, and Adalah-NY⁸¹ have repeatedly used theological themes to advance immoral anti-Israel efforts and, in some cases, antisemitism. Both Kairos Palestine and Sabeel invoke antisemitic imagery by linking their attacks on Israel to the ancient libel blaming the Jews for the death of Jesus (deicide). Other organizations promote the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement (BDSM).

Examples:

- The Presbyterian Church (USA) representative in the Holy Land, Rev. Kate Taber, wrote in a Christmas 2014 email newsletter: “As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child this season, it is impossible for me not to imagine what his life would have been like, or Mary’s as his mother, had he been born in Bethlehem today.”
- Sabeel’s 2014 annual Christmas message,⁸² written by Naim Ateek, compares the historical period in which Jesus lived to current time claiming that the “there are certain similarities between the political conditions in Palestine during the times of Jesus’ birth and the political situation in Palestine today. There is a flagrant occupation that dominates and oppresses people; and there are words that describe what people go through: fear, insecurity, instability, suffering, grief, despair, and other negative feelings that a repressive empire and an Israeli rightwing government can produce.” This is a blatantly antisemitic analogy, equating Israel with the evil Roman Empire.
- UK-based Amos Trust advertises an annual Bethlehem Pack,⁸³ which contains the following theological references: “Being a Jew living in Nazareth, Jesus would not be allowed by his own leadership to enter Bethlehem. He would have to sneak into Bethlehem ‘illegally’ and maybe get searched at a checkpoint.”
- The 2014 Christmas booklet⁸⁴ distributed by Kairos Palestine encourages religiously motivated campaigns against Israel regarding Palestinian prisoners claiming that “As for the prisoners, they suffer the most among all Palestinians. They sacrificed long years of their lives for others.” Kairos Palestine does not mention that many of these prisoners have been convicted of murder and other heinous crimes.

⁸⁰ [http://www.ngo-](http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/come_all_ye_hatere_ngo_exploitation_of_religious_themes_to_demonize_israel0)

monitor.org/article/come_all_ye_hatere_ngo_exploitation_of_religious_themes_to_demonize_israel0

⁸¹ For more information on the funding and activities of these organizations, see www.ngo-monitor.org

⁸² <http://globalministries.org/news/mee/sabeel-christmas-message-2014.html>

⁸³ <http://www.amostrust.org/resources/free-resource-packs-downloads/the-bethlehem-pack-2014/>

⁸⁴ http://www.kairosbritain.org.uk/resources/documents/Advent-Resources/Christmas-Alert_2014_English_80MB.pdf

- Nora Carmi, Kairos Palestine's Coordinator, invoked in this booklet the specter of a nefarious "Jewish Lobby" stating that "We cannot accept that the Jewish lobby intimidates us, cripples us and lulls us into a roaring silence, blocking our conscience into passive inaction."
- The UK Palestinian Solidarity Campaign (PSC) continues to sell a politicized Christmas card⁸⁵ related to the conflict. This year's version includes a sketched version of "Palestine" with death toll statistics and distorted legal claims on the back. PSC is also advertising "Open Bethlehem" screenings,⁸⁶ a film that claims Bethlehem is an "imprisoned" town.

Holocaust Rhetoric and Imagery

As highlighted in the EU working definition, "accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust" and "drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis" are forms of antisemitism. Many NGOs engage in these accusations and comparisons and use Nazi or Holocaust rhetoric in their campaigns to describe alleged Israeli abuses toward the Palestinians. Terms such as "ghettos," "ethnic cleansing," "genocide," and "concentration camps" frequently appear.

In a June 2007 report, Amnesty International referred to Israel's security barrier, erected to protect against a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings targeting restaurants, malls, and buses that had killed hundreds and wounded thousands, as "the Wall of Death."⁸⁷ This phrase mirrored an appellation used to describe the notorious site near Block 11 at Auschwitz where thousands of prisoners were summarily executed.

Many NGOs have exploited the 2008-09 and 2014 Gaza War to engage in this form of demonization. For instance, On July 28, 2014, the Alternative Information Center (in 2013 funded by the EU, Diakonia [Sweden], Mundubat [Spain], the Geneva Municipality, and CCFD [France]) posted a blog titled "Renewed Slaughter in Gaza Ghetto,"⁸⁸ casting the war as an opportunity "to get rid of the unnecessary indigenous population" and accusing Israel of "continued ethnic cleansing, a worsening of the apartheid situation, war crimes and being bogged down again and again in a swamp of blood." Similarly, AIC's Michael Warschawski issued highly inflammatory remarks during the 2008-09 war, offensively stating:

Ehud Barak, Tzipi Livni, Gabi Ashkenazi and Ehud Olmert don't you dare show your faces at any memorial ceremony for the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto, Lublin, Vilna or Kishinev.... You are not representing any continuity with the Warsaw Ghetto, because today the Warsaw Ghetto is right in front of you, targeted by your own tanks and artillery, and its name is Gaza....⁸⁹

⁸⁵ <http://www.palestinecampaign.org/xmascard/>

⁸⁶ <http://www.palestinecampaign.org/events/uk-screenings-open-bethlehem/>

⁸⁷ Amnesty International, "Enduring Occupation: Palestinians under siege in the West Bank," June 2007.

⁸⁸ <http://www.alternativenews.org/archive/index.php/blogs/other-comentators/8347-renewed-slaughter-in-gaza-ghetto>

⁸⁹ For more on the Alternative Information Center and its funders, see <http://www.ngo->

Jeff Halper of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions wrote of Israel's "warehousing" of Palestinians, which "is worse than apartheid...It is the ultimate form of oppression before actual genocide...it is a form of cultural genocide that can lead to worse" ("Israel to the Palestinians: submit, leave or die,"⁹⁰ Redress Online, July 13, 2014). And, Electronic Intifada posted a blog referring to the Israel Defense Force as "the murderous forces engaging in the genocide of the Palestinian people" ("Ending Zionism is a feminist issue,"⁹¹ Nadia Elia, July 24, 2014).

Al Mezan, a Gaza-based NGO that receives substantial funding from the EU, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Ireland accused Israeli officials of "inciting a 'holocaust' (genocide)."

During the public hearings of the UN Goldstone mission, officials from the Gaza Community Mental Health Program stated that:

With time the Israeli soldier has the image of absolute superiority.... There we see the arrogance of power and he uses it without thinking of humanity at all ... inside Israel there is an identification with the aggressor, the Nazis.

Other NGOs, Mada al-Carmel and Adalah, accuse Israel and Jews of "exploiting" the Holocaust at the expense of Palestinian self determination:

We believe that exploiting [the Holocaust] and its consequences in order to legitimize the right of the Jews to establish a state at the expense of the Palestinian people serves to belittle the universal, human, and moral lessons to be learned from this catastrophic event, which concerns the whole of humanity.

In 2010, Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) President Emeritus Michael Ratner accused⁹² the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum of trying to promote a "narrative" wherein "the Holocaust is used to ask us to wash away the sins of the occupier."

Human Rights Watch

In August 2014, Ken Roth, Executive Director of Human Rights Watch retweeted on his Twitter feed a highly propagandistic advertisement published in *The New York Times* and *The Guardian* equating "Nazi genocide" with "the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza." (Professor Deborah Lipstadt refers to this as soft-core denigration of the Holocaust.) This advertisement was placed in the names of 327 "Jewish survivors and descendants of survivors and victims of Nazi genocide" who "unequivocally condemn the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza." In the text, Israel is condemned for "colonialism, racism, and genocide," and unnamed "right-wing Israelis" are compared to Nazis; it ends with support for BDS in the form of a "full economic,

ngo-monitor.org/article/alternative_information_center_aic_profile; Michael Warschawski, "Absolutely Not in Their Name, Not in Ours," AIC, January 18, 2009.

⁹⁰ <http://www.redressonline.com/2014/07/israel-to-the-palestinians-submit-leave-or-die/>

⁹¹ <http://electronicintifada.net/content/ending-zionism-feminist-issue/13631>

⁹² <http://michaelratner.com/blog/?p=55>

these pathetic excuses as legitimate.⁹⁴

HRW's Director of its Middle East and North Africa Division, Sarah Leah Whitson, has also exhibited similar animus and bias. Whitson's Twitter account includes comments such as:

- **#Netanyahu** vengeance in action: RT @guardian **Israel** destroys **#Gaza** buildings, Palestine teen +shot dead
- When is magic nondemocratic line crossed? Already there @bennunanat: Peres at Rabin Square: **Israel** cannot remain democratic without peace;
- not first time or first war either: **#Israel** deliberately attacking medical workers in **#Gaza**, Amnesty says <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/charlotte-silver/israel-deliberately-attacking-medical-workers-gaza-amnesty-says> ...

Like Roth, Whitson frequently relied upon fringe sources that frequently traffic in bizarre anti-Israel conspiracy theories. She has called Israel "medieval," has expressed extreme antagonism towards the US Jewish community, and praised demagogues like Norman Finkelstein (author of a book trafficking in antisemitic stereotypes entitled "The Holocaust Industry"), remarking, "I continue to have tremendous respect and admiration for him, because as you probably know, making Israeli abuses the focus of one's life work is a thankless but courageous task that may well end up leaving all of us quite bitter."⁹⁵ In 2009, Whitson invoked an antisemitic canard while fundraising in Saudi Arabia, citing the need to counter pro-Israel "pressure groups."

In February 2015, Whitson appeared to equate the 2014 Gaza War to Nazi Genocide:

Sarah Leah Whitson @sarahleah1
@BBCKimGhattas @DRovera @HolocaustMuseum @BBCNewsUS should also show pics of death and destruction in #Gaza
12:40 PM - 5 Feb 2015

Prominent journalists and commentators widely criticized Whitson for her actions. Robert Satloff, Executive Director of the prominent Washington Institute also commented, "Sorry - @HolocaustMuseum shd be reserved for genocide. To include Gaza is insult to real genocide victims."⁹⁶

Roth's and Whitson's bias against Israel and their wider moral failures are consistent with other expressions of extreme hostility, as demonstrated in numerous examples over the past several years, including:

- HRW's "senior military expert" and author of many reports on Israel was exposed

⁹⁴ <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/09/does-human-rights-watches-kenneth-roth-understand-the-nature-of-prejudice/380556/>

⁹⁵ Jeffrey Goldberg, "Human Rights Watch and Hezbollah Supporter Norman Finkelstein," The Atlantic, April 27, 2015, <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2010/04/human-rights-watch-and-hezbollah-supporter-norman-finkelstein/39592/>.

⁹⁶ <https://twitter.com/jeffreycgoldberg/status/563361504763072515>

- as obsessed with Nazi memorabilia;⁹⁷
- Whitson was responsible for marketing the Qaddafi regime as “human rights reformers”,⁹⁸
 - Ken Roth’s denial that Iran’s President Ahmedinajad engaged in incitement to genocide, claiming that he was merely engaging in “advocacy” for genocide instead;⁹⁹
 - The NGO appointed a suspected senior activist in the PFLP terrorist organization to its Mid-East advisory board;¹⁰⁰
 - HRW’s “Emergencies Director” was exposed making prejudicial statements about Israel on a secret Facebook group, including commenting on a report as “typical IDF lies.”¹⁰¹

Double Standards and the Durban Strategy

Beyond classical and theological antisemitism, NGOs also use rhetoric that violates antisemitism “with regard to the state of Israel,” as appear in the U.S. and EU definitions – as shown in the overt examples presented below. Israel’s self-defense actions against terrorist groups such as Hamas, as in the 2014 Gaza war, are often the trigger for these accusations.

In this context a wide range of NGOs delegitimize and demonize Israel, with frequent accusations of “war crimes,” violations of international law, “indiscriminate killings,” “targeting civilians,” apartheid, and racism, in which the context of terror is erased and Israeli is singled out for obsessive condemnation. Their reporting on Israel far exceeds output on any other conflict area, including Syria, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Nigeria, Sudan, Somalia, and Colombia.

War on Want

War on Want (WoW) is a UK-registered charity that conducts ongoing political campaigns that demonize Israel and undermine its right to self-defense.

Throughout the July/August 2014 Gaza conflict, WoW consistently demonized Israel and denied the basic concepts of human rights for Israelis or Jews. In a blatant double-standard, WoW erased the context of Palestinian rocket fire, terror, and murder of Israelis,¹⁰² but accused Israeli leaders of “murderous assaults” on the Palestinian people, as well as “ethnic cleansing,”¹⁰³ “apartheid,”¹⁰⁴ “collective punishment,”¹⁰⁵ and “war crimes.”¹⁰⁶ In this way,

⁹⁷ NGO Monitor, "Expert or Ideologues?: HRW's Defense of Marc Garlasco's Nazi Fetish," September 10, 2015, http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/expert_or_ideologues_hrw_s_defense_of_marc_garlasco_s_nazi_fetish.

⁹⁸ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/hrw_s_sarah_leah_whitson_and_libya_marketing_qaddafi.

⁹⁹ <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887324439804578105691046734674>.

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/02/15/shawan-jabarins-controversial-appointment-to-human-rights-watch-board.html>.

¹⁰¹ <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/may/22/reporters-human-rights-activists-trash-israel-secr/?page=all>.

¹⁰² <http://www.waronwant.org/campaigns/justice-for-palestine>

¹⁰³ <http://www.waronwant.org/help-us-stop-ethnic-cleansing-in-palestine>

¹⁰⁴ <http://www.waronwant.org/news/latest-news/18185-gaza-under-attack-stop-arming-israel-bds-now>

WoW perpetuated the notion that actions committed by Israel are always criminal and that Palestinians lack moral agency for their crimes.

In July 2014, with antisemitic tensions already growing in the UK,¹⁰⁷ and despite an increase in Palestinian terrorism against Jews (in particular the kidnapping and murder of three teenagers), WoW launched a campaign against Israel's security barrier.¹⁰⁸ Erasing the central role of the barrier in protecting the right to life of civilians in Israel, the campaign featured a short film¹⁰⁹ claiming that the "Wall... is the most barbaric inhumane, instrument that I have managed to ramble."

Amnesty International

Headquartered in London, Amnesty International's frequent and disproportionate condemnations of Israel contribute significantly to the climate of Jewish demonization in the UK. Amnesty's statements and publications during the July/August 2014 Gaza conflict disproportionately single out Israel for condemnation, misrepresenting the complexity of the conflict, while at the same time ignoring¹¹⁰ Hamas' actions and the terror group's antisemitic charter.¹¹¹

Amnesty's statements were then used to fuel anti-Israel¹¹² protests that contributed to threats and intimidation of UK Jewry.¹¹³ In addition, Amnesty has yet to issue a single report or official statement in the past decade regarding the rising tide of antisemitism in Europe or the UK.

Palestinian Solidarity Campaign (PSC)

The Palestine Solidarity Campaign¹¹⁴ (PSC) is a leader and chief proponent of BDS and anti-Israel campaigns in the UK, which frequently invokes the Israel apartheid libel. Although PSC claims to be anti-Zionist and not antisemitic, it was a primary organizer of August 1, 2014 demonstrations¹¹⁵ that specifically targeted Jewish-owned TESCO and Sainsbury's Stores. In a blatant display of Jew-hatred, PSC-affiliated demonstrators destroyed kosher food items at the stores. In fear of further destruction of kosher food products and the possible targeting of Jewish customers, store managers subsequently removed all kosher

¹⁰⁵ <http://waronwant.org/campaigns/justice-for-palestine/free-gaza>

¹⁰⁶ <http://waronwant.org/campaigns/winning-justice-for-palestine/hidden/inform/12573-report-profiting-from-the-occupation>

¹⁰⁷ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/israelgaza-conflict-antisemitic-incidents-up-500-in-uk-since-start-of-bombardment-of-gaza-9681324.html>

¹⁰⁸ <http://waronwant.org/campaigns/justice-for-palestine/the-wall-must-fall>

¹⁰⁹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnCrGD1H_ZI

¹¹⁰ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/amnesty_international_failed_methodology_corruption_and_anti_israel_bias

¹¹¹ <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article.php?operation=print&id=4313>

¹¹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfRVDe1P5LU>

¹¹³ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2727266/Sainsbury-s-strips-kosher-food-shelves-fear-attacks-anti-Israeli-protesters.html>

¹¹⁴ <http://www.palestinecampaign.org/about/#sthash.KEd4BSGZ.dpuf>

¹¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/PSCupdates/status/495173151828226049/photo/1>

food.¹¹⁶ The fact that Israeli products not displayed as specifically kosher were not targeted, gives the impression that protestors specifically targeted products associated with Jews.¹¹⁷

BDS and Double Standards

The EU definition of antisemitism¹¹⁸ lists “Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation,” while excluding “criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country.”

BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) campaigns, a central outgrowth of the 2001 Durban Conference, are one manifestation of this form of antisemitism. BDS is rooted in immoral double standards that single out and condemn Israel as a pariah state and collectively punish Israelis. BDS also rejects the very existence of Israel as a Jewish entity, seeking to eliminate Jewish self-determination.

In addition to these double standards of action, NGOs advance double standards in their one-sided condemnations of and disproportionate focus on Israel. One example raised in the U.S. government definition¹¹⁹ is “Multilateral organizations focusing on Israel only for peace or human rights investigations,” such as the NGO-driven resolutions and “fact-finding” missions of UN Human Rights Council (i.e., the Goldstone report¹²⁰ and the Schabas commission). Similarly, systematic NGO Monitor research¹²¹ has shown that, for years, Human Rights Watch devoted disproportionate resources to allegations and politicized attacks against Israel relative to other Middle Eastern countries.

Electronic Intifada

The Electronic Intifada website is one of the most prolific purveyors of new antisemitism in the world. One of Electronic Intifada’s main benefactors has been the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), a Dutch inter-church development organization. In 2012, the Dutch Government **provided**¹²² ICCO with €82 million (84% of total budget). ICCO also received €5,310,874 from the EU, meaning approximately 90% of ICCO’s budget is from government entities.

Between 2006 and 2009, €150,000 was provided by the Dutch government¹²³ to Electronic Intifada from ICCO. In November 2010, after NGO Monitor revealed¹²⁴ this funding, Dutch FM Uri Rosenthal told the *Jerusalem Post*, “I will look into the matter personally.”¹²⁵ In 2010, ICCO provided another €50,000, claiming it was “support from private funds.” Rosenthal

¹¹⁶ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2727266/Sainsbury-s-strips-kosher-food-shelves-fear-attacks-anti-Israeli-protesters.html>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/aug/17/sainsburys-removes-kosher-food-anti-israel-protesters>

¹¹⁸ <http://www.european-forum-on-antisemitism.org/working-definition-of-antisemitism/english/>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

¹²⁰ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/goldstone_and_ngos

¹²¹ <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article.php?id=2776>

¹²² <http://www.icco.nl/nl/linkservid/962F03F8-DEF6-0FFB-9A25697987AE0B7E/showMeta/0/>

¹²³ <http://www.icco.nl/nl/actueel/nieuwsoverzicht/2328/vragen-en-antwoorden-over-partnerorganisatie-electronic-intifada>

¹²⁴ http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/ngo_monitor_reveals_dutch_gov_t_funding_for_electronic_intifada

¹²⁵ <http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=196852>

dismissed this as “disingenuous.”¹²⁶ In violation of transparency standards, both ICCO and Electronic Intifada have refused to disclose funding amounts since 2010.

Ali Abunimah, the founder of Electronic Intifada is also a leader in promoting antisemitism on Twitter. In line with the classic antisemitic trope of warmongering Jews, Abunimah tweeted¹²⁷ (April 8, 2015) a cartoon portraying a hook-nosed Jew supporting a member of ISIS trying to kill a Palestinian. He has also tweeted that Zionism “is one of the worst forms of anti-Semitism¹²⁸ in existence today,” claiming that it “dehumanizes its victims, denies their history, and has a cult-like worship of ethnoracial purity.” He also wrote¹²⁹ “That is something Zionism shares with anti-Semitism, a disdain for actual Jewish culture and life as it existed,” and “Zionism is a distortion of Judaism.¹³⁰ We must not blame Jews.”

Holocaust references appear frequently in his comments. He calls Gaza a “ghetto for surplus non-Jews,”¹³¹ compares the Israeli press to “Der Sturmer,”¹³² and claims “Supporting Zionism is not atonement for the Holocaust, but its continuation in spirit.”¹³³ He calls Gaza a “concentration camp” and repeated a claim¹³⁴ that IDF statements are the words “of a Nazi.”

In a recent example among of countless others, the Electronic Intifada provides a stage¹³⁵ for known anti-Israel and anti-semitic academic Steven Salaita, who has tweeted¹³⁶ such accusations such as “Israel tested weapons on the people of Gaza,” and that Israeli leaders “derive pleasure from killing Palestinians.”

Palestinian Forum in Britain

The Palestinian Forum in Britain¹³⁷ (The Forum) is an independent organization that claims to serve the British Palestinian community and promote the Palestinian cause. Among its general principles, the Forum believes that all of Palestine, including the modern State of Israel, is an Arab Islamic land.¹³⁸ The group repudiates any Jewish connection to Israel and denies the right of the Jewish State to exist. In conjunction with these antisemitic principles, The Forum’s website uses Nazi imagery,¹³⁹ specifically a Jewish Star on Nazi armbands to depict IDF soldier’s action in Gaza.

¹²⁶ <http://www.minbuza.nl/nieuws/2011/01/rosenthal-heeft-pittig-gesprek-met-icco.html>

¹²⁷ <https://twitter.com/AliAbunimah/status/586025770922958848>

¹²⁸ <http://commentisfreewatch.files.wordpress.com/2010/10/ali-1.jpg>

¹²⁹ <http://twitter.com/avinunu/status/4356271767560192>

¹³⁰ <http://twitter.com/#!/AliAbunimah/status/132454284611686400>

¹³¹ <http://twitter.com/avinunu/status/28786223960>

¹³² <http://twitter.com/avinunu/status/27868373240>

¹³³ <http://twitter.com/avinunu/status/28726521563>

¹³⁴ <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article10215.shtml>

¹³⁵ <http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/steven-salaita/politico-refuses-publish-rebuttal-michael-orens-anti-semitism-smear>

¹³⁶ <https://storify.com/barrydeutsch/steve-salaita-s-controversial-tweets-about-israel>

¹³⁷ <http://www.palestinianforum.org.uk/en/about-us-en/about-pfb>

¹³⁸ <http://www.palestinianforum.org.uk/en/about-us-en/our-vision>

¹³⁹ <http://www.palestinianforum.org.uk/en/palestine-en/genral-information/67-israeli-strike-on-gaza-wounds-popular-resistance-committees-official>

The Forum members were prevalent at demonstrations during the July/August 2014 Gaza conflict. These demonstrators called for the Jewish State to be replaced by Palestine “from the river to the sea.”¹⁴⁰

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the extensive involvement of NGOs in promoting antisemitism and governmental and UN support of these activities, NGO Monitor urges the Secretary General to adopt the following recommendations in his report:

- Governments must enact clear policies regarding antisemitism and establishing where campaigns regarding Israel cross the line into antisemitism.
- Governments must convey clear guidelines to NGO grantees regarding their activities to prevent support for antisemitism.
- Funding mechanisms for NGOs must have full transparency, including public access to the decision making processes, documents, and all evaluations.
- Funding for NGOs engaging in antisemitism should be immediately halted, and the NGO should be disqualified from future funding.
- Governments should take an immediate and comprehensive overhaul of their funding to NGOs operating the Arab-Israeli conflict to ensure current funding is not being used to promote anti-Semitism. The Jewish community must be included in this process.

¹⁴⁰ <http://www.palestinianforum.org.uk/ar/photos/category/3-demonstrations-outside-the-israeli-embassy-in-london>

APPENDIX A: Images from Badil's Al-Awda Nakba caricature competition posted on Badil's Website

