

# FREE PALESTINE

## STOP THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA



### Press Release

For Immediate Release

#### [Categorical Rejection of Baseless Israeli Allegations and Exposure of the State-Driven Defamation Campaign Targeting Organisers of the Freedom and Sumud Flotillas, Their Humanitarian Mission, and the Global Solidarity Movement for Gaza](#)

In recent days, the Israeli occupation state - through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, and other state apparatuses - has unleashed a coordinated smear campaign against international activists, solidarity organisations, and particularly those of us working to end the criminal siege of Gaza through the *Freedom* and *Sumud* flotillas.

My name has been deliberately included in defamatory reports issued by Israeli ministries, notably on 30 September. I state unequivocally: the allegations of terrorism levelled against me are false, fabricated, and politically motivated. They form part of a systematic strategy to criminalise peaceful solidarity work, intimidate international activists, and manufacture consent for Israel's ongoing acts of piracy, including the kidnapping of hundreds of human rights defenders sailing to Gaza with humanitarian aid.

#### **(1) A Deliberate Defamation Strategy**

Israel's actions are not isolated but part of a state doctrine of defamation against those who challenge its apartheid and colonial rule. By branding activists as extremists, Israel attempts to neutralise opposition to its crimes, delegitimise solidarity networks, and shift attention away from its violations of international law.

Central to this policy is the 2010 Reut Institute report, '*Building a Political Firewall Against the Assault on Israel's Legitimacy: London as a Case Study*'. This report explicitly argued that international solidarity movements constituted a 'strategic threat' to Israel. Far from being neutral analysis, it served as a blueprint for Israeli ministries to actively smear, intimidate, and harass activists globally. The state has since operationalised the recommendations in the report, creating an international infrastructure of repression and defamation.

## **(2) Misrepresentation and Fabrication of Evidence**

The so-called 'evidence' cited against me, including a letter from Hamas to the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad (PCPA), does not demonstrate any connection - financial, organisational, or operational - between Hamas and the PCPA. While the letter itself may be authentic, its selective presentation by Israeli authorities is misleading, designed to suggest illicit links where none exist. The Popular Conference, whose founding I attended in 2017 alongside 6,000 Palestinians from 70 countries, is widely recognised internationally as a legitimate political and social platform for the Palestinian diaspora and is designated a terrorist organisation only by Israel.

This attempt to conflate my lawful participation in the PCPA with alleged terrorism is a deliberate distortion of fact. It relies on guilt by association, recycling publicly known information about my peaceful and lawful political activities and misrepresenting them as evidence of wrongdoing. No part of my involvement - nor the operations of the Popular Conference - has any connection to violence or illegal activity. The framing of this correspondence as 'proof' is part of a broader pattern in which Israel weaponises contextually unrelated documents to manufacture allegations against activists who challenge its policies and work to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza.

## **(3) Misleading Imagery and Context**

The photographs being circulated as 'proof' of links to Hamas are more than 16 years old. They originate from the *Viva Palestina* convoy, organised by British MP George Galloway in 2009 after Israel's brutal 2008-2009 'Operation Cast Lead' against the people of Gaza. The images used show international activists delivering humanitarian aid, not committing crimes.

It is essential to note that at the time of the convoy, Hamas was the democratically elected governing authority in Gaza, with over 60% of the parliamentary seats in elections internationally monitored and accepted as fair. Every foreign delegation entering Gaza, whether humanitarian or parliamentary, interacted with Hamas in its capacity as governing authority. Israel's recycling of these photographs strips them of their historical and political context in order to fabricate 'terror links'.

## **(4) Timing and Political Intent**

The defamatory reports were strategically timed to coincide with Israel's violent assault on the Sumud Flotilla in international waters. Just days ago, Israeli forces stormed, seized, and abducted flotilla participants, committing an act of piracy under international law.

Israel knows these crimes are indefensible. Thus, it brands flotilla participants as 'terrorists' and reframes humanitarian voyages as 'Hamas flotillas' in order to manufacture consent for state violence. This rhetorical sleight of hand is a pre-emptive justification for the brutal treatment Israel intends to inflict on peaceful activists resisting its siege.

## **(5) Humanitarian Mission, Not Terrorism**

My participation in flotilla missions and humanitarian convoys is part of a collective initiative, organised through the Freedom Flotilla Coalition - an international alliance of civil society, human rights, and humanitarian organisations. It is a grassroots, lawful, and peaceful campaign to challenge an illegal blockade that has collectively punished over two million Palestinians in Gaza for nearly two decades.

To equate this work with terrorism is not only defamatory but obscene. It represents an inversion of reality: portraying those delivering food and medicine as criminals, while concealing the true criminality of Israel's siege, which is responsible for starvation, destruction, and mass suffering in Gaza.

#### **(6) Manufactured Smears by Ad Kan and Israeli Agencies**

The current smear campaign has been actively fuelled by Ad Kan, an Israeli organisation founded in 2015 to attack Palestinians and their allies abroad. Ad Kan is notorious for fabricating evidence, producing false reports on activists, and passing these to Mossad and other security agencies. It has also advocated for sanctions, financial restrictions, and the freezing of bank accounts targeting Palestinians in Europe.

Most disturbingly, Ad Kan has publicly called for Palestinians to be physically targeted. This group functions as a paramilitary arm of the Israeli state in the realm of propaganda, disinformation, and incitement. Its role in smearing flotilla activists exemplifies how Israel relies on a network of proxy organisations to launder falsehoods and manufacture threats where none exist.

#### **(7) Legal Action and Precedent**

I reserve my full right to pursue legal remedies against those who propagate these defamatory claims. This is not an empty threat. In 2021, I successfully sued World-Check, compelling the company to remove my name from its terrorism list and compensate me for the damage caused by its false classification. This legal precedent demonstrates both the falsity of these accusations and the accountability that can be demanded from those who spread them.

#### **Resources:**

Reut Institute Report: <https://bit.ly/4gRebU4>

Israeli Foreign Ministry Report (30.09): <https://bit.ly/479o24j>

Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs' website on the Sumud Flotilla: <https://bit.ly/3IO2b9p>

**END.**

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***Chairman***

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