

## **Nationwide fundraisers for the Gaza activities of Islamic Relief Worldwide, a charity group with ties to Hamas.**

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Americans for Peace and Tolerance

[www.hatefreeamerica.org](http://www.hatefreeamerica.org)

Around the United States, Islamist-affiliated Muslim organizations have been holding fundraisers to raise money for the Gaza activities of Islamic Relief USA, which is a subsidiary of Islamic Relief Worldwide, a British-based charity.<sup>1</sup> Islamic Relief Worldwide has multiple associations with Hamas fundraising and with the Muslim Brotherhood leadership in the U.S., Europe, and Sudan.

- In May, 2006, the Project Director for Islamic Relief Worldwide's Gaza branch, Iyaz Ali, was arrested by the Israel Security Agency (ISA). According to the Israeli Prime Minister's office, Ali admitted to providing material support to Hamas and was subsequently deported. The Prime Minister's Office asserts that: *"The IRW's activities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip are carried out by social welfare organizations controlled and staffed by Hamas operatives. The intensive activities of these associations are designed to further Hamas's ideology among the Palestinian population."* The ISA claims that *"incriminating files were found on Ali's computer, including documents that attested to the organization's ties with illegal Hamas funds abroad (in the UK and in Saudi Arabia) and in Nablus. Also found were photographs of swastikas superimposed on IDF symbols, of senior Nazi German officials, of Osama Bin Laden and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, as well as many photographs of Hamas military activities."*<sup>2</sup>
- Islamic Relief Worldwide is a founding member of the Union of Good – an umbrella coalition for a network of Islamic charities that provide support for Hamas.<sup>3</sup> It was founded and led by Yusuf al Qaradawi. On November 12, 2008, the U.S. Treasury Department designated the Union of Good as a Specially Designated Terrorist Entity. The Treasury press release announcing the designation stated: "The leadership of Hamas created the Union of Good in late-2000, shortly after the start of the second Intifada, in order to facilitate the transfer of funds to Hamas. The Union of Good acts as a broker for Hamas by facilitating financial transfers between a web of charitable organizations--including several organizations previously designated under E.O. 13224 for providing support to

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<sup>1</sup> "Emergency Fundraiser for Gaza." Facebook Event Page.

<<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=53474726348&ref=mf>>.

<sup>2</sup> Israel Prime Minister's Office. "British national arrested for assisting Hamas." Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website. May 29, 2006. Accessed through Internet Archive on October 7, 2008.

<<http://web.archive.org/web/20060821083057/http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Terrorism+and+Islamic+Fundamentalism-/British+national+arrested+for+assisting+Hamas+29-May-2006.htm>>.

<sup>3</sup> "Union of Good Participating Organizations." Interpal Website. Accessed through Internet Archive on January 8, 2009.

<<http://web.archive.org/web/20030228025858/http://www.interpal.org/web/organisations.htm>>.

Hamas--and Hamas-controlled organizations in the West Bank and Gaza. The primary purpose of this activity is to strengthen Hamas' political and military position in the West Bank and Gaza, including by: (i) diverting charitable donations to support Hamas members and the families of terrorist operatives; and (ii) dispensing social welfare and other charitable services on behalf of Hamas.”<sup>4</sup>

- Islamic Relief USA has partnered in funding foreign projects with the Holy Land Foundation and Kind Hearts, both designated terrorist entities.
- According to Russian government officials, IRW has raised millions of dollars and recruited fighters for Chechen terrorists in the 1990s.<sup>5</sup>
- Many of the Islamic Relief Worldwide’s officers and trustees are members of Muslim Brotherhood organizations around the world. Most controversially, one of its directors is Issam Al-Bashir – the former Minister of Religious Affairs in the Sudanese government. According to the Global Muslim Brotherhood Daily Report (an online counterterrorism research bulletin): “One of its trustees listed in U.K. charity records is Ibrahim El-Zayat, a leader in both the European and the German Muslim Brotherhood. Mr. El-Zayat is also a Trustee of the U.K. branch of Islamic Relief. Islamic Relief Worldwide is also listed as a company in the U.K where records indicate that Dr. Ahmed Al-Rawi, the former head of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE) and President of the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB) is a director. Both FIOE and the MAB are part of the U.K. and European Muslim Brotherhood. Another director of the company Islamic Relief Worldwide is Issam Al-Bashir who is a former Minister of Religious Affairs in the Sudan and who has held numerous positions associated with the global Muslim Brotherhood. In a number of European countries, the local branch of Islamic Relief is also tied to the local Muslim Brotherhood organization.”<sup>6</sup>
- Former Islamic Society of Boston Trustee and Muslim American Society Vice-President Mohammed Attawia became the Chairman of the Board of Islamic Relief Worldwide’s American branch in 2006.<sup>7</sup> Holy Land Foundation trial exhibits identify Attawia as the American Muslim Brotherhood’s director for the

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<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of the Treasury Press Room. “Treasury Designates the Union of Good.” U.S. Treasury Website. November 12, 2008. Accessed January 8, 2009.

<<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/hp1267.htm>>.

<sup>5</sup> “Propaganda War over Chechnya Goes Awry.” Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies. November 18, 1999. <<http://www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/3634.html>>.

<sup>6</sup> “Prominent Muslim Brotherhood Charity found to have ‘massive corruption.’” Global Muslim Brotherhood Daily Report. July 29, 2008. Accessed January 8, 2009.

<<http://globalmbreport.com/?p=1008>>.

<sup>7</sup> Islamic Relief USA. IRS Form 990 Tax Return. 2006.

New England region in the 1990s.<sup>8</sup> Attawia also served as a national director of the MAS since at least 1998, holding the position of Vice President in 2000.<sup>9</sup>



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<sup>8</sup> “American Muslim Brotherhood 1991 Phone Directory.” U.S. Government vs. Holy Land Foundation et al. No. 3:04-C12-240-G. North Texas District Court. August 2007. Government Exhibit No. 003-0034.

<sup>9</sup> Muslim American Society 1998 Annual Report. Illinois Secretary of State Office. File # 5735-189-6. July 1, 1998.

AND

Muslim American Society 2000 Annual Report. Illinois Secretary of State Office. File # 5735-189-6. October 12, 2000.