

Stand for Peace

counter-extremism | social cohesion | counter-terrorism

Palestinian Forum of Britain – Eight Annual Palestine Day Event

The Palestinian Forum of Britain (PFB) is considered by many to be one of the components of the Hamas support network in the UK. Its spokesman is Zaher Al-Birawi. Below, here he is (on the left) with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, accompanied by George Galloway and Bulent Yildirim, the head of the Hamas service bureau that is the Turkish charity IHH.



The PFB has been consistently linked to a variety of violent Islamist and other extremist groups and individuals, including the [Palestine Solidarity Campaign](#) (PSC), 'Britain 2 Gaza,' Friends of Al Aqsa and the extremist cleric Raed Salah. PFB has also been linked to a variety of Hamas groups in the UK and abroad.

Links with Muslim Brotherhood

The PFB has [been involved](#) with fundraising for [Human Appeal International](#) (HAI), a Muslim Brotherhood-linked charity that was recently [banned from a high school](#) in Manchester due to claims that it is linked to Hamas.

The PFB's media officer, [Zaher Birawi](#), is a trustee of 'Education Aid for Palestinians,' which is part of the [Union of Good](#), which itself is a key part of Hamas's infrastructure. Birawi is also a director of the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC).

Birawi has acted as a head of programming for the Muslim Brotherhood's [Al Hiwar TV](#).

Other links to extremism

The PFB, among other extremist organisations here in the UK, sponsored a speaking tour by the extremist Arab-Israeli cleric Raed Salah, and has been vocal [in support of him](#). PFB's Chairman, [Dr. Hafiz al Karmi](#) even paid a personal visit to Salah in prison whilst he was being detained by British Authorities.

Salah has in the past [endorsed classic anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about 9/11](#), and has been charged in Israel with incitement to violence and racism, including advancing the medieval, viciously anti-Semitic '[blood-libel](#)' conspiracy. In an interview with the aforementioned [Al Hiwar TV](#), Salah [revelled in his anti-Semitism](#). He was jailed for [fundraising for Hamas](#) and has in the past made openly [homophobic comments](#).

The PFB regularly promotes hate speakers. The PFB regularly invites foreign extremists to address its meetings in the UK. Three have been excluded from the country – Egyptian hate preacher [Wagdi Ghoneim](#), Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood figure [Ahmad Nofal](#), and Raed Salah, [the blood libel sheikh](#).

Anti-Jewish preacher [Wagdi Ghoneim](#), who is banned from the US and Canada after they determined that he had "participated in fundraising activities around the country that could have helped terrorist organizations", invited to a PFB conference in 2009, and he talks openly of his hatred towards Jews and his support for terrorism.

The Palestinian Forum of Britain is an integral part of the extremist, Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas-linked Islamist network in the UK. The PRB has openly supported extremists, bigots and even terrorist-linked charities, and is closely associated with some of the most radical hate-preachers.

Muhammad Musa Al-Shareef



Muhammad Musa Al-Shareef is a Saudi Arabian preacher and academic. He is due to speak at conferences organised by the Palestinian Forum in Britain (PFB) in London and Manchester on the weekend of June 23-24, 2012.

PALESTINIAN FORUM IN BRITAIN
INVITES YOU TO

القدس تجمعنا
يوم فلسطين الـ ٨
THE 8th PALESTINE DAY
SUNDAY 24th JUNE 2012
3.00pm - 10.00pm
يبدأ الحفل الرسمي الساعة 6.00

عبد الباقى عطوان
د. عزام التميمي
د. محمد موسى الشريف
ياسر عبد الباقى
الفنان يحيى حوى
الفنان مصطفى العزاوي
الفنان عبدالفتاح عوينات
فرقة دبكة خطوات الحرية

مأكولات و منسوجات و هدايا برانحة و نكهة و عراقة التراث العربي الفلسطيني
تبايع التذاكر عند مدخل الحفل
أسعار التذاكر
5 باوند للأفراد
10 باوند للعائلات
يمكنكم شراء التذاكر عبر الموقع
www.palestinianforum.org.uk

برنامج خاص للأطفال
حفل مع مصطفى العزاوي منشد مطبور الجنة
سابقا يبدأ الساعة 4.30
لمزيد من المعلومات
يرجى الاتصال على 07916670340

Facebook: /Palestine-Day

PALESTINIAN FORUM IN BRITAIN
INVITES YOU TO

القدس تجمعنا
يوم فلسطين الـ ٨
THE 8th PALESTINE DAY
SATURDAY 23rd JUNE 2012
3.00pm - 8.30pm

فرقة دبكة خطوات الحرية
د. محمد موسى الشريف
ياسر عبد الباقى
الفنان يحيى حوى
الفنان مصطفى العزاوي
الفنان عبدالفتاح عوينات

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فقرات الحفل
- أناشيد وطنية وترابية
- محاضرات وكلمات الضيوف
- ديكات ورفصات فلكلورية
- برنامج خاص للأطفال يتضمن
حفل مع الفنان مصطفى العزاوي
- معرض تاريخ وثقافة فلسطين
- سوق شعبي للمنتجات الفلسطينية والعربية
- تبايع وجبات طعام خفيفة أثناء الحفل

Facebook: Palestinian Forum in Britain
Venue: King's House Conference Centre, King's Church, Sidney Street, Manchester. M1 7HB

Supporting Attacks on Israeli Civilians

A lengthy and defiant anti-Western diatribe by Al-Shareef on "Islam and terrorism" is available on Youtube at the following URL: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkyR8NaqISY.

Particularly noteworthy is what Al-Shareef says from 44:48 minutes into the tape:

Muslims are supposed to know how and when terror is required. Hopefully we will be aware of these issues because today there is a group of people who pity the Jews killed in Palestine, saying they are just innocent civilians.

Some Muslim thinkers express weird views in the media and on the internet saying the Israelis are innocent civilians. What civilians are they talking about? Muslim jurists reached a conclusion about that, and this is what we care about, regardless of the Western views. Muslim jurists have agreed that if an enemy attacked a Muslim land, Muslims there should fight it by every possible means.

The Jews are our enemies, their men and women occupied our lands. How come some people talk about the civilian Israelis while the whole Jewish society in Palestine is military to the core? Even the Israeli women receive six months military training, during which they wear military uniforms and train to use weapons. After six months they return to their daily lives as civilians. Given that at any moment they may be summoned to fight, are such women considered civilians? Verily they are not.

According to Islamic law, whoever fights Muslims through views, wars, intrigues, financial support or any other means, is considered a warrior fighting Muslims and must be fought.

So the Israelis are not civilians, sorry, I mean the Jewish society, for it does not deserve to be named after the pure prophet Israel, who is Jacob, God's servant and messenger. Anyway, the Jews in Palestine are not civilian, thus, the great self-sacrifice Palestinian operations [i.e. suicide bombings] against the Jews are by no means terrorist acts.

How could some Arab and Muslim writers describe these operations as terrorist acts targeting "the poor Jewish civilians"? See that disgraceful stance taken by some Muslims! We must be well aware of such issues so we may acquaint the Muslim generations to come with them, hoping they, God willing, will pray in Jerusalem. They should know when terrorism is required and when it is not.

Supporting Terrorism in Iraq

In the tape referred to above, Al-Shareef also says he opposes terrorist attacks in Muslim countries. However, there is an important exception: Iraq.

We are against, and should fight, that kind of terrorism in the Muslim world. There is a big difference between this and what is going on in Palestine and Iraq, where Muslims fight to regain their rights by force. Sometimes rights are regained only by force.

The coming generations must be brought up on such concepts. It will be serious if these concepts are neglected by the younger generations. It will be really dangerous if Muslim youths are unaware of such concepts and are brought up on these deluding media materials.

Attacking Muslim Opponents of Terrorism

The same speech on Islam and terrorism is peppered with strong criticism of Muslims who do oppose terrorism. This line is typical:

One of the worst pieces of news I have ever heard is about 4,000 Muslim men and women, who are supposed to be thinkers, intellectuals and academics. They gathered and came up with a document and sent it to Kofi Annan desiring to put some of the Muslim scholars on trial, claiming that they were terrorists who encouraged martyr operations targeting poor unarmed civilians in Palestine.

What can we say about those people? How can we describe them? Have they been brainwashed, or are they biased, or ignorant, or hirelings? How can we describe these people? What a disgrace!

So we are obliged to present the true concept of terrorism and show when it is required and when it is not. We and our children must be aware of such concepts.

Disparaging Attacks on Israeli Jews

Al-Shareef uses highly disparaging language about Israeli Jews. For example, at 3:15 minutes into a speech on Libya available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhTOWjQlteY>, he compares them to Mussolini's Italian fascists and resorts to deeply insulting abuse:

Graziani built a fence 300 kilometres long, just as the brothers of apes and pigs are trying to build in Palestine, a 300 kilometre fence along the Libyan-Egyptian border.

Apostates from Islam Must Be Killed

Al-Shareef encourages Muslims to reject what he sees as "Western" concepts of human rights, proudly and unequivocally. In a speech on "Islam and human rights", available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmECQ4QgeGg>, he raises the issue of apostasy from Islam in this context (at 50 minutes into the tape). His "solution" is simple – apostates should be killed.

For example, the issue of apostasy in Islam. One who apostatizes from Islam is to be killed.

Some say Abu Hanifah [an eighth century C.E. Islamic scholar] said an apostate should be imprisoned but the majority of scholars are of the view that an apostate must be killed. So we should not be ashamed of this Islamic ruling.

...

Man is free to adopt the religion he wants. But a Muslim is not free to be a disbeliever. Simply, this is a divine ruling that we should apply proudly. There are some Muslims who adopt the view of imam Abu Hanifah but the majority of earlier and current scholars are of the view that an apostate must be killed.

If the West blames us for that, I say to them "you should blame yourselves". For their beliefs and concepts have no relation to the divine revelation. Such concepts are of no value in the scale of thought or when they are applied in reality. We rely on divine texts and we will never leave them for the sake of the West or their views about us. This is a very important point.

Views On Women

Al-Shareef's views on women could lead people who listen to him to treat women and young girls very poorly. Moreover, he says that international treaties protecting women's rights should be rejected wherever they conflict with his views on Islam.

This is his view on marrying very young girls, even when the husband is an old man, reported at http://www.memritv.org/clip_transcript/en/2399.htm:

Muhammad Musa Al-Sharif: In many newspapers, it has been suggested that the minimum age for marriage should be 18. Why 18? They said that Saudi Arabia is committed to something called the Human Rights Treaty, which set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years. This is, of course, unacceptable.

Interviewer: Why not?

Muhammad Musa Al-Sharif: I read that the official spokesman for the US government said that the US is worried about the marriage of girls in Saudi Arabia. This is really funny. The rate of child prostitution in American and Western societies is enormous. This is a well-known fact.

Second, all the children whose death was caused by the US in Palestine and Iraq... These people are not ashamed to say that they are worried about Saudi Arabia, even though they caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children in Palestine and in Iraq. This is really distorted logic.

Third, when Islamic law refers to a certain issue – we don't need human rights.

[...]

Let's assume that there is a 13-year-old girl... Let's make it 14. Her father sees that she is physically developed, has reached puberty, and has a sense of understanding – nothing in Islamic law prevents him from marrying her off.

[...]

Interviewer: Would you be willing to marry off your 10-year-old daughter to a man in his eighties?

Muhammad Musa Al-Sharif: No, brother, I would not, but there is a difference between Islamic law and its practice. I wouldn't be pleased by this, but I do not forbid it.

[...]

Who is responsible for the human rights and international treaties? The atheists, the Christians, and the fornicators, with all due respect.

Women should also be barred from politics and the judiciary and he decries the West for allowing them to participate in these professions in a video available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vyKMYd7XnQ>.

What about women and rulership? Nowadays some women in the West manage their people's affairs, being a president or a judge. But why? This is an important question. Because through holding such occupying positions, women in the West can get whatever rights they want by force. In the West, women seek to be members in the parliament so they can pass laws that protect their rights. Also, they want to be judges to do other women justice. Some women covet for presidency to have the authority to defend women.

Muslim women do not need that; the reason for that is clear and simple as women's rights are preserved in Islam and if they are wronged, it is not because of the Islamic Law, but because of not implementing it properly. So, Muslim women do not need to hold such posts, for Islam has already outlined their rights and duties. This is an important point.

Some Muslim women reiterate some Western slogans like parrots wondering why women cannot be judges or presidents, ignoring these facts I have mentioned. Those so-called emancipated women have no moral constraints and are illogical. They demand rights that do not exist in Islamic Law.

There are some Muslim women who do strange things; such women appear on satellite channels saying weird and insolent words that are completely hollow. They want to hold senior governmental posts, claiming they are oppressed. They even try to find unreliable proofs in early Muslims' biographies just to find excuses to demand for their so-called rights. What rights are they demanding? Women have been created for certain duties suitable for them and women are qualified to fulfil them by nature. So women should not seek what does not befit them; some women seek to be free from all moral or religious constraints.

Abdul Bari Atwan

Abdel Bari Atwan is a Palestinian journalist and editor of *Al Quds Al Arabi* ("Arab Jerusalem"), a newspaper based in London. He is a regular commentator for the Guardian and the BBC.

Atwan has been accused by the Libyan Transitional Council of taking money from Gaddafi, who released documents detailing the transfer of funds. Libyan opposition leaders have distributed intelligence documents, claiming a number of Arab journalists received payments from Colonel Gaddafi's administration, allegedly including Atwan. He is the editor of the London-based Al Quds newspaper, and a regular commentator for the Guardian and the BBC.

In March 2008, Atwan said that the Mercaz HaRav shooting, in which a Palestinian gunmen killed eight students (aged 15 to 26), "was justified." He added that the Mercaz HaRav yeshiva is responsible for "hatching Israeli extremists and fundamentalists" and that the celebrations in Gaza following the attack symbolized "the courage of the Palestinian nation." - *Jonny Paul (15 March 2008)*. "[Arab daily: Mercaz Harav attack was justified](http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=95074)". *The Jerusalem Post* - <http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=95074>

Quotes

Iran

"Allah willing, [Iran] will attack Israel ... If the Iranian missiles strike Israel – by Allah, I will go to Trafalgar Square, and dance with delight if the Iranian missiles strike Israel." – *Abdul Bari Atwan, 27 June 2007*

Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQNeitq4WPo>

Hamas & Hezbollah

"The terrorist attack on [Jerusalem](#)'s Mercaz Harav [Yeshiva](#) on March 6 attack was 'justified' ... [because] the religious seminary is responsible for 'hatching Israeli extremists and fundamentalists' ... [according to] Abd al-Bari Atwan, editor of Al-Quds Al-Arabi,

[who] chose not to condemn the shooting attack in which eight students were killed and nine were wounded, and said the [celebrations](#) in Gaza that followed symbolized the 'courage of the Palestinian nation.' He added that the recent violence in Gaza might 'mark the countdown to Israel's destruction'." – *Jerusalem Post*, 15 March 2008

Source: <http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=95074>

"[The Eliat attacks] put the spotlight back on the most important struggle – [the struggle] for the honor of the Arab and Islamic nation ... The Eilat operation, as I see it, corrected the course of the Arab revolutions and refocused them on the most dangerous disease, namely the Israeli tyranny ... [which] is responsible for this operation and for all future operations of its kind. [Israeli policy] is what killed the peace and sowed the seeds of extremism ... [Whoever] is behind the Eilat operation ... it is the extremist right-wing Israeli government, and the Israeli people who elected it, that summoned Al-Qaeda and prepared the ground for the seeds of extremism and for the enlistment of frustrated and humiliated [people] into its cells." – *Abdul Bari Atwan*, 21 August 2011

Source: <http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/0/5590.htm>

" Hamas rockets ... [are] a far more justifiable 'retaliation' for the illegal imprisonment and abuse of 1.5 million people within the Gaza strip [than Israeli military action in Gaza.]" – *Abdul Bari Atwan*, 16 January 2009

Source: <http://www.abdelbariatwan.com/Moral%20Failure%20of%20UK%20media%20on%20Gaza.htm>

"[Abdul Bari Atwan] said the 'Jewish lobby' was 'extremely dangerous and is endangering the whole planet, the whole world,' and that it 'controlled' the American Senate, Congress and media ... When asked to condemn Hamas and Hizbollah, Mr Atwan declared: 'Do you want me to condemn people for resisting the occupation? Did Hamas commit ethnic cleansing?'" – *Jewish Chronicle*, 16 December 2010

Source: <http://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/42703/full-extent-lse-atwan-fury-finally-revealed-video>

Saddam Hussein

"Arab public opinion wonders who deserves to be tried and executed: Saddam Hussein who preserved the unity of Iraq, its Arab and Islamic identity and the coexistence of its different communities such as Shias and Sunnis ... or those who engulfed the country into this bloody civil war." – *Abdul Bari Atwan*, 30 December 2006

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2006/dec/30/iraq2>

"The Arab people will remember President Saddam Hussein as the sole Arab leader who fired 40 missiles into Tel Aviv and stood with the Palestinian resistance." – *Abdul Bari Atwan*, 30 December 2006

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/6219335.stm

Muammar Gaddafi

"According to the President of the Libyan Transitional National Assembly, Mustafa Abdul Jalil, Abdel Bari Atwan was paid \$3,000 every month by Gaddafi. The new Libyan

government has released documents which they say record the payments to Atwan, and to other Arab journalists.” – *Harry’s Place*, 16 September 2011

Source: <http://hurryupharry.org/2011/09/16/abdel-bari-atwan-paid-gaddafi-stooge/>

Jihad

“War for the furtherance of Islam and against non-believers is considered ethically acceptable by scholars, even during the month of fasting and prayer ... [but] it is absolutely prohibited for Muslims to seek the help of non-believers against fellow Muslims.” – *Abdul Bari Atwan*, 31 July 2011

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/jul/31/chance-ramadan-islam-conquests-libya>

9/11

“The events of 11 September will be remembered as the end of the US empire. This is because all empires collapse when they pursue the arrogance of power.” – *Abdul Bari Atwan*, 11 September 2006

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/5333812.stm>

Azzam Tamimi

Azzam Tamimi is a Palestinian academic . He was a long time member of the Muslim Association of Britain but subsequently joined the British Muslim Initiative, both organisations being part of the Muslim Brotherhood in the UK. He is the director of the Institute of Islamic Political Thought (IPT)^[1], known to have had Georgetown University Professor John Esposito on its Advisory Board^[2] as well as global Muslim Brotherhood leader Yusef Qaradawi. Tamimi is the author of books on Hamas and has been interviewed by Hamas TV^[3].

Quotes

In January of 2008 he told Iranian TV that “I want to see Israel come to an end.”^[4]

Israeli media is reporting on the speaking appearance at the Queen Mary University Palestine Solidarity Society by Hamas spokesman and U.K. Muslim Brotherhood leader Azzam Tamimi. According to a Haaretz report, Tamimi reiterated his ties to Hamas and willingness to become a “martyr” if he had the opportunity:

British-Palestinian activist Azzam Tamimi reiterated his strong connections to Hamas and his willingness to become a “martyr” at a student event on Tuesday night, which drew controversy due to his advertised appearance. Tamimi, an academic who lives in London, sparked outrage when he said during a BBC interview in 2004 that sacrificing oneself was a “noble cause,” adding that it was “the straight way to pleasing my God and I would do it if I had the opportunity.” In response to a question from Haaretz over the opposition to his attendance, he insisted that the reason for the uproar was an attempt to silence his legitimate political views. “I’d be a martyr for my country, of course,” he said. “If you’re not prepared to die for your country then you are not a patriot.” Regarding his connections to

Hamas, which is banned in the EU over its status as a terror organization, he said: "I have a great honor to be close to Hamas," adding that it was only unfortunate that he himself did not have a leadership role within the group. Having described Hamas chief Khaled Meshal as a close childhood friend, and saying that "all the leaders of Hamas are my friends," Tamimi added: "I am not ashamed of my association with Hamas. Hamas, in my view, is the true representative of the Palestinian people." His words were met with a round of applause from the audience of around 30 people.^[5]

In 2004 he told the BBC: "You see, sacrificing myself for Palestine is a noble cause. It is the straight way to pleasing my God and I would do it if I had the opportunity."^[6]

"We cannot recognise Israel as legitimate" ^[7]

"Israel is a menace...is a threat to humanity....We must all get together to eradicate this culture from the body of humanity....is about to be thrown out of this human body of ours. Its just a matter of time....this black chapter in the history of humanity. (if we cannot do it peacefully) we have another language and we have the right to use that language" ^[8]

Today Hamas is considered a terrorist organisation because that's what the Americans and Israelis and cowardly politicians of Europe want, but what is so terrorist about it? You shouldn't be afraid of being labelled extreme, radical or terrorist. If fighting for your home land is terrorism, I take pride in being a terrorist. The Koran tells me if I die for my homeland, I'm a martyr and I long to be a martyr. .. Why are the Jews superhuman and better than anyone else that God would give them a homeland? Is God a racist? A god who would prefer people because of their race is not a god I want to associate with. Claiming they are being given the land of God is a racist idea. ... If the world felt so guilty about the Holocaust, the Jews should have been compensated, not brought to my country at the expense of my people. ... Israel does not belong to my homeland and must come to an end. This can happen peacefully if they acknowledge what they did — or we will continue to struggle until Israel is no more.^[9]

Martyrdom in Israel is: "divine bliss" ^[10]

"Armed resistance is not an aberration from the norm. The Oslo agreement between the PLO and Israel is the aberration." Hamas, he concluded, "is a constant reminder to the Palestinian people that the Zionist project is doomed. It's a large—but cowardly—endeavour. The entire theft of a nation was a cowardly undertaking. What Jew can be proud of it? Already," he adds, "we are witnessing the beginning of the end of the Zionist project." ^[11]

References

1. ↑ <http://www.ii-pt.com/>
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4. ↑ <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1201867281680&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>
5. ↑ <http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/controversial-palestinian-academic-hails-martyrdom-u-k-event-1.415421>
6. ↑ <http://www.jpost.com/International/Article.aspx?id=168277>
7. ↑ Hardtalk, BBC World TV, 22/01/2008
8. ↑ Reported in Huffington Post.co.uk 24/2/2012
9. ↑ Speech at SOAS, 8/2/2010, reported in JC, 11/2/2010
10. ↑ Interview with John Ware, Excerpts from a transcript of “A question of Leadership” first broadcast August 21, 2005 on BBC One
11. ↑ Dialogue With Bothby Grace Halsell, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, December 1998, pages 23-24