

Command and Control

The International Union of Muslim Scholars, The Muslim Brotherhood, and The Call for Global Intifada during Operation Protective Edge

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Command and Control: The International Union of Muslim Scholars, The Muslim Brotherhood, and The Call for Global Intifada during Operation Protective Edge

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Starting with the launch of Operation Brother's Keeper by the IDF after the kidnapping of three Israeli teens by Hamas operatives, and well into Israel's Operation Protective Edge, the International Union of Muslim Scholars', (IUMS) Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi – a leading Islamic jurist whose pronouncements the Muslim Brotherhood consider authoritative – has been issuing calls on the Islamic and Arabic umma and all of the free peoples of the world to rise up in support of Palestine.

In multiple statements on the IUMS website, Qaradawi and the Union's Secretary General Qaradaghi have issued these international calls to Muslims, Arabs and their supporters to aid in Gaza's victory over the "Zionist enemy." Qaradawi repeatedly couched his call in religious language, stating that all Muslims had a shariah obligation to support their brothers in Palestine, and condemned Arab and Islamic governments and scholars who were remaining silent or supporting the Israelis as traitors.

In an interview on Al-Jazeera, Qaradawi emphasized that no permanent peace deal could be sealed with Israel and that it was the Islamic Umma's obligation to rise up for its central cause, the cause of Palestine. Citing his worldwide call to rise up for the Prophet Mohammad's honor after satirical Danish cartoons were published and the response worldwide Qaradawi expressed the belief that he and his organization, maintained the ability to arise the Umma into action on behalf of such important causes.

The protests that arose as a response to Israel's military actions in the Gaza Strip suggests that Qaradawi's ability to call such protests deserve examination. While protests were not exclusively Islamist in character, the presence of Hamas flags carried by protesters was ubiquitous. Additionally black flags and white flags emblazoned with the Shahada, popular among those supportive of jihadist causes, were seen in almost every rally worldwide. Additionally, Palestinian national flags with a Shahada on the central white strip – a flag commonly used by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad – were carried aloft by protesters in European and American cities. Additionally, R4bia signs –a black hand holding up four fingers on a yellow background- the symbol of the Muslim Brotherhood's revolt against the army in Egypt – were displayed by protesters in Belgium, France and the United States.

Many of the slogans chanted by protesters were obviously Islamic in nature, including the chant of "Khaybar, Khaybar, O Jews, the Army of Mohammad shall return." This is a reference to the destruction of Jewish political power in the Arabian Peninsula at the hands of Mohammad's army. Speakers at protests in several incidences seemed to echo statements comparable to those issued by Qaradawi and the Muslim Brotherhood, including especially the focus on the failure of the Arab regimes to support Palestine and the need for a unified Islamic ummah.

What seems to be evident from these protests is that were was a worldwide response to Qaradawi's call. The level of violence – particularly in France – and the hostile nature of the protesters' rhetoric is reminiscent of the worldwide eruption of violence in the wake of the Danish Cartoon incident. The coordination of protest dates, the involvement of Muslim Brotherhood entities in various countries in the logistics, planning, promotion and coordination of these events is evident and is highly suggestive of a response to Qaradawi's call.

WHO IS YUSUF AL QARADAWI?

Sheikh Yusuf Al Qaradawi is a long time Muslim Brotherhood leader, who played a key role in the international spread of the Muslim Brotherhood abroad following the crackdown against the Brotherhood instigated by Egyptian President Gamel Abdul Nasser in the 1950s. Qaradawi participated in the formation of major Brotherhood-affiliated organizations in Europe and the United States, including the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIT), The Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE), and the European Council for Fatwa and Research (ECFR).¹ Qaradawi, now 88 years old, studied directly under Muslim Brotherhood founder Hassan Al-Banna. A highly respected member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Qaradawi twice turned down requests to assume the position of *Murshid*, or Supreme Guide, of the Brotherhood.² Qaradawi is president of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and a frequent guest and contributor on Qatar's Al Jazeera television, where he hosts the "Sharia and Life" program. Utilizing Al Jazeera and other media Qaradawi is able to issue juridical pronouncements that provide an impetus to act.

The strategic importance of this ability was clearly demonstrated by Qaradawi's declaration calling for violent jihad in Syria.³ Qaradawi's ability to directly influence events through his calls to action have been likewise demonstrated by events in Libya, in particular his call for the death of Moammar Qaddafi⁴ and in calling for violence against the Egyptian military in the wake of the overthrow of the Muslim Brotherhood government of Mohammed Morsi. Regarding the Egyptian military, Qaradawi said: "if he, who has disobeyed the ruler, does not repent, then he must be killed. There is a legitimate ruler (in reference to Morsi) and people must obey and listen to him." In 2004 Qaradawi's IUMS issued a declaration supporting terrorism against Americans in Iraq.⁶ Qaradawi has also provided fatwas legitimizing suicide bombing on behalf of Hamas. Qaradawi has long been viewed as a leading figure of the Islamic movement generally; whose words carry with them an implied imperative. Editor S.M Hasan Al-Banna who translated Qaradawi's work, "Priorities of the Islamic Movement in the Coming Phase," into English, illustrates this clearly when he writes in the introduction:

This book is borne out of [Qaradawi's] vast experience in the field of Da'wah (calling) and harakah (movement) and should not be merely taken as advice but as directions; as we are living in a time where everybody has advice but few are qualified to give directions.8

Qaradawi himself confirmed this capability in an interview on the Al-Jazeera program "Politics and Religion," discussing the ongoing fighting between Hamas and Israel, where he said,

We have called out [da'awna] at times and the umma rose up, in the matter of the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in Denmark, that wronged the Prophet. We called on [da'awna] the Islamic umma, the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and the umma rose up, from one end to the next, in the Easts and the Wests, in the North and the South, hundreds of millions rose up. The Islamic umma, if it found who to awaken it, would rise up and responded [to the call]. The umma has not died.

As he himself notes above, the organization through which Qaradawi issues many of these "directions" is the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS). Founded in Dublin, Ireland, the International Union of Muslim Scholars bills itself as an organization open to Islamic scholars of all sects and schools of Islamic law. Despite this, IUMS maintains close ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and the Brotherhood's Palestinian wing Hamas¹⁰, and numerous individuals known or suspected of Brotherhood ties make up its membership. According to the Global Muslim Brotherhood Daily Watch- a repository of information on Muslim

Brotherhood organizations and members- Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas operatives from around the world have served with IUMS. 11

It is through the IUMS that Qaradawi and his colleagues have issued repeated calls for a global Intifada in support of Hamas.

IUMS AND ITS RESPONSE TO OPERATION PROTECTIVE EDGE

Even prior to the kidnapping/execution of three Israeli teenagers, and renewed Hamas rocket fire which precipitated the current round of fighting between the Israel Defense Forces and Hamas, Qaradawi, through the IUMS, was issuing pointed calls for violence against Israel.

On May 11th, IUMS held a conference where Qaradawi spoke together with Hamas foreign relations minister Osama Hamdan. At that conference Qaradawi spoke on the inevitability of Islamic victory over Israel, and quoted a hadith cited in Sahih Bukhari calling for the extermination of the Jews that, "The last hour would not come unless you fight the Jews and the stone, with a Jew behind it, would say: oh Muslim, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him." This same hadith also appears on the Hamas Charter. Hamadan echoed those statements indicating that the, "Time has come to encourage Arabs and Muslims to fight for the liberation of Palestine because rights can't return without force."

A month later, on June 12th, Hamas operatives in the West Bank carried out the kidnapping and execution of three Israeli teens. When Israeli security forces began conducting a sweep of the West Bank (Operation Brother's Keeper) targeting Hamas operatives in search of the missing children, Hamas escalated rocket fire from Gaza. The three Israeli teens were found dead on June 30th. On July 4th, the body of a Palestinian teenager Mohammed Abu Khdeir was found burned, killed by Jewish extremists, setting off additional clashes. On the same day, IUMS issued a statement, signed by Qaradawi and IUMS secretary General Ali Qarahdaghi condemning the killing that:

stresses the right of the Palestinians to launch an intifada/rise up, and resist the Occupation through all possible means, and condemns the bloodthirsty Zionist instigation against the Palestinians, and calls on the Umma to defend Palestine: as a cause, and people, and holy places.

The two sides traded fire until July 7th, when Israel launched Operation: Protective Edge, a major operation against Hamas in Gaza.¹⁵ Also on July 7th, IUMs published another statement from Qarahdaghi, entitled, "Al-Qarahdaghi Calls for an Islamic and Arab Intifada for Palestine," where he:

called on the Islamic and Arab peoples to rise up in all parts of the world for the sake of Palestine and Jerusalem since it is the central issue of the nation, and therefore pressure must be placed on the governments and institutions to carry out their duty towards stopping the Zionist terrorism that is occurring in the land of Palestine, stressing that the peoples are more powerful than they imagine and that they are capable of making the difference if they were to act to support the Umma's just causes. ¹⁶

While there had been small-scale protests against Israel prior to the IUMS declaration, the scale and intensity increased following the July 7th declaration with protests in Los Angeles and Dublin on July 8th, and in Chicago, and the West Bank on July 9th.

On July 11th large-scale protests were reported in London, Paris, Rome and Oslo. On July 13th, protests in Paris took a violent turn, where specific support for Hamas replaced earlier protestors general support for "Palestine," and slogans took on a directly jihadist characteristic as armed protestors attacked a Paris Synagogue while crying "slay the Jews" and "Allahu Akbar." Violence also broke out the same day in Berlin, where protesters assaulted police with thrown rocks, while chanting "Allahu akbar." ¹¹⁸

On July 16th, the IUMS released a new, more detailed statement on its global uprising call. The declaration, signed by Qaradawi and Qarahdaghi:

...requests from the peoples, officials, Ministries of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, organization and agencies, Islamic unions and movements, and scholars across the world: setting aside this upcoming Friday, the 20th of Ramadan 1435 AH, corresponding to July 18, 2014 AD, as a global day to aid the victory [Nusrat] of

the people of Gaza and the Palestinian people, who live under wanton Zionist bombardment, which has taken from them hundreds of martyrs, of female, infant and elderly civilians. The day of aiding the victory [Nasra] must include actions, at the head of which should be protests and sit-ins of a peaceful and legal nature, and monetary support, and complete salvation efforts, and supporting the families of the martyrs and injured, and international commitment to rebuild Gaza and to build homes; and to set aside Friday Khutbas, and devotion in the Friday Prayer and the night-time prayer for aiding the victory[Nusrat] of the Palestinians, and all oppressed peoples on earth, especially the Muslims in various countries (emphasis added).¹⁹

The repeated use of "nasra" and "nusrat" carries with it a significant connotation. Translated here as "to aid in victory" the term means literally, "help or support." From the Arabic root n-s-r, which means "victory", the term is used to denote aid, support or assistance that leads to victory, and carries with it a military connotation, comparable to how militaries might use the term, "supporting fire" or a "support unit." As a noun, al-Ansar, refers to the "Champions of The Prophet", members of the Banu Kazraj and Banu Aus tribes of Medina, who fought to establish the cause of Islam in the Hijaz. In jihadist circles, Al-Ansar continues to be used as a term to designate fighters for the cause, for example in the terrorist groups: Ansar al-Shariah, Ansar al-Islam, Osbat-Al-Ansar, Ansar-e-Hezbollah, Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, etc. Thus IUM's call for "support" for Gaza should be understood as meaning more than simply "moral support" but rather active support to aid Hamas.

On the same day, July 16th, the Muslim Judicial Council (MJC) organized a protest in Capetown, South Africa where thousands of protestors chanted "Viva Palestine, Viva Hamas."²⁰ The head of the Muslim Judicial Council is a member of the IUMS, as well as a member of the Al Quds International Foundation²¹, an entity designated by the Treasury Department²² for providing material support to Hamas through the Qaradawi-run "Union of the Good" network.²³

On July 18th, the date designated by IUMS, global protests continued to grow in size and severity. Turkish protesters attacked the Israeli Embassy in Ankara, seizing the Israeli flag and replacing it with Turkish and Palestinian flags, causing the Israeli foreign ministry to downgrade its presence in Turkey.²⁴ Prior to the attack, Bulent Yildirim, the head of The Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), a Turkish NGO, called for Turkish Jews to "pay dearly." Protesters called for "martyrdom," and attacked police protecting the Israeli embassy and consulate in Istanbul with rocks and bottles. A leader of Turkey's Jewish community indicated that the statements by Yildirim to a Turkish news channel played a role in the severity of the attack.²⁵ IHH is the Turkish affiliate of the Union of the Good.²⁶

The following day, July 19th, major demonstrations were launched, in London and Paris. The London protest featured approximately 20,000 participants²⁷ according to organizers, while the Paris demonstrations, numbering about 6,000, degenerated into stone throwing and attacks on police who responded with tear gas.²⁸ The organizers for the demonstration²⁹ in London including groups with known ties to the Global Muslim Brotherhood, including: Friends of Al-Aqsa³⁰, the British Muslim Initiative, the Muslim Association of Britain and the Palestine Forum in Britain/Palestine Return Centre.³¹ The Union of Islamic Organization of France, a group widely regarded as a front for the Muslim Brotherhood in France,³² played a role in organizing the Paris protests.

In a violent rally the subsequent day, Pro-Palestinian protesters hurled Molotov cocktails, and rocks at police protecting a synagogue.³³ Pro-Hamas protests also took place in San Francisco³⁴, Chicago ³⁵, Los Angeles³⁶, Vienna³⁷, and Kansas City.³⁸

On July 20th, a 30,000 strong protest took place in Rabat, Morocco, led by the Muslim Brotherhood-affiliated Justice and Development party.³⁹

On July 20th and 21st, Qaradawi spoke with al Jazeera, in a two-part program on *Siyasa Fi Deen* (Politics in Religion), where he highlighted what he described as the ability of the International Union of Muslim Scholars to lead the *ummah*, the perceived global nation encompassing all Muslims:

Their [the scholars] role is to lead the umma. Islam gave the scholars a huge role...[there is Qur'anic exegesis (tafsir) that supports following the scholars in their specialties] Kings are rulers over people, and scholars are rulers over kings...our Umma is fine, Allah willing, and it will be victorious in the end if the scholars carry out their role, which is to educate the peoples. The peoples require education [tarbiya] and require direction. And the scholars must warn the umma, to stand behind it and call on it to...we have called out [da'awna] at times and the umma rose up... 40

On July 22^{nd} , major demonstrations also took place in Tunisia outside the Palestinian embassy. ⁴¹ On July 25^{th} , tens of thousands turned out in protests in Yemen, some carrying Hamas banners and green shahada flags. ⁴²

On July 27th, Qaradawi and Qaradaghi jointly issued a declaration on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, the last day of Ramadan, where they escalated their rhetoric by indicating that intifada was now a Islamic legal obligation under Shariah, incumbent upon believers, and applauding the intifada currently underway:

The International union values the mobilization in all of the cities of Palestine in Jerusalem and the [West] Bank, passing through all of the Palestinian cities, which have ignited and risen up [intafadat] to support the people of Gaza in their current predicament, stressing that the international intifada comprised of free peoples – and particularly Arab and Muslim peoples – is an obligation now, to stand by justice in Gaza, and to intercept the wanton aggression from aggressive Tel Aviv.⁴³

THE ROLE OF THE GLOBAL MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN SUPPORTING HAMAS IN OPERATION: PROTECTIVE EDGE

Since Hamas's formation in 1987, supporting the terrorist organization's jihad against Israel has been an important priority of the Muslim Brotherhood. This is highlighted in the 1982 document acquired by Swiss Law Enforcement during a raid on Muslim Brotherhood financier Yousef Nada after 9/11.⁴⁴ Called "The Project" among counterterrorism experts, the "Global Project for Palestine" document indicates the role of the Global Muslim Brotherhood in directing policy for the "Palestinian Cause." The document is believed to have played a direct role in the creation of Hamas. The document highlights key steps to be taken in order to focus the Brotherhood on promoting jihad in Palestine. For example, from the eleventh point of departure the Brothers are instructed:

To adopt the Palestinian cause as part of a worldwide Islamic plan, with the policy plan and by means of jihad, since it acts as the keystone of the renaissance of the Arab world today.

a-Elements:

To provide an Islamic view on all areas, problems and solutions relative to the Palestinian question, based on the precepts of Islam.

To prepare the community of believers for jihad for the liberation of Palestine.

[One can lead the Ummah to realize the plans of the Islamic movement above all if victory is ours], if God wills it.

To create a modest nucleus of jihad in Palestine, and to nourish it in order to maintain the flame that will light the road toward the liberation of Palestine, and in order that the Palestinian cause will endure until the moment of liberation.⁴⁶

In order to facilitate its role in supporting Hamas, the Muslim Brotherhood established "Palestine Committees" abroad in all the countries where it was active, in order to assist Hamas through financing and propaganda. This role was confirmed by documents seized in the home of US Muslim Brotherhood member Ismail Elbarasse, who was arrested by a Maryland law enforcement on a material witness warrant after being caught with his wife videotaping the structural supports for the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.⁴⁷ From a 1992 Memo of the Islamic Association for Palestine, found in Elbarasse's home:

With the growth of the blessed Intifada and the spread of the spirit of Jihad amidst the children of Palestine and the nation, it became incumbent upon the remainder of the lkhwan branches to play a role in attributing this Intifada and this Islamic action to Palestine. Therefore, a resolution was issued by the Guidance Office and the Shura Council of the International Movement to form "Palestine Committees" in all the Arab, the Islamic and the Western nations whose job is to make the Palestinian cause victorious and to support it with what it needs of media, money, men and all of that. (Refer to the resolution in the supplement). (Emphasis Added)⁴⁸

Given the central role placed by the Brotherhood on support for Hamas, it is not surprising that the Brotherhood responded to Qaradawi's, and the IUMS', call for action. On July 14th, 2014, on their English language website Ikhwanweb.com, the Muslim Brotherhood echoed the IUMS call in eerily comparable language. The Brotherhood exhorts:

The resilience of the people of Gaza and their commitment to resistance to liberate their land is a resounding slap on the face of all traitorous regimes that sold the cause and trampled the honor of the nation. Will those finally come to their senses?

- Since governments, puppet regimes, have their absurd indefensible reasons to withhold urgently needed help, we call on the free Egyptian people and all the Arab and Muslim peoples as well as free nations of the world to rise up to lift the siege on Gaza and halt Zionist aggressions.⁴⁹

Compare to the IUMS statement of July 9th, which also criticized the Arab world noting:

- 1. The International Union of Muslim Scholars backs the Palestinian people in a third Intifada, and calls on it to be firm and resilient in the face of the wanton Zionist enemy.
- 2. The International union issues a cry in all Islamic and Arab countries, and calls upon the sons of the Umma to ignite to support [nusrat] the Palestinian people in its struggle.
- 3. The International Union calls upon the rulers and Islamic and humanitarian organizations to assume their responsibilities to stop the continuous oppressive campaigns of the Zionist enemy, and to stop international disappointment towards the cause of Palestine.
- 4. The International Union calls upon the free world, leaders and peoples, to apply pressure to stop the firing from the Zionist occupier against our brothers in Gaza, whose siege has gone on too long, in light of the great resilience from the people of Palestine generally and the people of Gaza particularly, and affirms that the Cause of Palestine is a revealing cause for all, for it has revealed the mujahidin, who have increased in firmness and trust in Allah, and it has exposed the collaborators who have increased in unparalleled villainy.⁵⁰

Both statements refer to Arab regimes as traitors or collaborators in reference to their response towards Gaza. Both call for action directly from the "free world" or "free nations." Both refer to the "resilience" of Gaza. Finally both call for a "rising up" or "intifada" on behalf of "lifting the siege."

This comparable language continues between the July 16th IUMS statement mentioned earlier, and the Muslim Brotherhood's Declaration on July 21st, on their Arabic language site Ikhwanonline.com, with emphasis on the use of the "aid in victory" language. The Muslim Brotherhood declares:

We are calling upon all of the Arabic and Islamic peoples and all of the Free Peoples of the world to rise up [Intifada] for the sake of stopping the aggression, lifting the siege, and supporting the Resistance and Palestinian people. "And Allah will make victorious [yansurna] those who support Him [yansuruhu], for Allah is All-powerful and Great." 51

The next day, July 22nd, the Muslim Brotherhood followed up on this statement with "The Letter of the Muslim Brothers...The Resistance of Dignity, Victory From Allah and Imminent Conquest" which again reiterated key elements of the IUMS statements:

As for the sons of the Umma in every place, we call on them to stand with all their might by the side of the mujahidin in Gaza and by the side of the Palestinian people, and supporting their resilience with all forms of material support, and protesting in every square, and pressuring the agencies and governments to take strong active stances until this aggressions ends and is not repeated, and the siege is lifted completely from Gaza of Pride, and the opening of the crossings permanently to the movement of individuals and goods, and the Palestinian people gains its complete independence and establishes its free state on its land. And we call on the sons of the Umma during these blessed nights to extend victory to the Mujahidin through supplication and invocation and pleading in the hands of Allah to hasten our victory and to let down our enemy [emphasis added].⁵²

This echoes Qaradawi's own call for "The day of aiding the victory [Nasra] must include actions, at the head of which should be protests and sit-ins of a peaceful and legal nature, and monetary support, and complete salvation efforts..."⁵³

In addition to the formal declarations given by the Muslim Brotherhood, individual Muslim Brotherhood leaders have also issued calls that matched the timing and content of the IUMS declarations. On July 14th, the same day the Brotherhood issued their English language call, Kuwaiti Muslim Brotherhood leader⁵⁴ and cleric Tareq Suwaidan called for global support for Gaza, saying,

It is not just the Palestinians and not just the resistance in Gaza – we all must feel that this battle is our battle. If we do not feel that it is our battle, we have a flaw in our understanding, because we do not understand the

progression of history, of geography, and the ideological – nay, the religious – conflict between us and the Israelites. Everyone must participate in this battle, wherever they may be – from Indonesia to the Muslim minorities in the U.S. Everybody must participate.⁵⁵

Suwaidan's description of the nature of the conflict is similar to the one given by Qaradawi on the Siyasa Fi Deen program:

The [Islamic] religion obligates Muslims, if an enemy commits aggression against them, to defend every Muslim who comes under oppression. The Muslim shouldn't defend himself alone. No. He has his Muslim brothers. Every Muslim...the Prophet (pbuh) said that Muslims are a single hand. They seek out their matter against those below them, and they are a [single] hand against those who are equal to them. ⁵⁶

In a rally on July 19th, Sheikh Kamal Al-Khatib, deputy leader of the Islamic Movement of Israel spoke to a crowd of supporters regarding ongoing fighting in Gaza, affirmed Hamas' ties to the Muslim Brotherhood by quoting the Brotherhood motto:

The Gazan David of our times, who challenges you, is not a secularist, a socialist, a leftist, or a capitalist. The David of our times is an Islamist, whose motto is: 'Allah is our goal, the Prophet Muhammad is our role model, the Koran is our constitution, Jihad is our path, and death for the sake of Allah is our loftiest aspiration.⁵⁷

Khatib went on to say that the resistance would defeat Israel by "Rub[bing] Israel's nose in the mud." The official Muslim Brotherhood Letter, of July 21st also called on the resistance to deal a humiliating defeat to the Israelis:

They are the mujahidin who today write with their blood and souls the book of Allah's victory [nasr] for the Umma, despite all the disappointment they have faced, and with all that they suffer from hardships and opposition from some of the sons of their own flesh and blood and religion, yet they still are capable of humiliating [lit. rubbing in the dirt the nose of] the strongest brigade in the Zionist entity (the Golani brigade), which is known as the conqueror of Arab armies, and the best of the brigades of the enemy in terms of weaponry, training and readiness.⁵⁸

Al-Khatib also condemned the Arab regimes for failing to assist Hamas, and called defending the Al Aqsa Mosque as the responsibility of the entire Muslim Ummah, echoing similar statements by Qaradawi and the IUMS:

The protection of the Al-Aqsa mosque is not solely a task for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, residents who have been occupied since 1948 (referring to the State of Israel) and the Palestinian people themselves. It is the task of the entire Muslim and Arab world.⁵⁹

The Islamic Movement of Israel is an Islamist organization directly tied to the Muslim Brotherhood. A profile of the group by the sympathetic Al Jazeera channel referred to the Muslim Brotherhood as the group's "Mother organization." The Islamic Movement is believed by Israeli security forces to have ties to Hamas, after a Hamas operative admitted under interrogation that the Movement played a role in organizing violent demonstrations on the Temple Mount. 61

These calls by elements of the Muslim Brotherhood for global action and support did not go unheeded. Across the globe, including in the West, organizations affiliated with the Brotherhood orchestrated protests and campaigns, some of them violent, in order to meet the call for a "global intifada" called for by Qaradawi.

AN EXAMINATION OF PROTESTS IN THE WEST

Having seen the command given by Muslim Brotherhood leaders and clerics issuing instructions for actions comparable to those provided by Yusuf Al Qaradawi and the International Union of Muslims Scholars, it remains necessary to show that known Muslim Brotherhood fronts or affiliates indeed played a role in the orchestration of protests around the world, and that these protests followed the same Muslim Brotherhood line. What follows is an examination of key protests in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Belgium, the United States and Australia where video of marches and protests on behalf of Gaza were readily available via youtube.com and other sources.

UNITED KINGDOM

In the United Kingdom, protests occurred on multiple days and in varying locations. On July 11th, a protest occurred outside the Israeli Embassy in London. Chants of "Allahu Akbar" could be heard from the crowd. Allahu Akbar, literally God is greater, is a common Islamic phrase, including use in prayer, however it is also routinely used by Islamists as a battle cry. It may denote an Islamist orientation, rather than secular socialist or nationalist connotation to the protest. This belief is further backed by the appearance of black and white *shahdah* flags, carried by multiple protesters. The black flag in particular is common among pro-jihadist pro-caliphate circles. The flag of Shia terrorist group Hezbollah could also be seen.

The July 11 rally was co-sponsored by FOSIS (Federation of Student Islamic Societies), the Islamic Forum of Europe, British Muslim Initiative, the Muslim Association of Britain, and the Palestinian Forum in Britain, all organizations with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. Friends of Al-Aqsa was also a sponsor.

FOSIS was founded in 1962 to act as an umbrella group for Islamic societies on British university campuses. According to a 2008 report by the Center for Social Cohesion, Muslim Brotherhood leader Said Ramadan played a key role in its formation. FOSIS is associated with the Muslim Association of Britain (MAB), and has featured speakers on college campuses with overt Hamas sympathies, including Azzam Tamimi, a member of the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood and alleged Hamas activist. ⁶² FOSIS also invited now deceased Muslim Brotherhood-linked Al Qaeda ideologue Anwar Al-Awaki to speak. ⁶³ In 1990, FOSIS' magazine "The Muslim" published an article by Yusuf Al Qaradawi on how to carry out efforts of recruiting and organization for what Qaradawi and the Muslim Brotherhood call the "Islamic Movement."

The British Muslim Initiative (BMI) is an offshoot of the Muslim Association of Britain, and was founded by Muhammad Sawalha, Azzam Tamimi, and Anas Al-Tikriti. Muhammad Sawalha is a senior HAMAS and UK Muslim Brotherhood leader, who participated in the Union of the Good's "Second Gaza Flotilla". ⁶⁵ Anas Al-Tikriti is a Muslim Brotherhood activist, and the son of Osama Al-Tikriti, the head of a Muslim Brotherhood affiliated political party in Iraq. ⁶⁶

The Muslim Association of Britain is an organization "regarded as the Muslim Brotherhood in Britain in all but name" whose founders included Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood member Kamal Helbawy.⁶⁷ It was in 2004, during a MAB sponsored trip to Britain that Qaradawi travelled to Dublin and founded the International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS.)⁶⁸ The Palestinian Forum of Britain, and its leader Zaher Birawi are identified as affiliates of the Muslim Brotherhood by the intelligence digest, "Global Muslim Brotherhood Daily Watch."⁶⁹ Friends of Al-Aqsa is identified as a Pro-Hamas organization by the Israeli intelligence digest the Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center. Their report notes that

FOA's founder Ismail Patel is a spokesman for the British Muslim Initiative with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.⁷⁰



The next rally was held on July 26, 2014, starting at the Israeli embassy in London and moving towards Parliament. It was also sponsored by FOA, the Palestinian Forum in Britain, British Muslim Initiative, and the Muslim Association of Britain.

On August 1st, another protest took place in front of the Israeli embassy, also sponsored by FOA, the British Muslim Initiative, the Palestinian Forum in Britain, the Muslim Association of Britain and the Islamic Forum of Europe. The Islamic Forum of Europe is a known Muslim Brotherhood organization, which operates out of the East London Mosque, which also houses the organization Muslim Aid, a member of the Qaradawi-run Union of the Good.⁷¹

In Newcastle City Center, a rally was held on July 26, 2007. It was organized by Yvonne Ridley, who is a known supporter of Hamas.⁷² On July 30th on twitter Ridley urged followers to provide funds to the U.S. Treasury Designated organization "Interpal," in order to "get even." ⁷³ Interpal is recognized as part of Qaradawi's Union of the Good, and funder of Hamas. ⁷⁴ Ridley has personally admitted to providing funds to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. ⁷⁵

FRANCE

France witnessed the most violent and extreme protests by far out of any country in Europe or elsewhere. The protests saw intense violence against police and outright anti-Semitic attacks, with violence directed at multiple synagogues and Jewish businesses.

On July 8, the day Israel launched Operation Protective Edge, a Middle Eastern man assaulted a 17-year old Jewish girl near the Gare du Nord train station in Paris, and also shouted at her, "Dirty Jewess,

inshallah you will die." On July 11, a firebomb was hurled at a synagogue near Paris, as part of a string of anti-Semitic incidents occurring in France after the launching of Operation Protective Edge.

On July 12th, The Union Des Organisations Islamiques De France (UOIF), issued a formal call for protests in a:

strong and immediate national and international response at the height of these crimes. The Union of Islamic Organizations of France joins these calls to demonstrate and invites all friends of Palestine, as well as all peace and freedom loving men, to respond to these calls to mobilize."⁷⁶

The UOIF is considered a key node for Muslim Brotherhood operations in France. ⁷⁷ The organization was founded by multiple members of the Federation of the Islamic Organization in Europe, an umbrella group of Brotherhood-associated European organizations. One of the central organizations within the FIOE is the Qaradawi-established European Council on Fatwa and Research. ⁷⁸ Yusuf Qaradawi was banned from France in March of 2012 for extremist statements in response to his scheduled attendance at an UOIF annual conference. ⁷⁹ The FIOE formally protested the decision by French authorities, calling it "not only offensive to the person of Shaykh Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi, but to Muslims in France, Europe, and elsewhere, and to Muslim scholars generally." ⁸⁰

On July 12, at a demonstration in Belleville, an eastern suburb of Paris, calls to "slaughter the Jews" were heard, and the crowd also chanted "death to the Jews." A demonstration that same day in Marseilles witnessed chants of "Allahu Akbar!" as well as the waving of Islamist flags and banners.⁸¹

On July 13, a demonstration turned extremely violent where protesters tried to force their way into the Don Isaac Abravanel synagogue in Paris during services, with bats and chairs, and then fought with security officers who blocked their way. Protesters were heard chanting "Allahu Akbar" while conducting their attacks. Hamas banners were waved and rockets with the words "Muqawama/Resistance", representing Hamas' rockets, were held up by protesters, making it unmistakable that this rally was in support of Hamas. Multiple Islamist banners can be seen held up by crowd-members, and chants of "Allahu Akbar" could be heard as well. Akbar







On July 19,⁸⁴ protesters turned violent and engaged in violent confrontation with police. Demonstrators also displayed the Anti-Semitic "quenelle salute."



One protester could be seen in the Paris demonstration burning an Israeli flag. He wore a yellow shirt with a black hand holding up four fingers. This symbol, known as the R4bia, or Rabia, symbol is a Muslim Brotherhood logo used to represent support for the Muslim Brotherhood government of Mohammed Morsi, and opposition to the "coup" which ousted the Brotherhood from power in Egypt. Dawn Perlmutter, a specialist in the use of signs and symbols in religious violence notes, "The R4BIA sign is not a benign peace symbol; it is a symbol of resistance, Islamism, martyrdom, and a visual call to arms comparable to the black flag of jihad."

On July 22, an unauthorized rally occurred, which included looting of Jewish-owned shops, burning cars and an attack on the synagogue. On July 23, 2014, a rally in Paris occurred, where rioters once again had violent confrontations with police and held aloft Islamist banners.⁸⁶





On July 26, a violent rally occurred in Paris, where they clashed with police, and 50 arrests occurred over the course of the day.

On July 28th, the FIOE issued calls for sanctions against Israel, and for a complete lifting of the "siege" of Gaza, the key component to Hamas (and IUMS) demands. In the statement FIOE declared its support for "the masses of people who demonstrate every day around Europe and worldwide against this hideous aggression" and noted that:

Continuing peaceful demonstrations represent a clear expression of the position of the European peoples, and proof of human conscience that cannot disregard the grave violation of human values, moral principles, and international conventions, or turn a blind eye to the war crimes currently being committed in plain sight in Gaza.⁸⁷

BELGIUM

July 27, 2014 a protest occurred in Brussels, Belgium. Rioters repeatedly chanted, "al-Jihad! al-Jihad!" Brussels is the official headquarters of the FIOE.

GERMANY

Berlin

A protest occurred in Berlin on July 12⁸⁹. Black and White Islamist flags were ubiquitous, as were many Green-and-White Hamas flags.⁹⁰ Loud chants of "La Ilaha Illalah, Muhammad Rasulalah" and alternatively "Al-shahid habib allah!" (the martyr is beloved of Allah) were heard from the crowd, encouraged by an organizer with a bullhorn.

Some of the protesters even broke off and confronted police officers who reported to the scene. The organizers called out "Takbir!" to the crowd, to which they would respond, "Allahu Akbar!"

On July 17, 2014 there was another protest in Berlin. Demonstrators, including some wearing keffiyehs, called Jews "pigs" in Arabic and in German. 91

On July 18th, Danish Imam Sheik Abdul Bilal Ismail issued a call echoing Qaradawi and Muslim Brotherhood statements condemning the Arab states for failing to support Gaza, which he called "Gaza of Pride", a slogan which would also appear on the Brotherhood declaration on July 22nd. Ismail then proceeded to call for the annihilation of the Jews.⁹²

Munich

A protest took place in Munich on July 12, 2014. Shouts of "Allahu Akbar" were heard from the crowd in response to calls of "Takbir!" as were chants of "la ilaha illahlah, Muhammad rasullulah!" as was a refrain of, "la ilaha illalah, Isra'il aduwullah!" in other words, there is no deity but Allah, and Israel is the enemy of Allah. Another chant was, "Ya Allah, w'Bismillah! Allahu Akbar!" Hamas flags were flown by protesters⁹⁴, and the R4bia symbol could be seen carried as a sign below the phrase "Free Gaza." Additionally one organizer flashed the four-fingered R4bia hand gesture to the camera. The presence of the R4bia symbol is suggestive, because it denotes opposition to the Egyptian government of President Abdel Fatah Al-Sisi. The pairing of the fighting in Gaza with the actions of so-called "Arab regimes" is made explicit by both IUMS statements, as well as in the official Muslim Brotherhood declarations.



Munich (cont'd)



Munich (cont'd)



Dortmund

A rally took place on July 12, 2014. Protesters could be seen waving green Hamas flags, and black jihadi flags, with the Shahada on them. ⁹⁵ Calls of "Takbir!" were responded to by "Allahu Akbar!" Protesters also chanted "la ilaha illalah!" Supplication to God was offered, asking Him to "unify our ranks, O Allah!" At the end, protesters said, "Allahuma Salli 'Ala Muhammad, w'Aali Muhamma" (O Allah, bestow your blessings upon Mohammad and the Family of Mohammad).





Frankfurt

A demonstration occurred on July 12, with the main speaker echoing Qaradawi's and the Brotherhood's call to the "Free Peoples" of the world to rise up for the sake of Gaza. Prayer was offered and Islamist banners were waved. Hamas flags were also seen at the demonstration, Green flags with the Shahada emblazoned on them, as were green Hamas headbands. Jihadist black flags with the Shahada were waved by crowdmembers. Calls of "Takbir!" responded to by "Allahu Akbar!" were heard from the crowd. Chants of "There is no God but Allah, and the martyr[shahid] is the beloved of Allah were also heard. Protesters also chanted, "Khaybar, Khaybar, Ya Yahud! Jayshu Muhammad sawfa ya'ud!" and then "Ya allah, bismillah, Allahu Akbar!" The Khaybar chant recalls the decimation of political power of the Jewish tribes of Medina by Muhammad's army, followed by the killing of all of the Khaybari Jewish adult males and the enslavement of the women and children.

Protesters also took over a police vehicle's loud-speaker and used it to chant Islamist slogans and anti-Israel slogans. ¹⁰⁵ Two of the interviewed protesters echoed Qaradawi's sentiments on the responsibility of all Muslims, being that they are all one umma, to rise up for the sake of Palestinians. ¹⁰⁶ Violent clashes with police also occurred. ¹⁰⁷



Stuttgart

On July 13, a protest was held in Stuttgart. Angry screams of "Ya Allah! Bismillah! Allahu Akbar!" are heard coming from the crowd, prior to a confrontation with far-outnumbered police. On July 25, another rally was held in Stuttgart. Cries were heard of "Allahu Akbar!" and crowd members were wearing the green headbands of Hamas.

Gelsenkirchen

A protest was held on July 12, 2014¹⁰⁹. Chants could be heard of "Takbir!" with the responsive "Allahu Akbar!" Additionally, the chant of "Khaybar! Khaybar! Ya Yahoud! Jayshu Muhammad sawfa ya'ud!" was also heard, referencing the defeat and slaughter of the Jews of Medina.

Hannover

On July 17, 2014, a protest was held in Hannover. Protesters could be seen wearing Hamas flags. 110 Protesters also chanted, "Allahu Akbar!" in response to calls of "Takbir!"



Essen

A counterdemonstration to a pro-Israel rally was held in Essen on July 18, 2014. Shouts were heard of "La ilaha illalah, Muhammad habiballah!" followed by chants of "Takbir!" to which the crowd responded, "Allahu Akbar!" Hamas flags, in addition to white banners and black banners with the Shahada written on them, associated with jihadi groups, were flown by demonstrators. Protesters were also flying flags with the phrase "Ya Hussein" frequently associated with Shia Islamist groups, particularly Hezbollah.¹¹¹ When confronting the Israeli demonstrators, they began chanting the Shahada, "la ilaha illalah, Muhammad rasullalah!"



Essen (cont'd)



Nuremberg

On July 20, a demonstration was held in Nuremberg. The crowd angrily chanted "Allahu Akbar!" repeatedly. After breaking into a Burger King and chanting, "Kinder morder Israel!" (Israel murders children) they began a refrain of "Takbir!" with "Allahu Akbar!" chanted back responsively. They then began chanting, "Ya Illah, w'bismillah! Allahu Akbar!" Protesters could be seen wearing green headbands emblazoned with the Shahada, of the type worn by Hamas terrorists.



UNITED STATES

Dallas

A demonstration was held in Dallas on July 14, 2014. Protesters wore Palestinian flags emblazoned with the Shahada, and launched into a chant of "Udrub, Udrub Tal-Abib!" (Hit/Bomb, Hit/Bomb Tel-Aviv!) and then possibly followed by "Dammer, Dammer Tal-Abib!" (Destroy, Destroy Tel-Aviv!) This chant echoes a well-known Hamas nasheed, which features the same refrain, "Bomb, Bomb Tel Aviv.¹¹³ And additional chant taken up by protesters was, "brick by brick, wall by wall, Israel has to fall!" One of the organizers called on his fellow protesters to "make it loud, it's gonna be on the news," after which the crowd began chanting "Udrub, Udrub Tal-Abib!" once again. ¹¹⁴



Houston

A rally took place in Houston on July 20, 2014. Many protesters were carrying Palestinian flags with the Shahada written on them, in the same stylistic fashion as the Shahada on Hamas' green flags.. A female protester could be heard chanting, "Khaybar, Khaybar, ya Yahud! Jayshu Muhammad sawfa ya'ud! In addition, they began chanting, "La ilaha illalah, w'al shahid Habiballah!" (there is no deity but Allah and the martyr is the beloved of Allah."



Houston (cont'd)



Austin

On August 2nd, 2014, Pro-Palestinian protesters held a march reportedly 5,000 strong in the Texas state capital of Austin. Palestinian flags with the Shahada on them were displayed, along with at least two people wearing R4bia shirts representing support for the Muslim Brotherhood's ongoing conflict with the Egyptian military. Chants of "Allahu Akbar" can be heard in the video. ¹¹⁵ A woman wearing a green headband commonly worn by Hamas terrorists can be seen. A speaker issued a condemnation of governments of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan as being non-representative of the will of the people of those countries, and calling them, "evil, corrupt governments," comparable to the Qaradawi and Muslim Brotherhood declarations. ¹¹⁶

Austin (cont'd)



Miami

A protest in Miami on July 20th was held, where a crowd of Pro-Hamas supporters chanted slogans, including "We are Hamas," "Khaybar! Khaybar! Ya Yahoud! Jayshu Muhammad sawfa ya'ud," and "wa'sh shahid habiballah."

Miami (cont'd)



The protest was organized by a coalition of groups, including the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) and The Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), two groups with deep and well-established ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. Founded by members of the Muslim Brotherhood Palestine Committee, Omar Ahmad, Nihad Awad and Rafiq Jaber. 117 A 1994 internal memo acquired by the FBI and used as evidence in the Holy Land Foundation terrorism finance trial indicates that CAIR was considered a "working organization" of the Palestine Committee, where organizations created by the global Muslim Brotherhood in order to support Hamas. As noted by Federal Court Judge Jorge Solis the government presented "ample evidence" in the Holy Land Foundation trial to justify CAIR's "association with HLF, IAP, and Hamas." 118 In a letter to Senator Jon Kyl, FBI Assistant Director Richard Powers explained that this same evidence led to the decision by the FBI to cease direct ties to CAIR. 119

The Islamic Circle of North America is the American branch of Pakistani Islamist organization Jammat-e-Islami, an organization founded by Islamic scholar and early Pakistani Islamist ideologue Abul A'la Maududi, whose work was highly influential on Muslim Brotherhood ideologue Sayyid Qutb. ICNA is mentioned in Muslim Brotherhood document released as evidence in the Holy Land Foundation case, including in the Explanatory Memorandum, where ICNA is listed as one of the Muslim Brotherhood's "organizations, and the organizations of our friends." The Explanatory memorandum indicates a proposed merger with ICNA, which the author, Mohamed Akram, calls "a step in the right direction." ICNA later merged its annual convention with another Muslim Brotherhood organization, known as the Muslim American Society, to form MAS-ICNA. ICNA's charity arm, ICNA Relief, reportedly provided \$100,000 to Hamas, and has encouraged donors to provide funds to known Hamas charities.

Chicago

July 12, 2014. Supporters were seen carrying a Palestinian flag with a Shahada, commonly used by Palestinian Islamic Jihad and also by Hamas.¹²³



On July 20, another protest was held, where Palestinian flags bearing the Shahada, commonly used by both Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas, were held aloft. Awad Hamdan played a major role in organizing this and other protests in Chicago. Hamdan is the Development coordinator for Islamic Relief USA, a group with known Muslim Brotherhood ties. Chants of "Allahu Akbar!" came from the crowd as well. Other organizations with Brotherhood affiliations that sponsored protests included: The Mosque Foundation, The Islamic Center of Central Illinois, and American Muslims for Palestine. Also sponsoring the protest was the Chicago Islamic Center, which on Friday July 18th, and Friday July 25 featured Sheikh Mohammed Eliman, who gave blistering sermons in favor of jihad on behalf of Gaza, and condemning Arab regimes, similar to Qaradawi and the Muslim Brotherhood's declarations condemning Arab inaction.



Chicago (cont'd_



July 21^{st} , held outside of the Israeli consulate. Awad Hamdan, on the previous protest, emphasized the importance of attending that rally.

At a protest on July 26, 2014 a Du'a [supplication] was given by Sheikh Ibrahim al-Dardasawi, who beseeched Allah to, "Allah take care of their enemies, O Allah! O Allah take revenge upon the Zionists in every place. Scatter their unity. Divide their assembly. And encircle them...O Allah...liberate Palestine...liberate the Al-Aqsa Mosque, soon and not far in the future...be with them[the people of Palestine] with your armies, O Allah." Following his du'a, the crowd was then led into chants of "Takbir!" by Awad Hamadan, with responses of "Allahu Akbar!" Then a young girl led them in chants of "Takbir!" with responses of "Allahu Akbar!"

Kansas City

A protest occurred in Kansas City, Missouri on the 20th of July.¹³⁰ It is worth noting that protest organizer Fatima Mohammadi was aboard the Mavi Marmara.¹³¹ Mohammadi was formerly the Director of Programs at Zakat Foundation of America until March 2009, and the national organizer of Viva Palestina USA until January 2010.¹³² In May of 2009, the Anti-Defamation League urged U.S. Attorney General Eric

Holder to look into credible reports that Viva Palestina was providing material support to Hamas. ¹³³ The Mavi Marmara, it will be recalled, was organized by the IHH, the Turkish branch of the Qaradawi-led Union of the Good which funds Hamas. The Zakat Foundation once served as the fiscal sponsor for a grant to IHH. ¹³⁴ On their website, The Zakat Foundation previously listed Sheik Yusuf al Qaradawi as their authority regarding how Zakat funds should be dispersed. ¹³⁵

San Francisco

July 7, protesters repeatedly chanted, "Intifada, Intifada!" and "long live Intifada." 137 On July 12, another protest was held in support of Gaza. Protesters once again repeatedly chanted, "Intifada! Intifada!" and "Long Live Intifada!" 38 One of the organizers was American Muslims for Palestine 139, a group with two board members, Salah Sarsour, and Osama Abu Irshaid who have ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas. 140 Sarsour reportedly served as former fundraiser for the Holy Land Foundation that provided funds for Hamas, according to FBI documents. 141 Osama Abu Irshaid was the former editor of the Al-Zayatouna newspaper, put out by the Islamic Association of Palestine, one of the "working organizations" of the Muslim Brotherhood Palestine Committee. 142 An individual can be seen in the video wearing an "Islam Awareness Week" shirt. Islam Awareness Week is a campus program commonly put on by the Muslim Student Association (MSA.) The MSA is the oldest Muslim Brotherhood affiliated organization in North America. The historical importance of the Muslim Student Association is clearly documented in the history of the Muslim Brotherhood in North America given by Zaid Naman, entered into evidence during the Holy Land Foundation trial. 143

San Francisco (cont'd)





San Francisco (cont'd)

On July 20, protesters could be seen waving Hamas flags, ¹⁴⁴ as well as Palestinian flags with a Hamasstyle Shahada on the white band, commonly used by Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas. ¹⁴⁵



San Francisco (cont'd)



Washington D.C.

On August 2nd, A coalition of Muslim Brotherhood-linked organizations, together with radical left group A.N.S.W.E.R conducted a major protest in Washington D.C. featuring approximately 10,000 Pro-Palestine, Pro-Hamas, and anti-Israel demonstrators. 146 Of the 6 official organizing groups, four had ties to the Muslim Brotherhood including the Council on American Islamic Relations, Americans Muslims for Palestine, The Islamic Circle of North America, and The American Muslim Alliance. The American Muslim Alliance is led by Imam Mahdi Bray, formerly a leader of the Muslim American Society (MAS). During the rally Bray quoted Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" in reference to Gaza resistance, making an implicit comparison between Hamas and the American founding father. MAS is an organization founded by self-identified Muslim Brother Imam Ahmed Elkadi, with the assistance of former Supreme Brotherhood Guide Mahdi Akef.¹⁴⁷ Convicted Al Qaeda financier, and self-identified Muslim Brother Abdurraham Alamoudi told Federal law enforcement that, "everybody knows, MAS is Muslim Brotherhood." Alamoudi told Federal law enforcement that, "everybody knows, MAS is Muslim Brotherhood." Executive Director Nihad Awad personally led the march, while AMP board member Osama Abu Irshaid, and ICNA Relief Chairman of the Board Mohsin Ansari, and Khalilah Sabra of the MAS Immigrant Justice Center were also in attendance. At least one individual wearing a jacket identifying the "Zakat Foundation" was on hand, handling logistics to insure people received water. Numerous individuals were on hand wearing t-shirts identifying them with the Chicago-based Helping Hand for Relief and Development, an Islamic charity which is known to cooperate with the Pakistani Al-khidmat Foundation alleged to have provided 6 Million rupees in funds to Hamas. 149

In the case of the Washington D.C. protest, there seemed to be an emphasis on limiting potential negative press. Nihad Awad, executive director of CAIR personally intervened in an attempt to stop the burning of an Israeli flag while a group of young men chanted "allahu akbar." Despite this attempt at image control, there were clear indications of Islamist/Muslim Brotherhood influence and pro-Hamas sentiment.

While the march featured primarily Palestinian national flags, two Hamas Flags were visible, including one flown by a protester also wearing a Hamas-style green headband. The Palestinian flags with the Shahad, which have been displayed by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, were also clearly visible. Shirts and signs featuring the Muslim Brotherhood R4bia symbol were in evidence, along with an individual wearing a t-shirt featuring the image of Muslim Brotherhood former president of Egypt Mohammed Morsi superimposed on an Egyptian flag. During the march an individual with a microphone could be heard doing "dawah" to the crowd, specifically instructing them regarding the position that the ummah must be united and on the importance of the use of social media in support of Gaza. While not an Islamist symbol, one individual was spotted wearing a shirt identifying him with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) a designated terrorist organization.

Chants included calls to free Palestine "From the river to the sea" an implicit call for the destruction of Israel. Additionally cries of "Takbir" and "allahu akbar" were given, as well as chants of "Gaza of Pride" in Arabic, the same phrase uttered by Imam Abu Bilal Ismail and which appeared in Brotherhood and IUMS statements. Media reported that Pro-Israel protesters on the scene required a police escort in order to leave safely¹⁵⁰, while a former U.S. Marine carrying U.S. and Israeli flags told police, ""I got attacked by a mob...they spit on me, they kicked me, they punched me."¹⁵¹

Washington D.C. (cont'd)





Washington D.C. (cont'd)





AUSTRALIA

Perth

On July 19, a rally was held in Perth. The main speaker lauded Hamas as the "democratically elected government" in Gaza and objected to Western opposition to the Hamas government. The speaker also referred to the United States, Israel and other western countries as terrorists. She also referred to Middle Eastern nations as "our countries," demonstrating that her loyalty was not to Australia. Echoing Qaradawi's call, the speaker also spoke of the international community's right of defense against Israel on behalf of the Palestinian people. Chants were heard from the crowd of "Takbir!" responded to by "Allahu Akbar!" The speaker referred to the Egyptian president as "that traitor, Sisi," echoing the Muslim Brotherhood's and Qaradawi's animosity towards the current Egyptian leadership. Speaking in a manner aligning with known Muslim Brotherhood objectives, the speaker advocated taking "...political action against our governments. We have to use their system against them to make our concerns heard." She advocates setting down long-term goals and strategies accomplish this effort.

Melbourne

A protest occurred on July 19, 2014¹⁵⁴. The crowd was mixed with Shi'a and Sunni Islamists, as evidenced by the banners and flags carried by the participants. Hamas flags could be seen in the crowd, as were multiple Hezbollah flags. Chants of "Takbir!" with the responsive "Allahu Akbar!" were heard at multiple points during the demonstration. In addition, there were calls for the destruction of Israel. Speakers blamed Israel's very existence for the purported suffering of the Palestinians, and the chant of "from the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free" was carried up by the crowd. A Hamas nasheed¹⁵⁵ was also played¹⁵⁶ in the crowd, with the words, "The leader Ismail [Haniyeh] said: We shall not recognize Israel!"



Melbourne (cont'd)



Brisbane

A rally was held on July 20, 2014. Supporters held aloft signs equating Israel with Nazi Germany, chanted and held signs calling for Palestine to be free "from the River to the Sea," in effect calling for Israel's total destruction. Protesters were shirts emblazoned with a white-on-black Shahada, in the manner of jihadi Islamist banners, in addition to carrying banners bearing the Shahada. The rally ended with chants of "Takbir!" with the responsive "Allahu Akbar!" 157



Sydney

A rally was held in Sydney on July 13, 2014. Black jihadi banners carrying the Shahada were held aloft by crowd members, in addition to the flag of the Shi'a Lebanese terrorist Amal organization, and Hamas flags. One protester called Israel the "Modern Day Nazis." An organizer called out "Takbir!" and the protesters chanted "Allahu Akbar!" in response. Chants of "La ilaha illallah!" were also heard from crowd members. On other occasions the protesters responded to that chant with "Al-Shahid [the martyr] is the beloved of Allah!" Chants of "Down, Down Israel!" and "Down, Down USA!" were also heard from the crowd.



CONCLUSION

An examination suggests that both the timing, and the content of numerous worldwide Gaza protests do indeed correspond with the timing and nature of the declarations issued by Yusuf al-Qaradawi and the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and echoed by formal Muslim Brotherhood channels regarding Operation: Protective Edge. In all cases there are signs of support for jihad, and specifically support for Hamas, and in many cases, the Muslim Brotherhood more generally. In cases where speakers' statements could be acquired, there was a correlation with themes expressed by Qaradawi. In numerous cases protest organizers included groups with known ties to the global Muslim Brotherhood, and in some cases, direct ties to organizations established or affiliated with Qaradawi. This is not to imply that absent a call from Qaradawi there would not have been protests. Nor is it to suggest that all those who joined protests are some how affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, or are disciples of Qaradawi, only to suggest that a substantial portion of the protesters were, and that key leaders involved in setting the timing and tone of protests had, at minimum, an ideological alignment with the Muslim Brotherhood.

While it is true that protests did not reach the scale of the protests during the "Danish Cartoon Controversy," which Qaradawi cited as his model for the present effort, two factors likely played a limiting role. One is the current antagonism expressed for the Muslim Brotherhood (and by extension Hamas) by Arab regimes including Egypt, U.A.E and Saudi Arabia. The other is that during the period of Operation: Protective Edge, the International Union of Muslim Scholars website suffered a cyberattack, and Qaradawi's declarations were relegated to a backup site, and relied on dissemination through twitter.

Despite these adverse impacts however, Qaradawi, and the IUMS continue to maintain sufficient stature, and the global Muslim Brotherhood continues to possess influence over organizations of sufficient scope and logistical capability, that it is possible for them to substantially influence the timing, size, nature, and vehemence of global protests, including those which escalate to violence, as was demonstrated most particularly in France.

In conclusion, the claim by Yusuf Al Qaradawi to be able to influence global action through his shariah legal declarations must be given due consideration, as they continue to carry weight with a substantial number of organized, and politically active supporters, most particularly those with affiliation with, or sympathy for the Muslim Brotherhood.

This report also demonstrates the value in examining the content of those, like Qaradawi, whose principal role is primarily juridical or ideological, yet nevertheless clearly plays a "command and control" role in determining key elements of Global Muslim Brotherhood policy.

APPENDIX 1: EXAMPLES OF GREEN SHAHADA "HAMAS FLAG" AND THE PALESTINIAN FLAG WITH SHAHADA IN USE BY PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD AND HAMAS



A Hamas rally featuring the Green Shahada flag of Hamas and a portrait of deceased Hamas commander Ahmad Jabari



Parade by armed Hamas members carrying Green Shahada flag



Hamas Founders Sheikh Yassin and Abdel Aziz Ali Abdul Majid al-Rantisi with Palestinian Shahada flag in the background



A stylized image of Hamas founder al-Rantisi, with the Palestinian Shahada flag behind and the logo of Hamas emblazoned in the lower right



Palestinian Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Shallah, with Palestinian Islamic Jihad

flag (black and yellow) with Palestinian Shahada flag



Palestinian Islamic Jihad fighter stands behind Palestinian shahada flag.

APPENDIX 2: TRANSLATION OF KEY INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MUSLIM SCHOLARS DECLARATIONS AND MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD STATEMENTS ORDERED CHRONOLOGICALLY

July 4, 2014- Union Condemns the International Silence Regarding the Murder and Burning of the Palestinian Youth and Martyr, Mohammad Hussein Abu Khdeir. (http://itihad-olamaa.org/ar/Default.asp?ContentID=8135&menuID=6)

The International Union of Muslim Scholars issued a report condemning the international silence towards the murder, and burning of the Palestinian youth and martyr, Mohammad Hussein Abu Khdeir, and stresses the right of the Palestinians to launch an intifada/rise up, and resist the Occupation through all possible means, and condemns the bloodthirsty Zionist instigation against the Palestinians, and calls on the Umma to defend Palestine: as a cause, and people, and holy places. Here is the text of of the declaration:

Praise be to Allah, and prayers and blessings upon the Messenger of Allah, and upon his family and companions and those loyal to him (etc.)

The International Union for Muslim Scholars has followed with sorrow the incident of the murder and burning of the Palestinian youth and martyr Mohammad Hussein Abu Khdeir, at the hands of criminal Zionist settlers on occupied Palestinian land, amidst Islamic, Arabic, Regional and International silence, both official and popular, which points to a general lack of human conscience, and exposes supporting the Zionist Occupier against the Palestinian masters of the land!

Therefore the International Union of Muslim Scholars, regarding this matters, states and emphasizes the following:

- 1. The IUMS emphasizes and stresses the complete right of the Palestinian people to defend its occupied land, and to resist the occupier through all possible and available means, without exception, per the rules of Islamic Law, and the rules and principles of international law.
- 2. The Union condemns the international silence towards the occurrence of the murder and burning of the Palestinian youth and martyr Mohammad Hussein Abu Khdeir, who was kidnapped by Zionist settler murderers, who killed him in cold blood and then burned his body, in the shadow of official Zionist intisgation, and the letting loose of bloodthirsty calls against the Palestinians, and which all indicates a large danger towards the Palestinian cause; and it requires the rejection of these racist aggressions towards Arabs and Muslims, and responding to it at all levels.
- 3. The International Union considers what the Zionist Occupation authority carries out in the Palestinian land: Extreme demonstrative steps; satisfying the bloodthirsty demands from a murderous occupier.
- 4. The International Union of Muslim Scholars calls on the Islamic and Arabic Umma: peoples and governments, to the Palestinian People, and to back the Palestinian Cause and the Palestinian People and their just rights, and the Palestinian holy sites that have fallen prey to the brutal occupier, and considers them completely responsible and accountable before Almighty Allah.

"O you who believe, if you support Allah, He will make you victorious and make your foothold firm." Surat Mohammad, Verse 7.

Dr. Ali Qaradaghi

Doctor Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

The Secretary General

President of the Union

July 7, 2014- Al-Qarahdaghi Calls for an Islamic and Arab Intifada for Palestine (http://iumsonline.org/ar/default.asp?menuID=26&contentID=8148)

Dr. Ali Al-Qaradaghi – the Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars – called on the Islamic and Arab peoples to rise up in all parts of the world for the sake of Palestine and Jerusalem since it is the central issue of the nation, and therefore pressure must be placed on the governments and institutions to carry out their duty towards stopping the Zionist terrorism that is occurring in the land of Palestine, stressing that the peoples are more powerful than they imagine and that they are capable of making the difference if they were to act to support the Umma's just causes.

Al-Qaradaghi also declared that the Union stands with the popular outburst in Jerusalem and the West Bank, and condemns the crimes against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, and cautions the Zionist settlers who are raping the land from targeting Palestinians, and the Umma will not idly refrain forever from aiding their brethren that are being murdered by Zionist hands, which also usurps their lands and money.

July 9, 2014- Union Cries Out to Support the Palestinian Cause (http://itihad-olamaa.org/ar/default.asp?contentid=8158&MenuID=7)

The International Union of Muslim Scholars issued a statement crying out to support [nusrat] the Palestinian cause, and asking the free world to put pressure on the Zionist occupier to stop the aggression on Gaza and all of the Palestinian lands, and confirming the complete support of the Union for the Palestinian people in its entirely in its lawful resistance against the raping/usurping occupier, and calls on the Islamic and Arabic umma to carry out its role in supporting the Palestinian cause in every way.

This is the text of the statement:

Gratitude be to Allah and prayers and peace upon the Messenger of Allah, and upon his family and companions and those who were loyal to him (etc.)

The International Union of Muslim Scholars has followed what is happening on the land of Palestine with great distress and sadness, and especially these days, from Zionist wanton aggression against Gaza and the [West] Bank and upon our people in Jerusalem and all of Palestine, which led to the martyrdom and injury of a great number of the sons of the Palestinian people, even women and infants, according to reports from the Palestinian ministry of health.

The international Union of Muslim Scholars, in light of this cause, states and affirms the following:

- The International Union of Muslim Scholars backs the Palestinian people in a third Intifada, and calls on it to be firm and resilient in the face of the wanton Zionist enemy.
- 2. The International union issues a cry in all Islamic and Arab countries, and calls upon the sons of the Umma to ignite to support [nusrat] the Palestinian people in its struggle.
- 3. The International Union calls upon the rulers and Islamic and humanitarian organizations to assume their responsibilities to stop the continuous oppressive campaigns of the Zionist enemy, and to stop international disappointment towards the cause of Palestine.
- 4. The International Union calls upon the free world, leaders and peoples, to apply pressure to stop the firing from the Zionist occupier against our brothers in Gaza, whose siege has gone on too long, in light of the great resilience from the people of Palestine generally and the people of Gaza particularly, and affirms that the Cause of Palestine is a revealing cause for all, for it has revealed the mujahidin, who have increased in firmness and trust in Allah, and it has exposed the collaborators who have increased in unparalleled villainy.

And Allah will be prevail in what He decrees, even though most of the people do not know. Yusuf, Verse 21.

Dr. Ali Al-Qaradaghi Dr. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

Secretary General Union President

July 16, 2014-IUMS Announces July 18th as International Day to aid in the victory of Gaza (http://itihad-olamaa.org/ar/default.asp?contentid=8158&MenuID=7)

The International Union for Muslim Scholars calls on the free world and international organizations to carry out their humanitarian duties towards supporting the people of Gaza and Palestine, and working towards stopping the aggression, and considering it a crime against humanity, and striving to put the Zionists on trial and pursuing them internationally, and it calls on the Islamic World, represented by peoples, officials, Ministries of Endowment [Awqaf] and Islamic affairs, and fatwa centers, universities, organizations and bodies, and Islamic universities, scholars and preachers [du'at, i.e. those carrying out da'wa] to set aside the upcoming Friday, the 20th of Ramadan 1435 AH, corresponding to July 18, 2014 AD, as an international day to aid in the victory of [Nusrat] the blockaded and displaced people of Gaza. And it calls on the Arabic and Islamic countries to direct their weapons towards the raping/usurping Zionist enemy, and calls on withdrawing the Arab Peace Initiative which has no traces at all in reality.

Gratitude be to Allah, and prayers and blessings upon the Messenger of Allah, and upon his family, companions and loyal followers, etc.

The International Union for Muslim Scholars is following with great concern/anxiety, moment by moment, the situation in besieged Gaza that is under wanton and continuous Zionist bombardment, which respects neither divine nor human law, in the crimes that it is carrying out against our Palestinian brethren, amidst shameful and outrageous international, Arabic and Islamic silence, as if the Muslims have contended themselves with watching and condemning, without having any influential/effective/effectual role in aiding the victory [Nusrat] of their brothers in the Sentinel Land of Palestine.

In the midst of the hell of the Zionist aggression and the Criminal Zionist War against the Palestinian people, the International Union of Muslim Scholars states the following:

- 1. The Union calls on the Free World, and all of the international and legal organizations, to carry out their roles in alleviating the oppression from Gaza and all of Palestine, and preventing the aggression that is occurring against them which is occurring without any even any veneer of legitimacy, legality or humanitarianism, and to consider this aggression a crime against humanity, and to pursue its perpetrators and prosecuting them internationally.
- 2. The International Union requests from the peoples, officials, Ministries of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, organization and agencies, Islamic unions and movements, and scholars across the world: setting aside this upcoming Friday, the 20th of Ramadan 1435 AH, corresponding to July 18, 2014 AD, as a global day to aid the victory [Nusrat] of the people of Gaza and the Palestinian people, who live under wanton Zionist bombardment, which has taken from them hundreds of martyrs, of female, infant and elderly civilians. The day of aiding the victory [Nasra] must include actions, at the head of which should be protests and sit-ins of a peaceful and legal nature, and monetary support, and complete salvation efforts, and supporting the families of the martyrs and injured, and international commitment to rebuild Gaza and to build homes; and to set aside Friday Khutbas, and devotion in the Friday Prayer and the night-time prayer for aiding the victory[Nusrat] of the Palestinians, and all oppressed peoples on earth, especially the Muslims in various countries.
- 3. The International Union directs questions to the rulers in the Islamic and Arab world: Where is your role of active support for the central issue of the Umma, which is the cause of Palestine? What is the benefit of your weapons that you buy with billions of dollars if it is not to be used for the protection of the Umma and the weak among it? Why do you not use the Oil Weapon to support the causes of the Umma? Are you not moved by the Zionist attacks on our Palestinian brothers and sisters during the great month of Ramadan, and the martyrdom of hundreds and the

- injuries of more than 1500 Palestinians until now, and the destruction of their homes and their dispersion?
- 4. The Union calls for withdrawing any proposal for Israeli-Arab Peace, since there is not trace for it and no reality as well, and it emphasizes that the Zionists are the enemies of the 'Umma, not the free and noble resistance, which is aiming to free its homeland and to raise the heads of the entire Umma up high.
- 5. The Union emphasizes the total right of the Palestinians to demand the opening of all of the crossings, especially the Rafah border crossing totally and continuously, since it is one of the simplest of the rights of the Palestinians.
- 6. [The Union] calls on the Arab nations not to work on the Palestinian Cause by isolating the Palestinian Authority or the Palestinian resistance, including all of its factions without any exception, and towards what serves the interests of Palestine and the entire Umma,
- 7. The International Union calls on the Palestinian authority, represented by its President, Mr. Mahmoud Abbas, and the Palestinian resistance as well, in all of its factions, to ensure complete coordination between them, and not to take decisions which are biased towards one side against the other, fulfilling Palestinian unity, and supporting the recently approved reconciliation, which fulfills the general benefit of the Palestinian Cause.
- 8. The International Union of Muslim Scholars backs the noble and free Palestinian Resistance, from all of the factions of the Resistance, and considers them national liberation movements, which are guaranteed by Islamic Shari'a and international law to all of their rights to protect their homeland and sacred sites, and their land and Cause, and just rights, and [the Union] salutes the resilience of that Resistance and its military prowess which has proven qualitative on all levels, and emphasizes that what is happening now on the ground of Gaza is a fulfillment of what Allah, exalted and almighty, said in his noble book: "And Allah will surely support those who support Him. Indeed, Allah is Powerful and Exalted in Might." [Al-Hajj, Sura 22:40] and also says, "and you did not throw, when you threw, but it was Allah who threw." [Al-Anfal. 8:17]
- 9. The Union condemns the Zionist operations against the Palestinian people, and classifies them as murderous operations which requires international pursuit of the commanders of the occupying Zionist enemy, and also requires interception of these operations by all Palestinians, and calls for Islamic and Arab support for the just Islamic cause, and not providing cover to the enemy to carry out more violations.
- 10. The International Union condemns any attempt to undermine the Resistance, or to impose any terms upon it which do not satisfy the needs of the Palestinian people, and requests from the Arab and Islamic leaders to work towards the benefit of the just Palestinian Cause, and supporting it diplomatically and politically, and through media, and logistically, and especially to lift the blockade off of Gaza, instead of working against that in any way, or making improper suggestions!
- 11. The International Union warns against any attempts to displace the people of Gaza, by directing tens of thousands of requests at them to leave their homes as a prelude to those homes being bombed, and after that the series of displacements will start, and more impoverishment, and attempts to humiliate that will not go on for long, Allah willing.
- 12. The Union warns the Zionist Enemy from gambling on Arabic and Islamic weakness, especially at the leadership level, because the free peoples will not stand idly by regarding what is happening to their brothers in Palestine generally and in Gaza particularly. In fact, the outburst of the Islamic and Arabic Umma for the sake of Palestine shall be a decisive outburst, Allah willing.

Allah is Great, and Victory [Al-Nasr] to Gaza of Pride and Resilience.

Allah has ordered, but most people do not know. (Yusef: 21]

Date: 18 of Ramadan 1435 AH

Corresponding to: July 16, 2014 AD

Secretary General

Union President

Doctor Ali Muhyiddin Al-Qaradaghi

Doctor Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

July 20, 2014-Excerpts from Episode I of Sisyasa Fi Deen (Politics in Religion) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBUMC3RFCec&list=FLz3BkhdJSP7l8CiZNG1RKeQ)

Host: Nothing more important at the moment than this wanton Zionist Aggression on our umma and Gaza.

Host: Sheikh, let us start w/ the Israeli aggression against Gaza, and the martyrs are now 500, mostly women and children. How do you see this?

Qaradawi: ... we salute our brothers, our sentinel, resilient and patient mujahideen in the sake of Allah in Gaza, the house of pride and dignity...we ask Allah to give them his favor and his blessing and give them a quick victory...

. . .

Regarding the Israelis, this is explosive aggression and perfidious criminality against a believing faction that does not commit aggression against anyone. It defends itself, and it is the right of every oppressed person to defend himself...our brothers in Gaza did not commit aggression against anyone. They did not go from their land to another land...Gaza's stance is the stance of justice and good. And the Zionists, their stance is one of corruption, that strives for evil, and to spreading corruption in the earth, and to oppression of people. This is a stance of basic evil vs. basic good...

. . .

Qatar and Turkey have taken stances that are good

. . .

Allah Almighty has said, "You have not killed them, but Allah has killed them. And it was not you who threw, if you threw, but Allah has thrown." [Al Anfal]

. . .

Some of our brethren are standing with Gaza...and others are disappointing them.

Host: This is what I wanted to ask you about, honorable Sheikh, what is your opinion regarding the fact that many Arab entities have not moved at all until this point towards what is happening in Gaza, of wanton aggression on the people of Gaza and all of Palestine? [Did this surprise you or not?]

Qaradawi: [This is surprising] and the Arab umma cannot take such a stance, ever. Because we know that the Jews, says Allah Almighty, are the strongest people in enmity towards those who believe. The Jews and the polytheists/idolaters. Jews, in their status as Jews, despite the fact that Islam opened its heart to them and extended to them its hand and attempted to become close to them, and the Messenger made a covenant with them, considering them as a faction of the Muslims. However, it is they who betrayed the covenants, and crossed the boundaries, and committed perfidy in regards to all that the Prophet Mohammad(pbuh) agreed to with them... We Muslims know that this cause is a cause of existence. (This is an existential cause) Shall we exist or shall we not exist? Is it our right to live? They came and took our countries. So then what is the issue? The issue is that the Jews were not in this area. Some people do not know this. I have debated some people on this who did not know. If you go back 100 years you will not find for the Jews...They tell me, 'what are you talking about? The Jews have a State." This is a state from 1945, but before 1945 they had no state at all. At the beginnings of this century, they had no presence. Some thousands were present. The censuses and numbers are available... These are people who came to this area from outside of the continent entirely. They came from other continents. From America and Russia and Africa and Asia and from all countries, and they came to...

Host: But, Honorable Sheikh, they now have a State that is recognized by all of the world and all international organizations and have become a reality on the ground that we cannot cross. There is something that is called the State of Israel.

Qaradawi: We cannot? No, no. We can!

Host: How?

Qaradawi: If the wrong came and spread, and imposed itself on life, shall be recognize it? Wrong remains wrong, no matter how long it lives/exists/continues. We believe that this land is Palestinian land. And this land has always been Palestinian. So they say that our master Abraham, Allah sent him, and that this land will belong to his progeny. And our master Abraham, his progeny is also Ishmael. They say no, this is the son of the maidservant and is not considered... What does it matter? Isn't he the son of Abraham. So they claim they have a right in this country. But they have no right. [Their] right is the right of might, the might that was imposed itself. When the Muslims were strong and entered these countries – and these were Arabic countries – even before Islam, it had the Jebusites and tribes, the Canaanites and others. All these were Arabic tribes and Arabic peoples. And then these people come and say they have a right in this land. And they fought and were fought back for hundreds of years. And they were finished. They were ended as a state, at first, and then as a people.

When Sayyid Umar entered Palestine and they gave him the keys to Jerusalem, called Ilya' [Aelia Capitolina] they made it a condition that he would not allow Jews to live in it. And he guaranteed this to them. Therefore Jews did not live in it for centuries. They tried after to forge a book about the Prophet (pbuh) in the age of Ibn Taymiyyah, and Ibn Taymiyyah called this a lie...we do not recognize these people have a right in this country.

Therefore, if we do recognize, it is as a submission to the bitter reality when you do not find someone to help you to get your rights and you do not have the weapons to face the Zionists, and those who are with the Zionists. The Zionists are not alone. The Zionist are joined by America, and the West, and International Crusaderism [Al-Salibiyya Al-Alamiyya], and many others. We only have with us Allah. Even the Arabs and the Muslims in this battle have given up...on their brothers in Gaza.

Host: We have been talking about the Leaders and Rulers of the Arabs. The majority of them haven't moved, even in a simple word. Today we do not even hear a condemnation about what is happening to Gaza. What is your opinion

Qaradawi: The umma is sleeping, drugged and drunk. It doesn't know. What could happen to the Islamic Umma?...This is the Umma that is the teacher of humanity...this umma is absent...its leaders, unfortunately, are not the leaders that the umma chose willingly, but instead have imposed themselves on the umma...these are many of our umma...There are people in other Islamic countries, in Malaysia and Indonesia and...to a certain extent in Pakistan and Afghanistan that know the value of what their brothers are doing in Gaza...

Host: There are some who say that even on the level of the Arabic and Islamic peoples and individuals, a withdrawal has occurred regarding positively dealing with the Palestinian cause. We have not seen the demonstrations of millions that used to go out whenever there was an aggression on Palestine. We saw it in Paris and in France and in Germany. But it was weak in the Arabic and Islamic countries. Is this caused by the oppression fo the rulers or a withdrawal from understanding the cause?

Qaradawi: The countries have experienced a change... the area has changed...they have tried to change the ideas and they have carried out brain washing...

Host: Some media outlets now see that the enemy is Hamas and the enemy is Palestine, and the friend is Israel...

Qaradawi: This is a strange logic, that your enemy should become your friend, and your friend becomes your enemy. This is a problem, a disaster, and spreading this among the people, and some Arabic countries confirming this...a change has occurred in the Umma, a change in its thinking. A new type of thinking is being manufactured for it. Changing its enemies and changing its friends...

Host: Honorable Sheikh, to what extent can they alter the consciousness of the umma, and changing the strategic and real enemies of the umma, Israel, to Hamas and other Palestinian Resistance factions

Qaradawi: they can't change the entire umma, but they can change some. And those do not change internally, but because of money, and they change the media...

Host: [What do you, as a cleric, have to say about religious institutions and scholars who have not condemned or mentioned the massacres occurring in Palestine or have called Hamas a terrorist organization?]

Qaradawi: They are all the lackeys of the corrupt regime, they were never once faithful to the truth and never knew the real Islam...and were never preachers [du'at] for Islam...Most of the young men at Al-Azhar are with us...and not with the oppressors...the oppressors...will not succeed ever...our weak brothers in Gaza are victorious over Israel, with all it has of power and powerful weapons...Allah makes them victorious...they are strong in their belief, in their dependence on Allah.

Host: what is your opinion of Hamas and the role it carries out, and the attack it is experiencing. There are those who call it a terrorist organization and a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. What is your opinion of that?

Qaradawi: Are the Muslim Brotherhood terrorists? (asked rhetorically)...[defends Muslim Brotherhood against terrorism accusation, keeps going on about this].

Host: [cuts him off] Yes, but what about Hamas itself?

Qaradawi: I want to prove that the Muslim Brotherhood have no connection to terrorism. This has been proven internationally. The Brotherhood exists in 80 countries across the world... They are in America and Europe, in France and England and Germany and in many countries and I have been in these countries and represented the High Council...

Host: The International Union [Of Muslim Scholars]

Qaradawi: The European Council of Fatwa and research. No one said that the Brotherhood are terrorist at all. So how is Hamas terrorist? Terrorist because it defends its country? Its country was raped/usurped, and their brothers were kicked out of their countries unjustly/without right...what should Hamas do? Hamas defends them, those that remain in the land of Palestine. the land of Palestine was taken. At first they said let's divide Palestine. If only we'd taken this division. We have not achieved...even half or a quarter...Palestine was taken, even the remainder of it...Only Gaza remains...this small part of Palestine, which has not aggressed against anyone or fired on anyone. It is defending itself only. Is it not it's right to defend itself? People want Hamas to be exposed. Netanyahu says that Hamas...receives building material with which it builds tunnels. No, it built many things that are needed, among them were tunnels. It can't even have a tunnel to hide in, instead it should remain exposed, so that the cannons and bombs and planes, from the air and the sea, should bomb it while it is exposed? Is this rational? Hamas is a group of people that defends itself and its country and brothers and its nation, the Islamic Umma.

The Islamic umma should be defending Hamas. If we look at the Jews around the world you will see that every Jew is standing with Israel. Only a small group that we know and have visited me. But the Jews in all parts of the world. all of them are with Israel. They pay to Israel money and supply it to get weapons and stand with it politically....and the Americans and the Europeans, the Crusaders, stand with Israel. Why don't the Muslims in all parts of the world stand...Islam imposes a duty on the Islamic umma [cut off by Host]

Host: The Palestinian cause, is it a political cause or is it, at its roots, a religious issue?

Qaradawi: Yes! Yes, it is a political conflict. But it is a political conflict that is religious at its origins. The Jews say that the Torah promised us so and so. The Balfour Declaration, the British Foreign Minister during World War I, November 1917...was a promise built upon the Torah. These people have built their politics on a basic religious outlook. Judaism...its origin is religious. And we also fight them on a religious basis. If they have a promise from Balfour, we have a promise from Allah.

Host: Yes, however we do not fight them because they are Jews. You're not saying we fight them because we are Jews

Qaradawi: No, not at all

Host: But because they are raping/usurping the land and committing aggression...

Qaradawi: We do not fight them because they are Semites. We are also Semites. We are cousins in this regard. And Islam does not consider nationality the dividing factor between people...We do not fight them because of Judaism. We see that Judaism is closer to us than Christianity. The Jewish religion, as a religion, is closer to the Islamic religion than Christianity, because Christianity is a tritheistic religion. They say there are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. But Judaism is a monotheistic religion. There is only one deity. They liken Allah to Creation, but they do not believe in tritheism. They forbid making images [of Allah] like the Muslims forbid making statues and things like this. They forbid eating pork, just like Muslims forbid it. Much of the legalistic aspects...the Jews are closer to the Muslims than the Christians. They circumcise their children just like...

Host: You do not call for fighting the Jews, but that every usurper, and occupation and killer.

Qaradawi: Of course. We do not commit aggression against...I told you there were Jews who visited me, because they do not believe that Israel...they say that Israel is a curse and will bring down problems on the Jews in the end, and believe that their end is near. And many Jews know this, that this victory is near and will end.

Host: So how is the Palestinian cause religious when we do not fight the Jews [as Jews] or consider them our enemies [because they are Jews]. So how is the matter a religious one?

Qaradawi: They made it a religious issue. So we fight religion with religion. If they say that their basis is religious...and you say that you fight us with the Torah, we will fight you with the Qur'an. You fight us with Judaism, so we will fight you with Islam...You fight us with...what do they call it, this thing of theirs...

Host: The Talmud

Qaradawi: The Talmud, we will fight you with Bukhari and Muslim. They say Bayt Al-Maqdis or this Jewish house...

Host: The Temple

Qaradawi: we have the Al-Aqsa Mosque. We have everything that enables us to defend.

Host: And the religion and the Qur'an obligates us to come to the aid of [nusrat] those who come under oppression and occupation.

Qaradawi: The [Islamic] religion obligates Muslims, if an enemy commits aggression against them, to defend every Muslim who comes under oppression. The Muslim shouldn't defend himself alone. No. He has his Muslim brothers. Every Muslim...the Prophet (pbuh) said that Muslims are a single hand. They seek out their matter against those below them, and they are a [single] hand against those who are equal to them. The believer to the believer is like building, one supporting the other. The metaphor for Muslims...is like a body. If one organ hurts...[the rest hurt as well]. The scholars say that if a woman has been captured in the East, those in the West are obligated to work towards freeing her. A single woman! Armies arose, in the Mu'tasim era, when a woman in the lands of the Romans was hit by someone on her cheek. She called out to the Caliphate in Baghdad. And the Caliph heard this and recruited armies to save this woman...and went to them and fought them in Bursa, the battle is called the battle of Amouriya, immortalized in a poem by Abu Tammam in his famous poem...

Host: So it is an obligation on every Muslim to support [yansur] the Cause of Palestine and the aggression that is occurring there. The talk about this could go on and on, let us continue it in the follow up episode.

July 21, 2014- Excerpts from Episode II: Siyasa Fi Deen (Politics in Religion (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBUMC3RFCec)

Qaradawi: The Islamic worldview of the umma considers the Islamic umma a single umma, a single entity, a single body, a family, belonging to God and to Adam. The Islamic umma cooperates in goodness and harm, in the pleasant moments and and unpleasant moments, in war and peace, in benefit and harm, and no one is capable of separating himself from the Umma and live on his own. This isn't possible. Islam imposed the unity of the Islamic umma by Shari'a; by one authority, the Islamic Caliphate; and by a single realm, no matter how many Islamic nations arise, called the Realm of Islam. It is improper that a Muslim shall be left alone, shall fight alone and there are millions of Muslims. We have 1.7 Billion Muslims in all of the world, and even more... This Islamic Umma, everyone in it is responsible one for the other. A Muslim cannot properly say, "I am for myself" while the world is being ruined and Muslims are being killed. No! You have a responsibility. Islam has taught us to live by the spirit of the collective/community...[Muslims pray the fatiha in the plural and Allah speaks to Muslims in the plural in the Qur'an]. Muslims are a single collective. So what? Qatar should live alone, and Egypt should live alone, and Saudi should live alone, and Tunisia should live alone. [Muslims of all kinds, Arabs or otherwise] in all of the corners of the world, the entire world are a single people and a single umma.

When any Muslim is hurt, when the people of Gaza are hurt, their people around them leave them?..Islam obligates [Egypt] to give them what they require...if they need weapons, give them weapons.

Muslims no longer see themselves as the Qur'an or Sunna or the Imams of Islam.

Practically we are also a unity. Politically we are a unity...there was a Caliphate to rule over it.

In Islam there is no national Egyptian security. There is Islamic security...[criticism of Egypt for isolating itself, despite historically championing Islamic and Palestinian causes. This has no basis in Islam or nationalism]... They must open this crossing [Rafah]...it is an obligation!

[All of the Palestinian Factions have rejected the Egyptian ceasefire proposal] and it was their right to reject it. Will you impose upon me...you accuse me of being a terrorist and then you come to interfere...What did the Palestinians do to bring this upon themselves [as Egypt accuses]?

. . . .

Israel is very happy with this situation. This is the type of rule that it wants/desires. That Egypt should be ruled by people who are concerned with food and drink, and not with preparation and weapons or defense. This is a huge problem...

. . .

Dying in the cause of Allah...this is what we desire and hope for.

. . .

Host: What is the Role of the scholars given what the umma is going through in Gaza from the Zionist enemy and [elsewhere]?

Qaradawi: Their role is to lead the umma. Islam gave the scholars a huge role...[there is Qur'anic exegesis (tafsir) that supports following the scholars in their specialties] Kings are rulers over people, and scholars are rulers over kings...our Umma is fine, Allah willing, and it will be victorious in the end if the scholars carry out their role, which is to educate the peoples. The peoples require education[tarbiya] and require direction. And the scholars must warn the umma, to stand behind it and call on it to...we have called out [da'awna] at times and the umma rose up, in the matter of the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in Denmark, that wronged the Prophet.

We called on [da'awna] the Islamic umma, the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and the umma rose up, from one end to the next, in the Easts and the Wests, in the North and the South, hundreds of millions rose up. The Islamic umma, if it found who to awaken it, would rise up and responded [to the call]. The umma has not died. However, there are things that are covering it, and we want to remove this dust that is covering the umma, and to resurrect the mind of the umma and its conscience. We beseech

Allah Almighty always that this umma will be resurrected and will unite. The Islamic umma everywhere is ready, however there are rulers who want to make it ignore its duties and to disunite it, and we [scholars] are obligated to stand opposed to these rulers. We also much reach out to the young scholars who have not been sucked in by these people who sow corruption in the earth...to guide them towards the goal that has been agreed upon, Insha'allah.

Host: What do you, Yusuf Al=Qaradawi, direct to the Umma, to the peoples, to individuals, what do you say to them, how do they move, to what should they look, and what should they care about at this time?

Qaradawi: I say that the Islamic umma exists, and exists whenever a problem resurrects it. Offense to the Prophet, abuse to the Qur'an, offense to the Mothers of the Believers, to the Companions. Whenever there is a problem that wakes up the Umma, you find the umma. It is our duty to resurrect the umma and to inform it that it is a grand umma with deep roots...if we unite the umma and the youth of the umma, and the women of the umma...join the entire umma upon...true Islam...so that there will be no disagreements among the umma...

Host: ...do you have a word for the people of Palestine, to the people of Gaza who are being bombed, besieged and killed now and to the Resistance fighters. What do you say to them?

Qaradawi: My word, my first and last and constant word, to our brothers in Gaza and the people in Palestine is that they should trust that they will be victorious, Allah willing. Allah Almighty is with them, and will support them with forces from His army, and will support them with a spirit from Him, and will guard them with His eye that does not sleep, and will engulf them in His protective wings. Allah is with the people of Gaza. Allah Almighty protects their rear, and makes easy their path...Allah is with these mujahidin...which have given themselves for Allah...they only want to please their Lord...so they should know they are on the just path...and He will aggrandize them and humiliate their enemies...

July 21, 2014- A Declaration From the Muslim Brotherhood ... Gaza Shall Not Surrender(http://www.ikhwanonline.com/Article.aspx?ArtID=194196&SecID=212)

In a horrific new massacre being added to the bloody record of the Zionists, the Zionist enemy carried out a wanton aggression against the neighborhood of Shuja'iah, in which tens of martyrs were killed and hundreds were injured, to the point where the casualty list of the latest Zionist criminality against Gaza has reached hundreds of martyrs and thousands of wounded, the majority of whom are infants, women, and disabled elderly, in the midst of international and Arab silence and conspiracy.

This murderous aggression, which is being carried out at the instigation of Arab governments, which are coordinating and participating in the siege of the Strip and preventing the supply of any medical aid or rations; instead launching false media campaigns to slander the most honorable phenomenon that the world has ever known, the phenomenon of the valiant Resistance. However, the Flame/Ember of the Resistance shall not be put out until the liberation of Palestine, all of Palestine.

The heroes of the Resistance, that have stood up against the Zionist forces and have overwhelmed them with serious losses in every direct confrontation, are capable, by the permission of Allah, of confronting this murderous assault and repelling the Zionists on their heels, for the Umma of its Leader Muhammad, the prayers and blessings of Allah upon him and his family, shall not surrender and the Resistance shall not give in. [The resistance] yearns for martyrdom more than the Zionists yearn for life.

We are calling upon all of the Arabic and Islamic peoples and all of the Free Peoples of the world to rise up [Intifada] for the sake of stopping the aggression, lifting the siege, and supporting the Resistance and Palestinian people. "And Allah will make victorious [yansurna] those who support Him [yansuruhu], for Allah is All-powerful and Great."

Allah is Great and Gratitude be to Allah

The Muslim Brotherhood on Monday, 23rd Day of Ramadan 1435 AH, corresponding July 21, 2014 AD.

July 22nd, 2014- The Letter of the Muslim Brothers...The Resistance of Dignity, Victory From Allah and Imminent Conquest

(http://www.ikhwanonline.com/Article.aspx?ArtID=194478&SecID=101)

Gratitude be to Allah, and prayers and peace upon the Messenger of Allah and upon his family and all of his companions, etc.

The days pass and the impressive Resistance of the Palestinian People comes closer to fulfilling the great victory by Allah's favor, whereas the Zionist hubris increases in making mistakes, blunders and confusion, excluding the destruction of homes, bombing hospitals, and the massacres that they commit against women and infants and elderly and isolated civilians is failing to fulfill any considerable military advantage in the field of battle, when facing the heroism of the Resistance and the hardness of the mujahidin [fighters] and the tight and brilliant performance of the Resistance's brigades in its various movements.

We are facing a battle where the materially stronger party is the Zionist enemy which receives international and regional oppressive support, and unfortunately there is collusion between come Arabic agencies in its reckless aggression on our people in Gaza.

However, the spiritually, psychologically and morally stronger side, by Allah's permission, are the brigades of the jihad that was raised in the school of the Qur'an in the houses of Allah and in the dead of night, which increased its faith, and its Determined Weapons and trust in Allah, has no support save for Allah and its faith in its Just Cause, and its firm rights, and the calls of the sons of its Arabic and Islamic Umma, many of whose regimes – and also many of its scholars and intelligentsia – have abandoned their religious, nationalist (qawmi) and even humanitarian role, and some of them have lined up with surprising audacity with the enemies of the Umma against their brothers who defend the honor of the Umma and its dignity, and they will be victorious by Allah's will, and of whom the Messenger of Allah (prayers and greetings be upon him) in the Confirmed (Sahih) Hadith: "There is a sect left of my Umma who make truth triumphant, who shall not be harmed by those who have disappointed them, nor be impacted by those who oppose them, until the order is given from Allah and they will be as such [triumphant]."

And in another hadith: "victorious over those who fight them and no harm will come to them until the order comes from Allah and they shall be so." We said, "Messenger of Allah, where are they?" He said "In the environs of the Bayt Al-Maqdis"

They are the mujahidin who today write with their blood and souls the book of Allah's victory for the Umma, despite all the disappointment they have faced, and with all that they suffer from hardships and opposition from some of the sons of their own flesh and blood and religion, yet they still are capable of humiliating the strongest brigade in the Zionist entity (the Golani brigade), which is known as the conqueror of Arab armies, and the best of the brigades of the enemy in terms of weaponry, training and readiness. Yet it nonetheless has fallen into the traps of the mujahideen, which have felled tens of them as casualties, among them commanders, and kidnapped one of their soldiers, [and the Golani] has not been able to enter the land of Gaza, and it is to them which was credited the occupation of Um-Al Rashrash, the Sinai Peninsula, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank in previous wars. And this has led to Israeli specialists to state that the goal of the ground operation into Gaza has failed, and which the Zionists have entered without knowing an end to it.

And despite the fact that this Zionist army has in the past been able to break Arab armies in a few hours, it is nonetheless incapable after the passage of fifteen days of its wanton aggression of fulfilling a single one of the goals that it declared for its aggression, since the mujahidun have surprised it with what they did not expect, and the rockets continue to be fired upon every part of the Entity, sending millions of Zionists into shelters multiple times a day, declaring the carrying of the battle, with utter confidence, into the heart of the Raping/Usurping Entity. And in the face of these strategic victories and in the face of the downfall of tens of dead and hundreds of wounded of Zionist soldiers in the successful operations of the Resistance, the defeated army charges like a raging bull, spewing the fury of its fire upon the innocent infants, women and elderly civilians, in order to declare a moral failure in addition to its military failure. And its international and regional sponsors/supporters have launched into a vigorous campaign to protect it from a resounding defeat, so they launch initiatives for restoring calm and cease-fires.

Yet the valiant Resistance, which is cohered with its people, remains insistent on forcefully extracting its freedom and determination and the independence of its country, and withstanding all the pressure being exercised against it under what are called "initiatives" which are regretfully adopted by those who would be expected to aid in the victory [yantasir] of their Umma and their brethren and justice, but instead chose to be on the wrong side of the battle. But by Allah's will, the Resistance will realize its goals, and shall dictate its conditions, and shall reap the price of its military victory and precious sacrifices. Yet the usurping and wanton enemy and its sponsors do not appear to respond to the just demands of the Resistance, which represent the bare minimum of natural rights.

Now we are in the last few days of Ramadan and on the doorstep of Eid Al-Fitr and the Holiday of Victory as well, if Allah wills it. We therefore salute the heroic mujahidin of the different factions of the Resistance, and we also remind them that this victory is only by the grace of Allah and His promises, "for you have not killed them, but Allah has killed them, and you have not thrown at them if you have thrown, but Allah has thrown, so that He might test the believers with a favorable test, for Allah is all-Hearing and all-Knowing. That is so, and Allah will also weaken the plot of the non-believers [Kafirin]" (Al-Anfal 17-18). And we confirm for them that the Umma is moving its tongues in beseeching Allah on your behalf and its hearts are attached to your jihad, and the masses of your Umma anticipate celebrating with you the imminent victory at the doors of Jerusalem, if Allah wills it.

As for the sons of the Umma in every place, we call on them to stand with all their might by the side of the mujahidin in Gaza and by the side of the Palestinian people, and supporting their resilience with all forms of material support, and protesting in every square, and pressuring the agencies and governments to take strong active stances until this aggressions ends and is not repeated, and the siege is lifted completely from Gaza of Pride, and the opening of the crossings permanently to the movement of individuals and goods, and the Palestinian people gains its complete independence and establishes its free state on its land. And we call on the sons of the Umma during these blessed nights to extend victory to the Mujahidin through supplication and invocation and pleading in the hands of Allah to hasten our victory and to let down our enemy.

We likewise call on all of the peoples of the Free World and all of the agencies and international organizations and human and civic rights organizations to adopt the just cause of Gaza and the Palestinian people, and to respond to the anti-humanitarian holocaust that the Zionists are committing against this free people.

O Muhajidun, trust in Allah's promise of victory, and continue in your jihad with the blessings of Allah, "Permission [to fight] has been granted to those who are being fought, because they are being wronged, and Allah is capable if granting them victory. Those who have been expelled from their homes unjustly, only because they say, 'Allah is our Lord." Al-Hajj 39-40.

Allah is Great, and to Allah gratitude is given.

July 27, 2014- The International Union of Muslim Scholars Renews its Request of the Free World to Support the People of Gaza an Palestine by Every Means (http://itihad-olamaa.org/ar/default.asp?menuID=26&contentID=8223)

The International Union of Muslim Scholars Requests Aiding the Holy Ones who are being subjected to harm and attempts to takeover their Intifada to support their brothers in Gaza, and salutes the grand resilience of the Palestinian People that is firmly entrenched in the face of the wanton Zionist occupation, and affirms its support for the Jerusalemite Mobilization, and the Mobilization in the [West] Bank, and the mobilization in all of Palestine's citizens, in defense of the people of Gaza, and in defense of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and all of the Palestinian holy sites, and renews its request of the Free World to support the people of Gaza and Palestine, by every means, to live and resist the Occupier.

Praise be to Allah, and prayers and peace upon the Messenger of Allah, and upon his family and companions and those loyal to him, etc.

The International Union of Muslim Scholars has followed the international and Palestinian mobilization in support of the struggle/fight of the Palestinian people and the resilience of our people in Gaza, the house of dignity and pride, with great interest. The Union affirms, in this grave situation that faces the Islamic and Arab umma and not Palestine alone: supporting the people of Palestine is a legal [Shari'i] obligation upon all Muslims, and through all means that will lift the aggression from upon them. And in the hellish climate of Zionist aggression and the murderous/criminal Zionist war against the Palestinian people, the International Union of Muslim Scholars states the following:

- 1. The International Union of Muslim Scholars condemns the Zionist aggression against the uprising [muntafidin] people of Jerusalem and the [West] Bank in support of their brothers in Gaza, and calls upon the Palestinians to be firm and united in the face of the unholy Zionist enemy.
- 2. The International Union salutes the great resilience, and the grand firmness of our people in Gaza in facing the wanton Zionist aggression.
- 3. The International union values the mobilization in all of the cities of Palestine in Jerusalem and the [West] Bank, passing through all of the Palestinian cities, which have ignited and risen up [intafadat] to support the people of Gaza in their current predicament, stressing that the international intifada comprised of free peoples and particularly Arab and Muslim peoples is an obligation now, to stand by justice in Gaza, and to intercept the wanton aggression from aggressive Tel Aviv.
- 4. The International Union renews its call [da'watuhu] to the Free World to work quickly towards stopping the Zionist aggression against the people of Gaza, and the realization of the justice goals of the Palestinian people, the minimum of which is lifting the sinful siege on Gaza, and opening the crossings so that they may connect to the world, and not touching the holy places, and permitting all Palestinians to pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the return of the Palestinians to their country, and ending the Zionist occupation of Palestinian lands.
- 5. Likewise, the International Union condemns all forms of Zionist aggression against all of the Palestinian cities, and especially Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa mosque, and interception of the Palestinian Intifada in support of the rights of the free Palestinian people, requesting from the Arab and Islamic countries to move on an international and regional level to stop the aggression against Gaza and for the realization of the demands of the Palestinian people.

Allah is great, victory [al-nasr] to Palestine and all of the believers, and defeat and disappointment to the aggressors. "And Allah is not unaware of what you do" [Al Baqara(2): 74]

The International Union congratulates the Islamic umma in the east and west of the earth for the blessed Eid Al-Fitr, asking Allah Almighty to accept their fast and arising [to prayer], and their good deeds, and to forgive them for what has passed and to fix what is left, and to bestow upon them security and belief, wholeness and Islam, and success for what He loves and approves, and to give them an obvious victory, and guide them onto the righteous pass, and grant [yansuruhum] them a great victory.

Date: 29 Ramadan 1435 AH

Corresponding to: 27 July 2014 AD

Secretary General President of the Union
Dr. Ali Muhyiddin Al-Qaradaghi Dr. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

July 27th, 2012- IUMS Congratulates the Islamic world on the Occasion of Eid Al-Fitr (http://itihad-olamaa.org/ar/default.asp?menuID=26&contentID=8224)

The International Union of Muslim Scholars congratulates the Islamic world, peoples and leaders, for the arrival of the blessed Eid Al-Fitr, and calls them to unity and cooperation and solidarity to support [nusrat] the oppressed ones and protecting the holy sites and actively striving to realize Umma of goodness and mercy and strength/power.

The International Union of Muslim scholars takes the opportunity of the blessed Eid Al-Fitr, the holiday of giving, to present to the Islamic world – leaders and scholars and thinkers and peoples – the highest levels of congratulations and the most pleasant salutations and blessings, beseeching Almighty Allah that this holiday occurs and to bring it upon them for security and belief, wellness and Islam, and success for what He loves and approves of, and grant them all success in the purposes of this holiday and its goals, and to make firm their footsteps so that this holiday will reoccur on them and find them in the best of conditions. And the unity has been realized, and the umma has been liberated, and the Shari'a has reigned supreme, and the word of Allah has risen high, and the rights have returned to its rightful owners in Palestine, and Egypt and Syria and Iraq and in every place, and the depression has been removed from all of our persecuted brothers in every place in Africa and Asia, and all of the countries of the world.

The International Union also takes this opportunity to call on the leaders of the Islamic umma to ignite [yahibbu] to support [nusrat] their brothers in Palestine, and to defend Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque, their first direction of prayer [qiblatihum], and the place from which the Noble Messenger rose to heaven [masra] and to support [nasrat] the resilient People of Gaza, who are being subjected to the ugliest of massacres now at the hands of the fascist Zionist enemy, and to support [mu'azarat] their brothers in Egypt and Syria, and the countries of the Arab Spring, and in Burma, and China and Africa.

It [the Union] also calls on the leaders of the umma, and the Shari'a scholars, and the leaders of opinion, and the intelligentsia and media personalities to expend more of their efforts in the path of realizing unity, and constructive cooperation, and completeness and solidarity, so that the Umma of goodness and mercy may be realized which Allah Almighty wants to produce for the sake of the goodness and mercy of all people, and which will prove its beliefs and the goodness of its message by being a pioneering example in cultural renaissance, and security and stability, and freedon and justice and spreading peace throughout the world. "You are the best nation produced for people." [Surat Aal-Imran, verse 110]

The International Union of Muslim scholars prays for greatness and abundance, and victory, and the supremacy of the Muslim umma, and that it may occupy the position that it deserves internationally, given that it is the owner of the final message to the world, and it has a great role in facing the challenges that face it now, to establish the religion of Allah Almighty on earth.

And Allah Approves.

Date: 29 Ramadan 1435 AH

Corresponding to: July 27, 2014 AD

Dr. Ali Qaradaghi Dr. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi

Secretary General Union President

July 28, 2014- Qaradaghi Salutes Turkey and Qatar on their role in supporting the Causes of the Umma and calls Lieberman's statements aggression and issues call that he be pursued and prosecuted. (http://itihad-olamaa.org/ar/default.asp?ContentID=8200&menuID=6)

Doctor Ali Al-Qaradghi, the Secretary General of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, extended his salutations and prayers to the Republic of Turkey and the State of Qatar for their prominent and positive supporting role for the Palestinian cause and the rights of its people, and in solidarity with the resilient and proud Palestinian people.

Al-Qaradaghi described the statements of the Foreign Minister of the Zionist Entity, Liberman, against the State of Qatar and Al-Jazeera channel, as aggressive, biased and inflammatory, and that he must be pursued and prosecuted for those statements.

Al-Qaradaghi stressed that the International Union of Muslim Scholars received the statements of the foreign minister of the Zionist entity that occupies the land of Beloved Palestine, with utter disapproval, in which he incited against the State of Qatar, describing it with terms which are in fact an honor to it, because it stands with the general right of the Palestinians, and the just causes of our Islamic and Arabic umma; Liberman likewise incited against Al-Jazaeera Satellite Channel in what can only be described as a green light to target the Channel and its crews, and this is what indeed happened yesterday when they were fired upon, but no injuries occurred, by the grace of Allah Almighty.

Likewise, Al-Qaradaghi condemned those statements, which he described as "irresponsible" and considered them violative of international law, and a direct incitement to violence, and murder, which calls for pursuit and international prosecution of the leaders od the Zionist entity, and considering it an entity which is an enemy of humanity, and an enemy of journalistic freedom, and pursuing suppressing the truth from the world.

Al-Qaradaghi likewise called respecting journalistic freedom, and all those working in the journalistic field generally, on an international level, and particularly those in the grieving/bereaved land of Palestine.

Al-Qaradaghi also called to opening an international investigation into these aggressive Israeli statements against countries like Turkey and Qatar, and against prominent Arab and Islamic personalities and leaders, like Mr. Khaled Meshaal, the leader of the political office of the Hamas Movement, and against free and effective media entities like Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, in addition to the investigations that must be opened about the crimes of the Zionists against humanity in all of their wars, and in their war that is currently going on against Gaza and their targeting of civilians and in particular infants and women and elderly, and targeting hospitals and private institutions, and destroying houses and displacing Palestinian civilians.

And in ending his statement, Al-Qaradaghi affirmed his request to the free world to respond to the media violations being committed by the media of the Zionist entity, and which incites against Palestinians and Muslims day and night, joined by some Arabic media sources, which has surpassed the incitement of the occupier's media.

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