UNRWA schools in GAZA – Hotbed for Islamic Radicalism

(updated October 2018)
Canada increases funding for UNRWA

On October 12, 2018 Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, announced Canada’s support of up to $50 million over two years for Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Canada will also provide up to $12.5 million for Right to Play International. Since 2016, Canada has committed $110 million in support for UNRWA.1

According to Bibeau, “up to $40 million will contribute to meeting the basic education, health and livelihood needs of millions of Palestinian refugees, especially women and children... [and] up to $10 million of Canada’s support will provide emergency life-saving assistance to more than 460,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon, through UNRWA’s Emergency Appeal for the Syria regional crisis.”2

On March 15, 2018 - Bibeau announced that Canada is contributing up to $10 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for Palestinian refugees. According to the official statement, “Canada will also continue to exercise enhanced due diligence regarding its funding and assist UNRWA in its ongoing efforts to improve neutrality within the agency and its operations. This assistance underlines how Canada and the UNRWA continue to work together to ensure respect for the values of the United Nations and the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, operational independence and impartiality.”3

On August 24, 2017 Bibeau announced Canada’s continued support of up to $25 million to “Palestinian refugees” via the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

According to her official statement:4

- “Canada’s support of up to $20 million will help meet the basic education, health and livelihood needs of millions of Palestinian refugees—especially women and children—as well as support the promotion of neutrality in the agency’s activities. The funding will also contribute to stability in the region by providing basic services to people whose needs would otherwise be unmet.”

- “Canada’s support of up to $5 million to UNRWA’s Syria Emergency Appeal provides emergency life-saving assistance to more than 480,000 Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon. The funding will provide humanitarian assistance for Palestinian refugees who have been severely affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria.”

Bibeau emphasized that “Canada is committed to assisting UNRWA in improving neutrality within the Agency and ensuring that there is enhanced due diligence in verifying that oversight is indeed robust.”

On November 16, 2016, Bibeau announced the renewing of UNRWA funding “to support education, health and social services for millions of vulnerable Palestinian refugees, as well as urgent humanitarian assistance.” The new funding included:5

- $20 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to help increase access to these essential services. A proportion of Canadian funding will also be used to expand training for staff on the proper and neutral use of social media.

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• $5 million to UNRWA’s emergency appeal for Palestinian refugees impacted by the crisis in Syria and surrounding areas.

“It is critically important to the government of Canada that development aid is used for its intended purpose and that it reaches those in greatest need,” Bibeau’s statement read.

“As such, there will be enhanced due diligence applied to UNRWA funding. Today’s funding is accompanied by a very robust oversight and reporting framework, which includes regular site visits and strong anti-terrorism provisions.”

Bibeau added that Canada’s support for Palestinian refugees is reinforced by its international leadership to provide humanitarian assistance to the poorest and most vulnerable.

During the debate in Parliament on November 16, 2016, Bibeau said that “The funding announcement includes a robust oversight mechanism and a stronger accountability framework. This funding is crucial for the security of the region.”

Hamas’ de facto takeover of UNRWA institutions in the Gaza Strip

The UNRWA’s workers union has been controlled in practice by Hamas for many years. The “Professional List”, headed by senior Hamas activist Suheil Al-Hindi, won a landslide victory in the elections for the UNRWA’s workers union held in September 2012.

In the elections, in which nearly 11,500 employees of UNRWA voted, the “Professional List” which is affiliated with Hamas won all 11 seats allocated to the teachers sector, 6 of 7 seats in the employees sector, and 8 out of 9 seats in the service sector.

The "Al-Karama (Honor) List", affiliated with the Islamic Jihad organization, also participated in the elections, whereas the Fatah movement chose to boycott them, claiming that Hamas controls the UNRWA's workers union and limits its activities.

The bloc affiliated with Hamas also won the previous election for the UNRWA's workers union by an overwhelming majority. Lists affiliated with Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PLO (uniting representatives of the PFLP, Fatah and the People’s Party) and the independents took part in the 2009 elections. 17 representatives of Hamas (63%), four from the PFLP, four from Fatah, one from the People’s Party and one from the independents were elected to the union, which includes 27 members.7

In 2015-2016, UNRWA's s union in the Gaza Strip lead a struggle against the administration demanding the retraction of the planned reforms in the UN agency that included cutting operational expenses and s. The labor dispute came to an end with signing a memorandum of understanding which among other things included a new wage system indexed to the wages of the public sector, hiring new 8.employees including university graduates and granting permanency to new teachers and temporary s

Speaking with Hamas official daily “Felesteen” (December 31, 2016), Suheil Al-Hindi, then chairman of UNRWA's s union, warned UNRWA's administration of the consequences of not implementing the agreement. He stressed that the union “will not stay silent if the administration enforces new 9”.measures

On 10.As of October 2018, the dispute between UNRWA and its employees has not been resolved. October1, 2018 UNRWA transferred 10 of its international senior employees from the Gaza strip to Israeli territory via Erez crossing following harassment and threats made by the agency's local staff in 11.Gaza in light of US fund cuts and subsequent layoff plans

The Coordinator of Israeli Government Activities in the Territories issued an official statement, confirming the incident. “A number of foreign UNRWA employees have been evacuated from the Gaza Strip to Israel. This is due to the tensions as a result of the financial crisis UNRWA is facing and subsequent concern for the safety of its foreign staff,” the statement reads. “The Hamas terrorist 12”.organization did not protect the agency's staff from the violence directed against them

On July 26, 2018 UNRWA workers Union held a protest against the planned layoff during which a

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7 http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3703627,00.html
9 http://felesteen.ps/article/alhndy-almrhlt-alqadmt-hrjt-wnhdhr-awnrwa-mn-dm-ttbyq-altfahmat
11 https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5361615,00.html
12 https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-5361615,00.html
threatening message was sent to UNRWA's administration, including Matthias Schmale, the Director of UNRWA.

13 https://www.facebook.com/1690948397810069/photos/a.1749431795295062/2101067273464844/?type=3&theater
UNRWA's workers union adheres to a radical agenda denying Israel's right to exist

: The following are excerpts from statements issued by UNRWA's workers union

November 2, 2016 – UNRWA's workers union issued the following statement: “Today, November 2, coincides with the Nakba, 99 [years] since the disastrous Balfour Declaration, according to ,2016 which Britain granted the Jews the right to establish their national home in Palestine... on this painful occasion we emphasize the following: First: Palestine, all Palestine, is the property of the Palestinian people and this injustice and arrogance will not last as the living peoples will not die and we are confident that the fate of the occupation is to come to an end. Secondly, we call upon all free people of the world to stand by our sacred right to return to our stolen lands, the homeland of our fathers and grandparents. Thirdly, we call upon the United Nations and its Secretary General to provide protection and support to our people in the homeland and abroad until they return to their homes... Fourth, we call upon our colleagues, especially the teachers, to remind our students today of the need to adhere to the land of the homeland, to preserve the legacy of the ancestors and to make precious and generous efforts to the return to the homeland... Fifth: The necessity of continuing the services provided by UNRWA to the refugees and supporting the necessities for its current and future existence until the return to the homeland and [achieving] self-determination

May 15, 2017 - “69 years have passed, but we did not and will never forget our homes, properties and houses in Haifa, Jaffa, Lod, Ramleh, Bir Sheva, we will never forget our beloved villages... We will continue to work and fight generation after generation in order to achieve our sacred right of return... The return to the homeland is closer than ever... the victory is close... Dear friends, we call upon you today and every day to recite al-Fatiha [first chapter of the Quran] to commemorate the souls of the martyrs and to pray for the release of the imprisoned and the liberation of al-Aqsa Mosque. The return to the homeland is possible and achievable and it will be achieved for us, our children and grandchildren... The statement was signed by UNRWA's workers unions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

April 23, 2017 - UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip issued a statement honouring Suheil al-Hindy after his resignation. The statement lists al-Hindy's achievements during the last year including his firm opposition to add the Holocaust to the curriculum of UNRWA's schools. The union pledged not to waive the Palestinian rights but rater to work for extracting these rights till the return is achieved

March 28, 2017 - Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Hamdan, head of the teachers sector [of UNRWA] instructed the teachers at UNRWA school to commemorate the Land Day in schools. In a circular to UNRWA teachers He wrote: “A right based on demands will never be lost. With the permission of Allah the land 17”.will return, the houses will be liberated and we will return to our land

UNRWA's workers unions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank issued a joint statement vehemently opposing UNRWA's proposal to make some changes in the curriculum, including the removal of a map of Palestine that ignores the existence of the State of Israel. The statement reads

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17 https://www.facebook.com/1690948397810069/photos/a.1707280519510190.1073741828.1690948397810069/1856822127889361/?type=3
Changing the curriculum is a national issue par excellence. We will not allow anyone whoever he/she “is to challenge Palestine, the map of Palestine, al-Quds [Jerusalem], the refugees and [we will not Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Hamdan, the head of 18”.allow] the policy of brainwashing our children and the Central Council of the Parent in the UNRWA Schools issued 19,UNRWA's teachers sector 20.similar statements

March 15, 2017 - UNRWA's workers union posted a poster featuring the map of "Palestine" (Israel is wiped off the map) accompanied with the following caption: "Oh UNRWA, we have a cause and our 21".fight, jihad, resistance and struggle against those who usurped our land do not need neutrality

December 2, 2017 – Excerpts from a statement issued UNRWA's workers union on Balfour Declaration: “Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people and no one has the right to waive it or to give it to other than it people. The injustice and arrogance will not continue as the living peoples will not die and we are confident that fate of the occupation is to demise. The Palestinian people has the right to return to its land and homeland... [UNRWA] should exist... till the return of the Palestinian refugees 22”.to their homeland

December 7, 2017 – Excerpts from a statement issued UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip: “We emphasize as follows: Al-Quds is the eternal capital of Palestine and this decision [US recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel] will never give legitimacy to the occupation of it [Al-Quds] or any area of the land of Palestine. We oppose the American decision to recognize Al-Quds as the capital of 23”.the occupation... our mission is to provide relief and support till the return and liberation

19 https://www.facebook.com/1690948397810069/photos/a.1707280519510190.1073741828.1690948397810069/1851168991788008/?type=3
20 https://www.facebook.com/1690948397810069/photos/a.1707280519510190.1073741828.1690948397810069/1852364571668450/?type=3
21 https://www.facebook.com/1690948397810069/photos/a.1707280519510190.1073741828.1690948397810069/185088131816794/?type=3
22 https://tinyurl.com/y8x628lm
23 https://tinyurl.com/ya62d42u
December 14, 2017 – An excerpt from a statement issued by Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Hamdan, head of the teachers sector in UNRWA – Gaza: “Additional obligation has been added now to instill Al-Quds in the hearts and minds of our students in order to liberate it from the filth of the occupiers issued a statement opposing any changes in the curriculum proposed by UNRWA.

January 22, 2018 – An excerpt from a statement issued by UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip: “We are determined to return to our houses [in Palestine].”

January 23, 2018 – An excerpt from a statement issued by UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip: “We emphasize that the right of return to our houses in sacred.”

UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip instructed “all UNRWA's staff members” to participate in a rally that will start at UNRWA headquarters in Gaza to protest the attempts to put an end to UNRWA.

January 27, 2018 – UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip posted a statement issued by the central committee of parents in UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip. The following are excerpts from this statement: “Our return [to Palestine] is a sacred right. We are staying here and the foreigners [Israelis] will leave... Long live the struggle of our Palestinian people for return and [establishing] the [Palestinian] state.”

March 6, 2018 - March 13, 2018 - UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip instructed its staff members and teachers in Nuserat, al-Bureij, Dir al-Balah and Maghazi to gather in front of Nuserat middle school (UNRWA) holding signs against ending the role of UNRWA and in support of its existence till the return to Palestine. An excerpt from the union's statement: “All [UNRWA] schools have to make appropriate signs for this event and to raise them against the injustice.

March 11, 2018 - March 13, 2018 - UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip posted a statement by Dr. Alaa Zaqout: “...Our duty as Palestinians is to send a message supporting the [Rome] conference [of donors] according to which as long as a single refugee is alive his case will not end but with his return to his houses.”

March 13, 2018 - UNRWA's workers union in the Gaza Strip issued a statement entitled “Rallies of Rejection to continue”. The union instructed its members, teachers and “all students of al-Rimal middle school for girls and a-Zaytoun middle school for boys to picket in front of UNRWA's gate holding signs against ending the role of UNRWA and emphasizing its existence till the return [to Palestine].” The statement reads: “We are looking forward to return to our beloved homeland Palestine.

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24 https://tinyurl.com/y94qktay
25 https://tinyurl.com/y7lxxd6k
26 https://tinyurl.com/yb8a655m
27 https://tinyurl.com/yagwzm3u
28 https://tinyurl.com/y7elmstc
29 https://tinyurl.com/ybh69z5y
30 https://tinyurl.com/ycu6z3vv
31 https://tinyurl.com/yba28kmq
32 https://tinyurl.com/yb8smtr6
March 28, 2018 – UNRWA's workers union organized a mass rally in Rafah to protest the policy of reducing relief aid by the US administration and supporting the right of Palestinian refugees to return. Thousands of students and hundreds of teachers from UNRWA schools in Rafah participated in the march. Amir al-Mishal, the head of UNRWA's workers union confirmed the participation of UNRWA’s employees in the March of Return on March 30, 2018.

33 http://alaqsavoice.ps/news/details/201473
UNRWA emblem
United Nations Relief and Works Agency
For Palestine Refugees
Fakhoura Prep Boys "A" School
The refugees' right of return is a sacred right [Arabic]
August 8, 2018 – UNRWA's workers Union protested against layoffs with signs that featured swastikas aimed at Israel and the United States.
Terrorists who served in senior positions in UNRWA

Suheil Al-Hindi - Al-Hindi, who in the past also headed the teachers’ sector at UNRWA, did not hide his affinity for the Hamas organization and took part in overt political activities as its representative. In his capacity and as a supervisor of student summer camps, al-Hindi had a tremendous impact on the UNRWA education system and the its curriculum.

In July 2001, al-Hindi attended a ceremony at a school at the Jabaliya refugee camp along with then Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin. Addressing the outstanding students, al-Hindi praised the suicide bombers who graduated from the Palestinian educational system explaining (originally in Arabic): “the road to Palestine passes through the blood of martyrs. The student martyrs shape history through their (exploding) their body parts”.

At least since 2004, UNRWA’s management was well aware of the fact that Suheil al-Hindi, who headed UNRWA teachers sector, was a senior Hamas activist who supported jihad against Israel and the suicide bombing attacks. UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness officially acknowledged the allegations against Hindy in an article posted on Ynet (January 27, 2009)\(^\text{34}\), in which he referred to an another article exposing the activities of Hamas in UNRWA schools. Hindi continued -Nevertheless, Suheil al\(^\text{35}\) to be employed by UNRWA, which chose to ignore the media investigative reports about his ties to Hamas.\(^\text{36}\)

In early 2017, al-Hindi was elected to a member of Hamas political bureau. Mounting international pressures led UNRWA to fire al-Hindi in March 2017.\(^\text{37}\) Top leader of Hamas (Ahmad Bahr) and the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine (Jamil Muzhir) delivered speeches in a event honouring al-Hindy’s 27 years of service in UNRWA.\(^\text{38}\)

Amir al-Mishal, who replaced al-Hindy, is known of his opposition to the peace process. On May 16, al-Mishal, then the head of UNRWA's services sector, said in an event commemorating the ,2008 Nakba Day (Day of the Catastrophe): “What was taken by force will not be returned but by force and

\(^{34}\) http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3662487,00.html http://www.unrwa.org/htemplate.php?id=165

\(^{35}\) http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3657863,00.html

\(^{36}\) http://www.paltimes.net/olddetails/news/63126 http://islah.ps/new/index.php?page=viewThread&id=1793&cat=81 http://www.palestine-info.info/ar/default.aspx?xyz=U6Qq7k%2bcOd87MDI46m9rUxEpMO%2bi1s7xd9Pi7lljuuqLz545Rq6ulG5wDw%2fXASgijjPHhTX2vpQZiOnGX4qYCyyn2kc5ePdALZIA6%2bAjoLPDh%2fGeXH0iMTED7RqjWSesOHwDPEn9kdo%3d

\(^{37}\) http://www.alaahd.com/arabic/?action=detail&id=2792

not by peace and [UN] resolutions. We have the right and the cause and it is necessary that we defend al-Mishal took a leading role (May 15, 2012) Four years later 39 it. Our strength is based on our unity in an event honouring the Palestinian prisoners [members of terrorist groups imprisoned in Israeli jails] 40 and commemorating the Nakba

Issa Abd al-Hadi al-Batran - Al-Batran was born in 1973 in the al-Bureij refugee camp in Gaza. He studied at UNRWA's elementary and middle schools, at the Khaled al-Hassan high school, the Gaza Training Center (UNRWA) and the al-Quds Open University. Batran was employed as a -For years at 41 teacher in UNRWA's schools in the central district of the Gaza Strip even though UNRWA's administration was aware of the fact that he was a senior operative of Al-Qassam Brigades and was targeted several times by the IDF eventually fired from UNRWA in 2009, after suffering He was 42 seriously injuries in an accidental explosion.

Awad Al-Qiq 43 - An Israeli airstrike on a workshop in Rafah used for making rockets and other improvised weaponry, killed (April 30, 2008) Awad Al-Qiq, a teacher, educator and principal in UNRWA schools who at the same time served as the head of the engineering and weapons manufacturing unit of the Jihad Islamic in the Gaza Strip.

Al-Qiq was in charge of manufacturing and developing rockets, explosive charges and weapons for the Islamic Jihad, and training fellow operatives. In the summer of 2006 Al-Qiq visited China where he showed an interest in ultra light planes, possibly for carrying out attacks against Israel.

Al-Qiq’s activities in the field of terrorism were exposed in September 2007, when he survived an Israeli assassination attempt. Nevertheless, he continued to serve as a teacher, educator and principal of UNRWA schools and as a youth guide in summer camps.44

39 https://tinyurl.com/yd338zjf
41 http://www.alqassam.ps/arabic/sohdaa5.php?id=1727
42 http://www.alaahd.com/arabic/?action=detail&id=2792
43 https://files.saraya.ps/2013/awad%20alqiq.pdf
44 http://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-3657863,00.html
Said Siam - Siam, who was a close associate with then Hamas leader, Khaled Mashaal and a Minister of the Interior in Hamas government, served for 23 years as a teacher and educator in UNRWA schools. Until 2003 Siam was Hamas’ representative in the Coordinating Committee of the National and Islamic Forces, which coordinated activities during Al-Aqsa Intifada.45

Zuheir al-Qaisi - During the first intifada Qaisi joined the ranks of Rafik Salemi groups and during the second intifada he become a senior commander in the Popular Resistance Committees terrorist organization. He also served for years as a mathematics teacher in UNRWA schools.46

46 http://www.maannews.net/arb/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=466674
Al-Qassam Brigades operatives who graduated UNRWA schools and colleges (partial list)

Atef Qandeel

Ibrahim Abu Nar

Tawfeeq A-Diri

Mohammad Abu Zaher

Ismail Abu Abdeh
Raed Al-Halabi

Yusuf Al-Walaida

Tarek Timraz

Ahmad Al-Zahar

Awad Al-Masri

Ramadan Abu Jazar

Mohammad Ghanem
Amro Qandeel
Abd Al-Rahman Al-Talabani
Bilal Al-Sharabasi
Mohammad AL-Kafarneh
Basel Obeid
Hani Abu Hashish
Islamic Bloc's activities in UNRWA schools

"Al-Kutla Al-Islamiya" (the Islamic Bloc) is the official wing of Hamas, which operates in the educational institutions in the Gaza Strip (and in the West Bank), starting from elementary schools, junior high schools as well as in high schools, colleges and universities.

The “Islamic Bloc’s” strategy in elementary and middle schools focuses on engaging the students in variety of social and educational activities to strengthen their faith in Islam and gradually bring them closer to Hamas ideology until they become activists and join its military wing.

In every school, including schools run by UNRWA, Hamas appoints a representative who heads the Islamic Bloc’s” branch. This activist is responsible for organizing activities in school and after school.47

A student at the Islamic University in Gaza and an operative of al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas military/terrorist wing, Shaban Mohammad Mushtaha, was appointed in 2009 to the guide of the Islamic bloc at UNRWA's Shujaiya middle school. Mushtaha graduated UNRWA's schools Hashem and Shujaiya. The activities of the Islamic Bloc in UNRWA school in 2014-16

The Islamic Bloc, Hamas student movement, continues to operate freely in UNRWA's schools. The following are glaring examples of these activities:

October 14, 2014 – members of the Islamic Bloc at the Gaza al-Jadidah A School (UNRWA) paid condolence visit to the math teacher Hisham Mohammad Hassouna. An official poster of the Islamic Bloc with its logo was hung at the mourning tent offering its condolences to the teacher.49 (Appendix – 5)

October 26, 2014 – the Islamic Bloc launched the volunteering week activities at al-Rimal B school (UNRWA), which was greeted by the principal and teachers.50

October 28, 2014 - the Islamic Bloc launched the Dawah (Islamic preaching) week at Gaza al-Jadidah A school (UNRWA) which was called “Your Prayers are Your Life.”51

November 22, 2014 - the Islamic Bloc launched an educational program in history at al-Rimal B school (UNRWA). The program “Historical Events Occurred in this Week” included drawing posters featuring events in Palestinian history. Muhammad Dababesh, coordinator of the Islamic Bloc at al-Rimal B school (UNRWA), said that the purpose of this activity is to connect the students to the history of Palestine. The school's principal thanked the Islamic Bloc for its activities with the students.52

December 19, 2014 – The Islamic Bloc at al-Rimal B school (UNRWA) produced a booklet called “Historical Events Occurred in this Week” in a effort to increase the students' awareness to the history of Palestine. According the report, the Islamic Bloc intensified in school its Dawah activities, its

48 https://tinyurl.com/klz767x
49 https://www.facebook.com/alkotla.news/posts/627285794046944
50 https://www.facebook.com/alkotla.g/posts/539298496170157
51 http://tinyurl.com/ms67kcf
52 http://tinyurl.com/pzu9w7
educational programs and services.

January 11, 2015 – Islamic Bloc's activists at al-Rimal B school (UNRWA) and Gaza al-Jadidah A school (UNRWA) handed out leaflets containing prayers for success in the forthcoming exams. Muhammad al-Habil, coordinator of activities for the Islamic Bloc, said that the distribution of the leaflets took place at the end of the first semester of the school year. Activists of the Islamic Bloc were seen standing next to the entrance of Gaza al-Jadidah A school (UNRWA) handing out to the students the prayer leaflets with the Islamic Bloc's logo printed on them.

February 8, 2015 – the Islamic Bloc at al-Rimal B school (UNRWA) held a tournament in soccer computer game and table tennis with the participation of 30 students.

February 28, 2015 - the Islamic Bloc at Gaza al-Jadidah A school held a table tennis tournament with the participation of 65 students. Muhammad al-Habil, coordinator of activities for the Islamic Bloc, said that the Islamic Bloc continues its social, cultural and sportive activities and programs for students.

March 15, 2015 - the Islamic Bloc at Gaza al-Jadidah A school held a table tennis tournament with the participation of dozens of students, the staff members and the management of the school, which greeted the cooperation between the students who are members of the Islamic Bloc and the teachers.

December 12, 2015 – The Islamic bloc handed out supplications for success in the exams at al-Rimal and Gaza al-Jadida Islamic.

March 31, 2016 – The Islamic Bloc at Shujaiya middle school (J) launched a Dawah (preaching) campaign to strengthen the Islamic values of the students and encourage them to join prayers in mosques. Teachers took part in the campaign and one of the them called on students to join the prayers regularly at the Khuza'a middle school.

April 25, 2016 - The Islamic bloc organized a clean-up campaign (UNRWA). The activity was coordinated with the school's principal.

June 12, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc in Jabalia middle school "B" (UNRWA) organized a recreational trip for about 25 students who are active members of the organization.

First months of 2016 – The Islamic Bloc at al-Rimal middle school ran a campaign entitled “My prayer, my life”, that included operating a local radio station and the distribution of posters and brochures in school. The purpose of the campaign was to spur student to follow the teachings of Islam.

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53 http://tinyurl.com/pvymo9u
54 http://tinyurl.com/ngbeqd7
55 http://tinyurl.com/ktsodl7
56 http://tinyurl.com/pkd3p8g
57 https://ar-ar.facebook.com/alkotla.news/posts/709286389180217
58 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/9252
59 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/11981
60 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/12131
61 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/14064
62 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/11992
September 2, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc in Khuza'a and the Religious Committee at the Khuza'a middle school (UNRWA) honored 29 students and winners of the Quranic contest at the school. The Islamic Bloc's official website reports that “this activity comes within a series of activities carried out by the Islamic Bloc in the middle schools run by the government and UNRWA

September 10, 2016 – The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi'i middle school held a Dawah (preaching) campaign (Appendix A) during the first ten days of the Islamic month of Dhu al-Hijja

September 10, 2016 – Activists of the Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi'i middle school visited the school's principal as part of their outreach activities during the beginning of the school year

October 4, 2016 – The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi'i middle school handed out brochures on the occasion of the Islamic new year

October 14, 2016 – The Islamic Bloc at al-Bahrain middle school held Dawah (preaching) event for students

October 5, 2016 – The Islamic Bloc at al-Zaytoun middle school handed out brochures on the occasion of the Islamic new year

October 11, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc at al-Bahrain middle school held Dawah (preaching) event entitled "The Men of al-Aqsa"

The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi'i middle school organized a sport tournament - October 24, 2016

The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi'i middle school held a volunteering day. The event was carried out with the cooperation and coordination of the school's administration. The principal of the school hailed the “blessed efforts” of the Islamic Bloc to culturally enrich the students' knowledge

October 26, 2014 – The Islamic Bloc at al-Rimal middle school (B) held a sport tournament at the Tawheed mosque with the participation of 45 students

November 8, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi'i middle school handed out to students brochures on

63 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/12167
64 https://www.facebook.com/SouthGazaKotla/posts/945438005601814?match=2YjZg9in2YTYqQ%3D%3D
65 https://www.facebook.com/SouthGazaKotla/posts/945437328935215?match=2YjZg9in2YTYqQ%3D%3D
66 https://www.facebook.com/SouthGazaKotla/posts/961926167286331?match=I9mI2YPYp9mE2Kks2YjZg9in2YT
YqQ%3D%3D
17286366/?type=3
68 https://www.facebook.com/SouthGazaKotla/posts/962686710543610?match=2YjZg9in2YTYqQ%3D%3D
69 https://www.facebook.com/SouthGazaKotla/posts/966930543452560?match=2YjZg9in2YTYqQ%3D%3D
70 https://www.facebook.com/SouthGazaKotla/posts/963467653798849?match=2YjZg9in2YTYqQ%3D%3D
71 https://www.facebook.com/SouthGazaKotla/photos/a.322730171205937.1073741827.322690621209892/9772549
15753456/?type=3
72 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/8627/category/1/contact/rss.php
November 21, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi‘i middle school handed out to students brochures on Ahmad al-Jaabari, the former commander of a-Qassam Brigades, Hamas military/terrorist wing. (Appendix B) Facebook posts featured students holding the brochures in class

November 23, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi‘i middle school subsidized ID photos for students

November 26, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc at al-Zaytoun middle school held a food drive for the needy

November 27, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc at al-Shfi‘i middle school handed out to students brochures

condemning Israel's decision to ban using megaphones for the call for prayer in mosques

December 10, 2016 – Students at Al-Shati elementary school A pledged to adhere to the “right of return”

December 23, 2016 - The Islamic Bloc in the middle schools in northern Gaza organized a visit to the house of Hani Muqbil, the head of the Islamic Bloc in northern Gaza. A selected members of the Islamic Bloc in UNRWA schools in Jabaliya took part in this visit

March 4, 2017 - The Islamic Bloc in Shujaiya school (UNRWA) honored the outstanding students with the attendance of leaders of the organization

March 17, 2017 - The Islamic bloc in West Gaza organized a football championship for junior high schools with the participation of 12 teams of public and UNRWA schools

March 23, 2017 - The Islamic Bloc in the secondary and middle schools in northern Gaza organized a series of student activities to mark the 13th anniversary of the “martyrdom” of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder of Hamas. At Al Fakhoura middle school (UNRWA), the group organized a radio stand in
commemoration of the “martyrdom” of Sheikh Ahmed Al-Yassin and hang a large sign in front of the school. The sign featured Ahmed Al-Yassin and Hamas flag (See appendix D)  

April 17, 2017 – Students at al-Zaytoun elementary school A marked the Prisoner Day honouring Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jail (members of terrorists groups)  

Members of the Islamic Bloc visited the Khan Yunes middle school (UNRWA) – 2017, 17 September. and met with its principle Muamar Irhim al-Fara on the occasion of the beginning of the school year  

middle school wearing Hamas scarves (ג) September 19, 2017 – Members of the Islamic Bloc at C organized a student cultural competition in front of the school. (See Appendix E)  

85: The Islamic Bloc at al-Bahrain middle school (UNRWA) supports al-Quds Intifada and knife attacks  

83 http://alkotla.ps/ar/post/13807  
84 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFt0hb6JRO8&t=126s  
85 https://tinyurl.com/yxcmxw9fl
November 23, 2017 - The Islamic Bloc in Shujaiya middle school for boys (UNRWA) held in school a cultural contest. The Islamic Bloc in east Gaza organized the Dawah (Islamic preaching) month that included lectures, sermons and distribution of leaflets and posters on Islam in school.

November 25, 2017 - The Islamic Bloc in west Gaza held an Dawah (Islamic preaching) and entertaining evening for its activists in middle schools. 160 students took part in this event.87

November 28, 2017 - The Islamic Bloc in Shujaiya middle school for boys (UNRWA) held in school a football tournament.

December 25, 2017 - The Islamic Bloc's activists in Rafah left school and participated in rallies protesting the American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.89

March 12, 2018 - The Islamic Bloc in Rafah's middle schools opened photo exhibitions called “We're walking to Al-Quds”. According to Seif a-Din Ibrahim Abu Mahrouq, the head of Islamic Bloc in the Rafah's middle schools, the purpose of this exhibition was to instill the historic and Islamic meaning of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Al-Quds in the hearts and minds of the students to make them the generation that will liberate Palestine.90

March 18, 2018 - The Islamic Bloc in the middle schools in Rafah held a students rally in support of Al-Quds and to express rage over the American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Seif a-Din Ibrahim Abu Mahrouq, the head of Islamic Bloc in the Rafah's middle schools called on the Palestinian organizations to work together and return to the armed struggle against “the Zionist occupation.”91

March 21, 2018 - The Islamic Bloc in Khuza'a middle school (UNRWA) east of Khan Yunes held an in event in school honouring the outstanding students. The event “We are going to Al-Quds” was attended by leaders of the Islamic Bloc, school staff, teachers and students.92

86 https://tinyurl.com/y8n64avh
87 https://tinyurl.com/ycf4r4u7
88 https://tinyurl.com/ybr2gjj5
89
90 https://tinyurl.com/y77m264j
91 https://tinyurl.com/y8qhdhho
92 https://tinyurl.com/yalddtve
March 25, 2018 - The Islamic Bloc in the high and middle schools north of Gaza commemorated the 14th anniversary of the martyrdom of Sheik Ahmed Yassin (founder and leader of Hamas). According to its official statement, the students learned about Yassin's dawah and jihad and his hard work in founding Hamas “in order to liberate Palestine from the filth of the occupiers”.

March 27, 2018 - Izz A-Din Siyam, Islamic Bloc's coordinator in middle school south of Gaza, said that the purpose of activities in schools to commemorate the Land Day is also to spur the students to participate in the Return March on March 30, 2018.

March 2018 – The Islamic Bloc urged students to participate in the Great Return March.

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93 https://tinyurl.com/ydgbsgjs
94 https://tinyurl.com/ydxxk92tq
April 3, 2018 – The Islamic Bloc held in middle schools west of Gaza activities with students focused on the right of return that included lectures on history, artistic performances, raising posters bearing the names of the occupied cities and slogans in support of the adherence of the Palestinians to return to their homes. According to the Islamic Bloc, the purpose of these activities was to instill in the hearts and minds of the students the right of return as an inalienable historic right.

The Islamic Bloc has been mobilizing its members (school and university students) to participate in the activities of the Great Return March, which includes a variety of violent and terrorist attacks (shooting, explosive charges, knife attacks, arson and more) aimed at Israeli soldiers stationed along the border and Israeli communities. Videos produced by the Islamic Bloc encourage students to take part in the activities of the Great Return March emphasizing that its end goal is the destruction of the State of Israel.

Islamic Bloc's activities in support of the Great Return March

October 14, 2018 - Students, members of the Islamic Bloc, hand out pamphlets urges their fellow students to participate in the Great Return March's activities.

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95 https://tinyurl.com/yadyglv7
96 https://www.facebook.com/kotla.palestine/videos/2056729384616470/
97 https://www.facebook.com/kotla.palestine/videos/2058961211059954/
98 https://www.facebook.com/kotla.palestine/videos/2061761344113274/
September 29, 2018 - Students, members of the Islamic Bloc, hand out pamphlets urges their fellow students in western Gaza schools to participate in the Great Return March's activities.
September 24, 2018 - The Islamic Bloc in Al-Maghazi “refugee camp” held an event in support of the Great Return March and the liberation of all Palestine.
March 30, 2018 - March 2018 – The Islamic Bloc urged students to participate in the Great Return March.
Textbooks in UNRWA schools educate towards jihad against Israel

The comprehensive study by Dr. Arnon Gross of the textbooks used in UNRWA schools found that
there they included content that implements the adherence to the so-called "right of return" of Palestinian refugees and their descendants to the State of Israel, and even encourages a violent struggle against Israel. Some of these contents include learning songs that emphasize the violent return of refugees and mention the term jihad in this context, by presenting the violent struggle as a means to liberate Palestine and by glorifying martyrdom in this context as a noble death that one should strive for.

As well, these books include expressions of hatred against Jews and Israel that are reflected through literary passages that include dehumanization and demonization, as well as claims that do away with the Israeli and Jewish presence in Israel using false information. This is done by presenting Palestine, and not Israel, as one of the countries of the Levant, by failing to mention the six million Jews who reside in Israel (as opposed to mentions of Israeli Arabs) among the legitimate inhabitants of the country, presenting Jewish holy places as Muslim holy sites that were stolen by the Jews and removing the Hebrew from a stamp used during the British Mandate.

Islamic Jihad activity in UNRWA schools

The Islamic Jihad through its representatives in the Staff Union and its students’ organization al-Rabita al-Islmaiya (a.k.a al-Rabita) is also active in schools run by UNRWA in the Gaza Strip.

For example, on November 12, 2013 senior members of al-Rabita visited Abasan middle school in east Khan Yunis for having a discussion on student issues with the principle, Nabil Sarafandi. Mundhir Abu Drar, al-Rabita’s coordinator in east Khan Yunis office, Wisam abu Khater, coordinator of schools issues in the districts of east Khan Yunis and members of the public outreach wing of the Islamic Jihad were in attendance. The principle, Nabil Sarafandi, said that al-Rabita activists regularly visited his school and held activities inside its premises in order to follow-up on students’ issues.100

Al-Rabita in Beit Lahiya area (northern Gaza) organized a football tournament for schools and mosques that included teams from al-Fakhoura A and B schools (UNRWA).101

Al-Rabita organized a competition in “all schools in a-Tufah” neighbourhood in Gaza.102 Five school run by UNRWA are located in a-Tufah neighbourhood.

Operatives of the Islamic Jihad who graduated UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip (partial list)

Mohammad Matar

Adam Ahmad Khattab

Mohammad Khaled Abu Mu'ammar

Alla A-Din Mohammad Al-Ghannam

100 http://alrabeta.ps/index.php?act=post&id=1030
Mohammad Ibrahim Al-Ghamari

Muqalid Hamid

Mohammad Jaafar Shahin

Yusuf Fawzi Abu Sharar

Abd Al-Rahim Bahader
Mohammad Abu Yusuf

Yusuf Jamal Yusuf

Wajih Mushtaha

Khalil Hamed

Ismail Abu Jodah

Tariq Al-Mudalal
Nidal Nabil Musa

Mohammad Yusuf Al-Maqousi

Mohammad Bakr Issa

Mouqalid Hamid

Mohammad Al-Ajouri

Ahmad Abu Jazar
“UNRWA teachers incite terrorism & antisemitism”: UN Watch

UN Watch published (February 2017) a report showing 40 alarming new cases of UNRWA school teachers in Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria whose Facebook pages incite to Jihadist terrorism and antisemitism, including by posting Holocaust-denying videos and pictures celebrating Hitler.

Excerpts from the report.¹⁰³

Gaza - Om Alaa, who identifies herself as an UNRWA teacher on her Facebook profile, published the post below of a picture of Adolf Hitler and his “top” ten quotes.¹⁰⁴

![Hitler Quotes](image1.png)

Eman Shammala, who identifies herself as an UNRWA teacher on her Facebook profile, published the picture below on January 10, 2016. UN Watch previously exposed two other UNRWA teachers who published the same picture, which shows a keffiyeh-clad Palestinian playing a knife like a violin, using a Palestinian “key of return” as a bow.¹⁰⁵

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¹⁰⁴ https://www.unwatch.org/om-alaa-unrwa-teacher-venerates-hitler/
¹⁰⁵ https://www.unwatch.org/eman-shammala-unrwa-teacher-glorifies-knife-attacks/
UNRWA as a surrogate for terrorist groups

Ample accumulated evidence During Operation “Protective Edge” (July-August 2014) that was carried out in response to terrorist attacks from the Gaza Strip aimed at Israeli civilian and military targets, linked Palestinian terrorist organizations to UNRWA.

Opening fire and launching rockets in vicinity of UNRWA facilities or from its premises

- The IDF Spokesperson reported that 11 mortar shells were fired by terrorists on August 2, 2014 from the vicinity of an UNRWA school in the Zeitoun neighbourhood in Gaza.106
- On July 30, 2014 IDF forces uncovered an attack tunnel reportedly dug from inside an UNRWA health clinic in the area of al-Farahin in east Khan Younis. During IDF searches Hamas operatives detonated 12 explosive charges planted inside the building, killing 3 Israeli soldiers. 107
- On July 25, 2014 Palestinian terrorists fired mortar shells and anti tank rockets from the vicinity of an UNRWA school and from inside it108, causing the death of an Israeli soldier. 109
- The IDF Spokesperson reported on July 24, 2014 that “in recent days” Hamas launched rockets from the area of Beit Hanoun where an UNRWA shelter is located.110
- IDF documented rockets launcher pad in the vicinity of al-Mahtal Hotel in al-Shati refugee camp. The sign UN is clearly seen on the building’s roof. 111
- FRENCH 24 reporter documented rockets launching in the vicinity of UNRWA school.112

Hamas’ use of UNRWA facilities and equipment for terrorist purposes
• UNRWA reported on July 17, 2014 that approximately 20 rockets were discovered inside a vacant UNRWA school in Gaza. UNRWA’s press release did not specify the name of the school, the type of the rockets and to which organization the rockets were transferred.113
• UNRWA reported on July 22, 2014 that rockets were discovered in a vacant school in Gaza. UNRWA’s press release did not specify the name of the school, the type and the number of the rockets and to which organization the rockets were transferred. 114
• UNRWA reported on July 30, 2014 that rockets were discovered in a school in Gaza. According its press release (which for an unknown reason was not posted on the UNRWA website) UNRWA could not send a UN munitions expert to disarm and remove the weapons “because of fighting in the vicinity.” UNRWA did not specify the name of the school, the type and the number of the rockets and to which organization the rockets were eventually transferred.115
• The IDF Spokesperson reported on July 26, 2014 that IDF forces discovered in an attack tunnel equipment belonging to UNRWA, including flour sacs bearing the UNRWA emblem, that were used by Hamas to conceal the removal of the sand during the digging operation.

In 2017 three tunnel dug by Hamas were discovered in UNRWA schools in Gaza.117

Comments and recommendations

UNRWA has become a convenient surrogate for terrorist organizations, led by Hamas, which was chosen in successive elections to lead the workers union and the UNRWA teachers union, as the key mentors who influence generations of Palestinian refugee descendants about engaging in 'right of return' through jihad, to Arab villages that existed before 1948.

The Hamas takeover of the UNRWA institutions and UNRWA staff should set off alarms regarding the possibility of funding given by donor countries (primarily the UK, Germany and Canada) finding its way to financing the salaries of Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists.

Hamas' Islamic Bloc continues its activities in schools run by UNRWA in the Gaza Strip, and these activities are carried out with the support and cooperation of the schools' administration and teachers.

An immediate and independent investigation is required into the infiltration of Palestinian terrorist groups into UNRWA, the use of its facilities for the purpose of terrorist attacks and rocket storage as well as the transfer of UNRWA equipment to be used by Gaza terrorist organizations and last but not least, the indoctrination of the future generations to war and strife.

Aid to UNRWA must be conditioned upon changing a curriculum that teaches hatred towards Israel, removal of terrorists from UNRWA's administration, UNRWA's commitment to dismantle the refugee camps that are under Palestinian control.

115 http://www.timesofisrael.com/rockets-found-in-unrwa-school-for-third-time/
116 https://twitter.com/IDFSpokesperson/status/491952391055355905/photo/1
117 https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-condemns-neutrality-violation-gaza
On its official website UNRWA still maintains that there are 449,957 Palestinian “Registered Refugees” in Lebanon.\footnote{https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/lebanon} On December 21, 2017 the Lebanese Central Bureau of Statistics reported that a new census of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, carried out over a one year period in 12 camps and 156 communities, showed that their number amounts to 174,422 people living in 12 camps and 156 Palestinian communities in the five governorates of Lebanon.\footnote{http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/site/512/default.aspx?lang=en&ItemID=3013} The actual number of Palestinian “refugees” living in Lebanon is lower by almost 60\% than the official data reported by UNRWA.

Appendix A – Islamic Bloc’s brochure explaining the importance of the jihad
Appendix B – Islamic Bloc's Brochure on Ahmad al-Jaabari
Appendix C - Islamic Bloc honouring outstanding students
Appendix D - Islamic Bloc's commemoration of Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin
middle school in Rafah (ג) Appendix E - Members of the Islamic Bloc at C
August 31, 2018 – Students, activists with the Islamic Bloc, welcome students on the occasion of the new school year at al-Bureij middle school A (UNRWA)
August 29, 2018 – Students, activists with the Islamic Bloc, welcome students on the occasion of the new school year at al-Nuserat middle school B (UNRWA)