



# THE INVESTIGATIVE PROJECT ON TERRORISM

## HATEM ABUDAYYEH



*Hatem Abudayyeh visited the White House at least once. He met with Paul Monterio, Associate Director, White House Office of Public Engagement on April 22, 2010.*

### ***Biography***

Hatem Abudayyeh is the executive director of the Arab American Action Network (AAAN) in Chicago and is a longtime Palestinian activist. Throughout the last decade, Abudayyeh has spoken or written against Israeli policies in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon and supported “resistance” against Israel. In September 2010 the FBI raided Abudayyeh’s home, in search of funding links between Abudayyeh and Hamas.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Anti-Israel and Anti-U.S. Statements***

At an Occupy Chicago Protest in October 2011, Abudayyeh said:

- “The global boycott, divestment and sanctions movement is making a dent on Israel, and its indemnity over the Palestinian people and the Arab world. And even here in the U.S., Israel is beginning to be seen as the criminal pariah state that it is.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Chuck Goudie, “Group run by FBI raid target received gov’t funds,” ABC Local, September 27, 2010 <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/iteam&id=7692107> (Accessed September 11, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> Hatem Abudayyeh, Occupy Chicago Protest, October 8, 2011. Video accessible here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mkFKOCxeHk>

- He also stated at the same protest: “[T]he intifada in Palestine, I truly believe that the Palestinian people are winning. And they will win their freedom and independence from Israel and from the United States.”<sup>3</sup>

At a March 14 2009 Chicago rally, Abudayyeh declared the following about the Israel-Gaza War:

- “[I]t wasn’t a war between Hamas and Israel. It was a war by Israel against the Palestinian people ... The Palestinian people fought back and were victorious against that Israeli aggression.”<sup>4</sup>

In a March 2009 article on the Israel-Gaza War, Abudayyeh defended the use of “resistance” against Israel:

- “Israel’s political and military goals were not met and, as in the summer of 2006, when the Lebanese resistance defeated Israel’s military, **the Palestinians and their resistance emerged victorious.**”<sup>5</sup>
- “Both the blockade and Israel’s breaking the ceasefire with the Palestinians on Nov. 4, 2008 are acts of war. **The Palestinian resistance to Israel’s offensive is a legitimate response to an illegal military occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.**”<sup>6</sup>

In the same article, Abudayyeh praised terrorist organizations:

- “Israel’s unilateral ‘ceasefire’ also signifies that its military was not able to defeat **the Palestinian resistance, which was strong and unified and included all the organizations that constitute the Palestinian national liberation movement - Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Islamic Jihad, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Fatah and others.** It also signifies that Israel’s political goals of fostering internal Palestinian division - to impose an acceptance of Israeli apartheid and occupation on the Palestinian people - was defeated as well.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Hatem Abudayyeh, Occupy Chicago Protest, October 8, 2011. Video accessible here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mkFKOCxeHk>

<sup>4</sup> Hatem Abudayyeh speaking at a rally in Chicago, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2009. Video available here:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqQDHRzoBoU&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqQDHRzoBoU&feature=player_embedded) (Accessed September 11 2012).

<sup>5</sup> Hatem Abudayyeh, “Victory for the Palestinian People,” *FightBack!News*, March 9, 2009.

<http://www.fightbacknews.org/2009/03/gaza-war-victory-for-palestinian-people.htm> (Accessed September 11 2012).

<sup>6</sup> Hatem Abudayyeh, “Victory for the Palestinian People,” *FightBack!News*, March 9, 2009.

<http://www.fightbacknews.org/2009/03/gaza-war-victory-for-palestinian-people.htm> (Accessed September 11 2012).

<sup>7</sup> Hatem Abudayyeh, “Victory for the Palestinian People,” *FightBack!News*, March 9, 2009.

<http://www.fightbacknews.org/2009/03/gaza-war-victory-for-palestinian-people.htm> (Accessed September 11 2012).

- “The Gaza War has established **that Israel is not indomitable. The Palestinian armed resistance is still alive and well. The vast majority of the Palestinian people support the resistance as a means to end the occupation, to secure the Right of Return for all Palestinian refugees and their descendants.**”<sup>8</sup>

In an interview with *FightBack!News* in July 2006 during the Second Lebanon War, Abudayyeh vilified Israel and defended the Lebanese “resistance:”

- “The Israeli government and its military killing machine has [sic] again attacked Lebanon as they did in 1982, one of the most brutal invasions in the long history of their aggression against the Palestinians and Arabs. The war in 1982 led to a 22-year Israeli military occupation of the south of Lebanon, an occupation that was finally ended by the heroic resistance of the Lebanese people.”<sup>9</sup>
- “With its actions, Israel is basically making the racist argument that the lives of two **European settler-colonialist Israelis** are more valuable than the lives of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese and Arabs.”
- Abudayyeh added, “But the **Lebanese resistance is bravely fighting back.**”<sup>10</sup> And, “the Arab people, especially the Palestinians, Lebanese and Iraqis, have a long **history of resistance, and that they will resist Israel and the U.S. for as long as it takes to shed the Arab nation from colonialism, war and occupation.**”<sup>11</sup>
- Abudayyeh criticized the U.S. during the same interview and labeled the U.S. and Israel as “terrorists”:
  - “The hypocrisy of Israel and the U.S. is in full view of the world, because, while they demanded that the Palestinians take part in full and fair democratic elections, once the **Hamas political organization** took control of the Palestinian Authority in these elections, both the U.S. and Israel refused to acknowledge its victory.”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Hatem Abudayyeh, “Victory for the Palestinian People,” *FightBack!News*, March 9, 2009. <http://www.fightbacknews.org/2009/03/gaza-war-victory-for-palestinian-people.htm> (Accessed September 11 2012).

<sup>9</sup> “Interview with Hatem Abudayyeh, Israel and U.S. Wage War on Lebanon and Palestine,” *FightBack!News*, July 22, 2006 <http://www.fightbacknews.org/2006/03/hateminterview.htm> (Accessed September 11, 2012).

<sup>10</sup> “Interview with Hatem Abudayyeh, Israel and U.S. Wage War on Lebanon and Palestine,” *FightBack!News*, July 22, 2006 <http://www.fightbacknews.org/2006/03/hateminterview.htm> (Accessed September 11, 2012).

<sup>11</sup> “Interview with Hatem Abudayyeh, Israel and U.S. Wage War on Lebanon and Palestine,” *FightBack!News*, July 22, 2006 <http://www.fightbacknews.org/2006/03/hateminterview.htm> (Accessed September 11, 2012).

<sup>12</sup> “Interview with Hatem Abudayyeh, Israel and U.S. Wage War on Lebanon and Palestine,” *FightBack!News*, July 22, 2006 <http://www.fightbacknews.org/2006/03/hateminterview.htm> (Accessed September 11, 2012).

- **“The U.S. and Israel will continue to describe Hamas, Hezbollah and the other Palestinian and Lebanese resistance organizations as ‘terrorists,’ but the real terrorists are the governments and military forces of the U.S. and Israel.** The vast majority of the world sees and understands this, and are in full support of Lebanese, Palestinian and worldwide resistance to Israel and the U.S.’s naked aggression, war, imperialism and occupation.”<sup>13</sup>
- **“This mass movement against war and imperialism must continue, and the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance must be supported.”<sup>14</sup>**

In a 2002 article, Abudayyeh referred to Israel as part of “Palestine” and advocated for the destruction of Israel:

- “We don’t advocate kicking the Jews out of Palestine,” Abudayyeh said. “We want a dissolution of the concept of a Zionist state.”<sup>15</sup>

### ***Attacking U.S. Counterterrorism Measures and Law Enforcement:***

- "Special registration, increased surveillance, workplace discrimination and harassment by law enforcement have reinforced a climate of fear, hatred and racial profiling that tears families apart," said Abudayyeh in 2003, "and the U.S. government criminalizes our communities under the pretext of homeland security and foreign policy interests."<sup>16</sup>
- Abudayyeh was a plaintiff in an unsuccessful federal lawsuit “challenging the constitutionality of a nearly 80-year-old Chicago ordinance prohibiting the wearing of masks except during celebrations.” Abudayyeh “told reporters he was ‘horribly offended’ by the ordinance and ‘the arbitrary way’ it had been enforced by the city.”<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> “Interview with Hatem Abudayyeh, Israel and U.S. Wage War on Lebanon and Palestine,” FightBack!News, July 22, 2006 <http://www.fightbacknews.org/2006/03/hateminterview.htm> (Accessed September 11, 2012).

<sup>14</sup> “Interview with Hatem Abudayyeh, Israel and U.S. Wage War on Lebanon and Palestine,” FightBack!News, July 22, 2006 <http://www.fightbacknews.org/2006/03/hateminterview.htm> (Accessed September 11, 2012).

<sup>15</sup> “AAAN’s Abudayyeh Struggles to Rebuild After Fire Guts Office,” Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, By Kristin Szremski, January/February 2002, page 59. <http://wrmea.net/archives/236-washington-report-archives-2000-2005/january-february-2002/4001-aaans-abudayyeh-struggles-to-rebuild-after-fire-guts-office.html> (Accessed September 11 2012).

<sup>16</sup> “Chicago Families Protest Increasing Racial Profiling in Era of War on Terror: Hearings on Anniversary of Patriot Act,” PR News Wire, October 14, 2003.

<sup>17</sup> Matt O’Connor, “Suit Seeks to Overturn City’s Anti-Mask Law; Move Follows Arrest of 10 for Covering Faces at Protest,” *Chicago Tribune*, January 24, 2001