



The Investigative Project on Terrorism



An IPT Investigative Report on Osama Abuirshaid

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Osama Abuirshaid

National Policy Director and Board Member, American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)

Osama Abuirshaid¹ is National Policy Director and board member for American Muslims for Palestine (AMP),² a national anti-Israel organization.³ The Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT) connected several AMP officials and affiliated individuals with a now-defunct Hamas-support network in the United States called the Palestine Committee.⁴ Those connections were reinforced in congressional testimony by Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Vice President Jonathan Schanzer.⁵

The United States designated Hamas as a terrorist organization pursuant to Executive Order 12947 in 1995 and as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997. Hamas was also designated a “specially designated global terrorist” under E.O. 13224 in 2001.⁶ The terrorist group has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Israelis and Americans inside Israel.⁷

The 2015 IPT investigation found that AMP continues to carry out many of the Palestine Committee’s functions – including fundraising, propaganda and lobbying.⁸ The Muslim Brotherhood created the committee to help Hamas politically and financially in the United States.⁹ Several entities affiliated with the committee were created by Mousa Abu Marzook, who remains a top Hamas political leader.¹⁰

¹ Other spellings include “Abu Irshaid” and “Abu-Irshaid.” He spells it Abuirshaid on his social media accounts.

² “Staff and National Board,” Americans Muslims for Palestine (AMP), <https://www.ampalastine.org/about-amp/staff>

³ “American Muslims for Palestine’s Web of Hamas Support,” *IPT News*, Dec. 14, 2011, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/3346/american-muslims-for-palestine-web-of-hamas>

⁴ “Investigation Exposes AMP Leaders’ Ties to Former U.S.-Based Hamas-Support Network,” *IPT News*, June 24, 2015, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/4891/investigation-exposes-amp-leaders-ties-to-former>

⁵ Jonathan Schanzer, “Israel Imperiled: Threats to the Jewish State,” Joint Hearing before House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade and the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa, Washington DC, April 19, 2016,

<https://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA18/20160419/104817/HHRG-114-FA18-Wstate-SchanzerJ-20160419.pdf>

⁶ “Resource Center: Protecting Charitable Organizations-E,” U.S. Department of the Treasury, https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/terrorist-illicit-finance/Pages/protecting-charities_execorder_13224-e.aspx

⁷ H.R. 5501, 111th Congress, 2d Session, “To prohibit United States participation on the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and prohibit contributions to the United Nations for the purpose of paying for any United Nations investigation into the flotilla incident,” In the House of Representatives, June 10, 2010, pp. 2-3, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-111hr5501ih/pdf/BILLS-111hr5501ih.pdf>

⁸ “Investigation Exposes AMP Leaders’ Ties to Former U.S.-Based Hamas-Support Network,” *IPT News*, June 24, 2015, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/4891/investigation-exposes-amp-leaders-ties-to-former>

⁹ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, “GX 003-0015: Islamic Action for Palestine – An internal memo –October 1992,” (N.D. Ill.), p. 11, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/23-internal-memo-of-the-iap.pdf#page=11>

¹⁰ Motasem A Dalloul, “Q&A with Dr Mousa Abu Marzook, the first head of the Hamas political bureau,” *Middle East Monitor*, April 23, 2019, <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190423-qa-with-dr-mousa-abu-marzook-the-first-head-of-the-hamas-political-bureau/>



One branch, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF),¹¹ was convicted in 2008 along with five senior officials, of illegally routing more than \$12 million to Hamas.¹² “The purpose of creating the Holy Land Foundation was as a fundraising arm for Hamas,” said U.S. District Judge Jorge Solis during the sentencing hearing.¹³

Other Palestine Committee entities included the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP) and a Northern Virginia think tank called the United Association for Studies and Research (UASR).¹⁴ IAP, also known as the American Muslim Society (AMS),¹⁵ served as a propaganda outlet, issuing Hamas press releases and communiques and publishing the Hamas charter, which called for Israel's destruction and the murder of Jews. It also sponsored annual conventions and other events that included senior Hamas leaders as speakers.¹⁶ Each month, prosecutors said, the IAP published “Arabic language magazines called *Al Zaytouna* and *Ila Falestine* which focused on Palestinian issues with an emphasis on support for Hamas.”¹⁷ Shortly after its 1994 creation, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)¹⁸ was added to a Palestine Committee meeting agenda.¹⁹

UASR published an academic journal and, prosecutors stated, was “involved in passing Hamas communiques to the United States-based Muslim Brotherhood community and relaying messages from that community back to Hamas.”²⁰

¹¹ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, et al., (N.D. Tex.)

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/65/us-v-holy-land-foundation>

¹² *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, “Jury Verdict” (N.D. Tex. Nov. 24, 2008), https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/741.pdf

¹³ “HLF Founders Sentenced to Long Prison Terms,” *IPT News*, May 27, 2009, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/1046/hlf-founders-sentenced-to-long-prison-terms>

¹⁴ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, “GX 003-001: Central Committee Organizational Chart” (N.D. Tex.), https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/2962.pdf

¹⁵ AMS/IAP annual convention announcement (n.d.), <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/825-ams-iap-event-announcement.pdf>

¹⁶ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, “Government’s Second Supplemental Trial Brief” (N.D. Tex. Sept. 12, 2008), p. 8, https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/658.pdf#page=8

¹⁷ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, “Government’s Second Supplemental Trial Brief” (N.D. Tex. Sept. 12, 2008), p. 30, https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/658.pdf#page=30

¹⁸ “Profile: The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR),” <https://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/172/the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-cair>

¹⁹ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, “GX 003-0078: 1994 Palestine Committee Meeting Agenda,” (N.D. Tex.), p. 6, https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/717.pdf#page=6

²⁰ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, “Government’s Second Supplemental Trial Brief” (N.D. Tex. Sept. 12, 2008), p. 7, https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/658.pdf#page=7



Abuirshaid has direct ties to the “Palestine Committee”:

- He served on the **Preparatory Committee of IAP’s Fourth Annual Convention.**²¹
- He is listed on **2001 AMS Annual Report as “Newspaper Editor.”**²²
- He is listed under “Confirmed Speakers and Moderators” for IAP’s 5th Annual Convention titled, “American Muslims: A Bridge of Understanding & Cooperation” from Dec. 21-25, 2001 in Chicago.²³
- He is described in an IAP conference flyer as a **“Political Analyst and Editor of Zaytouna.”**²⁴
- He served on **AMS Board of Directors in 2002**²⁵ (AMS is another name for IAP).²⁶ Starting in June 2002, Abuirshaid also worked as an outreach coordinator for AMS. In that role, he “would reach out to organizational chapters, coordinate with local chapters for events, and assist them with fundraising.”²⁷
- He served as editor of IAP’s Arabic periodical, *Al-Zaytouna*.²⁸
- He is listed as **“Research Fellow at the United Association for Studies and Research”** in a 1999 article published in the *Middle East Affairs Journal*, a UASR publication, titled, “Occupied Palestine or Independent Israel: ‘The Right to Existence’ After More Than Fifty Years of Occupation.”²⁹

²¹ “All Palestine is Sacred,” Islamic Association for Palestine Fourth Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, Nov. 23-25, 2000 (Conference Program), <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/438-iap-fourth-annual-convention-program.pdf#page=2>

²² AMS Annual Report (2001), <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1113-ams-annual-report-2001.pdf>

²³ “(IAP) 5th Annual Convention: American Muslims: A Bridge of Understanding & Cooperation,” Chicago, Dec.

21-25, 2001, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1114-iap-5th-annual-convention-chicago-2001.pdf>

²⁴ (IAP) 5th Annual Convention: American Muslims: A Bridge of Understanding & Cooperation,” Chicago, Dec. 21-25, 2001, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1114-iap-5th-annual-convention-chicago-2001.pdf>

²⁵ “From AMS/IAP,” Fax from Rafeeq to James Fennerty, Oct. 29, 2002, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1115-osama-abu-irshaid-uasr-affiliation.pdf>

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/misc/815.pdf#page=2> [Note: Jim Fennerty is described in the Dec. 2001 IAP Convention Program as an attorney and civil rights activist]

²⁶ AMS/IAP annual convention announcement (n.d.), <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/825-ams-iap-event-announcement.pdf>

²⁷ *Abuirshaid v. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, et al.*, “Petition for Review of Denial of Application for Naturalization” (E.D. Va.), p. 6, <https://mlfa.org/news/american-muslim-leader-takes-oath-of-citizenship-after-11-years-of-delays/>

²⁸ “Osama Abu-Irshaid,” *IslamOnline.net*, <https://archive.is/RPgj2>. See also AMS Annual Report (2001).

²⁹ “Occupied Palestine or Independent Israel: ‘The Right to Existence’ After More Than Fifty Years of Occupation,” *Middle East Affairs Journal*, Vol. 5, No. 3-4, Summer-Fall, 1999.



- **He was the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the U.S.-based Arabic language Al Meezan newspaper.**³⁰

Abuirshaid serves on the board of the **US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO)**.³¹ The Islamist coalition has an overtly political objective and sponsors the National Muslim Advocacy Day to lobby policy makers on the Hill.³² The Investigative Project on Terrorism first exposed the close nexus between USCMO and American Islamist groups with Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).³³



AKP Convention, Sept. 12-13, 2015 - Ankara, Turkey.
Osama Abuirshaid (left), Oussama Jamal(center), Naeem Baig(right)

Abuirshaid's work with the USCMO places him in league with yet another Palestine Committee branch, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR),³⁴ which along with AMP was a founding USCMO member.³⁵

CAIR was listed as an unindicted co-conspirator in the HLF trial.³⁶ Evidence from the trial revealed the significant leadership role that CAIR co-founder Omar Ahmad played in the Palestine Committee.³⁷ Additionally, CAIR Executive Director Nihad

³⁰ http://www.almeezannews.com/PDFs/almeezanPDF_291.pdf (Note: The most "current" issue published on the Al-Meezan website is dated April 1, 2016); "AMP board member, Dr. Osama Abu Irshaid, visits US State Department," American Muslims for Palestine, June 29, 2012, <https://www.ampalabama.org/newsroom/amp-board-member-dr-osama-abu-irshaid-visits-us-state-department>

³¹ "USCMO Board Members," US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), https://uscmo.org/index.php/our_board/

³² "Annual National Muslim Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill," US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), <https://uscmo.org/index.php/portfolio-items/uscmos-annual-national-muslim-advocacy-day-on-capitol-hill-2/>

³³ Abha Shankar, "Will Turkey's New Diplomatic Push Reduce Its American MB Support?," *IPT News*, July 7, 2016, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/5492/will-turkey-new-diplomatic-push-reduce-its>

³⁴ "Profile: The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)," <https://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/172/the-council-on-american-islamic-relations-cair>

³⁵ "Founding Members," US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), https://uscmo.org/index.php/founding_members/

³⁶ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, "Attachment A: List of Unindicted Co-conspirators and/or Joint Venturers," in Government's Trial Brief (N.D. Tex. May 29, 2007), p. 5, https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/423.pdf#page=5

³⁷ "The Case Against Omar Ahmad," *IPT News*, April 25, 2011, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/2790/the-case-against-omar-ahmad>



Awad served on a roster of Palestine Committee members.³⁸ Awad also participated in a secret, 1993 gathering of Hamas-supporters who wanted to undermine the U.S.-brokered Oslo Accords.³⁹ The Accords included a Palestinian recognition of Israel's right to exist, and elevated the Fatah movement – Hamas's rival – to leadership in the newly-created Palestinian Authority.⁴⁰

Support of Hamas

Abuirshaid has published posts on social media supporting the terrorist group Hamas:

- A translation of a Dec. 14, 2014 Facebook post reads: “Hamas celebrates today the 27th anniversary of its launching. It looks to the future and is preparing for the liberation, at a time in which Fatah celebrated the 49th anniversary of its launching early this year. **There is a difference between Hamas, whose youth renewed their adherence to its starting point determined on liberation, and Fatah, which has grown old after deviating from the creed of liberation and resistance upon which it was established.** It has changed today, under the leadership of Abbas, to a mere appendage to the intelligence and security agencies of Israel. **There is a difference between those who resisted and those who compromise; between those who constitute an army for liberation, and those who provide battalions of lackeys; a difference between those who rise up for the blood of its martyrs, and those who spill it in the wine glasses of Israel. Ask Arafat and Abu Ayn. Yes. A vast divide between those who inflicted pain on Israel and shattered its insolence and aggression in Gaza three times, and those who have conspired with Israel and are complicit with it, hoping to cover up its evil in all its nakedness,** but they are like someone who jumps from the frying pan into the fire. They are not the same. Those who believe in their Lord, exulting in him and working for His cause and His people;

³⁸“Important phone and fax numbers (Palestine section/America),” *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development*, 04-CR-240, GX Ashqar Search – 1,

https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/701.pdf#page=4

³⁹ IPT, “CAIR Executive Director Placed at HAMAS Meeting,” *Counterterrorism Blog*, August 2, 2007,

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/282/cair-executive-director-placed-at-hamas-meeting>

⁴⁰ “HLF Redux: The Philadelphia Meeting,” *IPT News*, November 12, 2008,

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/859/hlf-redux-the-philadelphia-meeting>





and those who break before His enemy and are prostrate under their feet and betray His people and His cause. They are not the same.”⁴¹ [Emphasis added]

- In a July 18, 2015 Twitter post in Arabic, Abuirshaid lauded Hamas for the “respect” it instills in its opponents: “Whether you love Hamas or hate it, its opponents respect it. They stand by their principles and negotiates from a position of strength as in lifting the siege of Gaza, and the restoration of some Arab relationships.”⁴²

The “siege” refers to Israel’s blockade on Gaza intended to cut off supplies Hamas uses to build its terrorist infrastructure.⁴³

- After Egypt declared Hamas was a terrorist organization, Abuirshaid posted a February 28, 2015 tweet stating: **“CC's ‘Cairo Aviv’ designates Hamas as a terrorist organization. Really! [sic] Look who's talking!? A terrorist murder regime.”**⁴⁴
- In a November 27, 2013 Facebook post, Abuirshaid **described Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in laudatory terms, including as “the leader of Gaza” and a “lion.”** Abuirshaid also refers to Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi as the “assassin Sisi,” and **deposed Egyptian President and Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Morsi as the “noble Morsi.”**

Such a man is the one against whom there was a coup in Egypt! These are leaders who did not enrich themselves from the sacrosanct funds of their peoples. They did not lap up their blood. They live with them their trial and poverty. Such men did not betray, They did not steal. They did not use abuse the use of position or authority. They died like the people. They starved like the people. They suffered like the people. They did not consider themselves better than them ... Their children, grandchildren, wives and parents seek martyrdom in the fields of battle and self-sacrifice, as they also die from the blockade and the lack of medicine and food.

Haniyeh is on his way to the burial of his granddaughter, the daughter of one year, for whom his son waited for more than a decade until God honored him with her, She died before his eyes and the eyes of his father, **“the leader of Gaza”** from the triple blockade: the Authority of the cynics in Ramallah, Egypt of the coup, and the criminal state, Israel, backed by umbrella of Arab and Western criminals. “Amal Haniyeh.” [The child’s name] They did not find for her medication and treatment like the sons of her

⁴¹ Translation of Osama Abuirshaid’s Facebook Post in Arabic, Dec. 14, 2014, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1116-osama-abu-irshaid-dec-14-2014-fb-post-in-praise.pdf>

⁴² Translation of Osama Abuirshaid’s Twitter Post in Arabic, July 18, 2015, <https://twitter.com/OsamaAbuirshaid/status/622450333218942976>

⁴³ TOI staff and Judah Ari Gross, “Hamas official warns will reduce, not stop, balloon-borne bombs – report,” *Times of Israel*, Feb. 15, 2020, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-official-warns-will-reduce-not-stop-balloon-borne-bombs-report/>

⁴⁴ Osama Abuirshaid Twitter Post, Feb. 28, 2015, <https://twitter.com/osamaabuirshaid/status/571920413305004033>





besieged people in Gaza. **After that some compare such a lion** with the jerboa [a kind of desert rodent] of Ramallah, Mahmoud Abbas, after a mist covered the hearts of many of the people of Egypt and they preferred the **assassin Sisi** over the **noble Morsi**, and wish to repeat the scene in Gaza today ... but how you understand the stupidity of those who seek as a replacement one who is as low for one who is good. May God have mercy on you, oh Amal Haniyeh, you and all the steadfast and oppressed people of Gaza.⁴⁵ [Emphasis added]

- Asked whether “you support Hamas, or do you condemn them as a terrorist organization?” in 2013, Abuirshaid sidestepped the question:

Questioner: **“You've been quoted as saying that rockets being sent from Gaza into Israel should be considered, yeah, I'm recording, OK, should be considered legitimate resistance.** I wonder if that quote is true. **And also, since Hamas is considered a terrorist organization by our State Department, do you support Hamas, or do you also condemn them as a terrorist organization?”**

Osama Abuirshaid: **“Well first of all, the first quotation is taken out of context.”**

Questioner: “Um hum.”

Osama Abuirshaid: “OK? I was saying that Israel fired missiles into Gaza and killed Gazan people. And the Gazan people who are under occupation, technically, according to international law, are under occupation, according to international law they have the right to defend themselves and to resist their occupier. So now whether I have referred to the rockets or not I'm not sure. But it was in this context that Gaza is under occupation, the Palestinian are under occupation; they have the right to, according to the international law, unless the U.S. want to withdraw unilaterally from the treaties that it signed and the conventions, the Geneva Conventions and say that the people under occupation have no right to defend themselves. So, it was about defending themselves, not preempting, preemption attacks against other people. This is one.”

Questioner: “What about, OK, go ahead.”

Osama Abuirshaid: **“Two - do I consider Hamas a terrorist group? Well this is the U.S. official position. Since this is the position and this is the law of the land, which we deal with Hamas as an illegal**

⁴⁵Translation of Osama Abuirshaid Facebook post in Arabic, November 27, 2013, <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=560813667328741&set=pb.100002003391517.-2207520000.1429122395.&type=3&permPage=1>



organization, so we have no, any sort of relationship with Hamas. Now personally, I don't defend Hamas. I defend the Palestinian people. And the Palestinian people I defend them collectively. I defend them collectively, included, includes the Palestinian that includes Fatah, include Republican front, the Democratic front, include the initiative, the Palestinian Initiative, and includes any other faction in the Palestinian society that defends and represents the plight of the Palestinian people. And the question should be, those who defend Israel in this country, do they also defend the creation and the expansion of the illegal settlements in the West Bank, those who are paying and sponsoring and financing these illegal settlements, according to our inter, according to our American law? So I hope that we hear this question here in the U.S. for about those who are sending money to Israel, those who are sending bullets to Israel, our own government they are equipping Israel with weapons to kill children in the name of America, while we know that this is, this country does not condone the killing of innocent people. But Israel is doing this in our name. So I hope the question is for those who are sponsoring Israel and supporting Israel and supporting the illegal activities of Israel in the West Bank by expanding and building settlements, I hope that we hear the same question. And I hope one day that we will get a question here - do you sponsor the terrorism of the state of Israel?"⁴⁶

- Abuirshaid euphemistically refers to Hamas as “the resistance.” In a July 27, 2014 article published on The Palestinian Information Center, Abuirshaid praised the “Palestinian resistance” against the “Zionist aggression” in Gaza:

The achievements of the Palestinian resistance in its response to the Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip cannot be denied. Despite its limited capabilities and the suffocating siege imposed on it by Israel and Arab regimes, it is still standing steadfast, tall. It taught with courage the Israeli army of occupation many lessons and stopped the advance of its ground forces in the affected sector, despite the blatant imbalance in power and armament.

The facts of the current Zionist aggression have clearly shown that the Palestinian resistance is no longer in the position of receiving slaps without the response of some of them, and even many of them. It also showed the creativity of the resisting Palestinian mind, consistent with the severity of its disdain. **Long-range missiles, high-explosive missiles and bombs, and unmanned aerial vehicles, most of which are domestically manufactured, are designed to attack the enemy at the doorstep of its military bases by sea, landing behind its lines through tunnels, etc. It is a slap that Israel receives from the Resistance every day, and it finds no**

⁴⁶ “HDV0074,” Video published on May 8, 2013, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIGJWbxDMIE>



response except through the cowardly weapon of targeting civilians with artillery, air and sea missiles to raise the human and economic costs of the Palestinians.⁴⁷ [Emphasis added]

- At a session titled, “Gaza Alive: The Palestinian Cause,” at the 2014 MAS-ICNA convention, he said, **“What we need to keep in mind is that the root cause of the problem is occupation. It didn’t start with the resistance, because you will not have a resistance, you will not have a resistance if there was no occupation.** It all started with the occupation.”⁴⁸

ICNA annually partners with the Muslim American Society (MAS) to host national conventions⁴⁹ that feature radical speakers who advocate jihad⁵⁰ and call for Israel’s elimination.⁵¹ ICNA⁵² has been described as “openly affiliated”⁵³ with the South Asian Sunni revivalist movement Jamaat-e-Islami (JI).⁵⁴ MAS was created in 1993 as the Brotherhood’s arm in the U.S.

- During the 11th annual MAS-ICNA convention in Chicago in December 2012, Abuirshaid justified Palestinian “resistance” against Israel in Gaza: **“Gaza is under occupation and a people who are under occupation have every right to resist their occupier.** Whether this will please or displease the forces of hatred, the forces who are hijacking our national interests as a nation, this is irrelevant. But the **people of Gaza are an occupied people** and they have every right to live in dignity, to live free, and the Palestinians have every right to have a state of their own, independent and sovereign and continuous and they have every right to live as a human.”⁵⁵ He blamed the deaths of Israelis in the November 2012 Israel-Gaza conflict on **“the criminal government of Israel, the terrorist government of Israel that started the war against the**

⁴⁷ Translation of Osama Abuirshaid article published on The Palestinian Information Center, July 27, 2014, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/ext/18285>

⁴⁸ “Gaza Alive: The Palestinian Cause,” MAS-ICNA Convention, Chicago, IL, December 26-28, 2014.

⁴⁹ “MAS-ICNA Convention 2020,” <https://www.masconvention.org/#/>

⁵⁰ “CAIR Protests Saudi Radical’s Exclusion From U.S.,” *IPT News*, December 27, 2012,

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/3864/cair-protests-saudi-radical-exclusion-from-us>

⁵¹ “Conferences Make AMP’s Destructive Ambition Clear,” *IPT News*, December 30, 2010,

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/2462/conferences-make-amp-destructive-ambition-clear>

⁵² “Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA): An IPT Investigative Report on Jamaat-e-Islami Network’s Support for Jihad and Islamism,” June 2019, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1058-islamic-circle-of-north-america.pdf>

⁵³ “H. Res. 160 – Expressing concern about the threat posed to democracy and human rights by theocratic groups operating in South Asia,” 116th Congress (2019-2020), Introduced in House – Foreign Affairs by Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3], February 28, 2019, <https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/congress/houseresolution/160/text?format=txt&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22jim+banks%22%5D%7D>

⁵⁴ “Jamaat-e-Islami,” *GlobalSecurity.org*, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/pakistan/ji.htm>

⁵⁵ “The Dynamics of the Palestinian Cause in Light of the Arab Spring,” 11th Annual MAS-ICNA Convention, Chicago, IL, December 23, 2012.





Palestinian people.”⁵⁶ He also justified Palestinians hitting Israel with missiles even if they were “primitive” saying they sent a “strategic message” that Palestinians “can stand for themselves.”⁵⁷ [Emphasis added]

In fact, Gaza was not under “occupation” in 2012 as Abuirshaid alleges. It was subject to a blockade to prevent Hamas from arming itself to launch rocket attacks on Israel.⁵⁸

- Abuirshaid blasted the U.S. State Department for designating Hamas activist Ahmed Ghandour as a terrorist in April 2017,⁵⁹ saying the move was **“an extension of the old/new US policy against Hamas, adopted [by then-President Bill Clinton] by former President George W. Bush, followed by Barack Obama and Donald Trump today ... But the fact that the Trump administration is adding specific names from Hamas is a clear display of good intentions toward Israel. This shows a contradiction between US policy and European [policy] toward Hamas, especially since some European parties, such as the European Court of Justice [ECJ], have [recommended] taking Hamas off [the European Union's] terror blacklist since 2003.”**⁶⁰

Anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic Statements

Abuirshaid holds Israel responsible for all the problems in the Middle East and harbors conspiracy theories alleging Israel was created as an “advanced colonial base” for the West to sow discord in the region. He has refused to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and has accused Israel of “massacring and expelling Palestinians from their land.”⁶¹

- During the 14th annual ICNA-MAS convention Chicago from Dec. 26-28, 2016, Abuirshaid blamed Israel for instability in the Middle East, particularly the crisis in Syria and the July 2013 coup in Egypt that ousted the Muslim Brotherhood-led government.

⁵⁶ “The Dynamics of the Palestinian Cause in Light of the Arab Spring,” 11th Annual MAS-ICNA Convention, Chicago, IL, December 23, 2012.

⁵⁷ “The Dynamics of the Palestinian Cause in Light of the Arab Spring,” 11th Annual MAS-ICNA Convention, Chicago, IL, December 23, 2012.

⁵⁸ Charles Krauthammer, “Blockade of Gaza rational and legal,” *Chicago Tribune*, June 7, 2010, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/opinion/ct-xpm-2010-06-07-ct-oped-0607-krauthammer-20100607-story.html>

⁵⁹ “State Department Terrorist Designation of Abu Anas al-Ghandour,” *U.S. Department of State Press Release*, April 6, 2017, <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/04/269504.htm>

⁶⁰ Adnan Abu Amer, “Another Hamas leader added to US terror list,” *Al-Monitor*, April 21, 2017, <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/04/hamas-military-leader-us-terror-list-israel.html>

⁶¹ “Muslims Around The World Series,” ICNA-MAS Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, May 24-26, 2014.





We have so many wounds, and Syria is a major wound in the body of the Muslim and Arab nation. But if you think that Syria's problem is only a product of a brutal regime, you are mistaken. **The reason Syria is still suffering is because it is adjacent to Israel. The reason why you had a coup in Egypt is because the Israelis were able to lobby for a coup.** That doesn't mean that you had an innocent army in Egypt. No. But they needed someone to lobby for them, and that was Israel. They lobbied for them here, in this country. They lobbied for a coup against the public will. **Israel is fully involved in everything that is taking place in that part of the world, because Israel is very worried about its own security and stability.**

[...]

“This is exactly what is going to keep reasserting the need to deal with the Palestinian issue - because **Israel is a direct challenge to the entire region.** Israel is risking the entire region. You will have no peace and no stability as long as Israel is following these misguided policies, and as long as this colonial enterprise continues its brutal suppression of the aspiration of the Arab people. **Remember that Israel was not created just to take and to swallow Palestine. It was created to divide and to weaken that part of the world.** So, no matter what happens, Israel will keep popping up as a problem for the entire region. **No matter what happens, Israel will continue to be a challenge for the entire region,** and this will keep Palestine as a central cause, because Palestine will continue to exist, and Palestine will continue to dominate, and Palestine will continue to define our aspirations and our future. **You cannot have democracy and freedom in that part of the world while Palestine is under occupation.** You cannot have democracy and freedom in that part of the world while you have regimes that are supporting Israel's suppression of the Palestinian people. The same (Arab) states that are being supported by them are supporting them to continue suppression of their (Arab) people.⁶² [Emphasis added]

More than 380,000 people have died since the March 2011 pro-democracy protests in Syria turned violent and the country spiraled into civil war.⁶³ In July 2013, Egypt's military ousted the country's Muslim Brotherhood President Mohammed Morsi and suspended a controversial constitution ratified under his leadership that sought to impose an Islamist agenda.⁶⁴

- At the 2014 ICNA-MAS annual convention in Baltimore, Md., Abuirshaid cited Jewish historians to cast doubt on the claim that most Jews are “descendants of

⁶² “Palestinian-American Activist Osama Abu Irshaid: Israel Responsible for Crisis in Syria and Coup in Egypt,” *MEMRI TV*, January 3, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20170617062555/https://www.memri.org/tv/palestinian-american-activist-osama-abu-irshaid-israel-responsible-crisis-syria-and-coup-egypt/transcript> [The remarks were made at the 14th Annual MAS-ICNA convention in Chicago, Dec. 26-28, 2015 and were posted on YouTube January 3, 2016).

⁶³ “Syria death toll tops 380,000 in almost nine-year war: monitor,” April 1, 2020, *France24*, <https://www.france24.com/en/20200104-syria-death-toll-tops-380-000-in-almost-nine-year-war-monitor>

⁶⁴ “Egypt's Mohammed Morsi: A turbulent presidency cut short,” *BBC News*, June 17, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-18371427>



the Israelites of antiquity.” Instead, he contended that “they are descendants of converts to Judaism in the eighth century”:

Arthur Koestler, a renowned Jewish historian, wrote the book called *The Thirteenth Tribe*. He says that **most of the Ashkenazi Jews, the Western Jews, are not the descendants of the Israelites of antiquity; they are Khazarians who converted to Judaism in the eighth century.** Another book by Shlomo Sand, another renowned Israeli historian, he wrote a book, he is a professor at the Tel Aviv University, *The Invention of the Jewish People*. Another book, Eran Elhaik, from Johns Hopkins, he wrote the same, about the same meaning. **So even their claims that they are the descendants of the Israelites of antiquity is refuted or contested.**⁶⁵ [Emphasis added]

Abuirshaid alleged that Europeans always “treated the Jews as an overflow, they always considered them an overflow in terms of their population. **They never assimilated into the society**, the societies that they lived in, they lived in ghettos, so they were never accepted by the Europeans. They were discriminated against. They were you know attacked by the population and the Europeans. **So these people were always considered a problem within Europe...**” The need to find a “solution” to the “Jewish problem” in Europe led to the creation of the “Palestine problem,” he added.⁶⁶ [Emphasis added]

The “Khazar myth” that Ashkenazi Jews living in Eastern Europe descended from Khazars, a semi-nomadic Turkic people from the Caucasus in the 7th century, has been debunked by scholars.⁶⁷

[T]he theory is absolutely without evidence, writes Alexander Beider⁶⁸ with the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy. “As any historian will tell you, generations of Jews, like generations of any people, leave historical traces behind them. These traces come in multiple forms. For starters, people leave behind them historical documents and archaeological data. Predictably, archaeological evidence about the widespread existence of Jews in Khazaria is almost nonexistent.”⁶⁹

In a similar vein, Hebrew University of Jerusalem researcher Prof. Shaul Stampfer “concluded that such a conversion, ‘while a splendid story,’ never took

⁶⁵ “Muslims Around The World Series,” ICNA-MAS Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, May 24-26, 2014.

⁶⁶ “Muslims Around The World Series,” ICNA-MAS Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, May 24-26, 2014.

⁶⁷ Seth J. Frantzman, “Terra Incognita: The return of the Khazar myth,” *The Jerusalem Post*, January 2, 2013, <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/columnists/terra-incognita-the-return-of-the-khazar-myth>

⁶⁸ “Alexander Beider,” International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center, <https://www.iiig.org/about-us/officers/beider/>

⁶⁹ Alexander Beider, “Ashkenazi Jews Are Not Khazars. Here’s The Proof,” *Forward*, September 25, 2017, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/ext/18369>



place” following a detailed examination of the evidence that some or all Khazars converted to Judaism.⁷⁰

Abuirshaid further claimed that the state of Israel was created by massacring and expelling Palestinians from their land: “...when you create an Israel, there was a land, there were people, you have to get rid of them; the land was stolen, the land was taken, the people were expelled. Now what happened here, that how did the Zionists succeed in expelling and getting rid of the population of most of the Palestinian population? **What they did is, is that they engaged in massive massacres against the Palestinians. Over 1,500 massacres took place only in the year 1948.** Over 15,000 Palestinians in the year of 1948 were killed by, in these massacres. There was a huge volume of rapes against Palestinian women. Their houses were demolished. Their lands were confiscated. They were kicked out. They were forced to...leave Palestine.”⁷¹ [Emphasis added]

But historians say Abuirshaid’s claim is false. Thousands of Palestinians fled their homes in 1947-48 to escape the Arab-Israeli war, but with the anticipation of returning to their homes upon an Arab victory.⁷²

- At the 2015 ICNA-MAS convention, Abuirshaid accused “Israeli Firsters and the Israel apologists in the United States and those Zionist figures who hold an American passport and American citizenship but who **suffer from a syndrome called ‘double loyalty’ where they put the Israeli agenda the Israeli interests ahead of the American agenda.**”⁷³ [Emphasis added] He also cited from controversial Israeli historian Benny Morris’⁷⁴ book *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem* saying that “**Israel [was] created by way of force, by way of expulsion, by way of rape and massacres.**”⁷⁵ [Emphasis added]
- At an April 2014 event sponsored by AMP at the Yaseen Foundation (Belmont Masjid) in Belmont, Cal., Abuirshaid claimed the Palestinian issue was central to

⁷⁰“Did the Khazars convert to Judaism? New research says ‘no,’” *ScienceDaily*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 26, 2014, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140626095711.htm>

⁷¹ “Muslims Around The World Series,” ICNA-MAS Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, May 24-26, 2014.

⁷² Mitchell Bard, “The Palestinian Refugees: History and Overview,” *Jewish Virtual Library*, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-the-palestinian-refugees>

⁷³ “Osama Abu Irshaid I Palestine, Syria, and Turkey 15th MAS ICNA Convention, Published on January 9, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=-KqZg1xUp4I&feature=youtu.be&t=259>

⁷⁴ “Benny Morris: The 1948 War Was an Islamic Holy War,” *Middle East Quarterly* (Summer 2010, pp. 63-69), <https://www.meforum.org/2769/benny-morris-1948-islamic-holy-war>

⁷⁵ “Osama Abu Irshaid I Palestine, Syria, and Turkey,” 15th MAS ICNA Convention, Published on January 9, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=-KqZg1xUp4I&feature=youtu.be&t=259>





the American Muslim community. He added that the issue was not one of Israel's "legitimacy" and right to exist, but the need for the United States. to be an "honest broker" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:⁷⁶

"...whether you're a Pakistani, Indian, African-American, white American, Arab American, Muslim American, I don't care where you come from but Palestine is an issue that will continue to define the Muslim community and will continue to drag our efforts here in America unless and until we come together and we stand for justice in Palestine. That's our main cause there – is to stand for justice, to demand our government to stand with justice, to do the right thing, **to be an honest broker**, not to be biased. We're not here to say that Israel should just disappear; that's not our fight here, that's not our issue here. Whether you believe in the legitimacy of Israel or not. But we're working in America here. We want justice. We want our foreign policy to be in line with the values that we claim that we enshrine here in America, the values of justice and equality and freedom."⁷⁷
[Emphasis added]

- A month earlier at a MAS-PACE (Muslim American Society-Public Affairs and Civic Engagement) conference Abuirshaid argued against recognizing Israel as a Jewish state. By "recognizing Israel's right to existence...as a Jewish state...Palestinians who are Israeli citizens who are living in the state of Israel, will be dealt with as a second-class citizens, and potentially could be deported into the Palestinian state, or annexed by the Palestinian state or absorbed by it."⁷⁸ He further alleged that, "they [Jews] want the victim [Palestinians] to embrace the narrative of his victimizer, to legitimize the narrative, the religious and historical narrative of the victimizer. So once you have the victim embracing his victimizer, accepting the fact that this is a Jewish land, and the Palestinians happen to be on that land, and that what we have there is a territorial dispute, not a historical or religious dispute, or even legal dispute, or political dispute, then you have negated the Palestinian narrative."⁷⁹

The MAS-PACE website states the organization "is a division of the Muslim American Society (MAS) organized as a civic and educational organization. Its primary purpose is to conduct public relations, educate and mobilize the American Muslim community to participate in public affairs and civic activities on a non-partisan basis, and to energize a new generation of community

⁷⁶ "PALESTINE || Between Hope & Despair | Dr. Osama Abuirshaid," sponsored by American Muslims for Palestine, Belmont Masjid (Belmont, CA), April 25, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnORqUTE9YE>

⁷⁷ "PALESTINE || Between Hope & Despair | Dr. Osama Abuirshaid," sponsored by American Muslims for Palestine, Belmont Masjid (Belmont, CA), April 25, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnORqUTE9YE>

⁷⁸ "Palestine Session," "Preserving Our Humanity: A Challenge for Democracy," MAS-PACE 2014 National Conference, Sheraton Crystal City, Washington, DC, March 15, 2014.

⁷⁹ "Palestine Session," "Preserving Our Humanity: A Challenge for Democracy," MAS-PACE 2014 National Conference, Sheraton Crystal City, Washington, DC, March 15, 2014.





activists.”⁸⁰ “MAS was founded as the overt arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in America,” federal prosecutors wrote in 2008.⁸¹

- Abuirshaid has described Israel as an “advanced colonial base” in the Middle East that aims to divide the Arab states and prevent the emergence of a regional power. “Israel needs the West. **Israel doesn’t have any depth in the region, so it is an advanced colonial base. And because of that they have to maintain their support and they’re entrusted with crippling any emergence of any regional power or any unity within the Arab states and to make sure that the Arab world will continue to be divided.**”⁸² [Emphasis added] He also argued that “Israel cannot function without the United States” because “Israel is a foreign entity in a region where it’s hard to digest it. It’s hard to be accepted. And the Israeli policies makes it much harder for them to be accepted, to be included in the region and the aspirations of the region.”⁸³
- During a July 2017 AMP protest in front of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, Abuirshaid said, “This is America; we’re not in Israel. Israel can suppress, but no one can suppress us here. We have a Constitution, we are protected. Even if we have an administration that is differing from our own national interest as a country. It doesn’t mean that speaks for Americans, it doesn’t mean that it speaks for America. Who speaks for America are the people of America? And once the people are informed, no American citizen will stand with injustice. We couldn’t build the wall here with Mexico for God’s sake. **But in Israel we subsidize the wall that established an apartheid regime against the Palestinian people who are under occupation.** It is our choice and insha’Allah we will prevail because we are on the right side of history insha’llah.”⁸⁴ [Emphasis added]
- Abuirshaid has claimed Islamic jurisdiction over Masjid Al-Aqsa (“Temple Mount”) in Jerusalem. “**Muslims have granted and allowed Jews throughout history to come and worship freely...It is us Muslims, only**

⁸⁰ “MAS-PACE: A Division of the Muslim American Society,
<https://www.muslimamericansociety.org/departments/mas-pace/>

⁸¹ *US v. Sabri Benkahla*, 07-4778, “Brief for the United States: Statement of the Issues,” In the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, p. 58 (2008),
https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/542.pdf#page=58; See also Noreen S. Ahmed-Ullah and Sam Roe and Laurie Cohen, “A rare look at secretive Brotherhood in America,” *Chicago Tribune*, September 19, 2004, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/investigations/chi-0409190261sep19-story.html>

⁸² “HDV0074,” Video published on May 8, 2013,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIGJWbxDMIE&feature=player_embedded

⁸³ “HDV0074,” Video published on May 8, 2013,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIGJWbxDMIE&feature=player_embedded

⁸⁴ AMP Aqsa protest in Washington, DC (outside Israeli embassy), July 28, 2017.



Muslims, who guaranteed the right of the three religions to worship freely in Al-Masjid, in Jerusalem, that's given, these are historical facts. So, for them to be an occupying force, and to come and say, 'We want to divide the Aqsa Mosque because Jews have a right,' no, they don't have a right under occupation. **It is our right and sovereign issue belong [sic] to the Palestinians,** now at least according to the international law, and according to the...American official position."⁸⁵ [Emphasis added]

- Abuirshaid participated in a Dec. 16, 2017 rally in Lafayette Park in front of the White House⁸⁶ to protest the Trump administration's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and ordering the relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.⁸⁷ "He [President Trump] declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel," Abuirshaid said. "The Palestinian people and the international community also have spoken. They declared Jerusalem an occupied city. The verdict, let me tell you what the verdict is, the verdict – **Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine,**" he added.⁸⁸ [Emphasis added]

AMP was a "lead organizer for this rally" where speakers described Israel a "**terror state**" and an "**apartheid state.**"⁸⁹ They claimed that "**Israel is a state that kills children day-in and day-out. This is not a state that can be respected.**" Rally participants chanted: "**From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,**" envisioning a new Palestinian state stretching from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, resulting in the elimination of Israel.⁹⁰ [Emphasis added]

- In remarks made at the Palestine online expo in July 2020, Abuirshaid accused the United States and the international community for enabling Israeli "aggression against the Palestinian people" and the Trump administration for its

⁸⁵ "Al-Aqsa Mosque Current Crisis," ICNA webinar, August 2, 2017, <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DGPQXZGW0AEspL0.jpg:large>

⁸⁶ "Join the Rally for Jerusalem," Lafayette Park – White House, Washington, DC, December 16, 2017, US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO) announcement.

⁸⁷ "Statement by President Trump on Jerusalem," *White House Press Release*, December 6, 2017, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-president-trump-jerusalem/>

⁸⁸ "Join the Rally for Jerusalem," Lafayette Park – White House, Washington, DC, December 16, 2017, US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO) announcement.

⁸⁹ "Join the Rally for Jerusalem," Lafayette Park – White House, Washington, DC, December 16, 2017, US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO) announcement.

⁹⁰ "Join the Rally for Jerusalem," Lafayette Park – White House, Washington, DC, December 16, 2017, US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO) announcement.





“role of being a conduit to impose the ideology and the political agenda of the extreme Zionist wing on Palestinians.”⁹¹

Enabled by the United States and the complicity or the hesitation of the international community, Israel does not miss an opportunity to further its aggression against the Palestinian people. The Netanyahu government’s threat of massive land theft through annexation in the occupied West Bank is only another example. **The Trump administration has accepted the role of being a conduit to impose the ideology and the political agenda of the extreme Zionist right wing on Palestinians. This was clearly demonstrated through the so-called “Deal of the Century” that was announced by Trump earlier this year.**⁹² [Emphasis added]

The “Deal of the Century” is the Trump administration’s plan unveiled in January 2020 to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.⁹³

Support for Radicals and Other Extremists

In a July 2018 eulogy to Ishaq al-Farhan,⁹⁴ the co-founder of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood political wing, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), Abuirshaid wrote: “May God have mercy on the thinker, the Islamic leader, and Jordanian national personality, Professor Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan. He lived for his religion, his Umma and Palestine, from which he descended, and people remember his virtues ... This is a great loss, not only for Jordan, Palestine and the Islamic movement, but also a loss for this whole Umma (Islamic nation).”⁹⁵

In 1996, Al-Farhan wrote to the Clinton administration protesting efforts to extradite⁹⁶ then Hamas Politburo chief Moussa Abu Marzook to Israel.⁹⁷ Marzook, a top Hamas leader,⁹⁸ co-founded the United Association for Studies and Research (UASR), which was referred to as “the political command” of Hamas in the United

⁹¹ “PALEXPO ONLINE,” July 5, 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/foapeaceinpalestine/photos/a.10152033699645269/10158083536415269/?type=3&theater>

⁹² “PALEXPO ONLINE,” July 5, 2020, <https://www.facebook.com/foapeaceinpalestine/photos/a.10152033699645269/10158083536415269/?type=3&theater>

⁹³ Lahav Harkov and Herb Keinson, “The ‘Deal of the Century,’: What are its key points?” *Jerusalem Post*, Jan. 29, 2020, <https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/The-Deal-of-the-Century-What-are-its-key-points-615680>

⁹⁴ “Ishaq Farhan,” The Global Muslim Brotherhood Report, <https://www.globalmbwatch.com/ishaq-farhan/>

⁹⁵ Osama Abuirshaid Twitter, July 6, 2018, <http://archive.is/eeeCy>

⁹⁶ “*In the Matter of the Extradition of Mousa Abu Marzook*,” 924 F. Supp. 565 (S.D.N.Y. 1996), <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/924/565/1471825/>

⁹⁷ U.S. Embassy in Amman cable, July 30, 1998, p. 3, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/268-state-department-report-re-marzook-correspondence.pdf#page=3>

⁹⁸ “Mousa Abu Marzook,” <https://hamas.ps/en/politicalofficemember/24/mousa-abu-marzook>



States by Hamas operative Muhammad Salah.⁹⁹ Al-Farhan's letter was sent from the same fax line as a Hamas statement also protesting the extradition effort, a U.S. Embassy in Amman cable said.¹⁰⁰

In a May 7, 2014 Facebook post, Abuirshaid described the Muslim Brotherhood as “the purest and most unstained people of this whole earth” and praised its leading ideologues (Hasan al Banna,¹⁰¹ Syed Qutb,¹⁰² Mohamed Morsi,¹⁰³ Mohammed Badie¹⁰⁴) and those of its Palestinian terrorist offshoot Hamas (Ahmed Yassin¹⁰⁵ and Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi¹⁰⁶):

Yes, absolutely, and without any doubt, the Brotherhood are not angels, and they are not infallible nor are they free from error... but they are definitely, without controversy and without misrepresenting language. **They are the purest and most unstained people of this the whole earth...** with them you find sacrifices faithfully... in their ranks manhood finds a home... you find them hastening when engagement is shown to them. and they say, when people conflict over spoils. with the Brotherhood you don't fear jealousy or treachery... **Without the Brotherhood, this Umma will have no hope of liberation or revolution again....** Many oppressed them and they always looked down upon trivialities... They were stabbed in the back by those who were defended by them, with them bearing the wounds and moving forward on In the way of human freedom.. **In them you find the examples of [Hasan] al Banna, [Syed] Qutb, [Mohamed] Morsi, [Mohammed] Badie, [Ahmed] Yassin and [Abdel Aziz] Rantisi.. in them you find Hamas.. again...** I stress the Brotherhood makes mistakes, but when they do, they are unlike others. they do not commit political and moral errors.. and if they make mistakes, they do not make mistakes in a position of betrayal or bad faith... Therefore you find them the superior overall in this Umma...¹⁰⁷ [Emphasis added]

Support for BDS

⁹⁹ Judith Miller, “Israel Says That a Prisoner's Tale Links Arabs in U.S. to Terrorism,” *New York Times*, Feb. 17, 1993, <https://www.nytimes.com/1993/02/17/world/israel-says-that-a-prisoner-s-tale-links-arabs-in-us-to-terrorism.html?pagewanted=2>

¹⁰⁰ U.S. Embassy in Amman cable, July 30, 1998, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/268-state-department-report-re-marzook-correspondence.pdf>

¹⁰¹ Camille Mulcaire, “Hasan al-Banna and the Political Ideologisation of Islam in the 20th Century,” *E-International Relations*, February 2, 2016, <https://www.e-ir.info/2016/02/02/hasan-al-banna-and-the-political-ideologisation-of-islam-in-the-20th-century/>

¹⁰² Paul Berman, “The Philosopher of Islamic Terror,” *New York Times*, March 23, 2003, <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/23/magazine/the-philosopher-of-islamic-terror.html>

¹⁰³ Zvi Mazel, “The death of Mohamed Morsi,” *Jerusalem Post*, June 26, 2019, <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/the-death-of-mohamed-morsi-593829>

¹⁰⁴ “Mohamed Badie,” GlobalSecurity.org, <https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/egypt/badie.htm>

¹⁰⁵ “Ahmed Yassin,” <https://hamas.ps/en/figure/14/ahmed-yassin>

¹⁰⁶ “Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi,” <https://hamas.ps/en/figure/30/abdel-aziz-al-rantisi>

¹⁰⁷ [Translation] Osama Abuirshaid Facebook, May 7, 2014, <https://www.facebook.com/osama.abuirshaid.7/posts/647959765280797>





AMP supports the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement that seeks to economically isolate Israel to end its alleged “oppression” of Palestinians. As AMP’s National Policy Director, Abuirshaid has made statements in support of BDS.

- At the ICNA-MAS 2016 conference, Abuirshaid endorsed BDS to defeat the “apartheid system in Israel.” “The reason why this issue of BDS is gaining momentum today...is because of the increase in the Israeli state violence that is directed against the Palestinian people. And we see what happened in the summer of 2014, where the people of Gaza were literally massacred by the Israeli armed forces.”¹⁰⁸
- Speaking on an August 2017 webinar organized by the social justice arm of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA CSJ) titled, “Why BDS Matters,” Abuirshaid described BDS as “one of the most effective tools to struggle for justice in Palestine.” He said “Israel is a form of aggression...a colonial enterprise” and added that criticism of the Jewish state “is not anti-Semitism,” but “this is how they’re trying to portray it so they will stifle our right to express our opinion, our convictions and to express our solidarity with the Palestinian people.”¹⁰⁹

Ties to Turkey

Turkey, under the leadership of its authoritarian President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and its Islamist Justice and Development Party (AKP),¹¹⁰ has become notorious for its support of the international Muslim Brotherhood¹¹¹ headquartered in



Osama Abuirshaid shaking hands with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Posted to Facebook - April 3, 2016

¹⁰⁸ “BDS,” ICNA-MAS Conference, Baltimore, MD, May 28-30, 2016

¹⁰⁹ “CSJ Webinar: Al-Aqsa Mosque, Why BDS Matters,” August 2, 2017, <https://icnacsj.org/2017/08/csj-webinar-series-al-aqsa-mosque-why-bds-matters/>

¹¹⁰ Ercan Gurses and Orhan Coskon, “Turkey returns to single-party rule in boost for Erdogan,” *Reuters*, November 1, 2015, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-election-idUSKCN0SP17Y20151102>

¹¹¹ “IKHWANWEB: The Muslim Brotherhood’s Official English Website,” <https://www.ikhwanweb.com/>



Egypt,¹¹² and Hamas,¹¹³ the Brotherhood's terrorist offshoot in the Palestinian territories.¹¹⁴ It is little surprise then that Abuirshaid is a regular visitor to Turkey, where he speaks at radical anti-Israel conferences and other events.

- At the annual Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad (PCPA) in Istanbul on February 5, 2020, Abuirshaid claimed that the “strength of the Zionist lobby in America is incomparable to anywhere else including Britain and Europe.”¹¹⁵ “America represents the umbilical cord to the existence of that state [Israel] and the endurance of its power and to remain the dominant power in the region, which enjoys all of the American support that practically made it the number one power in the entire region,” he added.¹¹⁶ He also held the “ruthless Zionist lobby” responsible for clamping down on “Palestinian activism in America.”¹¹⁷ He alleged that American Palestinian activists were “probably the biggest victims of the fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks” and acknowledged “six to eight” Palestinian American attendees in the audience who had faced imprisonment or deportation for their activism to advance the cause of Palestine in the United States.¹¹⁸

The PCPA held its first global conference in Istanbul in February 2017, where participants reportedly said “they no longer have faith in the Palestinian leadership [“The Palestine Liberation Organisation”] in the occupied territories because of their failure to deliver tangible outcomes as a result of decades of peace negotiations with Israel.”¹¹⁹

According to the organization’s vision statement, it “aims at launching a national popular action and activating the Palestinian role abroad to defend Palestine and the rights of its people to freedom, to return, to self-state independence with its capital of Jerusalem, as well as improving its potentials and mechanisms to meet peoples [sic] needs and deal with their problems abroad.”¹²⁰

¹¹² Michael Arizanti, “Turkey becomes the Muslim Brotherhood’s base to take over the world,” *Times of Israel*, April 8, 2020, <https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/turkey-becomes-the-muslim-brotherhoods-base-to-take-over-the-world/>

¹¹³ Raf Sanchez, “Exclusive: Hamas plots attacks on Israel from Turkey as Erdogan turns blind eye,” *The Telegraph* (London), December 17, 2019, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/12/17/hamas-plots-attacks-israel-turkey-erdogan-turns-blind-eye/>

¹¹⁴ Zachary Laub, “Hamas,” Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounder, August 1, 2014, <https://www.cfr.org/israel/hamas/p8968>

¹¹⁵ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 5, 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_WCJ8d-VLQ

¹¹⁶ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 5, 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_WCJ8d-VLQ

¹¹⁷ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 5, 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_WCJ8d-VLQ

¹¹⁸ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 5, 2020, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_WCJ8d-VLQ

¹¹⁹ Ali Younes, “Palestinian diaspora holds first global conference,” *Al Jazeera*, February 25, 2017, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/02/palestinian-diaspora-holds-global-conference-170225164908067.html>

¹²⁰ “About Us,” Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, <https://eng.palabroad.org/page/view/4>



Speakers at the February 2020 event, co-sponsored by the Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) at Istanbul's Sabahattin Zaim University, included convicted Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) operative Sami Al-Arian,¹²¹ leading Palestinian American activists Sabri Samirah,¹²² Raed Jarrar,¹²³ and Khalid Turaani.¹²⁴

Al-Arian called for Palestinian resistance until the state of Israel is “completely dismantled.” “The idea as I have mentioned, the vision as I mentioned, is to keep this people [Palestinians] in order to continue to resist and withstand, until that state [Israel] is completely dismantled and upon its ruins comes the state that can establish truth, justice and the restoration of rights.”¹²⁵

Al-Arian,¹²⁶ who currently serves as Director of CIGA and public affairs professor at Istanbul's Sabahattin Zaim University,¹²⁷ kept his role as a PIJ official secret while working as a University of South Florida (USF) professor and Palestinian nationalist. He founded a charity called the Islamic Committee for Palestine (ICP) that raised money for the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and featured PIJ officials as speakers.¹²⁸ The ICP served as PIJ's “active arm,” a 1991 videotaped fundraiser shows.¹²⁹ Called “a master manipulator” by the federal judge presiding over his case, Al-Arian pleaded guilty in 2006 to conspiring to make or receive contributions of funds, goods or services to or for the benefit of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ),¹³⁰ a Specially Designated Terrorist.¹³¹ He was deported to Turkey in 2015 as part of that plea agreement.¹³²

¹²¹ “Profile: Sami al-Arian,” <https://www.investigativeproject.org/profile/100/sami-al-arian>

¹²² Abha Shankar, “IPT Exclusive: Virginia Democratic Candidate's Anti-Semitic Diatribe Has a Radical Past,” *IPT News*, Feb. 18, 2019, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/7825/ipt-exclusive-virginia-democratic-candidate-anti>

¹²³ “About: Raed Jarrar,” American Muslims for Palestine, <https://www.ampalestine.org/about-amp/staff/raed-jarrar>

¹²⁴ “Hesham Shehab, “SHEHAB: TERROR-TIED CHARITY COORDINATOR PROMOTES ANTI-ISRAEL CONSPIRACY THEORIES AT RADICAL CHICAGO MOSQUE,” *Illinois Review*, Dec. 16, 2019, <https://www.illinoisreview.com/illinoisreview/2019/12/shehab-terror-tied-charity-coordinator-promotes-anti-israel-conspiracy-theories-at-radical-chicago-m.html>

¹²⁵ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 2, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vyteBBpUCk>

¹²⁶ *US v. Al Arian, et al.*, 03-CR-77 (M.D. Fla.), <https://www.investigativeproject.org/case/41/us-v-al-arian>

¹²⁷ “Director,” Center for Islam and Global Affairs, <https://www.izu.edu.tr/en/ciga/about-us/staff/director>

¹²⁸ *US v. Al Arian, et al.*, 03-CR-77 (M.D. Fla.), “GX: I-360 Petition for Ramadan Shallah,” https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/267.pdf

¹²⁹ Video: Al-Arian's “Active Arm,” April 7, 1991, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/348/al-arians-active-arm>

¹³⁰ *US v. Al Arian, et al.*, 03-CR-77, “Plea Agreement” (M.D. Fla. April 17, 2006), https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/case_docs/70.pdf

¹³¹ “Treasury Designates Charity Funneling Money to Palestinian Islamic Jihad --Action Marks 400th Designation of a Terrorist or Financier?,” *U.S. Department of the Treasury*, May 4, 2005, <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/js2426.aspx>

¹³² “Al-Arian Saves One Last Lie for the Road,” *IPT News*, Feb. 5, 2015, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/4770/al-arian-saves-one-last-lie-for-the-road>





Sabri Ibrahim Samirah (also known as Sabri Ibrahim) highlighted the importance of “preparing a new generation of Palestinian leadership across the world” including in the U.S. and Europe. He provided the example of his son, Ibraheem Samirah,¹³³ who serves in Virginia’s House of Delegates.¹³⁴

Sabri Samirah served as a senior leader of the Palestine Committee, internal committee records show. He was chairman of the committee's main propaganda arm, the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP).¹³⁵ He also served on the board of the American Muslim Society (AMS), which the organization acknowledged was another operating name for the IAP,¹³⁶ from at least 1993-2002.¹³⁷

Raed Jarrar, AMP’s advocacy director,¹³⁸ alleged that “the United States is now a partner in Israeli crimes, it funds the Israeli crimes, it supports the Israeli crimes.” He described how Palestine activism has become “intersectional”: “Palestine is now a progressive cause, it’s a cause that African Americans work on, that Native Americans work on, the aboriginals, and the progressives work on it, most of the organizations that work for Palestine are not Palestinian right now, and work with these organizations...we work with Jewish organizations, Jewish progressive organizations that oppose Zionism.”¹³⁹

At the same conference, Khalid Turaani claimed that the ability of Palestinian Americans to “influence decision making” was limited in comparison to “the pro-

¹³³ “IPT Exclusive: Virginia Democratic Candidate's Anti-Semitic Diatribe Has a Radical Past,” *IPT News*, Feb. 18, 2019, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/7825/ipt-exclusive-virginia-democratic-candidate-anti>

¹³⁴ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 5, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXsNSZfR6s4&t=546s>

¹³⁵ “THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION FOR PALESTINE” in event announcement for “ALL PALESTINE IS SACRED,” Islamic Association for Palestine Fourth Annual Convention, Nov. 23-25, 2000, The Ramada Plaza, O’Hare, Chicago, IL, p.2,

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/438-iap-fourth-annual-convention-program.pdf#page=2>

¹³⁵ “THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION FOR PALESTINE” in event announcement for “ALL PALESTINE IS SACRED,” Islamic Association for Palestine Fourth Annual Convention, Nov. 23-25, 2000, The Ramada Plaza, O’Hare, Chicago, IL, p.2,

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/438-iap-fourth-annual-convention-program.pdf#page=2>

¹³⁶ “American Muslim Society/Islamic Association for Palestine,”

<https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/825-ams-iap-event-announcement.pdf>

¹³⁷ “AMS Board of Directors 1993-2002,” p. 2, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1017-ams-iap-board-of-directors.pdf#page=2>.

See: <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/825-ams-iap-event-announcement.pdf> An undated IAP/AMS promotional document described the two groups as part of one entity: “The IAP/AMS is the largest national grassroots organization serving the American Muslim, Arab and Palestinian communities and dedicated to advancing a just and comprehensive solution to the cause of Palestine.

¹³⁸ “About: Raed Jarrar,” American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), <https://www.ampalestine.org/about-amp/staff/raed-jarrar>

¹³⁹ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 5, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuCI53MACiU>



Israel Jewish community which adopts the Zionist ideology and adopts defending the Israeli occupation.” “[The Palestinian] community is mostly newcomers, some are old, but they are not organized around a Palestinian national agenda as is the case with the Jewish community,” he added.¹⁴⁰

Turaani served as director of the now-defunct American Muslims for Jerusalem (AMJ),¹⁴¹ that was closely affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and sponsored several anti-Israel boycotts, including a 2002 call to boycott Burger King on its decision to open a franchise in a West Bank settlement.¹⁴² At a 2002 AMJ conference, Turaani cited a *hadith* saying, **“Allah will allow you to conquer the land of Palestine. Its men, its women, and its servants are in a state of jihad until the Day of Judgment.** And all those who reside on the shores of Palestine and in Jerusalem are in a state of steadfastness until the Day of Judgment.”¹⁴³ [Emphasis added]

Turaani is a founding committee member of PCPA.¹⁴⁴

- Speaking at a symposium titled, “Confronting the Zionist Myths,” that was sponsored by PCPA in Istanbul on May 18-19, 2016, Abuirshaid spoke about the Zionist movement’s successful “infiltration” in America:

As part of the **Zionist movement's cultural infiltration (into American society), it has managed to convince a large part of American public opinion that the two countries share the circumstances of their establishment.** In fact, there is some truth to it. **(In both countries), it was a process of ethnic cleansing.** I am not trying to correct my distinguished colleague, Munir, but even the term 'American Indians' is a racist and discriminating term, which has to do with annihilation. They were not really Indians. (The Westerners) though they had discovered Indians, so they called them 'American Indians,' but they were, in fact, tribes living there, the original inhabitants. **(The Zionists) managed to convince the (Americans) of the following: 'We came to two undeveloped countries and managed to**

¹⁴⁰ Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad, Istanbul, Feb. 5, 2020,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf12W2h_Qbg

¹⁴¹ Mike Schneider, “Arab-Americans Urge Disney Boycott,” *Associated Press*, September 22, 1999,

<https://apnews.com/d62c31ca775fc193ddd16fb1128ed6fa>

¹⁴² “European Muslim Brotherhood Leader Joins US Congressman, US State Department, And John Esposito At Global Muslim Brotherhood World Coalition Conference,” *The Global Muslim Brotherhood Daily Watch*, February 24, 2016, <https://www.globalmbwatch.com/2016/02/24/european-muslim-brotherhood-leader-joins-us-congressman-us-state-department-and-john-esposito-at-global-muslim-brotherhood-world-coalition-conference/>

¹⁴³ AMJ Conference, “United for Al Quds: Humanity in Crisis,” June 15, 2002.

¹⁴⁴ Khalid Turaani Facebook, February 26, 2017,

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10154980918812208&set=a.1015070807077208&type=3&theater>



establish two successful states.' This is one aspect of infiltrating American consciousness. The cultural infiltration also includes the Zionist influence in the media. They have a significant impact on the media, as well as on Hollywood. They have managed to endear Israeli and the Jews upon American public opinion.¹⁴⁵ [Emphasis added]

- An April 3, 2016 Arabic Facebook post in includes a picture of Abuirshaid shaking hands with Erdogan. According to a Google translation of the post, Abuirshaid applauds Erdogan for standing up to his detractors: “They hate Erdogan because he wants to free the Turkish will from decades of dependency to the west...They hate him because he liberated his country's economy from the shackles of slavery...They hate him because he stands with the ambitions of Arab peoples with freedom and dignity...They hate him because he said no to Israel and stepped on decades of Turkey's collusion with the time of ‘secularists’ rule, they hate him because he refuses Turkey to bear the consequences of failure, collusion, [President Barack] Obama in the region.¹⁴⁶
- In September 2015, Abuirshaid attended AKP’s annual convention in Ankara along with Naeem Baig and Oussama Jamal.¹⁴⁷ Baig earlier served as ICNA president¹⁴⁸ and currently serves as an imam¹⁴⁹ with the terror-tied Dar al-Hijrah mosque in Va.¹⁵⁰ Jamal is the secretary general of USCMO.¹⁵¹

Ties to Qatar

Over the past decade, Qatar’s pro-terror policies have not only made the Middle East more unstable, but also directly threaten Israel's security.¹⁵² Qatar provides financial

¹⁴⁵ “American-Palestinian Activist Osama Abu Irshaid: MEMRI Is Used to Infiltrate American Consciousness,” *MEMRI TV*, May 17, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20170411141437/https://www.memri.org/tv/american-palestinian-activist-osama-abu-irshaid-memri-used-infiltrate-american-consciousness/transcript> [Abu Irshaid made the statement at a symposium titled, “Confronting the Zionist Myths” that was held in Istanbul on May 18-19, 2016 by The Palestine Forum for Media and Communication, <https://www.palmediaforum.org/en/2nd-conference/>]

¹⁴⁶ Osama Abuirshaid Facebook, April 3, 2016, <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1071136559629780&set=a.394364133973696&type=3&theater>

¹⁴⁷ AKP Convention, September 12-13, 2015, Ankara, Turkey, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/documents/1117-osama-abuirshaid-naeem-baig-and-oussama-jamal.pdf>

¹⁴⁸ “Naeem Baig,” <https://icnaconvention.org/naeem-baig/>

¹⁴⁹ Imam Naeem Baig, Dar al-Hijrah, <https://hijrah.org/event/imam-naeem-baigs-renewing-our-faith/2020-04-15/>

¹⁵⁰ “Dar al-Hijrah Mosque,” <https://www.investigativeproject.org/mosques/417/dar-al-hijrah-mosque>

¹⁵¹ “USCMO Executive Team,” https://uscmo.org/index.php/our_board/

¹⁵² Jonathan Schanzer, “Assessing the U.S.-Qatar Relationship,” Congressional Testimony: Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa,” p. 4, <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA13/20170726/106329/HHRG-115-FA13-Wstate-SchanzerJ-20170726.pdf#page=4>



and diplomatic support to Hamas by hosting its leaders¹⁵³ and pledges millions of dollars to the Hamas-run Gaza Strip.¹⁵⁴ Qatar also sponsors platforms¹⁵⁵ to campaign for the global Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement.¹⁵⁶

Abuirshaid is a non-resident scholar at the Doha-based Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS)¹⁵⁷ and frequently speaks at conferences sponsored by the center.¹⁵⁸

- **On Feb. 24, 2018, Abuirshaid presented a paper at a symposium sponsored by ACRPS in Doha titled, “Moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem: The Legal and Political Significance.”**¹⁵⁹ According to a report from the symposium authored by ACRPS researcher Ihab Maharmeh, Abuirshaid described the Trump administration’s May 4, 2018 decision to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem as “a painful blow to Palestinian aspirations to establish a Palestinian state.”¹⁶⁰ He claimed the decision was dictated by President Trump’s “electoral base that supported him in the [2016] American presidential election” and consisted of “the Zionist lobby in America and evangelical groups, who represent about a quarter of the American people,” the report added.¹⁶¹

A short description of Abuirshaid’s speech posted on ACRPS’ Facebook page reads: “Osama Abu Irshaid presents his paper exploring a number of motives behind the Jerusalem decision and the repercussions of moving the embassy. Irshaid asks how was [U.S. President] Trump able to overcome the opposition of his secretary of state, the secretary of defence, and the head of CIA to implement this decision? The decision to transfer the embassy is made of four dimensions:

¹⁵³ Kate Havard and Jonathan Schanzer, “By Hosting Hamas, Qatar is Whitewashing Terror,” *Newsweek*, May 11, 2017, <https://www.newsweek.com/qatar-hosting-hamas-whitewashing-terror-606750>

¹⁵⁴ Adam Rasgon, “Haniyeh: Qatar to send \$100 million in aid to Gaza,” *Jerusalem Post*, February 12, 2017, <https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Haniyeh-Qatar-to-send-100-million-to-Gaza-481335>

¹⁵⁵ “Boycott as a Strategy against Israeli Occupation and Apartheid: Present-day Realities and Aspirations,” August 4, 2016, <http://web.archive.org/web/20170722010006/https://english.dohainstitute.org/event/9639ace1-ef98-49d7-ae72-7966f079b8d8>

¹⁵⁶ “BDS,” <https://bdsmovement.net/what-is-bds>

¹⁵⁷ “Employees,” US Council of Muslim Organizations (USCMO), <https://uscmo.org/index.php/employees/>

¹⁵⁸ Arab Center @Arabcenter_eng Twitter, [https://twitter.com/search?lang=en&q=Irshaid%20\(from%3AArabCenter_en\)&src=typed_query](https://twitter.com/search?lang=en&q=Irshaid%20(from%3AArabCenter_en)&src=typed_query)

¹⁵⁹ Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, February 24, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/arabcenter.en/photos/a.399569253405140/2018249041537145/?type=1&theater>

¹⁶⁰ [Translation] Ihab Maharmeh, “Conference ‘Moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem: The Legal and Political Significance,’” *Siyasat Arabia*, Issue 31, March 2018, <https://siyasatarabiya.dohainstitute.org/en/issue031/Pages/art11.aspx>

¹⁶¹ [Translation] Ihab Maharmeh, “Conference ‘Moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem: The Legal and Political Significance,’” *Siyasat Arabia*, Issue 31, March 2018, <https://siyasatarabiya.dohainstitute.org/en/issue031/Pages/art11.aspx>



personal, political, his claim that the move is in the interest of peace, and his claim that **he is abiding by the promises given to Israel under the internal pressures of the Zionist lobby**. Irshaid argues that the reality is difficult for Arabs and Palestinians alike, but they can only rely on themselves to exert influence in Washington, and **Palestinians need a new mediator for negotiations. They can no longer hope to influence Washington.**¹⁶² [Emphasis added]

- Abuirshaid was a **featured speaker**¹⁶³ **at a three-day international conference in Tunis in August 2016 hosted by ACRPS**. The conference, “Boycott as a Strategy against Israeli Occupation and Apartheid: Present-day Realities and Aspirations” described BDS as “an indispensable method in the struggle against Israeli oppression” and sought “to better understand its importance and the best means by which it can be bolstered.”¹⁶⁴ Senior academics tied to ACRPS, a Doha-based think tank believed to be financed by the Qatari government and its Washington, DC affiliate, routinely engage in anti-Israeli rhetoric, and are strong BDS supporters.¹⁶⁵ **On Feb. 24, 2018, Abu Irshaid presented a paper at a symposium sponsored by ACRPS in Doha titled, “Moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem: The Legal and Political Significance.”**¹⁶⁶
- In November 2015, ACRPS tweeted Abuirshaid’s rejection of the two-state solution: “Abu Irshaid on the 2-state solution: nobody is willing [sic] to confess that 78% of #Palestine will be flouted & half of #Palestinians displaced.”¹⁶⁷
- At an April 2013 ACRPS conference on Iraq, Abuirshaid alleged that neoconservatives who “control” the U.S. government are more dangerous than the terrorist group Al-Qaida. “Abu Irshaid: ‘the fanatics who took control of the

¹⁶² Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies Facebook, February 24, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/arabcenter.en/photos/a.399569253405140/2018249041537145/?type=3&theater>

¹⁶³ Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies Facebook, August 5, 2016, <https://www.facebook.com/arabcenter.en/photos/a.399569253405140/1368506266511429/?type=3&theater>

¹⁶⁴ “Boycott as a Strategy against Israeli Occupation and Apartheid: Present-day Realities and Aspirations,” *ACRPS Conference Background Paper*, Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies, <https://web.archive.org/web/20170721225611/https://english.dohainstitute.org/file/Get/783b240a-8716-492f-9a2e-786c88a4b3b7>; See also “Tunisian BDS Conference Raises Questions About Qatari Involvement,” *Anti-Defamation League*, Aug. 11, 2016, <https://www.adl.org/blog/tunisian-bds-conference-raises-questions-about-qatari-involvement>

¹⁶⁵ “Terror-Tied Qatari Think Tank’s Anti-Israel, Pro-BDS Stance,” *IPT News*, June 26, 2017, <https://www.investigativeproject.org/6334/terror-tied-qatari-think-tank-anti-israel-and-pro>

¹⁶⁶ Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, February 24, 2018, <https://www.facebook.com/arabcenter.en/photos/a.399569253405140/2018249041537145/?type=1&theater>

¹⁶⁷ Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies Twitter, November 15, 2015, https://twitter.com/ArabCenter_en/status/665829007796097024



#US are more dangerous than ...Al Qaeda' #neoconservatives #Iraq_Conf #Iraq #Doha #fb," an ACRPS tweet quoted Abuirshaid saying.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁸ Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies Twitter, April 11, 2013, https://twitter.com/ArabCenter_en/status/322331200276541441