

The Mosque Foundation's Troubling Record

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., visited the Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview, Ill. in early 2011.¹ In a picture taken at the meeting, Durbin stands with Jamal Said and Kifah Mustapha. Both mosque leaders were listed as unindicted co-conspirators in the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development Hamas-financing trial.² In November 2008, HLF and five of its employees were found guilty on 108 counts for funneling money to Hamas through *zakat* (charity) committees in the Palestinian territories.³ Also pictured with Durbin is Mosque Foundation Vice President⁴ Oussama Jammal, who has defended Mohammed Salah, a Hamas operative who was once a regular visitor to the mosque.⁵



¹ "Senator Dick Durbin Visits Mosque Foundation," Mosque Foundation Website, March 1, 2011, <http://www.mosquefoundation.org/Articles/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/694/Senator-Dick-Durbin-Visits-Mosque-Foundation.aspx> (Accessed March 25, 2011).

² *USA vs. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G, "List of Unindicted Co-Conspirators and/or Joint Venturers: Attachment A," (N.D. TX, 2007).; Connie Martin, "Sh. Jamal Said Leads Prayer for Slain Humanitarians," *Mosque Foundation*, June 9, 2010, <http://www.mosquefoundation.org/Articles/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/584/Sh-Jamal-Said-Leads-Prayer-for-Slain-Humanitarians.aspx> (accessed June 14, 2010).

³ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G, "Jury Verdict," (N.D. Tx. November 24, 2008).

⁴ "Hundreds turn out to support Libyan democracy struggle," AMP Palestine, March 1, 2011, http://www.ampalastine.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1527:hundreds-turn-out-to-support-libyan-democracy-struggle&catid=96:articles (Accessed March 25, 2011).

⁵ Simpson, Glenn. "Terror Investigators Followed Funds to a Saudi Businessman." *Wall Street Journal*. November 26, 2002.



HLF exhibits show that Said, the Mosque Foundation's imam and director⁶ was listed on a phone list for the Palestine Committee.⁷ Internal records show that the Muslim Brotherhood, an Egyptian-based pan-Islamic movement, created the Palestine Committee to serve as an umbrella organization over American support operations. It had a "designed purpose to support HAMAS" politically and financially, according to a federal indictment.⁸ A 1991 internal memo to Palestine Committee members reveals that members of the committee intended to further the Muslim Brotherhood's goals "on the American front."⁹

Said spoke during conferences for the Islamic Association for Palestine (IAP), a now-defunct U.S.-based Hamas propaganda arm that also was part of the Palestine Committee. Internal IAP memos and other exhibits admitted into evidence during the HLF prosecution in Dallas indicated that the IAP served as a Hamas support arm.¹⁰

At a fall 2000 IAP conference, Said asked the audience "to be generous and give plenty, to keep the light in the houses of our martyrs burning. We have boxes here to say 'Help us, help the Aqsa cause, Islamic Association for Palestine!'"

"There is no better charity than to pay for the family of a martyr," he added.¹¹

Said spoke again about martyrs during the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)-Muslim American Society (MAS) 8th Annual Conference in 2009. "We need to raise our children to know the martyrs of Gaza," he said.¹² Additionally, Said has said that the HLF executives "were jailed wrongfully and unjustly" after their convictions.¹³ Appeals by the HLF defendants are pending.

A *Chicago Tribune* report on the mosque indicated that Said's radical ideology drove more moderate Muslims away from the mosque.¹⁴

⁶ Mosque Foundation Structure and Committees, 2007 Annual Report, <http://67.55.39.254/pdf/AnnualReport2007/MF-Report-10-12.PDF>, (accessed March 25, 2011) See also; "Hundreds turn out to support Libyan democracy struggle," AMP Palestine, March 1, 2011, http://www.ampalstine.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1527:hundreds-turn-out-to-support-libyan-democracy-struggle&catid=96:articles (Accessed March 25, 2011).

⁷ *U.S. vs. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G "Government Exhibit Ashqar Search 1" (N.D. Tx. September 25, 2008).

⁸ *US v. Holy Land Foundation*, 3:04-CR-240-G, "Superseding Indictment," (N.D. Tx., July 26, 2004) pg.6.

⁹ *US v. Holy Land Foundation*, 3:04-CR-240-G, "Government Exhibit Elbarasse Search 7," (TX ND 9/25/2008) pg.7.

¹⁰ See for example, *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G, Government Exhibit Elbarasse Search 1 (N.D. Tx. September 25, 2008).

¹¹ Islamic Association for Palestine Conference, Imam Jamal Said, Chicago, Illinois, November 24, 2000.

¹² Jamal Said, ICNA-MAS 8th Annual Convention, December 24, 2009.

¹³ Jamal Said, Muslim Legal Fund of America, "Muslims in America and the Challenges They Face," The Sabre Room, Hickory Hills, Ill. July 24, 2010.

¹⁴ Noreen S. Ahmed-Ullah, Kim Barker, Laurie Cohen, Stephen Franklin and Sam Roe. "Hard-liners won battle for Bridgeview mosque." *The Chicago Tribune*. February 8, 2004.



Imam Kifah Mustapha, documents show, volunteered and worked for two of the Palestine Committee's most central organizations, the Holy Land Foundation and the IAP. HLF was the committee's fundraising arm.¹⁵ The IAP issued its propaganda.¹⁶

Mustapha was a paid HLF employee from 1996-2000, court records show.¹⁷ A table of HLF employee salaries lists Mustapha's position with the group as an Illinois representative and fundraiser.¹⁸

During a 2004 civil deposition, Mustapha discussed his work with the IAP, saying he served on a volunteer committee beginning in the early 1990s. During his time volunteering for the organization, he "distributed flyers" and helped prepare for "festivals or conventions." Additionally Mustapha said that "maybe" he had personally contributed money to IAP.¹⁹

Though Mustapha said he didn't "recall having [himself] registered as a board member" and that he "didn't apply for" any such position, a 2000 IAP conference program lists him as being on the group's board of directors.²⁰

A video exhibit introduced in the HLF trial features Kifah Mustapha performing a skit as part of the musical troupe "al-Sakhra." Also seen in the video is Mufid Abdulqader, one of the defendants in the trial and half-brother to Hamas leader Khalid Meshaal. In the recording, a Hamas logo is shown in the background and Mustapha can be heard in the chorus reiterating a call for jihad:

"O mother, Hamas for Jihad. Over mosques' loudspeakers, with freedom. Every day it resists with stones and the dagger. Tomorrow, with God's help, it will be with a machine gun and a rifle."²¹

Other Mosque Foundation officials also worked with the IAP. Past president, secretary and board member Rafeeq Jaber is the IAP's former president.²²

¹⁵ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G, Superseding Indictment, page 8. (N.D. Tx. November 12, 2008).

¹⁶ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G, "Government Exhibit Elbarasse Search 31," An Introduction to the bylaw of the Palestine Committee in North America and Canada, page 8. (N.D. Tx. September 25, 2008).

¹⁷ *US v. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G, "Government Exhibit- HLF Search 2," (N.D. Tx. September 25, 2008).

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Stanley Boim vs. Quranic Literacy Institute*, 00-C-2905, "Deposition of Kifah Mustapha," (N.D. Ill. March 2, 2004) pg.8.

²⁰ *Stanley Boim vs. Quranic Literacy Institute*, 00-C-2905, "Deposition of Kifah Mustapha," (N.D. Ill. March 2, 2004) pg.8.; Islamic Association for Palestine 2000 Chicago Convention Program.

²¹ *U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation, et al.*, 04-C-4240, "Government Exhibit HLF Search-71 Video C," (N.D. Tx. September 25, 2008).

²² *Boim v. Quranic Literacy Institute*, 00-CV-2905, "Deposition of Rafeeq Jaber," (N.D. Ill April 9, 2003) pgs 10-11, 21. ; Mosque Foundation Annual Reports list Rafiq Jaber as Secretary from 1991-1998.; Diana Delogu, "Churches contend with Growing Pains; Tight Wedding Schedules and Parking Problems are Some of the Costs of Success," Chicago Tribune, June 15, 2997.



Hamas operative Muhammad Salah²³ attended the Mosque Foundation “daily” since Mustapha began working there, Mustapha said in his 2004 deposition.²⁴

In 1998, the Mosque Foundation held a rally in support of Salah after the U.S. government moved to seize the assets of Salah, his wife, and the Quranic Literacy Institute (QLI), accusing Salah of Hamas-related money laundering.²⁵ “A review of bank records further indicates that QLI and QLI-related entities or individuals likely were a source of funds for Salah’s Hamas-related expenditures between 1991 and his arrest in January of 1993 and beyond,” FBI Special Agent Robert Wright wrote in an affidavit.²⁶ Salah had been previously convicted of Hamas related charges in Israel in 1995.²⁷

During the rally, Oussama Jammal condemned the asset freeze as discriminatory. “Politically motivated attacks on our community are an unfortunate reality that must not be accepted,” said Jammal. “The stereotyping of Muslims and Arabs as being terrorists is wrong and it must stop.”²⁸

In a separate case, Muhammad Salah was found guilty in July 2007 on one count of obstruction of justice for submitting false and misleading statements through his lawyers to the U.S. District Court, including saying that he had “never provided or delivered funds for the purpose of supporting Hamas.”²⁹

Oussama Jammal has also questioned the facts behind 9/11. Following the attacks Jamal asked, “How certain are we that it was Arabs who were behind it?”³⁰

During Durbin’s visit, he not only met with these radicals, but was also visiting an institution that has hosted radical events and donated money to radical organizations.

On June 23, 2001, an IAP event was held at the Mosque Foundation. Mustapha spoke as a representative of the Holy Land Foundation. Mustapha was joined by Oussama Muhamad, then

²³ *USA vs. Mousa Abu Marzook, et al.*, 03-CR-978, “Second Superseding Indictment,” (N.D. Ill. August 19, 2004).

²⁴ *Stanley Boim vs. Quranic Literacy Institute*, 00-C-2905, “Deposition of Kifah Mustapha,” (N.D. Ill. March 2, 2004) pg. 17.

²⁵ Tayeh, Raed. “U.S Government Moves to Seize Chicago Home of Mohammad Salah After His Conviction in Israel.” *Washington Report* July/August 1998. P. 118.

²⁶ *US v. One 1997 E35 Ford Van*, “Affidavit of FBI Agent Robert Wright,” (N.D. Ill. 98-C-3548).

²⁷ *U.S. vs. Muhammad Hamid Khalil Salah*, 03-CR-978-2, “Government’s Evidentiary Proffer Supporting the Admissibility of Co-Conspirator Statements,” (N.D. Ill. August 16, 2006) pg. 30.

²⁸ Tayeh, Raed. “U.S Government Moves to Seize Chicago Home of Mohammad Salah After His Conviction in Israel.” *Washington Report* July/August 1998. P. 118.

²⁹ *U.S. vs. Muhammad Hamid Khalil Salah*, 03-CR-978-2, “Judgment in a Criminal Case,” (N.D. Ill. July 11, 2007). ; *U.S. vs. Mousa Abu Marzook et. al.*, 03-CR-978, “Second Superseding Indictment,” (N.D. Ill. August 19, 2004) pg. 33.

³⁰ “Portrait of a City: Chicago-Area Muslims and Arab Americans Face Backlash, Expressions of Solidarity,” by Roxane Assaf, *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, November 2001, page 50 <http://www.washington-report.org/archives/november01/0111050.html>



directing editor for the *al-Zaitounah* newspaper in Dallas.³¹ HLF trial records show that *al-Zaitounah* was published by the IAP.³²

A banner displayed outside the event read “Intifada Day - IAP Chicago.”³³

According to Mustapha, the Holy Land Foundation would solicit money on a “yearly basis” from the Mosque Foundation during his tenure with HLF.³⁴ Asked about connections between HLF and the mosque during his 2004 deposition, he said:

“The only connection is as an institution for the Mosque Foundation, people will apply to come and solicit funds for certain projects they believe, and the Mosque Foundation might accept or reject their application. And that’s how it was at the time when I was employed by HLF.”³⁵

Mustapha also noted that he would solicit funds from the mosque as an HLF representative and that Jamal Said was in charge of approving the donations.³⁶

The Mosque Foundation has also made over \$100,000 in donations to other organizations later shut down by the U.S. government for ties to terrorism financing, including Benevolence International Foundation³⁷ and Islamic African Relief Agency (IARA),³⁸ and the Global Relief Foundation (GRF).³⁹ While the Mosque Foundation made many of these donations years in

³¹ Event Flyer, “The IAP and the Mosque Foundation Cordially invite you to attend: Intifada Day.” Saturday June 23, 2001; IAP and the Mosque Foundation’s Intifada Day, The Mosque Foundation, Bridgeview, Illinois, June 23, 2001.

³² *US vs. Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development et al*, 3:04-CR-240-G, “Elbarasse Search 3,” (N.D. Tx. September 25, 2008) pg.12.

³³ IAP and the Mosque Foundation’s Intifada Day, The Mosque Foundation, Bridgeview, Illinois, June 23, 2001.

³⁴ *Stanley Boim vs. Quranic Literacy Institute*, 00-C-2905, “Deposition of Kifah Mustapha,” (N.D. Ill. March 2, 2004) pg. 15.

³⁵ *Stanley Boim vs. Quranic Literacy Institute*, 00-C-2905, “Deposition of Kifah Mustapha,” (N.D. Ill. March 2, 2004) pg. 14.

³⁶ *Stanley Boim vs. Quranic Literacy Institute*, 00-C-2905, “Deposition of Kifah Mustapha,” (N.D. Ill. March 2, 2004) pg. 16.

³⁷ “Benevolence International Foundation Form 990: Contributions of \$5,000 & More.” Internal Revenue Service (IRS). See also: “Benevolence International Foundation Form 990: Schedule of Contributor Donating \$5,000 or More in Money Securities or Other Property.” Internal Revenue Service (IRS); note: IRS Forms cited list separate donations of \$23,175, \$13,249, \$8,970 to BIF from the Mosque Foundation. “Recent OFAC Actions: Benevolence International Foundation Now Listed as a ‘Specially Designated Global Terrorist’ (SDGT) US Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control, November 19, 2002.

³⁸ Deborah Horan and Laurie Cohen, “Bank closes mosque account, donations to charity in terror case cited,” *Chicago Tribune*, March 11, 2005. note: Family Bank and Trust Co. closed the Mosque Foundation’s accounts citing that they wrote two checks totaling \$10,000 to the IARA in August and September 2004. Mosque Foundation President Oussama Jamal said the donations were made before the U.S. government froze the group’s assets in October. Mosque Foundation also made two donations in 1992 and 1999 to IARA totaling \$20,393; “Treasury Designates Global Network, Senior Officials of IARA for Supporting bin Laden, Others,” *U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Public Affairs Press Release*, Oct. 12, 2004.

³⁹ “1997 Global Relief Foundation Form 990: Donation of Cash & Property Over 5,000.” See Also “1999 Global Relief Foundation Form 990: Donation of Cash & Property Over 5, 000.”; “2000 Global Relief Foundation, Form 990: Statement of Donors in Excess of \$5,000 Each.”; “Recent OFAC Actions: Global Relief Foundation, Inc.



advance of the U.S.'s designation of the groups, several were made right before the designations. The Mosque Foundation made two donations totaling \$10,000 to the IARA right before its designation in October 2004.⁴⁰ One donation was made in August and the other in September.⁴¹ Also, the Mosque Foundation contributed over \$63,000 to GRF in 2000, only one year before the group's official designation.⁴²

Financial Assets Blocked," U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), December 14, 2001.

⁴⁰ Deborah Horan and Laurie Cohen, "Bank closes mosque account, donations to charity in terror case cited," *Chicago Tribune*, March 11, 2005. note: Family Bank and Trust Co. closed the Mosque Foundation's accounts citing that they wrote two checks totaling \$10,000 to the IARA in August and September 2004. Mosque Foundation President Oussama Jammal said the donations were made before the U.S. government froze the group's assets in October. ; "Treasury Designates Global Network, Senior Officials of IARA for Supporting bin Laden, Others," *U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Public Affairs Press Release*, Oct. 12, 2004.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² "2000 Global Relief Foundation, Form 990: Statement of Donors in Excess of \$5,000 Each."; "Recent OFAC Actions: Global Relief Foundation, Inc. Financial Assets Blocked," U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), December 14, 2001.