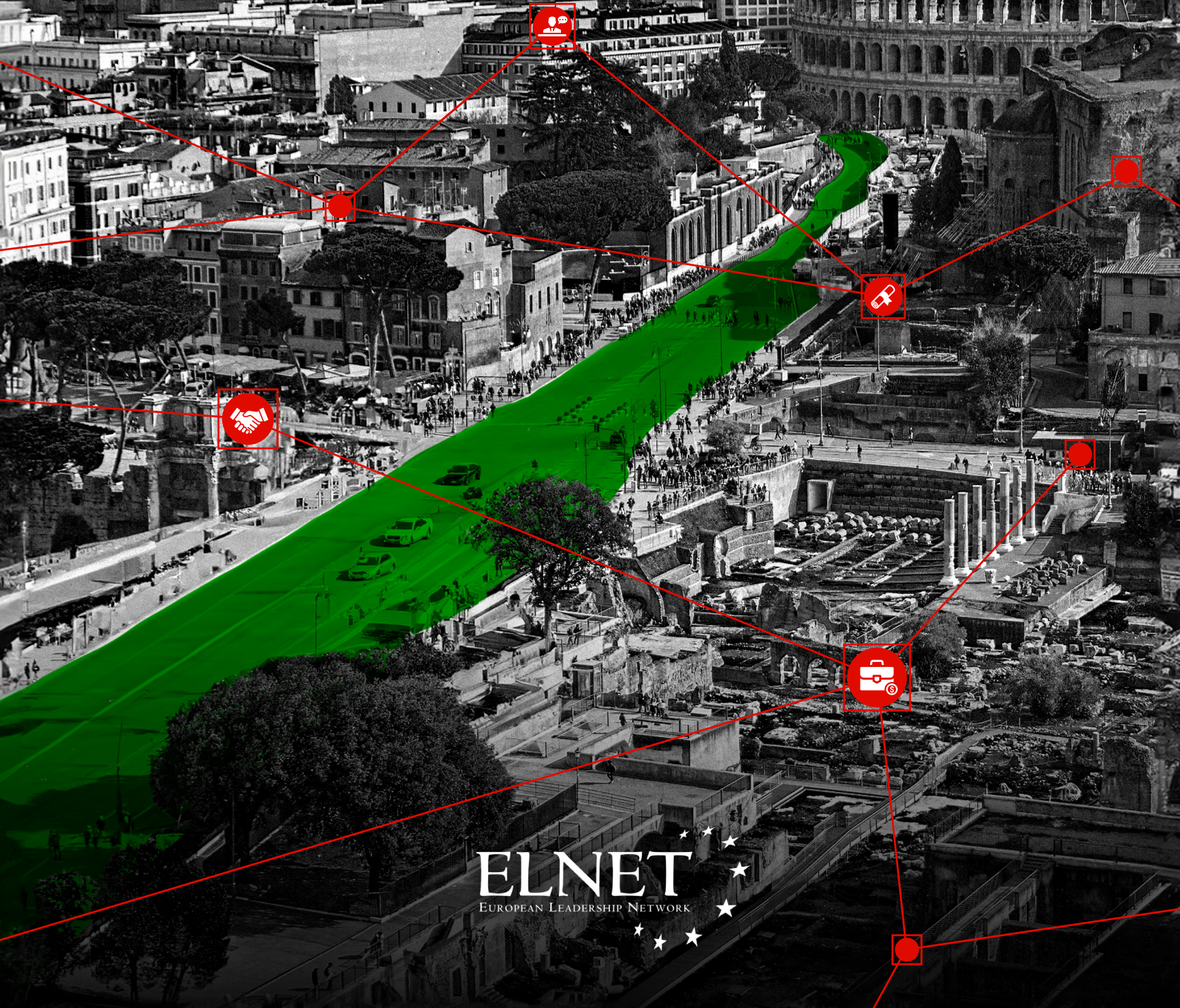


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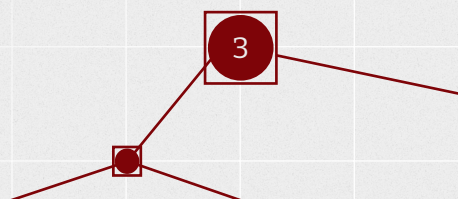
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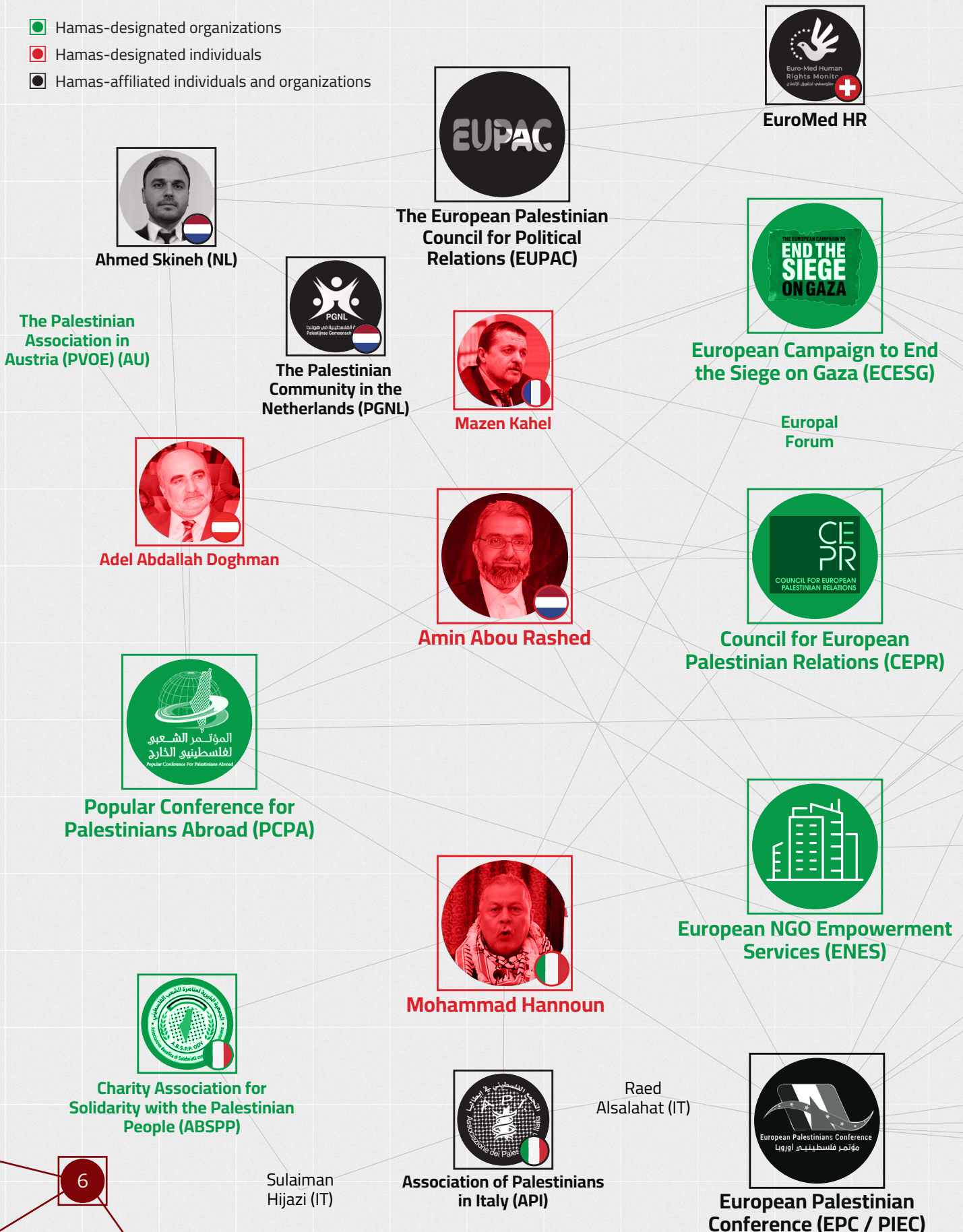
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HAMAS-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE

- Hamas-designated organizations
- Hamas-designated individuals
- Hamas-affiliated individuals and organizations





Ahmad Kanaan



Arafat Shukri



Interpal



Majdi Akil



Essam Mustafa



Majed Al-Zeer

Education Aid for
Palestinians (UK)



Palestinian Return
Centre (PRC)



Ramy Abdu



Zaher Birawi

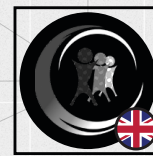


Moin Shubib



Ziad Elaloul

Muslim Association
of Britain (UK)



Palestinian Forum in Britain
(PFB, PalForumUK)



Mohammad Sawalha



European - Palestinians Initiative
for National Action (EPINA)



Palestinian Community
in Germany (PGD)



Palestinian and Arab
Associations in Berlin (DE)

Obeida
Al-Modallal (DE)

Ahmad
Muhaisen (DE)

Ali Chteiwia (DE)

Fadi Tayeche (DE)

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

On October 7th, 2023, the radical Islamist Palestinian terrorist organization known as Hamas committed heinous atrocities against Israelis and other civilians. Hamas terrorists raided the "Nova" music festival, broke into homes in rural communities and towns where they butchered people in their sleep, raided military bases, and murdered over 1200 people in one day. The terrorists also kidnapped over 250 hostages aged 9 months to 85 years and committed sexual assault and rape. This massacre was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Hamas, the Palestinian tributary of the Muslim Brotherhood, has been under scrutiny from various Western and Arab governments since its inception in the late 1980s, with many countries recognizing it as a terrorist organization and attempting to limit its threat.

Nevertheless, the group expanded the scope of its terrorist activity by collaborating with other radical Islamist regimes like the Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar, and establishing so-called "civil fronts," including charities, NGOs, and lobbying groups.

At least six such Hamas-affiliated groups were identified as operating on a pan-European level (various others operate in individual European countries).

These groups include:



European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG)



Council for European Palestinian Relations (CEPR)



European NGOs Empowerment Services (ENES)



Palestinians in Europe Conference (PIEC/EPC)



The European Palestinian Council for Political Relations (EUPAC)



European Palestinians Initiative for National Action (EPINA)

While some of these Hamas-affiliated "civilian fronts" were identified and designated as Hamas fronts by the US, Israel, and European countries, many have escaped such terrorist designations, leaving Hamas-affiliated operatives to freely fundraise, lobby, recruit, and promote their terrorist propaganda in Europe.

While the first three organizations were officially dissolved after being recognized as affiliates of Hamas, the subsequent three organizations effectively "replaced" them. The "replacement" organizations were established and are led in whole or in part by the same six individuals who led the initially dissolved groups.

These leaders, who have been recognized as Hamas-affiliated activists, include **Amin Abou Rashed**, **Majed Al-Zeer**, **Mazen Kahel**, **Mohammad Hannoun**, **Adel Abdullah Doghman**, and **Zaher Birawi**.

The three new organizations carry out the same actions as the dissolved groups, including lobbying efforts with European Union (EU) officials, delivering material support to Hamas-controlled Gaza, influencing popular opinion, and legitimizing Hamas-affiliated actors to policymakers without providing proper disclosure of their Hamas ties. **Increased awareness about Hamas' "civil activity" across Europe is necessary to prevent Hamas from spreading its ideology and fomenting violence and radicalism among European communities.**

To that end, the first part of this report will discuss the six Hamas operatives and organizations active on a pan-European level. The second part of the report will focus on Hamas-affiliated individuals and organizations in the UK to show how deeply embedded Hamas operatives are in individual countries, and not just across Europe.



Amin Abou
Rashed



Adel
Abdullah
Doghman



Mohammad
Hannoun



Majed
Al-Zeer



Zaher
Birawi



Mazen
Kahel

SECTION 1:

OVERVIEW OF HAMAS DESIGNATIONS IN EUROPE



The European Union declared Hamas a terror organization in 2001¹ and added more affiliates to its terror list over time. In January 2024, as a response to Hamas' October 7th attack, the EU announced that it would consider targeting those who provide material or financial support to Hamas, as well as those involved in planning, preparing, inciting, or facilitating violent actions on Hamas' behalf.²

Since Hamas is designated as a terror organization by the EU, Hamas operatives seldom disclose their affiliation with the group, to avoid scrutiny from law enforcement and security agencies. That said, the US and Israel have officially and extensively designated European groups and actors working on behalf of Hamas. Several European authorities, for their part, have explicitly recognized that these individuals and groups are affiliated with Hamas but have fallen short of designating them as such through the appropriate and official channels.

The upcoming chapters will provide detailed information about each organization and individual involved in the pan-European Hamas network, using two specific criteria for identification:

☐ Designations and Recognitions

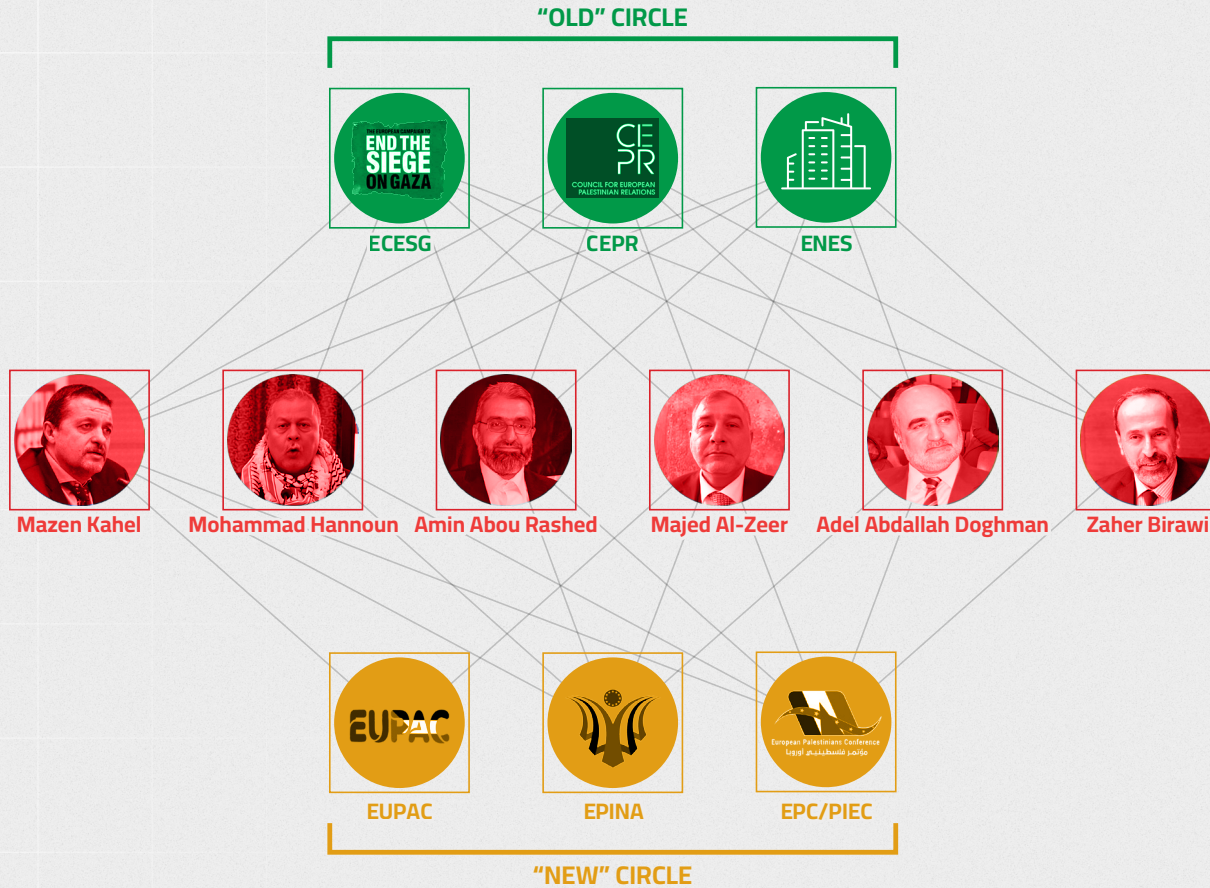
This report will rely on American, Israeli, and European terror designations, as well as explicit recognitions from European authorities, as important leads for detecting Hamas operations in Europe.

● Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

Hamas-affiliated individuals often appear with or mention Hamas officials in the media, especially in Arabic-speaking outlets. Instances of appearances alongside, or communication with Hamas officials also indicate relationships with Hamas.

Sharing Hamas talking points, rhetoric and propaganda, and discourse distancing from the Palestinian Authority and its Fatah faction also point to relations with Hamas. Although this evidence alone is insufficient to label an individual or organization as affiliated with Hamas, it can be a useful tool for identification when combined with other mentioned factors.

The "Old" And "New" Circles In Europe Connected By Hamas-Affiliated Individuals



Hamas-designated Organizations / Individuals Across Europe

| The "Old" Circle

The 3 European organizations designated by Israel as Hamas-affiliates in 2013 include the **European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG)**, a campaign which supports flotilla voyages to Hamas-controlled Gaza by reaching out to EU policymakers; the **Council for European Palestinian Relations (CEPR)**, a lobbying group normalizing dialogue between Hamas officials and European elected officials; and the **European NGOs Empowerment Services (ENES)**, an organization with a vague definition, which has not visibly lead any significant activities.³ This designation list is part of a continuous effort to combat Hamas' influence on the continent after several local organizations were designated by the US and Israel in France, Austria, Germany, and the UK.

| The "New" Circle

Since ECESG, CEPR, and ENES were designated, they have all formally dissolved and ceased their activities, presumably due to the aforementioned designations. However, many of the designated individuals associated with those organizations, including Majed Al-Zeer, Mazen Kahel, Mohammad Hannoun, and Adel Abdullah Doghman, continued their Hamas-supporting operations by setting up new organizations.

These organizations that make up the "new" circle include the **Palestinians in Europe Conference (PIEC/EPC)**, **The European Palestinian Council for Political Relations (EUPAC)**, and the **European Palestinians Initiative for National Action (EPINA)**.

The "new" circle organizations continue the efforts of the dissolved groups in the "old" circle, including lobbying efforts with EU officials, delivering material support to Hamas-controlled Gaza, influencing popular opinion through media relations, and legitimizing Hamas-affiliated actors to European policymakers without disclosing their Hamas ties.

| Individuals

In December 2013, Israel designated 12 individuals (highlighted in red on the above map) for operating on behalf of Hamas in Europe.⁴

These individuals include Netherlands-based **Amin Abou Rashed**, UK and Germany-based **Majed Al-Zeer**, UK-based **Zaher Birawi**, Austria-based **Adel Abdallah Doghman**, France-based **Mazen Kahel**, and Italy-based **Mohammad Hannoun**. They provide links from the "old" circle to the "new" circle by operating in multiple countries and simultaneously leading groups in both circles. Some of these individuals led organizations designated and recognized by Israel, the US, and EU states for their ties to Hamas.

These individuals are designated by Israel as Hamas operatives in Europe, and some are also recognized (though not designated) as such by European authorities in Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Others were designated by the US Department of Treasury as heading Hamas proxy organizations. These individuals and the organizations they operate are not the only Hamas-affiliated entities active in Europe today, but they play a central role in Hamas' activity on the continental level.

The "Old" Circle Organizations Across Europe



The European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG)

The European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG) operated from 2007-2010 to coordinate convoys for delivering resources and funds to the Hamas administration in Gaza, lead BDS-oriented campaigns (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions), and advocate for the "right to return" of Palestinian refugees.

Designations and Recognitions

On its defunct website, ECESG named over 30 European NGOs and groups that formed the Campaign; the first being the UK-based Palestinian Return Centre, designated by Israel in 2010⁵ and identified by Germany in 2018⁶ as Hamas-affiliated.

Interestingly, a similarly named group named "The International Committee for Breaking the Siege of Gaza" (ICBSG) was founded by a Hamas-designated official, Mohammad Sawalha, in London in 2010, but it officially dissolved in 2012.⁷ The group, however, continues its activity online and offline.⁸ Although its English Facebook page shows London as its location,⁹ its Arabic Facebook page includes a Turkish phone number.¹⁰

Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

ECESG used protests, seminars, and propaganda to influence political entities and public opinion, and provided financial support to Hamas-aligned institutions, as certain ECESG leaders have ties with the Union of Good, which is a US-designated terrorist organization that funnels money to Hamas.¹¹ ECESG members designated as Hamas operatives by Israel in 2013 include its coordinator Amin Abou Rashed,¹² Mazen Kahel,¹³ Ziad El-Aloul,¹⁴ and Mohammad Hanoun.¹⁵ In addition, Abou Rashed and his daughter Israa were detained by Dutch security authorities in June 2023 for funding Hamas.¹⁶

Amin Abou Rashed, one of the ECESG founders met and was pictured alongside senior Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh. Abou Rashed used one of his pictures with Haniyeh as his Facebook profile picture. As of June 2024, the picture is still available on Abou

Rashed's private Facebook account.¹⁷ Abou Rashed also received a medal of honor from Haniyeh.¹⁸

Abou Rashed coordinated the "Miles of Smiles" delegation which was an official partner of ECESG's "Freedom Flotilla" campaign.¹⁹ In May 2019, the Miles of Smiles delegation to Hamas-controlled Gaza was "welcomed by Hamas senior Ismail Radwan." Abou Rashed and the delegation also participated in the "March of Return" – a Hamas-led initiative.²⁰ In May 2019, following Abou Rashed's visit to Gaza, Hamas awarded Abou Rashed with the title of "Goodwill Ambassador".²¹

Abou Rashed also met with Al-Jazeera journalist Wael Dahdouh.²² During the 2024 Israel-Hamas war which followed Hamas' October 7th massacres, it was revealed that in addition to Wael Dahdouh's strong ties to Hamas, his son Hamza Dahdouh, was a Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) terrorist.²³

Amin Abou Rashed's daughter, Israa Abou Rashed, who managed Hamas' fundraising campaign with her father (one of the designated foundations - "The Israa Foundation" - is named after her) posted on Facebook in 2014 during Operation Protective Edge that she is "proud of Hamas."²⁴

Amin Abou Rashed and ECESG coordinated flotillas to Hamas-controlled Gaza, along with other groups across Europe, including IHH, a Turkey-based organization with connections to Hamas and Al-Qaeda.²⁵ IHH was designated by Israel as a terror group in 2008,²⁶ outlawed by Germany in 2010,²⁷ and subject to designation suggestions in the US and Europe several times.²⁸ One of its actions was the coordination of the Mavi Marmara flotilla in May 2010.²⁹



Source: Amin Abou Rashed's Facebook



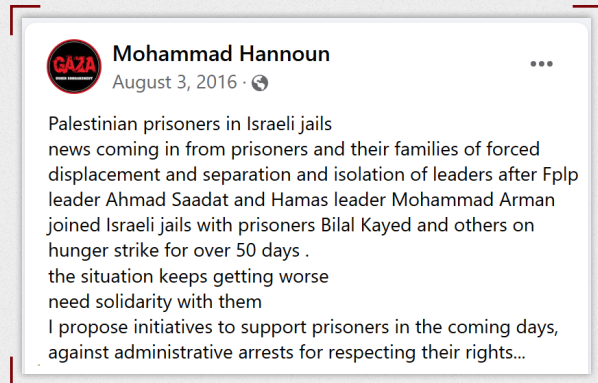
Source: Islamism Map's X



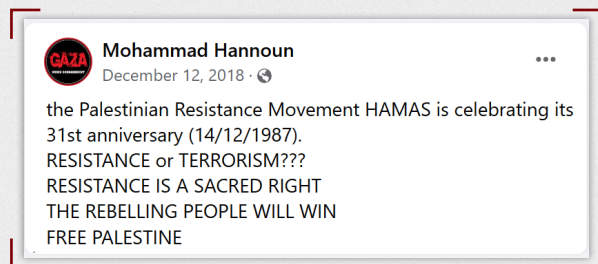
Source: Amin Abou Rashed's Facebook

Like Abou Rashed, Mohammad Hanoun, ECESG's official representative³⁰, has also repeatedly expressed support for Hamas.

In 2018, he celebrated Hamas' 31st anniversary³¹, and in 2021 he denounced a Saudi court for sentencing detained Hamas official, Dr. Al Khudary, claiming he "did not commit any crime except helping Palestinian people".³² Hanoun also supported Hamas and PFLP terrorists Ahmad Saadat and Mohammad Arman who served life sentences in Israeli jail for terror attacks that killed dozens of innocent Israeli civilians,³³ calling them "heroes."³⁴ Hanoun endorsed the Intifada against Israel, writing: "It seems that the majority supports the option of intifada and respects the bleeding Palestinian blood."³⁵



Source: Mohammad Hannoun's Facebook



Source: Mohammad Hannoun's Facebook



The Council for European Palestinian Relations (CEPR)

The Council for European Palestinian Relations was established in Belgium in August 2010³⁶ and dissolved in January 2017.³⁷ Its London office was established in October 2011 and voluntarily dissolved in September 2014.³⁸

The group's now-defunct website describes CEPR as working "towards the restitution of Palestinian rights according to international law within a just and peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict." CEPR was featured on the Transparency Register Joint Secretariat of the European Parliament and European Commission.³⁹

Among CEPR's last recorded activities was the launch of the Union of Palestinian Youth in the Netherlands in 2016,⁴⁰ and the coordination of a document by the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine (DPAL) about convicted Palestinian prisoners who went on a hunger strike in 2017.⁴¹ CEPR ceased its activities several years after the Israeli designation, with prominent members moving on to lead other organizations.

● Designations and Recognitions

A 2013 article from The Independent referred to CEPR as a "Belgian non-profit organisation that lobbies on behalf of the Hamas-led Gaza Government."⁴² Some of CEPR's leaders were designated by Israel as Hamas members in Europe in 2013:⁴³

- **Arafat Shoukri** – CEPR director;⁴⁴ officer of the London branch⁴⁵ and registered founding director of the Brussels branch⁴⁶
- **Ramy Abdu** – CEPR assistant director⁴⁷
- **Mazen Kahel** – board member⁴⁸; registered founding director of the Brussels branch⁴⁹
- **Anouar Gharbi** – founding director of the Brussels branch;⁵⁰ served as a signatory and member of ASP,⁵¹ a Swiss organization designated by Israel in 2008⁵² and the US in 2003⁵³ for fundraising for Hamas
- **Zaher Birawi** – head⁵⁴ (will be discussed more in depth later)
- **Amin Abou Rashed** – director⁵⁵ (will be discussed more in depth later)



Arafat Shoukri



Ramy Abdu



Mazen Kahel



Anouar Gharbi



Zaher Birawi



Amin Abou Rashed

● Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

In 2011, CEPR Director Arafat Shoukri spoke at a conference arranged by Hamas in Gaza, with former Hamas prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, in attendance.⁵⁶

In January 2013, CEPR held a special event about Hamas in the international context with Hamas' Osama Hamdan, who was seated next to CEPR official Ramy Abdu (designated both in 2013 and 2020)⁵⁷ during the program.⁵⁸



Source: Womenfpal Website



Source: E Fischberger's X

CEPR's activities included lobbying, organizing parliamentary delegations, and leading dialogue with governmental actors in Europe and the Middle East, including a meeting with Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh in 2011.⁵⁹

Alexandra Thein, a CEPR trustee and former EU parliament member, met with Hamas legislators⁶⁰ and supported Hamas legislator Aziz Dweik's entrance to Germany in May 2010.⁶¹

European NGO Empowerment Services (ENES)

European NGO Empowerment Services (ENES) formed in Norway in February 2009 and dissolved in May 2014.⁶² The UK office was established in March 2010 and voluntarily dissolved in May 2012.⁶³ In January 2011, ENES also opened a Lebanon office, chaired first by Mohammad Hamdan and later by Jonas Johansen.⁶⁴

CEO Mohammad Hamdan⁶⁵ also served as head of the Islamic Council of Norway (IRN) between 2003-2007,⁶⁶ and founded the UFree Network or the European Network to support the Rights of Palestinian Prisoners⁶⁷ in January 2011, which is technically still active.⁶⁸ ENES and UFree shared the same Oslo address.⁶⁹

ENES board members include Khalid Banouni and Samir Shatara, the latter of whom is also a UFree board member⁷⁰ and former director and presenter at Al-Jazeera's Norway office.⁷¹

ENES does not maintain any website or social media accounts, and little is known about its activities, which is uncharacteristic of an organization alleging to empower nonprofits.

The "New" Circle Organizations Across Europe



European Palestinian Conference / Palestinians in Europe Conference (EPC / PIEC)

EPC / PIEC is an umbrella institution with no formal registration, which unites Palestinian communities across Europe and holds yearly conferences in European cities, including Malmo, Copenhagen, London, Brussels, Berlin, Vienna, Rotterdam, Milan, and Paris. These conferences work to “affirm the right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and lands, regardless of their legal, political, social and economic status.”⁷² Before each conference, a “preparatory committee” convenes, headed by one of the organization's senior officials, whose role is to oversee and manage the conference.

The EPC can mobilize thousands of participants (including Hamas-affiliated actors) and Hamas-sympathizing media outlets like Al-Jazeera. It maintains significant ties to European decision-makers who are either unaware of its Hamas affiliation or are unbothered by it. “These ties to European lawmakers are evident from the recurring appearances of members of parliament from European countries in the events, such as Italian MP Stefania Ascari who spoke at the 2023 event⁷³ or Swedish MP Jamal Al-Hajj who spoke at the conference's preparatory committee of EPC in 2023.”⁷⁴

Designations and Recognitions

The European Palestinians Conference was established in 2003 by the Palestine Return Centre (PRC),⁷⁵ an organization designated by Israel as a terror front in 2010⁷⁶ and identified by Germany in 2018⁷⁷ as Hamas-affiliated.

Current board members include three of the Hamas-designated officials:

- **Amin Abou Rashed** – president;⁷⁸ designated by Israel as a Hamas official in Europe;⁷⁹ arrested in the Netherlands in June 2023 for Hamas-related operations.⁸⁰
- **Mazen Kahel** – secretary general;⁸¹ designated by Israel as a Hamas official operating in Europe;⁸² former treasurer of the France-based organization CBSP,⁸³ which has been on the US Office of Foreign Assets Control's (OFAC) Specially Designated Global Terrorists list since 2003 for being “primary fundraisers for Hamas.”⁸⁴
- **Mohammad Hannoun** – board member;⁸⁵ designated by the US Department of Treasury's OFAC in October 2024 for providing at least \$4 million in financial support to Hamas⁸⁶ over the past decade;

designated by Israel as a Hamas official in Europe;⁸⁷ heads ABSPP, a "sham charity" operating as part of Hamas' Union of Good fundraising network, which was also designated by the OFAC in October 2024 for helping to "bankroll Hamas' military wing".^{88 89}

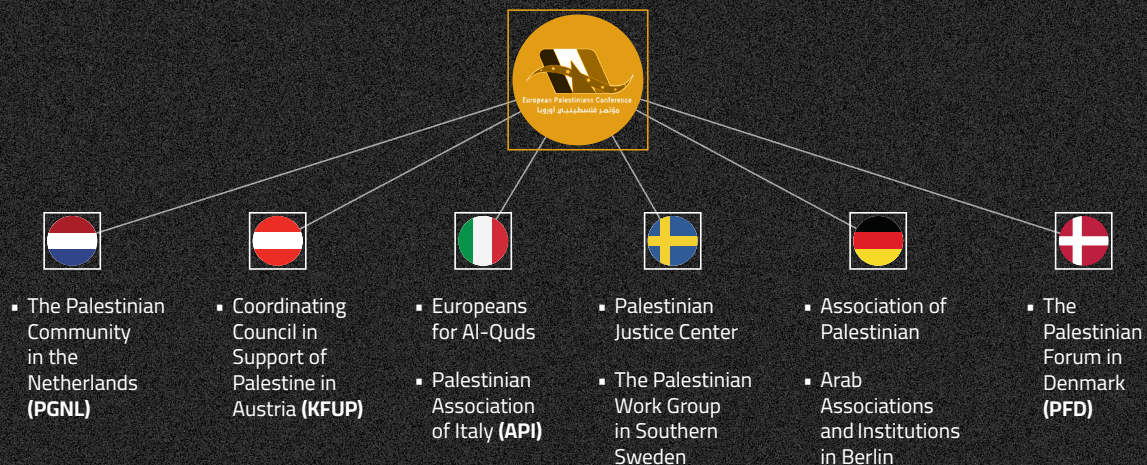
Former officials include three other Hamas-designated members:

- **Majed Al-Zeer** – president between 2010-2021;⁹⁰ designated by the OFAC in October 2024 for acting on behalf of Hamas⁹¹; designated by Israel⁹² and recognized by Germany⁹³ as a prominent Hamas official in Europe.
- **Adel Abdallah Doghman** – secretary general until 2021;⁹⁴ designated by Israel as a Hamas official in Europe;⁹⁵ led the Palestinian Association in Austria (PVOE);⁹⁶ included in the OFAC's Specially Designated Global Terrorists list since 2003 for being "primary fundraisers for Hamas."⁹⁷ and designated by the OFAC in 2024 for acting on behalf of Hamas.⁹⁸
- **Zaher Birawi** – head of the 2018 conference preparatory committee;⁹⁹ designated by Israel as a Hamas official in Europe;¹⁰⁰ former trustee of the Hamas-affiliated "charity" EAP.¹⁰¹

On its Arabic website, EPC lists European "partner institutions" that do not appear on its English website, including:¹⁰²

- **The Netherlands:** The Palestinian Community in the Netherlands (PGNL), led by Hamas-designated official Amin Abou Rashed
- **Austria:** Coordinating Council in Support of Palestine in Austria (KFUP), led by Hamas-designated official Adel Abdallah Doghman
- **Italy:** Europeans for Al-Quds and the Palestinian Association of Italy (API), led by Hamas-designated official Mohammed Hannoun
- **Sweden:** Palestinian Justice Center and the Palestinian Work Group in Southern Sweden
- **Germany:** Association of Palestinian and Arab Associations and Institutions in Berlin and the Palestinian Community in Germany (PGD)
- **Denmark:** The Palestinian Forum in Denmark (PFD)

European Palestinian Conference / Palestinians in Europe Conference (EPC / PIEC)



Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

According to Palestinian outlet Awda TV's investigative article from August 2023, Hamas created the EPC as a part of its official goal "to create an alternative to the PLO". The article mentions "the head of the conference Amin Abou Rashed, who is a Hamas member" and exposes Abou Rashed's ties to the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) and its undisputed leader, Yusuf Al-Qardawi, who religiously approved suicide bombings as a part of Hamas and radical Islamic groups' terror tactics.¹⁰³ On April 29th, 2023, Awda TV also published a post about EPC's May 2023 conference in Malmo - "Responses About the Hamas "Return Conference" contract and its attempt to circumvent the PLO."¹⁰⁴



Abou Rashed with Muslim Brotherhood leader Al-Qardawi and Sheikh Ebrahim Gabriels, a Union of Good official. Source: Awda TV Facebook

Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh has been a guest speaker at several past conferences. In 2006, Haniyeh and Hamas minister Atef Adwan addressed the audience via video. The conference website described how when Swedish MP Pierre Carlton said that he "supports the plan of the Hamas movement", the Palestinian delegations from Europe gave "thunderous applause" and chanted loudly in support of Carlton's position.¹⁰⁵

Haniyeh also addressed the 2007 conference in the Netherlands. Fellow Hamas leader Basem Naim was also supposed to speak, but Dutch authorities blocked his entry, so he addressed the group via video.¹⁰⁶

EPC's old website features an entry from 2009 in Milan, where Haniyeh addressed the conference, urging European states to cancel Hamas' designation as a terror organization and legitimizing the "resistance."¹⁰⁷

Also in 2009, the chair of EPC and the Palestine Return Centre, Majed Al-Zeer led a delegation to Damascus to meet with Hamas leaders and urge Europe to revise Hamas' designation as a terror organization. PRC also hosted Hamas senior leader Khaled Mashaal during one of its delegations.¹⁰⁸

In 2017, EPC hosted Ramy Abdu,¹⁰⁹ chairman of EuroMed Human Rights Monitor¹¹⁰ and designated by Israel as a Hamas member in 2013 and 2020.¹¹¹

In April 2019, during a Hamas conference about the "Deal of the Century," Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh commended the EPC for being held simultaneously, calling it one of several "milestones... on the path of steadfastness and resistance."¹¹²

Palestinian Acknowledgement of EPC as a Hamas Front

Members of Hamas' rival factions Fatah and the PLO have criticized EPC several times for being a Hamas front. In April 2023, Palestinian National Council member Imran Al-Khatib claimed that EPC leaders "seek to deepen the division...within the systematic policy of Hamas aimed at forming an alternative to the PLO."¹¹³

In May 2023, the chair of the Expatriates and Communities Committee in the Palestinian National Council, Osama Al-Qawasmi, accused EPC of "aiming to undermine the representation of the PLO," adding that the "attempts of the Muslim Brotherhood to circumvent the organization have not stopped for decades."¹¹⁴ Hamas is self-described as the Muslim Brotherhood's Palestinian branch.

In April 2018, EPC president and Hamas affiliate Majed Al-Zeer was interviewed for the Al-Bawabah website, **where the organization was described as having "strong ties to Hamas". Al-Zeer did not deny the claim.**¹¹⁵

In 2013, Al-Zeer supported denouncements of the EU's recognition of Hamas as a terror organization.¹¹⁶

In a BBC Arabic report from the 2009 conference, it was mentioned that the Palestinian Authority did not send a representative because it was "not held under the auspices of the PLO,"¹¹⁷ implying that it was supported by a competing movement - Hamas.

A booklet of Al-Zeer's articles was published in 2020. In one article, he boasted that Hamas-affiliated ministers were among the main promoters of EPC's 2007 conference in Rotterdam and praised Ismail Haniyeh's official address at the conference.¹¹⁸

In a 2007 op-ed written for Al-Jazeera, Al-Zeer argued that "the Palestinian people chose the Hamas movement" and praised the arrival of Hamas Minister Atef Adwan to Europe and Ismail Haniyeh's speech to the conference. He also praised the Palestinian "armed resistance" and deadly intifadas¹¹⁹ and compared the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands to the "Zionist occupation of Palestine".¹²⁰

In 2006, when Hamas won the elections in the Gaza Strip, Al-Zeer lauded the terror organization, claiming that Hamas' victory "would guarantee the preservation of Palestinian principles."¹²¹



The European Palestinian Council for Political Relations (EUPAC)

Based in Brussels (opposite the European Commission), EUPAC was established in 2022, to support “the development of European channels of communication with Palestine and its people through positive relations at the political, scientific, cultural and civil society levels; raise awareness in Europe about the challenges facing Palestinians across the political, developmental and economic arenas...”¹²²

EUPAC, which claims to focus primarily on the Palestinian issue, curiously emphasizes their efforts to enhance relations with Morocco through cultural initiatives, without mentioning Palestine. In February 2024, they filed a rectification, suggesting that they might have based their operations on an existing entity to circumvent bureaucratic hurdles and avoid scrutiny.¹²³ In their official registrations, listed administrators include Hamas affiliates Ahmad Kanaan, Younis Jbari, Yasser Salem,¹²⁴ and Ziad Fathi Kanaan.¹²⁵

In practice, EUPAC organizes seminars, campaigns, workshops, press conferences, and meetings with key players in politics and civil society in Europe and the Middle East. Lately, the group also promoted a campaign to endorse candidates for the 2024 European Parliament elections based on their views and actions vis-à-vis the Palestinian issue.

EUPAC's activities include:

- Press conferences¹²⁶, political conferences, and panels featuring speakers from the media, European politics, and civil society¹²⁷
- Participation in open meetings at the European Parliament¹²⁸
- A campaign to encourage Palestinian-oriented voting at the 2024 European Parliament elections¹²⁹

Designations and Recognitions



Majed Al-Zeer – CEO; designated by the United States and Israel as Hamas officials in Europe;^{130 131} also identified as a Hamas official by German authorities;¹³² in February 2024, Belgian Minister of Justice Paul Van Tigchelt identified Majed Al-Zeer as a Hamas official, implying that EUPAC lobbies and fundraises for Hamas on Belgian soil.¹³³

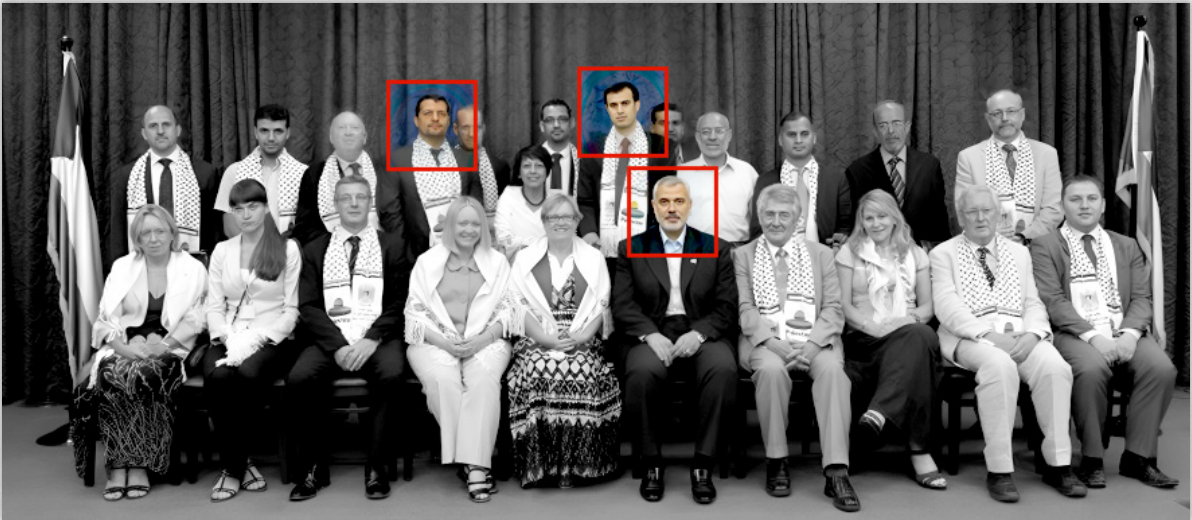


Mazen Kahel – deputy CEO;¹³⁴ designated by Israel as Hamas officials in Europe;¹³⁵ was the treasurer of a France-based organization named CBSP;¹³⁶ has been on the OFAC's Specially Designated Global Terrorists list since 2003 for being a "primary fundraiser for Hamas."¹³⁷

Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

On March 10th, 2024, Adnan Abou Shaqra, a EUPAC board member and coordinator of Swedish relations affairs ¹³⁸ said during an official EUPAC webinar that he “wishes for a victory for the resistance [Hamas] in Gaza, the West Bank and all the regions that fight...”¹³⁹

Mazen Kahel, EUPAC’s Deputy CEO¹⁴⁰ met and was pictured with Hamas’ Ismail Haniyeh in 2011.¹⁴¹



Ramy Abdu and Mazen Kahel with former Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh. Source: NGO Monitor Website

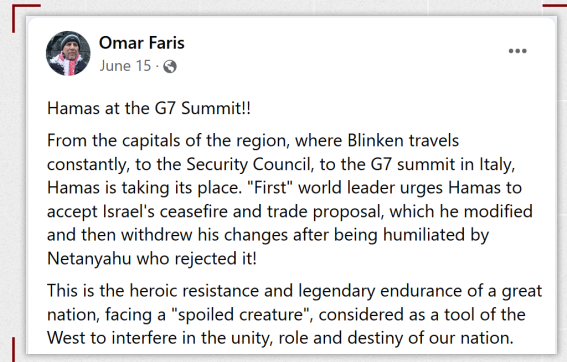
Omar Faris, EUPAC’s coordinator of Polish affairs, consistently promotes Hamas on Facebook:

- February 2024** - Faris shared Hamas’ response to Aaron Bushnell’s death after setting himself on fire, allegedly due to US support of Israel, writing: “The crash that killed pilot Bushnell expresses growing anger among Americans who reject their country’s policies. We express our condolences to the family of American pilot Bushnell, whose name was immortalized as a defender of human values and the oppression of the Palestinian people. The Biden administration is responsible for the death of US Army pilot Aaron Bushnell over its policy of supporting Israel’s war in Gaza”.¹⁴²
- June 13th, 2024** - Faris wrote: “Hamas is a rational and responsible movement that takes care of the interests of its people and consults with all factions of the resistance movement”.¹⁴³
- June 14-16th, 2024** - Faris echoed Ismail Haniyeh’s speech¹⁴⁴ and endorsed Hamas, denying the fact the Hamas is a terror organization.¹⁴⁵



Source: Omar Faris' Facebook

- June 15th, 2024** – He wrote about Hamas at the G7 Summit: "From the capitals of the region, where Blinken travels constantly, to the Security Council, to the G7 summit in Italy, Hamas is taking its place. "First" world leader urges Hamas to accept Israel's ceasefire and trade proposal, which he modified and then withdrew his changes after being humiliated by Netanyahu who rejected it! This is the heroic resistance and legendary endurance of a great nation, facing a "spoiled creature", considered as a tool of the West to interfere in the unity, role and destiny of our nation."¹⁴⁶



Source: Omar Faris' Facebook



European - Palestinians Initiative for National Action (EPINA)

EPINA was established in Belgium in October 2020 to achieve "unification of Palestinian national efforts throughout Europe" in response to "challenges facing the Palestinian issue, including the Deal of the Century, the annexation and normalization plan between Arab countries and Israel."¹⁴⁷

No official registration records for EPINA were found so it is likely an informal group promoted by Hamas officials in Europe.

EPINA's activities include:

- Panels with members of Parliament and European politicians¹⁴⁸
- Annual conferences about Palestinians in Europe¹⁴⁹
- The "European Activity Week for Solidarity with the Gaza Strip" campaign¹⁵⁰

Designations and Recognitions

EPINA was formed by several designated Hamas affiliates:¹⁵¹

- **Majed Al-Zeer** – elected as EPINA's first coordinator; designated by the United States¹⁵² and Israel¹⁵³ and recognized by Germany¹⁵⁴ as a Hamas official in Europe.
- **Amin Abou Rashed** – designated by Israel as a Hamas official in Europe,¹⁵⁵ arrested in the Netherlands in June 2023 because of Hamas-related operations.¹⁵⁶

- **Adel Abdallah Doghman** – designated by the United States¹⁵⁷ and Israel as a Hamas official in Europe;¹⁵⁸ led the Palestinian Association in Austria (PVOE),¹⁵⁹ has been on the OFAC's Specially Designated Global Terrorists list since 2003 for being "primary fundraisers for Hamas."¹⁶⁰
- **Mohammad Hannoun** – designated the US Department of Treasury's OFAC in October 2024 for providing at least \$4 million in financial support to Hamas;¹⁶¹ designated by Israel by as a Hamas official in Europe;¹⁶² heads ABSPP, a "sham charity" operating as part of Hamas' Union of Good fundraising network, which was also designated by the OFAC in October 2024 for helping to "bankroll Hamas' military wing".^{163 164}
- **Mazen Kahel** – designated by Israel as a Hamas official in Europe;¹⁶⁵ former treasurer of a France-based organization named CBSP,¹⁶⁶ has been on the OFAC's Specially Designated Global Terrorists list since 2003 for being "primary fundraisers for Hamas."¹⁶⁷



Majed Al-Zeer

Amin Abou
RashedAdel Abdallah
DoghmanMohammad
Hannoun

Mazen Kahel

Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

Media appearances and promotion of Hamas by the above designated individuals have been discussed under previous organizations, as they are connected to several organizations from the "old" and "new" circles.

- For more information about Majed Al-Zeer, see under "EPC"
- For more information about Amin Abou Rashed, Adel Abdallah Doghman, and Mohammad Hannoun, see under "ECESG", and under "EPC"
- For more information about Mazen Kahel, see under "EUPAC"

Exploring the relationships and connections between the Hamas-affiliated individuals and the "old" and "new" circles show how vast and interconnected the Hamas-affiliated network across Europe is, and this will remain important as we delve into the Hamas-affiliated network in Italy in this next section of the report.

Like other European countries, Italy has also served as a convenient platform for fundraising, lobbying and providing indirect support to Hamas and Muslim Brotherhood-related activity for decades due to insufficient responses and enforcement from European and local authorities. The Islamist infrastructure that has developed throughout the years and the relative lack of response shown by Italian authorities has provided fertile ground for the growth of Hamas-affiliated groups and operatives throughout the country.

The main Hamas-affiliated actor in Italy is **Mohammad Hannoun**. He founded and led several organizations across the country for over two decades, including the **Charity Association for Solidarity with the Palestinian People (ABSPP)**, the **Association of Palestinians in Italy (API)**, **Europeans for Al-Quds**, and what appears to be Hannoun's media arm, **InfoPal**. Other main actors mentioned in this report for their pro-Hamas activity are Hannoun's colleagues, **Sulaiman Hijazi**, **Sheikh Riyadh Al-Bustanji**, **Raed Dawoud** and **Raed Alsalahat**, all of whom are significant to Hannoun's organizations, and show staunch support for Hamas and its terrorist endeavors.

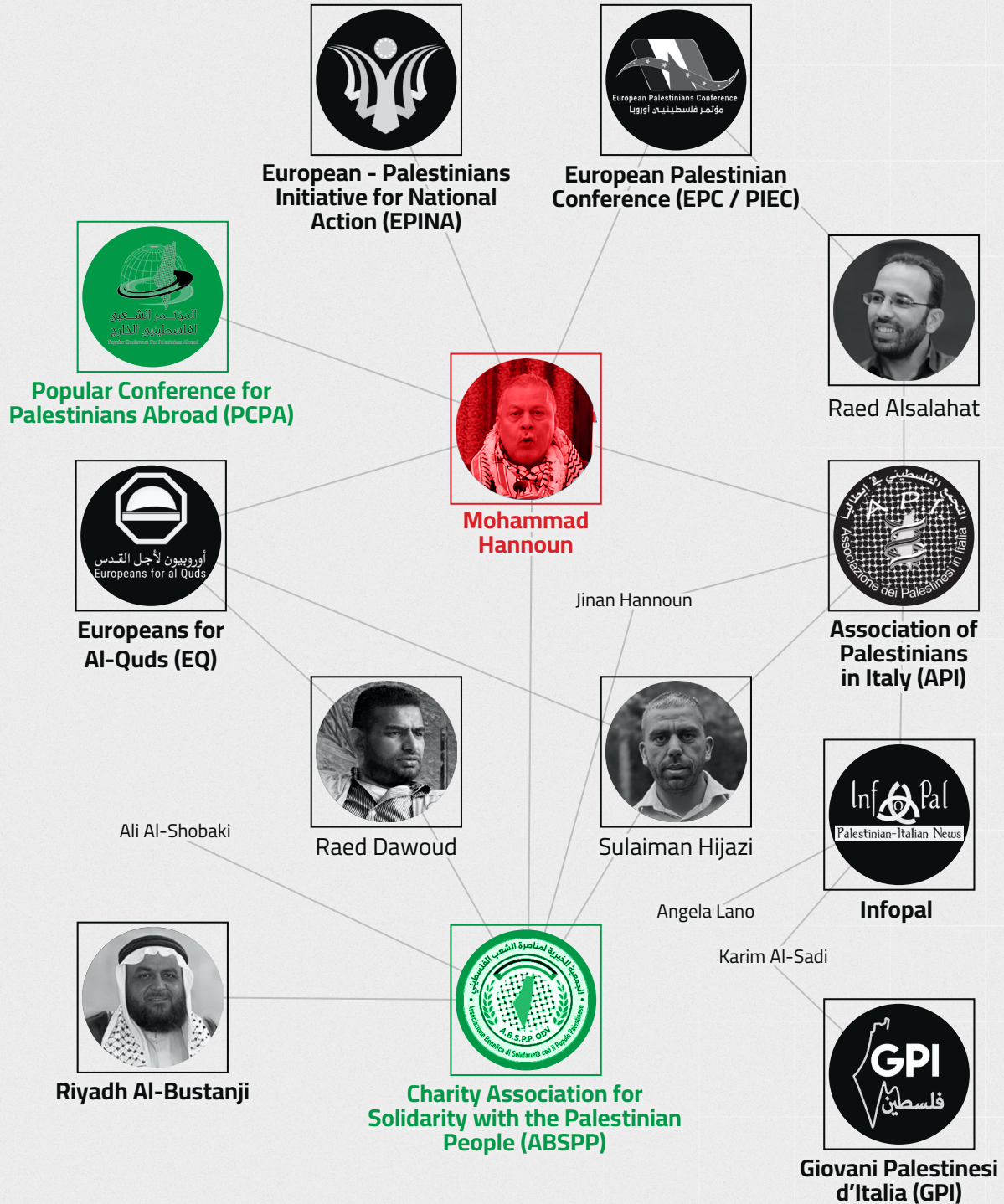
Hannoun and the organizations he is involved with are part of an elaborate network of actors operating in Italy, Europe and around the world, where they hide behind politics, alleged humanitarian efforts, community services and media efforts to cover their real activities of promoting Hamas and Muslim Brotherhood ideologies and coordinating efforts with Hamas leaders.

Working in "civilian" arenas to advance Islamist ideologies is aligned with the strategy of the **Muslim Brotherhood** (Hamas' ideological source) which emphasizes Da'wah or preaching Islam and using community services to spread the Islamist ideology among the masses.

Mohammad Hannoun is at the epicenter of Italian actors operating or sympathizing with Hamas. He is a member of two organizations which were **designated by Israel for their ties to Hamas: ABSPP and PCPA**. API is another focal point which is connected to several individuals who are also involved in other organizations that are mostly related to Hannoun.

This report emphasizes the significance of Hannoun and his endeavors; the first part discusses Hannoun, while the preceding parts focus on his organizations in descending order of importance. With each organization, the report will highlight the main operatives and their support for Hamas and its terrorism.

Map of Hamas-affiliated Individuals and Organizations in Italy



- Hamas-designated organizations
- Hamas-designated individuals
- Hamas-affiliated individuals and organizations



Mohammad Hannoun

Mohammad Hannoun is the most prominent leader of Hamas-affiliated activity in Italy. In October 2024, the US designated him as a Hamas member who raises money for the terror organization¹⁶⁸. Over a decade earlier, in 2013, he was designated by the Israeli authorities as “Hamas in Europe”.¹⁶⁹ Hannoun led and founded the Charity Association for Solidarity with the Palestinian People (ABSPP), the Association of Palestinians in Italy (API) and Europeans for al-Quds (EQ). In the past, he was involved in the designated organization the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (ECESG), and he is also an official in the European Palestinians Initiative for National Action (EPINA), and the European Palestinians Conference (EPC) – all three of which were scrutinized in-depth in the first section of this report for being Hamas-affiliated.

Designations and Identifications

US designation: On October 7, 2024, the US Department of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), designated Hannoun for providing over \$4 million in financial support to Hamas, much of it through ABSPP, which was also designated by the OFAC in October 2024.¹⁷⁰

Israeli designation: In 2013, Hannoun was designated by the Israeli Ministry of Defense as **one of the main operatives of Hamas in Europe**.¹⁷¹ Likewise, Hannoun’s Charity Association for Solidarity with the Palestinian People (ABSPP) was designated by Israel in 2007.¹⁷²

Hannoun is also **involved in other designated organizations**, including the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza (**ECESG**),¹⁷³ mentioned in the first section of this report, and the Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad (**PCPA**),¹⁷⁴ an Istanbul-based organization designated by Israel in 2021 for its affiliation with Hamas.¹⁷⁵

Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

Hannoun met with Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Khaled Mashaal, and other Hamas-affiliated individuals discussed in the first section of this report.

In October 2023, just a few weeks after the October 7th Hamas massacre, Hannoun participated in a conference in Rome where he declared that since Hamas won the first and only democratic



Hannoun with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.
Source: ABSPP Facebook

Palestinian elections in 2006, they are the true representatives of the Palestinian people. He also claimed that "any Israeli colonizer is an Israeli militant," justifying Hamas' massacre of Israeli civilians in their homes and communities.¹⁷⁶

In 2021, Hannoun denounced Saudi authorities for sentencing Hamas operatives to prison because they "did not commit any crimes except help the Palestinian people."¹⁷⁷

In May 2020, Hannoun uploaded and shared a photo of himself with Hamas official, Abu Osama Al-Kurd, referring to him as "dearly" and "beloved."¹⁷⁸

Hamas leader Al-Kurd also appeared alongside Hannoun in a 2012 video from Gaza showing the inauguration of an agricultural project led by ABSPP. During the inauguration, ABSPP official Sheikh Riyadh Al-Bustanji blessed the newly planted trees and asked them to fulfill an Islamic prophecy in which **the trees would disclose the hiding places of the Jews who would try to escape the Muslims in the end of days so that the Muslims could kill them.**¹⁷⁹

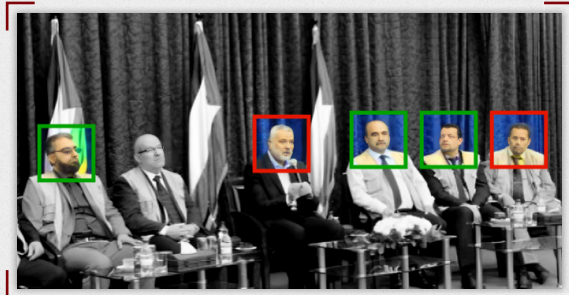
In 2018, Hannoun lauded Hamas on its anniversary, saying, "rebellion is a sacred right".¹⁸⁰

In 2016, Hannoun posted in support of Hamas terrorist Mohammad Arman, who was indicted for planning deadly terror attacks in Jerusalem, and PFLP leader Ahmed Saadat, expressing concern for their conditions in prison, and sharing a poster which regarded them as "heroes."¹⁸¹

In 2015, **Hannoun expressed support for an 'Intifada' regarding it as a way to show "respect for the spilled Palestinian blood".**¹⁸² The Intifadas included mass shootings, suicide bombings and other violent terror attacks by Palestinian terrorist organizations against Israeli civilians during the late 1980s and the early 2000s, resulting in the murder of hundreds of people.



Hannoun and Haniyeh.
Source: Raed Dawoud's Facebook



Hannoun with Hamas leader Haniyeh (both circled in red). Pictured in green, from right to left are Mazen Kahel, Adel Abdallah Doghman and Amin Abou Rashed, all designated together by Israel in 2013 as Hamas operatives in Europe. Source: Carel Brendel's X



Hannoun with Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, with the Hamas emblem in the background.
Source: OFCS Website

In January 2013, Hannoun participated in a ceremony in Gaza alongside Hamas minister Osama Isawi,¹⁸³ who later became ABSPP's representative in Gaza.¹⁸⁴ The event was led by the Wafa Campaign, which was headed by Amin Abou Rashed, designated by Israel¹⁸⁵ and arrested by Dutch authorities¹⁸⁶ for his reported ties to Hamas.

In 2012, Hannoun participated in a parade in Gaza commemorating Hamas' anniversary, and commended Hamas for its "great leaders."¹⁸⁷

Hannoun devoted many posts to **glorifying the murder of Israelis by Hamas**:

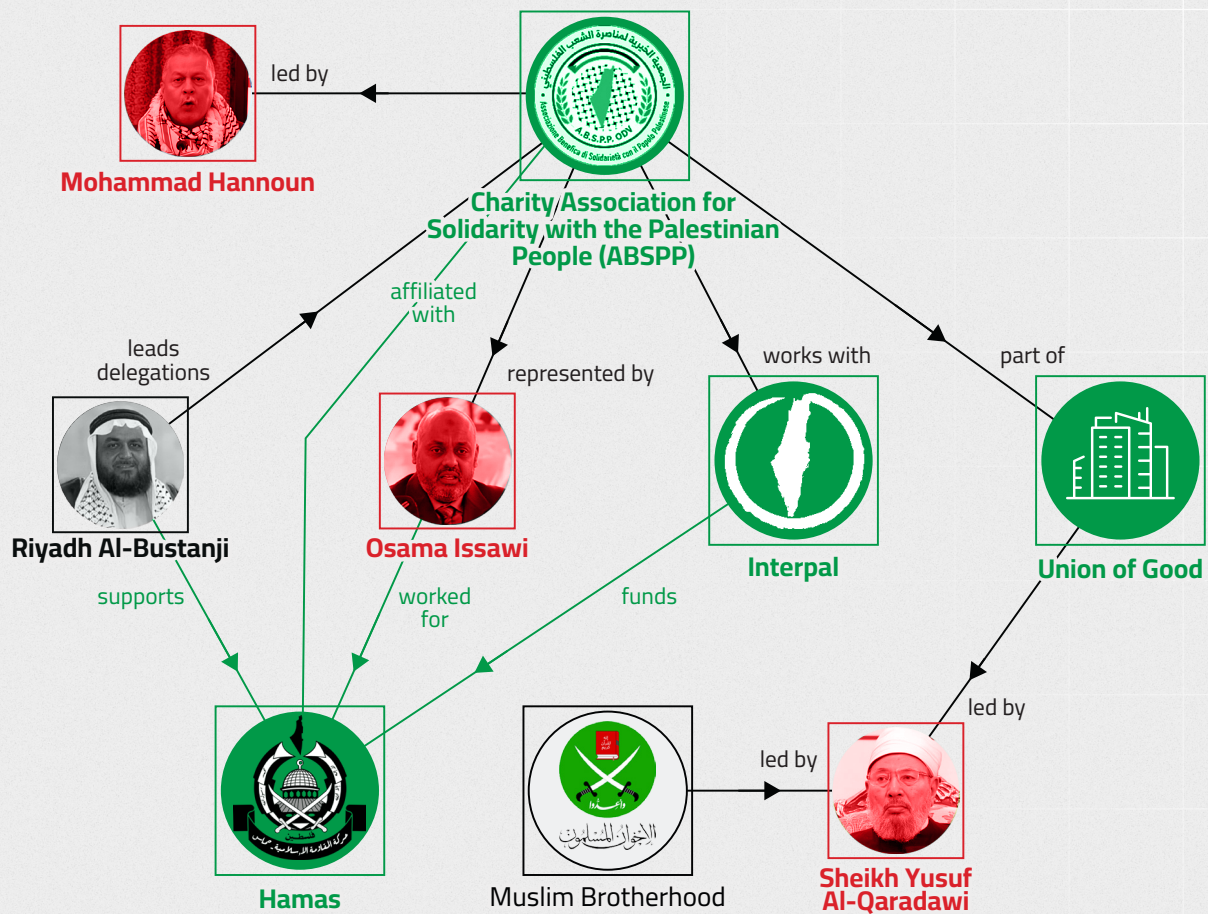
- In December 2020, Hannoun referred to Hamas' founder Sheikh **Ahmed Yassin** as a "martyr" and "Imam" (religious leader).¹⁸⁸
- In a post from 2017, Hannoun praised Yahia Ayyash, a senior official in Hamas' militia Izz Eddin Al-Qassam who promoted suicide bombings, and Fadi Al-Qanbar, a Hamas terrorist who killed four people in a car ramming attack in Jerusalem.¹⁸⁹
- In 2017, Hannoun **commended** Hamas leader **Saleh Al-Arouri**, describing him as a "Palestinian national figure with a deep, calm mind and a burning fire beneath him, very simple and delicate. He has farsightedness and insight... Oh Allah, protect him, his brothers, and all the truthful people with the same way you protect your righteous servants."¹⁹⁰
- In 2016, Hannoun commended the First Intifada attacks including the Lod Airport Massacre, and **saluted Hamas terrorists** and officials including **Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi**, **Yahya Ayyash**, **Abdullah Barghouti**, **Emad Akl**, and **Ahmed Al-Jaabari** (whom he praised for the kidnapping of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.)¹⁹¹
- In 2014, Hannoun said: "there is no solution but [attacks in] Dizengoff [mall] and Yaffa Street," adding: "Zionists should live through the days of terror planned by [Hamas leader] Engineer **Yahya Ayash**."¹⁹²
- Hannoun also glorified Ayyash in another post from 2024 (which was later taken down), in which he eulogized the arch-terrorist as a "legend" and said "Palestine is in need of your spirit."¹⁹³
- In 2013, Hannoun and ABSPP were tagged in a post featuring pins with the face of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and the ABSPP logo.¹⁹⁴



Charity Association for Solidarity with the Palestinian People (ABSPP)

The Charity Association for Solidarity with the Palestinian People (ABSPP) was established in Genoa in 1994 with the stated goal of showing solidarity with and helping the Palestinians.¹⁹⁵ Notably, no formal registration of ABSPP with Italian authorities was found online.

As mentioned, Mohammad Hannoun, designated as a member of Hamas in Europe, has led ABSPP since its inception.¹⁹⁶



● Designations and Identifications

European identification: In 2021, ABSPP’s bank accounts were suspended for “a series of suspicious activities”.¹⁹⁷

US identification: On October 7, 2024, the OFAC designated ABSPP and called it a “sham charity” which helps to “bankroll Hamas’ military wing”.¹⁹⁸ In 2023, several American financial bodies banned ABSPP’s online fundraising activity because of its terror connections.¹⁹⁹

Israeli designation: ABSPP was designated by Israel in 2007²⁰⁰ for its ties to Hamas.

ABSPP formed part of the **Union of Good (UoG)**,²⁰¹ an umbrella organization outlawed by the US Treasury in November 2008 for being used a **tool “by Hamas leadership to transfer funds to the terrorist organization.”**²⁰² UoG was headed by Sheikh Yusuf Al-Qaradawi,²⁰³ a Qatari-based cleric and high spiritual authority for the Muslim Brotherhood around

the world, who endorsed suicide bombings and was barred from entering the UK²⁰⁴ and France.²⁰⁵ UoG was designated by Israel in 2002 for “belonging to Hamas or supporting it and strengthening its infrastructure”.²⁰⁶

ABSPP also worked with UK-based Interpal (designated by the US Department of Treasury in 2003 as a terror entity that funds Hamas²⁰⁷) to finance the “Mercy” convoy that provided medical support to Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Turkey.²⁰⁸

Following the suspension of ABSPP’s accounts, Mohammad Hannoun called on his followers to support the association through a “charity” group called La Cupola D’oro (The Golden Dome).²⁰⁹

Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

ABSPP has an official representative in Gaza - Hamas official Osama Issawi.²¹⁰

Issawi served as Hamas’ Minister of Transportation and Culture in the Gaza Strip from 2008-2014.²¹¹

In 2013, ABSPP held a conference in Italy featuring Issa Al-Nashar, a founder of Hamas who served as Ismail Haniyeh’s advisor.²¹²

In 2012, ABSPP led a convoy to Gaza which included a welcome ceremony with Hamas government officials,²¹³ including Ismail Haniyeh himself.²¹⁴ ABSPP inaugurated an agricultural project in Gaza with Hamas minister Osama Al-Kurd in 2012 as well.²¹⁵

ABSPP shared Hamas-related content on its social media platforms several times.

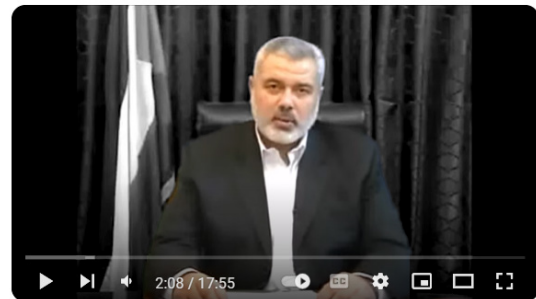
In 2016, ABSPP’s YouTube account shared a speech by Ismail Haniyeh from the 2009 European Palestinians Conference.²¹⁶

In 2012, ABSPP published two speeches by Haniyeh welcoming convoys of the Wafa Campaign,²¹⁷ an organization led by Amin Abu Rashed, a close colleague of Hannoun who was designated by Israel as a Hamas operative in 2013 and arrested by Dutch authorities, for reportedly transferring funds to Hamas.²¹⁸

Also in 2012, ABSPP published a video from the welcome ceremony of Haniyeh, Hannoun and other designated officials including Adel Abdallah Doghman, Mazen Kahel and Essam Yusuf.²¹⁹



Osama Issawi and Mohammad Hannoun
Source: Mohammad Hannoun’s Facebook



Source: ABSPP ODV YouTube Channel

In 2012, ABSPP commended Muslim Brotherhood-led Egypt for reportedly sending a missile towards Israel.²²⁰ ABSPP's cadre has also shown support for Hamas. On the morning of the October 7th Hamas massacre, ABSPP's vice president **Sulaiman Hijazi**²²¹ published posts supporting the atrocities, writing: "Good Morning Palestine" with four green hearts, a color often associated with Hamas.²²² Another post from that same morning read: "Oh Allah, praise to you."²²³

Sheikh Riyadh Al-Bustanji is an Islamist preacher who participated in many ABSPP activities and led many of its delegations.²²⁴ Though his official role at ABSPP remains unclear, Bustanji has been referred to on Arabic-speaking outlets as "Imam of ABSPP,"²²⁵ or "president of ABSPP."²²⁶

Bustanji is a radical cleric who expressed antisemitic views in the past. He was reportedly on board the Mavi Marmara ship in 2010,²²⁷ which was on its way to deliver weapons under the guise of humanitarian aid to the Hamas-led Gaza Strip.²²⁸ **Bustanji was quoted as saying that he took his daughter to Gaza to learn from Palestinian women about how to raise children for jihad and martyrdom.**²²⁹

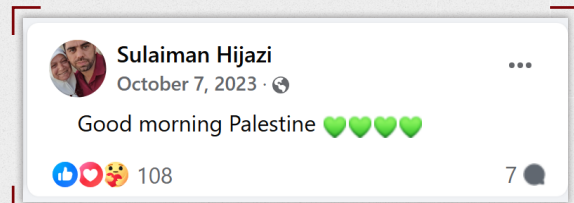
In 2014, Bustanji uploaded a picture of himself with Ismail Haniyeh while wearing a scarf inscribed with Haniyeh's name.²³⁰

Bustanji praised Hamas publicly many times on his Facebook page. In 2014, he wrote: "**Oh Hamas, some fools may harm you with their criticism, but always remember, you are the crowns of our heads and, you are the head of our spear.**"²³¹

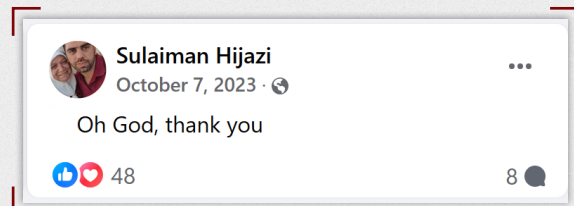
Bustanji also shared an interview with Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in which Mashaal justified Iranian aid to Hamas



Source: ABSPP's Facebook



Source: Sulaiman Hijazi's Facebook



Source: Sulaiman Hijazi's Facebook



Sheikh Riyadh Al-Bustanji who led ABSPP's activities and delegation with Hamas leader Haniyeh.

Source: Riyadh Al-Bustanji's Facebook



Source: Riyadh Al-Bustanji's Facebook

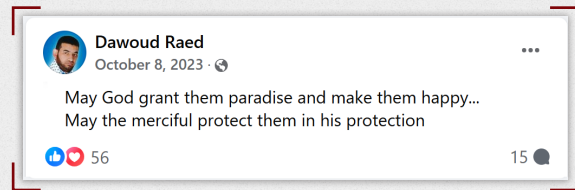
because it is fighting Israel. Bustanji then added: “Your words are pearls, Your Excellency, President of the Islamic State of Palestine.” In 2014, Bustanji **participated in a social media campaign using the hashtag “We are all Hamas.”**²³²

Raed Dawoud, ABSPP’s programs manager,²³³ also shows support for Hamas. Dawoud met Ismail Haniyeh in the early 2010s.²³⁴ On October 8th, just one day after Hamas’ massacre, Daoud expressed his joy at the massacre, writing in Hamas colors: **“May God grant them happiness in paradise, those who made us happy... May the merciful protect them in his protection.”**²³⁵

In 2014, Dawoud shared a picture of Ismail Haniyeh’s alleged house in rubbles with a picture of the terrorist leader surrounded by Hamas and Palestinian flags:²³⁶

Also in 2014, Dawoud was featured as a guest speaker at the Qatar Foundation’s “Humanitarian Forum to Support Palestinians” in Doha, where he also met the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Sheikh Yussuf Al-Qaradawi.²³⁷ Notably, Qatar is a prominent patron of and haven for Hamas and its leaders.

In 2013, Dawoud shared a song dedicated to Hamas titled “Oh, Mashaal, lead the movement”, adding: “the [Hamas] movement is a blessing.”²³⁸



Source: Raed Dawoud’s Facebook



Dawoud and Qaradawi in Qatar in 2014.
Source: Raed Dawoud’s Facebook



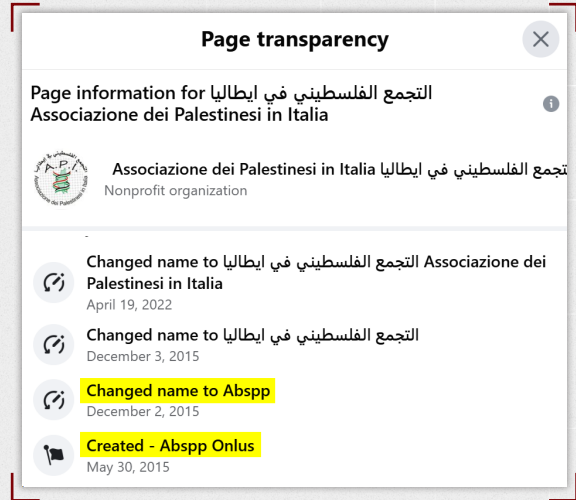
Association of Palestinians in Italy (API)

Established in 2008 with the aim of “supporting the Palestinian cause”, the Association of Palestinians in Italy (API) presents itself as a representative organization of the Palestinian diaspora in Italy, led by Mohammad Hannoun.²³⁹

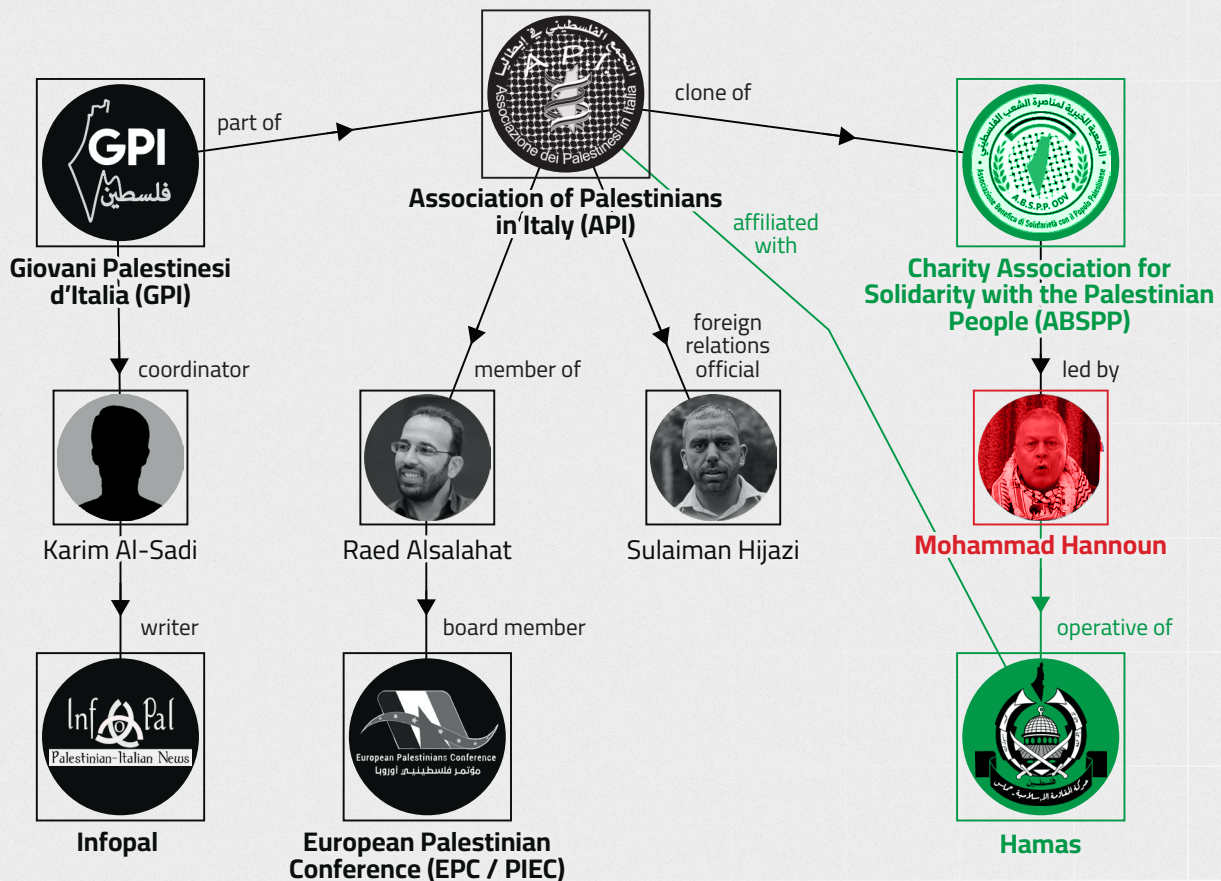
API seems to be directly related to ABSPP; the page transparency section of API’s Facebook page clearly shows that it used to be called “Abspp Onlus” and “Abspp.”

Additionally, in a post from ABSPP’s Facebook page, the Genoa addresses of API and ABSPP appear next door to one another in the same building – ABSPP in 19/1 Bolzaneto street; and API in 19/2 Bolzaneto street.²⁴⁰

The shared leadership under Hannoun, naming history, address, and even the similar logos support the belief that API and ABSPP are the same entity, with some arguing that this duplication was intentionally carried out by Hannoun to distance his activity from ABSPP’s designations and scrutiny.



API's "page transparency" section on Facebook shows the group's older name, ABSPP. Source: API's Facebook – Page Transparency



● Designations and Identifications

API is not designated as Hamas-affiliated, however it appears as though API is a clone of ABSPP, which was designated by Israel²⁴¹ and is led by Mohammad Hannoun, a designated operative.²⁴²

● Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

See the “Media: Mentions and Appearances” section under ABSPP and Mohammad Hannoun.

API is vague about its staff. In addition to Hannoun, whose promotion of Hamas rhetoric can be found above, Sulaiman Hijazi was also mentioned as API’s foreign relations official.²⁴³

Another apparent member named Raed Alsalahat,²⁴⁴ also serves as a board member of EPC, mentioned earlier in the first section of this report.²⁴⁵

Alsalahat showed support for Hamas and its terrorism on his Facebook account:

- In 2016, he posted pictures from a suicide attack on an Israeli bus and the reenactment of such an attack in Gaza, adding: **“Where did I see this bus before...”** and used the hashtags “Hamas” and “Al-Aqsa Intifada”.²⁴⁶
- Also in 2016, Alsalahat defended Hamas’ anniversary celebrations, saying: **“The celebrations are for [Hamas’] launch as a resistance movement, to demonstrate its strength and ability, and it is proud to celebrate what it has accomplished in recent years in terms of development, preparation, and equipment for the nation to present proudly before its enemy.”** He also added the hashtag “Hamas29” referring to the 29th anniversary of the terrorist movement.²⁴⁷
- In 2015, he posted: **“Glorious Gaza... Hamas produces champions while Fatah produces pimps.”**²⁴⁸
- In 2014, he denounced a decision to recognize Hamas as a terrorist organization, saying: **“in the end, despite all this war, Hamas will remain disobedient and exalted despite the plots of the enemies.”**²⁴⁹



Source: Raed Alsalahat’s Facebook



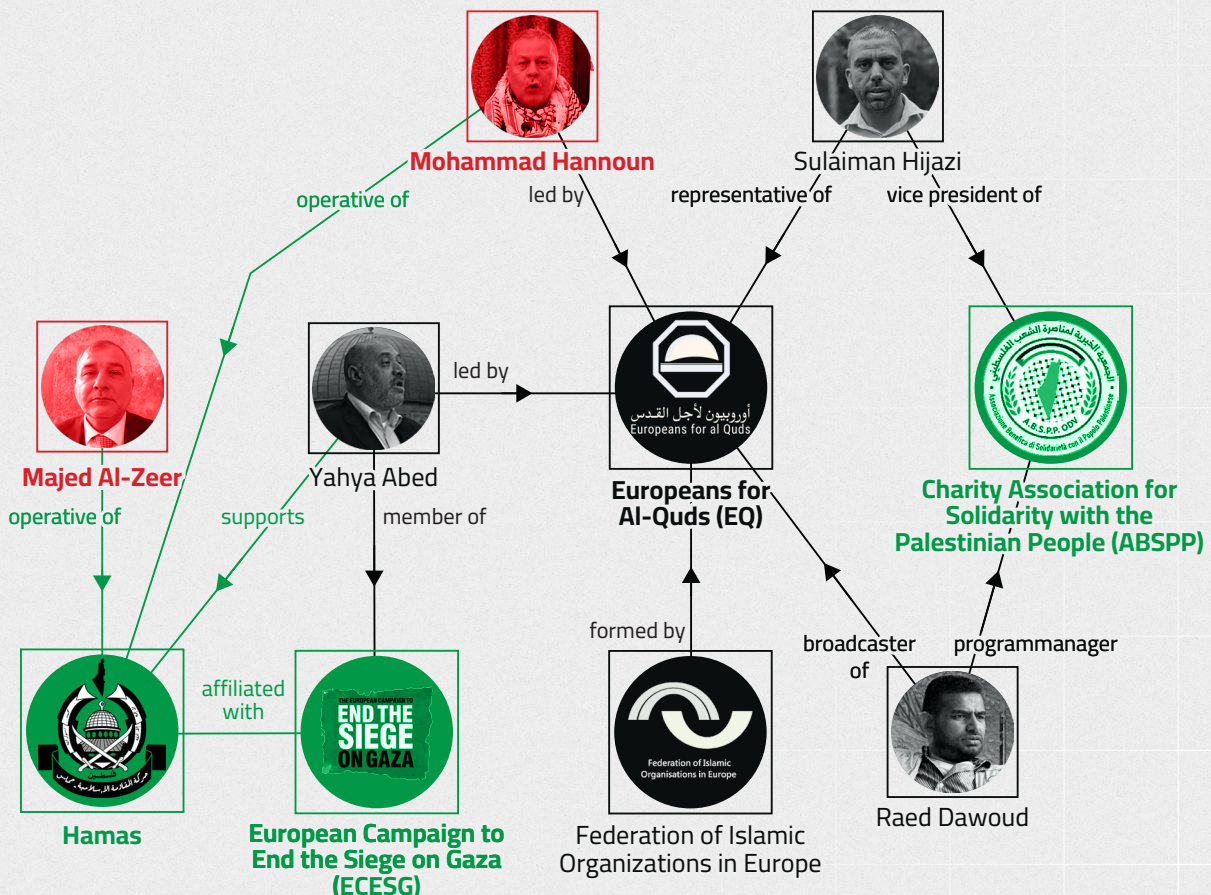
Europeans for Al-Jerusalem (Europeans for al Quds, EQ)

Europeans for al Quds (EQ) was established in February 2021. According to its “X” location, it seems to be based in Rome, although other sources place it in East Jerusalem.²⁵⁰ EQ’s Facebook page is in Italian, suggesting that its administrators are in Italy.²⁵¹

EQ is another organization led by Mohammad Hannoun which is an alliance of “dozens of institutions working for the Palestinian cause” across Europe.²⁵² EQ is also headed by Yahya Abed,²⁵³ a pro-Hamas, Ireland-based activist who was also part of the Hamas-designated organization ECESG²⁵⁴ mentioned in the first section of this report.²⁵⁵

Majed Al-Zeer, another designated and recognized Hamas official, referred to EQ as part of the infrastructure of Islamist organizations, and said it was formed by the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe for “mobilizing the Muslim community to support this cause and the steadfastness of its people.”²⁵⁶

Two formerly mentioned individuals are involved with EQ as well - Sulaiman Hijazi and Raed Dawoud. Hijazi was a representative of an EQ delegation in 2018²⁵⁷ and Dawoud seems to serve as a broadcaster and presenter of EQ content.²⁵⁸ Their support for Hamas is mentioned above in the sections about ABSPP and API.





InfoPal

InfoPal can be regarded as the media arm of the organizations led by Mohammad Hannoun. It was established in 2009 in Genoa and shares the same address as ABSPP.²⁵⁹ This outlet promotes Hannoun’s efforts and brings forth news and talking points from Gaza-based terror organizations, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.²⁶⁰

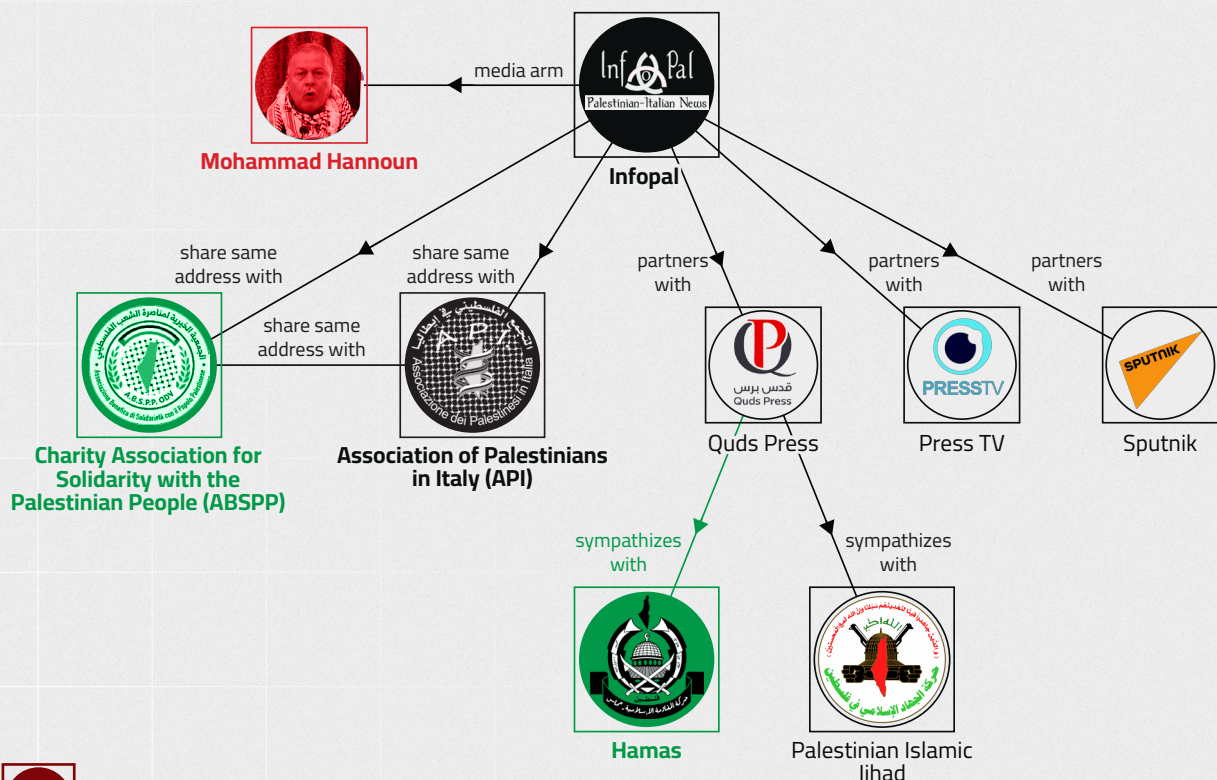
InfoPal’s web address appears on API’s Facebook page as its home website, showing the connection between the organizations and the importance of InfoPal to API and Hannoun’s other organizations.

In an old version of InfoPal’s website, InfoPal’s address is the same as API.²⁶¹ Currently, their listed address is located on the same street, only several meters away – Via Bolzaneto 78/R –²⁶² which is the address terror ABSPP has on their Facebook page.²⁶³



Source: API’s Facebook

An InfoPal writer Karim Al-Sadi,²⁶⁴ serves as a coordinator and a member of the steering committee of what appears to be API’s youth movement, GPI.²⁶⁵



InfoPal's website lists Quds Press as its "journalistic partner."²⁶⁶ Quds Press is a UK-registered news agency active since 1992 which sympathizes with Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist organizations. Quds Press promotes information from and interviews with Hamas officials, and statements from Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other organizations and individuals designated by Israel as Hamas affiliates.²⁶⁷ Additional sources listed on InfoPal's website also include Iranian state-owned PressTV, and Russian state-owned Sputnik.²⁶⁸

Designations and Identifications

InfoPal has not been designated, however, one of its listed officers was Safiee Mahfuzh, who was also registered as working at the Palestine Return Centre (PRC),²⁶⁹ which was recognized by Germany in 2018 as a platform used by Hamas to conceal their terrorist activity²⁷⁰ and outlawed in Israel in 2010.²⁷¹

Media Appearances with and Promotion of Hamas

On October 9th, just two days after Hamas' massacre against Israel, InfoPal's editor-in-chief Dr. Angela Lano wrote an article **justifying the Hamas massacre as the "decolonization of the global south,"** and praising the "well organized armed resistance" which "liberated settlements."²⁷² InfoPal also referred to Israeli areas infiltrated by Hamas terrorists as "liberated" and shared footage from Hamas' media arm.²⁷³ Lano also refers to the massacre as the "Al-Aqsa cyclone" or "flood", which is how Hamas refers to October 7th.

InfoPal has **promoted messages by Abu Obeida**, the speaker of Hamas' militia Al-Qassam Brigades, including threats to Israel and the glorification of Hamas.²⁷⁴ It has also quoted directly from the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's military media, including a propaganda piece which falsely claimed that the Quds Brigades (the PIJ militia) had kidnapped more Israeli soldiers in Gaza in May 2024.²⁷⁵

Ciclone Al-Aqsa, decolonizzazione e Sud Globale



Source: InfoPal's Website

Abu Obeida: a nove mesi dall'inizio della guerra, le capacità delle Brigate al-Qassam sono più forti



Source: InfoPal's Website

CONCLUSION

Following the October 7th massacre and the crimes against humanity committed by Hamas against Israelis and other civilians from over 30 countries, including Italian citizens, it is crucial for Italy and Europe to remain vigilant of and mitigate Hamas activity and influence across the continent.

Hamas-affiliated individuals and organizations continue to operate under the guise of providing humanitarian and charitable services to civilians, while they are funding and supporting Hamas ideology and activities throughout Italy and Europe. It is particularly alarming that InfoPal, the media arm of Mohammad Hannoun's organizations, freely promotes Hamas ideology and false information about Israel and the situation in Gaza, while describing its work as "Palestinian-Italian News."

If Italian and European officials do not act against the Hamas-affiliated networks domestically and across the continent, Hamas will continue to expand its radical Islamist ideology which threatens not only Israel and the US, but Italy, Europe and the Western way of life.

The following recommendations are based on the information and evidence presented in this report:

- Open investigations into the individuals and organizations registered and operating in Italy, especially those with non-profit status
- The Italian government and security authorities should recognize and designate the Hamas-affiliated organizations as branches of the terror group
- The Italian police should investigate, arrest, and prosecute the leaders and officials of the Hamas-affiliated groups active in Italy
- Italian banks and other financial institutions should review the flow of money to/from individuals and organizations affiliated with Hamas and shut down the suspected accounts
- Italian authorities should shut down the Hamas-affiliated groups that are still officially operating and sanction the groups that are operating despite their official dissolution following designations as Hamas-affiliated
- Italian research institutions, think tanks, and scholars should expand their research of Hamas activity across Italy
- Media outlets should investigate Hamas' activity in Europe and raise awareness about the danger of increasing Hamas activity in Italy
- Social media companies should shut down the accounts run by Hamas-affiliated organizations and individuals highlighted in this report, as they use their platforms to spread the propaganda of an EU and US-designated terror group

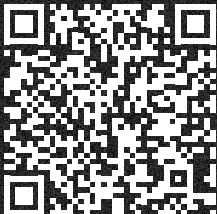
Annex A: Links to Legal Measures Taken by the European Union Against Hamas



- **EU Council Decision Establishing Measures Against Those Who Support Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (2024)**



- **European Council Sanctions Against Terrorism**



- **EU Council Decision (CFSP) Establishing Measures Against Those Who Support Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (2024-385)**



- **EU Council Decision (EU) Establishing Measures Against Those Who Support Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (2024-386)**



- **Council Common Position on Application of Specific Measures to Combat Terrorism (2001)**

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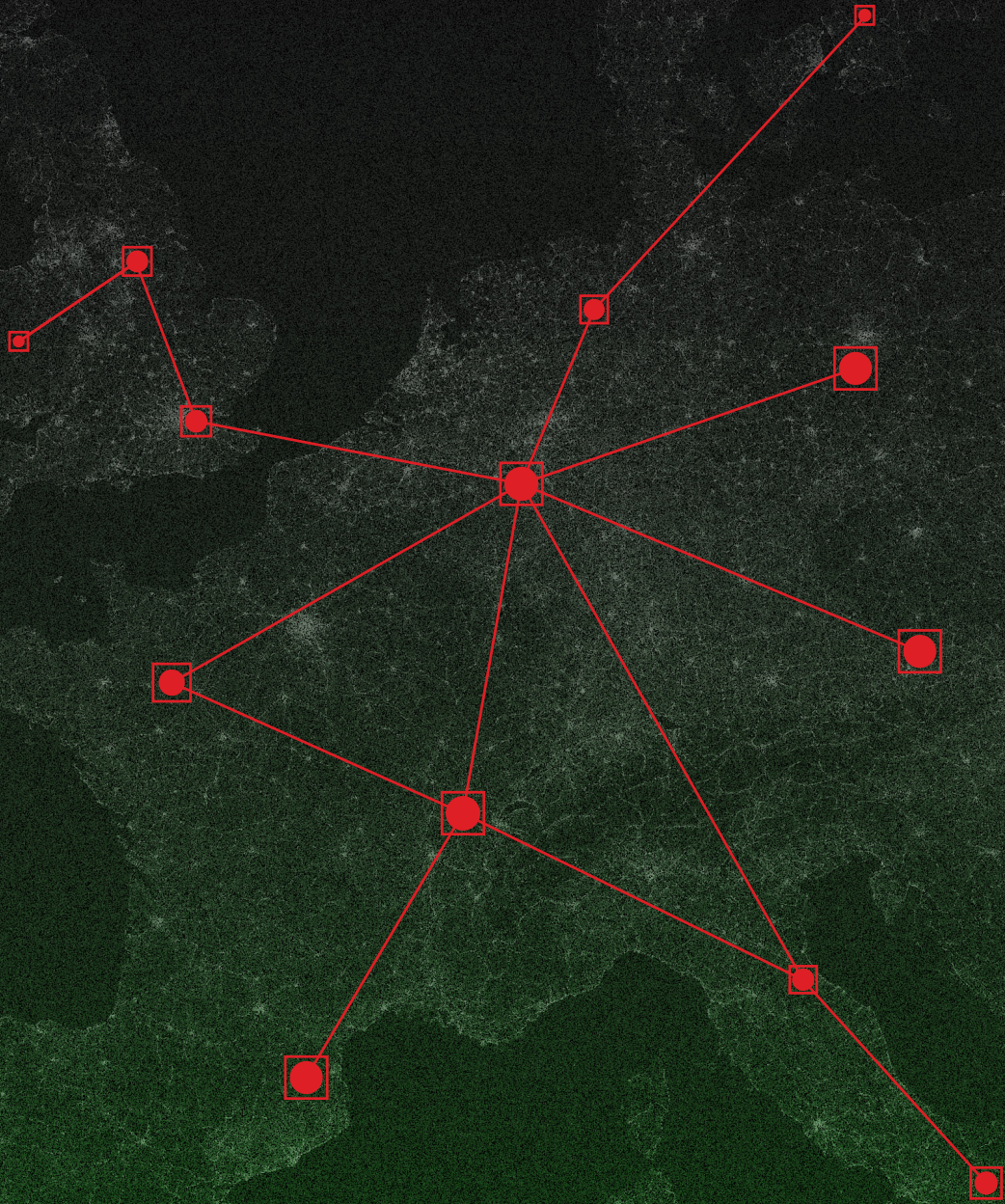
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