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**COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF  
WAR ON WANT  
(REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 208724)**

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**1. OVERVIEW**

- 1.1. This is a complaint to the Charity Commission regarding War on Want, a company limited by guarantee (registered in England and Wales under no. 629916) which is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission (registered no. 208724).
- 1.2. War on Want's charitable objects are:
- a) To relieve global poverty however caused through working in partnership with people throughout the world
  - b) To promote human rights (as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent United Nations and International Labour Organisation Conventions and Declarations) and, in particular such human rights which contribute to the relief of global poverty by all or any of the following means:
    - i. monitoring abuses of human rights,
    - ii. relieving need among the victims of human rights abuse,
    - iii. promoting respect for human rights among individuals and corporations,
    - iv. raising awareness of human rights issues.
  - c) To advance the education of the public into the causes of poverty and the ways of reducing poverty by conducting research and publishing and disseminating the findings of such research.
- 1.3. The thrust of these charitable objects is to address global poverty and this is reinforced by the name "War on Want". Donors and others would expect War on Want to use its resources to address global poverty, and not to promote campaigns

that have little or no connection with global poverty. The charitable objects do not include producing inflammatory propaganda that promotes racial hatred and conflict.

- 1.4. War on Want had an annual income of over £1.9 million in the year to 31 March 2017 of which £526,692 was spent on “raising funds” and £555,315 was spent on “campaigns and policy”. A substantial part of the money spent “raising funds” and on “campaigns and policy” may have been used for the misleading and antisemitic propaganda described below.
- 1.5. In addition, War on Want spent £961,591 in the year ended 31 March 2017 on “international programmes.” According to its website<sup>1</sup> *“around half of the money War on Want spends each year goes out to our partners around the world in the process of developing and strengthening the skills, understanding, abilities, processes and resources that organisations and communities need to survive.....”*. This suggests that War on Want funds its partners such as Addameer, Al Haq and the BDS National Committee that are linked to terrorist organisations as described below.
- 1.6. This complaint concerns in particular:
  - a) War on Want’s links with NGOs linked to terrorist organisations, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which is designated as a terrorist organisation by the UK<sup>2</sup>, US<sup>3</sup>, EU<sup>4</sup>, Canada<sup>5</sup>, Israel and other countries.
  - b) Production and dissemination of political propaganda that is outside War on Want’s charitable objects or so tenuously connected with them that it constitutes a misuse of the charity’s resources and status.
  - c) Misleading content on War on Want’s website and in its reports. These materials promote racial hatred and mislead donors by false allegations regarding the situation in the Palestinian Territories. They exploit ignorance

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.waronwant.org/importance-language> under “capacity building”

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-consolidated-list-of-targets/consolidated-list-of-targets> (no. 20 on p.100 of the pdf listing under the heading REGIME: Terrorism and Terrorist Financing – Entities)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016D1136&qid=1474969819578&from=EN>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrnt/cntr-trrrsm/lstd-ntts/crrnt-lstd-ntts-en.aspx#2042>

about and prejudice against Israel, and can fairly be described as “dog-whistle fund-raising”.<sup>6</sup>

- 1.7. War on Want’s conduct
  - a) misuses charitable funds to support terrorist organisations and promote political propaganda;
  - b) misleads donors and the public generally;
  - c) is contrary to the public benefit as it stokes hatred of Israel and Jews and encourages antisemitism; and
  - d) undermines public trust and confidence in War on Want and brings the charitable sector into disrepute.
- 1.8. We ask the Charity Commission to take appropriate steps to secure the proper administration of this charity and to ensure that its conduct is limited to activities for the public benefit within its charitable objects.

## **2. TERRORIST LINKS**

### **The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)**

- 2.1. War on Want has established links with the PFLP via other NGOs with whom it has partnered and is actively participating with them in the implementation of a strategy developed by the PFLP to achieve the destruction of Israel through conflict, as described below.
- 2.2. As noted above, around half of War on Want’s expenditure goes to its partners around the world, so it is likely that War on Want makes substantial payments to these NGOs, thereby effectively using its charitable funds to support the PFLP and the implementation of its strategy.
- 2.3. The PFLP is designated as a terrorist organization by the UK<sup>7</sup> as well as the US<sup>8</sup>,

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<sup>6</sup> War on Want’s Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017 [http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20170331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF) reports at p.9 that these campaigns are more popular than most subjects and a motivating factor behind much of their individual members’ support. Regrettably, this is often the case with antisemitic campaigns.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/financial-sanctions-consolidated-list-of-targets/consolidated-list-of-targets>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-terrorism-and-terrorist-financing>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

EU<sup>9</sup>, Canada<sup>10</sup>, Israel and other countries. Recent atrocities for which the PFLP has claimed responsibility include:

- a) an attack on those praying at a synagogue in West Jerusalem on 18 November 2014, in which five Jewish worshippers and a Druze policeman were murdered and six other worshippers were injured, with axes, knives, and a gun;<sup>11</sup>
  - b) a drive-by shooting of passengers in a car on 29 June 2015, injuring four Israelis, one of whom died the following day.<sup>12</sup>
- 2.4. The PFLP's manifesto<sup>13</sup> states that its object is "*to destroy the state of Israel as a military, political and economic establishment which rests on aggression, expansion and organic connection with imperialist interests in our homeland.*"
- 2.5. The PFLP has a "Prison Branch" comprising its members held in Israeli prisons. They held a conference, apparently via a series of meetings within Israeli prisons, from March to June 2016.<sup>14</sup> The conference was dedicated to a PFLP terrorist: "*the martyr leader Comrade Omar Nayef Zayed*".<sup>15</sup>
- 2.6. The PFLP's Prison Branch is not concerned with rights for prisoners within Israeli jails. They aim instead to convert "*the prison yards of the occupier into an important tool of struggle and a square of continuing confrontation with the occupation*". They call for an escalation of "*the intifada*" and an end to all negotiations, settlement, and security coordination between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Their overall objective is "*the establishment of full sovereignty over the entire Palestinian national soil, and the return of Palestinian*

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<sup>9</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016D1136&qid=1474969819578&from=EN>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/cntr-trrrsm/lstd-ntts/crrnt-lstd-ntts-en.aspx#2042>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/jerusalem-synagogue-attack-popular-front-for-the-liberation-of-palestine-claims-responsibility-9868981.html>;

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/11237316/Jerusalem-attack.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/israeli-man-dies-following-west-bank-shooting-1.5374726>

<sup>13</sup> <http://pflp.ps/english/strategy-for-the-liberation-of-palestine-the-aims-and-significance-of-the-palestinian-war-of-liberation/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://pflp.ps/english/2016/06/13/pflp-prison-branch-convenes-conference-inside-occupation-prisons-elects-leadership-and-sets-agenda-for-struggle/>

<sup>15</sup> In 1986 Zayed was convicted of the murder of a Jewish student, Eliyahu Amedi, whom he stabbed to death in Jerusalem's Old City. He escaped to Bulgaria where he died in February 2016:

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4771252,00.html>;

<http://pflp.ps/english/2016/06/13/comrade-omar-nayef-zayed-laid-to-rest-in-bulgaria-alongside-symbolic-funerals-in-jenin-and-gaza/>

refugees to the homes from which they were expelled”<sup>16</sup> – i.e. the destruction of Israel.

- 2.7. The PFLP’s Central Committee made the following statement in March 2017:<sup>17</sup>
- “We also underline the importance of supporting the struggle of Palestinian prisoners in their national struggle inside the prisons of the Zionist enemy, on all fields and forms, and in popular, political and human rights forums, with the assurance that all methods of resistance are legitimate to work for their release and achieve their freedom.”*

This statement shows:

- a) The PFLP emphasises the importance of using “*human rights forums*” to support imprisoned terrorists in their “*national struggle*”.
- b) This campaign is nothing to do with prison conditions; it is a campaign to free imprisoned terrorists, using any means, including terrorism.

### **Addameer**

- 2.8. Addameer describes itself as a “*Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association*”. It is closely linked to the PFLP:
- a) Addameer is an official affiliate of the PFLP.<sup>18</sup>
  - b) Abdullatif Ghaith, Chair of Addameer<sup>19</sup>, was described by Miftah (another Palestinian NGO) as a representative of the PFLP.<sup>20</sup> He was banned from entering the West Bank from 2011 to 2015 due to Israel’s security concerns.<sup>21</sup>
  - c) Khalida Jarrar, Addameer’s Vice Chair<sup>22</sup>, is also a senior PFLP official<sup>23</sup> and is described by PFLP’s website as its leader.<sup>24</sup> She was convicted in December 2015 of various offences including active membership of the PFLP (a terrorist

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<sup>16</sup> <http://pflp.ps/english/2016/06/13/pflp-prison-branch-convenes-conference-inside-occupation-prisons-elects-leadership-and-sets-agenda-for-struggle/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://pflp.ps/english/2017/03/26/statement-of-the-central-committee-of-the-pflp-sharp-break-with-the-oslo-approach-necessary/>

<sup>18</sup>

[https://web.archive.org/web/20150924010641/http://www.fatehorg.ps/index.php?action=show\\_page&ID=11455&lang=ar](https://web.archive.org/web/20150924010641/http://www.fatehorg.ps/index.php?action=show_page&ID=11455&lang=ar)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/about/board-general-assembly>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.miftah.org/Display.cfm?DocId=4181&CategoryId=11> 2004 article

<sup>21</sup> <http://samidoun.ca/2014/10/prisoner-rights-leader-abdul-latif-ghaith-banned-from-entering-the-west-bank-or-leaving-palestine/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/about/board-general-assembly>

<sup>23</sup> <https://972mag.com/meet-the-palestinian-lawmakers-being-held-in-israeli-prisons/107468/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://pflp.ps/english/2017/07/15/pflp-ordering-the-leader-comrade-khalida-jarrar-to-administrative-detention-will-not-suppress-the-resistance/>

organization) and inciting violence through a call to kidnap Israeli soldiers to be used as bargaining chips for the release of Palestinian prisoners. She was released from prison on 3 June 2016 but was re-arrested and placed in administrative detention in July 2017 for being a senior member of the PFLP.<sup>25</sup>

- d) Ayman Nasser, Addameer's legal co-ordinator,<sup>26</sup> was indicted and remanded in custody for being an active member of the PFLP and providing funds to it. The remand was upheld by the Court of Appeals in December 2012.<sup>27</sup>
- e) Sumoud Saadat, Addameer's field researcher<sup>28</sup>, is the daughter of PFLP General Secretary, Ahmad Saadat. He is currently serving a prison sentence in Israel, having been convicted in 2008 by an Israeli military court for heading an illegal terrorist organization.<sup>29</sup>
- f) On 23 February 2017 Anas Barghouthi, a lawyer for Addameer, signed a plea bargain to avoid prison in relation to his alleged membership of the PFLP.<sup>30</sup>

2.9. In December 2016 War on Want launched a project, together with Addameer, called "*Political Prisoners' Stories*."<sup>31</sup> This is one of War on Want's main campaigns<sup>32</sup> and implements the PFLP's strategy of "*using human rights forums*" to promote a "*national struggle*". The campaign is also thoroughly misleading and promotes racial hatred as described in section 4 below. The campaign seeks the release of terrorists so that they can resume violent attacks on Israelis and, failing that, to undermine Israel by false allegations that Israel incarcerates large numbers of "political prisoners" in poor conditions following sham trials.

2.10. War on Want also supported Addameer's action to promote a boycott of G4S, which supplied services and equipment to Israeli prisons,<sup>33</sup> with the aim of compromising their security.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-lawmaker-given-15-months-for-inciting-terror/>;  
<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2018/7/5/israel-extends-detention-of-palestinian-lawmaker-khalida-jarrar>

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/about/our-staff>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.psakdin.co.il/Court/%D7%94%D7%97%D7%9C%D7%98%D7%94-%D7%91%D7%AA%D7%99%D7%A7-%D7%A2%D7%9E-2715-12#.W3VCAehKhbW>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.addameer.org/about/our-staff>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3644555,00.html>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.maannews.com/Content.aspx?ID=775626>

<sup>31</sup> <https://waronwant.org/stories>;

<https://www.facebook.com/AddameerAssociation/posts/10155677488240200>

<sup>32</sup> Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017

[http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20170331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF) p.10

<sup>33</sup> <https://waronwant.org/media/g4s-targeted-israeli-apartheid-drive>; Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017

[http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20170331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF) p.11

- 2.11. In February 2016 War on Want arranged for Addameer’s director Sahar Francis to speak around the UK.<sup>34</sup> It has been reported that War on Want spent more than £1,000 to bring Sahar Francis to the UK for this purpose.<sup>35</sup>

### **Al Haq**

- 2.12. Al Haq has strong links to the PFLP:

- a) Al Haq’s General Director, Shawan Jabarin, was convicted in 1985 for recruiting members for the PFLP and arranging PFLP training outside Israel. In 1994 Jabarin was again arrested for PFLP links and placed in administrative detention for 6 months. The Israeli government stated that he *“had not discontinued his terrorist involvement and maintains his position in the leadership of the PFLP.”*<sup>36</sup>
- b) In 2007, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected Jabarin’s appeal<sup>37</sup> to go abroad stating that *“The objections by security forces are all rooted in security concerns based on classified information, showing that the petitioner is a senior activist in the PFLP terror group... the current petitioner is apparently acting as a manner of Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde, acting some of the time as the CEO of a human rights organization, and at other times as an activist in a terror organization which has not shied away from murder and attempted murder, which have nothing to do with rights ...”*
- c) In 2009, Jabarin was again prohibited by the Israeli authorities from travelling abroad. The Israeli Supreme Court rejected his appeal<sup>38</sup> stating: *“We found that the material pointing to the petitioner’s involvement in the activity of terrorist entities is concrete and reliable material. We also found that additional negative material concerning the petitioner has been added even after his previous petition was rejected.”*
- d) Several Al-Haq staff members including Ziad Hamidan, Naser Rayyes, a Legal Researcher and Yousef Qawariq have also had their travel limited by

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<sup>34</sup> War on Want Annual Report 2016

[http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20160331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20160331_E_C.PDF), p.10

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/02/charity-backing-anti-israel-rallies-no-longer-receives-state-funding/>

<sup>36</sup>

<http://web.archive.org/web/20090129205347/http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/85255db800470aa485255d8b004e349a/4f4e2d2311ab624485256c53006afa92!OpenDocument>

<sup>37</sup> [http://www.ngo-monitor.org/nm/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Jabarin-2007-decision-translation\\_NGO-Monitor-aug2016.pdf](http://www.ngo-monitor.org/nm/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Jabarin-2007-decision-translation_NGO-Monitor-aug2016.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.ngo-monitor.org/nm/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/PFLP-Report-English.pdf>

the Israeli authorities for security reasons.<sup>39</sup>

- e) Al Haq has advocated<sup>40</sup> sabotaging the Israeli justice system by “*flooding the [Israeli Supreme] Court with petitions in the hope of obstructing its functioning and resources.*”
- f) Al Haq openly supports the payment of salaries to convicted terrorists. In July 2017, Al-Haq asserted that convicted terrorists have a “right” to receive salaries from the PA, and Jabarin stated that “*If their rights are eroded we are heading for a real crisis in Palestinian society and in due course toward an explosion.*”<sup>41</sup>

2.13. Al Haq is listed as one of War on Want’s partners in its booklet “Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions”.<sup>42</sup>

### **Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC)**

2.14. War on Want is a major proponent of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel and works on this campaign in partnership with the Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC):

- a) At page 3 of War on Want’s booklet “Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions”<sup>43</sup> it states “*War on Want ... works in partnership with the Palestinian Boycott National Committee to mobilise action against companies complicit in Israel’s crimes against the Palestinian people. Palestinian BDS National Committee website: [www.bdsmovement.net](http://www.bdsmovement.net)*”
- b) War on Want also lists “Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions” on its website as one of the “*networks and coalitions we participate in*”<sup>44</sup>
- c) Page 14 of War on Want’s 2015 to 2020 Strategic Framework<sup>45</sup> states: “*War on Want will coordinate its actions closely with the Boycott National Committee in Palestine*”
- d) War on Want’s recently elected trustee, Rafeef Ziadah said in her election statement<sup>46</sup> that she has been “*a leading member of the Boycott, Divestment*

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/il395a.pdf> pages 11–12

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.alhaq.org/publications/publications-index/item/legitimising-the-illegitimate> page 50

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/afp/2017/07/israel-palestinians-conflict-prisoners-us-politics.html>

<sup>42</sup> <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Boycott%20Divestment%20Sanctions.pdf> page 27

<sup>43</sup> <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Boycott%20Divestment%20Sanctions.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.waronwant.org/networks>

<sup>45</sup>

<https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Fighting%20for%20Justice%20Mobilising%20for%20Change%2028smaller%20file%29%202015.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/AGM%202018%20candidates%20statements%20PRINT.pdf>



*and Sanctions (BDS) movement since its inception, including as secretariat member of the Palestinian BDS national committee ... ”. Ms Ziadah added that she previously worked for War on Want as Senior Campaigns Officer (Militarism and Security) “and thus have an in-depth understanding of the organisation’s values and priorities”.*

- 2.15. The BNC is an umbrella organisation whose members are listed on its website<sup>47</sup>. The first in this list is the Council of National and Islamic Forces in Palestine (PNIF). PNIF’s members<sup>48</sup> include Hamas, the PFLP, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command (PFLP-GC) and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, each of which has been designated as a terrorist entity in the US and the UK.<sup>49</sup>

### **3. POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS WITH NO REAL CONNECTION TO CHARITABLE OBJECTS**

#### **Summary**

- 3.1. As observed above, War on Want’s charitable objects focus on relieving global poverty and this is reinforced by its name. War on Want raises money on the basis that it is fighting a war on “want”. However, much of its activity and expenditure are directed to promoting Palestinian political campaigns. These include:
- a) The “*Political Prisoners’ Stories*” campaign with Addameer, which falsely portrays terrorists imprisoned by Israel as political prisoners,<sup>50</sup>
  - b) The promotion of “*Israeli Apartheid Week*” at British universities;<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> <https://bdsmovement.net/bnc>

<sup>48</sup> <https://palsolidarity.org/2005/12/statement-by-the-palestinian-national-and-islamic-forces-in-hebron-on-the-cpt-hostages-in-iraq/>;  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20060425165617/http://www.jmcc.org/banner/banner1/bayan/aqsbayan14.htm>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-list-of-designated-persons-terrorism-and-terrorist-financing>

<sup>50</sup> <https://waronwant.org/stories>;  
<https://www.facebook.com/AddameerAssociation/posts/10155677488240200>; Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017  
[http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20170331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF) p.10; and see also paras. 2.10-2.11 above

<sup>51</sup> Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017  
[http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20170331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF) pp.10-11; <https://waronwant.org/israeli-apartheid-week-factsheet>

- c) Campaigns to prevent Israel (and only Israel) obtaining military equipment;<sup>52</sup>
- d) Promoting boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel (and only Israel).<sup>53</sup>

3.2. War on Want attempts to justify this activity and expenditure on the grounds that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip suffer from serious poverty and that these political campaigns will result in relieving or eliminating that poverty:

- a) The preface to War on Want’s “Boycott Divestment Sanctions” booklet<sup>54</sup> claims: *“For those living in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the situation is critical. Israel’s siege of Gaza has condemned its 1.5 million inhabitants to levels of poverty more commonly associated with sub-Saharan Africa – a humanitarian disaster with no end in sight.”*
- b) The booklet goes on to allege:<sup>55</sup> *“In the Gaza Strip, strangled by an Israeli military and economic siege, four out of five people are dependent on food aid. In the Jordan Valley, Palestinians struggle on parched land, living in mud huts and under plastic tents facing daily battles for water to survive.”*
- c) In a section of its website entitled *“Justice for Palestine”*, War on Want claims that *“Israel’s siege of Gaza has condemned its 1.9 million inhabitants to poverty.”*<sup>56</sup>
- d) In a document entitled *“Briefing: Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza”*, War on Want alleges that *“over one million Palestinians in Gaza live in devastating poverty, requiring food and other assistance in order to survive. Gaza has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, reaching 49.1% this year. This*

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<sup>52</sup> <https://secure.waronwant.org/page/22585/action/1>; <https://waronwant.org/hsbc-stop-arming-israel>; <https://waronwant.org/hsbc>; <https://waronwant.org/resources/deadly-investments>; <https://waronwant.org/hsbcs-excuses-arming-israel-just-dont-hold-scrutiny>; <https://waronwant.org/stop-arming-israel>; [https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/WOW\\_ArmingApartheid\\_WEBFINAL.pdf](https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/WOW_ArmingApartheid_WEBFINAL.pdf); Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017; Strategic Framework 2015-2020 <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Fighting%20for%20Justice%2C%20Mobilising%20for%20Change%20%28smaller%20file%29%202015.pdf> p.14 [http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20170331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF) p.10;

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.waronwant.org/bds>; <https://www.waronwant.org/resources/boycott-divestment-sanctions>; <https://www.waronwant.org/media/solidarity-people-power-and-10-years-bds>; <https://www.waronwant.org/media/bds10-decade-solidarity-palestine>; Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2017 [http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724\\_AC\\_20170331\\_E\\_C.PDF](http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/Accounts/Ends24/0000208724_AC_20170331_E_C.PDF) p.10; Strategic Framework 2015-2020 <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Fighting%20for%20Justice%2C%20Mobilising%20for%20Change%20%28smaller%20file%29%202015.pdf> pp.7, 10, 14; and paras 2.142.15 above.

<sup>54</sup> <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Boycott%2C%20Divestment%2C%20Sanctions.pdf>

<sup>55</sup> <https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Boycott%2C%20Divestment%2C%20Sanctions.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> <https://waronwant.org/justice-palestine>

*poverty is in large part due to the illegal blockade on the Gaza Strip imposed by Israel.*"<sup>57</sup>

- 3.3. These claims are false: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip do not in fact suffer from particularly high levels of poverty in global terms, as shown in the following sections of this submission. Furthermore, the situation in Gaza has improved in this regard since 2007 when Israel imposed various controls (characterised by War on Want as a “siege” or “illegal blockade”) following the takeover of Gaza by the Hamas terrorist organisation.
- 3.4. War on Want’s promotion of Palestinian political campaigns is therefore not justified to relieve global poverty and falls outside its charitable objects. Furthermore, funds are raised by War on Want improperly on the basis of false representations (a) that they will be used to combat global poverty, when they are used instead to promote Palestinian political campaigns that do not address global poverty, and (b) that the Gaza Strip and/or the West Bank suffer from dire poverty, which is not the case.
- 3.5. Revealingly, War on Want acknowledges that the BDS campaign against Israel, in which it has heavily invested, *“is solidarity, not charity.”*<sup>58</sup>
- 3.6. Even though Palestinians do not suffer from particularly high levels of poverty, War on Want has focused disproportionately on its political campaigns against Israel. For example, at the date of this submission, 3 out of 8 “urgent actions” promoted on War on Want’s website<sup>59</sup> are political campaigns against Israel. Moreover, these campaigns single out Israel for special treatment, including treating Israel and its people as pariahs who must be boycotted.<sup>60</sup> They implement a double standard which is antisemitic<sup>61</sup> and promote antisemitism, contrary to the public benefit.

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[https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Briefing%20Humanitarian%20Crisis%20in%20Gaza.pdf?\\_ga=2.149059062.1577343931.1534060234-2131497820.1533461793&\\_gac=1.255069946.1534148334.CjwKCAjw2MTbBRASEiwAdYIpsUN8hTHy7buwOrlesGDd9qe1jDe-uChk26G0t3mvEJrY9R\\_Z31htZxoCFJEQAvD\\_BwE](https://waronwant.org/sites/default/files/Briefing%20Humanitarian%20Crisis%20in%20Gaza.pdf?_ga=2.149059062.1577343931.1534060234-2131497820.1533461793&_gac=1.255069946.1534148334.CjwKCAjw2MTbBRASEiwAdYIpsUN8hTHy7buwOrlesGDd9qe1jDe-uChk26G0t3mvEJrY9R_Z31htZxoCFJEQAvD_BwE)

58 <https://www.waronwant.org/media/bds10-decade-solidarity-palestine>

59 <https://waronwant.org/urgent-actions>

60 Even though other countries have encouraged settlement of their nationals in disputed territories under their control, such as Turkey in Northern Cyprus, Morocco in Western Sahara, Armenia in Nagorno-Karabakh, and Russia in Abkhazia and Crimea: see Kontorovich, Eugene, “Unsettled: A Global Study of Settlements in Occupied Territories” (7 September 2016), *The Journal of Legal Analysis* 2017, *Northwestern Public Law Research Paper No. 16-20*

[https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2835908](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2835908); and other countries have committed far more serious violations of human rights than Israel, e.g. Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran, North Korea, Sudan.

61 “Applying double standards by requiring of [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation” is cited as an a contemporary example of antisemitism in the international accepted

## Poverty gaps

- 3.7. The World Bank has adopted an international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day at purchasing power parity exchange rates.<sup>62</sup> According to World Bank figures adopted by the UN, the poverty gap from this line in the West Bank and Gaza in 2011 (the latest year for which these figures are available) was only 0.1%. By contrast, the poverty gap from this line in 2011 was 17.8% in sub-Saharan Africa and 3.3% in the world as a whole.<sup>63</sup>
- 3.8. The corresponding figure for the West Bank and Gaza in 2007 was 0.4%<sup>64</sup> indicating that the overall position there improved after Israel imposed various controls (characterised by War on Want as a “siege”) following the takeover of Gaza by the Hamas terrorist organisation.
- 3.9. If the higher poverty line of \$3.20 per day is used, the poverty gap in the West Bank and Gaza in 2011 was still only 0.6%, in contrast to sub-Saharan Africa where the corresponding figure was 34.5% and the world as a whole where it was 12.1%.<sup>65</sup> Again, this statistic for the West Bank and Gaza had improved since 2007.
- 3.10. Not surprisingly, the World Bank classifies the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a “lower middle income economy”, and not as a low income economy.<sup>66</sup>

## Life Expectancy

- 3.11. One indication of poverty is the life expectancy of the general population. In Gaza average life expectancy is 74.2 years.<sup>67</sup> Gaza comes about mid-way in the chart for life expectancy, at number 124 out of 224 countries listed. The CIA figures show that Gaza has a higher life expectancy than, for example, Brazil (74),

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Working Definition of Antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA): <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

<sup>62</sup> The World Bank, Press Release, 4 October 2015: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/10/04/world-bank-forecasts-global-poverty-to-fall-below-10-for-first-time-major-hurdles-remain-in-goal-to-end-poverty-by-2030>

<sup>63</sup> UN data, sourced from The World Bank, World Development Indicators [http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?q=poverty&d=WDI&f=Indicator\\_Code%3aSI.POV.GAPS](http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?q=poverty&d=WDI&f=Indicator_Code%3aSI.POV.GAPS)

<sup>64</sup> *Ib.*

<sup>65</sup> UN data, sourced from The World Bank, World Development Indicators [http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?q=poverty&d=WDI&f=Indicator\\_Code%3aSI.POV.LMIC.GP](http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?q=poverty&d=WDI&f=Indicator_Code%3aSI.POV.LMIC.GP)

<sup>66</sup> <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

<sup>67</sup> The World Factbook (CIA 2017) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2102rank.html>

Jamaica (73.7), Egypt (73) and Russia (71). In contrast people in sub-Saharan Africa have a life expectancy of only 60.3.<sup>68</sup>

- 3.12. Gaza also has one of the lowest death rates in the world (222 out of 226 territories), in contrast to, for example, Lesotho (1), Guinea-Bissau (6), Chad (7), Central African Republic (11) and the UK (55).<sup>69</sup>
- 3.13. Life expectancy in the West Bank and Gaza has risen steadily since 1990 when it was 68.05. In 2007 it was 71.94 and in 2015 it was 73.3.<sup>70</sup> The restrictions implemented by Israel following the takeover of Gaza by the terrorist organisation Hamas in 2007, characterised by War on Want as a “siege”, have not had a detrimental effect on the steadily increasing life expectancy in the Palestinian territories.

### **Maternal Mortality Rate**

- 3.14. Another indication of poverty is the maternal mortality rate (MMR). The MMR in the “State of Palestine” has fallen steadily from 118 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 96 in 1995, 72 in 2000, 62 in 2005, 54 in 2010, and 45 in 2015.<sup>71</sup> The MMR figures for sub-Saharan Africa have also fallen, but differ by an order of magnitude: 987 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1990, 928 in 1995, 846 in 2000, 717 in 2005, 624 in 2010, 546 in 2015.
- 3.15. Maternal mortality in sub-Saharan Africa is thus more than 10 times as bad as that in Gaza and the West Bank, and nowhere near comparable, as War on Want claimed. Furthermore, the situation in the West Bank and Gaza has steadily improved since Israel imposed restrictions on Gaza in 2007 following the Hamas takeover.
- 3.16. In respect of MMR, the Gaza Strip and West Bank come about mid-way down the rankings of 184 territories at numbers 98 and 99.<sup>72</sup> At 45 per 100,000, their MMR is significantly better than, for example, Tunisia (62), Venezuela (95) or Morocco (121).

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<sup>68</sup> The World Bank <https://data.worldbank.org/region/sub-saharan-africa> (2016 figure). The CIA’s World Factbook (2017) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2102rank.html> provides figures for individual countries in 2017, e.g. Chad 50.6, Guinea-Bissau 51.00, Gabon 52.1, Nigeria 53.8, Niger 55.9, Burkina Faso 55.9, etc.

<sup>69</sup> The World Factbook (CIA 2017) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2066rank.html>

<sup>70</sup> IndexMundi, <https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/west-bank-and-gaza/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN>

<sup>71</sup> UNICEF, accessed on 11 August 2018 from Download Data link on <https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/maternal-mortality/>

<sup>72</sup> The World Factbook (CIA 2017) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2223rank.html>

### Infant Mortality Rate

- 3.17. Another symptom of poverty is a high infant mortality rate. In 2017 the Gaza Strip was ranked at 97 out of 225 territories of the world with 16.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, while the West Bank was ranked at 105 with 14.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.<sup>73</sup>
- 3.18. Infant mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa were several times higher, for example, Somalia (94.8 per 1000 live births), Central African Republic (86.3), Guinea Bissau (85.7), Chad (85.4).

### Child Malnutrition

- 3.19. Malnutrition of children under 5 years old in Gaza and the West Bank has reduced significantly since 2007 and is much lower than in sub-Saharan Africa, India, Indonesia, and many other countries. It is also significantly lower than in the neighbouring countries, Egypt and Jordan, and slightly lower than in Turkey.<sup>74</sup>

		Severe wasting	Wasting	Over weight	Stunting	Under weight
Gaza & West Bank	2006-7	0.7	1.8	11.4	11.8	2.2
Gaza & West Bank	2014	0.3	1.2	8.2	7.4	1.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	2017	1.8	6.9	4.1	32.6	Not available
India	2015-6	7.5	21	2.1	38.4	35.7
Indonesia	2013	6.7	13.5	11.5	36.4	19.9
Egypt	2014	4.8	9.5	15.7	22.3	7.0
Jordan	2012	0.7	2.4	4.7	7.8	3.0
Turkey	2013-4	0.4	1.7	10.9	9.5	1.9

- 3.20. The most prevalent form of child malnutrition in Gaza and the West Bank in 2014 was overweight. No War on Want campaign addresses this issue, which is itself an indication that War on Want is not genuinely seeking to promote the welfare of Palestinians.
- 3.21. Overall 15.4 % of children in Gaza and the West Bank suffered from some form of malnutrition in 2014. By contrast, in sub-Sahara countries over 60% of children

<sup>73</sup> The World Factbook (CIA 2017) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/rankorder/2091rank.html>

<sup>74</sup> UNICEF/WHO/World Bank joint child malnutrition estimates <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/> country level table, global and regional table, downloaded 12 August 2018

suffer malnutrition, e.g. Comoros: 66.7%, Lesotho 64.9%, Gambia 64.9%, Ethiopia 64%, Niger 62.3%.<sup>75</sup>

### **Literacy**

- 3.22. The West Bank and Gaza had an adult literacy rate of 97% in 2016, as compared with 64% in Sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>76</sup>
- 3.23. The literacy rate in the West Bank and Gaza increased from 94% in 2007 to 97% in 2016<sup>77</sup>. It has therefore improved since Israel imposed controls (characterised by War on Want as a “siege”) following the takeover of Gaza by the Hamas terrorist organisation.

### **Male employment**

- 3.24. The rate of male employment in the West Bank and Gaza rose from 52.8% in 2007 to 56.6% in 2017. By contrast, in sub-Saharan Africa male employment stood at 31.2% in 2017.

### **Conclusion**

- 3.25. Each of the above measures of poverty or its symptoms shows that Gaza and the West Bank are not particularly poor in global terms, and that poverty in these areas has reduced since Israel imposed various controls following Gaza’s takeover by the Hamas terrorist organisation.
- 3.26. War on Want’s claims that Gaza suffers from levels of poverty similar to sub-Saharan Africa due to Israel’s alleged “siege” are false and do not justify its political campaigns aimed at destroying Israel. These campaigns fall outside its charitable objects and War on Want’s fund-raising for them is based on false representations. Its disproportionate focus on these campaigns singling out Israel is also antisemitic and promotes antisemitism.

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<sup>75</sup> UNICEF/WHO/World Bank overlapping malnutrition estimates  
<https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/> - figures obtained by subtracting % free from wasting, overweight, stunting from 100%

<sup>76</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics, reported by The World Bank:  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.LITR.ZS?view=chart>;  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.LITR.ZS?locations=ZG&view=chart>

<sup>77</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.LITR.ZS?locations=PS>

## 4. FALSE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING ISRAEL

### Introduction

- 4.1. War on Want's website and reports make numerous false allegations regarding Israel that mislead donors and other members of the public and promote prejudice and antisemitism. Some examples are set out below. These examples are far from exhaustive but suffice to illustrate the problem. This misconduct is contrary to the public benefit as it stokes hatred of Israel and Jews and encourages antisemitism. It is also liable to bring War on Want and charities generally into disrepute.

### False claims of dire poverty in Gaza and the West Bank

- 4.2. See section 3 of this submission above.

### Descriptions of terrorists serving prison sentences as “political prisoners”

- 4.3. War on Want defines a “political prisoner” in several places on its website as “*someone who is arrested and detained because of their identity, beliefs or political activities*”.<sup>78</sup> Indeed this is the normal meaning of the term.
- 4.4. In one of these places the text continues: “*In the Palestinian context, political prisoners refer to people detained in relation to the Israeli occupation, as opposed to detainees suspected or convicted of crimes/offences of criminal activity unrelated to the occupation.*”<sup>79</sup> Even this passage does not mention that these prisoners have been detained because of their involvement in terrorism, rather than simply because of their identity, beliefs or political activities. Therefore it does not negate even on this page (let alone on other pages) the representation that references to political prisoners refer to those detained because of their identity beliefs or political activities.
- 4.5. War on Want then asserts that “*Israel holds thousands of Palestinians as political prisoners*”<sup>80</sup>; “*As of June 2018, Israel is holding nearly 6000 Palestinians as political prisoners*”<sup>81</sup>; “*Israel holds thousands of Palestinian men, women and*

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<sup>78</sup> <https://www.waronwant.org/stories>; <https://www.waronwant.org/palestinian-political-prisoners>; <https://waronwant.org/media/%E2%80%98-child%E2%80%99s-place-not-prison%E2%80%99-scandal-israeli-prison-crisis>

<sup>79</sup> <https://waronwant.org/palestinian-political-prisoners>

<sup>80</sup> <https://waronwant.org/palestinian-political-prisoners>

<sup>81</sup> *Ib.*, under the heading “BACKGROUND”



*children as political prisoners*”<sup>82</sup>; and “*As of October 2016, Israel is holding 7000 Palestinians as political prisoners*”<sup>83</sup>.

- 4.6. While Israel holds approximately 6,000 Palestinians as security prisoners, it is untrue to say that they are “political prisoners” as War on Want defines the term. Approximately 3,500 have been sentenced for a crime, with the majority of the remainder being held on remand pending trial for alleged crimes.<sup>84</sup> Over 2,000 are serving sentences for the murder of Israelis.<sup>85</sup>

#### **False allegations regarding conditions in Israeli prisons**

- 4.7. War on Want claims that “*Israeli prisons and detention centres are known for their poor conditions and detainees often suffer from medical problems as a consequence, further compounded by the denial of adequate medical care*”.<sup>86</sup>
- 4.8. This is completely false. Palestinian held in Israeli prisons receive medical treatment when required, their religious rights are respected, education is encouraged, and hot water, showers, sanitation, ventilation and electric infrastructure are provided.<sup>87</sup> There are regular visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross.<sup>88</sup>
- 4.9. Recently released Palestinian prisoner, Ahed Tamimi, described her time in prison in an interview by RT TV: “*There were many things I did there. As I stated I took the law course, we spent a long time on it. Studying for High School, I was reading books. We were singing. We even were making group breakfast. Every room brings their own stuff and we have breakfast together outside. Also having lunch together most of the time. We also had parties. We were singing and dancing. Many things we spent our time together, like watching TV and jumping in the rooms and going crazy.*”<sup>89</sup>
- 4.10. Muhammad Hilal, asked by PA TV in 2013 to “describe a day in your life in prison” similarly replied: “*In the morning we'd exercise from 7:00 until 8:00... Then the guys would get together in the prison yard and we'd chat, talk, eat, drink, joke and play, etc., throughout the day. At noon the guys would go to their rooms*

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<sup>82</sup> <https://www.waronwant.org/stories>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.waronwant.org/media/%E2%80%98-child%E2%80%99s-place-not-prison%E2%80%99-scandal-israeli-prison-crisis>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.hamoked.org/prisoners.aspx>

<sup>85</sup> [http://www.cogat.mod.gov.il/en/Our\\_Activities/Pages/Security-Prisoners-.aspx](http://www.cogat.mod.gov.il/en/Our_Activities/Pages/Security-Prisoners-.aspx)

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.waronwant.org/prisons-and-detention-centres>

<sup>87</sup> [http://www.cogat.mod.gov.il/en/Our\\_Activities/Pages/Security-Prisoners-.aspx](http://www.cogat.mod.gov.il/en/Our_Activities/Pages/Security-Prisoners-.aspx)

<sup>88</sup>

[https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic\\_load\\_id=277247&year=2017#wrapper](https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=277247&year=2017#wrapper)

<sup>89</sup> <https://twitter.com/StandWithUs/status/1026180646765580288>

*for roll-call. Noon roll-call is from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Roll-call time is time for resting in the rooms. Each group has a routine inside the rooms: Nap time, reading time, study time. Some sleep, some read. At 1:30 or 12:30 p.m. they'd take us out to the yard again. We'd spend [time] with the guys walking, laughing, playing, joking, etc., until dark. Then back to the rooms. They'd lock us up until 6:00 a.m., roll-call time.*"<sup>90</sup>

- 4.11. In a speech broadcast on PA TV on 23 July 2018, the Director of the PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake, stated that 900 Palestinians in Israeli prisons were taking high school matriculation examinations and more than 1000 were studying for university degrees.<sup>91</sup>

### **Misleading descriptions of Israeli legal proceedings**

- 4.12. War on Want alleges that "*There is no semblance of due process in [Israeli military] courts*".<sup>92</sup> In fact, the same evidentiary rules apply in the military as in civilian courts. For example, no prisoners can be convicted on a confession alone. Almost all defendants had legal representation.<sup>93</sup>
- 4.13. War on Want states: "*The Israeli military boasts over a 99% conviction rate in its military courts. While this is meant to demonstrate the effectiveness of the courts, it actually shows that the entire process of arrest, interrogation and detention under military occupation is completely skewed and lacking justice.*"<sup>94</sup>
- 4.14. This is highly misleading. Israeli civilian courts within the "Green Line" also have a conviction rate in excess of 99%.<sup>95</sup> In the Israeli justice system, whether civil or military, criminal cases are investigated extensively before charges are laid and only pursued where the prosecution is certain of conviction.
- 4.15. Conviction rates in criminal courts are often high, particularly if the prosecution is efficient and only proceeds with watertight cases, since many defendants plead guilty. Japan has had a conviction rate in excess of 99.8% in recent years.<sup>96</sup> US Federal Courts had a conviction rate of 91.1% in 2013-2014<sup>97</sup>. Even in England

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<sup>90</sup> 4 May 2013, reported by Palestinian Media Watch

[http://palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=157&doc\\_id=26188](http://palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=157&doc_id=26188)

<sup>91</sup> Reported by Palestinian Media Watch [http://palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=157&doc\\_id=26188](http://palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=157&doc_id=26188)

<sup>92</sup> <https://waronwant.org/military-courts>

<sup>93</sup>

[https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic\\_load\\_id=277247&year=2017#wrapper](https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?dynamic_load_id=277247&year=2017#wrapper)

<sup>94</sup> <https://waronwant.org/military-courts>

<sup>95</sup> <https://lawinisrael.wordpress.com/2013/05/13/why-is-the-conviction-rate-in-criminal-courts-in-israel-so-very-high/>; [http://weblaw.haifa.ac.il/he/Faculty/GazalAyal/Publications/Oren\\_Gazal-Ayal-Acq.pdf](http://weblaw.haifa.ac.il/he/Faculty/GazalAyal/Publications/Oren_Gazal-Ayal-Acq.pdf)

<sup>96</sup> <http://hakusyo1.moj.go.jp/en/65/nfm/mokuji.html> Part 2, Chapter 3, Section 1, Table 2-3-1-1

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fjs14st.pdf> table 4.2

and Wales, where the Crown Prosecution Service is frequently criticised for incompetence,<sup>98</sup> the conviction rate is 86%.<sup>99</sup>

- 4.16. Therefore the allegation that the high conviction rate in Israel's military courts shows that the entire process is skewed and lacking justice is without foundation.

#### **Exaggeration of violence by Israeli residents in the West Bank**

- 4.17. In an article dated 13 August 2015 entitled "*Israeli settler violence is Israeli state violence, and the UK is complicit*"<sup>100</sup>, which remains posted on its website, War on Want quotes its terrorist-linked partner, Al Haq, stating "*Incidents of settler violence against Palestinians – involving the use of live ammunition, other forms of assault, and the destruction and denial of access to property – have intensified in frequency and severity over the course of the last several years, becoming one of the primary concerns for the safety of the Palestinian civilian population in the West Bank.*"

- 4.18. This allegation was and is misleading. The number of attacks by a tiny and extreme minority of Israeli residents of the West Bank on Palestinians or Palestinian property is minimal and decreased during the period prior to the report. According to the UN, there were 6 such attacks per month leading to casualties in the first half of 2017, 2 per month in 2016, 8 per month in 2015, 9 per month in 2014, 8 per month in 2013 and 8 per month in 2012; and there were 9 such attacks per month leading to property damage in the first half of 2017, 6 per month in 2016, 11 per month in 2015, 18 per month in 2014, 25 per month in 2013 and 22 per month in 2012.<sup>101</sup>

- 4.19. These figures should be compared to the Palestinian population of the West Bank of over 2.7 million in 2017. London, with a population of 8.8 million, had nearly 250,000 reported crimes of violence against the person in 2017.<sup>102</sup>

- 4.20. Domestic violence<sup>103</sup> and vehicle accidents<sup>104</sup> are indeed far more prevalent risks to the safety of Palestinians in the West Bank. It should also be noted that attacks by Palestinians on Israelis in the West Bank are much more frequent than attacks

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<sup>98</sup> See e.g. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/7413829/Criminals-escaping-justice-due-to-CPS-flaws-says-judge.html>

<sup>99</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/707935/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly-december-2017.doc.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/707935/criminal-justice-statistics-quarterly-december-2017.doc.pdf)

<sup>100</sup> <https://waronwant.org/media/israeli-settler-violence-israeli-state-violence>

<sup>101</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/increase-settler-violence-during-first-half-2017>

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/crime-data-dashboard/>

<sup>103</sup> [http://www.itcoop-jer.org/sites/default/files/right\\_sidebar/Factsheet%20GBV\\_Palestine%202015\\_WELOD%20PROGRA\\_MME\\_nuovo%20logo.pdf](http://www.itcoop-jer.org/sites/default/files/right_sidebar/Factsheet%20GBV_Palestine%202015_WELOD%20PROGRA_MME_nuovo%20logo.pdf)

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-the-wild-west-bank-traffic-laws-are-mere-recommendations/>

by Israelis on Palestinians, even though there are far fewer Israelis living in the West Bank.<sup>105</sup>

- 4.21. The title of War on Want's article characterises the alleged violence by Israeli residents of the West Bank as "*Israeli state violence*" and the article claims that Israeli residents of the West Bank have no real risk of being held to account for attacks on Palestinians. This is also misleading. The Israeli authorities do not sponsor such attacks and they do enforce the law against offenders when they can identify and prove the case against them.
- 4.22. The article continues with the allegations: "*Settlers frequently set fire to Palestinian homes, mosques and churches. They also poison water sources and livestock, uproot and burn olive trees, and attack farmers as they are harvesting crops.*" These allegations are either completely false or grossly exaggerated. False allegations of poisoning water sources are reminiscent of mediaeval blood libels, with a similar propensity to promote antisemitism. Such allegations have been found to be baseless, as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas found when he had to retract an allegation made in a speech to the European Parliament.<sup>106</sup>

## 5. SUMMARY

- 5.1. War on Want partners with organisations closely linked to the PFLP and other terrorist entities. It implements and finances joint campaigns with these organisations that promote the objectives of their terrorist associates, such as pressurising Israel to free imprisoned terrorists and compromising the security of Israeli prisons.
- 5.2. War on Want's activities have a disproportionate focus on political campaigns against Israel, that are not justified by its false claims that Gaza and the West Bank suffer from dire poverty similar to sub-Saharan Africa. These campaigns are outside its charitable objects, which are directed at relieving poverty. They constitute a misuse of War on Want's resources, and promote antisemitism contrary to the public interest. Fund-raising for these campaigns is based on misrepresentation and exploits ignorance and prejudice.

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<sup>105</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/increase-settler-violence-during-first-half-2017>

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Abbas-retracts-charge-that-rabbis-called-for-poisoning-Palestinian-water-457690#/>

- 5.3. War on Want produces and disseminates false propaganda against Israel that misleads donors and other members of the public, stokes hatred of Israel and Jews, and encourages antisemitism, contrary to the public benefit.

3 September 2018



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