



ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

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October 2, 2009

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General of the United States
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

The Honorable George S. Cardona
United States Attorney, Central District of California
411 West Fourth Street, Suite 8000
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599

Dear Attorney General Holder and U.S. Attorney Cardona:

We write to convey our concerns about troubling conduct that occurred on one of our public university campuses last May: At the University of California, Irvine, a student group called the Muslim Student Union (MSU) and an MSU-sponsored speaker named George Galloway, solicited funds for "Viva Palestina," Galloway's convoy to Gaza. We are concerned that the funds raised at UC Irvine may have been for the purpose of providing material support and resources to Hamas, a U.S.-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization, in violation of the law.

On May 21, 2009, the MSU sponsored George Galloway, a member of the British Parliament, to speak about "Viva Palestina" at UC Irvine. At the event, the MSU and Mr. Galloway solicited funds for Viva Palestina from the over 850 people in the audience. The MSU coordinated the distribution of collection boxes and organized volunteers to collect them. Several individuals witnessed this, and there is a videotape of the event showing the solicitation of funds, which we would be pleased to furnish to you. We are concerned that the funds solicited by the MSU and Galloway may have been delivered to Hamas in Gaza in July 2009.

We assume that UC Irvine has already contacted you. When we recently brought these and related concerns about the conduct of the MSU and George Galloway to UC Irvine's attention, its Chief Campus Counsel and Associate General Counsel, Diane Fields Geocaris, responded that "UC Irvine takes very seriously allegations of wrongdoing. We appreciate your [the Zionist Organization of America] bringing this to

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our attention. Ms. Geocarlis represented that “the University has referred th[e] matter to law enforcement officials for action as they deem appropriate.” She sent copies of her letter to, among others, UC President Mark Yudof, UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman. A copy of Ms. Geocarlis’ letter is enclosed.

Galloway’s Viva Palestina UK Convoy Provides Aid to Hamas

A few months before his visit to UC Irvine, George Galloway led a convoy of trucks loaded with supplies to Gaza in March 2009 (“Viva Palestina UK”). Reportedly, these supplies, which included more than 100 trucks and approximately 1.4 million dollars, were delivered to Hamas. (See Steven Emerson’s article, “American Aid Convoy to Gaza Serves Hamas’ Objectives,” *Jewish World Review*, Aug. 31, 2009, at http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0809/eemerson083109.php3?printer_friendly.)

When Mr. Galloway arrived in Gaza in March 2009, he gave a public address announcing the donations, which was broadcast on Arab television. In the presence of several senior Hamas officials, he publicly proclaimed: “We are giving you now 100 vehicles and all of the contents, and we make no apology for what I am about to say: We are giving them to the elected government of Palestine.” (See the clip of Mr. Galloway’s address at <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/2060.htm>, and a transcript of his address at http://www.memritv.org/clip_transcript/en/2060.htm). According to the Israeli paper, *Haaretz*, Hamas’ minister of social affairs hailed Galloway as a “hero.” <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1069774.html>.

Galloway is Refused Entry into Canada for Providing Material Support to Hamas

Galloway planned to visit Canada after he returned from Gaza. He was refused entry on national security grounds. A spokesperson for Canada’s immigration minister said, “We’re going to uphold the law, not give special treatment to this infandous streetcorner Cromwell who actually brags about giving ‘financial support’ to Hamas, a terrorist organization banned in Canada. . . . I’m sure Galloway has a large Rolodex of friends in regimes elsewhere in the world willing to roll out the red carpet for him. Canada, however, won’t be one of them.” <http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2009/mar/20/george-galloway-banned-canada/print>

Galloway and the MSU Solicit Funds at UC Irvine for Viva Palestina US

After Mr. Galloway’s Viva Palestina UK convoy, he went on a speaking tour in the United States, encouraging Americans to organize and contribute to their own Viva Palestina convoy. One of his stops was UC Irvine, where Galloway spoke and both he and the MSU solicited funds from the audience.

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The MSU and Galloway May Have Used UC Irvine to Raise Funds for Hamas

We have reason to believe that Mr. Galloway and the MSU used UC Irvine as a base for fundraising for a U.S.-designated terrorist group. In July 2009, Galloway's Viva Palestina US led a convoy to Gaza. In his article about Viva Palestina (cited above), Steven Emerson reported that "Galloway and a crew of approximately 200 Americans met with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, who praised the U.S. convoy as 'proof that the American people is not entirely a people of occupation and is not entirely on the side of the criminal Zionist regime'" – a demonizing reference, of course, to the Jewish State of Israel.

We are aware that before Galloway's visit to UC Irvine, the Anti-Defamation League contacted Attorney General Holder and urged him to investigate Viva Palestina US to determine whether funds were being raised to provide material support to the terrorist group Hamas. Now that it appears that our colleges and universities are being used to support and promote terrorist groups like Hamas, the need to investigate is even greater.

We urge you to investigate what occurred at UC Irvine on May 21, 2009. Respectfully, we strongly suggest that the investigation not only scrutinize the conduct of the MSU and George Galloway, but also the conduct of UC Irvine officials. UC Irvine's policies are crystal clear that before undertaking fundraising, the MSU was required to obtain University approval. Not only did the MSU fail to comply with the rules; according to UC Irvine's own records (which were obtained as the result of a request pursuant to the California Public Records Act), the MSU represented to the University that the event was not going to be a fundraiser. The representation was false.

UC Irvine officials knew or should have known that the MSU's solicitation of funds had not been approved by the University. But at least four University officials were present at the Galloway event. Not one of them put a stop to the solicitation of funds, or apparently, saw fit to report the misconduct to senior University officials. The University's response to the public records request reflects that a University official submitted a report about the Galloway event to Vice Chancellor Manuel Gomez. The report does not even mention that the MSU and Galloway solicited funds for Viva Palestina.

We appreciate the U.S. Department of Justice's strong commitment to combating terrorism, and believe that especially since 9/11, fighting terrorism is every American's responsibility. That means, we believe, ensuring that our colleges and universities are not used in any way to support or promote U.S.-designated terrorist groups like Hamas that deliberately murder innocent people.

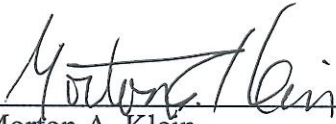
Should you need additional information, including videotaped footage from the UC Irvine event showing the solicitation of funds for Viva Palestina, or the contact

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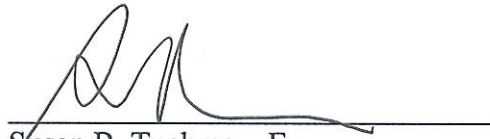
information for the several individuals who witnessed the solicitation and have come forward, we would be pleased to provide it. In addition, we assume that UC Irvine will have plenty of information relevant to your investigation.

We thank you for all your efforts to fight terrorism and to hold accountable those who promote or support terrorist groups like Hamas.

Very truly yours,



Morton A. Klein
National President



Susan B. Tuchman, Esq.
Director, Center for Law and Justice

Enclosure

cc: Diane Fields Geocaris, Esq.
UC Irvine Chancellor Michael Drake
UC President Mark Yudof
The Honorable Brad Sherman
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Assemblyman Chuck DeVore
Rabbi Marvin Hier, Simon Wiesenthal Center
Rabbi Marc Dworkin, American Jewish Committee
Dr. Kevin O'Grady, Anti-Defamation League
Ted Bleiweis, Orange County Independent Task Force on Anti-Semitism