

July 8, 2020

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Re: Call for Investigation of Domestic Activities of Affiliates of Certain Designated Foreign Terror Organizations

Dear Attorney General Barr, Associate Attorney General Brand, and Assistant Attorney General Rabbitt:

In July 2018, Zachor Legal Institute, (“**Zachor**”) a non-profit legal foundation focused on eliminating discrimination and protecting constitutional rights, sent your respective predecessors a letter (the “**2018 Investigation Request**”) outlining the reasons for an investigation into various groups providing material support to designated foreign terror organizations. We are now updating and reiterating that request in light of the spread of violence tied to those groups in affiliation with the Black Lives Matter movement.

In the 2018 Investigation Request, we identified domestic criminal activities of affiliates of certain foreign terror organizations (as determined under 8 U.S. Code § 1189), including, but not limited to, Hamas, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Palestine Islamic Jihad (collectively, the “**Designated Terror Organizations**”). The criminal acts occur as part of an organized campaign conducted by parent organizations that include American Muslims for Palestine (and its affiliated entity, Americans for Justice in Palestine Educational Foundation), Dream Defenders (an affiliate of the Black Lives Matter organization), Samidoun, the Muslim Students Association and Students for Justice in Palestine (collectively, the “**Domestic Terror Affiliates**”).

As part of the 2018 Investigation Request, we provided the Department of Justice with reports that contained what we believe was clear and convincing evidence of ties between the Designated Terror Organizations and the Domestic Terror Affiliates. We did not hear back from the Department of Justice, though we did notice that other government agencies began asking certain universities to investigate whether they were hosting organizations and groups that may be providing material support to designated terror organizations, a line of inquiry that continues

to be active.¹ In the 2018 Investigation Request, we provided a legal framework for prosecuting the Domestic Terror Affiliates as part of a RICO enterprise providing material support to terror and we repeat that request here. Because widespread violence is now included in the repertoire of the Domestic Terror Affiliates there are likely more RICO predicates that apply to their activities, though we defer to the Department of Justice on the specific crimes to be investigated.

Since the time of the 2018 Investigation Request, the activities of the Domestic Terror Affiliates have morphed into what we now see as the domestic unrest spread by Black Lives Matter and its affiliates, including the “Antifa” organization. Now, rather than simply focusing on promoting the so-called “BDS Movement”, the Domestic Terror Affiliates are fomenting revolution in the United States, engaging in widespread violence and destruction and working to topple the institutions and principles of the country.

As we first informed you in the 2018 Investigation Request, the Domestic Terror Affiliates are not acting on their own. They are, instead, fronts and proxies for the Designated Terror Organizations and are not only providing them with the same types of material support as we previously documented, they are also now receiving support from those Designated Terror Organizations. The relationship between the two groups has developed into open and bilateral collaboration.

A recent news story on the Black Lives Matter riots shows the extent of the reach of terror organizations into current domestic unrest:

[S]everal pro-Palestinian BDS groups have applied violent terms such as intifada (Arabic for “uprising”) to the current eruption of protests in the wake of Floyd’s death.

The term was the name given to the first and second Palestinian bouts of violence in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and then from 2000 to 2005, which witnessed daily terror attacks, including suicide bombings, stabbings and shootings against Israeli civilians, claiming thousands of lives.

*In a Facebook post, the group **Samidoun**, which advocates for Palestinian prisoners and has ties to the U.S.-designated terror group the **Popular Front of the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)**, called the Floyd protests an “intifada.”*

“We support the uprising in Minneapolis, the intifada of people subjected to an ongoing, vicious and structural racism, inheriting a lengthy and rich tradition of Black resistance, organizing and struggle,” wrote the group.

In a statement, PFLP also expressed its solidarity with the protests.

“It is not surprising for a country like the United States, which has a strategic alliance with the Zionist entity [Israel], to intersect with it in the discrimination, racism and repression that embodies its treatment of Palestinians,” the terror group wrote on its site.”²

These Islamist terror organizations openly admit that they support those behind the violence in the United States and have deemed it to be an Intifada, an Arabic term that is a clear call to violence, as the quoted news story explained. Indeed, the Domestic Terror Affiliates not only use the language of the Designated Terror Organizations (also calling for Intifada in the United States), they also use the tactics of those terror groups. As the Washington Post reported in 2015, Palestinian terror organizations operating in Israel adopted new terror tactics, including riots,

¹ See letters from the Department of Education to three universities (June 28, 2019), <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/06/28/2019-13904/notice-of-investigation-and-record-requests> and the subsequent letter from the General Counsel of the Department of Education to Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, United States Senate (Nov. 27, 2019), https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/leg/psi-nov27-2019.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

² Sean Savage, “Groups on the Far-Left, Far-Right, co-opt Black Lives Matter Movement to Target Israel”, JNS.ORG (June 9, 2020), <https://www.jns.org/groups-on-far-left-far-right-co-opt-black-lives-matter-moves-to-target-israel/>.

knife attacks and improvised weapon attacks, such as gas bombs and vehicular weaponization, the same tactics now used by those affiliated with the Black Lives Matter violence sweeping the United States.³

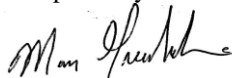
As recently as early July 2020, the Domestic Terror Affiliates, now in open alignment with the Black Lives Matter movement, have called for the destruction of the United States and a spread of the American Intifada, with one of the organizers of the event admitting "... that the Palestinian movement is 'intrinsicly tied to Black Lives Matter.'"⁴

At the time of our 2018 Investigation Request, the threat from the Domestic Terror Affiliates to the United States as a whole was not as clear as it is today (the threat in 2018 was primarily to Jewish Americans). Now, as we see mobs taking over cities, innocent Americans being attacked and killed by rioters and the core principles of the country being threatened, there is little time left to wait for the next escalation of attacks by the Domestic Terror Affiliates. It is no longer only an issue of the safety of just Jewish Americans: all Americans are at risk from the revolutionary calls of those affiliated with Black Lives Matter, acting with the backing of Designated Terror Organizations.

We previously provided the Department of Justice with detailed descriptions of the Domestic Terror Affiliates, including summaries of operatives of each organization and their ties to terror organizations and full reports on each Domestic Terror Affiliate, as well as a chart and report that illustrated the relationships between and among the Domestic Terror Affiliates and the Designated Terror Affiliates. We have included the table of contents from our 2018 Investigation Request as Exhibit 1 hereto as a reminder of the scope and contents of our prior submission. If the Department of Justice would like to receive copies of our original submissions, please email info@zachorlegal.org and we will transfer the files to you.

The Domestic Terror Affiliates have successfully integrated anti-Semitism into modern American culture and their words and tactics have been adopted by Black Lives Matter. As a matter of the survival of the country and the protection of all Americans, including Jewish Americans, we urge you to take action to fully investigate the ties among Black Lives Matter, the Domestic Terror Affiliates and foreign terror groups that are promoting violence and unrest in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,



Marc Greendorfer
President, Zachor Legal Institute

³ William Booth & Ruth English, Israelis are Calling Attacks 'A New Kind of Palestinian Terrorism', WASH. POST (Dec. 24, 2015) ("Young Palestinians with kitchen knives are waging a ceaseless campaign of near-suicidal violence that Israeli leaders are calling "a new kind of terrorism." Four attacks occurred in the past 48 hours alone — two stabbings and two vehicular assaults. There have been about 120 attacks and attempted assaults by Palestinians against Israelis since early October, an average of more than one a day. At least 20 Israelis have been killed.... Many of the assaults or their aftermaths have been captured on cellphone video.")

Compare this to the precursor attacks on Jews in New York in December 2019, where a black American who had been radicalized by the type of anti-Semitic messages spread by the Domestic Terror Affiliates went on a stabbing rampage at a Jewish house of worship, killing one and injuring four others. Michael Gold and Benjamin Weiser, "Suspect in Monsey Stabbings Searched Online for 'Hitler', Charges Say", N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 30, 2019). The suspect in that case named "Zionists" as his enemy, just as the Domestic Terror Affiliates do. In the same timeframe, other attacks on Jews in the United States took place, such as the murders at New Jersey kosher grocery school, again with black Americans as the assailants. Corina Knoll, "How 2 Drifters Brought Anti-Semitic Terror to Jersey City", N.Y. TIMES (Dec. 15, 2019).

⁴ Deborah Danan, "Pro-Palestinian BLM Rallies in U.S. Call for 'Death to Israel, Death to America'", BREITBART.COM (July 6, 2020) <https://www.breitbart.com/middle-east/2020/07/06/pro-palestinian-blm-rallies-in-u-s-call-for-death-to-israel-and-to-america/>.

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Chart

Connections	<i>Connections Between and among the Domestic Terror Affiliates and the Designated Terror Organizations</i>
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Exhibit F	Report: <i>Samidoun: A PFLP Terror Proxy</i>
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