

Ms. Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice President of the European Commission
European External Action Service

June 8, 2017

Open Letter: EU Funding to Organizations that Incite to Violence and Justify Terror

Dear Ms. Mogherini,

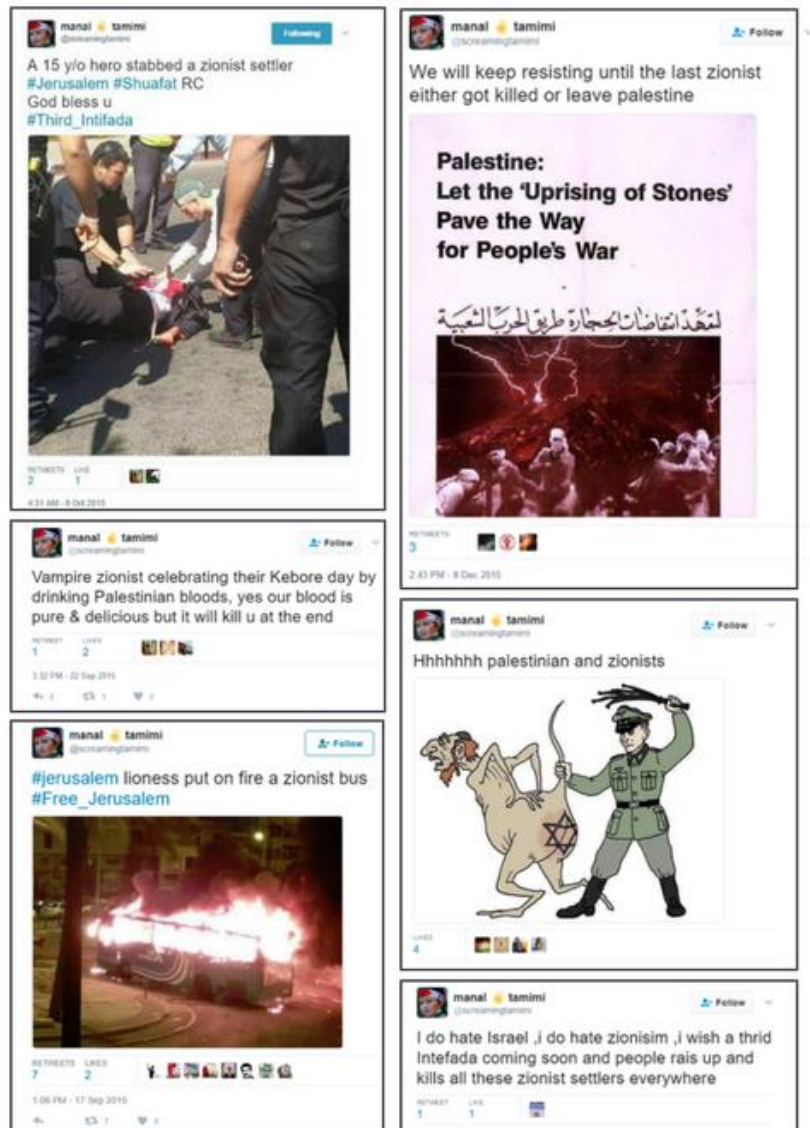
On May 17, 2017, the European Parliament passed a [resolution](#) concerning the Middle East peace process, which “stresses the responsibility of relevant EU authorities in continuing to ensure that no EU funding can be directly or indirectly diverted to terrorist organisations **or activities that incite these acts**” (emphasis added). This unprecedented and welcome commitment provides a foundation for the EU to address its funding to civil society and to challenge the notion that all support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has a positive impact. In recent weeks, the issue of European government funding to NGOs active in the Arab-Israeli conflict has gained considerable traction, following Norway’s and Denmark’s [withdrawal of funding](#) from a Palestinian NGO that glorified terror. Denmark additionally [froze its funding](#) to all NGO beneficiaries of the Human Rights and International Law Secretariat (the Secretariat), pending an investigation. [The Secretariat](#) is a joint funding mechanism of the Danish, Dutch, Swedish, and Swiss governments.

In light of these developments, we would like to bring your attention to EU funding to organizations that incite violence and/or justify terror.

- An EU “[Cultural Diplomacy](#)” grant of €200,000 (2015-2017) was given to three Palestinian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) [for the stated purpose](#) of “increase[ing] public awareness of [EU](#) core values...” Among the recipients is the Ramallah-based group Popular Art Centre (PAC).

In February 2016, PAC [organized a ceremony](#) in honor of “Palestinian martyrs” whose homes were demolished, [featuring](#) the “father of the martyr Baha Eleyan” as a speaker (NGO Monitor translation). Eleyan was [one of two terrorists](#) to board a bus in Jerusalem in October 2015 armed with a gun and a knife, murdering three and injuring seven. The same ceremony featured a [musical performance](#) captioned “no to laying down guns” (NGO Monitor translation).

- The European Union’s East Jerusalem Programme provided [Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling](#) (WCLAC) and three partner organisations with €2.5 million for a project ending April 2019. Manal Tamimi – a WCLAC employee – frequently utilizes antisemitic and violent rhetoric and imagery on social media. In September 2015, Tamimi [tweeted](#), “Vampire zionist celebrating their Kebore day by drinking Palestinian bloods, yes our blood is pure & delicious but it will kill u at the end.” In August 2015, Tamimi [tweeted](#), “I do hate Israel ,i (sic) wish a thrid Intefada (sic) coming soon and people rais (sic) up and kill all these zionist settlers everywhere.”



Far from condemning her actions, WCLAC instead [filed a complaint](#) with the United Nations over the “Frequent targeting of Palestinian human rights defender: Mrs. Manal Tamimi.”

^{1 1} Sources (clockwise):

https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fscreamingtamimi%2Fstatus%2F652083990170472448&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFCrww_nX3lXyxAPihy9flRngOVxw,
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/674358733313478656>,
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/646452060930486272>,
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/662792321994375170>,
https://www.google.com/url?q=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2Fscreamingtamimi%2Fstatus%2F644603364819509249the&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNEA4g38DKPiQi95v_Mh6_OUryhJLA,
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/627589229271490560>

In February 2017, Tamimi was invited to speak at an [EU-funded conference](#) in Barcelona on “preventing violent extremism.”

These are clear examples of the failure of the EU to examine the activities, rhetoric, and impacts of its grantees.

While there is no doubt as to the EU’s commitment to promoting human rights, our findings point to a clear lack of oversight and accountability, resulting in EU funding that is detrimental to this endeavor.

We call on the EU to follow Denmark’s example and to freeze its funding to such organizations pending a thorough review of its funding to Palestinian NGOs.

Sincerely,

Prof. Gerald M. Steinberg
President

Olga Deutsch
Europe Desk Director

CC: H.E. Lars Faaborg-Andersen, European Union Ambassador to Israel