

The Amuta for NGO Responsibility

R.A. # 580465508

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29 March 2017

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**Re: Complaint against Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk for
Promotion of Individual Disseminating Antisemitic Imagery and Violent Rhetoric**

The Amuta for NGO Responsibility is filing this complaint with the President of the Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner for Human Rights against Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories. Mr. Lynk has abused his status as Special Rapporteur to promote an individual responsible for disseminating virulently antisemitic imagery and violent and inciting rhetoric on social media. We ask that the report in which this occurred be immediately withdrawn, that Mr. Lynk be censured for this incident and issue an official apology, and that he be placed under supervision to prevent future abuse of his position.

Under Resolution 5/1 establishing special procedures, Special Rapporteurs are required to exhibit personal integrity, expertise, independence, impartiality, and objectivity.¹ These criteria demand that Special Rapporteurs and other mandate holders must uphold the principles of universal human rights and are to refrain from the dissemination or aiding and abetting of expressions of discrimination, including antisemitism, promotion of violence, or incitement to violence.

Secretary-General António Guterres has reiterated the importance of guarding against antisemitism within UN frameworks: "After the horrors of the 20th century, there should be no room for intolerance in the 21st. I guarantee you that as Secretary-General of the United Nations, I will be in the frontline of the battle against anti-Semitism and all other forms of hatred."² Similarly, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, has called for "greater and more consistent leadership...to address the recent surge in discrimination, anti-Semitism, and violence against ethnic and religious minorities."³

¹ "Basic information on the selection and appointment process for independent United Nations experts of the Human Rights Council," *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner*, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx>.

² António Guterres. "Remarks at Observance of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust," *United Nations Secretary-General*, 27 January 2017, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2017-01-27/secretary-generals-memory-victims-holocaust-remarks>.

³ Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. "UN High Commissioner For Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein Highlights Current Major Human Rights Issues In More Than 40 Countries Around The World In An Address At The Un Human Rights Council In Geneva, 8 March 2017," *United Nations Office at Geneva*, 8 March 2017, [http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/321DBF8562C5336BC12580DD003BF66E?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/321DBF8562C5336BC12580DD003BF66E?OpenDocument).

Special Rapporteur Lynk has failed on all these fronts.

In a report prepared for the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/34/70), he characterized seven Palestinians as “human rights defenders.” The last individual listed was Manal Tamimi, described as “a leader of the protest movement in the Palestinian village of Nabi Saleh.” As documented below, Manal Tamimi cannot be considered a human rights defender by any definition.

Manal Tamimi has promoted terrorism, violence, and virulent antisemitism several times on her Twitter account. In August 2015, Tamimi tweeted, “I do hate Israel ,i (sic) wish a thrird Intefada (sic) coming soon and people rais (sic) up and kills all these zionist settlers everywhere.” In September 2015, on Yom Kippur (a fast day and the holiest day of the year in the Jewish calendar), Tamimi tweeted: “Vampire zionist celebrating their Kebore (sic) day by drinking Palestinian bloods (sic), yes our blood is pure & delicious but it will kill u at the end.” (See screenshots of tweets attached in “Appendix I” for details.)

In order to meet the UN’s definition of “Who is a defender,” two of the criteria are “accepting the universality of human rights” and “peaceful action.”⁴ An individual may not be considered a human rights defender if she denies “some human rights” but claims “to be a human rights defender because he or she is an advocate for others.”

As is clearly shown, Ms. Tamimi’s social media posts reflect extreme antisemitic imagery and rhetoric, incitement, as well as the promotion of violence. She is therefore barred from being characterized as a human rights defender. The inclusion of Ms. Tamimi by Mr. Lynk in his report suggests he did not conduct independent research and verification, but rather blindly repeated claims made by outside organizations.⁵ Alternatively and more troublingly, Mr. Lynk deliberately ignored Ms. Tamimi’s record. Either case indicates Mr. Lynk is unable to carry out his duties as Rapporteur, and without remedial measures should not be allowed to remain in this position.

In light of the severity of this incident, we respectfully request the President of the HRC and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to:

1. Immediately withdraw Mr. Lynk’s report.
2. Begin an open and independent investigation as to how this incident occurred and whether there are other similar issues in his report.
3. Officially censure Mr. Lynk and demand that he issue an official apology.
4. Place Mr. Lynk under close supervision to prevent further abuse.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Herzberg
UN Liaison, Amuta for NGO Responsibility

⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, “who is a defender,” <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SRHRDefenders/Pages/Defender.aspx>

⁵ The inclusion of Ms. Tamimi appears to originate in a document prepared by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), a coalition of 13 Palestinian NGOs. It should be noted that several of the NGOs responsible for this publication have themselves published antisemitic material while others are affiliates of and/or linked to the PFLP terror organization as fully documented in the NGO Monitor report, “[The European-Funded NGO PFLP Network](#).” NGO Monitor is a project of the Amuta for NGO Responsibility.

cc: H.E. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
H.E. Nikki Haley, US Ambassador to the United Nations
H.E. Aviva Raz Shechter, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva
H.E. Julian Braithwaite, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, UK Mission to the UN and Other International Organisations, Geneva
H.E. Peter M. Sørensen, Head of Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva

Appendix I:
Selection of Manal Tamimi's Antisemitic and Violent Tweets

1. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 5 October 2016:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/783785738542481408>



2. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 4 July 2016:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/750019289025961984>



3. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 27 May 2016:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/736278712346247168>



4. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 26 March 2016:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/713850837768929281>



5. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 23 March 2016:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/712761539414007808>



6. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 10 January 2016:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/686144598071103488>



7. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 8 December 2015:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/674358733313478656>

 **manal tamimi**
@screamingtamimi Follow

We will keep resisting until the last zionist either got killed or leave palestine

**Palestine:
Let the 'Uprising of Stones'
Pave the Way
for People's War**

لتعهد انتفاضات الحجارة طريق الحرب الشعبية



RETWEETS
3

2:43 PM - 8 Dec 2015

8. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 6 November 2015:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/662792321994375170>

 **manal tamimi**
@screamingtamimi Follow

Hhhhhhh palestinian and zionists



LIKES
4

4:42 PM - 6 Nov 2015

1 4

9. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 22 September 2015:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/646452060930486272>



10. Manal Tamimi (@screamingtamimi), 1 August 2016:
<https://twitter.com/screamingtamimi/status/627589229271490560>

