



December 31, 2012

**The French Anti-Israeli organization EuroPalestine sent a delegation to the Gaza Strip hosted by the Hamas administration. The delegation held a small, low-profile display near the security fence and promised to promote Hamas' political agenda in France and international legal forums.**



Members of the EuroPalestine delegation create a display near the security fence (Shihab website, December 31, 2012)

## Overview

1. **EuroPalestine is an anti-Israeli French organization headed by Olivia Zemor**, a far-left Jewish-French activist. The organization participates in the campaign to delegitimize Israel and in the anti-Israeli BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanction) campaign.
2. EuroPalestine spearheaded three unsuccessful attempts to send thousands of activists to Israel on three occasions, twice through Ben-Gurion international airport (April 2010 and July 2011) and once over the Allenby Bridge (August 2012). All three events **were intended as provocation**, fodder for the media and to embarrass Israel. However, they did not receive the coverage the organizers hoped for and the event at the Allenby Bridge completely failed to attract media attention.

3. EuroPalestine recently sent a **delegation of close to 100 activists** to the Gaza Strip. On arrival they were received by members of the de-facto Hamas administration. They went to the border fence to hold a small low-profile display. They promised to promote Hamas' political agenda and propaganda in French discourse and in French and international legal forums. They were accompanied by members of other networks connected with the campaign to delegitimize Israel, among them nine activists from an anti-Israeli network called **Freedom Flotilla Italia**, involved in the Gaza Strip flotilla campaigns. Network activists met in the Gaza Strip with operatives of the terrorist organization Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and other terrorist organizations.<sup>1</sup>

## The EuroPalestine Delegation's Visit to the Gaza Strip

4. A delegation of activists organized by EuroPalestine's "Welcome to Palestine" campaign **entered the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing on December 27, 2012**. According to the members of the delegation (who aimed their arrival to coincide with the fourth anniversary of Operation Cast Lead) they came to "**break the illegal siege of the Gaza Strip**." The visit lasted five days. Before their departure for the Gaza Strip they campaigned in a number of cities in France, primarily to collect donations and contributions for the Gazans. As part of the campaign dozens of letters were sent to French President Hollande demanding the imposition of sanctions against Israel (EuroPalestine website, December 17, 2012).

5. The delegation was headed by **Olivia Zemor**, a far left Jewish French activist who is president of EuroPalestine (See Appendix C). Arriving in the Gaza Strip she said that she was very emotional and happy because it was the first time a EuroPalestine delegation had succeeded in entering the Palestinian territories (Press TV, December 27, 2012). [**Note:** The three previous attempts, two through Ben-Gurion international airport and one over the Allenby bridge, failed).

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<sup>1</sup> In our assessment, the meeting with representatives of the PFLP was not a matter of chance. Another indication of a possible connection between EuroPalestine and the PFLP can be found on the EuroPalestine website, December 8, 2012. The website reported that several hundred pro-Palestinian activists met in Toulouse with a senior PFLP figure. The radical left elements that organized the meeting thanked EuroPalestine, which had supported it (See Appendix B). The PFLP is designated as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union.



**Olivia Zemor, EuroPalestine president, leader of the its delegation to the Gaza Strip (Qudsnet website. December 28, 2012)**

6. Most of the members of the delegation (an estimated 60%) were **French**, but there were also members from **Belgium, the United States, Ireland**, and 25 activists from **Egypt**. They brought medicines, foodstuffs (mainly candy) and French textbooks. They were the guests of **Nabil Abu Shamala**, director of planning and policy in the ministry of agriculture of the de-facto Hamas administration. At a press conference held on the eve of the visit he said that he regarded such visits as having great **public relations, legal and political importance**. He said that these kinds of solidarity activists served as "pressure groups" within their own countries and were a **direct means of transmitting information** about the situation in the Gaza Strip (Qudsnet website, December 28, 2012; Al-Aqsa TV December 30, 2012).

7. According to Olivia Zemor, the objective of the visit was to send the international community the message that the Israeli "siege" of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank was illegal and had to be lifted. (**Note:** The Palmer Committee, appointed by the UN secretary general after the violent confrontation aboard the *Mavi Marmara*, determined that **Israel's security closure of the Gaza Strip was a "legitimate security measure" and was motivated by purely security concerns.**) She also said she was willing to act in France on behalf of the Gazan fishermen and for the rights of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails (Interviewed by Hamas' Al-Aqsa TV, December 31, 2012). In addition, members of the delegation said they were planning to document the suffering of the Gazans and to present their findings to legal groups in France and the rest of the world (Shihab website, December 31, 2012).



Left: The delegation visits the Gaza Strip. Right: The delegation at the Al-Shifaa hospital in Gaza City (Bienvenuepalestine.com website, December 28, 2012).

8. In Cairo the delegation was joined by nine activists from the **Freedom Flotilla Italia** network. During their stay in the Gaza Strip they met with senior figures of the **PFLP and representatives of the other terrorist organizations**. Freedom Flotilla Italia is an Italian network involved in the campaign of dispatching flotillas to the Gaza Strip, currently enlisting contributions for a project called **Gaza's Ark**. The goal of the project is to build a boat and sail it from the Gaza Strip loaded with goods as a way of defying the Israeli "siege." In addition, the network is planning to construct a park in Italy and name it for Italian journalist and ISM activist Vittorio Arrigoni, abducted and murdered by a Salafist-jihadi network in the Gaza Strip on April 15, 2011.

### Visiting the Gaza Strip and Creating a Display near the Security Fence

9. During their stay in the Gaza Strip the activists were taken on guided visits organized by Hamas. They visited the Al-Shifaa hospital and various sites in the Gaza Strip hit by the IDF during Operation Pillar of Defense. They repeated the Hamas propaganda mantra that the destruction indicated "Israel's desire to damage the civilian infrastructure," particularly criticizing the IDF hit on the Gaza stadium (Europalestine website, December 28, 2012). (**Note:** The IDF struck weapons stockpiled in the stadium, which served as a launching pad for rockets fired into Israel.) The activists also visited the Islamic University (a Hamas stronghold), the port of Gaza and the monument erected for the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla (Al-Aqsa TV, December 30, 2012).

10. **On the afternoon of December 31**, members of the EuroPalestine delegation, including the members of the Italian network, **gathered near the Israeli border security fence** (apparently in the central or northern Gaza Strip). They later claimed they had seen the damage done by the IDF and expressed solidarity with local farmers

and residents living near the fence. They held a low-key display against the so-called "the occupation forces" and used it for a photo-op near the fence (Shihab News Agency and the Freedom Flotilla Italia websites, December 31, 2012).

## Appendix A

### CAPJPO-EuroPalestine<sup>2</sup>

#### Overview

1. EuroPalestine is a French anti-Israeli pro-Palestinian organization that participates in the campaign to delegitimize Israel. It heads the "Welcome to Palestine" campaign. EuroPalestine seeks to use the campaign to protest the limitations on movement imposed by Israel in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip by means of recruiting thousands of activists and sending them to demonstrate their defiance at Israel's border crossings. The organization twice attempted to hold protests in Ben-Gurion international airport (July 2011 and April 2012), and once again at the Allenby Bridge in Judea (August 2012). All three attempts were unsuccessful. The organization routinely participates in the BDS campaign. EuroPalestine is headed by Olivia Zemor, a Jewish Frenchwoman (See Appendix C).



**EuroPalestine poster calling for volunteers to fly to Ben-Gurion international airport on July 8, 2011, and to proceed from there to Judea and Samaria to spend a week of solidarity with the Palestinians (Bienvenuepalestine.com website).**

<sup>2</sup> *Coordination des appels pour une paix juste au proche orient* – Coordination of the calls for a just peace in the Middle East.

## Anti-Israeli Activities

### Ben-Gurion International Airport

2. EuroPalestine activists tried twice to hold "fly-ins" at Ben-Gurion international airport on July 8, 2011 and April 15, 2012. The organization planned to have thousands of activists arrive at the airport simultaneously and from there go to Judea and Samaria. The objective of the fly-ins was to create a display of defiance well-covered by the media by disturbing public order. Their objective was to express support for the Palestinians, embarrass Israel in the world media and represent Israel as being an "apartheid country" which limited free movement through the Palestinian territories.

3. In effect, the results of the various events did not realize the expectations of the organizers, who had hoped for a turnout of 1500-2000 activists. However, on the ground there were a few limited public disturbances at the airport, and the massive presence of Israeli security forces prevented the occurrence of exceptional provocation. Most of the protests were held by activists who had been prevented from boarding planes in their home countries in Europe, and some of them resulted in confrontations with local security. However, Israel's deployment for their arrival and plans to halt them were widely covered by the Israeli press, although only for a short time, which the EuroPalestine activists, in the absence of the desired outcome, chose to perceive as success.



Left: Activists prevented from leaving for Israel demonstrate at the Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris (Bienvenuepalestine.com website, July 8, 2011). Right: Anti-Israeli activists at the Ben-Gurion international airport (Photo by Ronen Zevulun, courtesy of Reuters, July 8, 2011).

### The Allenby Bridge Crossing

4. Another EuroPalestine anti-Israeli defiant activity was the August 26, 2012 attempt made by an estimated 100 activists to reach Judea and Samaria through the Allenby Bridge. On arrival they planned to create provocations at the crossing as well as in Judea and Samaria, including paying visits to the Israeli-Palestinian friction sites.

5. On August 26, 2012, two buses carrying activists drove to the Allenby Bridge crossing. They were refused entry into Israel and went back, later saying they would try again (Voice of Palestine Radio, August 27, 2012).



**"Welcome to Palestine" activists on their way to the Allenby Bridge  
(Al-Quds website, August 27, 2012).**

## Appendix B

### EuroPalestine Support at a Meeting with a PFLP Activist in Toulouse

1. The EuroPalestine website posted a report about a meeting held on December 8, 2012, **attended by an estimated 100 pro-Palestinian activists in Toulouse, with a senior PFLP activist.** The meeting was organized by a far left organization called **Coup Pour Coup 31**,<sup>3</sup> which posted a notice thanking a number of organizations, among them EuroPalestine, for their support. The meeting was held in a building belonging to a local leftist political party (the New Anti-Capitalist Party) **after the University of Toulouse refused to let them hold it on campus, allegedly following pressure from the CRIF, the French Jewish umbrella organization.**

Nous voudrions remercier l'AGET-FSE, Alternative Libertaire, CAPJPO-Europalestine, Cinémas Utopia, Collectif Palestine Libre, Collectif Solidarité Palestine 31 (*dont sont membres : AP31, AFPS, CCFD-Terre Solidaire 31, CCIPPP, Le Cri, Génération Palestine, GUPS, LDH, Maison de Quartier de Bagatelle, Mouvement de la Paix (comité 31), MRAP, Parténia, Stop Apartheid Toulouse, Solidaires, UD-CGT, Les Alternatifs, C&A, EELV, FASE, GA, GU, MJCF, Motivé-e-s, NPA, PCF, PG, Partit Occitan*), Comité Chiapas Aude, Dechoukaj, ISM-France, OCML-VP, Secours Rouge Arabe, UAT, UJFP pour leur soutien. Nous remercions particulièrement le NPA qui nous accueille dans ses locaux. Et voudrions rappeler notre attachement aux libertés démocratiques, et que cette interdiction dépasse largement notre collectif mais vise à criminaliser toute forme de soutien à la Palestine. **Parce qu'une attaque contre un seul d'entre nous est une attaque contre tous, encore merci à vous tous.**

**The notice issued thanking various organizations, among them EuroPalestine, for their support (Couppourcoup31.over-blog.com website, December 8, 2012).**

<sup>3</sup> Coup Pour Coup ["Blow for blow"] 31 is a far-left French organization established in Toulouse in 2009. Its stated position is anti-imperialist and one of its objectives is the release of terrorist operative Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, imprisoned in France.



Coup Pour Coup 31 poster stating its objectives. Coup Pour Coup 31 is the organization, which organized the meeting with the PFLP activist poster

2. The PFLP activist at the meeting was nicknamed **Abu Sami**, and he was reportedly a **senior activist in the organization and the editor of the organization's official weekly journal Al-Hadef** (published in Ramallah). According to our investigation, he is apparently **Omar Shhadeh, who lives in Ramallah and is a member of the PFLP's political bureau and editor of its journal**. Our investigation also showed that on December 12, 2012, **Omar Shhadeh participated a rally held in Paris to mark the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PFLP's founding**. He gave a speech calling for the extending of the boycott of Israel, and for the divestment of assets (BDS) and for trying senior Israelis in international courts (Dunia al-Watan, December 12, 2012).<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Activists from the terrorist organization PFLP are particularly active in the area of "human rights" as a means of demonizing and defaming Israel: in Ramallah there is a Palestinian human rights organization called Al-Haq which is particularly active in the field of lawfare against Israel. Its general director is Shawan Jabarin, of whom it was said in the verdict given by the Israeli Supreme Court on March 10, 2009 that "the plaintiff is apparently both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Some of the time he is an operative in an organization with does not shrink from murder and attempted murder, which have no connection to [human] rights, rather, they deny the most basic right of all... the right to life."



The meeting in Toulouse with Abu Sami, PFLP activist. Center stage is the PFLP logo (EuroPalestine.com website, December 10, 2012).



Left: Abu Sami, PFLP activist, identified as Omar Shhadeh, editor of the organization's weekly Al-Hadef, as he appears on the organization's website. Right: Abu Sami (third from left) at the meeting in Toulouse; to his left is the PFLP logo (Ladepeche.fr website, December 9, 2012).

### A Short Summary of the Terrorist Attacks Carried Out by the PFLP

3. The PFLP, established in 1967 by George Habash, is a terrorist organization that has specialized in hijacking planes and carrying out showcase and mass murder attacks against Israel. Among them: the PFLP hijacked an **EI-AI plane which took off from Rome en route to Tel Aviv** (November 1968), **shot and threw hand grenades at EI-AI passengers at the Zurich airport** (February 1969), and **blew up a Swissair flight on its way to Israel** (February 21, 1970, 47 killed).

4. The PFLP was also behind the **Japanese Red Army terrorist attack at the Ben-Gurion international airport** (May 30, 1972, 24 killed), the attack at Misgav Am in

**the Upper Galilee** (April 7, 1980, two killed), **the assassination of Israeli Minister of Tourism Rehavam Zeevi** (October 17, 2001), and the **suicide bombing attacks at the Geha Junction in eastern Tel Aviv** (December 25, 2003) and **the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv** (November 1, 2004). In March 2011 terrorist operatives affiliated with the PFLP slaughtered five members of the Fogel family in the village of Itamar.

5. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine **appears on European Union's list of designated terrorist organizations** (Eur-Lex.europa.eu website):

Council Decision 2012/333/CFSP of 25 June 2012 updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Decision 2011/872/CFSP

10. "Hizbul Mujahideen" – "HM"
11. "Hofstadgroep"
12. "Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development"
13. "International Sikh Youth Federation" – "ISYF"
14. "Khalistan Zindabad Force" – "KZF"
15. "Kurdistan Workers' Party" – "PKK", (a.k.a. "KADEK", a.k.a. "KONGRA-GEL")
16. "Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam" – "LTTE"
17. "Ejército de Liberación Nacional" ("National Liberation Army")
18. "Palestinian Islamic Jihad" – "PIJ"
- 19. "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" – "PFLP"**
20. "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine – General Command" (a.k.a. "PFLP – General Command")
21. "Fuerzas armadas revolucionarias de Colombia" – "FARC" ("Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia")
22. "Devrimci Halk Kurtuluş Partisi-Cephesi" – "DHKP/C" (a.k.a. "Devrimci Sol" ("Revolutionary Left"), a.k.a. "Dev Sol") ("Revolutionary People's Liberation Army/Front/Party")
23. "Sendero Luminoso" – "SL" ("Shining Path")
24. "Stichting Al Aqsa" (a.k.a. "Stichting Al Aqsa Nederland", a.k.a. "Al Aqsa Nederland")

25. "Teyrbazen Azadiya Kurdistan" – "TAK" (a.k.a. "Kurdistan Freedom Falcons", a.k.a. "Kurdistan Freedom Hawks")

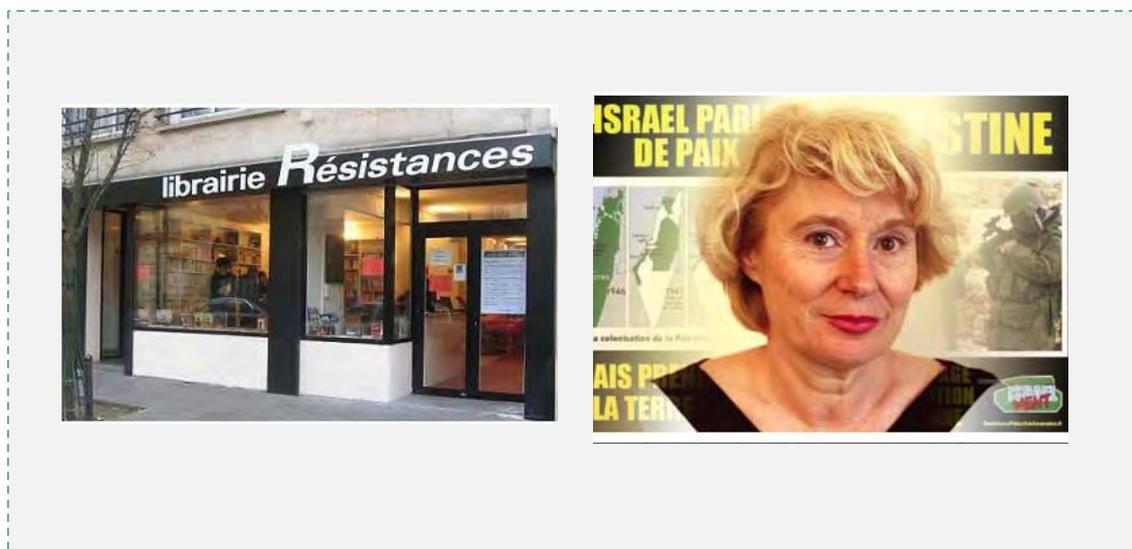
## Appendix C

### Profile of Olivia Zemor

1. **Olivia Zemor**, far-left Jewish-French activist, is co-founder and president of EuroPalestine. She plays a main role in anti-Israeli activity in France and in the campaigns EuroPalestine organizes outside France. Last year she was sentenced to a number of months of probation and a fine for "inciting to boycott" for her activity in the BDS campaign against Israel (which violate French law). The issue is still being debated in the high tribunals in France.

2. Olivia Zemor was born in 1948, has Turkish and Algerian ancestry and lives in Paris. Between 1980 and 1989 she worked as a journalist for Agence France-Presse. She later founded a news agency called APM International, taken over by Reuters in 1999.

3. She is married to Nicholas Shahshahani, born in the United States to an Iranian Shi'ite father and a Jewish mother, who also plays an important role in EuroPalestine. She and her husband own a bookstore called La Librairie Résistances, which has been described in number of publications as pro-Palestinian in nature. The store holds various events and preparatory meetings for EuroPalestine activities.



Left: Olivia Zemor (Voltaire.org website).  
Right: The bookstore run by Olivia Zemor and her husband.

4. In 2002 Olivia Zemor founded CAPJPO-EuroPalestine and today she is its president and the moving spirit behind its activity. Among its activities it has led were the three unsuccessful attempts of the "Welcome to Palestine" campaign and the visit of the delegation to the Gaza Strip. As part of the BDS campaign she is also promoting an

effort to cancel the European soccer tournament for young teams that is supposed to be held in Israel in 2013.

5. Olivia Zemor is known for her far left activity in France. In 2004 she collaborated with the anti-Semitic comedian Dieudonné, and also ran for the European Parliament as head of the EuroPalestine party. As part of her anti-Israeli agenda and incitement she emphasizes claims that Israel wants the extinction of the Palestinian people and prevents Palestinians from realizing their human rights. Her entry into Israel has been denied for security reasons.