



The British-based al-Hiwar TV provides a platform for Ibrahim al-Madhoun, a member of Hamas' department of national relations, who operates from Turkey

March 8, 2022

Overview

► On **February 28, 2022**, a conference was held of the "popular committee of the Palestinian dispersal" (which is affiliated with Hamas and represents the Palestinians abroad). Among the participants were **Dr. Azzam al-Tamimi**, a British subject from Hebron, who is **director of London's al-Hiwar TV in Arabic**. He exploited a stay in Turkey to broadcast a series of panel discussions from Istanbul. **Ibrahim al-Madhoun, a member of Hamas' department of national relations**, was a guest on several programs; al-Madhoun is close to Yahya al-Sinwar and has lived in Turkey since 2018. Al-Madhoun is known for his extremist positions, statements to media outlets and written work, all of which follow **official Hamas propaganda**, including the call for **terrorist attacks against Israel**. He is also critical of Britain. He has often been interviewed by al-Hiwar TV and al-Araby al-Jadeed TV, which also broadcasts from London.

► **Al-Hiwar TV** broadcasts from London via satellite and also has a YouTube channel, a Twitter account and a Facebook page. The channel is affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood and appeals to Muslims all over the world, especially in Europe, broadcasting Islamist/anti-Israeli propaganda. Al-Tamimi belongs to a group of propaganda activists operating in Britain whose objective to inculcate Hamas propaganda, while taking care not to reveal their membership in the movement. **By providing a platform for Ibrahim al-Madhoun and other Hamas operatives, al-Hiwar TV challenges the November 2021 British decision to designate Hamas' political bureau as a terrorist organization.**¹

Al-Hiwar TV Broadcasts from Turkey

► On **February 28, 2022**, a conference of the "popular national committee for the Palestinian dispersal"² was held in Istanbul. Participants included **Dr. Azzam al-Tamimi**, a British subject

¹ For further information, see the December 7, 2021 bulletin, "Palestinian condemnations of the British decision to outlaw Hamas' political bureau."

² The committee began operations in Istanbul in 2017, and holds a conference there every year. Its objective is to motivate popular national activity for Palestinians in the dispersal. The most recent

originally from Hebron. He is the director of the London-based Arabic-language **al-Hiwar TV** channel. During the conference al-Hiwar TV broadcast a number of panel discussions from Istanbul. One of the February 24, 2022 programs was the regular current events show called "Dialogue in London." It was broadcast on a backdrop of a London scene, creating the impression that the participants were there and not in Istanbul. **Ibrahim al-Madhoun** was interviewed on several such programs; he is a member of **Hamas' department of national relations and lives in Turkey**. He also documented his participation on his Twitter account.



Dr. Azzam al-Tamimi (far right), participating in a panel discussion broadcast from Turkey.



The show on al-Madhoun's Twitter account

► The programs from Istanbul dealt with the following issues:

- ◆ **An analysis of the war in Ukraine:** al-Madhoun stressed the weakness of the United States and the West, and the Palestinians' admiration for strong leaders, like Putin.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7f33qNCfVvE>

conference, held at the end of February 2022, attracted about 1,200 Palestinian representatives from fifty countries (popular committee website, March 7, 2022). The Palestinian Authority (PA) leadership does not participate in the conference, which is known for its pro-Islamist tendencies and criticism of the PA.

◆ **An analysis of the situation in the Palestinian dispersal** as it relates to the meeting in Istanbul.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lZSe47qxTA>

◆ **Two analyses of the weakness of the Palestinian Authority and PLO**, and the need for a new Palestinian leadership:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BULPzThFEbE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDs_jByNzLs

► In the past al-Madhoun was particularly critical of Britain. For example, when Britain designated Hamas' political bureau as a terrorist organization in November 2021, he said,

"Including Hamas in the British list of terrorist organizations honors our movement and is a sign we are moving in the right direction. Because what can you expect from the country that founded and supported the [Zionist] entity? Britain is weak and its decisions don't hurt us in the least. It is proof that relying on appeasing the West is nothing but an illusion. They discriminate [against us] and don't have the standards necessary to determine such categories. It is nothing more than obvious, useless support for Israel" (November 19, 2021).

Ebrahem Elma... إبراهيم المدهون غزة...
@ibmadhun 

تصنيف حماس ضمن قائمة الارهاب
البريطانية شرف لحركتنا ومؤشر صحة
مسار، وماذا نتنظر من الدولة التي أسست
ودعمت الكيان.
بريطانيا ضعيفة وقرارها لن يضرنا إلا أذى،
وفيه دلالة أن الرهان على إرضاء الغرب أمر
واهي؛ فهؤلاء ظلمة وليس لهم معايير
للتصنيف، وهو مجرد دعم باهت لاسرائيل
لن يجدي نفعا.

► On another occasion he said,

"We have nothing to be ashamed of because of Britain's decision. We will stand up to Britain, the same Britain that was a power and now is nothing but a miserable puppet in the hands of Israel. The declaration in London of Hamas as a terrorist organization will not silence our weapons. We will continue to serve our people and adopt all forms of resistance [i.e. terrorist activity]. The victors of the "Sword of Jerusalem" [i.e., Operation Guardian of the Walls] don't fear decisions from the Foreign Office of a country whose power has waned and which has been pushed to the sidelines" (November 20, 2021).

Ebrahem Elma... إبراهيم المدهون غزة @ibmadhun
لا نستهيين بقرار بريطانيا التي كانت عظمى
وأضحت العوبة سخيفة بيد إسرائيل، ولكننا
نتحداه
فإعلان حماس إرهابية في لندن، لن يسكت
سلاحنا، وسنستمر بخدمة شعبنا وتبني
المقاومة بكافة أشكالها.
فمن انتصر في سيف القدس لن يخاف
قرارات وزير داخلية دولة تآكل نفوذها وباتت
على هامش الدول.

► After the terrorist attack in the Old City of Jerusalem that led to the death of an Israeli (November 21, 2021), he said,

"Hamis will not stop its acts of sacrifice and will continue its armed resistance, gathering force and manufacturing weapons. During Sword of Jerusalem some of the power of al-Qassam [i.e., the Izz al-Din Qassam Brigades] was used and the activity in Jerusalem is the continuation of the wielding of the sword. The activity was carried out with weapons manufactured in Britain as a message to London and its Home Secretary that the resistance isn't worried and the decision won't make us stop. The opposite it true, it will only increase our determination and provoke us into continuing to march forward" (November 21, 2021).

Ebrahem Elma... إبراهيم المدهون غزة @ibmadhun
لن توقف حماس العمليات الفدائية، وستستمر
بمقاومتها المسلحة، ومراكمة القوة وتصنيع
السلاح، وما ظهر في سيف القدس بعض قوة
القسام، وعملية القدس امتداد لسيفها،
ونفذت بسلاح من صناعة بريطانيا، كرسالة
للندن ووزيرة داخليتها، أن المقاومة ليست
إرهاباً، وقراركم لا يوقفنا بل يزيدنا إصراراً
وتقدماً

Appendix A

Ibrahim al-Madhoun



Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account profile picture, March 3, 2022. At the left are the flags of Turkey and the PA

► **Ibrahim al-Madhoun** was born in 1978 in the Gaza Strip. He is Palestinian journalist and political commentator who also writes articles. He is affiliated with Hamas and is a member of its department of national relations (today headed by senior Hamas figure Ali Barakeh). He has lived in Turkey since 2018.³ He directs the Association for Palestine Communicators and Media, known as FIMED, its Turkish acronym. FIMED's objective is to promote the Palestinian narrative to Turkish society, and it covers topics relating to the Palestinian, Turkish and Arab-Muslim arenas.

► Al-Madhoun is known as being close to **Yahya al-Sinwar, head of the Hamas political bureau in the Gaza Strip**. When Yahya al-Sinwar was appointed in 2017, al-Madhoun supported him and praised the entrance of "new blood" into the Hamas leadership (bukra.net, February 17, 2017). Since then al-Madhoun has often analyzed and explained Yahya al-Sinwar's actions and statements via Palestinian and Arab media outlets.

³ "Knowledgeable sources" reported that al-Madhoun left the Gaza Strip in 2018 with a Hamas delegation to Turkey, and he has stayed there ever since, refusing to return to the Gaza Strip. According to the sources, he often appears on al-Hiwar TV in London (Newpal website, May 29, 2019).



Right: Al-Madhoun publicly states on his Twitter account that he belongs to Hamas' department of national relations. Left: A meeting of FIMED, a communications company directed by al-Madhoun (far right), attended by Khaled Mashaal (second from left) (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, December 13, 2021).



Al-Madhoun (far left), Ali Barakeh, head of Hamas' department of national relations (second from right), and two members of the department in the office of Faed Mustafa, PA representative in Ankara (third from left) (FIMED website, November 2, 2021).

► **Al-Madhoun is known for his extremist positions.** His media postings are identical in spirit with Hamas' official propaganda, including praise for and glorification of terrorism and the call for terrorist attacks against Israel. Some recent examples were the following:

- ◆ When **Australia designated Hamas** as a terrorist organization, he wrote that "the [so-called Israeli] occupation is terrorism" (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, February 20, 2022).
- ◆ In response to the **tensions in the Sheikh Jarrah** neighborhood of east Jerusalem, he claimed Jerusalem was a red line, the West Bank was on the "brink of an explosion," and the Palestinian [terrorist] organizations were preparing for a confrontation with Israel (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, February 15, 2022).
- ◆ He has expressed **support for the military terrorist wings** of the terrorist organizations, including Fatah's al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, the Palestinian Islamic

Jihad's Jerusalem Brigades, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine's Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, the National Resistance Brigades and anyone who opposes the "Israeli occupation" (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, February 9, 2022).

He posted a video to his Twitter account of a Palestinian who made a M75 rocket out of snow in front of al-Aqsa mosque to pay homage to Muhammed Deif, the commander of Hamas' military-terrorist wing (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, January 27, 2022).



- ◆ He called for **the continuation of terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria**, including shooting, stabbing and vehicular ramming attacks to "disrupt the tranquility of the settlers" [i.e., Israeli civilians] (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, January 11, 2022).

- ◆ In **condemning the "Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip"** he threatened "the use of all forms of resistance" (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, January 1, 2022).

► Other statements include the following:

- ◆ In **November 2020**, after the **Palestinian Authority (PA) renewed relations with Israel**, he said the ties between the PA and Israel had been expected, although the way the announcement was made showed contempt for the Palestinians. He claimed the PA had never stopped its security coordination with Israel. He called on the PA to complete the internal Palestinian reconciliation because Israel wanted to annex the West Bank and control Jerusalem. He added that political negotiations between the PA and Israel meant the beginning of a situation in which Jerusalem would be the capital of Israel and the West Bank would be annexed. He said the ideal option was [to achieve] the internal Palestinian reconciliation and a comprehensive confrontation of all Palestinians with Israel (the "occupation") (Palinfo, November 17, 2020).

- ◆ In **November 2020**, when **Joe Biden won the American presidential election**, he said Biden was not a dove of peace and the Palestinians did not expect him to support

the Palestinian cause. He would, however, halt Trump's headlong march towards destruction [of the Palestinian cause] and annexation [of Judea and Samaria by Israel], and that would give the Palestinians breathing space and time to strengthen their national house (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, November 8, 2020).

◆ Regarding the **normalization of relations** with Israel, he said, that now that Biden was president the Palestinians hoped the normalization file would be closed and that the [Israeli-Arab] conflict would return to its natural state (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, November 9, 2020).

◆ In **December 2019**, following reports of a **long-term lull agreement** between Israel and the Gaza Strip, he said the "resistance" in the Gaza Strip was more deterrent than offensive, and prevented "the occupation" from broader aggression. The "siege" was a kind of aggression, a slow death for the Palestinians, which was why the "resistance" had turned to understandings. Its intention was to ease and reduce [Gazan] suffering. In the meantime, the "resistance" was preparing for a possible military confrontation and to be able to stand firmly against Israel for many months (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, December 5, 2019).

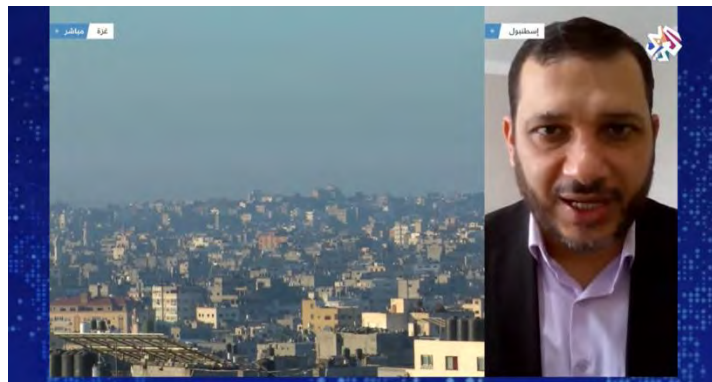
◆ Regarding **the return marches along the Gaza Strip border**, he said anyone who wanted to think the Palestinian people had tired of the marches was making a mistake. The return marches and the willingness of the masses to confront the IDF would return more strongly and more widespread than in the past. He claimed there was a Palestinian consensus in support of Hamas' policy [regarding the return marches] (Ibrahim al-Madhoun's Twitter account, January 25, 2019).

◆ Regarding **the barrier Israel built** along the Gaza Strip border, he said Israel was liable to suddenly discover that the barrier would not protect its soldiers when hundreds of thousands of Gazans spontaneously and impulsively crossed the borders, fences and barriers on the way back to the "homes" [sic]. There would be a giant campaign, he said, they had already begun thinking about it, and calls for it to be implemented were increasing in view of the "siege" [of the Gaza Strip] (alresala.net, February 1, 2018).

Interviews with al-Madhoun on Arab TV channels



Al-Madhoun interviewed by al-Hiwar TV after Israel and the PA renewed coordination (al-Hiwar TV YouTube channel, November 18, 2020)



Al-Madhoun interviewed by the London-based al-Araby al-Jadeed during Operation Guardian of the Walls in the Gaza Strip (al-Araby al-Jadeed, May 19, 2021).

Appendix B

Al-Hiwar TV, Broadcasting from Britain

► Hamas' propaganda activities in Britain enjoy support from the Muslim Brotherhood, its parent organization. The Muslim Brotherhood helps Hamas spread its propaganda via al-Hiwar TV, the movement's most important media outlet, which was founded in July 2006; its offices are in London. The channel appeals to Muslims all over the world, especially in Europe, and spreads Islamist and anti-Israel propaganda.

► Two of the channel's directors help Hamas spread its propaganda. One is **Dr. Azzam Sultan al-Tamimi**, who was born in Hebron. He belonged to the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and is affiliated with Hamas. He founded the channel and has headed it since 2006. The other is **Zaher Khaled Hassan Birawi (Abu Khaled)**, who was born in 1961, a Hamas operative who fled to Britain. He was active in organizing convoys and flotillas to the Gaza Strip, and is currently program director and head broadcaster.⁴ **Muhammad Sawalha** is a Hamas operative who found sanctuary in Britain, and is a permanent guest on the channel's programs. Al-Hiwar TV's directors and broadcasters are careful not to publicly reveal themselves as Hamas or Muslim Brotherhood activists, apparently not wanting to draw the attention of the British legal authorities.



The al-Hiwar logo in the company of other Hamas and Muslim Brotherhood media outlets, all of which broadcast a series called "A story of determination," about the flotillas and convoys to the Gaza Strip. It was produced by Hamas' al-Aqsa TV (July 29, 2010).

⁴ For further information, see the February 21, 2010 bulletin, "Britain as a Focus for Hamas' Political, Propaganda and Legal Activities in Europe."