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Hamas Penetration into the PA Ministry of Education and its Growing Influence over Palestinian Youth

Abstract

Documents captured in the Palestinian Preventive Security compound in Gaza discuss the penetration of the Hamas movement into the PA Ministry of Education, and the growing influence of Hamas on Palestinian youth by Hamas activists teaching in PA educational institutions. The documents demonstrate that the Preventive Security is aware of the fact that this phenomenon has “begun to constitute a real threat to the political vision of the PA and to PA interests, presence and influence”. Despite this, the Preventive Security apparatus in

Gaza under the instructions of its commander, Rashid Abu Shabak, prefers to continue and preserve the policy of selectively hiring Hamas activists as teachers and opposes their sweeping removal from the educational system. **This is an additional expression of the PA's policy, which is reluctant to impose its authority on the Hamas even in cases where Hamas activities clearly undermine the PA's essential interests, its status and authority. At the same time it indicates the depth of the Preventive Security's involvement in every aspect of life in the Gaza Strip.**

Highlights of the Documents

1. Documents were found in the compound of the Palestinian Preventive Security, which concerned **the employment of teachers identified with the Hamas by the Palestinian Ministry of Education.**
2. The **up to date** documents (November 2002) outline the assessment of senior Preventive Security officials in the Gaza Strip that **“the Hamas movement has penetrated into the Ministry of Education”** and thus gained **“influence on the students”**. According to the head of the Political Security Department in Gaza, this means that **“the Hamas movement has begun to constitute a real threat to the PA’s political vision, its interests, presence, and influence. The influence of the Hamas movement through its teachers in the schools is absolutely clear”**.
3. In light of the gravity of the phenomenon, the head of the **Political Security Department** recommended (12 November) to **“reconsider”** providing security clearance to anyone seeking a teaching job who is affiliated with the Hamas, and **remove** Hamas members from the Ministry of Education. Concretely, the head of the Political Security Department recommended to reject the application of a Hamas activist from Jabaliya who applied for a teaching position in the Ministry, of Education.
4. **Majed Abu Smallah**, the assistant head of the Preventive Security for activity issues, also referred to both the principle issue as well as to the concrete issue of the application of three candidates for teaching jobs. He noted his agreement with the view that the Hamas movement has managed to infiltrate into the PA Ministry of Education and gain

influence over the students. However, he is of the opinion that the three candidates identified with the **Hamas should not be rejected and they should receive teaching jobs (one of them is the same applicant who was rejected by the head of the Political Security Department)**. Majed Abu Smallah believes that bolstering the role of **Fatah** among the teachers and students, and monitoring teachers involved in incitement or who play up their activities in the framework of Hamas, should suffice, and if necessary deterring measures should be taken against them.

5. A handwritten note was attached to this correspondence between senior Preventive Security officials, signed by **Rashid Abu Shabak**, the head of the Preventive Security in Gaza (7 November 2002), expressing his position, which in our assessment reflects the existing PA policy regarding this issue. Rashid Abu Shabak in fact **rejects** the firm approach espoused by the head of the Political Security Department and determines that **"it would not be right if we completely refused (apparently to employ Hamas teachers) and it would be wrong to permit (their employment) and then prefer others instead"**. According to him a **"balance" should be maintained** in which context each case should be evaluated on **its own merits** and things should be left **"as they were in the past"**. (In other words, teachers from the Hamas **should be selectively accepted** after a concrete check of each candidate and **there should not be a sweeping policy of rejecting Hamas activists' or dismissing them from Ministry of Education teaching jobs**).

6. **This principle debate** illustrates that the PA, through its security apparatuses, is well aware of the **severe long-term implications** embodied in the penetration of Hamas into the Palestinian education system. This system, with its teachers and text books, is educating **new generations** of Palestinian children and youth to hate Israel and the Jewish people, insisting on the "right of return", which de facto means an end to the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish state, and to **solve the conflict through violence and terror**. The PA and the security apparatuses are also aware of the fact that from the **internal Palestinian perspective**, deepening the Hamas influence in the "national" educational system (while cultivating an **alternative educational system**) is **seriously affecting** the status and vital interests of the PA. **Despite this**, the PA and its apparatuses **are reluctant to contend with this problem effectively** and prefer to stick to the policy of **maintaining "industrial calm"**. They would rather **preserve the existing situation**, whereby Hamas activists continue to teach in the framework of the Palestinian educational system and continue to selectively give teaching positions to Hamas activists after they undergo the scrutiny of the PA preventive security.
7. The correspondence on this subject, and additional captured documents, indicate the depth of the Preventive Security's involvement in everyday life in the Gaza Strip.

Appendix A – Translation of Captured Document

The Palestinian National Authority

The Preventive Security

Gaza Strip

To: The brother **Abu Jihad** (apparently **Majed Abu Smallah**, Assistant Head of the Preventive Security for Activity Issues in the Gaza Strip).

...
It will be wrong for us to totally prevent (the employment of teachers from the Hamas) and it will be wrong to permit (their employment) and then start dismissing those who commit a violation. We have no choice but to try and reach a balanced posture, meaning that there should be a limit to what we forbid and a limit to what we allow. Therefore we should examine each case on its merits. It is impossible to determine fixed standards and therefore matters will remain as they were in the past with a certain measure of supervision.

Signature

(**Rashid Abu Shabak**, Head of the Preventive Security in the Gaza Strip, identified by his signature)

7/11(2002)

Appendix A – Copy of Original Document

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية

الأمر الوقائي

رقم:

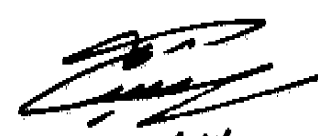
الرقم:

التاريخ:

٢٠٠ / /

رقم: ٤٠٤

ان يمنع بالطلد غير صحيح وان تسحب دليوها
 تبدأ نضرة الخائف ايضا غير صحيح .. لا بد من
 ان يكون ضالك توازنه مع الوقت ... ان يكون
 حدود الكنت و حدود للسماح .. و هذه تدرك كل
 حالتها مع حد .. اما تحديد مرور عند فدايس حدود
 و ما فيه رايكم ان يتم ضا .. لذا اتيتم لإصدار مع نفس
 الامور كالتالي بنوع من الترميم ..


 ٤/١٥

Appendix B – Translation of Captured Document

The Palestinian National Security

The Preventive Security

Gaza (Strip) Districts

To: The Head of the Preventive Security (in the Gaza Strip, **Rashid Abu Shabak**), may Allah protect him,

Greetings of the homeland,

Attached herewith are three reports concerning **persons belonging to the Hamas** movement and are interested in becoming **teachers in the Ministry of Education**:

1. **Khaled Muhammad Al Shaf'i Al Jamal** – a Hamas propaganda activist.
2. **Amar Moussa Mahmud Siam** – works for the Hamas functions apparatus. Was previously arrested by the Military Intelligence.
3. **Muhammad Isa Mahmud Salah** – belongs to the Hamas. Participates in processions and rallies.

I agree with the assessment of the department (apparently the Political Security Department of the Preventive Security) which states that the Hamas has infiltrated into the Ministry of Education, and I also agree that thus it gained influence over the students. The department's position is that the solution (to the situation) is to remove all the Hamas activists and supporters from the Ministry of Education. I do not agree with this view and I do not think we ought

to reject (the acceptance of) the above mentioned persons. The easiest solution for us as a security apparatus and as an authority is to dismiss all of them and not put up with them. However this cannot be the right solution. I think that diminishing the role of Hamas and its influence in the educational institutions requires first the **strengthening of the roles of the Fatah movement** and of the Fatah youth organization among the students, teachers and Ministry of Education staff. **Secondly, and most importantly, we should carry out close security surveillance of a number of cases involved in inciting rebellion or who play up their movement activity in the schools, colleges, and seminaries.** In addition, some **detering measures** must be taken against all those who incite in the framework of the education system.

Your instructions would be appreciated,

Signature

(Majed Abu Smallah)

Assistant Head (of the Preventive Security in Gaza) for Activity Issues.

13/11 (2002)

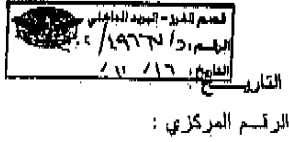
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Personnel Section – internal mail

Reference: /2/49667d

Date: 16/11

Appendix B – Copy of Original Document



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية
الأمن الوقائي
محافظات غزة

حفظه الله

الأخ/ مدير الأمن الوقائي ...

تجبة الوطن وبعد...

مرافق لكم ثلاث مذكرات لأشخاص ينتمون لحركة حماس بهدف العمل ومدرسين في التعليم.

1. خالد محمد الشافعي الجمال - ينتمي لحماس ونشط إعلامياً.
 2. عمر موسى محمود صيام - عمل في جهاز الاحداث التابع لحماس واعتقل سابقاً طرف الاستخبارات العسكرية.
 3. محمد عيسى محمود صلاح - ينتمي لحماس ويشارك في المسيرات والمهرجانات.
- رأي الدائرة بأن حركة حماس توغلت في التعليم وهذا صحيح وأصبح لها تأثير على الطلبة وأيضاً هذا صحيح، وموقف الدائرة يتلخص ببساطة باعتبار أن الحل هو رفض كل مؤيدي وغناصر حماس من التعليم ولا أتفق مع رأي الدائرة برفض المذكورين ويبدو أن من الأسهل لنا كجهاز أمن وسبلطة أن نرفض الجميع ولا نتحمل عبئاً لكن هذا بالتأكيد ليس يكون العلاج السليم واعتقد أن إنهاء دور حماس وتأثيرها في المؤسسة التعليمية يتطلب أولاً تعزيز دور حركة فتح والشبيبة في أوساط الطلبة والمدرسين والعاملين في سلك التعليم من مؤيدي ومناصري حركة فتح، ثانياً وهو الأهم المتابعة الأمنية الدقيقة من جانبنا لبعض الحالات التي تمارس التحريض أو تبرز نشاطاتها التنظيمية في إطار المدارس والمعاهد والكلبيات والعمل على اتخاذ إجراءات بفصلها تصبح رادعاً لكل الحالات التي تمارس دوراً تحريضياً في إطار التعليم.

تعليماتكم ...

وحمته ...

أخوكم /

مساعد المدير لشؤون النشاط

Appendix C – Translation of Captured Document

The Palestinian National Authority
The Preventive Security
Gaza Strip

Date: 11/11/2002

To: The Assistant Head (Preventive Security, Gaza) for Activity Issues (Majed Abu Smallah), may Allah protect him, greetings of the homeland,

Subject: A recommendation in the matter of **Khaled Muhammad Al Shaf'i Al Jamal** – the city of Jabaliya

The goal of the inquiry: his candidacy for a teaching position in the Ministry of Education

The inquiry:

1. The subject belongs to Hamas.
2. The subject was an activist in the Islamic faction during his studies at the Islamic University.
3. The subject is engages in public relations activities for the Abu Al-Kh'ir Mosque.
4. His immediate environment and family are known for their membership in Hamas.
5. The view of the brothers in the regional office is to reject his candidacy.

Assessment: The Hamas movement begins to constitute a real threat to the political vision of the Palestinian National Authority and to its interests, its presence and influence. The influence of the Hamas via the teachers in the schools is very clear. In light of this, the provision of security permits should be reconsidered for anyone interested in working as a teacher in the Ministry of Education, and belongs to Hamas or is engaged in student or social activities, especially during these times.

Recommendation:

There is no reason to employ this person as a teacher in the Ministry of Education.

Signed

Political Security Department Head

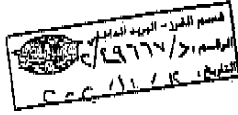
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Reference: /2/49677d

Date: 12/11/2002

[Note: To this **recommendation** is attached a detailed inquiry concerning the subject].

Appendix C – Copy of Original Document



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

التاريخ: ١١ / ١١ / ٢٠٠٢ م

الرقم:



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية

الأمن الوقائي

قطاع غزة

حفظه الله

الأخ / مساعد المدير لشئون النشاط

تحية الوطن وبعد ...

جباليا البلد

الموضوع / توصية بشأن ... خالد محمد الشافعي الجمل

الهدف من العرض : التوظيف مدرس في التعليم

العرض :

- المذكور ينتمي لحركة حماس .
- عمل المذكور في الكتلة الإسلامية أثناء دراسته في الجامعة الإسلامية .
- يشارك المذكور نشاط اعلامي في مسجد أبو الخير .
- المحيط الاقليمي للمذكور معروف بانتماؤه لحماس .
- رأي الاخوة في مكتب المحافظة يؤكد على رفض طلبه .

تقدير موقف: ان حركة حماس باتت تشكل خطرا حقيقيا على المشروع السياسي للسلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية وعلى مصالحها وجودها و نفوذها ، وان تأثير حركة حماس من خلال المدرسين في المدارس يات واضحا وبناء على ما تقدم نرى ضرورة ووجوب إعادة النظر في اعطاء الموافقة الامنية لمن ينتمون لحماس وذو نشاط طلابي او اجتماعي او جماهيري للعمل كمدرس في التعليم خاصة في الظروف الحالية .

التوصية :

- لا داعي لتوظيف المذكور مدرس في التعليم .

وخدمته ...

مدير دائرة الأمن السياسي



مجموعة التحليل

Appendix D – Translation of Captured Document

The Palestinian National Authority

The Preventive Security

Gaza Strip

Date: 11/11/2002

To: The Assistant Head (Preventive Security, Gaza) for Activity Issues (Majed Abu Smallah), may Allah protect him, greetings of the homeland,

Subject: A recommendation on the matter of Muhammed Isa Muhammed Salah – Jabaliya refugee camp

The goal of the inquiry: his candidacy for a teaching position in the Ministry of Education

The inquiry:

1. The subject belongs to Hamas.
2. The subject often participates in Hamas processions and rallies.
3. The subject's home has a **basement where he frequently hid "Iz A-Din Al-Qassam Battalions" activists**. We destroyed it in 1996.
4. His family belongs to Hamas.
5. The subject's brother, Ibrahim Salah, is the head of the Islamic faction in the Gaza Strip.
6. The brothers in the district office hold the view that his candidacy should be rejected.

Recommendation:

There is no reason to hire the subject as a teacher in the Ministry of Education.

Signed

Political Security Department Head

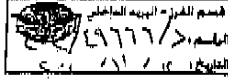
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Reference: /2/49665d

Date: 12/11/2002

[Note: To this recommendation is attached the detailed inquiry concerning the subject].

Appendix D – Copy of Original Document



بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الخارجية: ٢٠٠٢/١١/١٤

الرقم:



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية

الأمن الوطني

قطاع غزة

حفظه الله

الأخ / مساعد المدير لشئون النشاط

تحية الوطن وبعد ...

الشاطي

الموضوع / توصية بشأن ... عمر موسى محمود صيام

الهدف من العرض : التوظيف مدرس في التعليم

العرض :

- انضمي المذكور لحركة حماس في بداية الانتفاضة الأولى وعمل في جهاز الاحداث .
- اعتقل في العام ١٩٥٥م طرف جهاز الاستخبارات العسكرية على خلفية انتماءه لحماس .
- عمل المذكور عضو مجلس طلبة في الجامعة الاسلامية في العام ١٩٧م .
- دائرة علاقات المذكور من أبناء حماس .

التوصية :

- لا داعي لتوظيف المذكور مدرس في التعليم .

وحيتم ...



مجموعة التحليل

Appendix E – Translation of Captured Document

The Palestinian National Authority

The Preventive Security

Gaza Strip

Date: 11/11/2002

To: The Assistant Head (Preventive Security, Gaza) for Activity Issues (Majed Abu Smallah), may Allah protect him, greetings of the homeland,

Subject: A recommendation regarding Amar Musa Muhammed Diam – Al Shati

The goal of the inquiry: his candidacy for a teaching position in the Ministry of Education

The inquiry:

1. The subject belonged to Hamas during the first Intifada. He worked in the Functions Apparatus.
2. The subject was arrested in 1995 by the Military Intelligence, due to his membership in Hamas.
3. The subject was a member in the Islamic University Student Council in 1997.
4. The subject's immediate environment is predominantly of Hamas activists.

Recommendation:

There is no reason to hire the subject as a teacher in the Ministry of Education.

Signed

Political Security Department Head

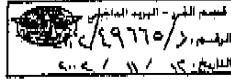
(A stamp at the top of the page)

Reference: /2/49665d

Date: 12/11/2002

[Note: To this recommendation is attached the detailed inquiry concerning the subject].

Appendix E – Copy of Original Document



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

التاريخ: 11 / 1 / 2002 م

الرقم:



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية

الأمن الوطني

قطاع غزة

حفظه الله

الأخ / مساعد المدير لشئون النشاط

تديه الوطن وبعد ...

الموضوع / توصية بشأن ... محمد عيسى محمود صلاح م - جباليا

الهدف من العرض : التوظيف مدرس في التعليم

العرض :

- المذكور ينتمي لحركة حماس .
- يشارك المذكور في مسيرات ومهرجانات حماس فقط .
- كان في منزل المذكور " بدوم " يختبأ فيه اعضاء كتائب القسام وقمنا بهدمه في العام 1996 م .
- المحيط الاسري محسوب على حماس .
- شقيق المذكور يدعى ابراهيم صلاح ميسؤل الكتلة الانبلامية في قطاع غزة .
- رأي الاخوة في مكتب المحافظة يؤكد على رفض طلب المذكور .

التوصية :

- لا داعي لتوظيف المذكور مدرس في التعليم .

وخدمته ...

مدير دائرة الأمن السياسي



مجموعة التحليل