

Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies (C.S.S)

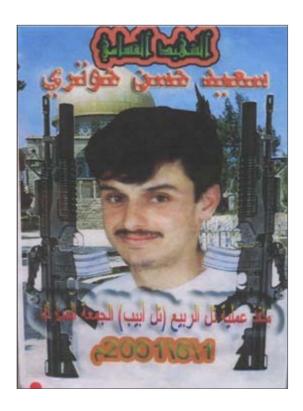
The Palestinian Authority's support of Hamas' suicide terrorism:

Documents seized during Operation Defensive Shield reveal that the

Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs granted a sum of \$2,000

to the father of the terrorist who had perpetrated the suicide bombing attack at

Tel-Aviv's Dolphinarium (killing 21 Israeli civilians, most of whom teenagers)



A poster commemorating Sa'id Hasan Houtari, the Hamas suicide bomber who perpetrated the suicide bombing attack at Tel-Aviv's Dolphinarium, one of the most murderous acts of terrorism perpetrated in the course of the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In spite of Yasser Arafat's public condemnation of the attack, the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Social Affairs granted the terrorist's father, who issued a public statement in support of the terrorist act, a sum of \$2,000 about two weeks after the suicide bombing attack.

General characteristics

- 1. On June 1, 2001, Sa'id Hasan Houtari, a Hamas suicide bomber, perpetrated a suicide bombing attack outside a discotheque at Tel-Aviv's Dolphinarium. 21 Israeli civilians —mostly teenagers —were killed, and 83 were wounded in the attack. The suicide bomber was sent to perpetrate the suicide bombing attack by Abd al-Rahman Hamad, head of the Hamas operative infrastructure in Qalqilya, who was killed by IDF forces six months later.
- 2. Among the materials seized in the course of Operation Defensive Shield were two documents issued by the Martyrs' Families and Injured Care Establishment, which falls under the authority of the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Social Affairs. The documents address the transfer of a grant in the sum of \$2,000 to the father of the suicide bomber, who was living in Jordan at that time (June 18, 2001) (see Appendices A, B). The transfer was made in spite of the suicide bomber's Hamas affiliation, in spite of the father's public support of the suicide bombing attack (see Appendix G), and in spite of Yasser Arafat's public condemnation of the suicide bombing attack (see Appendix E).

- 3. The transfer of the grant—one more cog in the terror-supportive mechanism—is yet another testimony of the hands-on support provided by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Authority and its institutions to suicide terrorism, in complete contradiction of Yasser Arafat's public statements given whenever a murderous terrorist attack occurs.
- 4. In light of the above, it is worth mentioning that several days after the grant was issued, a German television channel reported that Yasser Arafat had sent the suicide terrorist's father, through the Palestinian Authority ambassador in Jordan, a letter commending his son's act and stating that it was a "wonderful model of heroism, manhood and willingness for self-sacrifice" (see Appendix I). Yasser Arafat's office denied the truthfulness of the report and claimed the letter was forged; however, the transfer documents and a similar letter written by Yasser Arafat found among seized documents¹ in the past serve to complement the credibility of the German television station's report.
 - 1. The report on the letter is reminiscent of a similar affair: Among documents seized in the past was a letter of condolence addressed by Yasser Arafat to the family of Amer Mansour al-Khudeiri, a Hamas operative from Tulkarm who was involved in preparations for suicide bombing attacks, including the first stages of preparations for the Park hotel suicide bombing attack in Netanya in March 2002. In his letter of condolence, Yasser Arafat uses Islamic terminology, also used by Hamas, encouraging and justifying suicide bombing attacks [the story was analyzed in an information bulletin published by the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center in November 2003, English edition].
- 5. It should be noted that the transfer of the support grant to Jordan (where the father of the suicide bomber was staying) was carried out through the Arab Bank branch in Al-Bireh. The bank is well-known for being a preferred channel used by the terrorist organizations and the Palestinian Authority for transferring funds for terrorist supportive activities (payments to families of killed, wounded, imprisoned and wanted terrorists). Given the far-reaching resonance of the Dolphinarium suicide bombing, it can be assumed that the managers of the Arab Bank branch in Al-Bireh were well aware of the purpose and destination of the grant transferred by their bank.

Appendix A

\$2,000 transferred to the father of the Dolphinarium suicide bomber by the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Social Affairs

In the name of Allah the compassionate and the merciful

The Palestinian National Authority
Ministry of Social Affairs
Martyrs' Families and Injured Care Establishment
[Emblem of the Palestinian Authority]

Date: June 17, 2001

The esteemed directors of the Arab Bank—Al-Bireh² Greetings,

Kindly transfer a sum of two thousand [in words and in numbers] US dollars to the following beneficiary:

Hasan Hussein Hasan Houtari [the father of the suicide bomber³]

The Arab Bank [branch]— Al-Russeifa / Jordan

Account no.: 600/21697-6

Please charge our account no. 510/625658

Thank you for your kind cooperation

Dr. Yousef Ahmad Jobran [Note: In charge of the Martyrs' Families and Injured Care Establishment, which falls under the authority of the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs, headed by Intisar al-Wazir, aka Umm Jihad].

(handwritten signature)

Ramallah Telefax: 02-2986268

^{2.} At that time, the Dolphinarium suicide bombing attack gained wide exposure across Palestinian and international media. It can be assumed, therefore, that the directors of the Arab Bank in Al-Bireh knew who was to receive the transfer made by their bank.

^{3.} Born in Qalqilya in 1940, stayed abroad (in Jordan, probably) in the years 2000-2003.

Appendix B

\$2,000 transferred to the father of the Dolphinarium suicide bomber by the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Social Affairs—original document

| | Palestinian National Authority | | السلطة الوطنية القلسطينية |
|--|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Ministry of Social Affairs | | وزارة الشؤون الاجتماعية |
| | M's F. & LC.E. | | مؤسسة رعاية أسر الشهداء و الجرحي |
| | | Carried St. | |
| | | | فتریخ: ۱۱۱ ۱۰۰۰ |
| | | المعترمين | السادة البنكالعربي —البيرة |
| | | | تحية واحتراءاً |
| | يرجي تعويل عبلغ _ أ لحم _ دولار امريكي في العنوان التالي :- | | |
| | | | نستند: من مسرم |
| | | | فينك ثعربي الرصيف |
| | | | صاب رقم ٢- ١٦٩٧٧ |
| | | - 510 / 625658 | وذلك خصماً من حسابنا لديكم رقم 9- |
| | وتكم | شاكرين حسن تعا | |
| | | | |
| | د. يوسف أحود جو | | |
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Appendix C

Transfer of \$2,000 from Ramallah to Jordan through the Arab Bank's Al-Bireh office—annotated

Arab Bank LIAL / 0001

From: Arab Bank

Palestine —Ramallah To: Arab Bank PLC,

Jordan branches center Amman— Jordan

Date: 2001/06/17

Msg no: Please pay: Test key:

Transfer reference no: 030TR003107PO1

Value date: 2001/06/18

Currency, amount: USD 2,000

Order cust / bank: Dr. Yousef Ahmad Jobran

Account with bank: ARABJOAX105 ARAB BANK PLC (Russeifa branch) Russeifa

Beneficiary: Hasan Hussein Hasan Houtari [the father of the suicide bomber]

A/C 21697-6/600 Details of chgs: BEN

Notice:

Applicant: Dr. Yousef Ahmad Jobran [in charge of the Martyrs' Families and Injured Care Establishment]

We carried out your instructions by debting your account 9030-625658-9-510

Paying currency: US dollar Equivalent amount: 2,000.00

Commission: 2.82 Date: 2001/06/17 Postage/ swift: 7.06

Transfer amount: USD 2,000.00

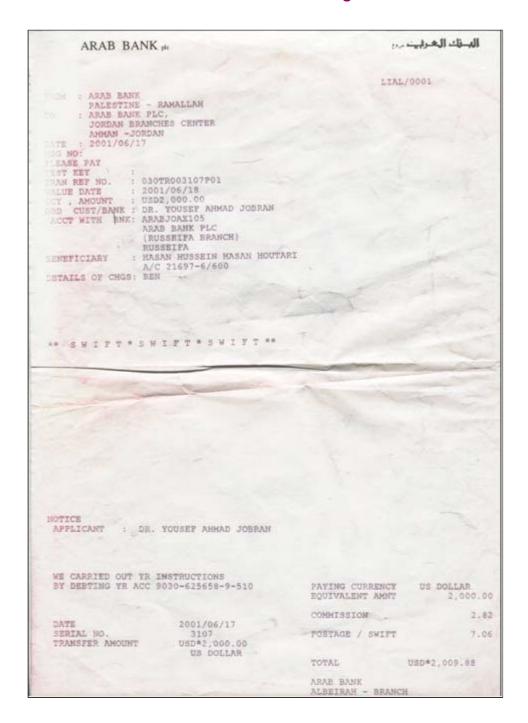
Total: USD 2,009.88

Arab Bank

Al-Beirah branch

Appendix D

Transfer of \$2,000 from Ramallah to Jordan through the Arab Bank's Al-Bireh office—original document



Appendix E

Yasser Arafat's public condemnation: Yasser Arafat's declaration at a press conference attended by German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and the personal delegate of UN Secretary General, Terje Larsen, held one day after the Dolphinarium suicide bombing attack.

Arafat pledged to make the utmost effort to put an end to the bloodbath [as reported on Radio Palestine, June 2, 2001, 16:17]

From an article by Rashid Hilal:

Yasser Arafat held a press conference at the presidential compound in Ramallah, attended by German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer and the personal delegate of the UN Secretary General, Terje Larsen. At the beginning of the press conference, Yasser Arafat thanked the German government for assisting the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people and for its efforts to protect the peace process.

What follows is the translation of a relevant fragment of Arafat's speech:

"On July 2, 2001, at 02:30 in the morning, we issued an official statement on behalf of the leadership. However, I personally stress the [following] message: we have condemned, in an official statement, the act of explosion that occurred in Tel-Aviv on the night of June 1, 2001. I hereby reiterate our condemnation of the unfortunate act that occurred in Tel-Aviv against civilians and of any act that leads to the deaths of Israeli or Palestinian civilians.

We have exerted and we are willing to exert every possible effort in order to put an end to the bloodbath of our people and the Israeli people and do whatever it takes to achieve an immediate, immediate, immediate and unconditional ceasefire, in a way that is both genuine and effective, in a way that is both genuine and effective. This must be achieved through a concerted effort so that we can return to the negotiation table and implement the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee and the Egyptian-Jordanian initiative.

We have asked for immediate international effort to guide us in that direction, in order to ensure the future of our children and theirs⁴, and protect the peace process, the peace of the brave, between the peoples, the Israeli and the Palestinian, and in all the Arab and other venues in the region..."

4. In practice, the Palestinian Authority and Hamas turned the figures of the mastermind behind the Dolphinarium suicide bombing attack and the suicide bomber himself into role models for the young generation of Palestinians (see Appendix F).

Appendix F

The suicide martyrdom culture: The sender of the Dolphinarium suicide bomber and the suicide bomber himself turn into role models in the Palestinian Authority administered territories



Terrorists as role models: A Hamas poster commemorating shahids, mainly the shahid Abd al-Rahman Hamad (center), head of Hamas' operative infrastructure in Qalqilya, who dispatched the suicide bomber to the Dolphinarium suicide bombing attack.



Terrorists as role models: A large photograph of Abd al-Rahman Hamad (center), the mastermind behind the Dolphinarium suicide bombing attack. On the left—Sa'id Hasan Houtari, the suicide bomber. The photograph, accompanied by memorial stones, was placed at the entrance of the Palestine elementary school in Qalqilya (the photograph was taken by IDF in January 2003).

Appendix G

Hasan Hussein Houtari, the father of suicide bomber Sa'id Houtari, praises his son's act on Hamas' official website (early June 2002)

- 1. Immediately following the Dolphinarium suicide bombing attack, the Hamas website published a statement by Hasan Hussein Houtari, the father of the suicide bomber (who received a grant of \$2,000 from the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs approximately two weeks after the attack).
- 2. The father's main statements:
 - a.He claims he was overjoyed when he received the news of his son's death in the act of suicide martyrdom (*istishhad*) in Tel-Aviv.
 - b.He wishes that his remaining four sons become martyrs as well, die for the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and cause heavy casualties among the enemy, as their brother did.
 - c. He praises Allah that the act was a success, and notes his feeling of pride of his son for carrying out the highest-casualty act of suicide martyrdom in five years.

Appendix H

Hasan Hussein Houtari (who received the \$2,000 grant), the father of suicide bomber Sa'id Houtari, praises his son's act on Hamas' official website (early June 2002)—original document



عز الدين القسام.

و قالت مصائد فلسطينية أن سعيد يعمل كهرباتيا ويقطن في قانياية مع شقيقه وقد غاب عن الأنظار منذ يومين وأضافت أن عائلة الشهيد النحت بيت عزاء للشهيد الذي أمه ألاك الطسطينيين و رفعت الرايات الإسلامية و شعارات حماس .

و أوضحت المصادر أن الشهيد صديق حميم للشهيد فادي عطا الد منفذ عملية نيسان أوريل الماضي .

وقد أعرب "حسن حسين الموتري" والد الشهيد "سعيد" منفذ عملية تل أبيب عن سعانته الكبيرة بنيا أستشهاد لبنه الذي نقد عملية تل أبيب وقال: إنني أتمني تقديم أبدتي الأربعة شهداء للأقصص المبارك، وأن يكبدوا العدو خسائر فاندحة مثل أخيهم الذي يشت عمليته الرعب في نفوس الأعداء.

وقال استبركة "اسلام أون لاين " من عمان حيث يقيم وعائلته: "لحد الله أن العملية تجحت، ولي الفخر أن والذي (سعيد) نقذ أكبر عملية استشهادية منذ خمس سنوات". وأعلن وقد الشهيد أن الإثانين 4/2001 الذي يتوافق مع ذكري مولد الرسول عليه المسلاة والسلام سوف يكون أول يوم الاستقبال التهائي في القليلية" البادة الذي ينتمي إليها والد الشهيد قبل لجونه إلى الأردن وحصوله على جنسيتها.

وأضاف والد الشهيد أنه لا يريد أن "ينتظر من الولايات المتحدة والدول العربية إعادة حقوق الطسطينيين"، وأشار إلى أنه يتعين على الطسطينيين الفسهم أن يختاروا طريقهم، وأضاف الأب أن عائلته من فلسطين أصلاً.

و تقيم أسرة الشهيد في منطقة عوجان (35 كم من عمان) وقد استقبلت الأسرة نبأ استشهاد ابدها بتوزيع الحقوى على أبناء الحي الذين حضروا المتهنئة.

يعين الذي حالة من الفرح لم يشهدها من قبل، ويشعر الزائر أو المقيم بان أمرا غير عادي في الحي، وقال أحد المدرسين من أبناء الذي: له لم يذهب إلى عمله اليوم للمشاركة في هذه الاحقالات الصنحفة بالحي، ولمنابعة هذا المدت غير العادي. وقال بعض جيران الشهيد سعيد: إنه ينتمي إلى عائلة مندينة ، وإنه كان محافظا على صحالة الفجر بالمسجد منذ مسفره، ويحمل إلى جانب الجنسية الأردنية هوية تمكنه من دخول فلسطين.

وصية الشهيد سعيد حسن الحوتري منفذ عملية تل أييب الاستشهادية

ترك الشهيد معيد الحوتري منفذ عملية بل أبيب الاستشهائية والتي أونت بأكثر من 21 صمييونيا ومائة وخمسين جريحا وصية ننشرها هذا كما هي بالنص الحرفي:

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

(قاتلوهم يطبهم الله بأيديكم ويخزهم وينصركم عليهم ويشف صدور قوم مؤمنين)

الحمد شرب العالمين, و لا عنوان إلا على المحتلين الغزاة الغامسيين، والمسلاة والسلام على قائد جند المجاهدين وعلى اله و أصحابه الغر الميامين... إلحوالي أهيالي يا كل شعبي القلسطيلي المجاهد... أيها الأحرار المسلمون في كل العالم :

تهية من قلب تملق بحيل الله المبين، تعية من نفس تواقة للقاء الأعية محمد وصحيه، تحية من شهيد مؤمن حتى ينتظره من سبقوا من الشهداء وعلى رأسهم أستاذي الكبير بحد. عدلك ..

فأنا العبد الفقير الى الدسعيد حسن حسين حوائري من مدينة فلقيلية -22 عاما- قائم

http://www.palestine-info.info/arabic/hamas/shuhda/alhotri/alhotri.htm

07/09/2004



Appendix I

A German TV channel reports having a letter in which Yasser Arafat praises the Dolphinarium suicide bomber. Arafat's office previously claimed that the letter was forged (as reported on Radio Beirut, June 23, 2001)

- 1. A German TV station reported that they had a letter in which Yasser Arafat praised the act of *istishhad* [suicide bombing] carried out on June 1, 2001 near a discotheque in Tel-Aviv, which led to the deaths of 21 Zionists. The [German] station reported that in his letter, Arafat praised the person who carried out the act, saying he was a wonderful model of heroism, manhood, and willingness for self-sacrifice since he had turned his body into a bomb.
- 2. Yasser Arafat's office in Ramallah stated that it was perfectly clear that the letter was forged. The report went on to say that it was the Palestinian embassy in Amman that formulated the letter according to Arafat's instructions. Apparently, the embassy signed the letter with Arafat's name and sent it to the house of the perpetrator of the suicide bombing attack, Sa'id al-Houtari, in Jordan.
- 3. Note: The report was aired by Weltspiegel, a German TV (ARD/channel 1) documentary series on foreign affairs, by its reporter in Amman, Joerg Ambrester. The report stated that among the newspaper clippings found in the possession of the Dolphinarium suicide bomber's sister, there was a letter signed by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. The letter, written by the Palestinian ambassador in Jordan in Arafat's name, stated that the act of the suicide bomber was a model of heroism and sacrifice. Arafat's office denied the existence of the letter and claimed it was forged.