

**PA to pay salaries
to all terrorists in Israeli prisons**
Financial aid from many donor countries
goes directly to PA budget from which salaries are paid
(May 20, 2011)

**Palestinian Authority glorification
of terrorists and payment of salaries
to terrorists and British funding**
(Sept. 13, 2011)

**Special Report
to members of British Parliament**
PMW's response to letter by
Minister of State Alan Duncan to MP Robert Halfon,
that rejected PMW's report that exposed
Palestinian Authority's payment of salaries to terrorists
with UK money
(Oct. 30, 2012)

**Is the PA lying to European governments
in order to receive European funding?**
PMW is releasing more documentation on PA salaries:
European and US money donated to the PA's general
budget is paying salaries not only to all Palestinian
terrorists in Israeli prisons
but also to 4000 former security and terrorist prisoners
(Feb. 14, 2013)

by Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

May 20, 2011

PMW Special Report:

**PA to pay salaries
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**Financial aid from many donor countries
goes directly to PA budget from which salaries are paid**

by Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

A law published in the official Palestinian Authority Registry last month grants all Palestinians and Israeli Arabs imprisoned in Israel for terror crimes a monthly salary from the PA. The Arabic word the PA uses for this payment is "*ratib*," meaning "salary." Palestinian Media Watch has reported numerous times on Palestinian Authority glorification of terrorists serving time in Israeli prisons. Following the signing of this new law, the PA is now paying a salary to these prisoners.

The PA has defined by law which Palestinians would be considered "prisoners."
"Anyone imprisoned in the occupation's [Israel's] prisons as a result of his participation in the struggle against the occupation."

[Ch. 1 of Law of Prisoners, 2004/19,
passed and published by the PA Chairman and Government, December 2004.
The Prisoners' Center for Studies, www.alasra.ps, Accessed May 9, 2011]

In other words, all Palestinians in Israeli prisons for terror crimes officially join the PA payroll. According to the definition in the PA law, Palestinian car thieves in Israeli prisons will not receive a salary, but Hamas and Fatah terrorist murderers will.

The PA also gives a salary to Israeli Arabs convicted of terror crimes against Israel - the country of which they are citizens. PA benefits to Israeli Arab terrorists, in fact, are greater than the ones extended to Palestinian terrorists.

Those serving more than 20-year sentences will receive a greater PA salary than prisoners serving shorter sentences, the new PA law establishes. Salaries are to be paid from the day of arrest until release.

5,500 Palestinian prisoners are currently serving time in Israeli prisons for terror-related offenses. Among those now eligible are Abdullah Barghouti, serving 67 life sentences; Hassan Salameh, serving 46 life sentences; and Jamal Abu Al-Hijja, serving nine life sentences, all of whom are imprisoned for planning suicide bombings. These three terrorists were recently called "heroic" by the official PA daily (see full article below.)

Funding by donor nations could enable payment of salaries to terrorists:

The new PA law stipulates that payment of salaries "**will be implemented... on the basis of available sources of funding.**" Accordingly, when the PA is short of cash for salaries, the salaries to the prisoners will be cut.

The PA has reported that the US, the EU, France, Britain, Ireland, Norway, Japan, India and the World Bank have all given money to the PA for its general budget in 2010-2011 (see donor country chart with amounts below).

Such direct funding could be part of the "available sources" for terrorist salaries, or could free money elsewhere in the PA budget that could be used for these salaries.

The list is not exhaustive as it relies solely on reports in the official PA daily. The PA receives financial aid from many other donors as well.

Recently, the EU announced the transfer of 45 million euros to the PA for salaries:

"Some EUR 45 million of the funds from today's decision will go towards salaries and pensions of vital workers, mainly doctors, nurses and teachers."

[http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_11009_en.htm
Accessed May 9, 2011]

In November 2010, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the transfer of an additional grant to the PA's general budget:

"After the transfer of the \$150 million, the sum which the American administration will have transferred as direct budgetary aid to the PA for 2010 totals \$225 million."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Nov. 11, 2010]

Although the EU, US and other donors are not intentionally funding salaries for terrorists, their funding of other PA salaries and the budget makes money available in the general budget to pay terrorist salaries.

This Palestinian Authority law was enacted before the recent Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement. It was published in the official PA Registry on April 13, 2011.

The purpose of the PA salary:

- 1- A monthly salary to the prisoners while in prison "to provide for the needs of prisoners within Israeli prisons"
- 2- Additional benefits for released prisoners
- 3- Additional benefits for prisoners' families
- 4- Additional clause mandates funding "for the prisoners' legal needs"

Recipients: All prisoners involved in terror:

- All prisoners no matter what their crime or what their political/terror group affiliation receive the same monthly base salaries from the PA. According to a report from the PA Ministry of Prisoners, 792 prisoners are currently serving life sentences in Israeli prisons. They all now receive a PA salary.
- The salary goes directly to the terrorist or the terrorist's family.
- The prisoners receive their salary from the time of arrest.

Additional salary:

- Married prisoners receive additional pay, as well as those with children.
- Arabs from Jerusalem and Israeli Arabs who are imprisoned for terror offenses, get an additional supplement of 300 New Israeli Shekels (NIS) and 500 NIS respectively.

Funding:

- The PA law stipulates that the salaries are dependent on the PA having available cash.

The following is the article in the PA daily describing the new law:

"[Ali Abu Diak,] Secretary of the Central Bureau of the Prisoners' Movement, presented a concise review of the regulations [concerning prisoners] published in vol. 90 of the official PA [Government] Registry, published on April 13, 2011 as follows:

1. Government resolution #19 of 2010...:

A released prisoner will be exempt from tuition fees at government schools and universities if he served a period of five years or more in prison. A released female prisoner who served at least three years in prison will be exempt from tuition fees at government schools and universities. These prisoners are entitled to transfer the exemption to one of their children, or to their spouse...

The Palestinian Authority is committed to providing the opportunity for academic study for prisoners in Israeli prisons, by covering all study expenses for all stages of university study available to prisoners.

A prisoner's children will be exempt from 80% of university tuition fees if the prisoner was sentenced to at least 20 years and has been in prison for at least 5 years. Children of female prisoners will be exempt from 80% of university tuition fees if the prisoner was sentenced to at least 10 years, and has served as least 3 years.

Every released prisoner will be exempt from governmental health insurance if he served at least 5 years in prison, and for female prisoners - at least 3 years. ...

2. Government resolution #21 of 2010, concerning the regulation to provide the needs of prisoners within Israeli prisons:

a. Every prisoner will be paid a uniform sum linked to the cost of living index, as a monthly expenditure ...

b. Every prisoner will be paid a uniform sum of 400 [Israeli] shekels for clothing. The sum will be paid twice a year, and will be added to the prisoner's salary...

3. Government resolution # 22 of 2010, concerning the regulation to provide the prisoners' legal needs...

4. Government resolution # 23 of 2010 concerning the regulation to pay a monthly salary to the prisoner:

Every prisoner will be granted a monthly salary, to be paid to him or to his family, on condition that he does not receive a salary from a [different] governmental or semi-governmental body or official institution... The salary will be paid to the prisoner from the date of his arrest, and a special supplement will be paid to prisoners from Jerusalem and from the Interior [i.e., Israeli Arabs]; a spousal supplement will be paid, and a special supplement for children up to the age of 18...

The minimum salary for a prisoner, to be paid to him from the beginning of his

detention and for up to 3 years, is 1400 shekels. Prisoners who have been imprisoned between 3 and 5 years will be paid 2,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 5 and 10 years will be paid 4,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 10 and 15 years will be paid 6,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 15 and 20 years will be paid 7,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 20 and 25 years will be paid 8,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 25 and 30 years will be paid 10,000 shekels. Those who have been imprisoned 30 years or more will be paid 12,000 shekels. A supplement of 300 Shekels will be added to the salary of every married prisoner, as well as a supplement for children up to the age of 18 in the amount of 50 shekels for every boy or girl, in addition to a supplement for prisoners from Jerusalem in the amount of 300 shekels, and a supplement for prisoners from the Interior [i.e., Israeli Arabs] in the amount of 500 shekels ... These regulations will be implemented from Jan. 1, 2011, on the basis of available sources of funding."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011]

List of donor countries who contribute to PA's general budget

The list includes only those contributions reported in the PA press, and which were designated to the PA's general budget in 2010 or 2011. The list does not include the many other contributions made to the PA by these and other donor countries:

| Donor | Amount | Source |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| European Union | 158.5 million euros | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , January 20, 2010 |
| Britain | 60 million British pounds | <i>Al-Ayyam</i> , February 11, 2010 |
| India | 10 million dollars | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , April 26, 2010 |
| Norway | 53 million dollars | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , June 18, 2010 |
| France | 23 million euros | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , June 22, 2010 |
| World Bank | 40 million dollars | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , October 1, 2010 |
| Japan | 18.5 million dollars | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , October 25, 2010 |
| European Union | 41.4 million euros | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , October 28, 2010 |
| Britain | 30 million British pounds | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , October 28, 2010 |
| United States | 225 million dollars | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , November 11, 2010 |
| Ireland | 1.5 million euros | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , November 15, 2010 |
| Japan | 11.9 million dollars | <i>Al-Hayat Al- Jadida</i> , December 28, 2010 |

The following is the report in the official PA daily calling prisoners "heroic":
"Family members of prisoners expressed heartfelt thanks to the directorate and staff of Voice of the Prisoners Radio, via the program 'On Birds' Wings',

which is broadcast on Voice of the Prisoners. This [thanks] was due to the significant positive effect [of the station] on the mental state of the prisoners and their families, and especially the family members of prisoners who are not allowed visits. The families of the prisoners told the Prisoners' Center for Studies that Voice of the Prisoners, [at] FM 107.9, represents an extremely important struggle and breaks the will of the prison guard in the face of the determination of the Palestinian people, which invents all methods of resistance, first and foremost the role of the media, considering the occupation's violations against the prisoners, and especially the withholding of visits for more than four years. The families of prisoners in solitary confinement, first and foremost the family of the prisoner Commander Ahmad Sa'adat, and **the heroic prisoners** Abbas and **Abdallah Barghouti, Mahmoud Issa, Jamal Abu Al-Haija, Hassan Salameh** and others, said that their sons wait for the program 'On Birds' Wings'."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 13, 2011]

Abdallah Barghouti - sentenced to 67 life sentences for involvement in terror attacks in which 66 Israelis were murdered - Sbarro restaurant (Aug. 9, 2001), Moment Café (March 9, 2002), and the triple attack at the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall (Dec. 1, 2001).

Jamal Abu Al-Hijja - 9 life sentences for involvement in suicide attacks in Hadera shopping mall (Oct. 26, 2005) and at Herzl Street in Netanya (Dec. 5, 2005)

Hassan Salameh - 46 life sentences. Was head of the terror infrastructure which carried out 2 attacks on no. 18 buses in Jerusalem (First attack on Feb. 25, 1996. Second attack on March 3, 1996), and the attack at the Ashkelon Junction hitchhike point (Feb. 25, 1996).

Mahmoud Issa - serving 3 life sentences. Member of the squad that kidnapped and murdered Israeli soldiers, including Nissim Toledano (Dec. 13, 1992).

PMW has not been able to find any information concerning Abbas Barghouti.

Excerpt from EU's announcement of additional aid to the PA:

"EU Commission approves additional € 85 million in support for Palestinian people in 2011"

"Summary: The European Commission has today decided to provide an additional financial package worth EUR 85 million for the occupied Palestinian territory under the 2011 budget. This comes in addition to the € 100 million already approved from European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

...

Some EUR 45 million of the funds from today's decision will go towards salaries and pensions of vital workers, mainly doctors, nurses and teachers. A further EUR 40 million will be allocated for social allowances to vulnerable Palestinian families. These funds come in addition to the EUR 60 million provided to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the EUR 40 million provided to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) at the beginning of the year. At the request of Prime Minister Fayyad these funds have been advanced by an accelerated procedure in order to meet the Authority's urgent

financial needs and to respect the EU's commitment to being a regular and reliable donor."

[http://www.eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_11009_en.htm
Accessed May 9, 2011]

*PMW Special Report,
September 13, 2011*

Palestinian Authority glorification of terrorists and payment of salaries to terrorists and British funding

By Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

Palestinian Authority funding and glorification of terrorists

- The Palestinian Authority pays monthly salaries to 5,500 prisoners in Israeli prisons, including terrorists
- The PA honors terrorists who have killed civilians, presenting them as heroes and role models
- The PA glorifies terror attacks as heroic, including suicide bombings
- The PA funds these salaries and activities from its general budget

British funding of the Palestinian Authority:

- In 2010, according to PA news reports, Britain contributed £90 million to the PA general budget.
- Britain committed to contribute £86 million per year to the PA until 2015

PA Pays Monthly Salaries to Terrorists - Essential Facts

1. New PA law enacts payment of monthly salaries to terrorists in Israeli prisons:

A law signed and published in the official Palestinian Authority Registry in April 2011 puts all Palestinians and Israeli Arabs imprisoned in Israel for terror crimes on the PA payroll to receive a monthly salary from the PA. [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011] This new law called **PA Government Resolution of 2010, numbers 21 and 23**, formalizes what has long been a PA practice.

2. Recipients of the monthly salary:

The PA has defined by law which Palestinians would be considered "prisoners":

"Anyone imprisoned in the occupation's [Israel's] prisons as a result of his participation in the struggle against the occupation." [Ch. 1 of Law of Prisoners, 2004/19, passed and published by the PA Chairman and Government, December 2004.

The Prisoners' Centre for Studies, www.alasra.ps, Accessed May 9, 2011]

According to the PA definition, more than 5,500 Palestinian prisoners serving time for terror-related offenses are recipients. [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 14, 2011] Palestinian car thieves in Israeli prisons will not receive a salary, but every terrorist in prison including murderers are on the PA payroll. The salary goes directly to the terrorist or the terrorist's family, and prisoners receive salary from the day of arrest. [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011]

3. Hamas and Fatah terrorist prisoners receive monthly salaries:

"The PA's Ministry for Prisoner Affairs said that its policy had always been to pay salaries to prisoners and their families **'regardless of their political affiliations.'**" [Jerusalem Post, May 20, 2011].

4. Total amount that the PA pays in salaries to prisoners monthly:

Total: 17,678,247 Shekel (£3,000,000) a month, based on May 2011.

[*Life and the Market*, supplement to *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 19, 2011]

5. Terrorists in prison receive higher average salary than PA civil servants and military personnel

| Salary recipients | Average monthly salary |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Civil servant | 2,882 shekels |
| Military personnel | 2,704 shekels |
| Prisoner | 3,129 shekels |

[*Life and the Market* supplement to *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 19, 2011]

6. PA salary payments to prisoners is dependent on foreign funding

The new PA law stipulates that payment of salaries "**will be implemented... on the basis of available sources of funding.**" [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011] Accordingly, it is the contributions by Britain and other foreign donors to the PA general budget that facilitates the payment of monthly salaries to the terrorist prisoners.

PA's Honoring Terrorists - Essential Facts:

7. The PA leadership and the structures they control present terrorist murderers as heroes and role models, and use the PA budget to honor them and glorify their terror attacks.

The following are examples from 2011:

8. **PA TV honors terrorists involved in suicide bombing that killed 15**
PA TV program *In a Fighter's Home* sent special greetings and praise to terrorist Ahlam Tamimi, who planned a bombing and escorted the suicide bomber by foot through Jerusalem to the Sbarro pizza shop in August 2001. 15 people were murdered in the attack, 7 of them children. The program also visited the home of terrorist Muhammad Wael Daghlas, who planned the attack and sent the suicide bomber.
[PA TV, Aug. 10, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, Sept. 4, 2011, <http://bit.ly/nowmNF>, <http://bit.ly/oKDIBK>]
9. **PA TV continues to glorify most lethal terror attack in Israeli history**
In 1978, a group of terrorists led by Dalal Mughrabi sailed from Lebanon to Israel to carry out a terror attack. They hijacked a bus and killed 37 Israeli civilians, 12 of them children. On the anniversary of the Fatah movement, PA TV chose to glorify the terror attack with a music video celebrating Mughrabi and the attack she led. The video shows a reenactment of the terrorists coming from Lebanon to Israel in boats. PA TV rebroadcast the video, which describes the terrorists as having "no fear of death or the darkness of prison," and glorifies Mughrabi's death: "On the coast [Dalal] Mughrabi's blood was shed, the color of [red] coral on [white] lemon flowers." [PA TV, Jan. 2, Aug. 24, and Sept. 4, 2011, reported in PMW bulletins, January 21 and Aug. 29, 2011, <http://bit.ly/q4KMFs>, <http://bit.ly/qRb497>, <http://bit.ly/o24M4F>]
10. **PA TV honors terrorist involved in 3 attacks that killed 51**
PA TV program *For You* honored terrorist prisoner Salim Hajja, by visiting his family. Hajja is serving 16 life sentences for involvement in three suicide bombings that killed a total of 51 people. Hajja's mother-in-law expresses the hope that Hajja's son Omar will be a "hero" like his father. The son, Omar, says, "Daddy is a hero. I am very proud of him." [PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 11, 2011]
11. **Abbas representative honors terrorist planner of attack that killed 11**
Amin Al-Hindi was a senior planner of the murder of 11 Israeli athletes in the Munich Olympics in 1972. Abdallah Al-Ifranji, special representative of

President Mahmoud Abbas, honored Al-Hindi by laying a wreath on his grave on the anniversary of his death. [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Aug. 18, 2011]

12. PA TV honors planner of suicide bombing that killed 14

Program *For You* honored prisoners Abd Al-Rahman and Abdallah Al-Wahsh, by visiting their homes in Jenin. Abdallah Al-Wahsh was active in Islamic Jihad, and sent a suicide bomber to an attack in 2002, killing 14. Abd Al-Rahman was a leader of the Jerusalem Brigades, the military wing of Islamic Jihad, and was involved in terror attacks. [PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 18, 2011]

13. PA TV honors terrorist prisoner with visit to her family

PA TV program *In a Fighter's Home* honored terrorist prisoner Rima Daragmeh by visiting her family together with the PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake. Daragmeh was involved in enlisting the woman who carried out a suicide bombing in Afula in 2003, and was arrested while intending to carry out a suicide bombing. [PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 16, 2011]

14. Presidential gift awarded to family of terrorist who planned suicide bombing

Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake, and the District Governor of Hebron, Kamel Hamid, honored terrorist prisoner Al-Sharbati, presenting his family with a presidential gift from Mahmoud Abbas. Al-Sharbati was a senior member of Tanzim, a military wing of Fatah, and was involved in planning a suicide bombing in Jerusalem. [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Aug. 8, 2011]

15. PA TV honors planner of suicide bombing with visit to his home

PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake, and District Governor of Hebron, Kamel Hamid again honored terrorist prisoner Yasser Al-Sharbati, with a visit to his family on the PA TV program *In a Fighter's Home*. As stated, Al-Sharbati was involved in planning a suicide bombing in Jerusalem. [PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 15, 2011]

16. PA TV honors female suicide bomber with visit to her mother

PA TV program *The Best Mothers* interviewed the mother of female suicide bomber Darin Abu Aisheh, who carried out a terror attack in 2002, wounding 3 Israelis. The program shows a poster of Abu Aisheh displayed in the mother's home, describing her as "the heroic Martyrdom-seeker." [PA TV, Aug. 3, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, Aug. 10, 2011, <http://bit.ly/nfoAXm>, <http://bit.ly/pmjTLH>]

17. PA TV honors terrorist "Martyr" with visit to his mother

PA TV program *The Best Mothers* interviewed the mother of a bomb maker from Fatah's military wing, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, named Yusuf Shaker Al-Asi. PA TV included in the edited feature a poem and a poster of the bomb maker with an inscription praising Martyrdom for Allah. [PA TV, Aug. 2, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, Aug. 18, 2011, <http://bit.ly/pTSfSh>, <http://bit.ly/mUZVK8>]

18. PA TV honors terrorist who killed 30 with visit to his home

PA TV program *In a Fighter's Home* visits the home of prisoner Anas Jaradat, who served as head of the Islamic Jihad in Jenin and was responsible for

bringing 3 car bombs into Israel, killing nearly 30 Israelis. Secretary of the Fatah branch in Jenin, Ata Abu Ramila, referred to Jaradat on the program as “the heroic Jihad-fighter prisoner” and expressed his pride in “all the heroic prisoners.” [PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 3, 2011, <http://bit.ly/pvbdJ3>]

19. PA TV glorifies terrorist who killed 3 with visit to his home

PA TV program *In a Fighter's Home* visits the home of prisoner Amer Abu Sarhan, convicted of stabbing 3 Israelis to death in 1990. The District Governor of Bethlehem refers to Sarhan as “the heroic prisoner” and says, “We honor him greatly... To all his fellow prisoners – the brave and heroic who are resolute in *Ribat* (i.e., religious conflict/war), to the glorious female prisoners in the occupation's prisons – we salute you [and express our] utmost appreciation and pride.” [PA TV (Fatah), Aug. 2, 2011, <http://bit.ly/oQIYrq>]

20. PA TV rebroadcasts video presenting female terrorist as role model

PA TV repeatedly broadcast a video honoring terrorist Dalal Mughrabi, referring to her as a symbol of “Martyrdom” and “victory over enmity.” Dalal Mughrabi led a bus hijacking in 1978, killing 37 Israeli civilians, 12 of them children. [PA TV (Fatah), May - July, 2011, twice weekly, Nov. - Dec., 2010 weekly, reported in PMW bulletin, Aug. 29, 2011, <http://bit.ly/qRb497>, <http://bit.ly/pny4wn>]

21. A Palestinian Authority summer camp for children sponsored by PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad divided its campers into three groups named after the terrorists Dalal Mughrabi, Salah Khalaf and Abu Ali Mustafa. [Al-Ayyam, July 20, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, July 21, 2011, <http://bit.ly/oVzT5o>]

Dalal Mughrabi in 1978 led the most lethal terror attack in Israel's history, in which 37 civilians were killed, including one American and 12 children.

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), head of Black September terror group, planned the murder of two American diplomats, and the Munich Olympics attack in 1972, and other terror attacks.

Abu Ali Mustafa, General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, planned many terror attacks against civilians.

22. PA Prime Minister Salam Fayyad honored terrorist bombers

"Prime Minister Salam Fayyad opened his weekly radio address... by sending greetings to the Palestinian mother in honor of Mothers' Day... He said, 'On this occasion, **I will not fail to mention with honor and admiration the resolve of the female prisoners, the fighters, and of all the prisoners of freedom who are imprisoned in the Israeli prisons, experiencing indescribable suffering... I make special mention of all the female prisoners who are mothers: Iman Ghazawi;... Qahira Al-Sa'adi; Irena Sarahneh; Latifa Abu Zara'a...**'" [Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, March 24, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, March 27, 2011, <http://bit.ly/gM4Fo5>]

Qahira Al-Sa'adi and Irena Sarahneh, drove suicide bombers to their attacks killing 5.

Iman Ghazawi, placed a bomb in a bus station in Tel Aviv.

Latifa Abu Zara'a, smuggled a bomb into Israel for a suicide terror attack that was uncovered before it was implemented.

23. Abbas granted \$2000 to family of terrorist

In January 2011, a Palestinian terrorist carrying two pipe bombs ran towards Israeli soldiers screaming "Allahu Akbar" ("Allah is Greatest"). He was shot and killed. PA Chairman Abbas granted "the relatives of the Martyr" - \$2000. [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Jan. 25, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, Jan. 27, 2011, <http://bit.ly/ntSTqn>]

24. PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs honored terrorist responsible for murder of 30

PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs Issa Karake visited the family of the terrorist Abbas Al-Sayid who planned the Passover suicide bombing in 2002. 30 Israelis were killed in the terror attack during the Passover Seder dinner. The PA minister handed the family an honorary plaque. [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 29, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, March 31, 2011, <http://bit.ly/dUzjPa>]

25. PA erected tree with pictures of 73 Palestinian prisoners serving life sentences

PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs Issa Karake participated in a ceremony honoring all 73 Palestinians from Bethlehem serving life sentences in prison. The PA unveiled a "Tree of Freedom for Prisoners" decorated with 73 "photographs of prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment." [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 20, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, May 19, 2011, <http://bit.ly/jgbfME>]

26. PA officials visited homes of terrorists serving life sentences

"District Governor of Bethlehem, Abd Al-Fatah Hamael [and other PA officials]... visited the homes of prisoners... Mahmoud Abu Sorour, Nasser Abu Sorour, Riyad Al-Amour, Adnan Al-Afandi, and Rizq Salah... The district governor gave [the families] gift packages of sweets with pictures of the prisoners printed on them." [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 18, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, May 19, 2011, <http://bit.ly/jgbfME>]

Riyad Al-Amour - Serving 11 life sentences for murder of 9 Israelis and 3 Palestinians he suspected of helping Israel.

Adnan Al-Afandi - Attempted to kill two children by stabbing them, 1992

Nasser and Mahmoud Abu Sorour - Participated in murder of Israeli Intelligence agent.

Rizq Salah - Killed an Israeli soldier with a bomb in Bethlehem, 1993.

27. The official PA daily: 4 terrorists involved in murdering 117 Israelis are "heroic"

The official PA daily reported on the visit of the Palestinian Prisoners' Center for Studies to the homes of terrorists serving life sentences for murder. The PA daily referred to the terrorists as follows: "**The heroic prisoners Abbas and Abdallah Barghouti, Mahmoud Issa, Jamal Abu Al-Haija, Hassan Salameh...**" [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 13, 2011]

Abdallah Barghouti - sentenced to 67 life sentences for involvement in suicide bombing attacks in which 66 Israelis were murdered: Sbarro restaurant (Aug. 9, 2001), Moment Cafe (March 9, 2002), and triple suicide bombing at Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall (Dec. 1, 2001).

Hassan Salameh - 46 life sentences. Was head of the terror infrastructure which carried out 2 suicide bombing attacks on buses in Jerusalem (Feb. 25, 1996, March 3, 1996), and the suicide bombing at the Ashkelon Junction (Feb. 25, 1996).

Jamal Abu Al-Haija - 9 life sentences for involvement in suicide bombing attacks in Hadera shopping mall (Oct. 26, 2005) and at Herzl Street in Netanya (Dec. 5, 2005)

Mahmoud Issa - serving 3 life sentences. Member of the squad that kidnapped and murdered Israeli soldiers, including Nissim Toledano (Dec. 13, 1992).

28. Official PA TV honored the woman who led a suicide terrorist to his bombing that murdered 15 in pizza shop attack

PA TV broadcast a program honoring Ahlam Tamimi, the woman who planned and led the suicide terrorist to the Sbarro pizza restaurant in Jerusalem in August 2001. 15 people were murdered in the attack, 7 of them children. Visiting Tamimi's home, the PA TV crew interviewed her relatives, and the camera focused on an award which read:

**"A gift of the Fatah Palestinian National Liberation Movement
Ramallah - El-Bireh branch
To the heroic prisoner Ahlam Tamimi
As a token of esteem for your sacrifices
And your acts of heroism."**

[PA TV, March 10, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, March 17, 2011, <http://bit.ly/eqrs91>]

29. Official PA TV honored driver of suicide terrorist who murdered 19 on bus

PA TV honored terrorist, Fahami Mashahra, who drove a suicide bomber to Jerusalem in 2001 in which 19 were murdered. The PA TV host said to his daughter:

"Greetings of honor and admiration to your heroic father in prison, Fahami Mashahra, serving 20 life sentences in the occupation's prison. Thank you very much." [PA TV, March 4, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, March 17, 2011, <http://bit.ly/eqrs91>, <http://bit.ly/qPanf9>]

30. Advisor of Mahmoud Abbas: "The weapons must be turned towards the main enemy [Israel]" and terrorist Dalal Mughrabi must be honored by naming a square after her:

"Advisor of President Mahmoud Abbas Sabri Saidam, delivered a speech... **He emphasized that the weapons must be turned towards the main enemy [Israel]** and that internal differences of opinion must be set aside... and emphasized that **the anniversary of Dalal's Martyrdom-seeking (i.e., her terror attack in which 37 civilians were murdered) should be amplified by inaugurating a square in her name** in the city of El-Bireh."

[Al-Ayyam, March 10, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, March 13, 2011, <http://bit.ly/fFcweP>]

31. Fatah movement lauded suicide bombers

"The Fatah movement commemorated at the Deheisheh [refugee] camp the anniversary of **some of the camp's *Shahids (Martyrs)***... The movement organized a procession... [to] the home of the ***Shahid Muhammad Daraghmeh, who carried out a bombing operation*** (i.e., suicide bombing which killed 9) in Jerusalem... [and mentioned] ***Ayyat Al-Akhras (at age 17, the youngest female suicide bomber, killed two Israelis in her suicide attack in March, 2002.)***" [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 4, 2011]

32. PA TV repeatedly glorified terrorist who killed 3 teens, and another who planned a suicide bombing

A PA TV video tribute to "Martyrs" that was broadcast on PA TV several times a day for four days honored a terrorist who killed three Israelis and one who recruited female suicide terrorists and planned a double suicide attack in Tel Aviv. A photo collage in the same video tribute was labeled "Heroes of the special operations in northern Palestine" which referred to terror attacks in northern Israel. [PA TV, several times daily Feb. 21-24, 2011, reported in PMW bulletin, March 13, 2011, <http://bit.ly/mWDIq4>]

**Britain has funded the PA budget
which pays terrorist salaries and glorifies terrorists**

33. The Palestinian Authority pays over £3,000,000 a month directly to terrorists as salaries. In addition to the examples cited here, Palestinian Media Watch has documented many other examples of the PA's honoring terrorists and presenting them as heroes and role models. Still in 2011, this glorification of terrorists is a mainstay of PA policy under Chairman Mahmoud Abbas and PM Salam Fayyad, who as shown above are actively involved.

34. In 2010, according to PA news reports, Britain gave £90 million to the PA general budget. [*Al-Ayyam*, February 11, 2010, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, October 28, 2010]

35. In coming years, Britain is planning to continue supporting the PA. UK Dept. of International Development: "We will spend an average of £86 million per year in the Occupied Palestinian Territories until 2015." <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/OPT>

36. When Britain allocates funding to the PA general budget, it is participating in paying the salaries of terrorists in prison and funding the glorification of terrorists.

37. In a July 2011 agreement with the UK, the PA committed to non-violence

DFID (Department for International Development) 07 July 2011, press release:

"The International Development Minister set out the plans for the next four years during a visit to the OPTs, where he signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Prime Minister Fayyad of the Palestinian National Authority (PA)...

The Memorandum of Understanding highlights the PAs commitment to non-violence and a negotiated two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as well as their pledge to respect human rights and international obligations and deliver clean and accountable governance in the OPTs. **It also links part of the funding to the PA to improvements in delivering value for money.**" <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/OPT>

Palestinian Authority actions to assure that British funding not go to terrorists or their glorification

In order to assure that British funding does not go to terrorists or their glorification, there are clearly defined and quantifiable steps that the Palestinian Authority should implement:

- 1. The PA should repeal the law "PA Government resolutions, numbers 21 and 23 of 2010" which grants all terrorists in Israeli prisons a PA monthly salary**
- 2. The PA should stop paying salaries to terrorists in Israeli prisons (as they have admitted to doing even before the law)**
- 3. The PA should stop honoring and role modeling terrorists through naming of places and events in their honor**
- 4. The PA should stop having PA dignitaries and ministers visit terrorists' homes and stop granting their families awards in their names**

All of these steps can be implemented immediately and are easily monitored.

Palestinian Authority Sources

New PA law granting salaries to terrorists

The following is the article in the official PA daily quoting the new Palestinian Authority law:

"[Ali Abu Diak,] Secretary of the Central Bureau of the Prisoners' Movement, presented a concise review of the laws [concerning prisoners] published in vol. 90 of the official PA [Government] Registry, **published on April 13**, as follows:

1. Government resolution #19 of 2010...:

A released prisoner will be exempt from tuition fees at government schools and universities if he served a period of five years or more in prison. A released female prisoner who served at least three years in prison will be exempt from tuition fees at government schools and universities. These prisoners are entitled to transfer the exemption to one of their children, or to their spouse...

The Palestinian Authority is committed to providing the opportunity for academic study for prisoners in Israeli prisons, by covering all study expenses for all stages of university study available to prisoners.

A prisoner's children will be exempt from 80% of academic tuition fees if the prisoner was sentenced to at least 20 years and has been in prison for at least 5 years. Children of a female prisoner will be exempt from 80% of university tuition fees if the prisoner was sentenced to at least 10 years, and has served as least 3 years.

Every released prisoner will be exempt from governmental health insurance if he served at least 5 years in prison, and for female prisoners - at least 3 years. ...

2. **Government resolution #21 of 2010**, concerning the amendment to provide for the needs of prisoners within Israeli prisons:

a. **Every prisoner will be paid a uniform sum linked to the cost of living index, as a monthly expenditure ...**

b. Every prisoner will be paid a uniform sum of 400 [Israeli] shekels for clothing. The sum will be paid twice a year, and will be added to the prisoner's salary...

3. Government resolution # 22 of 2010, concerning the amendment to provide for the prisoners' legal needs...

4. Government resolution # 23 of 2010 concerning the amendment on payment of a monthly salary to the prisoner:

Every prisoner will be granted a monthly salary, to be paid to him or to his family, on condition that he does not receive a salary from a [different] governmental or semi-governmental body or official institution... **The salary will be paid to the prisoner from the date of his arrest**, and a special supplement will be paid to prisoners from Jerusalem and from the Interior [i.e., Israeli Arabs]; a spousal supplement will be paid, and a special supplement for children up to the age of 18...

The minimum salary for a prisoner, to be paid to him from the beginning of his detention and for up to 3 years, is 1400 shekels. Prisoners who have been imprisoned between 3 and 5 years will receive 2,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 5 and 10 years will receive 4,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 10 and 15 years will receive 6,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 15 and 20 years will receive 7,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 20 and 25 years will receive 8,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 25 and 30 years will receive 10,000 shekels. Those who have been imprisoned 30 years or more will receive 12,000 shekels.

A supplement of 300 shekels will be added to the salary of every married prisoner, as well as a supplement for children up to the age of 18 in the amount of 50 shekels for every boy or girl, in addition to a supplement for prisoners from Jerusalem in the amount of 300 shekels, and a supplement for prisoners from the Interior [i.e., Israeli Arabs] in the amount of 500 shekels...

These regulations will be implemented from Jan. 1, 2011, on the basis of available sources of funding."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011]

PA Salaries from the general budget in May 2011

“An official document, a copy of which reached *Life and the Market* (supplement to the official PA daily), reveals that the cost of salaries [in the PA budget] is much higher than people think. According to the document, the sum of monthly salaries for May 2011 totaled 727,287,824 shekels (£123,393,581), paid from the treasury of the [Palestinian] National Authority...

The document shows that the largest portion of the salaries' expense - more than 40% - was paid to civil servants. A total of 293,435,045 shekels was paid to 101,802 civil servants, about three quarters of them in the West Bank. **The average salary for a civil servant in the Palestinian Authority is 2882 shekels...**

The military personnel of the Palestinian Authority occupy second place – 24% - in the cost of salaries, with a total of 172,873,226 shekels. **Surprisingly, the Gaza Strip represents more than 55% of the total cost of salaries of military personnel. The average salary for members of the PA military personnel is 2704 shekels ...**

The PA transfers about 7% of the cost of salaries overseas, in the form of salaries to personnel at consulates and the Palestine National Fund, foreign fronts, **and PLO forces and institutions, in the amount of 51,872,446 shekels.**

As for the prisoners (i.e., in Israeli prisons), they receive approximately 2.5% of the cost of salaries [for May], in the form of salaries and [additional] payments, totaling 17,678,247 shekels (£3,000,000).

Taking care of families of *Shahids* (Martyrs), inside and outside [the PA], totals about 3.5% of the total cost of salaries [for May], in the amount of 26,458,137 shekels.

The West Bank received the majority of the payments and salaries to prisoners, while the Gaza Strip receives a greater portion of the budget for assistance to *Shahids*' families. The average prisoner salary is 3129 shekels...

Salaries for members of the inactive Parliament (Legislative Council) [which has not been meeting since the Fatah– Hamas conflict] totaled approximately 0.5% of the cost of salaries – 3,272,316 shekels.”

[*Life and the Market*, supplement to *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 19, 2011]

Oct. 30, 2012

Special Report
to members of British Parliament
PMW's response to letter by
Minister of State Alan Duncan to MP Robert Halfon,
that rejected PMW's report that exposed
Palestinian Authority's payment of salaries to terrorists
with UK money

London, Oct. 15, 2012 (updated Oct. 30, 2012)

by Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

Introduction:

On May 20, 2011, Palestinian Media Watch published a report entitled:
**“PA to pay salaries to all terrorists in Israeli prisons:
Financial aid from many donor countries
goes directly to PA budget from which salaries are paid”**

The report exposed new Palestinian Authority regulation that was announced in April 2011 retroactive to Jan. 1, 2011, which raised salaries for all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons for terror-related crimes. Recipients include all terrorists in prison, including those sentenced to dozens of life sentences for planning and directing suicide bombings. According to the explicit language of the PA law, according to PA economic reports on government salaries, and according to the PA tax authorities, the monthly payments to prisoners, which range from 1,400 shekels to 12,000 shekels, are salaries – in Arabic *Ratib* (راتب) - no different than salaries received by civil servants. They are paid from the PA's general budget and income taxes are paid as is the case with all other PA salaries. The PA's general budget is funded by numerous donor countries, including the UK.

Shortly after the release of PMW's report, British MP Robert Halfon questioned the UK's policy regarding funding of the PA in light of PMW's findings. Minister of State Alan Duncan responded with a letter saying PMW's report was “*inaccurate and misleading*”:

“I am writing to you further to your comments in the Jewish News regarding claims that British taxpayers are funding the families of Palestinian suicide bombers and prisoners in Israeli jails. If these claims were true, this would be a matter of very serious concern for me and the Department. However, I am pleased to reassure you that we have investigated the matter fully and can confirm that the allegations in Palestinian Media Watch's report are both inaccurate and misleading.”

It is not clear how the Minister's office “investigated the matter fully,” but the information the Minister presented in his letter is wrong. The Minister's main argument was that the payments were not salaries to terrorists, but “*social*

assistance programmes to provide welfare payments” to the terrorists’ families. He wrote: “I hope you will also agree that dependent spouses or children should not be held responsible for the crimes of family members, or forced to live in poverty as a consequence.”

The Minister’s letter does not cite any sources to back up this information. Furthermore, those who conducted the research for the Minister did not bother to contact PMW - a serious omission, considering that it was PMW’s report that was under discussion.

This present PMW report documents that the general statements made by the Minister of State in his letter which lack any sources and contradict PMW’s findings, are wrong.

This report verifies PMW’s original findings:

- 1- The Palestinian Authority is currently paying **salaries** totaling approximately £2,798,825 each month to all Palestinian terrorists in Israeli prisons, including mass murderers. The prisoner is the only one who has the authority to designate an “agent” to handle his money while he is in prison. The prisoner is not obligated to give his salary to his wife, children, or parents.
- 2- As long as the UK continues funding the PA’s general budget, it will be a participant in the payment of salaries to terrorist murderers.

This report quotes the arguments made by Minister Duncan in his letter to MP Halfon, followed by PMW’s refutation of each point, with full quotes of the proof texts from Palestinian Authority sources. The Minister’s full letter follows at the end.

Minister Duncan to MP Halfon (1):

“The PA operates two social assistance programmes to provide welfare payments to households who have lost their main breadwinner, either through imprisonment or where they have been killed or wounded as a result of the wider conflict... It is true that in some cases, payments will go to families of those who have committed the sort of crime that we utterly condemn. But I hope it is clear from the information I have set out above that the schemes are not intended in any way to reward or encourage such crimes. I hope you will also agree that dependent spouses or children should not be held responsible for the crimes of family members, or forced to live in poverty as a consequence.”

PMW’s refutation:

The following are the PA sources showing that what PMW documented was in fact salaries to terrorists, and not welfare payments to support women and children:

1. The payments PMW documented are defined by the Palestinian Authority in the PA law “Government resolution # 23 of 2010” as “**salaries**” - **Ratib** (راتب) - for prisoners. Nowhere in the PA law do the words “social assistance” or “welfare payments” appear. On the other hand, the word “salary” appears repeatedly:

“Government resolution # 23 of 2010 concerning the amendment on payment of a **monthly salary** to the prisoner: Every prisoner will be granted a **monthly salary**... on condition that he does not receive a **salary** from a [different] governmental [body]... **The salary** will be paid to the prisoner from the date of

his arrest... The **minimum salary** for a prisoner..." [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011]

2. The salary payments are not related to social welfare, but are determined according to the severity of the crime as expressed by length of time in prison. The longer the time in prison, the higher the salary:

"The minimum salary for a prisoner, to be paid to him from the beginning of his detention and for up to 3 years, is 1,400 shekels. Prisoners who have been imprisoned between 3 and 5 years will receive 2,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 5 and 10 years will receive 4,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 10 and 15 years will receive 6,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 15 and 20 years will receive 7,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 20 and 25 years will receive 8,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 25 and 30 years will receive 10,000 shekels. Those who have been imprisoned 30 years or more will receive 12,000 shekels."

[Government resolution # 23 of 2010, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011]

The salary amount is far higher than social welfare payments, and is linked to the terrorist and the severity of his crime, not to his family status, his family's needs, or their financial conditions. The basic salary payments become higher in accordance with years in prison and not the number of dependents in the family. The salary's corresponding to the severity of the terror act demonstrates that the payment is not social welfare for the families but is a reward for terror.

3. The Minister's assertion that these payments are "*welfare payments to households who have lost their main breadwinner... dependent spouses or children should not be held responsible for the crimes of family members*" is wrong and appears nowhere in the law. Moreover, the standard payment system cited above is not related to the family status of the terrorist prisoner. Married prisoners with children receive a separate stipend for their wives and children, far smaller than the salaries that can be as high as 12,000 shekels (almost £2,000) a month:

"A supplement of **300 shekels** will be **added to the salary** of every married prisoner, as well as a supplement for children up to the age of 18 in the amount of **50 shekels**." [emphasis added, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011]

This division makes it clear that there are two payments – a substantial basic as a reward for terror, and a second small supplement as social welfare according to the number of dependents. The core salary is not related to family status. The additional stipend for a married prisoner is 300 shekels (£48) to the spouse and a mere 50 shekels (£8) per child.

4. Another important regulation regarding the prisoner's salary is that the prisoners have complete control over the money through the appointment of their personal representative to handle and control its use. PA regulation states that a "*wakil*" – an "authorized agent" or "power of attorney" will be appointed by the prisoner himself to determine the use of the money. The regulation explicitly gives the prisoner the right to designate people other than his wife or parents. Appointment of an "agent" can be authorized only by the prisoner's signature on a special form. The following is the exact text of the regulation (emphasis added):

Paragraph 1

“Authorized agent: The person who is authorized to receive the salary in place of the prisoner.”

Paragraph 5

“1. If the prisoner is married, his wife will be his authorized agent, **unless the prisoner appoints someone else instead of her.**”

“2. If the prisoner is not married, one of his parents will be the authorized agent.

The prisoner determines which one of them **or any other person** [will be the authorized agent], if there is an argument about it.”

“3. Authorization of an agent is done by an authorization of agent [form] issued by the Red Cross, that is **signed by the prisoner**, or by a special authorization of agent [form] **signed by him and approved by a lawyer of the Ministry** [of Prisoners’ Affairs] and by the General Administration for Legal Matters of the Ministry. It will be valid for use by the Ministry only for the purpose of the salary.”

[PA regulation 18, 2010, PA Ministry of Prisoners’ Affairs, <http://freedom.ps/attachments/25-5-2011/02.pdf> accessed Oct. 30, 2012]

An important legal indicator determining that this is a prisoner’s salary is that the money is controlled by the prisoner through his personal agent. The salary for any terrorist-prisoner can be put away in an account for the prisoner’s use after his release – if the prisoner so chooses.

If the PA wanted this to be a welfare payment to the prisoners’ families, it would have given the money directly to the families.

5. Nearly two thirds of the prisoners are unmarried and have no children. Nevertheless, they still receive a full monthly salary:

“The Ministry of Prisoners’ Affairs in Ramallah said... that there are 2,805 married [prisoners], representing 37.4% percent of the total number. There are 4,695 unmarried prisoners, representing 62.6%.” [Al-Quds, Jan. 3, 2010]

Thus, nearly two thirds of the money that the British minister was informed is a “welfare payment” for wives and children is actually going to thousands of single terrorists without families.

6. Another confirmation that the PA views payments to prisoners as government salaries is that the prisoners pay **withheld income taxes**, as do all salaried workers:

Headline: “[Minister of Prisoners’ Affairs] Karake: Withholding tax applies to every citizen who receives income from the PA”

“A meeting was held between the Ministry of Prisoners’ Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. Several issues were clarified: The [withholding] tax applies to every citizen who receives income from PA treasury; it is within the framework of the Income Tax Act, and begins with salaries over 1,400 shekels per month. The initial rate is 5% for salaries over that amount. The tax rate is graduated, reaching at most only 10% of prisoners’ salaries. The Minister of Prisoners’ Affairs said that the prisoners in the Israeli prisons and their families are subject to the [tax] law.”

[Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, June 19, 2011]

7. The following official PA economic document provides further proof that the PA pays salaries to prisoners. The document discusses in detail what portion of the PA budget went to paying salaries in May 2011:

“An official document, a copy of which reached *Life and the Market* (supplement to the official PA daily), reveals that the cost of salaries [in the PA budget] is much higher than people think... The sum of monthly salaries for May 2011 totaled 727,287,824 shekels (i.e., £123,393,581), paid from the treasury of the [Palestinian] National Authority... The document shows that the largest portion of the salaries’ expense - more than 40% - was paid to civil servants... **As for the prisoners, they receive approximately 2.5% of the cost of salaries** [for May], in the form of salaries and [additional] payments, totaling 17,678,247 shekels (i.e., £3,000,000).”

[*Life and the Market*, supplement to *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 19, 2011]

Significantly, this PA government report did not deal at all with social welfare: it compared and discussed only government salaries, and it included salaries to prisoners.

Minister Duncan to MP Halfon (2):

“*Contrary to media reporting, the payments [to prisoners and to families of people killed] are not more generous than standard PA civil service or military salaries.*”

PMW’s refutation:

When PMW reported that the salaries of prisoners were higher than the salaries of PA civil servants and military salaries, PMW cited an official PA document which explicitly states that:

“The average salary for a civil servant in the Palestinian Authority is 2882 shekels...

The average salary for members of the PA military personnel is 2704 shekels...

The average prisoner salary is 3129 shekels.”

| Salary recipients | Average monthly salary |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Civil servant | 2,882 shekels |
| Military personnel | 2,704 shekels |
| Prisoner | 3,129 shekels |

[*Life and the Market*, supplement to *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 19, 2011]

Note also that Minister Duncan in his letter did not use the word “salary” to refer to prisoners’ payments, even though the PA only uses the word “salary.”

Minister Duncan to MP Halfon (3):

“*In the case of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, they receive a minimal allowance to cover the cost of food and clothes. This scheme operates at the request of the Israeli authorities and is designed to reimburse them for the costs of providing prisoners with food and clothing. It is not in any sense a ‘salary’ to prisoners, nor a ‘reward’ for having committed crimes against Israel.*”

PMW's comment:

In this excerpt, Minister Duncan cited correct information, but it is not at all related to the salaries allotted to terrorists documented by PMW. The PA gives two payments to the prisoners. First, the main payment is a salary granted to prisoners, as documented above. Second, the PA pays prisoners monthly canteen money, as recently explained by the Minister of Prisoners' Affairs:

“[Minister of Prisoners' Affairs] Karake said that the [Palestinian] government pays **salaries** to the prisoners in prison, in an amount averaging 17,500,000 shekels (i.e., approximately: £2,798,825) per month, as well as millions of shekels in **canteen** money each month, for prisoners in prison.” [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 8, 2012]

The fact that the prisoners receive canteen money directly in prison is not at all related to the salary payments that the PMW documented, which currently stands at approximately £2,798,825 per month.

Minister Duncan to MP Halfon (4):

“It is true that in some cases, payments will go to families of those who have committed the sort of crime that we utterly condemn. But I hope it is clear from the information I have set out above that the schemes are not intended in any way to reward or encourage such crimes.”

PMW's response:

The following PA TV interview by phone with a released prisoner, who called the TV studio to complain about the PA, is a striking indicator that the terrorists themselves understand that they are receiving a PA **salary** specifically as a *reward for*, their terror attacks. Iyad Abu Khaizaran, a member of the Islamic Jihad terror organization, was given a life sentence in 1991 for stabbing a 76-year-old Israeli, Shlomo Yahya, to death in a suburb of Tel Aviv. He was released from prison in 2011, when Israel agreed to release 1,027 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, who had been held hostage by Hamas for more than 5 years. The released terrorist called the PA TV talk show to complain that while he and other prisoners all received **full salaries** in prison, since his release he had only received half a salary. The terrorist explained the reason he and other released prisoners should receive a full salary: “We killed Jews. I personally killed Jews. I killed settlers and I injured soldiers... The PA that presents itself as responsible for the nation must be faithful to everyone.” The PA's payment of salaries is not seen by the terrorists themselves as a welfare issue at all, but as a way for the government to be “faithful” to him and his friends for their killing of Jews.

The following is the transcript:

PA TV host: “With us is Iyad Abu Khaizaran. Good evening.”

Iyad (on phone): “Hello. Since the day we were released from prison, we were given [only] half a salary... We killed Jews. I personally killed Jews. I killed settlers and I injured soldiers. My house was destroyed. I have 11 bullets in my body. I served 22 years in Israeli prisons. The PA that presents itself as responsible for the nation must be faithful to everyone.”

Host: “You, like the other [prisoners], did you receive salaries in the prisons?”

Iyad: “Yes. After about the year 2000, [the salaries] were organized.”

Host: "In other words, from 2000, I mean, all the organizations, without exception, whether it was Fatah, or Hamas, supporters of Abbas or not supporters of Abbas, they [all] received salaries or not?..."
Iyad: "Yes, yes they did." [PA TV, March 29, 2012]

This interview is very significant. It shows not only that the letter of PA law defines the payments as salaries, but that the terrorists themselves understand it both as a salary and as a reward because he "personally killed Jews."

Conclusions:

1. The PA under law pays salaries to all Palestinian terrorist prisoners in Israeli prisons.
2. Prisoners' salaries are not social welfare payments to support wives and children, but salaries granted to prisoners because they committed crimes against Israel, including terror and murder.
3. The Arabic language of the written PA law uses the word that means "salary." The words "social assistance" and "welfare" do not appear at all in the entire text of the law.
4. The monthly salary amount is based on the number of years the terrorist has been in prison, for single and married prisoners alike. It is not based on family status.
5. The salary for prisoners goes as high as 12,000 shekels a month for those who have served the longest time in prison. Stipends are a mere 300 shekels a month for wives and 50 shekels per child. 62% of the terrorists in Israeli prisons are single and receive full PA salaries.
6. A prisoner serving more than 30 years receives a monthly salary of 12,000 shekels, approximately three times the salary of a civil servant, even if the prisoner has no wife and children.
7. The prisoner, not his family, controls the money and determines who should be in charge of it through an "authorization of agent" form.
8. Withholding taxes are paid from the higher salaries, as with all PA government salaries.
9. The average salary of prisoners is higher than the salaries for PA civil servants and military personnel.
10. The salaries of the PA terrorists in Israeli prisons are paid from the PA's general budget.
11. The yearly UK monetary aid given to the PA general budget helps pay the salaries of terrorist murderers in prison.

Minister Duncan wrote:

"I hope this information will reassure you that the Palestinian Authority is not operating any programme which financially rewards those who commit acts of terrorism and no UK aid is being used for this purpose."

This PMW report shows the opposite: The PA spends 17 million shekels (i.e., £2,798,825) monthly in 2012 to pay salaries to terrorist prisoners from all the terror organizations. These payments are in recognition of their acts of terror. UK aid to the general budget of the PA is also being used for this purpose.

Minister Duncan:

*“... regarding claims that British taxpayers are funding the families of Palestinian suicide bombers and prisoners in Israeli jails. **If these claims were true, this would be a matter of very serious concern for me and the Department.** However, I am pleased to reassure you that we have investigated the matter fully and can confirm that **the allegations in Palestinian Media Watch's report are both inaccurate and misleading.**”*

This report documents that PMW's original report is both accurate and true.

The fact that the PA uses its general budget to reward terrorists with salaries should be a matter of very serious concern for all donor countries to the PA.

Appendix: Full Palestinian Authority **Sources**

PA law granting salaries to terrorists

The following is the article in the official PA daily quoting the new Palestinian Authority law:

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The Palestinian Authority is committed to providing the opportunity for academic study for prisoners in Israeli prisons, by covering all study expenses for all stages of university study available to prisoners.

A prisoner's children will be exempt from 80% of academic tuition fees if the prisoner was sentenced to at least 20 years and has been in prison for at least 5 years. Children of a female prisoner will be exempt from 80% of university tuition fees if the prisoner was sentenced to at least 10 years, and has served as least 3 years.

Every released prisoner will be exempt from governmental health insurance if he served at least 5 years in prison, and for female prisoners - at least 3 years. ...

2. Government resolution #21 of 2010, concerning the amendment to provide for the needs of prisoners within Israeli prisons:

a. Every prisoner will be paid a uniform sum linked to the cost of living index, as a monthly expenditure...

b. Every prisoner will be paid a uniform sum of 400 [Israeli] shekels for clothing. The sum will be paid twice a year, and will be added to the prisoner's salary...

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The minimum salary for a prisoner, to be paid to him from the beginning of his detention and for up to 3 years, is 1400 shekels. Prisoners who have been imprisoned between 3 and 5 years will receive 2,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 5 and 10 years will receive 4,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 10 and 15 years will receive 6,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 15 and 20 years will receive 7,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 20 and 25 years will receive 8,000 shekels. Those imprisoned between 25 and 30 years will receive 10,000 shekels. Those who have been imprisoned 30 years or more will receive 12,000 shekels.

A supplement of 300 shekels will be added to the salary of every married prisoner, as well as a supplement for children up to the age of 18 in the amount of 50 shekels for every boy or girl, in addition to a supplement for prisoners from Jerusalem in the amount of 300 shekels, and a supplement for prisoners from the Interior [i.e., Israeli Arabs] in the amount of 500 shekels...

These regulations will be implemented from Jan. 1, 2011, on the basis of available sources of funding."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, April 15, 2011]

PA regulation 18, 2010 from the Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs on the appointment of agent authorized to control a prisoners' salary (emphasis added):

"Paragraph 1:

Authorized agent: The person who is authorized to receive the salary in place of the prisoner."

"Paragraph 5:

1. If the prisoner is married, his wife will be his authorized agent, **unless the prisoner appoints someone else instead of her.**"

"2. If the prisoner is not married, one of his parents will be the authorized agent.

The prisoner determines which one of them **or any other person** [will be the authorized agent], if there is an argument about it."

"3. Authorization of an agent is done by an authorization of agent [form] issued by the Red Cross, that is **signed by the prisoner**, or by a special authorization of agent [form] **signed by him and approved by a lawyer of the Ministry** [of Prisoners' Affairs] and by the General Administration for Legal Matters of the Ministry. It will be valid for use by the Ministry only for the purpose of the salary."

[PA regulation 18, 2010, PA Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, <http://freedom.ps/attachments/25-5-2011/02.pdf> accessed Oct. 30, 2012]

PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake on current level of salaries

Headline: "[PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake] Emphasized that the PA is one of the major employers of released prisoners –

“Karake said that the [Palestinian] government pays salaries to the prisoners in prison, in an amount averaging 17,500,000 shekels (approximately £2,798,825) per month, as well as millions of shekels in canteen money each month, for prisoners in prison. Karake stated that the government offers release grants to released prisoners in an amount exceeding 5 million shekels (approximately £800,000) annually.”

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 8, 2012]

PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake explains difference between salaries and canteen payments

Headline: "Karake: 400 shekels paid to prisoners, and canteen allowance to be increased"

Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake, said that **the Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs had paid every prisoner 400 shekels, in addition to his salary (Arabic: *ratib*), as clothing expenses.** He added yesterday, in a press release, that [his ministry] is working to increase [the prisoners'] canteen allowance (Arabic: *mukhassas*) for the month of Ramadan, and noted that the financial grant for released prisoners who had served long sentences will be regulated by law and in accordance with available financial resources. He thanked the President [Abbas] and the Prime Minister [Fayyad] for their constant interest in providing a dignified and worthy life for every male and female prisoner released from the occupation's prisons. Karake noted that the Palestinian Authority is in unfortunate financial straits, and therefore this grant will be regulated according to a table to be approved by the government and fair criteria to be set by the Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs. [Karake added that] this would become a regular service, along with the other services provided by the Ministry for Prisoners' Affairs."

[*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, July 11, 2012]

PA Salaries are from the PA's general budget

“An official document, a copy of which reached *Life and the Market* (supplement to the official PA daily), reveals that the cost of salaries [in the PA budget] is much higher than people think. According to the document, the sum of monthly salaries for May 2011 totaled 727,287,824 shekels (£123,393,581), paid from the treasury of the [Palestinian] National Authority...

The document shows that the largest portion of the salaries' expense - more than 40% - was paid to civil servants. A total of 293,435,045 shekels was paid to 101,802 civil servants, about three quarters of them in the West Bank. **The average salary for a civil servant in the Palestinian Authority is 2882 shekels...**

The military personnel of the Palestinian Authority occupy second place – 24% - in the cost of salaries, with a total of 172,873,226 shekels. **Surprisingly, the Gaza Strip represents more than 55% of the total cost of salaries of military personnel. The average salary for members of the PA military personnel is 2704 shekels...**

The PA transfers about 7% of the cost of salaries overseas, in the form of salaries to personnel at consulates and the Palestine National Fund, foreign fronts, **and PLO forces and institutions, in the amount of 51,872,446 shekels.**

As for the prisoners (i.e., in Israeli prisons), they receive approximately 2.5% of the cost of salaries [for May], in the form of salaries and [additional] payments, totaling 17,678,247 shekels (£3,000,000).

Taking care of families of *Shahids* (Martyrs), inside and outside [the PA], totals about 3.5% of the total cost of salaries [for May], in the amount of 26,458,137 shekels.

The West Bank received the majority of the payments and salaries to prisoners, while the Gaza Strip receives a greater portion of the budget for assistance to *Shahids*' families. The average prisoner salary is 3129 shekels... Salaries for members of the inactive Parliament (Legislative Council) [which has not been meeting since the Fatah– Hamas conflict] totaled approximately 0.5% of the cost of salaries – 3,272,316 shekels.”

[*Life and the Market*, supplement to *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, June 19, 2011]

***Full text of Minister of State for International Development Alan
Duncan's letter***

to MP Robert Halfon:

Robert Halfon MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Alan Duncan MP
Minister of State

30 August 2011

"I am writing to you further to your comments in the Jewish News regarding claims that British taxpayers are funding the families of Palestinian suicide bombers and prisoners in Israeli jails. If these claims were true, this would be a matter of very serious concern for me and the Department. However, I am pleased to reassure you that we have investigated the matter fully and can confirm that the allegations in Palestinian Media Watch's report are both inaccurate and misleading.

The PA operates two social assistance programmes to provide welfare payments to households who have lost their main breadwinner, either through imprisonment or where they have been killed or wounded as a result of the wider conflict. The schemes operate on the basis of need, regardless of the cause of the breadwinner's death or imprisonment. For example, the family of a Palestinian prisoner imprisoned for spying on behalf of Israel is entitled to the same assistance as the family of a Palestinian held in an Israeli prison. Similarly, the family of someone killed in fighting between Palestinian factions would have the same opportunity to receive support as the family of someone killed by the Israeli authorities. The level of payment is based on a needs assessment and goes to the family (not the prisoner) to help them meet basic living costs. Contrary to media reporting, the payments are not more generous than standard PA civil service or military salaries.

It is true that in some cases, payments will go to families of those who have committed the sort of crime that we utterly condemn. But I hope it is clear from the information I have set out above that the schemes are not intended in any way to reward or encourage such crimes. I hope you will also agree that dependent spouses or children should not be held responsible for the crimes of family members, or forced to live in poverty as a consequence.

In the case of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, they receive a minimal allowance to cover the cost of food and clothes. This scheme operates at the request of the Israeli authorities and is designed to reimburse them for the costs of providing prisoners with food and clothing. It is not in any sense a "salary" to prisoners, nor a "reward" for having committed crimes against Israel. In some cases, the Palestinian Authority will also cover education fees for prisoners, for example for the 200 children under 16 being held by the Israeli authorities. This forms part of the PA's work to counter extremism, by providing prisoners with education and the means to pursue a peaceful livelihood.

I hope this information will reassure you that the Palestinian Authority is not operating any programme which financially rewards those who commit acts of terrorism and no UK aid is being used for this purpose. The UK, along with the US, EU and other European countries, funds the PA to deliver essential services such as health and education to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the OPTs. Our funding will support 5,700 children a year through primary school, immunise 2,000 children a year against measles and provide skilled personnel to help deliver 2,370 live births, among other results. Our development assistance is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding which reaffirms the PA's commitment to non-violence and a negotiated solution to the conflict. UK aid to the Palestinian Authority is subject to rigorous scrutiny and monitored against specific benchmarks in reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Our financial assistance is provided through a World Bank trust fund which carries out close monitoring of PA expenditures.

Our development assistance supports the peace process by building the institutions of a future Palestinian state which can live alongside Israel in peace and security. As the Foreign Secretary set out in his speech on 31 March 2011, we believe that long term peace can only be achieved through a negotiated two state solution which reconciles the legitimate aspiration of the Palestinian people for a state of their own with Israel's natural and justifiable yearning for long term security. I am sure that this is a goal upon which we agree.”

ALAN DUNCAN

PMW Special Report

Is the PA lying to European governments in order to receive European funding?

European and US money donated to the PA's general budget is paying salaries not only to all Palestinian terrorists in Israeli prisons but also to 4,000 former security and terrorist prisoners

By Itamar Marcus and Nan Jacques Zilberdik

Palestinian Media Watch has seen statements by both the British and Norwegian governments defending their payments to the Palestinian Authority's general budget for salaries. These statements came in response to two PMW reports documenting that thousands of imprisoned terrorists are among the recipients of PA salaries. In their statements, both the British and Norwegian governments say that the PA has informed them that the PA does not pay "salaries" to terrorists in Israeli prisons, but social "assistance" payments to the prisoners' families. Minister of State Alan Duncan on behalf of Britain's Department for International Development (DfID) said: "The second [PA] payment scheme [to prisoners] is intended to assist families in need of assistance." Both governments have written that this information was received from the PA. (See Norway's and the UK's full statements below.)

PMW has repeatedly rejected this claim and documented that the payments are indeed salaries not correlated to need but given as a reward for the prisoners' terror acts, which the PA sees as actions worthy of "esteem." (See below.) It would violate the letter or spirit of the Western donor countries' laws and certainly the intent of all Western donors, to have their contributions to the PA go to terrorists' salaries.

1. PA Minister's statement rejects as "rumor" the information the PA supplied to Europeans

The PA has now released a statement through its official news service, WAFA, explicitly contradicting the information that it supplied to the Europeans, while corroborating PMW's documentation. The PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs, Issa Karake, announced that the categorization of the prisoners' "salaries" as social "assistance" was an incorrect "rumor":

"[Minister of Prisoners' Affairs Issa] Karake denies rumors about changing salaries (Arabic: *rawatib*) into social assistance (Arabic: *i'anat ijtima'iyah*)... He noted that the government headed by Salam Fayyad

considers the prisoners' cause central, and has authorized regulations to support and protect them ***out of esteem for their sacrifice and struggle.***"

[Wafa (the official Palestinian Authority news agency), Dec. 27, 2012]

Significantly, the PA's denial of the information it supplied to its international donors was announced by Wafa, the official Palestinian Authority news agency. (See full article below.)

Additionally it should be noted that PA Minister Karake stressed that it is not merely an issue of language, but of the essence of the payment. Karake explained that the prisoners are supported ***"out of esteem for their sacrifice and struggle,"*** i.e., as a reward for their actions. UK Min. of State Duncan wrote in his letter on behalf of UK's DfID, that:

"It is true that in some cases, payments will go to families of those who have committed the sort of crime that we utterly condemn. We believe however that it would be wrong to punish innocent children and dependent family members by denying them access to social support."

What is explicit from PA Minister Karake's words is that the payments are not for the "innocent children," but ***"out of esteem for their (i.e., the prisoners') sacrifice and struggle."*** To the UK and the West, terrorism is a ***"crime that we utterly condemn."*** However, to the PA it is specifically those crimes that are held in ***"esteem"*** and rewarded with monthly salaries.

The PA's payment of salaries in recognition of their acts of terror is consistent with the PA's policy of glorifying terrorists. (See the 40 page PMW special report prepared in December 2012 for members of the Dutch Foreign Affairs Committee, documenting over 100 examples of the PA honoring and glorifying terrorists, including terrorist murderers.)

2. Palestinian terrorist prisoners continue to receive a salary after being released from prison. Today, 4,000 released prisoners receive a "permanent" and "full monthly salary."

Palestinian terrorist prisoners who served more than five years in prison remain on PA's payroll even after being released. 4,000 released prisoners who were imprisoned for terrorism or other security offenses, now receive ***"permanent" "full monthly salaries"***, even though many are ***"in the prime of their lives and could get a job and work."*** The PA's payment of a full salary to released prisoners is another example of how the PA rewards terrorists with donor money:

TV interview with PA Minister Karake:

TV host: "You speak of a **permanent salary** for every [released] prisoner who was in prison for more than five years, and he gets his salary while he

sits at home. **Some of them are in the prime of their lives and could get a job and work.** Why not use him in the workforce and give him a salary?"

Minister Karake: "That's right. I presented it to the government and we decided to give preference to employ these prisoners... in order to make the prisoner into a productive person..."

Host: "Do we have the number of prisoners who get full monthly salaries?"

Karake: "About 4,000."

Host: "That's an army."

Karake: "Yes, that's a big number, and it's growing."

Host: "They don't work. They just collect a salary."

Karake: "Some work."

Host: "A small number."

Karake: "Some volunteer and work in different institutions."

[Wattan TV, private Palestinian channel, Dec. 29, 2012, emphasis added]

3. PA changes language of law from "salary" to "assistance" to satisfy the UK, but immediately reverts back to original language

An additional indicator that the PA government seems to be intentionally deceiving its foreign donors is that the UK minister wrote that the PA admitted that its law originally stated it was paying "salaries" - "ratib." However, in response to the donors' queries they decided to change the language of the law from "salaries" - "ratib"- to "assistance" - "la'ana." (See UK DfID letter below.)

Strikingly, this cosmetic change - substituting one word with another - was accepted as adequate, satisfying both the UK and Norway.

There are indications that the PA may actually have changed the terminology of the law from "salary" (*ratib*) to "assistance" (*la'ana*) to satisfy the Europeans, but then immediately changed it back under pressure from prisoners' organizations. The following statements by Palestinian prisoners' support organizations shed light on this PA pretense:

Headline: "Fares: The government has given the 'Prisoners and Released Prisoners Law' final approval."

"Prisoners' Club Chairman Qadura Fares said that the government has given final approval for what is stipulated in the Prisoners' and Released [Prisoners'] Law of 2004, **which considers payments made to prisoners 'salaries,' (Arabic: *ratib*) to which no other term applies.**

In a statement made to the media, Fares on Thursday [Dec. 27, 2012] called for an end to the disagreement in this matter, which was settled in accordance with the law passed by the previous (PA) Parliament in 2004.

The Ahrar Center for Prisoners' and Human Rights Research had demanded that President Mahmoud Abbas intervene immediately to reverse the government's decision to replace the term 'prisoner salary' (Arabic: *ratib*) with the term 'prisoner assistance (Arabic: *i'anat*).

The Ahrar Center had noted that Palestinian laws are explicit, and what a prisoner receives is not 'assistance' (Arabic: *ma'una*, from the same root as *i'anat*), but rather his minimal **rights** for the years he spent in prison."

[Al-Quds Internet edition, Dec. 27, 2012, emphasis added]

Conclusions

After the UK and Norway questioned the PA about its payment of salaries to terrorists, the PA changed the language of the law from "salary" to "assistance." This change was made so that these countries would continue their funding of the PA. Organizations representing the Palestinian prisoners complained about this cosmetic change in the law, which was seen as an insult to the prisoners who deserve the payments as "salary" and a "right," not as social "assistance". The PA government responded, according to Prisoners' Club Chairman Qadura Fares, and made a final version of the law **"which considers payments made to prisoners 'salaries,' (Arabic: *ratib*) to which no other term applies."**

This was all corroborated by the PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs who said that even the cosmetic name change to "social assistance" was only a rumor and that prisoners receive "salaries" out of the PA's "esteem" for them.

Since 2011, PMW has been informing international donors that aid money given for salaries and the PA general budget pays the salaries of Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel. This is in violation of the letter or spirit of the laws of the funding countries. These salaries are paid to all prisoners including those who personally murdered Israelis, like 17 year old Hakim Awad who murdered five members of the Fogel family, as well as terrorists like Ibrahim Hamid, who received 54 life sentences for planning several suicide bombings.

None of these payments have ever been denied by the PA.

Apparently European funders of the PA have continued to fund the salaries as well as the general budget because the PA is supplying them with false and only partial information. The Europeans may not be aware that their donations to the PA were also paying salaries for 4,000 released prisoners who are able to work. Likewise the donors were misinformed by the PA that their payments for salaries are "social assistance." The words of the Minister of Prisoners' Affairs to the Palestinian audience in Arabic are explicit: the purpose of the laws regarding the prisoners and their salary payments is not to give social "assistance" based on needs, but were enacted "out of esteem" for their actions.

Appendix: Statements from British and Norwegian governments about PA salaries

1. Statement from British DfID about salaries

Mike Freer MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

16 November 2012

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 5 November, to Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, red:MF/JW, enclosing an email from your constituent, Mr. David Lewis, of 37 The Grove, London, N3 1QT, about DFID's support to the Palestinian Authority (PA), in the context of recent allegations by Palestinian Media Watch.

It is completely wrong to suggest that the UK is supporting terrorism. We have robust safeguards in place to ensure that our funds do not benefit terrorist groups, and ensure that our partners do the same. We are also vigorous in investigating allegations which are made. In addition to our own investigations, we draw on independent reports from neutral groups where these are available. For example, on the issue of textbooks, independent studies by Congressional Research Services, UNESCO and others have come to very different conclusions to those of Palestinian Media Watch, finding no evidence of incitement or anti-semitism.

Our support to the PA is helping to build the institutions vitally necessary to lay the groundwork for an effective and viable Palestinian State, living in peace and security with Israel. UK aid to the PA is also helping to deliver essential services such as health and education to poor and vulnerable people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Our development assistance to the PA is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding which reaffirms the PA's commitment to non-violence and a negotiated solution to the conflict. We continue to assess that President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad are committed to non-violent pursuit of a two state solution. We have reviewed the allegations made by PMW in their recent report. While we are continuing to investigate some of the details, our overall assessment is that their accusations are flawed in many respects.

Firstly, it is important to understand that the Palestinian Authority operates two schemes in respect of prisoners. The first operates at the request of the Israeli authorities and is administered by an Israeli company. Under this agreement PA funds are used to cover the immediate needs of prisoners for food and clothing. This

is in line with basic international law, and indeed we would normally expect the imprisoning authority to make such provision itself.

The second payment scheme is intended to assist families in need of assistance. There are a number of points in the PMW report relating to this support that are not borne out by the facts, as set out below.

PMW states that the PA's law refers to the payments as "salaries." The document referred to is a Cabinet Decision, not a law. The word used in the decision, "ratib," can be used for any regular payment, not just for salaries. The PA has now changed the wording in the Cabinet Decision to unambiguously refer to the payment as assistance - "la'ana." This is consistent with the PA's published budget which uses the same word for payments to prisoners families as it does for other social assistance payments. The payment is also unlike salaries in other ways, for example in that it cannot be used as a basis for mortgage lending.

[PMW comment: The information reported by the UK regarding the meaning of the Arabic word "ratib" is incorrect. "Ratib" is the word specifically used for "salaries".

Note the precise definitions in two respected Arabic - English dictionaries:

"(pl. رواتب rawatib) salary, pay, emolument;"

[The Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic]

"Rateb (rawateb) Salary (especially government officials and professionals). rawateb il-muwazzafin - officials' salaries".

["The Olive Tree dictionary - A Transliterated Dictionary of Conversational Eastern Arabic (Palestinian)]

PMW also say that the core payments cannot be social assistance because unmarried prisoners receive the basic payment and there are additional payments for wives and children. The Cabinet Decision states that "The spouse of the prisoner is the formal delegate to receive the payment unless the prisoner decides otherwise. If the prisoner was not married then one of the parents is delegated and the prisoner may choose one of them or any other family member."

[PMW comment: In all cases the prisoner is in sole control of the money and only he has the right to designate the person who will receive the payments on his behalf while he is in prison. As the PA law states and as quoted correctly by Duncan: the spouse is "the delegate" who receives the money "unless the prisoner decides otherwise." It is the prisoner's money and the prisoner's decision.]

PMW states that the amount of the payment increases with the severity of the crime rather than the needs of the family. This is not the case. Prisoners given a long sentence start on the same payment as those serving other crimes, and families with other sources of public income do not receive the payment. PMW is correct that the

highest payment to families is around 12,000 Shekels, which is around £2000 per month, Only 2 prisoners' families receive this high amount, and the basic payment received by the majority of prisoners' families is much lower.

[PMW comment: As reported by PMW previously, it is the PA's official newspaper Al-Hayat Al- Jadida that in a special financial supplement about PA salaries wrote that the average salary of prisoners is higher than that PA civil servants and PA military. (See reports in pdf)]

It is true that in some cases, payments may go to families of those who have committed the sort of crime that we utterly condemn. We believe, however, that it would be wrong to punish innocent children and other dependent family members by denying them access to social support. We have discussed these issues with the PA at the highest levels in recent weeks, and continue to encourage the PA to ensure that these payments are more transparent, needs-based and affordable. We have offered support to the PA in doing so.

Providing assistance in the context of an unresolved conflict that has lasted more than 60 years presents some inevitable challenges. The UK is committed to resolving this conflict in a peaceful negotiated two state solution. I am sure this is a goal on which we both can agree.

Alan Duncan

2. Statement from Norwegian Foreign Ministry about salaries

"Dagbladet has asked the government a number of questions regarding Pal watch's (PMW's) information [on PA paying salaries to imprisoned terrorists], but the [Norwegian] Foreign Ministry denies these problems and refers to the salary payments as social benefits.

'The PA has, in the same way other countries' governments have, a variety of arrangements for social transfers to its citizens, including people who are imprisoned. Social benefits to the families of Palestinians in Israeli prisons are part of the total Palestinian social security system and are intended to compensate for loss of income. Such social transfers have been made for as long as the PA has existed and on social grounds, including considerations for children in the family,' writes Frode Overland Andersen in the Foreign Ministry in an email. That the prisoners receive a higher average salary than teachers, soldiers and others who perform key functions in a future Palestinian state, was not commented on by the Foreign Ministry..."

[Dagbladet.no (Norway), Sept. 4, 2011]

3. Wafa reports on PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs Issa Karake's statement:

Headline: "Karake denies rumors about changing salaries into social welfare."

"Minister of Prisoners' Affairs Issa Karake denied the stories and rumors that the [Palestinian] prisoners' (i.e., in Israeli prisons for terror related crimes) salaries would be changed to social welfare payments.

In a press release Karake clarified that prisoners receive their stipends in accordance with regulations and the law, and their rights are protected so that it is impossible to hurt them. He noted that the government headed by Salam Fayyad considers the prisoners' cause central, and has authorized regulations to support and protect them **out of esteem for their sacrifice and struggle.**

He added that recent years have seen strong government support for regulations and laws that protect the rights of prisoners and their families, as [they protect] the rights of Martyred fighters. Karake said that people should be careful regarding rumors, and not use the prisoners to promote narrow, personal aims, which caused confusion among the prisoners."

[Wafa (the official Palestinian Authority news agency), Dec. 27, 2012]