

April 16, 2018

PMW submission to US Dept. of the Treasury
Evidence regarding Issa Karake,
Director of PLO Commission of Prisoners Affairs’
connections to terror, terrorists and terror financing

Prepared by Maurice Hirsch, Adv. and Itamar Marcus

Name: Issa Ahmed Abed-Alhamid Karake

DOB: 1961

Position: Director of the PLO Commission of Prisoners and Released Prisoners 2014 - present (Previous Minister of Prisoners 2009 - 2014)

Executive summary

Issa Karake is the senior Palestinian Authority (PA) bureaucrat responsible for the payment of salaries to terrorist prisoners. In addition, Karake is regularly involved in the glorification and justification of acts of terrorism.

The material provided in this brief by Palestinian Media Watch includes official pay slips of the PA to terrorist murderers, sworn affidavits from PA representatives and items collected from the official PA media by Palestinian Media Watch.

The unequivocal evidence shows that the PA is, and has been for many years, paying salaries to Palestinian terrorists based on one criteria alone – that their terrorist actions were committed as part of his participation “against the occupation”.

The evidence shows that the PA salaries are paid only to terrorists. Palestinian prisoners accused of criminal, non-terror related, offences are not entitled to the salaries. All Palestinian terrorist prisoners are entitled to receive the salary from the PA, including terrorists who are members of E.O. 13224 designated terrorist groups. In his official capacity, Karake is directly responsible for facilitating these payments.

In addition to heading the mechanism that finances the terrorists Karake himself has also incited violence and terror.

Expanded brief

In the capacity of his position as the Head of the PA Authority of Prisoners and Released Prisoners Issa Karake is **directly in charge of the PA/PLO institution that pays salaries to terrorist prisoners and released prisoners.**

According to the Palestinian Authority Law of Prisoners and Released Prisoners of 2004 the Palestinian terrorists who are entitled to receive a salary are "**Anyone imprisoned in the occupation's [Israel's] prisons as a result of his participation in the struggle against the occupation**" (Para. 1)

These payments are made to all Palestinian terrorists, including those who were and remain members in E.O. 13224 designated terrorist organizations such as **Hamas** (a.k.a. the Islamic Resistance Movement); the **PFLP** (a.k.a. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine); **Palestinian Islamic Jihad**; and the **Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade**.

The salaries are not paid to Palestinians imprisoned for committing other criminal offences that were not part of the "struggle against the occupation".

Palestinian Media Watch (PMW) has been documenting and exposing the PA's practice of paying salaries to Palestinian terrorists since 2011. PMW's raising of international awareness of this practice resulted in mounting pressure from international donors on the PA to stop this practice or face the possibility of losing the financial support of those donors.

In August 2014, the PA claimed to acquiesce to international pressure, and announced that it had closed the PA Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, and that salaries to prisoners will no longer be paid by the PA but by a newly formed PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs.

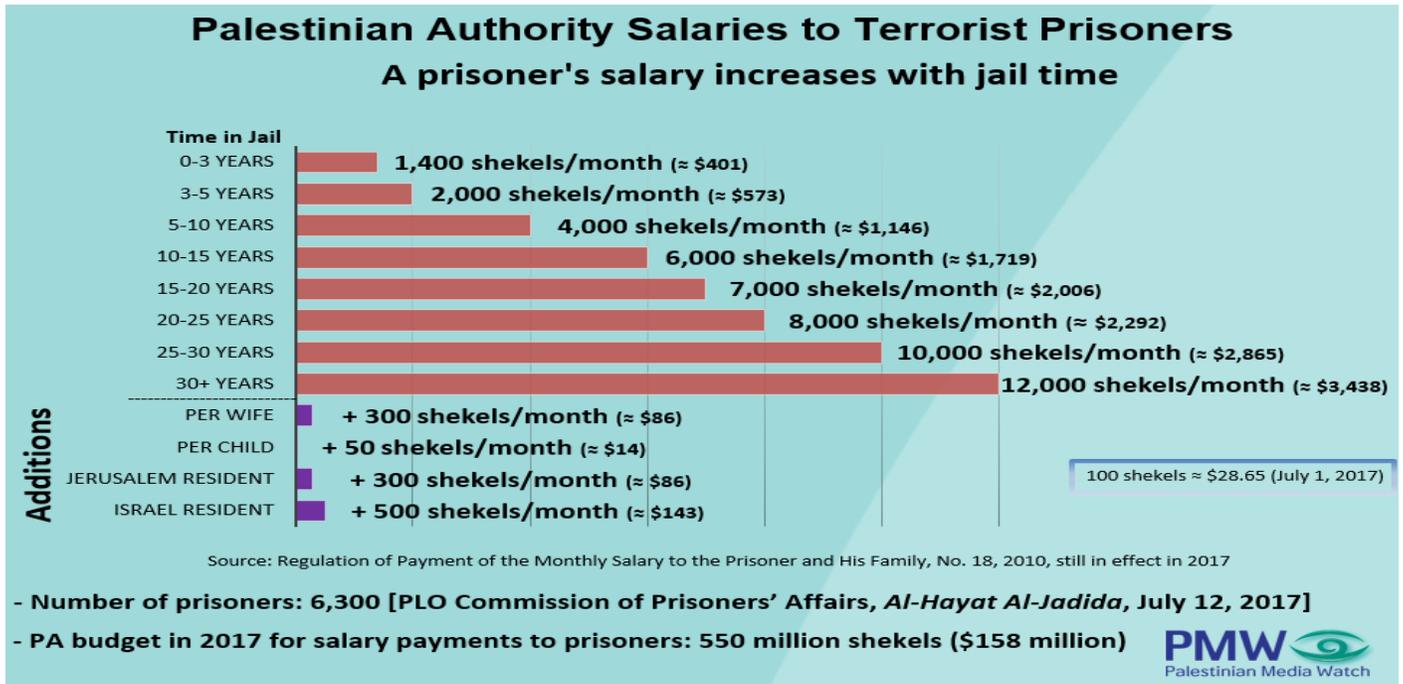
The new PLO Commission is identical to the old PA Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs in everything but name. The Commission and the salary payments to prisoners remain under the "supervision" of the "Palestinian presidency," i.e., Mahmoud Abbas. The PA Minister of Prisoners' Affairs – Issa Karake - became the director of the PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs.

The PA's deliberate attempt to mislead the international community would later be exposed, in 2016, by PMW and would be referred to as the "Billion Dollar Fraud"¹.

According to the PA law and regulations, the salaries paid in 2017 were as follows:

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<http://palwatch.org/STORAGE/special%20reports/PMW%20report,%20PA%20billion%20dollar%20fraud,%20270416.pdf>



Proof that the salaries are in fact being paid

While PMW learnt of the payment of the salaries by the PA to the terrorists through the official PA media and thereafter by researching the relevant PA laws, in a rare incident, PMW received copies of official PA documents that proved the payment of the salaries to a number of prisoners. The documents referred to Muhammad Arman and Walid Anjas who were convicted for their involvement in the following terror attacks:

- The Moment Café suicide bombing, March 2002 - **11 civilians murdered;**
- The Sheffield Club, suicide bombing, May 7, 2002 – **15 civilians murdered;**
- The Hebrew University cafeteria suicide bombing July 2003 - **9 civilians murdered, including 3 American citizens** (Benjamin Blutstein, 25, of Pennsylvania, David Gritz, 24, of Massachusetts and Ruth Coulter, 36, of New York)

A total of 35 civilians were killed in the three attacks and approximately 200 were injured. The terrorists were both convicted and sentenced to 36 life sentences.

The BBC reported on their conviction on Nov. 3, 2003:

“ Hamas bombers sentenced to life

An Israeli military court has sentenced two Palestinians to 36 life terms each for their role in suicide bombings in which dozens of people died... Mohammed Hassan Arman and Walid Anjas, from the Jerusalem suburb of Silwan, said they did not regret their actions... The three-judge panel said the pair cared only about themselves.

"The looks on their faces and the smiles of the accused when the prosecutor mentioned the victims cannot leave any doubt about their lack of conscience," the judges wrote.

"They showed that the lives of other people mean nothing to them."

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3251426.stm]

Arman and Anjas, members of Hamas responsible for the murder of 36 people, received full Palestinian Authority salaries from the day of their arrest. The following are copies of the actual PA monthly payment statements

Muhammad Arman

Palestinian National Authority Ministry of Detainees Affairs		السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية وزارة شؤون الأسرى والمحررين	
رقم الملف	442897	رقم الهوية	901056250
الاسم	محمد ارمان	الجنس	ارمان
مرکز صرف	24 رواتك	التاريخ	18/10/2002
اسم المستفيد	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	شماره الضمان	0
اسم الوكيل	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	الهوية	901152479
الجنس	الانثى	العنوان	الفرع رواتك
المخصص	6450	تاريخ الميلاد	01/06/2013
التأخرات	0	تاريخ الزواج	01/10/2002

Identification

رقم الحساب	الفرع	رقم الهوية	اسم المستفيد	التأخرات	التعويض	المخصص	شهر	سنة
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	750	6450	2	2013
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	750	6450	1	2013
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	1150	6450	12	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	750	6450	11	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	750	6450	10	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	750	6450	9	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	750	8	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	6450	7	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	400	6450	6	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	6450	5	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	14100	4	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	3	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	2	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	1	2011
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	12	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	11	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	10	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	9	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	8	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	6	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	5	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	4	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	3	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	2	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	1	2010
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	12	2009
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	11	2009
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	10	2009
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	9	2009
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	8	2009
2044801	رواتب	901152479	ليدا خضر عبدالجليل ارمان	0	0	1750	7	2009

Payments made to the terrorist

Note the jump in the salary paid (from 1,750 Shekels to 6,450 shekels). This jump reflected a rise in the salaries paid. In April 2011, Arman had accumulatively served over 10 years in jail (entitling him to a basic salary of 6,000 Shekels a month) and was married with 3 children (entitling him to an additional payment of 450 shekels).

In addition, in the course of civil litigation being conducted in the Jerusalem District Court, PMW obtained a sworn affidavit of PA defence witness Jawad Amawi. According to the affidavit, Amawi served as the Head of the Legal Department of the PA Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs from 2008 to 2014. The affidavit confirms that the PA paid and is currently paying the salaries to the terrorists.

The following is a translation of the relevant sections of Amawi's affidavit:

<u>Expert Opinion</u>	<u>חוות דעת מומחה</u>
<p>I the undersigned, Jawad Amawi, I.D. 313872079, was asked by the Carmeli-Armon Law Firm to give my professional opinion regarding payments to the Palestinian prisoners' families.</p>	<p>אני החתום מטה, ג'וואד עמאוי, נושא ת.ז. 313872079, נתבקשתי על ידי משרד עורכי הדין כרמלי-ארמון לחוות דעתי המקצועית בעניין תשלומים למשפחות האסירים הפלסטיניים.</p>
<p>I give my opinion here in place of in-court testimony, and I hereby declare that it is well known to me that regarding the instructions of the criminal law concerning false testimony under oath in court, my signed opinion here is the same as testimony under oath given in court.</p>	<p>אני נותן חוות דעתי זו במקום עדות בבית המשפט ואני מצהיר בזאת כי ידוע לי היטב, שלעניין הוראות החוק הפלילי בדבר עדות שקר בשבועה בבית המשפט, דין חוות דעתי זו כשהיא חתומה על ידי כדין עדות בשבועה שנתתי בבית המשפט.</p>
<p><u>The details of my education:</u></p>	<p><u>ואלה פרטי השכלתי:</u></p>
<p>1990: Graduate of the University of Jordan, faculty of law</p>	<p>1990: בוגר האוניברסיטה הירדנית בפקולטה למשפטים</p>
<p><u>Current position:</u> Advisor to the [PA] minister of finance, including advising on matters of legislation concerning the Ministry of Finance.</p>	<p><u>מקום עבודה נוכחי:</u> יועץ לשר האוצר כולל יעוץ בענייני חקיקה הנוגעים למשרד האוצר.</p>
<p><u>The details of my professional experience:</u></p>	<p><u>ואלה פרטי ניסיוני המקצועי:</u></p>
<p>1994-2001: Private attorney. Member of the Palestinian Bar Association's legislative committee, which coordinated its work with the Palestinian Council's constitution, law, and justice committee.</p>	<p>1994-2001: עו"ד פרטי. חבר ועדת החקיקה של לשכת עורכי הדין הפלסטינית שתיאמה את עבודתה עם ועדת חוקה חוק ומשפט במועצה הפלסטינית.</p>
<p>2001-2003: Attorney Expert in the NGO Al-Qanoun, which dealt in prisoners' affairs and topics relevant to international law.</p>	<p>2001-2003: עו"ד מומחה בעמותת "אלקאנון" שעסקה בענייני אסירים ונושאים השייכים לחוק הבינלאומי.</p>
<p>2003-2008: Member of a program sponsored by UNICEF of the UN that specialized in providing legal aid to prisoner minors and women, which passed to the hands of the Swedish organization Sida in 2006.</p>	<p>2003-2008: עמית בתוכנית בחסות יוניס"ף של האו"ם שהתמחתה במתן סיוע משפטי לאסירים קטינים ונשים שעברה ב-2006 לידי ארגון סידה השבדי.</p>

2008-2014: Establishing and managing the legal department of the Palestinian [PA] Ministry of Prisoners' [Affairs]. Member of the Palestinian [PA] government's legislative committee, whose role includes examining all of the bills and legislation.

2009-2013: Chairman of the subcommittee on the regulations of the Prisoners' Law. In addition, in all my years of work I privately represented security prisoners in the [Israeli] military courts, in conjunction with my public work.

A. History of the legislation

3. Palestinian prisoners' families have received payments during terms of imprisonment since the 1970s. The responsibility for transferring the payments passed between different organs throughout the years. This is a long-standing tradition of financial support for the families of those who struggled for the Palestinian people's independence.

...

6. Payments to the families of the prisoners in the Israeli prisons began in May 1995, as budgeting of aid from the Palestinian National Authority's Ministry of Social Affairs (which corresponds to the Ministry of Welfare in Israel) [parentheses in source]. The amount of the aid was \$100 a month for the family of an unmarried prisoner, and \$150 for the family of a married prisoner. The rate of the dollar at the time was approximately 3 Israeli shekels = \$1. On Jan. 1, 1998, the budgeting was raised by an amount of 200 Israeli shekels to each family. In 1999, the budgeting was updated to 700 Israeli shekels for families of unmarried prisoners, and 800 Israeli shekels for families of married ones.

...

8. Only on Dec. 27, 2004, was the Law of the Prisoners and Released Prisoners legislated. This was the first act of legislation that dealt

2008-2014: הקמה וניהול המחלקה המשפטית במשרד האסירים הפלסטיני. חבר בוועדת החקיקה של הממשלה הפלסטינית שמתפקידה לבחון את כל הצעות החוק והחקיקה.

2009-2013: יו"ר תת ועדה בעניין תקנות חוק האסירים. בנוסף, בכל שנות עבודתי יצגתי באופן פרטי אסירים בטחוניים בבתי הדין הצבאיים במקביל לעבודתי הציבוריות.

א. היסטוריה החקיקה

3. משפחות אסירים פלסטינים קיבלו תשלומים בתקופות מאסר מאז שנות ה-70 של המאה הקודמת. האחריות על העברת התשלומים עברה בין אורגנים שונים לאורך השנים. מדובר במסורת ארוכת שנים של תמיכה כלכלית במשפחות של אלו אשר נאבקו למען עצמאות העם הפלסטיני.

...

6. בחודש מאי 1995 החלו תשלומים למשפחות האסירים בבתי הכלא הישראליים, כהקצבות סיוע מאת המשרד לעניינים חברתיים (המקביל משרד הרווחה בישראל) של הרשות הלאומית הפלסטינית. גובה הסיוע היה \$100 לחודש למשפחת אסיר רווק ו-\$150 למשפחת אסיר נשוי. שער הדולר באותו הזמן היה כ-3\$ = 1.1. ב-1998. הועלו ההקצבות בשיעור של 200\$ לכל משפחה. בשנת 1999 עודכנו ההקצבות ל-700\$ למשפחות אסירים רווקים ו-800\$ למשפחות נשואים.

...

8. רק בתאריך 27.12.2004 חוקק חוק האסירים והמשוחררים. זהו מעשה החקיקה הראשון שהתמודד עם בעיית האסירים שלא שוחררו מבתי הכלא כפי

with the problem of the prisoners who were not released from the prisons, as was agreed in the Oslo Accords. The law was accepted by the Palestinian Legislative Council (i.e., the PA Parliament), approved by the [PA] president, and published in the Records. The law was not presented before the Joint Israeli-Palestinian Committee for Legislation because the committee ended its activity with the end of the transitional period in 2001, whereas the law was legislated in 2004.

Attached herewith is the Law of the Prisoners and Released Prisoners 2004 and its translation to Hebrew, and **they are marked A.**

9. The law determined general principles regarding the prisoners, the most important of which is the principle according to which it is the responsibility of the [Palestinian] Authority to bring about the prisoners' release from the prisons and to provide them and their families with aid, among other things in obtaining an education and in paying medical insurance. The law also determined aid for released prisoners, because experience showed that prior to its legislation many individual requests for aid were made by released prisoners.

...

11. In the period between Jan. 1, 2004, and Dec. 31, 2010, after the prisoners were not released in accordance with the layout of Oslo and the cost of living rose, the amounts of the payments were updated in administrative decisions (as the regulations on the matter had not yet been put in place) as follows: (A table is presented of monthly allowances in Israeli shekels according to the number of years of imprisonment –Ed.)

...

12. The amounts were paid on the basis of the years of actual imprisonment, such that in the initial years of imprisonment the prisoners' families received support of a small amount of 1,000 Israeli shekels per month. The more the actual imprisonment continued, the more the

שהוסכם בהסכם אוסלו. החוק התקבל על ידי המועצה המחוקקת הפלסטינית, אושרר על ידי הנשיא ופורסם בעיתון הרשמי. החוק לא הוצג בפני הועדה הישראלית הפלסטינית המשותפת לחקיקה משום שהועדה סיימה את פעולתה עם סיום שלב המעבר בשנת 2001 ואילו החוק חוקק בשנת 2004.

מצ"ב העתק חוק האסירים והמשוחררים 2004 ותרגומו לעברית וסימנם א'.

9. החוק קבע עקרונות כלליים בנוגע לאסירים שהחשוב בהם הוא העיקרון לפיו אחריות הרשות להביא לשחרורם של האסירים מבתי הכלא ולהגיש עזרה להם ולמשפחותיהם, בין השאר ברכישת השכלה ובתשלום ביטוח רפואי. החוק הוסיף וקבע סיוע לאסירים משוחררים משום שהניסיון הראה שקודם לחקיקתו התבקשו בקשות סיוע פרטניות רבות מאסירים משוחררים.

...

11. בתקופה שבין 1.1.2004 לבין 31.12.2010, לאחר שהאסירים לא שוחררו בהתאם למתווה אוסלו ויוקר המחיה עלה, עודכנו סכומי התשלומים בהחלטות מנהליות (שכן טרם הותקנו התקנות בעניין) כדלהלן: (מופיעה טבלה של קצבה חודשית ב-ש לפי שנות מאסר –עורך)

...

12. הסכומים שולמו על בסיס שנות כליאה בפועל, כך שבשנות המאסר הראשונות קיבלו משפחות האסירים תמיכה בסכום קטן של 1,000 ש"ח בחודש. ככל שהמאסר בפועל התמשך, עלה הסכום בהדרגה.

amount gradually rose.

13. In addition, release grants were given to aid released prisoners in withstanding the expenses of returning to life and rehabilitation. The amounts ranged from \$500-\$10,000 per prisoner, in accordance with the years of actual imprisonment before the release. The release grant is not given to every released prisoner, and he is examined according to his socio-economic status and sources of income.

...

15. With the end of the second Intifada (i.e., PA terror campaign 2000-2005 Ed.) and the rise of the government of [PA Prime Minister] Dr. Salam Fayyad, a reorganization of the Palestinian institutions began on the basis of international principles and accounting and audit systems. At this point an urgent need arose for a legal basis for the payments that until then were paid to the prisoners' families only based on administrative decisions without legal legislation, and to amend regulations to the Law of the Prisoners and Released Prisoners as was determined by the law.

16. As part of the reorganization, the [PA] Ministry of Prisoners and Released Prisoners' Affairs was established in 2008, and the entire field was transferred to its care.

...

17. A collection of special regulations for the Law of the Prisoners and Released Prisoners from 2004 was published only in 2010: Procedure of Legal Aid for the Prisoners (No. 22 of 2010); Procedure Ensuring the Needs of the Prisoners Imprisoned in Israeli Prisons (No. 21 of 2010); Validation of the Exemption from Registration Fees for Education and Health Insurance for Released Prisoners (No. 19 of 2010); Procedure of Paying a Monthly Salary to the Prisoner (No. 23 of 2010). The procedure defines a salary "for the prisoner's family or for the prisoner himself," which will be given to a prisoner who has no other salary and will end on the day of his release. The

13. בנוסף, ניתנו מענקי שחרור שעניינם סיוע לאסירים משוחררים לעמוד בהוצאות השביה לחיים והשיקום. הסכומים נעו בין \$500-\$10,000 לאסיר, בהתאם לשנות המאסר בפועל טרם השחרור. מענק השחרור אינו ניתן לכל אסיר משוחרר והוא נבחן על פי מצבו הסוציאקונומי ומקורות הכנסתו.

...

15. עם סיום האינתיפאדה השנייה ועליית ממשלת ד"ר סלאם פיאד החל ארגון מחדש של המוסדות הפלסטינים על בסיס עקרונות בינלאומיים ומערכות חשבונאות וביקורת. מכאן עלה צורך דחוף לבסיס חוקי לתשלומים אשר שולמו למשפחות האסירים עד כה רק על סמך החלטות מנהליות וללא חקיקה משפטית, ולתקן תקנות לחוק האסירים והמשוחררים כפי שקבע החוק.

16. כחלק מהארגון מחדש, הוקם בשנת 2008 המשרד לענייני האסירים והמשוחררים וכל התחום הועבר לטיפולו.

...

17. רק ב-2010 פורסם קובץ תקנות מיוחדות לחוק האסירים והמשוחררים משנת 2004: נוהל לסיוע משפטי לאסירים (מס' 22 לשנת 2010); נוהל להבטחת צרכי אסירים הכלואים בבתי סוהר ישראליים (מס' 21 לשנת 2010); מתן תוקף לפטור מדמי רישום להשכלה וביטוח בריאות לאסירים משוחררים (מס' 19 לשנת 2010); נוהל תשלום משכורת חודשית לאסיר (מס' 23 לשנת 2010). הנוהל מגדיר משכורת "למשפחת האסיר או לאסיר עצמו" אשר תינתן לאסיר שאין לו משכורת אחרת ותיפסק ביום שחרורו. הנהלים אושרו בממשלה הפלסטינית על פי דין ופורסמו בעיתון הרשמי בשנת 2010. בשנת 2013 פורסם בנוסף נוהל הבטחת תעסוקה לאסירים משוחררים (מס' 15 לשנת 2013), העוסק במשרות לאסירים המשוחררים במטרה

procedures were approved by the Palestinian [PA] government by law and were published in the 2010 Records. In 2013, Procedure of Ensuring Employment for Released Prisoners (No. 15 of 2013), which deals with jobs for the released prisoners in order to allow them a life in dignity, was also published. The regulations codified the general matters that were written in the law regarding the payment for the prisoner, and determined that the payment would be transferred to the prisoners' families. When implementing the regulations I personally direct the payments to the prisoners' families.

Attached herewith is a copy of the collections of regulations and their translations to Hebrew, and **they are marked B.**

...

19. In accordance with the regulations, starting in 2011 the amount of the monthly payments to the prisoners' families was raised significantly. There were several main reasons for updating the amounts:

- A. The last update of the amounts took place seven years prior to then, in 2004.
- B. The previous amounts did not reach the lowest standard of a family's living necessities, and did not allow the prisoners' families a life in dignity, particularly those whose providers were and are in prison for many years.
- C. The Palestinian National Authority attempted to curb the popular anger and prevent a revolution of protest against what was perceived as its failure to release the prisoners.
- D. The deterioration of the political, economic, and social situation, and the absence of any political horizon.

The updated amounts starting from 2011 are:

Years of Actual Imprisonment	Monthly Payment in Israeli Shekels
0-3	1,400
3-5	2,000
5-10	4,000

לאפשר להם חיים בכבוד. התקנות הסדירו את הדברים הכללים שנכתבו בחוק לעניין התשלום לאסיר וקבעו כי התשלום יועבר למשפחות האסירים. בעת יישום התקנות אני אישית מפנה את התשלומים למשפחות האסירים.

מצ"ב העתק קובצי התקנות ותרגומם לעברית
וימונם ב'.

...

19. בהתאם לתקנות, החל משנת 2011 הועלה סכום התשלומים החודשיים למשפחות האסירים באופן משמעותי. לעדכון הסכומים מספר סיבות מרכזיות:

- א. עדכון הסכומים האחרון התרחש שבע שנים קודם לכן, בשנת 2004.
- ב. הסכומים הקודמים לא הגיעו לרף התחתון של צרכי מחיה של משפחה ולא אפשרו חיים בכבוד למשפחות האסירים, במיוחד אלו שמפרנסיהן שהו ושוהים בכלא שנים ארוכות.
- ג. הרשות הלאומית הפלסטינית ניסתה לבלום את הכעס העממי ולמנוע מהפכת מחאה נגד מה שנתפס ככישלונה לשחרר את האסירים.
- ד. התדרדרות המצב המדיני, הכלכלי והחברתי, והעדר כל אופק מדיני.

הסכומים המעודכנים החל משנת 2011 הם:

שנות מאסר בפועל	תשלום חודשי ב-₪
0-3	1,400
3-5	2,000
5-10	4,000

10-15	6,000
15-20	7,000
20-25	8,000
25-30	10,000
30+	12,000

20. The amounts are paid according to the years of actual imprisonment. In other words, in the initial years of imprisonment small sums are paid, and as the actual imprisonment continues and the prisoner is not released, the sums that are paid to his family rise gradually.

...

22. The family of a security prisoner that lives in Jerusalem receives an additional payment of 300 Israeli shekels due to the disparities in the cost of living. The family of a security prisoner that lives in the territory of the State of Israel receives an addition of 500 Israeli shekels due to the disparities in the cost of living.

23. For a prisoner who was employed by the Palestinian Authority before his imprisonment, his family will continue to receive the amount of his salary during the imprisonment, even if the payments that he deserves according to the regulations are lower...

24. In 2014, the Palestinian National Authority Ministry of Prisoners' [Affairs] was cancelled, and it became a separate authority subordinate to the Palestine Liberation Organization, out of an understanding that the prisoners' issue is an issue that will be resolved as part of the negotiations between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel.

...

The postponement of the release after 2000 and the rage created due to it

26. As stated above, the payments to the prisoners' families are a long-standing tradition from before the establishment of the

6,000	10-15
7,000	15-20
8,000	20-25
10,000	25-30
12,000	+30

20. הסכומים משולמים על פי שנות כליאה בפועל. כלומר, בשנות המאסר הראשונות משולמים סכומים קטנים וככל שהמאסר בפועל מתמשך והאסיר אינו משתחרר, הסכומים המשולמים למשפחתו עולים בהדרגה.

...

22. משפחת אסיר בטחוני המתגוררת בירושלים תקבל תוספת תשלום בגובה 300₪ בשל הפערים ביוקר המחיה. משפחת אסיר בטחוני המתגוררת בשטח מדינת ישראל תקבל תוספת של 500₪ בשל הפערים ביוקר המחיה.

23. אסיר שהועסק על ידי הרשות הפלסטינית טרם מאסרו, תמשיך משפחתו לקבל את גובה משכורתו בתקופת המאסר גם אם התשלומים המגיעים לו על פי התקנות נמוכים יותר...

24. בשנת 2014 בוטל משרד האסירים ברשות הלאומית הפלסטינית והפך לרשות נפרדת הכפופה לארגון לשחרור פלסטין מתוך הבנה שסוגית האסירים היא סוגיה שתיפטר במסגרת המו"מ בין הארגון לשחרור פלסטין לבין ישראל.

...

דחיית מועד השחרור אחרי שנת 2000 והזעם שנוצר בעקבותיו

26. כאמור לעיל, תשלומים למשפחות האסירים הם מסורת ארוכת שנים טרם הקמת הרשות הלאומית

<p>Palestinian National Authority, but the current problem of the prisoners was created due to the continuation of the interim stage beyond the period that was determined for it in the Oslo Accords. All of the security prisoners were supposed to be released from imprisonment in 2000 and to integrate into the institutions of the Palestinian state when it is established.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Attorney Jawad Amawi (Amawi's signature appears –Ed.) Expert on prisoners' affairs and Palestinian financial legislation July 19, 2017</p>	<p>הפלסטינית, אלא שבעיית האסירים הנוכחית נוצרה בשל התמשכות שלב הביניים מעבר לתקופה שנקבעה להם בהסכמי אוסלו. כלל האסירים הביטחוניים היו אמורים להשתחרר ממאסר בשנת 2000 ולהשתלב במוסדות המדינה הפלסטינית לכשתקום.</p> <p>...</p> <p>עו"ד ג'ואד עמאוי (חתימה –עורך) מומחה לענייני האסירים והחקיקה הכספית הפלסטינית 19.7.2017</p>
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Salaries are not paid to non-terrorist criminals

As noted above, the PA law defines those entitled to a salary as "**Anyone imprisoned in the occupation's [Israel's] prisons as a result of his participation in the struggle against the occupation**".

An article published in the official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, demonstrates that this definition applies only to terrorists and not regular criminal,

In December 2015, an internal dispute started within the PA, when the PA decided to stop the salary payments to a number of prisoners and released prisoners for various reasons. The halting of the payments to criminal prisoners was explained by Secretary-General of the [PA] government Ali Abu Diyak:

“Secretary-General of the [PA] government Ali Abu Diyak stated that the government is obligated to provide all of the services to its people... **and to pay the needs of Martyrs' families, and the needs and salaries of prisoners** in the Israeli occupation's prisons, and released prisoners, according to the law... The government **will not pay public funds** to people who are not entitled to them... **the prisoners' salaries are paid to the fighter prisoners**, who were arrested **due to their national struggle, and not to others ... it [the government] will not pay allowances and salaries to criminal prisoners** and others that are not included in the framework of the law.”

[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 10, 2015, emphasis added]

Karake's involvement in the glorification of terrorist murderers

In addition to his involvement in the payment of the salaries to terrorists, Karake regularly glorifies terrorists from all the different terrorist groups, including those convicted for the murder of American citizens. Herein after are just a few examples:

1) Terrorist: Anas Jaradat

Crimes: Former leader of the Islamic Jihad terror organization in Jenin, Jaradat organized three car bombings, in which numerous civilians were murdered:

- Attack on bus no. 830 from Tel Aviv to Tiberias, June 5, 2002 - **17 murdered**
- Attack at Karkour junction, Oct. 21, 2002- **14 murdered**
- A third attempted attack was thwarted when a car loaded with hundreds of kilograms of explosives was seized near Haifa, Sept. 5, 2002.

Sentence: 35 life sentences

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited Jaradat's family in March 2017. [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, March 19, 2017]

2) Terrorist: Ahmad Jabarah Abu Sukkar (PLO)

Crime: Planned a bombing attack in 1975 in which a refrigerator filled with explosives was detonated in Jerusalem- **15 murdered and over 60 wounded**

Sentence: Sentenced to life in prison plus 30 years, but released from prison after 28 years as part of a goodwill gesture from Israel to the PA in 2003

Karake attended the unveiling of an official monument erected in Abu Sukkar's honor in July 2016, where he called the murderer of civilians a "great fighter" and said the monument was "an expression of the loyalty and love of the Palestinian people for all the prisoners, both the Martyr (*Shahid*) prisoners who died after a long struggle like fighter prisoner Abu Sukkar, as well as the prisoners living in the prisons, Abu Sukkar's comrades." He added that the monument was a "response" to Israel's efforts "to charge the prisoners as terrorists and criminals. **By establishing this monument we are saying in this mass ceremony that the prisoners are freedom prisoners... They are legitimate fighters and not criminals and terrorists." [Official PA TV, July 18, 2016] At the same ceremony, he stated: "We are proud of our prisoners, our Martyrs (*Shahids*), and our fighters." [YouTube channel of Ma'an, independent Palestinian news agency, July 18, 2016]**

3) Terrorist: Abdallah Barghouti (Hamas)

Crimes: Prepared explosives for 6 mass-casualty terror attacks that targeted civilians, including:

- Attack at the Sbarro restaurant in Jerusalem, Aug. 9, 2001 – **15 murdered**
- A triple attack at Ben Yehuda mall, Jerusalem, Dec. 1, 2001 – **11 murdered**

- Attack at Moment Café, Jerusalem, March 9, 2002 - **11 murdered**
- Attack at Sheffield Club, Rishon LeZion, May 7, 2002 – **15 murdered**
- Attack at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, July 31, 2002 - **9 murdered**
- Attack on Bus no. 4 in Tel Aviv, Sept. 19, 2002 - **6 murdered**

Sentence: 67 life sentences

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited Barghouti's family in May 2013. [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, May 28, 2013]

Barghouti's victims included American citizens.

4) Terrorists: Fahmi and Ramadan Mashahreh (brothers)

Crime: Planned a suicide bombing on a bus in Jerusalem on June 18, 2002- **19 civilians murdered and 74 wounded**

Sentence: 20 life sentences each

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited the family in January 2014 and congratulated it on the birth of Fahmi Mashareh's daughter Aziza, who was conceived through artificial insemination using semen smuggled out of prison.

A picture from the visit shows Karake with holding the murderer's baby.



[Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Jan. 14, 2014]

5) Terrorist: Abbas Al-Sayid (Hamas)

Crimes: Planned two suicide bombings that deliberately targeted civilians:

- Suicide bombing on a Jewish Passover Seder at Hotel Park on March 27, 2002- **30 civilians murdered and 140 wounded**
- Suicide bombing outside a shopping mall in Netanya on May 18, 2001- **5 murdered and 100 wounded**

Sentence: 35 life sentences

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited Al-Sayid's family in 2011. [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Nov. 20, 2011]

6) Terrorist: Ibrahim Mas'ad

Crime: Together with an accomplice, Mas'ad fired 120 bullets at the Tzur family's car as the family drove home, murdering Ita Tzur, 42, and her son Ephraim, 11. Tzur's husband and four daughters were also wounded.

Date of attack: Dec. 11, 1996

Sentence: 2 life sentences plus an additional 25 years

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited Mas'ad's family in December 2015. [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 27, 2015]

7) Terrorist: Ali Sa'ada

Crime: Threw rocks at the car of Israeli civilian Asher Palmer, 25, as he drove with his baby son Yonatan, causing a crash that killed both. **Both victims were American citizens.**

Date of crime: Sept. 23, 2011

Sentence: 2 life sentences and 50 years, in addition to 3.5 million shekels in punitive damages

Karake called on Sa'ada not to pay the compensation, because the payment has "the aim of delegitimizing the [Palestinian] national resistance against the occupation." [Wafa, official PA news agency, Dec. 16, 2014] Chairman of the Palestinian Prisoners' Club Qadura Fares similarly warned all prisoners against paying punitive fines awarded by Israeli courts:

"Fares said that any legal cooperation with any ruling involving payment of compensation would be considered a violation of the national resolution, as **it would be acknowledgement of the prisoner's struggle against the occupation as an erroneous act that requires an apology and compensation [to Israel].**"

[Official PA daily, *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Mar. 3, 2015]

8) Terrorists: Abd Al-Jawad and Muhammad Yusuf Shamasneh (brothers)

Crimes: Carried out several murders, including:

- Together with their cousin Ibrahim Shamasneh, **they kidnapped Israeli teenagers Lior Tubul and Ronen Karmani and stabbed them to death** on Aug. 4, 1990
- Murdered taxi driver Rafi Doron in October 1990.

- Abd Al-Jawad Shamasneh also murdered an Israeli soldier in March 1993

Sentences: Abd Al-Jawad Shamasneh is serving 4 life sentences

Muhammad Yusuf Shamasneh is serving 3 life sentences

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited the brothers' family in Dec. 2013 [*Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Dec. 5, 2013]

9) **Terrorist: Wafa Idris, first female Palestinian suicide bomber**

Crime: Blew herself up on Jaffa Road in central Jerusalem- **1 civilian murdered and over 100 wounded**

Date of attack: Jan. 27, 2002

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited Idris' family on Aug. 27, 2012. [*Al-Ayyam*, Aug. 30, 2012]

10) **Terrorist: Ahmed Muhammad Ka'abna**

Crime: Stabbed to death 2 young Israeli women, Hagit Zavitsky and Liat Kastiel, at the Wadi Kelt nature reserve in 1997

Sentence: 2 life sentences

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited Ka'abna's family on Aug. 27, 2012. [*Al-Ayyam*, Aug. 30, 2012] The following month, **Karake attended the wedding of Ka'abna's daughter** [Official PA TV, Sept. 7, 2012]

11) **Terrorist: Qahera Al-Sa'adi**

Crime: Transported a suicide bomber who blew himself up on King George Street in central Jerusalem- **3 civilians murdered and 80 injured**

Date of attack: March 21, 2002

Sentence: Sentenced to 3 life sentences, but released in Oct. 2011 as part of the Shalit prisoner exchange deal brokered between the Israeli government and Hamas.

Karake visited Al-Sa'adi's home in July 2011 and awarded Sa'adi's daughter "a laptop computer, as a token of esteem for her success... [which] is the most beautiful gift to her mother and to all the men and women prisoners." [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Aug. 1, 2011]

12) **Terrorists: Alaa and Yusuf Al-Skafi (brothers)**

Crime: As members of the terrorist organization the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades (Fatah military wing), they recruited terrorists to commit suicide attacks.

Sentence: Alaa Al-Skafi was given 1 life sentence

Yusuf Al-Skafi was given 4 life sentences

As a gesture of solidarity, Karake visited their father in Jan. 2017. [Official PA daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*, Jan. 15, 2017]

Karake's glorification of these terrorist murderers follows his, and the PA's belief that the murderers are legitimate fighters.

In one statement to Palestinian television, Karake described 3 of the most notorious murderers of civilians, including Abdallah Barghouti and Abbas Al-Sayid mentioned above, as "Palestinian Authority symbols and prisoner symbols." In other words, because of the large number of civilians they killed, Issa Karake glorifies these terrorists as paragons and national heroes:

"There is a situation of much questioning among the prisoners... following the [prisoner] exchange deal, and especially the non-inclusion of Palestinian Authority symbols and prisoner symbols, such as Marwan Barghouti (5 life sentences for murders), Ahmad Sa'adat, Abdallah Barghouti (67 life sentences for murder of 66 in suicide bombings he planned), Abbas Al-Sayid (35 life sentences for deaths of 35 Israelis in suicide bombings he planned)... and other heroes and fighters."

[PA TV (Fatah), Oct. 17, 2011]

More recently, Karake emphasized that "the Palestinian **prisoners are freedom prisoners and legal fighters for freedom and honor**, and that the Israeli occupation is using organized terror and supporting Jewish and settlement terror against the Palestinian people."

[Facebook page of the PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs, April 17, 2017]

Inciting terror

In addition to all the above, Issa Karake is also incited terror. In an op-ed that he wrote and published on his own website and in the most popular Palestinian daily, he explicitly called for violence and terror.

"They [the prisoners] are being murdered [by Israel] in silence, through an official and planned method. They are melting, bleeding, and dissipating. If one prisoner will fall, the entire world will fall. The world will die if a Palestinian prisoner will die...

Do not make us receive bodies from the occupation's prisons. There's nothing left to say, and there is no need for journalism, media, analyses, and speculations. ... The prisoners are currently struggling for their lives. **Break the pens, look for a gun and bullets. Do not look at your watches, the time is up...** Enough, we have received 10 Martyrs [from the prisons] (*Shahids*) since 2013, and we held the occupation responsible a thousand times and demanded to put it on trial, to demand an accounting from it, and to convict it over the crimes against humanity that it is committing in the prisons. [But] nothing has happened. The prisoners continue to come out of the prison gates inanimate and strangled. **Enough, let every one of us look for a gun and bullets...**

Now I curse my helplessness. We would need a permit from the Israeli Civil and Military Administration (sic., Israeli Civil Administration) in order to live and go from place to place. And if we defend our lives, we must pay them compensation and be dragged into their military courts for them to accuse us of whatever they want and declare that they have caught us, 'the terrorists.'

Enough, let every one of us look for a gun and bullets... "

[Website of the PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs, May 24, 2017
and Al-Quds, May 25, 2017]