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Palestinian Plaintiffs File Suit against Funders of West Bank Settlements and their Corporate Profiteers

Seeking \$34.5 Billion for Murdered and Maimed Family Members and the Destruction of 49,000 Ancestral Homes

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 7, 2016. *Tamimi v. Adelson*, case no.16-445, was filed in the Federal District Court of the District of Columbia today, March 7, 2016, by the law firm of McMahon & Associates. The lawsuit seeks damages in the amount of \$34.5 billion from the defendants named therein. Palestinian and Palestinian-American plaintiffs have filed suit against: (a) wealthy U.S. citizens and tax-exempt entities (*a.k.a* 501(c)(3)s) which provided massive financial assistance to fund the explosive growth of settlements all over the Occupied Palestinian Territories of 1967 (OPT) for the last 40 years; and (b) construction companies, security firms, real estate firms, and private banks which all played a vital role in the explosive growth of these settlements. International corporate conglomerates like Israel Chemicals Limited and the cosmetics company Ahava – Dead Sea Minerals have also been named

because they have been committing the war crime of pillage by stealing and exploiting valuable minerals from Palestinian properties for 40 years.

These segregated “Jewish-only” settlements now house 750,000 permanent residents and, as a direct result of the funding provided by U.S. donors and tax-exempt entities, 400,000 Palestinians have virtually disappeared from the OPT, along with 900,000 olive trees and 49,000 Palestinian homes. Quoting Martin Luther King that “it’s always the right time to do the right thing,” attorneys Martin McMahon, Jameson Fox, and Sameer Jarrah expressed the sincere hope that the lawsuit would, apart from waking the world up, educate U.S. congressional leadership about the rampant criminal activity occurring on a daily basis in the OPT which has been subsidized by the American taxpayer for approximately 40 years. They also want to expose the identities of all American citizens, including the U.S. donors named herein and the profiteering international corporations which are responsible for financing and facilitating the resultant wholesale violence, war crimes, arms trafficking, ethnic cleansing, theft and malicious property destruction. Those profiteering corporations include Volvo, RE/MAX, Hewlett Packard, and Motorola.

One of the plaintiffs, prominent writer/poet Susan Abulhawa, stated “I want a court, somewhere, somehow, to hold accountable those who have financed my pain of dispossession and exile...to hold accountable the financiers of Israel’s wholesale theft of another people’s historic, material, spiritual, and emotional presence in the world.” The lawsuit sets forth in excruciating detail the inhumane atrocities which have been suffered by Palestinians on a daily basis. For example, Palestinian children seeing their mother’s body parts splattered all over the living room wall, Palestinian bodies riddled with bullets, and young Israeli army soldiers just out of high school boasting about raping and then killing helpless Arab women. Unfortunately, these are only representative examples of the war crimes which have been funded

by U.S.-based tax-exempt entities and committed by armed settlers, Israeli soldiers, and U.K.-based G4S security personnel in a country the world has literally forgotten about.

The plaintiffs have each suffered grievous losses at the hands of the Israeli army, violent settlers, and profiteering international conglomerates. Lead plaintiff and prominent Palestinian activist Bassem al-Tamimi has been incarcerated and tortured numerous times for staging weekly peaceful protests outside of the racially-segregated settlement of Halamish, which has been slowly encroaching on his land. Plaintiff Doaa Abu-Amar lost fourteen family members when the Israeli army bombed a daycare center they had to take shelter in during the 2009 Gaza invasion. Plaintiff Ahmed al-Zeer is permanently disabled today because he was severely beaten by settlers who attacked him on his own property outside the settlement of Ofra. Many of the plaintiffs have had loved ones murdered, children assaulted and murdered on their way home from school, businesses destroyed, land stolen, water wells and livestock poisoned, olive groves destroyed, and suffered various physical injuries, including the loss of eyesight, legs amputated, and various permanent physical injuries. Besides being a huge illegal land grab, the separation wall, as explained in the suit, exacerbates the situation because it prevents ailing Palestinians from receiving vital medical care and assistance (dialysis and chemotherapy treatment) which is readily available on the other side of the wall.

The defendants include prominent pro-settlement billionaires such as Sheldon Adelson, Irving Moskowitz, and John Hagee, and American tax-exempt entities like Christian Friends of Israeli Communities and Friends of the Israeli Army. Both the 501(c)(3)s and the prominent billionaire donors have committed war crimes because they have collaborated with violent settlers, G4S personnel, and Israeli soldiers in maiming and murdering thousands of Palestinian civilians, hoping such activity would hasten their departure from the OPT. The defendants have also committed money laundering because they purposely sent funds overseas to promote criminal activities like ethnic cleansing, arms trafficking, and

wholesale violence. The U.S. corporations named in the suit, along with Israeli banks Bank Leumi and Bank Hapoalim, international construction companies Africa Israel Investments, Veolia, and Volvo, and the British security protection services firm G4S, have all engaged in war crimes and money laundering.

They have all profited enormously from settlement expansion by providing vital security protection, banking, and construction services for the settlements. In the case of RE/MAX, in order to promote further settlement expansion and improve its bottom line, its agents knowingly marketed stolen private property in both America and Israel. The settlement enterprise is a very successful industry, i.e., simply by building and selling 26,000 new homes in the OPT, RE/MAX and various construction firms grossed at least \$9.45 billion. All of this criminal activity, which settlement expansion necessarily resulted in, has been made possible as a direct result of the enormous funding provided by U.S. tax-exempt entities and donors, i.e., in 2009 they sent \$1.7 billion in tax-deductible contributions to Israeli NGOs. The donors, at the expense of the American taxpayer, have taken millions of dollars in illegal tax write-offs as a result of their contributions to 501(c)(3) entities which are dedicated to ethnic cleansing, arms trafficking, and settlement expansion, activities which are not charitable in nature. The contributions and tax write-offs are illegal because 501(c)(3)s, based on U.S. Treasury tax-exemption regulations, are barred from funding criminal activity (setting up sniper schools and purchasing military hardware) in any manner. In fact, if these entities had disclosed on their initial 501(c)(3) application forms, which they filed with the IRS, that they would be funding such criminal activity, they never would have received tax-exempt status.

Copies of an introduction/summary to the lawsuit are available at http://www.martinmcmahonlaw.com/Tamimi_Introduction-2.pdf. The entire lawsuit can be found at http://www.martinmcmahonlaw.com/Tamimi_Complaint.pdf.