



Program
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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

What is Samidoun?

Founded in 2011, Samidoun describes itself as an “international network of organizers and activists” advocating for the release of Palestinian prisoners through demonstrations, protests, advocacy campaigns, and educational seminars.¹ Its deep-rooted ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a designated terrorist organization, are exemplified by Samidoun’s founder, Khaled Barakat, a prominent senior PFLP leader.² Since the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks, Samidoun has intensified its activities in the US and several Western countries, particularly on university and college campuses, promoting anti-Israel hate speech and violent rhetoric. On October 15, 2024, the US and Canada took decisive action, designating Samidoun as a terrorist entity and sham charity, aimed at dismantling its funding operations. Barakat was also sanctioned for his pivotal role in fundraising and recruitment efforts.³ These moves represent a critical step toward curbing terrorist financing disguised as humanitarian work, exposing Samidoun’s dangerous agenda.

As the one-year anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attacks has passed, it is important to understand Samidoun and the true focus of its activities. Despite claiming to be a human rights organization, Samidoun legitimizes terrorist groups and incites violence. This report outlines Samidoun's true mission and its support for terrorist activities.

Brief background on the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) was founded in 1967 by George Habash, merging three Palestinian guerrilla groups. Internal disagreements over ideology caused several splits, leading to the formation of factions like the PFLP-General Command (PFLP-GC) in 1968. The PFLP became notorious for its attacks against Israel and Western interests, including high-profile hijackings in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Rejecting any peace negotiations with Israel, the group advocated for replacing Israel with a secular, democratic state in Palestine. After Habash retired in 2000, his successor, Abu Ali Mustafa, was killed by Israeli forces in 2001, and the next leader, Aḥmad Sa’adat, was imprisoned in 2002.⁴ Since the late

¹ “About Samidoun.” Samidoun. <https://samidoun.net/about-samidoun/>

² US Department of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism. *Foreign Terrorist Organizations*. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>; See also US Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control. SDGT Designations. November 2, 2001. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20011102>.

³ US Department of Treasury. “United States and Canada Target Key International Fundraiser for Foreign Terrorist Organization PFLP.” Press Release. October 15, 2024. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2646>.

⁴ “Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*. September 30, 2024.

1970s, the PFLP has shifted its focus to launching rockets and mortars from Gaza into southern Israel and carrying out bombings and shootings. PFLP fighters use a range of weapons, including small arms, rockets, mortars, explosives, and suicide vests. The US designated the PFLP as a foreign terrorist organization in October 1997, with additional financial sanctions imposed under Executive Order 13224 in 2001.⁵

The PFLP's terrorist activities have continued. In 2014, PFLP terrorists armed with guns and meat cleavers entered a Jerusalem synagogue and murdered five people.⁶ Similarly, in 2019, PFLP terrorists killed a 17-year-old Israeli girl, by remotely detonating an explosive device.⁷

The PFLP has also evolved as a proxy of the Iranian regime and as such is provided with financial resources, training and weapons.⁸ Abu Jamal, a spokesperson for the PFLP's Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, has emphasized the group's relationship with Iran and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), highlighting the mutual support in their fight against Israel. Jamal described the relationship as one of "blood brothers" and "comrades" sharing a common goal of defeating Israel, pointing to Iranian support in battles in Lebanon, Gaza, and the West Bank.⁹

While the PFLP does not specify exactly how much money or weapons it gets from Iran, its loyalty to Tehran is clear. After the 2021 Gaza-Israel conflict, the PFLP held a military parade where members displayed pictures of Qasem Soleimani, showing their deep respect for Iran and the IRGC.¹⁰

Samidoun's affiliation with the PFLP

Samidoun (derived from the Arabic word "steadfast") originated after a 2011 coordinated hunger strike by the PFLP.¹¹ Many of the prisoners supported by Samidoun

⁵ "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine." *National Counterterrorism Center*. https://www.dni.gov/nctc/ftos/pflp_fto.html.

⁶ Lynfield, Ben. "Jerusalem synagogue attack: PFLP of Palestine claims responsibility." *Independent.co.uk*, November 18, 2014. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/jerusalem-synagogue-attack-popular-front-for-the-liberation-of-palestine-claims-responsibility-9868981.html>.

⁷ Harkov, Lahav. "Netherlands admits to paying terrorists who killed a 17 year old Israeli." *Jerusalem Post*, July 23, 2020.

⁸ Truzman, Joe. "PFLP Boasts About Its Ties to Iran." *The Long War Journal*, November 11, 2021. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/11/pflp-boasts-about-its-ties-to-iran.php>.

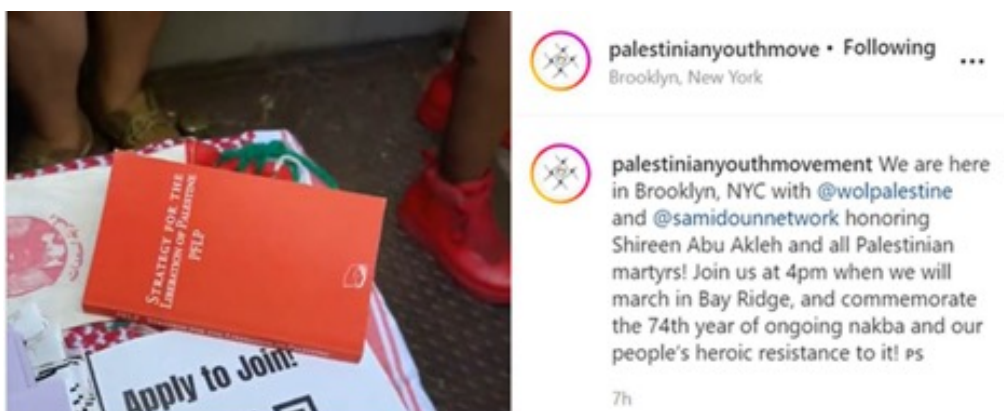
⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Center on Extremism. "Samidoun: What you need to know." *ADL*, July 17, 2024. Updated August 22, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.adl.org/resources/article/samidoun-what-you-need-know>.

are members of the PFLP.¹² As previously mentioned, Barakat holds a prominent position as a member of the Central Committee of the PFLP. He is a leading voice at many Samidoun events despite having no official title within the organization.¹³ In February 2021, the Israeli Defense Minister signed an order designating Samidoun as a terrorist group. While Samidoun's stated aim is to support Palestinian prisoners, Israeli authorities assert that it functions as a front for PFLP activities, including establishing militant cells and promoting terrorist actions in the West Bank, and internationally. Samidoun also engages in anti-Israel propaganda, fundraising, and recruitment, complementing the PFLP's armed struggle.¹⁴

PFLP propaganda has been frequently featured at Samidoun events. For example, on May 15, 2022 at a Brooklyn Nakba Day¹⁵ rally hosted by pro-Palestinian groups Samidoun, Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) and Within Our Lifetime, a table was seen showcasing a book by the PFLP.¹⁶ The PFLP flag was also seen among the crowd of marchers in a YouTube video.¹⁷



¹² “6 Things to Know About Samidoun, the ‘Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.’” *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*. September 13, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2024/09/13/6-things-to-know-about-samidoun-the-palestinian-prisoner-solidarity-network/>.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ “Israel Designates “Samidoun” As A Terrorist Organization.” *National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing of Israel*. February 28, 2021. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://nbctf.mod.gov.il/en/Pages/SamidounEN.aspx>

¹⁵ Nakba Day is a day of mourning by some Palestinians and their supporters commemorating the creation of the State of Israel. See also: Center on Extremism. “2023 Nakba Day Events Marked By Antisemitic Rhetoric and Themes.” ADL, May 25, 2023. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.adl.org/resources/article/2023-nakba-day-events-marked-antisemitic-rhetoric-and-themes>.

¹⁶ Palestinian Youth Movement (@palestinianyouthmovement), “We are here in Brooklyn, NYC with @wolpalestine and @samidounnetwork honoring Shireen Abu Akleh and all Palestinian martyrs! Join us at 4pm when we will march in Bay Ridge, and commemorate the 74th year of ongoing nakba and our people’s heroic resistance to it! 🇵🇸,” *Instagram*, May 15, 2022. <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cdlpx0VoJzo/>.

¹⁷ FREEDOMNEWS TV – NATIONAL/SCOOTERCASTER (@SCOOTERCASTER), “Thousand Palestinians gather in Bay Ridge for Nakba,” *Youtube*, May 15, 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5rd-n6gPV8&t=246s>.

On April 23, 2024, the PFLP posted a statement on its website in support of American students:

We in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, along with all our people, the honorable of our nation and the world, confirm our steadfast support for the struggle of the students youth movements. Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) at universities such as Columbia, Rutgers, Yale, Stanford, among others. We call for enhancing the unity of students and their struggle to divest American universities from the Zionist entity and cut all forms of relations with it.¹⁸

This statement by a designated terrorist group and call to action to student groups is further evidence of the PFLP's support to Samidoun and other pro-Palestinian groups.

The Samidoun organization also associates itself with Leila Khaled, referring to her as a "Palestinian resistance icon." Khaled, a prominent figure in the PFLP, was involved in the hijackings of TWA Flight 840 in 1969 and El Al Flight 219 in 1970. As of 2017, she held a position in the PFLP's Political Bureau. Khaled has advocated for the involvement of children in acts of terrorism and made comparisons between Zionists and Nazis.¹⁹

Where does Samidoun operate:

According to its website, Samidoun lists several operational branches across different locations. However, the level of activity within each branch is unclear, as some chapters do not maintain an active online presence despite being listed:

- Samidoun Occupied Palestine
- Samidoun Sweden
- Samidoun Spain
- Samidoun France
- Samidoun Greece
- Samidoun Hungary
- Samidoun Iran
- Samidoun Brazil

¹⁸ "PFLP and Samidoun on American College Campuses." NGO Monitor. May 9, 2024. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/pflp-and-samidoun-on-american-college-campuses/>.

¹⁹ AJC Transatlantic Institute (@AJCTAI), "Anti-Semitism in the EU Parliament: PFLP Terrorist Leila Khaled Compares Israel with Nazis," Youtube, September 26, 2017, accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MetRSKekvQs>.

- HIRAK: Palestinian Youth Mobilization (Germany)
- Anti-Imperialist Action Ottawa
- Samidoun Albuquerque
- Samidoun NY/NJ
- Center for Study and Preservation of Palestine- Portland

Samidoun's senior leadership

Charlotte Kates – International Coordinator. Kates, who is married to Barakat, is a pro-Hamas activist originally from New Jersey and now living in Canada. She has a long history of advocating for Palestinian armed resistance. Her activism, spanning over two decades, has led to her being banned in Germany. Despite the scrutiny, she continues to speak at events, including a controversial appearance at Columbia University.²⁰ During this event held in April 2024, Kates defended terrorist groups expressing the following, " Hamas is not a terrorist organization. Islamic Jihad is not a terrorist organization. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine is not a terrorist organization. Hezbollah is not a terrorist organization. These are resistance fighters. These are our heroes. These are those who are sacrificing so that we can live and speak and struggle and fight. These are the people whose blood is being shed to defend humanity and to defend the world."²¹ Despite Kates' assertions, Hamas, the PFLP, and Hezbollah remain designated terrorist organizations in the United States.

A month before the April event, Kates and her husband Barakat were invited to speak at Columbia University by a pro-Palestinian student group for an event titled "Resistance 101." During the event, Barakat voiced his support for groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, encouraging students to adopt Iran's "strategic vision" and advising patience over seeking quick solutions to complex issues. Kates echoed this message, urging students to publicly support Palestinian armed resistance, even those groups that target civilians. She stressed the importance of offering moral and political support to these groups, though she clarified that this did not extend to financial aid or direct involvement for legal reasons.²² Kates also justified Hamas's actions on October 7, stating that there is nothing wrong with being a member or fighter of Hamas, further legitimizing the group's role in resistance against Israel.²³

²⁰ Ghosh, R. "Who Is Charlotte Kates? Pro-Hamas Activist Who Spoke at Columbia University Despite Being Banned from Germany Is New Jersey Communist." *International Business Times*, May 2, 2024. <https://www.ibtimes.sg/who-charlotte-kates-pro-hamas-activist-who-spoke-columbia-university-despite-being-banned-74458>.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

²³ Kraeim, Leon. "October 7 changed the world!: Speakers glorify Hamas at Columbia student group event." *Jerusalem Post*, March 25, 2024.

Kates is the co-founder of the Committee of Anti-Imperialists in Solidarity with Iran (CASI). She appeared in a May 29, 2024 CASI webinar advocating for Iran and Palestine. CASI opposes Israel and supports abolishing the US military, police, and immigration forces, while also backing movements against colonialism and white supremacy. During this event, Kates commended Hamas for its October 7 attack on Israel and criticized the International Criminal Court's war crime charges against Hamas leaders. She also urged listeners to support global resistance efforts and align with anti-imperialist movements.²⁴

In August 2024, Kates traveled to Iran to receive a human rights award as one of six recipients. Among those also honored during the ceremony was a slain Hamas leader. This recognition attracted widespread criticism due to Iran's own history of human rights violations. Kates, who has been under investigation in Canada for hate speech related to her comments on the October 7 Hamas attacks, praised these attacks during her public appearance in Tehran. She dedicated the award to Palestinian "martyrs and prisoners" and has faced backlash for glorifying violence.²⁵

Kates authored an article to commemorate the anniversary of the October 17, 2001 assassination of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi. In the piece, she quoted a senior PFLP operative who described the killing as a "symbol of heroism." Additionally, Kates directed her readers to the PFLP website, where the assassination is celebrated.²⁶

Figure 2

Samidoun international coordinator (Kates) receives Islamic Human Rights Award in Tehran | Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network (samidoun.net)



²⁴ Mackin, Bob. "Vancouver Hamas promoter facing hate speech probe appears on pro-Iran webinar." *theBreaker.news*, May 30, 2024

²⁵ Little, Simon. "Vancouver activist facing hate speech probe praises Oct. 7 attack on Iranian TV." *Global News*, September 2, 2024.

²⁶ Kates, Charlotte (@charlotte.kates), Facebook, October 17, 2016.

Figure 3

Samidoun International Coordinator Charlotte Kates tells Canadian media she was "proud" to receive the Iranian award, from her home in Vancouver, BC, August 2024. (Screenshot/Global News Canada)



Mohammed Khatib – Europe Coordinator. Khatib has openly praised violence against Israelis, labeling Hamas's deadly actions as a triumph for Palestinians.²⁷ As of April 2024, Belgian authorities were pursuing legal avenues to expel Khatib from the country, citing his extremist rhetoric as a threat to public safety. The Israeli government and Belgian Jewish community have voiced strong opposition to Khatib's activities, arguing that his continued presence in Belgium undermines efforts to combat extremism.²⁸

Khatib also referred to the October 7 attacks as "a glorious day for the Palestinian people" during an online seminar with Hamas official Basem Naim. He commended Naim and Hamas as real "representatives of the Palestinian people" and lauded "Jews who call 'From the river to the sea,'" calling to establish a direct connection between Palestinians abroad and the Palestinian resistance."²⁹

²⁷ Agencies. "Belgium pushes to expel controversial Palestinian activist 'hate preacher'." *The Times of Israel*, April 15, 2024.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Starr, Michael. "PFLP-affiliated NGO leader 'extremist hate preacher' may be kicked out of Belgium." *Jerusalem Post*, July 18, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-810923>.

Mustapha Awad – European Representative. Awad has been involved with the PFLP operating across Europe. Awad has maintained connections with militant operatives in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority.³⁰ He was reportedly trained by Hezbollah and was sentenced by Israel to one year in prison for transferring funds across borders for terrorist activities and maintaining connections with terrorist organizations.³¹

Maram Saadi – Lebanon Coordinator.³² No further information could be found on Saadi and his activities.

Joe Catron – US Coordinator.³³ Samidoun describes Catron as the “New York organizer and writer.”³⁴ Catron, a vocal activist, has been a contributor to “Electronic Intifada,” where he has written in support of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, Palestinian prisoners, and events like Israel Apartheid Week. The BDS claims to be a nonviolent Palestinian-led movement promoting boycotts, divestments, and economic sanctions against Israel. Some critics of BDS claim “BDS isn’t nonviolent. And it is not simply opposed to an “occupation.”...BDS is opposed to Israel’s very existence — and its founders, including Barghouti, have admitted as much.”³⁵

Catron frequently criticizes Israel, accusing the state of committing "genocidal intent" during conflicts. Catron has downplayed the violent aspects of protests at the Gaza-Israel border, often focusing on the narrative of Palestinian suffering.³⁶

Some of Catron’s notable activities with Samidoun include a 2015 tweet in which he publicly addressed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, saying, “Nasrallah, my friend, attack, attack Tel Aviv.”³⁷ Catron has also been linked to Leila Khaled, sharing a photo with her in 2015.³⁸ His activism extends to solidarity efforts with Palestinian prisoners, including participating in a panel in Gaza alongside Hamas Chief of Security, Tawfeek

³⁰ Kubovich, Yaniv. “Lebanese-born Belgian Who Tried to Enter Israel Charged With Belonging to Terror Group.” *Haaretz.com*, August 16, 2018.

³¹ “Terrorists In Suits: The Ties Between NGOs promoting BDS and Terrorist Organizations.” *Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy, State of Israel*. February 2019.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Durns, Sean. “The Washington Post Outright Lies About BDS and Anti-Israel Boycott Movements.” *The Algemeiner*, August 28, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.algemeiner.com/2024/08/28/the-washington-post-outright-lies-about-bds-and-anti-israel-boycott-movements/>.

³⁶ “Samidoun.” *NGO Monitor*. July 14, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/samidoun/>

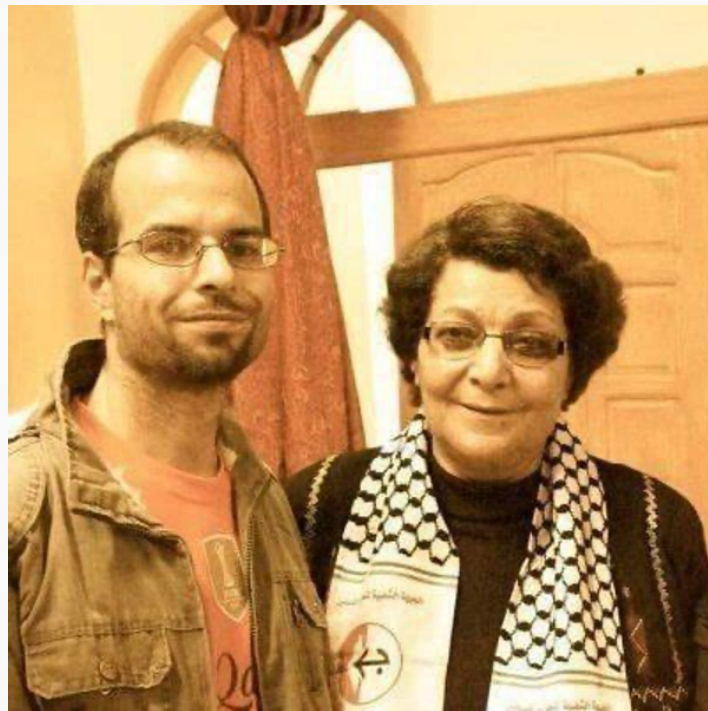
³⁷ Joe Catron (@jncatron), *Twitter*, January 28, 2015. <https://twitter.com/jncatron/status>.

³⁸ Katz, Tehilla. “Terrorism, not activism: A closer look at Samidoun.” *Jewish News Syndicate*, April 21, 2021. <https://www.jns.org/terrorism-not-activism-a-closer-look-at-samidoun/>.

Abu Naim.³⁹ In 2017, Catron appeared at an⁴⁰ Al Quds rally in New York City, chanting “Intifada, revolution!” and “Israel, go to Hell!”

Figure 4

Picture of Joe Catron and Leila Khaled (thread.net Joe Catron@joecatrononthreads)



Samidoun's activities of concern

Samidoun has been especially active in campaigning for the release of PFLP General Secretary Ahmad Sa'adat, launching several campaigns on his behalf, as illustrated on the Samidoun website, further aligning their efforts with PFLP events and publicizing former PFLP members.⁴¹ Sa'adat is currently serving a 30-year prison sentence for heading an “illegal terrorist organization and for the murder of Israeli tourism minister Rehavam Ze'evi.”⁴²

³⁹ Hassan, Peter. “Inside The Ties Between Anti Israel BDS Groups and Palestinian Terror Orgs.” SPME, May 29, 2019.

⁴⁰ “NYC Quds Day Rally: Hitler-Like Zionists Help ISIS and Killed JFK; Al-Baghdadi Is Israeli; U.S. #1 Terrorist.” MEMRI, June 23, 2017. <https://www.memri.org/tv/international-qods-day-rally-nyc>.

⁴¹ “About Samidoun.” Samidoun. <https://samidoun.net/about-samidoun/>

⁴² See also “PFLP threatens escalation after leader sent to solitary in Israeli prison.” *Times of Israel*, May 8, 2023. Accessed October 6, 2024. https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/pflp-threatens-escalation-after-leader-sent-to-solitary-in-israeli-prison/.

Samidoun has strong ties to the BDS movement through shared leadership and collaborative activities. Samidoun's key leaders, Barakat and Kates, are both deeply involved in promoting BDS campaigns globally. Kates, for instance, is a part of the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (USACBI),⁴³ and Samidoun has joined other pro-BDS organizations in opposing anti-boycott legislation in the US.⁴⁴ Additionally, Samidoun often collaborates with other BDS-aligned groups, such as Al-Awda, the National Lawyers Guild, and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), among others.⁴⁵

Samidoun plays a critical role in advancing the PFLP's agenda within the BDS movement, functioning as a bridge between PFLP-linked organizations and broader BDS campaigns. This connection enables the dissemination of the PFLP's goals through BDS initiatives while also aligning Samidoun with various pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel efforts worldwide. The cooperation between Samidoun and BDS-aligned groups, including organizing events featuring PFLP members like Leila Khaled, highlights the integrated nature of their operations and mutual support.⁴⁶

Samidoun has maintained relationships with the organizers of the "March of Return and Breaking the Siege," a movement led by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the PFLP. In response to requests from the march's organizers, Samidoun urged its supporters to send video messages to operatives in Gaza, expressing opposition to a UN Security Council resolution aimed at condemning Hamas.⁴⁷

Financing of Samidoun

According to its website, Samidoun is "a grassroots, unfunded organization."⁴⁸ Samidoun does not disclose its financial information and operates under the fiscal sponsorship of the Alliance for Global Justice (AFGJ).⁴⁹

The AFGJ is an organization that provides fiscal sponsorship to numerous left-wing initiatives, allowing them to receive tax-deductible donations. It originated from the Nicaragua Network, which supported the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, and describes

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ Letter to Jeff Sessions, Attorney General of the United States. "Re: Call for Investigation of Domestic Activities of Affiliates of Certain Designated Foreign Terror Organizations." *Zachor Legal Institute*. July 12, 2018: 15-17. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://zachorlegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Final-DOJ-Letter.pdf?189db0&189db0>.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ "About Samidoun." *Samidoun*. <https://samidoun.net/about-samidoun/>

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

itself as anti-capitalist and opposed to liberal democracy.⁵⁰ AFGJ is financially backed by several center-left foundations, including George Soros' Open Society Foundations and the Tides Foundation.⁵¹ AFGJ supports far-left causes, including pro-Palestinian groups that call for the elimination of Israel. They have been accused of supporting groups tied to terrorism, including raising funds for organizations connected to the PFLP.⁵²

A fiscal sponsor uses its 501(c)(3) status to enable sponsored projects to receive tax-deductible donations. This arrangement may allow these groups to be less transparent about their financial sources and handling.⁵³ This lack of financial transparency through its fiscal sponsor could lead to potential misuse of funds especially in the US as the PFLP and Hamas are designated as terrorist organizations.

In August 2021, Discover stopped processing credit card donations to the AFGJ after the Zachor Legal Institute pressured the company, citing AFGJ's ties to Samidoun.⁵⁴ Samidoun subsequently posted the following on their website, "We are unable to accept online donations at this time, however are processing paper checks. Paper checks should be addressed to "Alliance for Global Justice" or "AFGJ" and can be sent to AFGJ/Samidoun, 225 E 26th St., Suite 1, Tucson, AZ 85713. Donations are tax deductible as provided by law."⁵⁵

On February 4, 2024, Samidoun co-hosted an online event with the Bronx Antiwar Coalition titled, "How to Defend Palestinian Resistance." The event, held via Zoom, featured speakers Barakat and Kates and was moderated by Saher Al Khamash and Marina Samuel. During the session, the moderators shared information on how attendees could donate to Samidoun. Samuel specifically encouraged viewers to contribute to support Samidoun's advocacy for Palestinian prisoners, mentioning that donations were being accepted through paper checks due to interference from what she referred to as "Zionist forces."⁵⁶ The teach-in also included a video that praised the October 7 attacks and portrayed Hamas fighters as "heroes."⁵⁷ Additionally,

⁵⁰ "Alliance for Global Justice (AFGJ)." Influence Watch. n.d. <https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/alliance-for-global-justice/>.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ Center on Extremism, "Samidoun: What you need to know."

⁵⁴ "Samidoun." NGO Monitor. July 14, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/samidoun/>.

⁵⁵ "Donate." Samidoun. May 29, 2024. <https://samidoun.net/donate-page/>.

⁵⁶ Brown, Haley and Jesse O'Neill. "Israel supporters, pro-Palestinian protesters trade violent threats for second straight day in NYC: 'They're terrorists.'" *New York Post*, October 9, 2023. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://nypost.com/2023/10/09/palestinian-supporters-and-pro-israel-protesters-trade-violent-threats-in-manhattan-we-gotta-kill-them-all/>.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

Kates highlighted the support Iran provides to Hamas, emphasizing the broader role of the "Axis of Resistance" in countering imperialist forces in the region.⁵⁸

Samidoun's support for the October 7th attacks and its campus activities

Figure 5

A Samidoun banner with the slogan "Long live October 7th." (Source: Telegram)



On October 9, 2023, Samidoun participated in a rally in New York City in support of Gaza. This rally followed Israel's ongoing military operations in Gaza after the October 7 Hamas attacks. During the event several pro-Palestine demonstrators shouted "We gotta kill them all! We're going to kill them all!" You better leave our country! You better get out of there!" Other pro-Palestinian and anti-Israel groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Within Our Lifetime also, participated in the event to express solidarity with Gaza while opposing Israeli military actions.⁵⁹ Samidoun maintains it operates under US free speech protections,

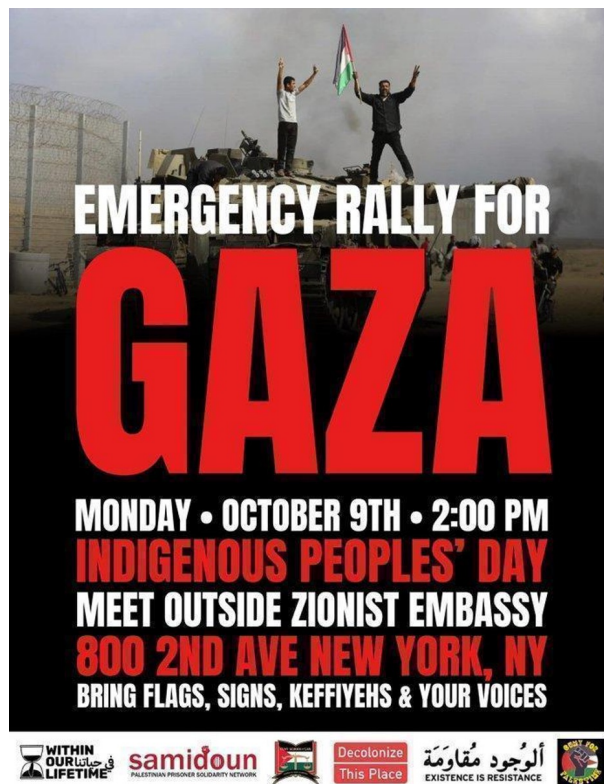
⁵⁸ "4 February, Online: Teach-In — How to Defend Palestinian Resistance." Samidoun. January 30, 2024. <https://samidoun.net/2024/01/4-february-online-teach-in-how-to-defend-palestinian-resistance/>.

⁵⁹ Brown and O'Neill, "Israel supporters, pro-Palestinian protesters trade violent threats for second straight day in NYC."

though calls for its designation as a terrorist organization due to ties with the PFLP and Hamas persist.⁶⁰

Additionally, Samidoun provided instruction and training on “resistance” to some student groups.⁶¹ These training sessions, such as “Resistance 101,” allegedly endorsed roles in Hamas and focused on practical methods like fundraising to support protests.⁶² During one session, Charlotte Kates “encouraged students ‘to build an international popular cradle of the resistance,’ according to a recording posted on YouTube.”⁶³

In November 2023, SJP chapters including those at Columbia University and George Washington University, were suspended after calling for a “day of resistance” when the war began. Brandeis University also banned the group after saying SJP “openly supports Hamas.”⁶⁴



⁶⁰ Hobbs, Tawnell D., Valerie Bauerlein, and Dan Frosch. “Activist Groups Trained Students for Months Before Campus Protests.” *Wall Street Journal*, May 4, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/student-campus-protests-veteran-activist-groups-17ccd094>.

⁶¹ “Radical Activists Trained US Student Groups on Resistance – Report.” *Jerusalem Post*, May 4, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-799789>.

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ Hobbs, Bauerlein, and Frosch, “Activist Groups Trained Students for Months Before Campus Protests.”

⁶⁴ Cochran, Lexi Lonas. “Students for Justice in Palestine becomes flashpoint in college antisemitism, free speech debate.” *The Hill*, November 16, 2023. <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/4311746-students-justice-palestine-antisemitism-free-speech-hamas-israel/>.

Figure 7

Photo credit: [@dailypenn](#) (Twitter) ; [The Daily Pennsylvania](#) ; [israelwarroom](#) (Instagram) PFLP flags at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Figure 8**

Photo Credit: [@PrincetonTory](#) (twitter). Protesters at Princeton University holding “up a banner calling for the “freedom” of Ahmad Sa’adat. Sa’adat is the secretary-general for the Popular Front for the Liberation in Palestine (PFLP)

**Figure 9**

Photo Credit: [ADL](#). Signs at Yale honoring PFLP-affiliated terrorists Walid Daqqa and Leila Khaled



Figure 10

A Rutgers University student was seen holding a poster of Ahmad Sa'adat, organized by Samidoun, during a demonstration. In the video of the event, demonstrators can be heard chanting slogans such as "Israel must fall. Free our prisoners, free them all." Photo credit: [@thetustustudio](#) (Twitter)



In a tweet from June 2024, Samidoun condemned the New York Nova Exhibit, which memorialized the October 7 Hamas attack on concertgoers, accusing the exhibit of promoting "false atrocity tales" and "Zionist disinformation."⁶⁵ The organization also denied the events of October 7, dismissing reports such as mass rapes and referring to the exhibit as an attempt to discredit what they saw as a "resistance achievement." Samidoun expressed support for the attack and the broader Palestinian struggle for liberation, hailing it as part of the ongoing revolution.⁶⁶

Samidoun works to advance the BDS movement against Israel and stirs up anti-Israel sentiment through protests, rallies and events, including among students. In the summer of 2020, Samidoun was a major organizer of "Day of Rage" and "Days of Resistance" protests in cities across North America and Europe, including New York, Toronto, London, Copenhagen and numerous other locations. Demonstrators at some of the protests chanted "death to America," "death to Israel," and other protests saw

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ Center on Extremism. "Denial and Distortion of the Hamas-led October 7 Attack: An Overview of False Narratives." ADL, June 28, 2024. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.adl.org/resources/article/denial-and-distortion-hamas-led-october-7-attack-overview-false-narratives>.

PFLP flags along with Samidoun signs.⁶⁷ Students took leading roles in these events, especially members of SJP and Samidoun, who co-organized events in cities throughout the US.⁶⁸

Samidoun promotes violent rhetoric through its posts on social media

Samidoun, through its X account (previously Twitter) has posted messages that incite violence by amplifying tensions around sensitive topics such as the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jewish settlements, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For example, on September 28, 2022, Samidoun tweeted about Jewish settlers "storming" the Al-Aqsa Mosque, invoking a narrative that historically incited violence against Jews.⁶⁹ Samidoun also promotes calls for escalation, such as advocating for a "global intifada" and encouraging supporters to "besiege the White House." Additionally, the group has hosted livestreams with senior Hamas officials, further spreading pro-violence rhetoric and supporting attacks on Western targets. This platforming of terrorist groups and glorification of violence highlights Samidoun's role in inciting hostility under the guise of resistance.⁷⁰

Samidoun's dissemination of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda, while claiming to support Palestinian prisoners, is evident in the following quotes from the Samidoun website, which illustrate their views on Israel and Zionism:

"I wish ISIS would fight the Zionists and direct all their weapons to the Zionist enemy."
[Khaled Barakat, Twitter, Jan 9 2017](#)

"Zionism...[is] a force in the region to control and divide Palestinians and the Arab region."
[Charlotte Kates, YouTube, Jan 28 2020](#)

"Ghassan Kanafani was not part of the military resistance per se. He did not go and hijack an airplane like Leila [Khaled] did. And we're very proud of her for doing that."
[Khaled Barakat, YouTube, Sep 19 2020](#)

"As long as Israel exists, Palestinians will suffer."
[Khaled Barakat, YouTube, Sep 19 2020](#)

⁶⁷ TOI Staff. "At Brooklyn pro-Palestine rally, calls to eliminate both Israel and US." *The Times of Israel*, July 4, 2020. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/at-brooklyn-pro-palestine-rally-calls-to-eliminate-both-israel-and-us/>.

⁶⁸ "About Samidoun." *Samidoun*. <https://samidoun.net/about-samidoun/>.

⁶⁹ Samidoun Network (@SamidounPP), "Israeli settlers stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque under the heavy protection of occupation forces. #SaveAlAqsa #AlAqsaUnderAttack," X, September 28, 2022, accessed October 7, 2024. <https://twitter.com/SamidounPP/status/1575184816861024268>. Archived at <https://archive.is/GGcg4>.

⁷⁰ "PFLP-Linked Samidoun Network Continues To Serve Hamas's Media Outreach Efforts On Social Media." MEMRI, June 28, 2024. <https://www.memri.org/cjlab/pflp-linked-samidoun-network-continues-serve-hamass-media-outreach-efforts-social-media>.

“Glory to the Intifada! The struggle continues!”

[Samidoun, Twitter, Dec 8 2020](#)

“Today, Palestinian refugees have to pay for Germany’s genocide of the Jewish people.”

[Samidoun, Twitter, Jun 24 2021](#)

“Israel is the project of colonization and imperialism.”

[Khaled Barakat, YouTube, Jun 3 2022](#)

“The ethnic cleansing of Palestine is engineered by American non-profits.”

[Samidoun, Twitter, Sep 26 2022](#)

“We reject all accords with the Zionists...We reject normalization in all of its forms.”

[Samidoun, Twitter, Oct 19 2022](#)

On [December 17, 2022](#), Samidoun [tweeted](#): “Free the Holy Land Five: Palestinian Prisoners in US Jails.”



Samidoun Network
@SamidounPP

CAPTURED BY
CANARY MISSION

Free the Holy Land Five: Palestinian Prisoners in US Jails



youtube.com

Free the Holy Land Five: Palestinian Prisoners in US Jails
The Holy Land Five are five Palestinian charity workers in the United States who were relentlessly harassed, targeted and...

4:14 PM · Dec 17, 2022 · 355 Views

The Holy Land Five (HL5) were a group of individuals involved with the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF), once the largest Islamic charity in the United States. In 2001, the foundation was shut down by the US government after being accused of funneling money to Hamas. The HLF and seven of its officers were indicted for financing HAMAS, under the guise of humanitarian aid. In 2008, the HLF and five of its officers (the remaining two indicted officers are fugitives) were convicted on charges of providing material support to terrorism and were sentenced to federal prison terms ranging from 15 to 65 years.⁷¹

⁷¹ US Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs. “Federal Judge Hands Downs Sentences in Holy Land Foundation Case.” Press Release. May 27, 2009. Accessed October 6, 2024. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/federal-judge-hands-downs-sentences-holy-land-foundation-case>.




(since deleted), Telegram, Instagram story

The above images show a composite of social media posts published by Samidoun from their Instagram account which have since been deleted. These posts show Samidoun’s support for October 7, support for the PFLP (with flag at a Samidoun event) and Samidoun’s celebration of Al-Quds day, an annual pro-Palestinian event.

Figure 13

A Samidoun flag is held at a June 10, 2024 anti-Israel rally in New York City. A Hezbollah flag can be seen in the background. (Source: Samidoun NY/NJ Telegram)



 **Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network** CAPTURED BY ... CANARY MISSION
December 31, 2022 at 2:41 PM · 🌐

Happy new year to all, and our deepest gratitude to all of you who have already contributed your time, your labour, your energy, your love and your donations to the movement for Palestinian liberation this year.

We know that there are many challenges to come in 2023. We are facing an openly fascist government of the occupation regime and intensified anti-Palestinian repression in many Western countries.

At the same time, we take strength and inspiration from the ongoing and unquenchable resistance of the Palestinian people, including the 4,750 Palestinian political prisoners in the jails of the occupation. Palestinian prisoners are not merely victims of the occupation, but resistance leaders for the liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea.

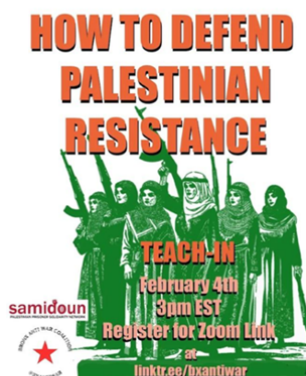
And we know it is our duty to intensify our efforts, organizing, advocacy and struggle until that goal is achieved. We know that victory is possible -- through unity, principled action, and collective mobilization.

Long live Palestine! Long live the Intifada! From the river to the sea, Palestine _will_ be free.



 12

3 shares



Samidoun flyers. (via the Samidoun site)

Global actions against Samidoun

Israel's designation in 2021 has not been the only source of pressure on Samidoun. In recent years, the organization has also faced increasing scrutiny and legal challenges in the United States. In July 2018, the Zachor Legal Institute urged the US Department of Justice to investigate Samidoun's activities and connections to the PFLP, citing concerns about terrorism-related fundraising and advocacy. The letter highlighted the involvement of Samidoun's leaders with the PFLP and their promotion of convicted terrorists through international platforms.⁷²

Samidoun has also received greater public scrutiny through media coverage and advocacy by pro-Israel groups. These organizations have lobbied for closer government oversight and investigation into Samidoun's activities, particularly focusing on the legality of its operations in the US context. The actions taken by both the US and Canada on October 15 are significant for Samidoun. The US designation, in particular, has major legal and financial impacts, as sanctions typically lead to the freezing of assets, preventing the organization from raising funds or engaging in financial transactions. This disruption hampers Samidoun's ability to operate both in the US and internationally. Since the US is a key location for fundraising, being sanctioned blocks Samidoun's access to potential donors, severely limiting its capacity to support its activities. Furthermore, the designation of Samidoun as a terrorist organization reinforces global concerns about its links to terrorism, potentially encouraging other countries to take similar actions, which would further isolate the group.

After being sanctioned and listed as a terrorist entity, Samidoun, via its website, condemned the actions by the US and Canada as attempts to suppress political organizing in support of Palestinian rights. Their officials condemned the designation of Samidoun as a terrorist entity, claiming it aims to disrupt resistance to Israel's occupation, which they described as genocide. Samidoun highlighted solidarity with Barakat, sanctioned for his activism, and argued that the repression of Samidoun is part of a broader imperialist attack on the Palestinian diaspora, Arab community, and international solidarity for Palestinian rights. Samidoun denied material ties to listed terrorist entities.⁷³

Israel, the US, and Canada are not the only countries who have acted against Samidoun. On October 10, 2024, the Dutch parliament voted in favor of labeling Samidoun as a terrorist group.⁷⁴ Previously, in November 2023, Germany banned

⁷² Letter to Jeff Sessions, Attorney General of the United States, "Re: Call for Investigation of Domestic Activities of Affiliates of Certain Designated Foreign Terror Organizations."

⁷³ "We keep resisting: US and Canada sanction Samidoun." *Samidoun*. October 16, 2024. <https://samidoun.net/2024/10/we-keep-resisting-us-and-canada-sanction-samidoun/>

⁷⁴ "Dutch Parliament Votes to Designate PFLP Front Samidoun as a Terrorist Group." *z*. October 11, 2024. <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2024/10/11/dutch-parliament-votes-to-designate-pflp-front-samidoun-as-a-terrorist-group/>.

Samidoun following the group's public support for Hamas and its glorification of the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced the ban, emphasizing that the government would not tolerate any celebration of violence or terrorism on German streets. The move by Germany was prompted when Samidoun publicly celebrated the October 7 attacks by posting photos of activists handing out sweets in Berlin. The ban was part of a broader effort by Germany to clamp down on pro-Hamas sentiment and prevent support for groups promoting violence against Israel.⁷⁵

Conclusion

This report illustrates Samidoun plays a significant role in organizing campus protests, which often become hostile. The group's involvement, along with its support for terrorist organizations such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the PFLP, increasingly creates an unsafe environment for students. Analyzing Samidoun's activities and affiliations reveals that its primary focus is not on human rights advocacy but on supporting armed resistance and terror-related causes. Despite portraying itself as working for the release of Palestinian prisoners, Samidoun's deep connections to the PFLP and alignment with Iran raise serious concerns. Leaders like Barakat and Kates actively endorse violence and celebrate terrorist acts under the guise of resistance. These associations with violent groups, along with Samidoun's glorification and legitimization of terrorist activities, demonstrate a clear preference for militant resistance over peaceful human rights campaigns. This reality undermines any claims the group makes about focusing on humanitarian efforts.

⁷⁵ Reuters. "Germany bans pro-Palestinian group Samidoun." Reuters, October 12, 2023. Accessed October 7, 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/germany-bans-pro-palestinian-group-samidoun-2023-10-12/>.



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