Support for Terrorism

One of the prominent figures at Al-Awda's demonstrations has been support for terrorism, which is illegal under Israeli law and signs of public violence, resistance and defiance of Israeli annexation policies. Dozens of slogans against Israel in articles published on the Al-Awda Web site and on the e-mail messages distributed by the group.

- Several Al-Awda Web sites and distribution lists on the Al-Awda bulletin with the subject line "The Resist is Right." was written by Al-Awda supporter in Amsterdam who threatened that Palestinians "will resist" long as Israel annexes the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the central cities.

- January 2003: Al-Awda, a supporter of the "Iraqi resistance," extolled "martyrs," encouraged the "resistance," and expressed support for terrorists. The "Iraqi resistance" activities included rocket attacks on Israeli civilians in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, as well as support for terrorist attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

- March 2003: Al-Awda endorsed the terrorist group Hezbollah, whose flag flew at the speakers' podium. It was part of several protests held across the United States against U.S. policy in the Middle East. Al-Awda also featured a communiqué from Christopher Lambrinou, a member of the Greek Orthodox Church in New York, who said, "We are all Hezbollah...We believe in armed struggle...We are only as free as Israel is.

- April 2003: Al-Awda declared that "Jerusalem is an Arab, Palestinian and Islamic holy city; and will stay forever as such."

- May 2003: "We need to expand our struggle..." Similarly, at a rally in New York a month earlier, Samia Halaby said of the fighting, "This will not come to an end until Arab solidarity is broken...We need to shut down Israel..." Halaby's words were echoed by the crowd, which chanted, "Yassin is a martyr...We will not forget...We will not forgive..." and "Al-Awda is our voice...We are the sons of the revolution...We are the sons of the revolution...We are the sons of the revolution..."

- June 2003: Al-Awda joined two separate rallies across from the Israeli consulate in New York to protest the killing of Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader. Also in attendance was Osama Hamdan, a Hamas leader from New Jersey. The Al-Awda supporters chanted "Peace will come, after Israel leaves!! Peacefuly [sic] or otherwise..." His message concluded with, "We need to shut down the media and their corporations [we need to] shut down Israel."

- July 2003: Al-Awda joined two protests in solidarity with the "Iraqi resistance" against what he described as the "American-Zionist project which does not only target the area but also humanity."

- March 2004: Al-Awda helped organize the ANSWER Coalition rally in Washington, D.C. The march was attended by several thousand people and featured speakers from various anti-Israel groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Communist Party of Lebanon.

- April 2004: Al-Awda issued a press release in support of Ahmad Saadat, a Palestinian leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Palestinian Territories (PFLP), who opposed repressive measures taken by Israeli authorities in the West Bank.

- May-July 2004: Several Al-Awda-organized events across the country were marked by support for Hamas and Hezbollah. At a rally in Brooklyn, New York, members of the crowd chanted, "We are all Hezbollah...We believe in armed struggle...We are only as free as Israel is..." Charlie Hanley said of the fighting, "This will not come to an end until Arab solidarity is broken...We need to shut down Israel..."

- September 2004: Al-Awda-organized protests in New York and Chicago featured speakers from the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood and the Communist Party of Lebanon. The gathering was marked by support for the "Iraqi resistance" movements in Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq, without distinction, including Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Iraqi insurgency. The conference's final statement indicated that participants agreed "to establish a worldwide network against the American-Zionist project which does not only target the area but also humanity." This, they agreed, would be achieved by "developing more and greater relations between leftist, democratic and nationalistic currents and Islamic and resistance movements."

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