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U.S. Anti-Israel Activity

## Viva Palestina: Supporting Hamas Under the Guise of Humanitarianism

### George Galloway

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George Galloway is an anti-Zionist former British parliamentarian and a leader of the Viva Palestina campaign. Galloway had been an MP from the Respect Party, a far-left antiwar party he helped found in 2004, but lost his bid for reelection in the May 2010 elections. After losing the election, Galloway stated that he will turn his efforts toward producing and directing a "Michael Moore-style" film about Palestinians.

A Labor MP since 1987, Galloway was expelled from the party in 2003 for his outspoken criticism of the Iraq war and then-Prime Minister Tony Blair. Galloway has persisted in his radical statements expressing outrage over the Iraq war. In the spring of 2006 he was interviewed by GQ magazine and stated that it would be "morally justified" for a suicide bomber to kill Blair because of Britain's support for the Iraq war.

Galloway has also repeatedly spoken out against former President George W. Bush, calling him a "wolf" and a "criminal," and against the globalized capitalist system, charging that it has "killed far more people than Adolph Hitler" in a January 2005 interview on Al-Jazeera.

In the 1990s Galloway received widespread attention for his opposition to the Gulf War and sanctions against Iraq. He was reportedly friendly with several key Iraqi officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and Uday Hussein, Saddam Hussein's son. In 2005 Galloway was the subject of a U.S. Subcommittee on Investigations probe into the corrupted U.N. Oil-For-Food program and was repeatedly investigated (both in the U.S. and UK) on charges of personally receiving kickbacks from the program. He was never found guilty and denies any wrongdoing.

Galloway is a strong backer of the British charity Interpal which describes itself as an "independent charitable organization providing support to the poor and needy Palestinian people." Interpal, which has been banned in the U.S. since 2003, is one of several organizations under the umbrella group [Union for Good](#), a Saudi Arabia-based charity that was identified by the U.S. Treasury Department as a terrorist entity that supports Hamas in November 2008.

In the UK, Interpal has been investigated on several occasions by the Charity Commission on similar allegations. The latest investigation, completed in February 2009, concluded that it could not be verified that Interpal gave material support for terrorist activity but that the charity "does not have a clean bill of health" and must disassociate itself from the Union for Good.

In 2006, Galloway was a participant in the television show "Celebrity Big Brother" and donated his earnings, more than £300,000, to Interpal.

In addition to his backing of Interpal, Galloway has repeatedly engaged with Palestinian and Islamic terrorist groups, including [Hamas](#) and [Hezbollah](#).

- In February and March 2009, Galloway led the Viva Palestina convoy to Gaza that gave cash and vehicles directly to the Hamas government. At a press conference announcing the donations, Galloway said he personally would donate three cars and £25,000 to Hamas. Galloway also met with Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, who reportedly gave Galloway a Palestinian passport. On footage shown on Israeli TV, Galloway is heard saying, "Not only are you the prime minister of Palestine, but you are our prime minister, too."
- In July 2006, during the Lebanon War, Galloway wrote an op-ed in the *Socialist Worker* in which he praised Hezbollah as being on the side of "resistance to [Israel's] injustice." The article concluded with: "I glorify the Hizbollah national resistance movement, and I glorify the leader of Hizbollah, Sheikh Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah."
- In December 2003 Galloway participated in a pro-"resistance" conference in Cairo that featured Hamas officials, an Iraqi ambassador and far-left American antiwar activists from the [International Action Center](#). The conference was premised on the legitimacy of Palestinian and Iraqi resistance against the allegedly imperialist forces of Israel and the U.S.

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