



## Religious Shiite Centers in France – an Iranian establishment to form a potential terrorist platform on European soil

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*“Hezbollah is gradually building up stockpiles of weapons on European soil...”*

Nathan A. Sales, Coordinator for Counterterrorism in the US State Department,  
September 2020

*“One of the difficulties in closing down centers and taking legal action against individuals or confiscating terror designed funds sent to Lebanon and Iran is the providing of substantial proof...”*

"Europol", from the summary of the 2019 report

## Executive Summary

**The radical Shiite axis, led by Iran, strives to create, wherever it operates, an active civilian and military integrated infrastructure.** The civilian infrastructures the axis cultivates and establishes throughout its areas of operation, forms the basis for the freedom of its military and terrorist activity.

**The Shiite centers of culture and social societies in France - produce a communal influence under the guidance of the radical Shiite axis led by Iran. Moreover, some of them may create a potential platform for terrorist activity on European soil.**

**When examining the activities of the radical Shiite axis in Europe, it is clear that Iran is leading the activities. Iran conducts its operations as a one, cross-border community, to which Shiites who support its radical ideology belong.** Its target audience are generally Shiites and sometimes even Sunnis who are identified as potential supporters, meaning all allies and proxies of Iran who advocate and strive to implement the export of the radical Shi'ite Islamic revolution around the world. **The whole activity seems to be conducted under a large umbrella organization called "Ahlul Bayt" which was established by the Supreme Leader of Iran, Khamenei, in 1990. Under this organization operate a number of associations around the world, in general, and in Europe in particular.** For this reason, it is sometimes difficult to make a distinction regarding the specific affiliation and identity of any organization/institution/association or the specific affiliation and identity of any particular individual activist or operative. It looks like Both Iran, Hezbollah and other Shi'ite elements have ties with these associations.

**This report deals with two major organizations operating around the world via branches, who also have an active branch in France: the first is the "Al-Ghadir" Islamic association (جمعية الغدير الإسلامية) the second is a charitable association institution named after the "Imam Al Khoei" (جمعية الإمام الخوئي).**

**The purpose of the report is to examine whether the two French branches are part of a worldwide association designed to spread the dangerous ideology of the radical Shi'ite axis led by Iran to youngsters and adults alike.**

**In addition, our report will detail the involvement of "Zahra Center Grande-Synthe" Association members in its planning to carry out an Iranian-led terrorist attack on French soil against the Iranian opposition in July 2018, during a conference of opposition figures in Villepinte, southern France.** The association, whose manager is known for his ties with Hezbollah, allegedly served as a logistics center for planning terrorist acts on French soil.

**"Al-Zahra's" Association members involvement in terrorist activity is an example of Iran's use of the radical axis' civilian infrastructures as a platform assisting in military/terrorist activity, just as is in the case of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.**

**This report is composed of an opening chapter summarizing the main findings on "Al-Ghadir" and "Al Khoei" associations in the world in general and their branches**

**in France in particular, and three additional parts in which there is a breakdown of all the findings in detail.**

**Both the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood and Shi'ite Iran promote an ideology that completely conflicts France's values as a secular and democratic republic, undermining its very existence as such.**

**France is undoubtedly aware of the affiliation to the radical axis led by Iran of these association branches.** Recently, France has been conducting an operation of monitoring and closing down of no fewer than 76 religious centers and associations, mainly linked to the activities of the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood (*Al Jazeera*, December 3rd, 2020). Two of them were already closed down during November 2020. The question is whether France ignores the ties of Shi'ite associations to the radical Shi'ite axis led by Iran, and does not carry out operative actions against their branches in France?

**We intend to examine whether these associations / branches serve as a platform for both the indoctrination of dangerous radical ideology and linked to terrorist activities or terrorist organizations.**

## **Main findings**

The civilian infrastructures in the form of Shi'ite religious, cultural and social centers consists of umbrella organizations that control branches in various countries around the world. Both the umbrella "Al-Ghadir" Association and the charitable institution association named after the "Imam Al Khoei" retain branches in France.

**These associations focus on ceremonies and religious conferences for the Shi'ite community, pilgrimages to Iraq and Iran, as well as children's education and the construction of libraries.**

**One can observe various images that emphasize the connection to Iran.** Ties to Iranian non-profitable foundations are usually hazy, especially in France. However, the two associations fund visits and host religious figures associated with the radical Shiite axis led by Iran. Some of these figures, who are also non-religious, work openly for the Iranian regime and spread its dangerous ideology.

Both associations put an emphasis on religious ceremonies and conferences, some of which are funded by Iran's Ministry of Culture. Association activists attend international conferences and visit both Iraq and Iran. **The connection between these associations and the radical Shi'ite axis led by Iran is reflected in both domestic and global activities.**

**"Al-Ghadir" Association (see Appendix 2) has branches in Australia (Sydney), in the USA (New York and New Jersey), in the Ivory Coast (Abidjan) and in Norway and France (Paris).**

**The "Al-Ghadir" branch in France (Paris) is headed by Mohammed Farhat ("Abu Adnan"),** known in Paris as the "man representing Hezbollah in France".

**The founder of the association's branch in France is Sadar a-Din Fadlallah,** who belongs to a Lebanese family with strong ties to Hezbollah, from the village of Kherbet Selem in southern Lebanon.

**The United States accused Sadar a-Din's father of involvement in the Beirut bombings** of the multinational force headquarters in 1983 that killed 241 Americans and 58 Frenchmen...

**Sadar a-Din Fadlallah also runs the "Al-Hassanein Berlin Center" in Germany.** This center is directly connected to a mosque with a similar name in southern Beirut funded by Iran and attributed as a Hezbollah mosque. In April 2020, Germany declared Hezbollah and all its elements a terrorist organization. A few hours before the announcement, German security forces raided this center and other centers affiliated with the radical Shi'ite axis and Hezbollah.

**France's "Al-Ghadir" Association hosts figures who have proven ties to Hezbollah and Iran and its associates participate in events related to the radical Shiite axis.** For example, the head of the association participated in a ceremony celebrating the Islamic Revolution in February 2020, attended by Iran's ambassador to France. The

association's reading of the Koran activity is funded by the Iranian Ministry of Culture. In addition, the association commemorates the liberation day of Lebanon from Israel, which is considered a national holiday in Lebanon and is celebrated there by Hezbollah. One of these ceremonies was attended by the ambassadors of Iran and Syria in France.

In November 2016, Jawad Sheristani, an Iraqi cleric and representative of the Aythullah Ali Al-Sistani, visited the offices of the "Al-Ghadir" Association in Paris. Iranian-born Sistani is considered the highest Shi'ite religious authority in Iraq. Al-Sheristani is in contact with Iran and Hezbollah and has met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. After the assassination of Qasem Soleimani (January 03, 2020), he attended a condolence visit to Soleimani's family home along with Na'im Qasem, Nasrallah's deputy of Hezbollah.

**The "Al-Ghadir" Association regularly invites Muhammad Al-Safi, a Lebanese cleric, to the conferences it organizes.** A-Safi is a well-known figure among Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon and regularly participates in Hezbollah events in Lebanon.

**The "Al-Ghadir" Association is connected through a business relationship to a Lebanese engineering company that has sanctions imposed on it for being linked to Hezbollah's construction jihadist organization.** We have traced a connection of the "Al-Ghadir" Association/Ivory Coast branch to a Lebanese construction and engineering company called *"Arch Consulting for Research and Engineering"*, which was introduced into U.S. sanctions on September 17, 2020 in light of its being affiliated with Hezbollah's construction jihad arm and for serving as a platform for hiding and transferring Hezbollah's funds.

**Documents revealed in an appeals court in Nantes, France, show that the brother of the deputy director of the "Al-Ghadir" Association branch had applied for immigration. The applicant admitted that his brother, the deputy director of the "Al-Ghadir" Association, supports Hezbollah, expressing it through his participation in the association's demonstrations.** In one of the state's responses to the appeal, rejecting the request, the brother is said to be suspected of having ties to people in an association that supports Hezbollah, as well as to individuals in Hezbollah. **The official responses to these appeals clearly prove that France knows about the center's director's support for Hezbollah, but we do not know of any open investigations or raid on the association.**

**"Al-Khoei" Association (see Appendix 3) has Branches in England (London, Swansea, Manchester), in the USA (New York), in Canada (Montreal), Thailand (Bangkok, Patong), Pakistan (Islamabad), India, Iran (Qom, Isfahan, Mashhad), Iraq (Karbala, Najaf) and France (Paris).**

**Abd Al-Sahib Al-Khoei, the son of the founder of the association that died in 1992, has direct ties to the Iranian authorities.**

**The "Al-Khoei" branch in Paris-France is headed by Sheikh Ismail Al-Khalik.** The sheikh attends and lectures at major religious conferences in Iran and Lebanon. In 2017, he was one of the speakers at a religious conference in Qom, Iran, attended by clerics from Iran, Nigeria, Morocco, and others.

**The "Imam Al-Khoei" institution plays a very significant role in the dissemination of the Shia in Europe (Shi'ization), whereas the Paris branch of the association, founded in 1988, is considered one of the most prominent centers representing Iran in France.**

**"The *Al-Islam.org* fundraising" site, created by the "Ahlul Bayt Digital Islamic Library Project", a non-profit organization, aims to record and translate religious literature and religious writings, also contains a page listing the "Al-Khoei" Association's branch in Paris. This is further proof of the existing connection between the Iranian umbrella organization and the "Al-Khoei" Association.**

An investigation conducted by "*Asharq Al-Awsat*" newspaper (May 2008) stated that "**Ahlul Bayt**", established by Khamenei in 1990, operates religious institutions, cultural centers and nonprofit organizations that **work together with the Iranian Quds Force as a wing for recruiting foreign students, raising money and gathering intelligence.**

**Mohammad Hassan Akhtari formerly served as secretary general of "Ahlul Bayt". Muhammad Hassan Akhtari was one of the founders of Hezbollah, served as Iran's ambassador to Syria until January 2008.**

**Institutions, organizations and associations affiliated with "Ahlul Bayt" operate throughout Europe, including Belgium (Brussels), France's neighbor. Appendix No. 1 describes the thwarting of a terrorist attack against the convening of the Iranian opposition in Villepinte, southern France, in which another French Shiite association (the "Zahraa Center") was involved. This terrorist attack began with the arrest of two activists in Brussels (June 30, 2018).**

**Recent findings exposing Iranian London based association's involvement of financing processes of transferring Iranian funds to the Houthis in Yemen has been uncovered despite UN resolutions designed to escalate sanctions upon the Houthi militia. Among these associations involved in supporting and funding the Houthis in Yemen is the "Imam Khoei" charitable institution.**

**A 2006 NYPD report regarding the Iranian threat mentions the "Al-Khoei" Association, in context of another association in the city, the Alavi Foundation, or by its former name, the Mostazafan Foundation. According to the report, members of Alavi foundation's executive committee are linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards.**

The Alavi Foundation is listed as one of the sponsors of a 2019 event at Columbia University whose organizers are supporters of Iran and of the Revolutionary Guards, one of whom was even arrested by the FBI. In addition, the "Al-Khoei" Association received a \$25,000 grant in 2016 from the Alavi Foundation, whose total assets were seized by the U.S. government in 2017.

**The "Al-Alavi" Association is currently under sanctions.** The "Al Khoei" Association continues its support for the "Al-Alavi" Foundation and is beseeching American authorities to let the Foundation continue its activities.

**"Al-Khoei" has the status of a United Nations advisory body** since receiving it in 1997, thus being the only Shi'ite organization in the United Nations with such a status. This status gives it the prestige and credibility that helps it receive donations and political influence around the world.

According to the association, it promotes human and minority rights. The association participates in UN conferences on equal rights for minorities as well as combating Islamophobia / Shia-phobia. The introduction of these concepts promotes the principles of Shia around the world and is a ground for bringing about a political agenda that helps the association's image as a promoter of equality and concern for the world's Shi'ite community. **It is the perfect cover that facilitates the Iranian-led Shi'ite radical axis advance the dangerous ideology of exporting the Islamic Revolution around the world without interference.**

**The "Al-Khoei" Association funded Sheristani's visit** (mentioned above), to Paris, representing the Ayatollah Al-Sistani in November 2016.

In 2014, the Paris branch of the "Al-Khoei" Association hosted the visit of **Imam Al-Qazwini**, who lives in the United States. The Imam is thought to be nurturing the future generation of imams in the U.S. **The Imam stated in one of his speeches that "ISIS is a Zionist arm sent to murder Muslims and increase hatred against Muslims around the world..."**

**The associations are registered as nonprofit organizations, raising private donations, they claim, for ongoing activities.**

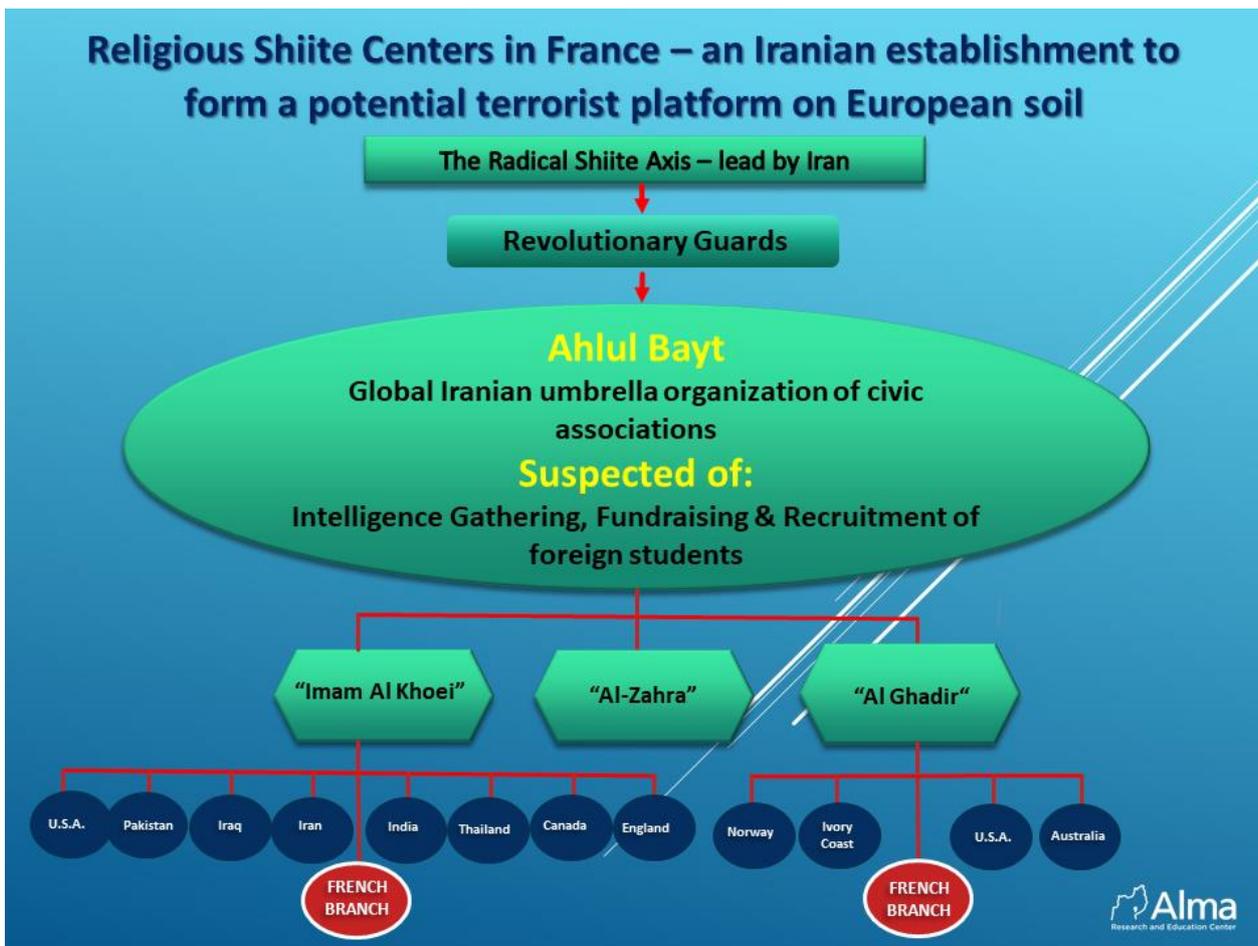
Updated back in 1998, the founder of the "Al-Ghadir" Association also managed the Al-Thaqalin Islamic Center. On its homepage (it is unclear if it is still active) there is a link to the "Orphans of Lebanon" association (which has been closed in the meantime by the French authorities), where funds originating from donations were laundered for the benefit of Hezbollah.

The associations claim that they are funded by private donations only. **We do not have any evidence that they receive funding from the French authorities or the European Union.**

**While the umbrella organizations and their branches in England, the United States and the Ivory Coast have incriminating information linking them to terrorist/military activity, we have not identified any specific up-to-date information linking the branches in France to any military or terrorist activity related to the radical Shi'ite axis and no current information has been recognized associating the French branches to money laundering activities.**

**Concurrently with the physical activity, the associations are extremely active on social networks.** Physical closure of the associations does not prevent their continued activity on social media. The "Al-Zahara" Association (see Appendix 1) is an example of this. The activities of the associations and its directors continue to a greater extent on the social networks.

In October 2018, the French police raided the "Al-Zahara Association" and uncovered its operational tactics and its association with terror activity. There are numerous similarities between the "Al-Zahara Association" and the other associations we elaborated upon in this report – the Al-Ghadir Association and the Imam Al-Khoei Association – and therefore, in light of our findings on their ties to Iran, Hezbollah and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, we advise that these associations' operational tactics be examined as well.



## Appendix 1

**The thwarting of a terrorist attack against a gathering of the Iranian opposition in Villepinte, southern France is an example of the involvement of a Shi'ite association (the Zahara Center) and its operatives as a platform for terrorist activity:**

**On June 30, 2018, two civilians were arrested in Brussels, with 500 grams of TATP (triacetone triperoxide explosives) in their vehicle. In the course of their investigation, they admitted that the explosives were given to them in Luxembourg by Assadollah Assadi - a diplomat at the Iranian embassy in Vienna.**

**The target of the planned attack was a conference of the Iranian opposition (Mujahedeen of the Iranian People - PMOI/MEK) that was to take place in the town of Villepinte in southern France. Three suspects were arrested in connection with the attempted attack in a raid on the Zahara Center Association in France. Two out of the three suspects were released due to lack of sufficient evidence, the third suspect was investigated for conspiracy, aiding and abetting terrorist activity.**

**The Zahra Center Grande-Synthe was established in 2005 by Yahia Gouasmi, Sheikh Jamal Tahiri and Khaled 'Abd al-Karim, apparently operating as a logistics center for planning and carrying out terrorist attacks on European soil.**

**Yahia Gouasmi** was born in Algeria, studied religious studies in Lebanon, and in 2009 founded the anti-Zionist Party (which has since been disbanded). Gouasmi has close ties to Iran and Hezbollah.



Left: [Gousami meeting Nasrallah](#); Right: [Gousami meeting Ahmadinejad](#)

The anti-Zionist party also included Alain Soral, and the anti-Semitic comedian Dieudonné. A book written about Dieudonné mentions that Soral, a far right anti-Semitic, received a donation of 300,000 euros from Gouasmi on behalf of the French Shiite community.

The party's campaign manager claimed that the donations were from various Arab countries and to the best of his knowledge the funds were unrelated to Iran, following a remark made by Soral, regarding the campaign's million-euro funding by Iran:<sup>1</sup>

Alain Soral speaks there at a dinner. He makes this statement about the financing of the anti-Zionist list led by Dieudonné in the 2009 European election:

“If we were able to make the anti-Zionist list which cost 3 million euros, it is because we got the money from the Iranians. You have to say it, you have to be honest. If we hadn't had them, we wouldn't have been able to do it: we don't have 3 million euros”.



Above: (left to right) Gouasmi, Dieudonné, Soral.

Sheikh Jamal Tahiri presents himself as an Imam who studied in the Bekaa, Lebanon. In 2006, he participated in a show of support for Lebanon and Hezbollah following the Second Lebanon War.



Tahiri in the [demonstration](#)

<sup>1</sup> Nowlen Le Blevenec, "Did The Iranians Fund Dieudonne's Anti-Zionist List", Nouvelobs, November 18, 2016

**On October 2, 2018, the French police raided the Al-Zahra Center Grande-Synthe, where France Marianne Télé and the Shia Federation of France, also operate. The reason for the raid was the association's involvement in terrorist activities and in connection to the attempted attack on the Iranian opposition conference in Villepinte. Illegal weapons were discovered in the raid, leading to the sentencing of Gouasmi's son, who served as the association's treasurer, to some 18 months in prison for possession of illegal weapons. 11 people linked to the center were arrested on suspicion of operating Iranian terrorist cells on French and European soil.<sup>2</sup>**

**The Al- Zahara Association was temporarily closed for six months. In March 2019, following a directive from the French Interior Ministry, it was decided to close the association's center as well as all other associations there, due to incitement and encouragement of terrorist activity.**

Sheikh Jamal Tahiri was arrested and sentenced to six months' probation and a fine of thousands of euros for encouraging terrorism following anti-Semitic posts he published on the association's page.



Left: Nasrallah's speeches available on the center's website (the website was removed);  
Right: support for Nasrallah on the center's Facebook page

**On September 16, 2020, Gouasmi, Sheikh Tahiri and two other former directors of the association were arrested on suspicion of continuing to engage in incitement activities online on behalf of the association, in spite of the institutions closure and the freezing of its funds.<sup>3</sup>**

**On October 10, 2020, a court in Belgium ruled that the planned attack in Villepinte was planned by Iran. The attack was foiled the day the bomb was scheduled to be transferred from Brussels to France. While sappers carefully detonated the bomb, it completely destroyed the police robot and injured a police officer. Explosive experts in court determined that the bomb was "sophisticated, the work of a professional".<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Eitan Azani, Lorena Atiyas Lvovsky, Danny Citrinowicz, Dafna Messig "The Iranian Threat Network and the export of the Islamic revolution", ICT, July 2020"  
<http://www.ict.org.il/images/Iranian%20Threat%20Network.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> "Four Former Directors of Shiite Center Arrested", Jerusalem Post, September 17, 2020  
<https://www.jpost.com/international/four-former-directors-of-french-shiite-center-arrested-642583>

<sup>4</sup> "Failed terrorist Attack in Villepinte in 2018 Was Designed By Iran", Iran International, October 11, 2020  
<https://iranintl.com/en/iran-in-brief/failed-terrorist-attack-villepinte-2018-was-%E2%80%9Cdesigned-iran%E2%80%9D>

The main defendant, Assadollah Assadi, served as a diplomat in Iraq from 2003-2008. In 2014 he was appointed to a diplomatic post at the **Iranian Embassy in Vienna**.

According to the US State Department, he was part of unit "312" of the Iranian Intelligence Services, which is classified as a terrorist organization in the European Union. His training involved learning to build and operate explosives. In addition to his explosive training his duties involved the monitoring of Iranian opposition activity in Europe. According to details arising from the investigation, Assadollah planned the attack at least a year in advance. According to hotel registration and security cameras he carried out surveillance in Villepinte on the NCRI (National Council of Resistance of Iran) headquarters as far back as 2017.

Iran denied any connection to the matter, but as France suspected Iran was involved in the attempted attack, it froze all French assets belonging to Saeed Hashemi, deputy minister of Iran's intelligence ministry.

The trial regarding the attempted attack on Villepinte began on 27 November 2020, in Antwerp.

The Iranian "diplomat" (Assadi) accused of planning and recruiting agents in Europe to carry out the attack refused to appear in court.<sup>5</sup> Iran has also announced it would not accept any verdict regarding the "diplomat".<sup>6</sup> The prosecution is demanding a 20-year prison sentence for the diplomat, and some 18 years for the couple who transported the bomb, and 15 years for Assadi's relative, Mehrdad Arefani, for his involvement in planning and assisting the attempted attack.<sup>7</sup>

**On February 4, 2021**, a court in Belgium revoked Assadi's immunity, convicted him of organizing an attempted attack against an Iranian opposition conference and sentenced him, in absentia, to 20 years in prison.

**The trial of the four directors of the AI- Zahara Association also began in November 2020.**<sup>8</sup> The prosecutor argued at the hearing that there was no change in the

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<sup>5</sup> Lee Brown, "Iranian Diplomat accused of terror plot on Paris meeting attended by Rudy Juliani", New York Post, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

<https://nypost.com/2020/11/27/iranian-diplomat-accused-of-terror-plot-on-paris-meeting/>

<sup>6</sup> "Iran says it won't accept verdict in Belgian trial of diplomat accused in bomb plot", Times of Israel, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-wont-accept-verdict-in-belgian-trial-of-diplomat-accused-in-bomb-plot/>

<sup>7</sup> "Belgian court to give verdict in Iran Diplomat case on January 22", France 24 News, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20201204-belgian-court-to-give-verdict-in-iran-diplomat-case-on-jan-22?ref=tw>

<sup>8</sup> "The trial of 4 ex- leaders of the Shiite Zahra Center postponed to November 27", Times of Israel, October 28,2020

association's activity, before or after the shutdown, regarding its dissemination of propaganda and in connection with those spreading it. The prosecutor requested, in addition to the closure of the center and the confiscation of other assets related to it, a year imprisonment for Gouasmi's son who was caught possessing weapons and a year imprisonment for Tahiri considering his criminal past, as well as six months' probation for Lia Gouasmi and 'Abd al-Karim Khalid. Gouasmi's and Tahiri's lawyer argued that the trial was political and part of a plot by the Zionist lobby.<sup>9</sup> **On January 27, 2021, the French court decided to release the four directors of the Al- Zahara Association.**

**Gouasmi and Tahiri have an outstanding presence on the social networks they manage. All their web pages are active, and they are free to publish sermons and opinions.**

**Hereunder are the links to Gouasmi's social network accounts:**

[Twitter](#) page with 6,589 followers:

A [YouTube page](#) with 78,700 followers in which he discusses, among other things, the need for Muslims to unite in Europe. In a video immediately after his apprehension in September 2020, he protested the arrest and the shutdown of the center, which he claims are based on unfounded accusations. Confronted with the claim that they support terrorism - he asks who are the terrorists? Those who demand justice in Palestine or those in Lebanon who try to defend themselves against the enemy... He later argues that it is Zionism that dictates the laws that oppress France and its citizens in determining what terrorism is.

[Instagram page](#) with 1,237 followers. There are links to videos and also a picture of Qasem Soleimani.

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<https://fr.timesofisrael.com/le-proces-de-4-ex-dirigeants-du-centre-chiite-zahra-reporte-au-27-novembre/>

<sup>9</sup> "Prison terms required against ex-leaders of pro-Hezbollah Zahra Center", Times of Israel, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

<https://fr.timesofisrael.com/prison-ferme-requise-contre-les-ex-dirigeants-du-centre-pro-hezbollah-zahra/>

[Telegram page](#) with 638 followers.

**Here under are the links to Jamal Tahiri's social network accounts:**

A [Facebook page](#) with 4800 followers, broadcasting sermon videos. After his arrest, he released a [video](#) with a picture of Khamenei in the background.

[Twitter Page](#) with 1545 Followers

[Instagram page](#) with 616 followers

[Telegram channel](#) with 275 followers



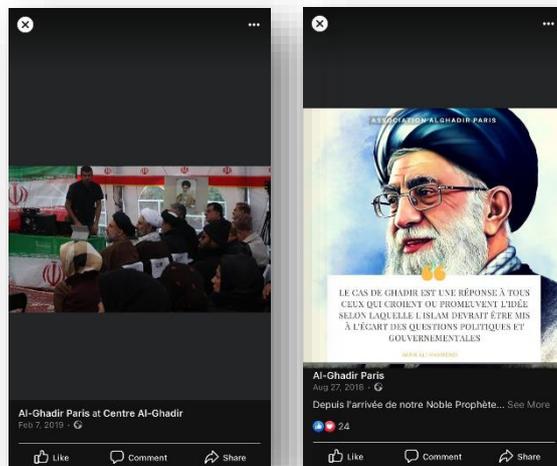
## Appendix 2

### Al Ghadir Islamic Association – (جمعية الغدير الإسلامية)

[Instagram page](#) with 654 followers

[Web page - https://alghadir-paris.com/](https://alghadir-paris.com/)

The Paris branch, which operates as a non-profit organization, was founded in 1994. Its stated purpose is to spread the message of Islam and its fundamentals. Its activities include organizing conferences and the marking of important events in Islam. The association also organizes religious trips to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, an obligation of the Hajj tradition. The branch also arranges visits to religious study institutions in Iran and Iraq and to the holy Shia sites. The association operates a school system with an emphasis on activities for children and youth.



Excerpts from AAG's [Facebook page](#)

The director of the association's branch in Paris is Muhammad Farhat ("Abu Adnan"). Farhat also serves as coordinator of the "French Lebanese Associations Working to Support the Lebanese Issue in France". Farhat is recognized as a Hezbollah representative.



In 2018, Farhat sent a video of Al-Ghadir's celebration to "Al-Manar", the official website of Hezbollah in Lebanon (Al-Ghadir, [Reportage d'Al-Ghadir](#), published 09/17/18, accessed 02/21). Al-Manar did an entire segment on the celebration and Al Ghadir published it on its Facebook page (Al-Ghadir Paris, [Facebook](#), published 09/17/18, accessed 02/21).



Al-Ghadir Paris, [Facebook](#), published 03/04/18, accessed 02/21

Assem Dalloul is the Secretary of Al-Ghadir

(Al-Iman Forum, [Premiers courriers d'al-imane à l'association al-Ghadir de Montreuil](#), published 04/23/07, accessed 02/21).

Information from February 2012 indicates that Hezbollah, through its representatives in France, actively participated in supporting Nicolas Sarkozy's campaign through what is known as the "French Lebanese Support Committee for Nicolas Sarkozy" (Comité de Soutien des Français d'origine Libanaise a Nicolas Sarkozy).

Hezbollah was represented at this Sarkozy support conference by at least six individuals attending every meeting, headed by Mr. Ali Zreik and several other people operating under the roof of the Al-Ghadir Charitable Society.

(<http://www.center-lcrc.net/index.php?s=news&id=5541>)

The same people who attended the Sarkozy support events were also seen at the protests of the *Shabiha* supporting the Assad regime in the French capital. When examining the activities of the radical Shi'ite axis in Europe, it is clear that Iran heads the activity. **The activity seems to be perceived as one piece of a whole radical Shiite axis (referring to all of Iran's proxy allies who advocate and seek to implement the export of the radical Shi'ite Islamic revolution around the world). Sometimes we will find it difficult to make a distinction regarding the specific affiliation and identity of any organization/institution/association or the specific affiliation and identity of any particular individual activist or operative.**

On the website - <https://wocoshia.org/ar/shia-centers-ar/europe-ar-c/france-ar/center6-ar> - you can find the location of the offices, telephone-fax and e-mail details of the association.

One of the founders of the association is Sadr a-Din Fadlallah, who was born in Najaf, Iraq in 1959 to a Lebanese family. In 1969, the family returned to their home in Kherbet Selem in southern Lebanon. He is the son of a famous academic named Sayed Abdul Mohsen Fadlallah who is considered one of Hezbollah's leaders. Despite his denial, he has identified himself with Hezbollah over the years.



Source: [thaqalayn.eu](http://thaqalayn.eu)

**The United States accused Sadr a-Din's father of involvement in the Beirut bombings of the multinational force headquarters in 1983 that killed 241 Americans and 58 Frenchmen.**

An article published after the father's death in 2010 noted that he conducted Friday prayers at the Hosseinen Mosque in southern Beirut, funded by Iran. The father owned the building located opposite the Hezbollah mosque, where he ran a non-profit organization intended for the welfare of orphans called Al-Aytan.

[In an Article of The Guardian](#), it is stated that his son often accompanied him to Friday prayers. Although not mentioned by name, he is also said to be a cleric. The son referred to in the article is no other than Sadr a-Din Fadlallah, hence it can be assumed that he has strong ties with Hezbollah.

After several assassination attempts on his father, one of in which his mother was killed, he left for France in 1985, earned a philosophy degree at the Sorbonne and founded the Al-Ghadir Association in France and Switzerland through the Ahl al-Bayt Association.

In 1998 he managed the [Al Thaqalin Islamic Center](#) . On the association's homepage (it is unclear if it is still active) is a link to an association closed by the French

authorities: "the Lebanese Orphans Association", where aid to Hezbollah money donations were laundered.

A 2007 correspondence was found on a site dedicated to the Shi'ite community in France between the secretary of the Al Thaqalin Islamic Center and one of the attendees. The correspondence claimed that Fadlallah was expelled from the center because he wanted to add Friday prayers to the activity. According to the responses, he did cease to be part of the center's management, as they do not have legal authorization for this kind of activity.

Furthermore, the correspondence also wrote that, the Secretary of the Center noted that in the past year there have been approximately 2.5 million entrances to the center's website or Shi'ite community page, and the number of people who register for the various activities has tripled.<sup>10</sup>

Sadar a-Din Fadalallah also runs the Al Hassanein Berlin Center in Germany. This center is directly connected to a mosque called Al Hassanein in southern Beirut funded by Iran and attributed as a Hezbollah mosque. A report from July 20 of [the Intelligence and Counterterrorism Operations Center](#) mentioned this connection. The report said these centers are used not only for donation activities, recruiting activists, and collecting funds for Hezbollah, but also for spreading the propaganda of the radical Shi'ite axis led by Iran, and also serve as centers for gathering intelligence on Jewish and Israeli targets in the country.



[A video showing children activities](#) of the society in which Shi'ite symbols are seen and written.

<sup>10</sup> Correspondence between the center's activist and its managers regarding the expulsion of the center's founder from the association, following his desire to begin Friday prayers at the center. <https://www.al-imane.com/forumold/index.php?threads/premiers-courriers-dal-imane-%C3%A0-lassociation-al-ghadir-de-montreuil.3934/>



An image from the video.

In November 2016, Jawad Sharistani, an Iraqi cleric and representative of the Aythullah Ali Al-Sistani, visited the offices of the Al-Ghadir Association in Paris, As well as the Sorbonne and the Catholic University of Paris, he even posed for photographs with the Bishop of the Episcopal Church. He met with Lebanon's ambassador to UNESCO and also met students at the association's schools, as part of his duties. The visit was funded by the Al-Khoei Association (detailed below - appendix 3) which claims to promote peace and tolerance.



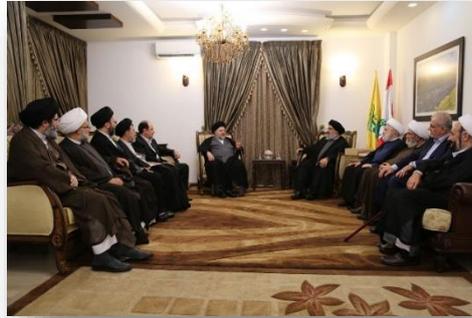
Source: [fr.shafaqna.com](http://fr.shafaqna.com)



Source: [hawzanews.com](http://hawzanews.com)



Al-Sharistani is in contact with Iran and Hezbollah and has met with Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. After the assassination of Qasem Soleimani, he attended a condolence visit to Soleimani's family home along with Na'im Qasem, Nasrallah's deputy of Hezbollah.



Al-Sharistani [meeting](#) Nasrallah and other Hezbollah functionaries

**The Al-Ghadir Association regularly invites Muhammad Al-Safi, a Lebanese cleric, to the conferences it organizes.** Al-Safi is a well-known figure among Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon. In 2018, he attended an event in the city of Tyre, Lebanon, in memory of Imam Hussein (Son of Ali Ibn Abu Taleb- the fourth caliph in Islam, the founding father of the Shia), in the presence of the Boy Scout children of the Amal and Hezbollah movements. Al-Safi also attended a Hezbollah event in memory of Fatimah Al-Zahraa (Daughter of the Prophet Muhammad, wife of Ali Ibn Abu Taleb, founding father of the Shia).



The following photo (yahala.org) is from



Al-Safi meeting Shiite militias in Iraq



Invites to events on the [Facebook pages of the NGO](#) where al-Safi made a public address



Al Safi at the joint Hezbollah-Amal boy scouts' event

Source: [yasour.org](http://yasour.org)

Source: [yahala.org](http://yahala.org)

More [photos \(yasour.org\)](http://photos.yasour.org) from various Hezbollah events in Lebanon in which Al Safi delivered sermons ([alahednews.com](http://alahednews.com)).

In 2019, Al-Ghadir organized an Al-Quds Day event in Paris with other French Shia organizations. During the demonstration activists raised flags of Palestine and pictures of Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah:



Al-Ghadir Paris, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), published 05/31/19, accessed 02/21

In February 2019, Al-Ghadir published photos on its official Facebook page from a memorial event to Imam Khomeini with an Iranian flag and pictures of Khomeini:



Al-Ghadir, Facebook, published 02/07/19, accessed 02/21

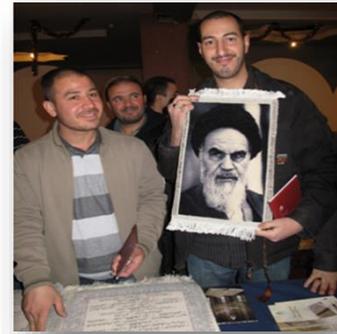
In February 2020, a ceremony was held to commemorate the Islamic revolution in Iran at the site of Khomeini's exile in France – Neauphle-le-Château – with the participation of Iran's ambassador to France and with the participation of the head of al-Ghadir Association.<sup>11</sup>



<sup>11</sup> "Ceremony held in French Capital to mark Iran's Revolution's Anniversary", Tasnim News Agency, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2020/02/05/2196641/ceremony-held-in-french-capital-to-mark-iran-s-revolution-anniversary>

In the photo on the right - Additional activity of al-Ghadir Center - Reading the Quran, **funded by the Iranian Ministry of Culture and the Association.**<sup>12</sup>



In 2019, a ceremony was held to mark the liberation day of southern Lebanon after the war with Israel (see [photos](#) from the Association's Facebook page).



[An article from 2004 in the French newspaper \*Libération\*](#) describes protests against the Veil Act across France. The article mentions some of the organizers, a group called "the Party of Muslims of France" led by a well-known anti-Semite named Mohamed Latrèche. The article mentions Sheikh Sadr a-Din Fadlallah, where he is said to be close to Hezbollah and runs prayers at al-Ghadir Mosque, praising Iran in his sermons.

Another 2004 article in [The New York Times](#) interviewed Mohamed Latrèche about two days before the protest - in the Al-Ghadir center, the article presumes that the center is thought to be linked to Hezbollah.

An article in [Le Parisien](#) covering the protests in 2004, stated that the meeting of all the protest group organizers met in the prayer room of the Al-Ghadir Center.

<sup>12</sup> "Quranic Week Held in France", Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
<http://en.icro.ir/index.aspx?pageid=11747&newsview=582032>

**It is evident that from the start, the center has been a meeting place for anti-Semitic figures supporting Hezbollah's activities against Israel.**

**Documents from an appeals court in Nantes, France,** raise an interesting case of a Lebanese national whose name is not mentioned, who applied for immigration. The applicant is the brother of the deputy director of the Al Ghadir Center (mentioned only by his first name). The appeal covers a number of references on the site. One of the references refers to an investigation directed by the Ministry of the Interior of the same man in 2008 who did not deny his family connection and did not deny investing in Paris restaurants with his brother.

The Lebanese citizen had admitted that his brother supports Hezbollah and expresses it through demonstrations orchestrated by the Al-Ghadir Center but denied that he had any contact with people associated with the association.

In one of the state's responses to the appeal rejecting the request, (according to a police investigation conducted in 2009), the brother is said to be suspected of having ties to people in an association that supports Hezbollah, as well as to individuals in Hezbollah. According to the state, he failed to refute the claims presented to him.<sup>13</sup>

These appeals clearly prove that French authorities know about the center's director's support for Hezbollah, but we do not know of any open investigations or police raids on the association center.<sup>14</sup>

From the appeals protocols:

- *Considering that the Minister rejected the request for naturalization presented by Mr. B., on the grounds that he has militant activities within the association "Al Ghadir Islamic", linked to the Lebanese party of Hezbollah, which advocates radical Islam, whose theses are incompatible with the values of tolerance and secularism of French society, and that its adherence to the theses of this movement emerges in particular from the relations it maintains with people who are members of or close to Hezbollah.*
- *Considering that as it emerges from the documents in the file, and in particular from the file of December 17, 2009 from the Civil Liberties Department of the Ministry of the*

<sup>13</sup> Court ruling in the Nantes court of appeal concerning a Lebanese citizen whose brother is described as one of the deputies of the Al-Ghadir Center

[https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/ceta/id/CETATEXT000028314019?isAdvancedResult=&isAdvancedResult=&page=1&pageSize=10&query=Al+Ghadir&searchField=ALL&searchProximity=&searchType=ALL&tab\\_selection=all&tab\\_selection=all&typePaging=DEFAULT](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/ceta/id/CETATEXT000028314019?isAdvancedResult=&isAdvancedResult=&page=1&pageSize=10&query=Al+Ghadir&searchField=ALL&searchProximity=&searchType=ALL&tab_selection=all&tab_selection=all&typePaging=DEFAULT)

<sup>14</sup> State responses to the Lebanese citizen's appeal which shows that the government is aware of Al-Ghadir's ties with Hezbollah

[https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/ceta/id/CETATEXT000028495176?tab\\_selection=all&searchField=ALL&query=Al+Ghadir&searchProximity=&searchType=ALL&isAdvancedResult=&isAdvancedResult=&typePaging=DEFAULT&pageSize=10&page=1&tab\\_selection=all#all](https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/ceta/id/CETATEXT000028495176?tab_selection=all&searchField=ALL&query=Al+Ghadir&searchProximity=&searchType=ALL&isAdvancedResult=&isAdvancedResult=&typePaging=DEFAULT&pageSize=10&page=1&tab_selection=all#all)

*Interior that Mr. B. has relations with members of Shiite movements close to Hezbollah, Islamic militia fighting against the State of Israel and violently opposed to the West, and active militant within the association "Al Ghadir Islamique" of which it represents; that by merely indicating, as he declared on April 3, 2009 during his interview with the police, that his relations with people, members or relatives of Hezbollah, are strictly professional, Mr. B. does not usefully contradict the sufficiently detailed statements of this note.*

Why was this association was not disbanded, if based on its director's connections o Hezbollah, the French authorities did not confirm his brother's citizenship?

### Al-Ghadir's branches around the world:

[Photos](#) of the opening of the Al-Ghadir branch for young people in **Sydney, Australia, 2015.**



[Web page \(http://www.findglocal.com/\)](http://www.findglocal.com/) for young people in Sydney.

Al Ghadir branch in [New Jersey, United States](#), opened in 2013, as a religious center for Quran studies, also coordinates youth activities. [Facebook page](#) describes the center as a school of Islamic religion. There's an additional branch in New York. The [Home page](#) states that the purpose of the centers is to serve Muslims living in the United States, especially the Shiite community, and to spread the spirit of Ahlul Bayt, through schools, Arabic studies and prayer centers. The Association also focuses on teaching young people, organizing conferences, and distributing a monthly magazine to the community across the country.

The Al-Ghadir branch in Norway opened in 2002. Information about the center appears on the Norwegian [non-profit organizations page](#).

The [Al-Ghadir](#) branch in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, maintains, among other things, a cultural complex, a network of schools and a scouting movement for children and youth, whose media and symbols are quite the same as Hezbollah's scouts in Lebanon.

According to a 2009 document, the branch was supported by Hezbollah and the mosque within it was built at a cost of \$5 million, although the Imam of the mosque,

where a picture of Khomeini hangs, denied that the funds were received from Iran. However, he does not deny that there is support for Hezbollah among some of the parishioners.<sup>15</sup> The association runs a school as well as a clinic. In May 2009, sanctions were imposed on the Imam of the Association's Mosque in the Ivory Coast and he was expelled from the country in August of that year.

From the Meir Amit Intelligence Center [website](#):



**Right:** Emblem of the Ghadir Scouts in the Ivory Coast (website of the Ghadir Association).  
**Left:** Emblem of the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts in Lebanon (Twitter account of the Imam Al-Mahdi



**Right:** Troop leader and a scout in the Ghadir Scouts in the Ivory Coast (website of the Ghadir Association). The picture of Imam Khomeini and the Lebanese flag alongside the flag of the Ivory Coast are visible on the troop leader's white uniform.  
**Left:** Troop leaders and members in the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts in Lebanon (Facebook page of the General Commission of the Imam Al-Mahdi Scouts, August 5, 2020). The picture of Imam Khomeini is visible on the uniform of the troop leader on the left.

On September 17, 2020, the United States imposed sanctions on several construction companies linked to Hezbollah. The companies are part of Hezbollah's civilian infrastructure, which supports its military wing. Their activities are linked to Hezbollah's construction jihad and related to the organization's money laundering.

One of the companies sanctioned is "*Arch Consulting for Research and Engineering*", which has carried out three construction projects for the Al-Ghadir Association in the past.

<sup>15</sup> Pierre Kattar, " On Iranian Influence in Africa- the role of Lebanese Shiites Community in West Africa and Hezbollah Worldwide Activity", p. 7, 2009  
[https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field\\_document/ACLURM045462.pdf](https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/ACLURM045462.pdf)

## **Contact Information**

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Email:<sup>17</sup>

[ghadir@alghadir.org](mailto:ghadir@alghadir.org)

Web Presence:

- [Facebook Page](#) – 3598 followers
- [Instagram](#) – 655 followers
- [YouTube](#) - 392 subscribers
- [Website](https://alghadir-paris.com/) - https://alghadir-paris.com/
- [Telegram](#)

Phone:

+33 1 42 87 58 49<sup>18</sup>

+33 6 51 03 72 72<sup>19</sup>

+33 9 50 73 74 01<sup>20</sup>

Leetchi (donation platform) Service Providers:<sup>21</sup>

Paypal

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<sup>16</sup> Al-Ghadir Paris, [contact information](#), accessed 02/21

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Association Al-Ghadir Paris, [Telegram Group](#), accessed 02/21

<sup>21</sup> Association Al-Ghadir Paris, [Telegram Group](#), published 08/08/20, accessed 02/21

### Appendix 3

#### The Imam Al-Khoei Association (جمعية الإمام الخوئي)

**An international Shi'ite Islamic Association** which operates according to the supreme authority source system of the theology of the "Twelvers" branch (within the Shia there are a number of branches that believe in different dynasties of the Imams. The members of the "Twelvers" believe that the twelfth Imam will return at the end of days ...). The association was founded in 1989 and established its main center in London.

**The Al-Khoei Association** has Branches in England (London, Swansea, Manchester), in the USA (New York), in Canada (Montreal), Thailand (Bangkok, Patong), Pakistan (Islamabad), India, Iran (Qom, Isfahan, Mashhad), Iraq (Karbala, Najaf) and France (Paris).

**The association is particularly active in the United States and Britain and has become one of the most important recruitment and political support centers of the radical Shi'ite axis led by Iran.** French intelligence links the association's branch with Iran. According to research published at the Al-Marfa Center, **Imam Al-Khoei Association plays a very significant role in spreading the Shia in Europe.**

(<https://www.hafryat.com/ar/blog>)

**Founded in 1988, the Paris branch of the Association is considered one of the most prominent centers representing Iran in France and is run by Sheikh Ismail al-Kahlik.**

**Sheikh Ismail al-Kahlik** attends and lectures at major religious conferences in Iran and Lebanon. In 2017, he was one of the speakers at a religious conference in Qom, Iran, attended by clerics from Iran, Nigeria, Morocco, and others.





Above: Al Khalik (third from the left) is sitting next to Sharistani during [his visit to Paris](#) in 2016.

On its [LinkedIn](#) page, the Association is defined as a non-profit organization founded in 1989 by Imam Sayyid Al-Qasem Al-Khoei, for the benefit of Muslim communities, especially Shiites, and for promoting education and dialogue towards tolerance. The main branch is in England, with branches in the United States, Canada, France, Pakistan, India and Thailand. The association has a special advisory status in the United Nations Eco-Social Committee. The association operates cultural centers, schools, seminars, libraries and universities around the world.

**Al-Khoei has status of a United Nations advisory body since receiving it in 1997, thus being the only Shi'ite organization in the United Nations with such a status.** The association proclaims that they promote human and minority rights. The association helped monitor elections in Iraq as well as elections across Europe.<sup>22</sup> The association participates in UN conferences on equal rights for minorities as well as combating Islamophobia / Shia-phobia. This prestigious status also allows the association political influence around the world.

The association is fighting against "Shia-phobia", as can be seen and heard from a representative of the association at the United Nations Human Rights Committee in 2015, in the following [footage](#). The introduction of these concepts promotes the principles of Shia around the world and is a base for bringing about a political agenda that helps the association's image as a promoter of equality and concern for the world's Shi'ite community.

<sup>22</sup> The association's homepage; <https://www.al-khoei.org/the-foundation/>

**It is the perfect cover that facilitates the Iranian regime advance the principles of the Islamic Revolution without interference.**



**Above:** Photo from a [United Nations seminar](#) in 2018. The association's representative presided over one of the seminars - proof of the association's important status in the UN.

The association also allegedly promotes **coexistence**, as seen in the following [clip](#) at one of its London branches - hosting the Jewish community on the Sukkot holiday festivities.

Photos from the association's [Facebook page](#) in Paris, with 5,911 followers:



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/AlKhoei.Paris/photos/a.816371758374950/2737368319608608/?type=3>

**The Al-Khoei Association is linked to a worldwide nonprofit association called *Ahlul Bayt Assembly*.** According to information published on the "United Against Nuclear Iran" website (an organization that opposes the Islamic regime in Iran and works to expose its activities in various fields around the world), **Ahlul Bayt Assembly** was

founded by Khamenei in 1990 <sup>23</sup>, operating to connect Iranian and Shi'ite clerics all over the world.

**Mohammad Hassan Akhtari was one of the founders of Hezbollah and served as Iran's ambassador to Syria and was secretary general of the Association.** In an article by *Asharq Al-Awsat* newspaper (May 2008), he was defined as Hezbollah's operational father. The newspaper goes on to state that the association also manages religious institutions, cultural centers and nonprofit organizations that work together with the Iranian Quds Force as a front for recruiting foreign students, raising money and gathering intelligence.

**According to a 2012 intelligence report by the Meir Amit Center for Terrorism, The Ahlul Bayt Assembly operates extensively and mainly in the United Kingdom, where the main branch of the Al-Khoei Association is located, mainly to convey Iran's messages.**<sup>24</sup> Al-Islam.org's [donation site](#) created by the Ahlul Bayt Digital Islamic Library Project, a non-profit organization that aims to record and translate religious literature and religious writings, **also contains a page that lists the Al-Khoei Association in Paris.**

**This is further proof of the existing relationship between the Iranian umbrella organization and the association.**

**Pictures of religious events at the Al- Khoei Paris branch:**



Above: Photo from a ceremony in memory of Fatima Al-Zahara [at the center in 2018](#).

<sup>23</sup> "How Iran Exports its Ideology- Ahlul Bayt World Assembly", page 12, United Against Nuclear Iran, August 2020  
<https://www.unitedagainstnucleariran.com/ideological-expansion/ahlul-bayt-world-assembly>

<sup>24</sup> "in Britain there are a number of organizations affiliated with Iran which deal with exporting the Islamic Revolution", The Meir Amit Intelligence and Terrorism Center, June 20, 2012  
[https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art\\_20353/E2\\_120\\_12\\_1695082257.pdf](https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/articles/Art_20353/E2_120_12_1695082257.pdf)



Above: [Ashura nights](#) at the Al Khoei branch 2018.

A visit by Imam Al-Qazwini who is associated with the Iranian organization Ahlul Bayt in 2014 at the Al-Khoei branch, raises questions about the center's intentions to promote tolerance and inter-religious ties. Imam Al-Qazwini is the founder and director of the Islamic Center in Costa Mesa, California. The imam is considered to be the next generation of Imams in the United States (a 2019 article from [Israel Hayom](#) newspaper).

This Imam, who had endorsed Bernie Sanders in the U.S. election and even met with President Bush, **was caught in statements comparing Israel to ISIS**. Those statements and others prompted the Sanders campaign to distance themselves from him.

**In a sermon on June 23, 2017, he claimed ISIS was a product of the Israeli intelligence services**, including ISIS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. About two months after his remarks were published by the [Memri Center](#), he apologized to anyone offended by his remarks but did not retract his claims and even reinforced them, stating that the information was obtained from Iraqi government sources and military sources fighting the organization. His remarks were condemned by the Jewish community.<sup>25</sup>

**In a sermon from 2015, he argued that the reason ISIS did not attack Israel was further proof that ISIS was a Zionist arm sent to murder Muslims and to increase hatred against Muslims around the world.**

In another video published by the [Memri Center](#), from September 2019, **the Imam talks about the Iran-supported Houthi attack on Saudi oil facilities**. He argues that if the allegations are true, the Houthis are not to be blamed, Trump and his decision to withdraw from the nuclear agreement are to blame. He also accuses Saudi Arabia and Israel of pressuring Trump to withdraw from the agreement. He claims they too are to blame for the Houthis' attacks on Saudi Arabia, and that "they deserve it".



Above: From a visit to the Imam Al-Khoei center.

**In February 2020, a report containing documents and the names of 36 Iranian institutions in Europe supporting the Houthis in Yemen with money and weapons, was apparently leaked.** The Houthis make up one of Iran's main proxy forces in the Middle East and have been waging a severe war against the Saudi-led coalition for several years.

Despite UN resolutions on tightening sanctions on the Houthi militia, these 36 Iranian institutions evade these decisions, acting to support the Houthis by transferring funds to them, in turn for the loyalty of the Yemenite tribes and the continuation of the war...

Iranian associations based in London manage the financing and transferring of Iranian funds to the Houthis, taking advantage of their presence in the UK, which serves as a relay station for the transferring of Iranian support and funding of millions of dollars for the Houthis.

These associations have allocated food product assistance to the families of wounded and killed Houthis, of \$150 per person per month, but the real amount that reaches

<sup>25</sup> Deepa Baharath, "Orange County Imam under fire for controversial sermon linking Isis and Israel", The Orange County register, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
<https://www.ocregister.com/2017/08/24/orange-county-imam-under-fire-for-controversial-sermon-linking-isis-and-israel/>

them is 20,000 Yemeni rials, that is only \$33, while the rest goes into the pockets and accounts of the Houthi leaders...

**Among these associations involved in supporting and funding the Houthis in Yemen is the Imam Khomeini Charitable Association.**

(<https://www.almarjie-paris.com/14127>)

**Photos and articles regarding the center's activities are published on a number of websites containing news from the Shi'ite world:**

[Shiawaves](#)

[Abna24.com](#) - Ahlul Bayt news agency based in Iran and translated into 20 different languages.

[Shafaqna- Shia News Association](#)

[An article](#), published on gulf365.co (Al-Halij365) in Arabic, combines the activities of Iran under the auspices of the associations throughout Europe. The article also mentions the associations reviewed in this document, as well as similar associations in Germany, Belgium and England.

**Al-Khoei Association branches around the world:**



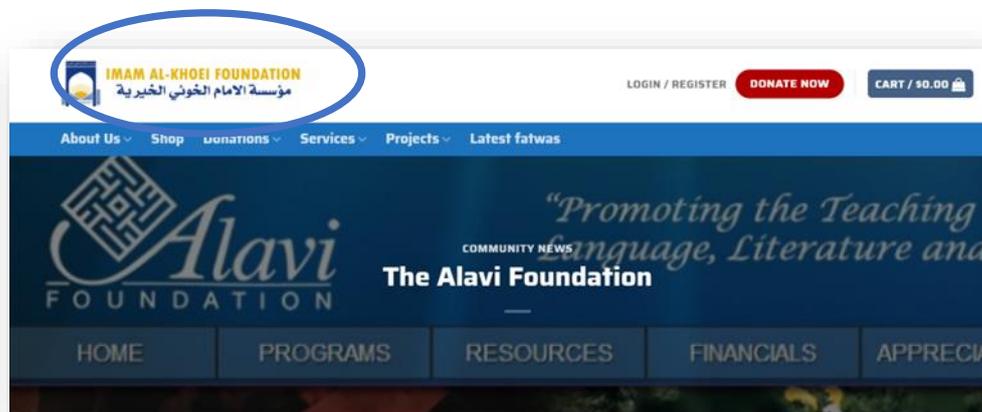
An illustration taken from the Al-Khoei's Twitter

**A 2006 NYPD report regarding the Iranian threat mentions the Al-Khoei Association,**<sup>26</sup> in context of another association in the city, the Alavi Foundation, or by its former name, the Mostazafan Foundation. According to the report, members of Alavi Foundation's executive committee are linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards, and perhaps the association is entirely controlled by Iran. The police report claims that members of the Association visit the Al-Khoei Association in Queens, and that the association funds a school based there. Association director Mohammad Mahallati

<sup>26</sup> New York Police Special Intelligence Report, the association is mentioned on page 6  
<http://goodtimesweb.org/documentation/nypd-iranian-intel.pdf>

was investigated in 1993 for allegedly trying to buy materials which are used to create biological weapons for Iran.

The Alavi Foundation is listed as one of the sponsors of a 2019 event at Columbia University whose organizers are supporters of Iran and the Revolutionary Guards. One of the organizers, the son of a well-known presenter on Iran's propaganda channel *PressTV*, was arrested by the FBI. In addition, the Al-Khoei Association received a \$25,000 grant in 2016 from the Alavi Foundation, whose total assets were seized by the U.S. government in 2017. The seizure of assets was based on allegations accusing the association of using rental money deriving from its assets to fund the Iranian regime.<sup>27</sup> As can be seen in the attached photo from the Alavi Foundation's [home page](#) that the Al-Khoei Association continues its support for the Alavi Foundation, urging the authorities to allow the foundation to continue its activities.



#### England - London Branch - The Main Branch of the Association in Europe:

**The branch is run by** Abdul-Saheb Al-Khoei, one of the descendants of the founder of the association, Abu al-Qasem Al-Khoei, who died in 1992.

As you can see in the pictures, **Abdul-Saheb Al-Khoei visits Iran and is greeted by regime representatives:**

<sup>27</sup> Ryan Mauro and Justen Charters, "Columbia Event- a dream for the Iranian regime", Campus Watch and Clarion Project, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
<https://www.meforum.org/campus-watch/58444/columbia-event-a-dream-for-the-iranian-regime>



**Pictures of senior Iranian representatives at meetings and events organized by the London branch:**





Above: 2019 - Photo from an [interfaith Iftar dinner](#) at the center with the participation of Iran's Ambassador to England - Hamid Baedinejad.



Above: Pictures from the [Muharram ceremony](#) in 2015 at the association's branch.