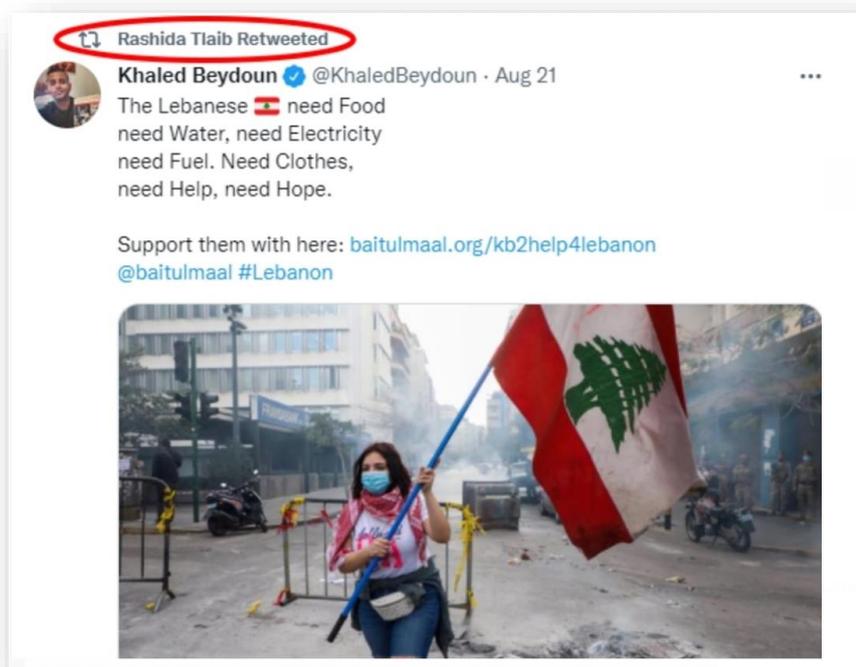


“Baitulmaal” (Dallas, Texas) – an innocent Islamic charity?

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"Baitulmaal" (Dallas-Texas) - an innocent Islamic charity? Or is it an association with financial and logistical ties to terrorist organizations worldwide?

A few days ago, Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib retweeted the following tweet:



The tweet's contents dealt with the plight of Lebanese citizens, who, in light of the situation in Lebanon, need food, water, electricity, fuel, clothing, help, and hope. The tweet called on followers to donate to "Baitulmaal".

In Arabic, "Baitulmaal" means: "the house of money" or "the house of welfare". "Baitulmaal" is a generic term used in the Islamic world to describe a financial institution that usually collects charity from donations. We recognize these institutions in the Islamic world in general and specifically in the service of Hamas, ISIS, and Hezbollah.

The issue mentioned in the above tweet, together with our attentiveness to the Lebanese arena, has instinctively led us to think that this is a "Baitulmaal" institution operating within Hezbollah. Hezbollah's "Baitulmaal" is a financial entity with banking characteristics that serve as an essential and central component of Hezbollah's finance and investment system and operates under Hezbollah's executive council (which we will further expand on in the coming weeks). Hezbollah's "Baitulmaal" has branches throughout Lebanon (Beirut, Tire, Sidon, Nabatieh, Baalbek, and al-Hermel) and, among other things, serves as a liaison body for the formal banking system in Lebanon. During the Second Lebanon War in 2006, "Baitulmaal" branches were bombed since they served as Hezbollah's economic backbone.

However, from further examination, we found that the above tweet refers to a civilian organization with the same name, which is not linked to Hezbollah and whose main offices are located in Irving, Dallas County, Texas, U.S.A:

Name: **Baitulmaal, Inc.**

LinkedIn profile:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/baitulmaal/>

Website: <https://baitulmaal.org>

Year of establishment (from LinkedIn): 2004 (although the "GuideStar" states that the year of establishment is 2006. Please note that Hasan Haj Mohammad, the founder, has been engaged in fundraising and charity activities since 1991 under an organization called the Islamic Trust of North Texas, which may have been the previous name of the present-day "Baitulmaal"¹).



The organization's location: Irving, Dallas County, Texas. The organization has offices in several other locations in the United States (Los Angeles/Chicago/Detroit) and Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, "Palestine," Somalia, Kenya, Jordan, and Pakistan.

Fields of activity (from LinkedIn): Charity, aid for orphans, economic development in times of disaster, etc., "regardless of religion."

Vision (from the website): A world free of want.

Values (from the website): Integrity, Creativity & Excellence

Is Texas "Baitulmaal" an innocent organization whose intentions, goals, vision, and values are sincere? Or is it another example of part of the familiar and well-known fundraising mechanism, which terrorist organizations operate? This mechanism activates, among other things, an array of fundraising through websites and charitable funds. The mechanism uses civic associations, which ostensibly declare the aid and charitable actions they carry out, through their branches usually located in Muslim countries and countries with large Muslim concentrations and in countries where it is convenient for terrorist organizations to operate financially, among other things, through moneychangers, without supervision, and without prevention.

For example, Hezbollah's "Baitulmaal" operates in this way through its "operational arm" called "the Islamic Resistance Assistance Authority", which uses such associations and civic bodies around the world.

¹ <https://www.meforum.org/7597/it-time-to-prosecute-terror-finance-again>

What do we know about the American “Baitulmaal” organization operating in Irving Texas?

A Jordanian, Hassan Haj Muhammad, founded the organization. In 2006, when Muhammad visited Israel, he was detained for questioning on suspicion of funding a Hamas charity in Jenin.²³ Hassan is the brother of Jordanian Islamist MP Mohammed al-Hajj, who has previously stated that "bullets were intended only for the conquering Zionist enemy."

According to the meforum.org website, one can learn about the essence of "Baitulmaal" according to its tax returns. These tax returns reveal hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of donations to dozens of similar Islamist organizations and groups across America, including charities linked to the Muslim Brotherhood and the Turkish regime.

The organization's current director is Mazen Mukhtar, previously quoted as saying that "suicide bombings are an effective way to attack the enemy and continue Jihad."⁴ We know that in the past, Mukhtar supported the Taliban. A 2004 article in the Washington Post⁵ states that Mukhtar, born in Egypt, was an Imam and political activist who had previously been blamed for running a website aimed at raising funds for the Afghan Taliban and the Chechen Mujahidin. For many years, Mukhtar has been known to be a prominent spokesperson in the United States in favor of the Palestinians in general and Hamas in particular, delivering lectures in mosques throughout the United States.



Above: Mazen Mukhtar

"Baitulmaal" supports an organization called UFA (Unlimited Friends Association for Social Development) based in Gaza. This association has close ties to senior Hamas figures and supports the families of so-called "martyrs." This association publicly declares that it helps "Baitulmaal" distribute its donations to the families of the "martyrs" and the Palestinian people. In particular, this organization contributes to a program that helps children orphaned from their fathers ("martyrs").⁶⁷



² <https://www.jpost.com/Israel/Man-charged-with-aiding-Hamas-bailed>

³ The Meir Amit Intel and Terrorism Info Center. https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2019/07/E_143_19.pdf (pg.7)

⁴ The Meir Amit Intel and Terrorism Info Center. https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2019/07/E_143_19.pdf (pg.7)

⁵ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48936-2004Aug7.html>

⁶ https://www.facebook.com/ufa2003.org/photos/ms.c.eJw9ysENwDAIQ9GNqhiMgf0XS0TT3vzkr5AqTYDxjEevg4xahmt2ZsN9ft~_mb7v2GGf9np7cqZYThg~-~-.bps.a.656686974458049.1073741951.345544358905647/656687254458021/?type=3&theater

⁷ <https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/01/terrorist-groups-american-charities-fund-ufa-hamas-dawah-social-services/>

The UFA, which Baitulmaal supports, uploads anti-Semitic posts to Facebook with phrasings such as: "we ask God to release the anguish of the heroic prisoners in the Nazi-Zionist prisons and to liberate honorable Al-Aqsa from the filth of the impure Jews..." (Originally published in Arabic⁸):



"Baitulmaal" donated money (\$33,000 between 2007 and 2011) to AJP, which donated money to the anti-Israel organization AMP, which is considered the closest to Hamas, supports BDS and promotes its agenda in the U.S. (you can read more about it in comment⁹).¹⁰

"Baitulmaal" is a member of the "Union of Good," a charity founded by radical Egyptian Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, who was included in the U.S. sanctions list in 2008.

"Baitulmaal" not only operates in the Gaza Strip but also supports Hamas' activities in Judea and Samaria. For years, it has been funding a Hamas-affiliated charity organization called "Yazour," whose offices were previously closed by the IDF.^{11 12 13}

⁸ <https://imgur.com/a/pWbiKGf>

⁹ <https://www.investigativeproject.org/3346/american-muslims-for-palestine-web-of-hamas>

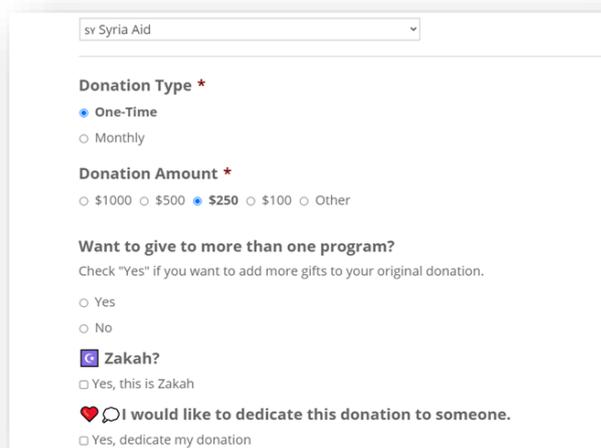
¹⁰ <https://www.weeklyblitz.net/news/american-islamist-charities-funding-terror-in-gaza/>

¹¹ <https://www.albayan.ae/one-world/2008-07-09-1.655535>

¹² <https://paltimeps.ps/post/148960/%d8%a8%d9%8a%d8%aa-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%a7%d9%84-%d8%aa%d9%83%d8%b3%d8%a7%d8%b3-%d8%aa%d9%88%d8%b2%d8%b9-%d9%83%d8%b3%d9%88%d8%a9-%d8%b9%d9%84%d9%89-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%b9%d8%a7%d8%a6%d9%84%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%b3%d8%aa%d9%88%d8%b1%d8%a9-%d8%a8%d9%86%d8%a7%d8%a8%d9%84%d8%b3>

¹³ <https://www.alwatanvoice.com/arabic/news/2017/06/24/1062364.html>

"Baitulmaal" clarifies in its publications that a donation to it is the fulfillment of the "Zakah" commandment, which is one of the five pillars of Islam, and explicitly asks on its donation page whether the current donation is to be considered as "Zakah". The question arises: considering that "Zakah" is given from Muslim to Muslim only, why does the organization simultaneously declare that donations and charities are provided regardless of the religion of those who receive the "Zakah"?



The image shows a screenshot of a donation form for "sv Syria Aid". The form includes the following sections:

- Donation Type ***: Radio buttons for "One-Time" (selected), "Monthly", and "Other".
- Donation Amount ***: Radio buttons for "\$1000", "\$500", "\$250" (selected), "\$100", and "Other".
- Want to give to more than one program?**: A checkbox labeled "Yes" and a radio button labeled "No". Below it, a note says "Check 'Yes' if you want to add more gifts to your original donation."
- Zakah?**: A checkbox labeled "Yes, this is Zakah" and a radio button labeled "No".
- I would like to dedicate this donation to someone.**: A checkbox labeled "Yes, dedicate my donation" and a radio button labeled "No".

The organization is active only in Muslim-majority countries: Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, "Palestine", Jordan, Lebanon, etc. In addition, the entire senior staff of the organization is Muslim,¹⁴ and it seems that the vast majority of the assistance (according to the photos on the organization's website) is given only to Muslims.

In conclusion, "Baitulmaal," which operates in Irving, Dallas County, Texas, does not appear to be an innocent organization as one would have thought. The threat to the Western way of life is increasing from terrorist organizations that use civilian organizations as a proxy for collecting funds. The "Baitulmaal" organization seems to be another Islamic charity with a real potential for financial and logistical links with terrorist organizations worldwide. In the case of "Baitulmaal," it appears that quite a bit of its activity is related to the terrorist organization Hamas operating in the Gaza Strip.

According to the tweet, Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib retweeted, the donation money is intended for Lebanese citizens. We must not be naïve. The donation money may indeed be transferred to Lebanon through money changers based in Turkey and Lebanon, but there will be those who control its distribution. We estimate that Lebanese Islamist groups affiliated with Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad will receive the donations. Knowing the mechanism, some of the funds will be transferred into the private pockets of those groups, and other parts will be transferred towards the activities that serve these terrorist organizations in Lebanon (including military operations and military infrastructures).

Another part of the money does go to humanitarian aid. Its purpose is to create dependencies among those who receive it. Some of the humanitarian aid goes towards children's education. This "education" includes indoctrination: Education of Islamic extremist ideology, hatred of the United States, Israel, and the West. Hezbollah may also be involved in the mechanism of transferring funds through its developed money transfer infrastructure.

¹⁴ <https://baitulmaal.org/people/>