

THE LIES THEY TELL

32 e-mails sent to City of Edinburgh Council in 2022 objecting to the proposal to twin with Gaza City - with comment from Pete Gregson, Petitioner for Gaza twinning

These emails were obtained through an Subject Access Review request by Pete Gregson. There are two tranches- because the petition went before Policy Committee twice. Some emails are dated from March, when it was withdrawn following Israeli threats; the second hearing was in August, following legal assurances from Police Scotland that there was nothing illegal in twinning with Gaza..

Because the correspondent's names are redacted, it is impossible to know how many are from Edinburgh residents. It is likely many come from the Glasgow Friends of Israel, as there are few Jews in Edinburgh. Pete has reviewed the emails with comments in italics below.

The outcome of the Policy Committee's decision can be found at www.twingaza.com/council-to-discuss-twinning-with-gaza

The Committee refused to allow either Gazans, supporters or the petitioner to address the Committee because of "legal considerations" . The Council has refused to disclose these, so the FOI is now under consideration by the Scottish Information Commissioner.

From:
To:

Subject: Twinning Edinburgh with terrorists
Date: 28 August 2022 14:20:16

To all (who should be) concerned

Your debate and potential motion to twin Edinburgh with Gaza, only provides more friction and conflict and will cause more harm than good, if it is not because of senseless virtue signaling.

If this debate/motion/idea/ is passed, it will not prevent the Truth from being revealed and realised, and the inevitable downfall of these hateful lying terrorists.

*(I refer to the leaders, associates, members and collaborators and make a clear distinguishment from the citizens and the general population as a whole, who have always been used as the political pawns)

Unfortunately it will also provide your collaboration with these evil entities, by offering your own consent to their nefarious, heinous activities, purely by your participation, involvement and association. Your endorsement will only signify your crossing of the red line.

(See Amnesty, Forest Green football club, Ben and Jerry's, AirBnB, UNWRA The UN, it's bodies and various councils, NGOs Governments and other institutions)

You are, or should be fully aware of the increase of rancid, racist Antisemitism and of the overwhelming simple facts surrounding this idea by Pete Gregson and the wider global, political and economic implications, that it would be impossible to deny or backtrack or rescind at a later time.

(See BBC and other mainstream media)

Either by sheer ignorance, pure denial or utter irrational hatred, this debate alone simply fuels the flame, and you are wittingly or unwittingly doing exactly what groups like Iranian proxy groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad want.

It should not be left to how much pressure you feel from one side or another, as to which decision you make.

It is precisely that, it should be your own moral conscience and decision making process which should determine the correct, right and just conclusion.

Sincerely concerned



The author declares that twinning with Gaza is a gift to Hamas.

There is no acknowledgement of why the petition is being raised– that because of Balfour and the British, there is an ongoing responsibility to remedy the evils perpetrated by past UK leaders, in creating the pain that Palestinians suffer– most particularly within the enclave which embodies the strongest popular resistance to the Zionist regime.

The claim that Gazan citizens are political pawns ignores the fact that Gazans (along with all Palestinians) voted overwhelmingly for Hamas in 2006- elected democratically to represent the Palestinian people. It declares Hamas is an Iranian proxy group but this is quite untrue. The truth is that is a Palestinian movement that is supported by various Muslim states, including Iran.

From:
To:
Subject: Proposal twinning Edinburgh with Gaza city Meeting 30th August
Date: 29 August 2022 16:24:58

Dear Sir

I would like to express my objection to the above proposal due to be discussed tomorrow. I have read previous background information and the antisemitism that drives this motion .

As everyone is aware the municipality of Gaza is under the control of Hamas a proscribed radical Islamic terrorist group (see Gov UK listed organisations .)

The Israel / Palestinian conflict of many years Has escalated since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 and the Palestinian Hamas government's control of that area from Fatah (PLO) in 2007 following their success in Palestinian elections .

Hamas is a complex but single terrorist organization.

The charter's aims are explicit to replace Israel with an Islamic state . The covenant of the Islamic resistant movement reveals its face , identity and clarifies its stand . 'Fight the Jews and Kill them ' peace is not on their agenda . This is evidenced by recent wars on the Gaza border.

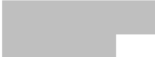
Any bonding of twin cities therefore is supporting this charter and you cannot possibly know with whom you creating ties . What are the aims of this proposal ?

The people of Gaza would benefit from a government that uses Aid money for their people's welfare and not for advancing their Terrorist activities on innocent Israelis using thousands of rockets , throwing fire balloons and building underground tunnels infiltrating Israeli land . Buildings and schools are used in Gaza city as launching sites for terrorist activities .

The media reporting in UK of the conflict , is generally biased towards the Palestinians , and portrays a weighted narrative . The history of the conflict is falsely portrayed not based on truth .

Should we not be in the business as part of the international community in the global fight against terrorism .

I strongly oppose this motion of twinning Edinburgh city with Gaza City .


Scotland

The author considers Gaza Municipality to be under the control of Hamas whereas all the evidence points to this not being so (<https://www.twingaza.com/gaza-council-explains-how-mayor-was-appointed-no-hamas-involvement/>).

S/he states that the Hamas charter declares "Fight the Jews and Kill them"- also untrue. Firstly, no-one declaring themselves Jewish outside of Palestine have been harmed by Hamas. Those who have colonised Palestine and kill Arabs to do so call themselves Jews, so anti-colonial struggle unsurprisingly leads to fighting and killing. If one consults the Hamas Policies of 2017 (<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/hamas-2017-document-of-general-principles-and-policies>) there is a clarification:

"Hamas does not wage a struggle against the Jews because they are Jewish but wages a struggle against the Zionists who occupy Palestine."

The usual claims that Hamas spends aid money on rockets and launches them from schools are made. Neither of these are proven: Wikipedia says a UN inquiry found the claims (by Israel) to be untrue. Also see www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/24/gaza-hamas-fighters-military-bases-querrilla-war-civilians-israel-idf

The author complains that media reporting in the UK is biased towards the Palestinians, but s/he does not pause to consider why this might be so (ie that Israel runs an apartheid state predicated on the theft of Palestinian land). In actual fact, UK media is so fearful of complaints from Israeli supporters in the UK, which are well co-ordinated by those calling themselves Jews who support Israel- by the Israeli Embassy—that they seldom cover attacks on Palestinians. If they do they give equal column inches to the Israelis, effectively neutering Palestinian perspectives.

From:
To:
Subject: Edinburgh - Gaza Twinning
Date: 22 August 2022 10:24:21

I oppose this nonsensical twinning with any country who permit prescribed terrorist to groups within their borders while their residents are kept in abject poverty and allows them free rein to do as they wish, have you looked at womens rights within those very terrorist organisations you wish to promote the subjugation of women and young or same sex relationships or will those issues be conveniently swept under a rug

[REDACTED]

The author opposes twinning with Gaza because it "permits prescribed terrorist groups within its borders whilst their residents are kept in abject poverty".

The only truth here is that the residents are kept in abject poverty, but this is because of the illegal blockade by Israel, now in its 16th year- not because of Hamas. It is a form of collective punishment that the world has declared illegal.

Given the severity of the humanitarian crisis, Israel's duties to "protected persons" as an occupier of the Gaza Strip under Article 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention require that it allows the passage of all aid, foodstuffs, and water. "Protected persons" are civilian individuals who find themselves, in case of an armed conflict or occupation, in the hands of a power of which they are not nationals. In this case, "protected persons" are the people of Gaza. By placing strict controls and limitations on all provisions for Gaza, including basic food, water, and medical aid, the Israelis have violated this stipulation of the Geneva Convention.

Israel's blockade also violates international law under Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention whereby: "No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism . . . against protected persons and their property are prohibited." This article prohibits the use of collective punishment of protected persons, the breach of which constitutes war crimes. By having breached this article, the Israelis are guilty of war crimes under the Geneva Convention.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said in a report issued on 1st July 2022 that Israel's blockade on the Gaza Strip should be fully lifted in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1860.

The "terrorism" label given to Hamas is one that Israel has pushed some countries into adopting. In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly rejected a U.S. resolution condemning Hamas as a terrorist organization.

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Twinning of Edinburgh with Gaza City
Date: 25 August 2022 13:53:41

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I am sending this email to you as a concerned citizen of Edinburgh.

It is appalling that anyone should even consider the twinning of Gaza with Edinburgh. This petition should never even have reached such a stage. Gaza today is a theocratic, totalitarian mini state. The poor people of Gaza indeed deserve sympathy. They are being held hostage by an illegitimate Hamas regime, not interested in peace, but only in death to Jews and the destruction of the state of Israel, in the name of a particular interpretation of the Islamic religion.

The opportunity for peace and prosperity disappeared the minute that terrorists took control of Gaza. They have nothing to offer the suffering people except death and destruction. It is unthinkable to give moral or financial support to such a regime by twinning the two cities of Edinburgh and Gaza at the present time.

Of course, humanitarian assistance should be welcomed, so long as it is strictly controlled by the donors, since the present regime is good at diverting funds and materials. Huge investments, both private and from the E.U. and others, have already been destroyed since Hamas seized power. The opportunity to turn Gaza into the Singapore of the middle east existed but they chose a different path.

I am not sure if it is possible to untwin cities that twinned with Gaza in more hopeful times. It is likely however that many will put everything on hold till better times. Now is not the time to discuss such a proposal in the city of Edinburgh.

Please give this letter to all those concerned with this debate.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Edinburgh

It's important to note that the Hamas regime is quite legitimate; it was elected democratically in 2006, after all. Their mandate was opposition to the Israeli takeover of Palestine and they believe Israel has no right to exist. Their position has nothing to do with "a particular interpretation of the Islamic religion"- it is founded on the Palestinian right to self-determination, by those who worship Allah- most Palestinians are Muslim, after all.

Their religious grounding is partly why they were elected by the Palestinian people, but their steadfast refusal to accept Israel is key; furthermore they were seen to be less corrupt than Fatah- who maintain control in the West Bank, as the "Palestinian Authority" (PA). Inter-Palestinian strife was created because Fatah refused to recognise Hamas' victory in the 2006 elections.

The claim that the "opportunity for peace and prosperity disappeared the minute that terrorists took control of Gaza" is laughable- given what has befallen those Palestinians who were under the control of Fatah in the West Bank and Jerusalem, under a PA which suppresses local dissent and is ineffective in preventing Palestinian land being taken, alongside regular raids by Israeli soldiers into the cities nominally controlled by the PA. In some instances, Israeli police work alongside PA Police in targeting unruly Palestinians. The PA has a draconian ban on criticism- human right campaigner Issa Amro was arrested for criticising the PA on Facebook.

After Hamas won the elections, the [Quartet](#)—comprising the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations—demanded that the new Hamas government accept all previous agreements, recognize Israel's right to exist, and renounce violence; when Hamas refused, they [cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority](#). The quartet refused to accept that Hamas had been elected because they consider Israel to be an illegal body.

Repeated attempts at reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah have failed, and the first Palestinian elections for 15 years, in which Hamas was due to compete, were called off by President Abbas (leader of Fatah) in April 2021.

The "death and destruction" described above that has been visited upon the Gazans comes not from Hamas but from the Israelis in their illegal collective punishment; in fact, Hamas are entitled to use military force (including rockets) to end the occupation- the 1982 UN ruling permits this.

Furthermore, Gaza is definitely not a theocratic totalitarian mini-state. No-one is forced to attend a mosque- and there are many Christians- at least 1,000, who attend their own churches, without interference from any authorities.

Astonishingly, the author thinks Israel is not responsible for the suffering of the Palestinians!

From:

Sent: 28 August 2022 10:22

To:

Subject: Edinburgh 'twinning' with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad Hey Scotland – Islamic Jihad and Hamas scammers want your cash

Please do not allow your beautiful and historic city to become a laughing stock and a patsy for the antisemites. Still less, please do not allow Edinburgh to be 'twinned' with the terrorists of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad so that your constituents end up paying their well-meant donations to cheats and liars.

Kind regards

"Do not allow Edinburgh to be "twinned" with the terrorists of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad so that your constituents end up paying their well-meant donations to cheats and liars"

Hmm. who said anything about twinning equalling donations to Gazans? There is no twinning in the world that involves one city subsidising another.

From:
To:

Subject: 30 August Agenda - oppose twinning with Gaza
Date: 28 August 2022 23:28:38

Dear Edinburgh Council

I am writing to express my outrage that it's being considered to twin Edinburgh and Gaza. Instead of condemning Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad - both terrorist organisations which commits war crimes, you are considering a twinning? Hamas who govern Gaza get money from many countries around the world and instead of helping their civilians, they spend the money not on schools or hospitals but building terror tunnels, firing rockets and stealing aid.

Hamas, who govern Gaza, launched more than 4,360 rockets towards Israeli civilians between 10 May and 12 Aug 2021. Each rocket is a war crime and they initiate each round of violence. A reminder to the council of how the most recent terror war against Israel by Palestinian Islamic Jihad started: 4 Aug 2022, Senior Islamic Jihad: "We will BOMB the centre of Israel" 5 Aug 2022, IDF launches Gaza Operation " We won't let terrorists set the agenda"

I have actually been to Israel and I have family living there, so I am speaking first hand. Israel handed over Gaza to the Palestinians in 2005, as an act of good faith & they were thanked by having Palestinians launch thousands of missiles at their citizens. Why aren't the council holding the Palestinian leaders accountable for the suffering of their people? If the Palestinians put down all their weapons & stopped launching their missiles, there would be no more war & the situation would become much better for them. If the Israelis put down all their weapons, there would be no more Israel. Read that again. The Palestinians will not stop until every Jew is thrown into the sea. If you don't believe me, look at their charter.

I can only assume Edinburgh Council is unaware that Hamas is a terrorist organisation who govern Gaza and are did not know the following:

- * The Hamas Charter calls for every Jew to be killed, anywhere in the world including me.
- * Sinwar the leader of Hamas in Gaza admits in his own words that they use civilian areas and CHILDREN for terrorist purposes! <https://cufi.org/issue/hamas-chief-sinwar-hamas-seeks-sacrifice-of-palestinian-children-for-destruction-of-israel/>
- * Hamas's leader calls for martyrdom, Israel's destruction, never to recognise Israel and create an 'Islamic state'.
- * The definition of "terrorist" in the dictionary should have a photo of Hamas leaders! <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kill-all-the-jews-says-senior-hamas-figure-zvx9jshbb>
- * Canada, the European Union, Israel, Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United

States designated Hamas as a TERRORIST organisation. Australia's Home Affairs Minister, Karen Andrews: "The views of Hamas and the violent extremist groups listed today are deeply disturbing, and there is no place in Australia for their hateful ideologies."

* The corrupt Hamas leaders live in luxury abroad after stealing billions of aid.

<https://english.aawsat.com/home/article/3414056/8-hamas-islamic-jihad-leaders-leave-gaza-live-abroad> ;
<https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-the-phenomenal-wealth-of-hamas-leaders-1000957953>

On the other hand.... 24 October 2021, Israeli government announced \$9.3 BILLION to support education and health in Arab communities over the next five years. So who is giving BILLIONS to the Palestinians? Israel is and who is isn't is Hamas!

* Hamas... World's second wealthiest terrorist group: <https://thearabweekly.com/hamas-leaders-seen-living-luxury-while-gazans-suffer>

* Hamas rule their own people under Sharia Law, they suffer under THEIR leadership!

<https://www.voltairenet.org/article183090.html>

Palestinian Islamic Scholar, Yousef Makharzah:

"Don't Let Your Disobedient Wife Destroy Your Honor Beat Her If You Must Men Are Inherently Superior To Women" Audio of report here <http://ow.ly/6YvE30scSLk>

* Hamas rule is illegal to be gay. The punishment: families execute them. Israel on the other hand have the only Gay Pride weekend anywhere in the Middle East!

* Are you aware that Palestinians don't have free press in Gaza? They don't tell their perspective.

They tell Hamas controlled stories and are executed for anything against them. Their free press DROPPED to 14% in 2016. Imagine what it is in 2022!

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2017/9/27/palestinians-speak-out-about-torture-in-pa-prison>

ISRAEL on the other hand has complete freedom of speech and the 2 million Arab citizens living there enjoy democracy and civil rights that they wouldn't receive in other ME countries.

* Hamas school textbooks teach violence towards Jews, even maths books.

* For 70 years Palestinian educational leaders have fed their children a steady diet of hate.

Idolising suicide bombers and celebrating death, right in the classroom. They are taught at a young age to hate = child abuse.

* In Gaza, honour killings take place around once a month.

* Hamas rule an unmarried woman cannot travel in Gaza without the permission of a male guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/15/women-male-guardian-hamas-gaza-strip>

* Hamas have military camps for children. Child soldiers = child abuse.

* Hamas use children as human shields. <https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/factcheck-hamas-civilians-human-shields>

I also assume Edinburgh Council doesn't know about the Gaza Disengagement of 2005: There used to be 21 Israeli towns in Gaza. In 2005, in the absence of meaningful negotiations, Israel decided to disband these towns, drag their own people away, remove ALL Jews and Israelis from Gaza. It wasn't part of a deal, it was done in the hope that Palestinians will take the thriving industry and agriculture the Israelis had built and use it to build better lives for themselves. It was hoped that this act would be seen as a step towards peace, that Israel is willing to give up land for meaningful peace. Israel handed over the keys and walked away. What happened afterwards? Hamas has spent the last 16 years turning Gaza into a terrorist outpost, making the entire place a rocket launchpad from which to attack Israel!

Peace starts with acknowledging reality. It isn't Israelis holding Palestinian people back in Gaza, it is Hamas. I wish to see a two-state solution, with both Israel and Palestine living peacefully as neighbours but if we want innocent Palestinians to have any chance of overcoming poverty and oppression, we firstly need to free them

of Hamas.

This explains your hypocrisy: "If Guterres, the UN, and UNICEF really care about Palestinian children, they will immediately and publicly denounce the PLO/PA/Fatah summer camps.

However, if they choose to remain silent, then the world will know that they do not really care about Palestinian children unless they can be weaponized in the apparent UN/UNICEF mission to unjustifiably vilify Israel."

<https://www.algemeiner.com/2022/08/03/palestinian-authority-recruits-and-trains-hundreds-of-child-terrorists/>

This council is fanning the flames of antisemitism with this agenda which spills into the real world and has real consequences.

I urge the council to oppose and take urgent steps to remove the dangerous twinning proposal from your agenda.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

There is a huge amount here; most points are dealt with elsewhere.

The author states "Hamas gets money and instead of helping civilians they spend the money not on schools or hospitals but in building terror tunnels, firing rockets and stealing aid" - and continues at length about Hamas rockets. In the past 20 years Hamas rockets have killed 44 Israelis; Israel, on the other hand, has killed over 10,000 Gazans.

The author goes on "If the Palestinians put down all their weapons & stopped launching their missiles, there would be no more war... Is the Israelis put down all their weapons, there would be nor more Israel. Read that again. The Palestinians will not stop until every Jew is throwwn into the sea. If you don't believe me, look at their charter."

This writer has refused to look at the various communiques since the Hamas original one in 1987; they have moved on a long way since then and have indicated that Jews could continue to practise their faith in a new Palestine.

*The author continues "The Hamas Charter calls for every Jew to be killed, anywhere in the world including me." (www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kill-all-the-jews-says-senior-hamas-figure-zvx9jshbb) In July 2019 a Hamas leader, Fathi Hamad, **did** encourage Palestinians across the globe to kill Jews, but Hamas immediately distanced itself from his words. "These comments do not represent the official positions of the movement and its consistent, adopted policies, which say our conflict is with the (Israeli) occupation which occupied our land and sullies our holy places and not a conflict with Jews across the world or Judaism as a religion," it said.*

Hamas are at pains to limit their military actions against Zionists to Israel– they never followed the PLO models that involved plane hijackings or action in any other country outside Palestine.

The author declares "Hamas rule their own people under Sharia Law"

The truth is that Hamas has only taken sporadic steps over the years to impose Sharia, or Islamic law, on already conservative Gaza, and even then has usually backed down in the face of criticism.

He says "Are you aware that Palestinians don't have free press in Gaza? They don't tell their perspective. They tell Hamas controlled stories and are executed for anything against them."

There is no evidence of anyone ever being executed in Gaza for criticising Hamas. People get executed for spying for Israel.

He continues "For 70 years Palestinian educational leaders have fed their children a steady diet of hate. Idolising suicide bombers and celebrating death, right in the classroom. They are taught at a young age to hate = child abuse."

He declares "Peace starts with acknowledging reality. It isn't Israelis holding Palestinian people back in Gaza, it is Hamas. I wish to see a two-state solution, with both Israel and Palestine living peacefully as neighbours but if we want innocent Palestinians to have any chance of overcoming poverty and oppression, we firstly need to free them of Hamas."

The author does not recognise that a two-state solution is now impossible; the land left unoccupied by Israel could not be made into a state; Israelis have built many roads and walls cutting what was once the West Bank to pieces.

The writer notes that Canada, the European Union, Israel, Japan, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States have designated Hamas as a terrorist organization.

For clarification: New Zealand and Paraguay have designated only its military wing as a terrorist organization. (Interestingly, all the above (bar Japan) are settler-colonial societies– and most were initiated by the UK, which also helped create Israel, by supporting the Zionist occupation from 1917 onwards)

Hamas is not considered a terrorist organization by Brazil, China, Egypt, Iran, Norway, Qatar, Russia, Syria and Turkey.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly rejected a U.S. resolution condemning Hamas as a terrorist organization.

The author seems ignorant of the fact that Hamas won a big election victory in 2007 and has been calling for fresh elections ever since, as they believe they would win– Abbas and Fattah refuse elections, always putting up one objection or another.

The writer continues by talking about the “weaponisation of Palestinian children”. This was reported in an article about a children’s summer school where the kids dress up in military uniforms and pose with toy guns. The article originally appeared in “Palestinian Media Watch”, a pro-Zionist agency– authored by Lt. Col. (res.) Maurice Hirsch – presumably an officer from Israeli Army. It is not surprising that this activity takes place in a summer school; kids in the UK are encouraged to do the same in their school army cadets. In a country that has been effectively at war for over 70 years, it should not be unexpected that even children will want to resist an occupation that discriminates against them.

Later on, the writer complains of “the apparent UN/UNICEF mission to unjustifiably vilify Israel”, ignoring the fact that Israel has refused to comply with any UN resolution placed upon it.

The email then states “This council is fanning the flames of antisemitism with this agenda which spills into the real world and has real consequences. I urge the council to oppose and take urgent steps to remove the dangerous twinning proposal from your agenda.”

There is the usual ploy here: of declaring support for Gaza as being synonymous with antisemitism. Again, we see a simple refusal to consider historical reasons as to why Edinburgh should make amends for Balfour’s stupid action. It was Balfour himself who was the antisemite here– he was keen to be rid of Britain’s Jews and believed the solution lay in sending them to Palestine.

He was also an evangelical Christian who believed that a return to Palestine by the Jews would herald the second coming of Christ and their conversion to Christianity, or their burning in hell– as Israeli Historian [Ilan Pappé](#) has noted.

From:
To: [Committee Services](#)
Subject: Policy & Sustainability Committee
Date: 28 August 2022 22:12:14

Committee meeting Tuesday 30th August 2022

- > To whom it may concern
- >
- > Regarding 7.2 The petition to twin Edinburgh with Gaza.
- >
- > I wish to appeal to the committee not to take this petition at face value as if it were a noble and philanthropic response to the supposed persecution of a displaced people group. The agenda and intention of the petition's proposer Mr P. Gregson is anti-Semitic and his premise is incorrect and his historical background to the current position in Israel is incorrect. Do your homework. Prior to making a decision it would be wise to seek the counsel of an independent expert representing each viewpoint. Were you to approve this twinning it would be rightly interpreted as an anti-Semitic declaration by Edinburgh Council and will be reported as such around the world.
- >
- > Given Scotland's rich Christian heritage and the place of honour it once held in the world as 'the land of the book' referring to the Bible, this proposal to twin our capital with Gaza is a misguided and distasteful notion and would undoubtedly and justifiably bring condemnation on Edinburgh and Scotland.
- >
- > Should one man's initiative endorsed by a few hundred signatories be deemed sufficient to influence a whole Council's policy makers.
- >
- > I sincerely hope not!
- >
- > Regards

"The agenda and intention of the petition's proposer Mr P Gregson is anti-Semitic and his premise is incorrect and his historical background to the current position in Israel is incorrect... Were you to approve this twinning it would be rightly interpreted as an anti-Semitic declaration of Edinburgh Council and will be reported as such around the world." etc

The conflation of support for Palestine as being synonymous with Jew-hate has been a tool in the Zionist arsenal for the past 20 years. But to paint twinning with Gaza as a declaration of corporate antisemitism is something new and is as ridiculous as it sounds.

Again and again the authors of these letters themselves breach the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, by declaring it is antisemitic to support Gaza, they are suggesting that all Jews are accountable for the actions of Israel— because that is how this supposed antisemitism arises. But at least 30% of Jews refuse to support Israel. Indeed, if Israel does not represent all Jews, how can it be antisemitic to condemn it?

Pro-Palestine protestors condemn it as a racist European colony— not because it calls itself the Jewish state.

From:

To:

Scamming the people of Edinburgh
28 August 2022 09:55:20

Subject:

Date:

Councillor,

I thought you should know. I have uncovered that people behind the Edinburgh Gaza Twinning Association have been scamming the people of Scotland of their hard-earned cash. It isn't 'just' antisemitism. It isn't even 'just' ties with terror groups. It's a charity based on stolen images and lies too.

[The full story is here.](#)

You can take the opportunity to read it – or ignore it. Your choice.

I will take this opportunity to say I believe all this is on you. The urge some have to 'poke the Zionists in the eye' – renders them blind themselves.

And I ask you this:

- The Twinning Association is neck deep in Antisemitism.
- The Twinning Association has ties to Islamic Jihad and Hamas.
- The Twinning Association is twinned itself to a very dodgy 'charity'.

So why does it take Independent Jewish journalists to uncover it all?

This is why the Jews are in so much trouble in the UK. Nobody else cares. Not even if it means their own constituents get ripped off in the process.

Regards



This egotistical rant can only be from David Collier, although the name is redacted. It is entirely in his style. here it is:

"Councillor

I thought you should know. I have uncovered the people behind the Edinburgh Gaza Twinning Association have been scamming the people of Scotland of their hard-earned cash. It isn't "just" antisemitism. It isn't even "just" ties with terror groups. It's a charity based on stolen images and lies too."

There is then a hyperlink that I can't access- "The full story is here." I imagine it links to his website: <https://david-collier.com/edinburgh-islamic-jihad/>

He claims that "The Twinning Association is neck deep in Antisemitism", yet we have a letter of support for twinning from a famous Jewish Rabbi- <https://www.twingaza.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/TwincityNKI.pdf>

He claims that "The Twinning Association has ties to Islamic Jihad and Hamas" This is untrue- sure there are Gazans involved

Twining Association and either of these bodies.

He says "The Twining Association is twinned itself to a very dodgy "charity"." It is difficult to know which charity he refers; the Association is not twinned with any charity. Presumably he is referring to the Take My Hand project– all evidence suggests that money raised to help this project was spend for the purposes for which it was intended. However the leader of the Take my Hand project was engaging in scamming money for himself; when the Gaza Police confirmed he was doing so. He was removed from the EGTA Committee and support for his project terminated.

He says "So why does it take Independent Jewish journalists to uncover it all?" This is how Collier likes to portray himself. He certainly isn't employed as a journalist by anybody...

This is why the Jews are in so much trouble in the UK. Nobody else cares. Not even if it means their own constituents get ripped off in the process."

Here Collier resorts to the usual "victim" narrative– that those calling themselves Jews in the UK are in trouble for their beliefs. As usual he fails to understand that these people are only unpopular because they vocally support a racist regime– not because they are Jewish.

From:
To:
Subject: Edinburgh GAZA Twinning
Date: 28 August 2022 10:57:12

Dear Committee Clerk

PLEASE COPY THIS MESSAGE TO ALL COUNCILLORS

Dear Councillor,

I understand that a motion regarding the twinning of Edinburgh with Gaza has again been proposed to Edinburgh City Council. The proposer of this motion is Pete Gregson.

Pete Gregson has been expelled from both the Labour Party and the GMB Union for making antisemitic statements.

In his email to you, Pete Gregson stated that the Secretary of the Edina-Gaza Twinning Association, Mohammed Almadhoun, lost his cousin during the recent fighting in Gaza. What Pete Gregson did not state is that the cousin, Muhammad Ahmed Al-Madhoun (Nasrallah), served in 'Saraya Al Quds' (the Al Quds Brigade), which is the military wing of the Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ).

During the recent Gaza conflict, the PIJ launched over 1,100 rockets aimed indiscriminately at Israeli civilians. Over 200 of these rockets fell short and landed in the Gaza Strip. One of these rockets killed 4 children and injured many civilians.

Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is backed and funded by Iran. In 1989, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the supreme leader of Iran, issued a fatwa ordering Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie.

It was due to this fatwa that on 12 August 2022, Hadi Matar stormed onto the stage of a literary event in New York and stabbed Rushdie several times as he prepared to speak.

This attack was prompted by the fatwa issued by the supreme leader of Iran. The same country that is funding the PIJ and Hamas, the proscribed terrorist groups governing Gaza.

Do Edinburgh City councillors believe that the Scottish capital city should be twinned with Gaza, a city that is governed by the same terrorist groups funded and backed by the country responsible for the horrific attack on Salman Rushdie?

Yours sincerely,

More foaming rhetoric. The author starts off by telling lies: "Pete Gregson has been expelled from both the Labour Party and the GMB Union for making antisemitic statements."

This is untrue- I was expelled from the GMB for breaching the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, but I was not expelled from the Labour Party- I left before they expelled me!. The GMB expulsion is documented in the video at www.tinyurl.com/gmbihra

The author then move onto attacking Mohammed Almadhoun for being Secretary of EGTA- not because he was fleeing me- but because he had a cousin who served in The Al Quds Brigade [which is the armed wing of the Palestinian Islamist organization Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), the second largest group in the Gaza Strip, after Hamas] as if having a cousin was a crime.

Mohammed was actually pretty critical of both Hamas and Fatah. The truth is that families in Gaza are enormous and many families will have a relative involved with either Fatah or Hamas. These activists see themselves as freedom fighters- according to the UN, what they do is not illegal: (See www.onepalestine.land/israel-palestine-explained/#Hamas)

In all the rockets fired from Gaza, no more than 50 have died; in the same 20-year period, over 10,000 Gazans have been killed by Israel.

The email then moves onto a long attack on PIJ for getting funding from Iran, then moves onto attacking Iran itself.

The author asks if we should be twinned with Gaza, a city that is governed by the "same terrorist groups funded and backed by the country responsible for the horrific attack on Salman Rushdie"- ignoring the fact that Iran abandoned the fatwa against Rushdie years ago.

Indeed, Edinburgh is twinned with other cities that should cause concern, in countries such as China where human rights are frequently abused and dissidents are jailed. Twinning is meant to draw people together, to help educate one another. The epithet of "terrorism" is irrelevant really; Nelson Mandela and the ANC, as well as Sinn Fein, were both branded terrorists the UK at one time; the phrase "terrorist" is interchangeable with the term "freedom fighter" depending on which side you are on.

In any event, we made the point repeatedly to Councillors that we were not involved with Hamas- we were calling for a civic twinning with Gaza city, which is not governed by Hamas- and provided evidence showing how the Councillors were elected, in a process that has no apparent Hamas involvement.

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Twinning of Edinburgh with Gaza city
Date: 24 August 2022 11:11:59

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

It is with regret that the subject of twinning Edinburgh with Gaza City is on the agenda of the Policy & Sustainability Committee on the 30th August. Will this be an open meeting and if not - why not? At what time will the meeting be?

As one who follows the situation of the citizens of Gaza closely I recently received this information.

A mother and a voice of truth in the Gaza Strip - All Arab News

<https://allarab.news/a-mother-and-a-voice-of-truth-in-the-gaza-strip/> Has some good points about what it is like to live in Gaza

I have every sympathy for the citizen of Gaza but I don't believe twinning with Edinburgh will ease their situation.

What has a culture that has childrens' summer camps for military training with one that has abolished National Service for school leavers?

What has a strict Islamic culture have in common with a liberal, LGBTQ, drug and alcohol consuming culture?

What has a culture that glorifies suicide bombers with one that goes to great lengths to preserve life? (Heard of 'pay to slay')? The Council pays money to the terrorist organisation and families of suicide bombers.

Do we want a culture which is going to inculcate hatred on our streets? I believe the citizens of Edinburgh deserve better. To think that the capital of Scotland will be known for twinning with a city under the administration of a proscribed radical Islamic terror group - Hamas - is concerning to say the least.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

May I request that these points be copied to all Committee Members.

With thanks,

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

The above links to this article <https://allarab.news/a-mother-and-a-voice-of-truth-in-the-gaza-strip/> - which features on a Christian website, edited by Israelis! It is posing as Arab news, but is actually anti-Arab in its steer...

The email argues that "What has a strict Islamic culture have in common with a liberal, LGBTQ, drug and alcohol consuming culture?" - which suggests we should only twin with people who are like us! And the evidence point to Gaza not having a strict Islamic culture. It is conservative, but flexible. Girls go to school and play football; women work; no-one is forced to pray.

The email declares that Gaza Council pays money to "the terrorist organisation and families of suicide bombers". This is untrue - Qatar does provide compensation to bereaved families- but it does not do so via Gaza Municipality.

The email then declares "Do we want a culture which is going to inculcate hatred on our streets?" This is a ridiculous claim.

Our UK Government's decision to declare Hamas a terror group gets endless exposure in these letters- again and again the Council is being told it would be twinning with Hamas. But we have always been clear this is a civic twinning- with Gaza City!

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 25 August 2022 14:07

To:

Subject: Twinning of Edinburgh with Gaza proposal

For the attention of the Committee Clerks:

I am writing regarding the proposed twinning of Edinburgh with Gaza. Please be advised that I object to this proposal. One reason I object is that Gaza has links with those who deny the Holocaust took place. Besides which Edinburgh City Council must be prepared to correspond with Hamas. Hamas is a terrorist organisation masquerading as a political party.

Please copy this email onto all the members of the Policy & Sustainability Committee.

[Redacted]

Sent from my iPad

This email tells the Councillors that "Gaza has links with those that deny the Holocaust took place." - which is one claim that is quite new to me. There is absolutely no evidence of this.

It goes onto say "Besides which, Edinburgh Council must be prepared to correspond with Hamas. Hamas is a terrorist organisation masquerading as a political party."

We have repeatedly have made clear that Hamas would not be involved in the twinning- it would be with Gaza Municipal Council. All our communications go through the International Officer at the Council there.

From:
To:
Subject: Potential twinning with Edinburgh and Gaza
Date: 25 August 2022 10:09:07

I write with alarm at the proposed/potential twinning with Edinburgh and Gaza!

A brief history: Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, hoping to bring peace and the area was transferred fully over to the Palestinian Authority. Not long after the transfer of power, democratic elections were held where Hamas(a prescribed terrorist group) won in a landslide. Hamas then proceeded to enact a violent coup in which many Palestinians were murdered and the PA were effectively thrown out of Gaza. Since then Hamas has amassed a vast arsenal of rockets and other weapons, with the express goal of killing Jews; civilians, children, any who happen to be in the way!

If the twinning was to take place, Edinburgh city would be willingly twinning with a terrorist organisation, which was democratically elected by the Gazan population!

Whilst the humanitarian tragedy that is unfolding in Gaza is horrific, the Gazan population bears responsibility; as do all peoples, for their democratically elected leaders and the direction they wish to take the people of Gaza. Peace will not be possible as long as terrorism and anti-Semitic hatred are part of the elected structure of a population.

If this twinning were to take place it would be unjust, criminal and would be akin to twinning with Nazi Germany and I am in no doubt that history would judge it this way also.

I would hope that reason and truth will prevail here?

I would ask that this E-mail be copied to all committee members.

Regards,

[Redacted]

This claims that Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005 hoping to bring peace to the area. Not true- here is an extract from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_disengagement_from_Gaza :

"In October 2004, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's senior adviser, Dov Weissglass, explained the meaning of Sharon's statement on the withdrawal further:

The significance of the disengagement plan is the freezing of the peace process, and when you freeze that process, you prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state, and you prevent a discussion on the refugees, the borders and Jerusalem. Effectively, this whole package called the Palestinian state, with all that it entails, has been removed indefinitely from our agenda. And all this with authority and permission. All with a presidential blessing and the ratification of both houses of Congress. That is exactly what happened. You know, the term 'peace process' is a bundle of concepts and commitments. The peace process is the establishment of a Palestinian state with all the security risks that entails. The peace process is the evacuation of settlements, it's the return of refugees, it's the partition of Jerusalem. And all that has now been frozen.... what I effectively agreed to with the Americans was that part of the settlements would not be dealt with at all, and the rest will not be dealt with until the Palestinians turn into Finns. That is the significance of what we did."

So Israel did not withdraw from Gaza in order to secure peace- it did it to freeze the peace process. Which it has done. The more the Gazans protest their blockade, the more Israel can argue they are not interested in peace. The world swallows this double-think.

The author of this email says "If the twinning was to take place, Edinburgh would be willingly twinning with a terrorist organisation which was democratically elected by the Gazan population!"

One could argue the same about the whole of Israel, as the Israeli Government acts like a terrorist organisation too.

The author goes on to declare that the Gazan population are wholly responsible for their suffering. He says

"Whilst the humanitarian tragedy that is unfolding in Gaza is horrific, the Gazan population bears responsibility, as do all peoples, for their democratically elected leaders and the direction they wish to take the people of Gaza. Peace will not be possible

as long as terrorism and anti-Semitic hatred are part of the elected structure of a population."

The logic of this case runs along the lines of the "hurt bully syndrome."

It goes like this- As I am taking your home by force, I punch you. You punch back. I declare that you are not interested in making peace, so I keep punching you, repeatedly. The more you punch back, the more I am entitled to punch you...

The author concludes "If this twinning were t take place, it would be unjust, criminal and would be akin to twinning with Nazi Germany and I am in no doubt that history would judge it this way also."

The old chestnut now rolls out- that Palestinians are like Nazis. But many people might observe that the real actual Nazis are in the Israeli Government. The author is oblivious to the fact that Israelis occupy Palestinian land. Taken by force. Which is pretty much which the Germans did in WW2. The Palestinians are now the victims of Jewish hegemony, just as the Jews themselves suffered earlier under the Nazi theft of their property and land.

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please pass to members of the Policy and Sustainability Committee
Date: 22 August 2022 13:06:27

Dear committee member,

[REDACTED]
I therefore feel compelled to write to you to say how shocked and distressed I am by the motion proposing that Edinburgh be twinned with Gaza.

Gaza is an entity that is totally controlled by Hamas, a radical Islamist terrorist organisation that is proscribed by the United Kingdom government.

The proposer of the motion, Pete Gregson has stated that Hitler gassed only non Zionist Jews. This is a monstrous lie and amounts to Holocaust denial, the truth being that the essence of the Holocaust is Hitler's attempt to eradicate the whole Jewish people. Such a perverted distortion of the facts is indicative of blatant anti semitism.

I hope that you will consider carefully whether support for this motion represents an appropriate course of action for the rulers of a city that has a proud record of tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED]

This author indicates real stupidity regarding my views. (S)he says:

"... I therefore feel compelled to write to you to say how shocked and distressed I am by the motion proposing that Edinburgh be twinned with Gaza.

Gaza is an entity that is totally controlled by Hamas, a radical Islamist terrorist organisation that is proscribed by the United Kingdom government.

The proposer of the motion, Pete Gregson, has stated that Hitler gassed only non-Zionist Jews. This is a monstrous lie and amounts to Holocaust denial, the truth being that the essence of the Holocaust is Hitler's attempt to eradicate the whole Jewish people. Such a perverted distortion of the facts is indicative of blatant antisemitism."

The author has obviously heard me declare that most of those who opposed Zionism were gassed by Hitler, with the demise of the [General Jewish Labour Bund](#) movement- and has twisted that statement into the garbage you read above.

Hitler praised the Zionist movement in Mein Kampf and encouraged its support through the Haavara agreement (see <https://www.onepalestine.land/israel-palestine-explained/#Haavara>). It was only in 1939 that he decided to wipe out Zionists as well as non-Zionists. However throughout the war the Nazis continued to allow some Jews who supported Zionism to escape to Palestine.

Finally, declaring that Edinburgh has a proud record of tolerance and peaceful co-existence is a misnomer; Edinburgh has always proudly supported the British military— it has a castle run by them in the centre of its city , after all. It ignores the fact that many of our fine buildings were built using the profits of slavery— and of course that Balfour's actions led to the Zionist invasion of Palestine.

To conclude, one wonders if the Councillors actually swallowed any of this twaddle. They certainly denied me and the Gazans the right to address Committee on the twinning petition on the 30th August 2022, so it's possible they did.

From:
To:
Cc:
Subject: DO NOT TWIN EDINBURGH WITH GAZA.
Date: 23 August 2022 11:26:27

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: DO NOT TWIN EDINBURGH WITH GAZA.

As a citizen of Edinburgh and tax payer I write to protest against and disagree with any plans the Scottish Government has to twin Edinburgh and Gaza.

I ask you not to proceed with this proposition.

Gaza is governed by Hamas, a proscribed terrorist group in the UK.

I do not believe that we, as a western democracy, should be forging any agreements with Hamas until they completely give up and renounce the aims and goals of their charter, i.e. their government policy statement.

I hope you have carefully studied the Hamas Charter and if not ask that you urgently do so.

The link is:

<https://www.camera.org/article/hamas-charter/>

Hamas clearly state in their charter that one of their main aims is to completely destroy the State of Israel, the Jewish entity in the Middle East.

At the Camp David Peace Accords in 2000, Israel met every Palestinian demand/requirement for peace with Israel and for a two state solution.

Yasser Arafat walked away.

Mahmood Abbas did the same at the Annapolis peace process in 2007/8

These actions revealed and reveal Hamas' true intentions:

i.e. never to recognise Israel's right to exist as a nation, to never make peace with Israel and never achieve a two state solution in the Middle East; their aim is only the destruction of Israel in order to replace Israel with an Islamic Republic of Palestine.

Their rejection of the opportunities for peace and a two state solution fully offered at Camp David and Annapolis resulted in the PLO and Hamas holding their own people, the Palestinians, in a state of perpetual war with the Jewish people, in perpetual poverty, and robbed the younger generations of Palestinians of the possibility of peace and prosperity, which they could have now had for decades.

Hamas is a terrorist entity who's aims and objectives and ideology is clearly stated in their charter.

Why would the Scottish government, the Scottish people and citizens of Edinburgh ally with any of these ideals by twinning Edinburgh with Gaza?

Why are you considering this allegiance? What are your aims in doing so? What is your purpose in it? What do you envisage it will achieve?

I disagree with this plan and write to protest against it.

I am asking you not to proceed with plans to twin Edinburgh with Gaza.

Yours sincerely

This writer continues with the vein that because Hamas govern Gaza, no twinning should be agreed: the writer think the twinning would be between Hamas and the Council, although we have on numerous occasions pointed out that we seek twinning with Gaza City and that Hamas was not involved in the City Mayor's election.

The author claims Israel met its obligations at the Camp David Peace Accords in 2000, yet Arafat walked away. A patent mis-truth; for the Israelis in 2000 had failed to implement their part of the previously signed agreements from the 1993 Oslo Ac-

cords, with greatly expanded Jewish-only settlements on occupied Palestinian land, particularly in East Jerusalem. Arafat attended the meeting in 2000 reluctantly, but was blamed for not accepting Israel's proposals, which demanded that the Palestine Authority accept the Israeli annexation of their land. US President Clinton was pretty much in lockstep with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel in demanding that Arafat accede to this .(see <https://imeu.org/article/what-did-in-fact-happen-at-camp-david-in-2000>)

The author equates Arafat and Abbas both with Hamas, failing to understand that they were/are both with Fatah. He decries Hamas' refusal to accept Israel's right to exist. He blames the Palestinians for all they have suffered, for rejecting Israel's "two-state solution" which involved legitimizing its theft of vast tracts of Palestinian land.

He calls upon Councillors to study the Hamas charter as it is presented on a Zionist news website (see www.camera.org/article/hamas-charter) again ignoring the fact that we were not proposing any involvement of Hamas in the twinning. The charter link they give dates from 1988 and Hamas have refined their position many times since then. A more accurate up-to-date statement on their policies can be found at <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/hamas-2017-document-of-general-principles-and-policies>

The actual true position of Hamas at present is that they have said they will make a truce with Israel, if Israel withdraws to its 1967 borders and gives Palestinians expelled in the Nakba the right to return. This offer is consistently ignored by Israel and the West.

From: -
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Edinburgh twinning with Gaza
Date: 22 August 2022 08:48:32

Dear Madam,

I am writing to you with my strong objection to the possible twinning of Edinburgh and Gaza. This is an absolute disgrace, Gaza is ruled by Hamas, which is a terrorist organisation, how dare you people even thinking about twinning Edinburgh with a terrorist organisation. Edinburgh council is now showing their true antisemitic colours.

Mohammad Almadhoun is the twinning secretary, he lost his cousin in recent fighting, it has now come to light his cousin was an active member of the military wing Islamic Jihad, this is why Israel targeted him, I find it hard to believe this is the people you have working on this project. You are bringing shame to not only Edinburgh but the whole of Scotland by perusing this twinning.

I would like my letter to be forwarded to all committee members in order to let them know I am totally against this.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

The writer is convinced that Gaza = Hamas. And thinks support for Gaza is antisemitic, in effect saying that to criticise any illegal action undertaken by those calling themselves Jews is antisemitism— a ludicrous argument and one which debases real antisemitism.

Then, in common with earlier emails, he references Mohammed' Almadhoun's cousin who was in Islamic Jihad -before he was killed by the Israelis, playing the usual game of "guilt by association", an activity Zionists love to tar their opposition with.

In fact, Mohammed decried all political groups.

He is no longer involved with EGTA— but only because we discovered his scamming activities, asking for money for fraudulent medical treatment.

From:
To:

Subject: Twinning agenda
Date: 28 August 2022 15:55:19

Dear all,

It is with the greatest of shock and sadness that I read [REDACTED] that Edinburgh council has before it a proposal to 'twin' with a designated terrorist entity, and even then, it is questionable how much the Hamas leadership is involved in this scheme to relieve the Scottish taxpayer from their tax dollars, [REDACTED] the Gaza twinning scheme is the brainchild of an operator who has multiple go-fund me type schemes on the internet, which appear to be personal fundraising schemes unrelated to any kind of real charity collection for poor or disadvantaged Palestinians.

On the contrary. [REDACTED], fake photographs and claims on behalf of Palestinian children are being used for the Gaza twinning campaign by a seasoned fraudster.

How has it come to this that something this obscene and obviously fraudulent should be debated in the highest halls of Scottish leadership? What cynical political moves are afoot that should lead any Scottish taxpayer to be coerced into having their precious public funds appropriated so disingenuously and for such a clearly misguided attempt at aligning Edinburgh with charitable causes.

I suggest that there are multiple deserving causes that advance Israeli-Palestinian peace initiatives, and do so without calling for Israel's destruction or the murder of Jewish civilians. I believe you would do well to research these, and come up with a plan to support humanizing all people in that region, rather than throwing your support behind those who would exploit and callously benefit from terrorism and anti-semitism in the name of 'freeing Gaza'.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

The claim is made that twinning involves giving subsidy– quite untrue; no twinning has ever involved such an act.

Most points above have already been covered.

It is worth observing that the Israelis have gained so much power from getting Hamas proscribed- and Zionists waste no time in using this to further isolate Gaza.

This writer actually believes twinning was Mohammed Almadhoun's idea; he knows of Mohammed's scamming activities, but the twinning petition was hatched in 2018, long before Mohammed got involved.

In the last paragraph, the author plays the "all Jews are victims" card, arguing that all Gazans want to do is kill Jews. This is completely untrue. Jews who support Palestine have visited Gaza and have been feted for their position– Rabbi Dovid Weiss, for example. As stated above, Hamas's battle is against the Zionist project; it seeks to free Gaza from its tyranny under an illegal blockade, now in its 16th year.

From:
To:
Subject: Twining with Gaza
Date: 22 August 2022 14:56:21

I am disgusted and concerned about the proposal to twin Edinburgh with Gaza. This seems to be wholly inappropriate given that Gaza is governed at gunpoint by a widely proscribed terrorist group, Hamas the Muslim Brotherhood. Hamas brutalises the people of Gaza as it's leadership has become hugely wealthy. It suppresses the rights of women and victimises the LGBTQ communities.

Unfortunately the twinning proposal will only serve to bolster the position of Hamas on the international political stage. This will in no way help the ordinary people of Gaza. The polar opposite would be the effect.

More tales of how Gaza is "governed at gunpoint by a widely proscribed terrorist group, Hamas the Muslim Brotherhood". Complete nonsense. The author claims Hamas is brutalizing the people of Gaza—believing the Israelis have nothing to do with it!

There is little evidence that Hamas "brutalizes" anybody—I have been working with Gazans for several years and have come across no instances of it. There is no evidence of being "governed at gunpoint". Hamas was elected democratically after all— if there were free elections tomorrow across Palestine, there is little doubt that Hamas would win. Hamas keep calling for such elections; Fatah and the Palestine Authority consistently refuse these.

The writer declares that twinning will only help Hamas and do nothing for the ordinary people of Gaza.

The examples of all the 44 twinning groups in the Britain Palestine Friendship & Twinning Network (see <https://www.twinningwithpalestine.net/> show this not to be the case. All these groups help the ordinary people of Palestine.

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: Re: Proposal to twin Edinburgh with Gaza
Date: 29 August 2022 12:35:14

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you to request that the proposal to twin Edinburgh with Gaza would be dismissed.

I am a citizen of Edinburgh, and a tax payer and I **strongly protest** against this plan. I fail to even understand why it has come into consideration. What could it possibly benefit Edinburgh to have this beautiful, cultural city twinned with a city that is governed by Hamas, a proscribed radical Islamic terrorist group?!

To quote a 38 year old wife and mother who has lived all her life in Gaza "Hamas has done nothing for the people of Gaza. They are making millions of dollars, putting it in their pockets and many times the people go without eating. They are cruel and keep us in this senseless war with Israel". She added "You might think because I live in Gaza and grew up Muslim that I hate Israel. But I don't. My husband is applying for a work visa there because we know he will be treated well and paid at least four times more than in Gaza. I do detest Hamas and Islamic jihad who make life unbearable." You can read the whole article in allarab news <https://allarab.news/a-mother-and-a-voice-of-truth-in-the-gaza-strip/>.

I would write a lot more about my reasons for protesting against the mere thought of Edinburgh being twinned with Gaza but I know many others have already done so, and I will not take up any more of your valuable time reminding you of them. You know the facts. You know who brought this motion and you know his ideals, they are not hidden. I ask seriously that you consider the outcome of such a serious and hideous action for the people of Edinburgh. This is not acting on the best interest for our city.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this request.

I request that this be copied to all committee members.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Hamas does NOT govern Gaza City– there are 11 elected Councillors who do that: see them at <https://gaza-city.org/currentCouncil>

The matters in the rest of the email, such as "how could it benefit Edinburgh to twin with a city governed by Hamas, a proscribed radical Islamic terrorist group" has been dealt with elsewhere.

The author cites the same pro-Israeli source as others for quoting how Hamas is all to blame for the suffering of the Gazan people: <https://allarab.news/a-mother-and-a-voice-of-truth-in-the-gaza-strip>

The fact that the woman's husband cannot find work within Gaza because of an illegal blockade seems of no import.

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re twinning Edinburgh with Gaza
Date: 22 August 2022 14:00:32

I would like to object to Edinburgh Scotland twinning with Gaza Israel
The Palestine people are indeed suffering in Gaza but the Hamas
Government are a named terrorist
Group who have refuse to come to the negotiating table for many years. Why is Scotland getting involved or
used by this government when there is many worthwhile countries we could twin with Please Edinburgh don't
Fall into this trap read the history.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

This writer has the same message- why is Scotland getting involved?

Not one of these authors have acknowledged Balfour's existence or his action in giving Palestine away to Zionist colonists. They are ignorant of the fact that this Edinburgher triggered ongoing misery for millions.

Also, that the other major cities in Scotland are already twinned with Palestinian counterparts– Glasgow with Bethlehem, Dundee with Nablus.

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Edinburgh twinning with Gazza
Date: 22 August 2022 11:37:41

Please can you forward this objection to all committee members.

On 22 Aug 2022 11:35, [REDACTED] wrote:

As an Edinburgh resident I strongly object to the proposed twinning of Edinburgh with Gazza, Gazza is controlled by a terrorist organisation Gammas who's sole aim is to destroy the nation of Israel. Please take account of my objection to this proposal.

Best regards
[REDACTED]

This author declares "Gazza" is controlled by "Gammas".

Shouldn't that be Gaza and Hamas? Oh dear...

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Subject: Gaza proposal
Date: 22 August 2022 12:03:04

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to protest in the strongest term about the proposal to twin Edinburgh with Gaza

I remember sitting on a Lothian bus four or five years ago when there was a pro Palestinian march in Princes Street. The marchers were chanting. "kill the Jews ".

I reported this to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, which was in session at the time.

The HAMAS charter still contains the commitment to eradicate Israel (please read it).

"Those who bless Israel will be blessed"

Blessings to you.

[REDACTED]

This writer "remembers sitting a a Lothian bus four or five years ago when there was a pro-Palestinian march in Princes St. The marchers were chanting "kill the Jews". The writer reported this to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland...

Two points- a pro-Palestinian march has nothing much to do with Gaza twinning; and if anyone was shouting "kill the Jews" it would have been in the newspapers, for sure. But there is no evidence of this.

The author declares that "Those who bless Israel will be blessed", so they are possibly a Christian evangelist. Why would anyone bless Israel, for the harm it has done?

Not even the pope blesses Israel: see <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-05/pope-to-israeli-palestinian-leaders-stop-the-clamour-of-arms.html>

From:
To:
Subject: Fw: Antisemitic Edinburgh counsel
Date: 22 August 2022 12:01:52

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to let you know how disgusted I am that Edinburgh counsel is even thinking of twinning Edinburgh with Gaza and I want this email forwarded to every committee member who is involved with this crazy idea which has been pushed by Pete Gregson, who to put it mildly is an antisemite.

Gaza as you well know is ruled by Hamas, which is a terrorist organisation, who targets and murders innocent Israelis, also the way they treat their women and girls, not to mention gays in that country is appalling. For Edinburgh counsel to even think about twinning with Gaza is beyond belief.

The secretary of the twinning of Edinburgh/Gaza is Mohammed Almadhoud who let it be known his cousin was killed by Israeli forces, what he didn't say is that his cousin was in the military wing of Islamic Jihad and was active at the time Israeli forces targeted him.

I just find it absolutely shocking, Edinburgh counsel would even think of associating with such people, you will not only bring shame to Edinburgh but the whole of Scotland by this twinning.

I sincerely hope this twinning idea is put to bed once and for all

Your sincerely

[Redacted signature]

This writer attacks me as an antisemite; then declares Hamas targets innocent Israelis!!

The truth is that Hamas targets Zionists who support the occupation. There are few Israelis that are innocent of the collective theft of Palestinian land.

The author then attacks Hamas's treatment of women and gays, ignoring the fact that Palestine is a very conservative society. As noted earlier, Hamas has no problem with women and girls being educated and working. Homosexuality is illegal though; this is an old law introduced by the British. But why should this prevent twinning? Surely creating bridges with Gaza would create opportunities to educate one another on the rights of minorities, would it not?

The author argues twinning would "bring shame to Edinburgh". Shame is very popular amongst Zionists. Isn't the greater shame to remain silent in the face of great injustice, an injustice perpetrated by one of Edinburgh most well-known alumni, Arthur James Balfour, on the Palestinian people, when he gave away their country?

Again, the author ignores that Hamas was democratically elected and represents the will of the Palestinian people. Hamas keep asking for elections- the Palestine Authority, run by Fatah, continue to refuse.

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Edinburgh and Gaza
Date: 29 August 2022 12:18:38

Dear [REDACTED]

Please do not twin Edinburgh with the terrorist connected in Gaza.

I live in Edinburgh all my life this would be an outrage.

I have seen the protest groups in action and there hatred to Israel UK and USA and the inability of the police to do anything about it. We would become like a puppet for them and a mouthpiece for there spiel.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

This author tells Edinburgh not to "twin with the terrorist connected in Gaza". Who could this be? S/he does not say.

The author then declares to have "seen the protest groups in action and there hatred to Israel, UK and USA." He provides no evidence, however.

The belief that we would become "like a puppet for them and a mouthpiece for there spiel" suggests (s)he has a) no knowledge of history and (b) no understanding of twinning.

After all, Edinburgh twinned a few years ago with two Chinese cities; we have not seen the Chinese Government using us as a mouthpiece, have we?

From:
To:
Subject: Twinning with Gaza
Date: 25 August 2022 17:18:37

Dear [REDACTED]

I wish to register my objection to Edinburgh being twinned with Gaza. Gaza is ruled by the anti-democratic, anti-gay, misogynistic, anti-semitic terrorist group Hamas. Edinburgh should not associate itself with such a prejudiced, murderous regime. And, I am not Jewish!

[REDACTED]
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The author describes Hamas as anti-democratic, even though it was elected democratically. S/he calls it misogynistic, but if one examines Hamas' charter it has the greatest respect for women. (see Hamas: General Principles and Policies of 2017-at <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/hamas-2017-document-of-general-principles-and-policies>

The author calls it a murderous regime, but according to the UN resolution of 1982 Hamas has every right to employ arms in trying to take back stolen Palestinian land. (see <https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/international-law-guarantees-palestinians-the-right-to-resist-17810>)

Also note: "Hamas does not wage a struggle against the Jews because they are Jewish but wages a struggle against the Zionists who occupy Palestine" and their statement= "The role of Palestinian women is fundamental in the process of building the present and the future, just as it has always been in the process of making Palestinian history. It is a pivotal role in the project of resistance, liberation and building the political system."

From:
To:
Subject: Edinburgh Council meeting on the 30th August debating the twinning of Edinburgh with Gaza.
Date: 29 August 2022 12:45:38

I am writing to you to express my disappointment and, actually, my disgust, at the proposal to twin Edinburgh with Gaza, while it is still under the control of Hamas, a proscribed terrorist organisation in the UK. I know that council members are aware of this and therefore I cannot understand why this issue has come up for debate again. The person who proposed this is a well known anti-Jewish racist who trivialises the Holocaust and who has previously been expelled from the GMB Union and suspended from the Labour Party for his extreme views. This is public knowledge.

It is incredible to me that Edinburgh Council would even consider such a proposal in the knowledge that they are endorsing a terrorist group and it reflects so badly on the city. This is not the Scotland where I was born and bred. I am ashamed that Edinburgh would even consider this proposal not once, but twice.

Yours sincerely





Here are the usual attacks upon me, claiming I'm an "anti-Jewish racist" who trivialises the Holocaust. Neither of these comments are true— and they have been rebutted earlier in this document.

The author rolls out the usual adage that the twin with Gaza would be to "endorse a terrorist group" when it is clear that this is about supporting Gaza City Municipality and the people of Gaza City, not about supporting Hamas. The first agency is a local authority, the second is a political party; they are two quite different things.

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 29 August 2022 12:28

To:

Subject: Petition to twin with Gaza City

Please re-consider this proposal which is not only ill informed but quite probably illegal. In addition the so called charity has terrorist links and the individual requesting funds is scamming the people of Edinburgh.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The people of Edinburgh's good will should not be exploited at this difficult time for so many.

Regards

[Redacted]

This email declares the proposal is "not only ill-informed but quite probably illegal". The police said this was not the case: twinning with Gaza was perfectly legal.

Because our Secretary's cousin, was a fighter [there was nothing Mohammed could do about that], the writer declares that the Edina-Gaza Twinning Association has "terrorist links".

This is grasping at straws. Many politicians have relatives in extremist and armed movements, yet they continue to govern, as most of us do not indulge in "guilt by association"- one cannot choose one's relatives, after all.

To argue that familial elements amount to formal links is unfair and untrue.

From:
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objections to Twinning Edinburgh with Gaza
Date: 21 August 2022 23:54:49

Attn: All Policy & Sustainability Committee members

Good afternoon,

We have been following the recent re-proposals from one of your members on twinning Edinburgh with Gaza and find it totally repulsive that such a proposal be given your committee's valuable time.

Gaza is governed by Hamas since 2006 - a proscribed terrorist group considered so by UK, USA, Germany and many others in Europe. Hamas violently overthrew the Palestinian authority from Gaza. Past actions by Hamas make it clear they do not seem to have any qualms about firing rockets indiscriminately on Israeli civilians from midst of schools and hospitals and using their civilians as human shields.

Hamas use the humanitarian funds provided to build rockets and building tunnels to enter Israel with the objective of kidnapping and killing citizens and Civilians in Israel whether they be Christian, muslim or Jews. The Hamas charter is to eliminate the democratic state of Israel and replace it with a Islamic shariah state similar to ISIS and Taliban where women ,LGBT and minority rights are non existent and the latter two are also persecuted.

I would like to strongly object to entertaining such a motion of twinning the good city of Edinburgh with such a city as Gaza which is run by Hamas and all they stand for.

Please can you copy all members of the committee

Regards from concerned members of public

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

This late-night rant declares that Hamas "violently overthrew the Palestinian Authority from Gaza". This is untrue- Hamas was democratically elected in 2006; the ensuing conflict with Fatah was stirred up by Israel and the US. The quartet and Fatah refused to hand over control of the Palestinian Authority to the Party that has been elected to run it.

The email declares that Hamas' aim is to replace Israel with an Islamic shariah state similar to ISIS and Taliban where women, LGBT and minority rights are non-existent.."

This is not what Hamas' General Principles states: "Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance. It provides an umbrella for the followers of other creeds and religions who can practice their beliefs in security and safety. Hamas also believes that Palestine has always been and will always be a model of coexistence, tolerance and civilizational innovation."

It is also not reflected in the reality of life in Gaza- which is a conservative Muslim society, but one that is far more tolerant than people realise.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Gaza Twinning Application Tuesday 30.08.22
Date: 25 August 2022 09:56:49

[REDACTED] Can this be forwarded to councillors on the committee? Thanks.

Dear Councillors,

First of all may I thank you for all your hard work on behalf of this wonderful City in these difficult times.

You are going to consider the twinning proposal with Gaza.

I am very much against it. It will do nothing to improve the lives of the citizens of Gaza or enhance the reputation of Edinburgh. [REDACTED]

First of all the citizens of Gaza should be living in peace and comfort after the last Jewish residents left in September 2005. By now it should resemble perhaps a country like Monaco. Instead soon after the de-occupation by Israel it was taken over by a terrorist organisation called Hamas. The Hamas Charter which is freely available to view on the internet clearly states that its priority is to wipe out the State of Israel which as we know is the only Jewish State in the world, although 2 million Arab Israeli's also live in Israel, together with many people of all faiths. They have equal rights within Israel and are represented at all levels of Israeli society.

Hamas spends huge amounts of Aid money - and there is no shortage of Aid going into Gaza - on weaponry and elaborate tunnels to conduct raids into Israel instead of improving the lives of its citizens.

There is a massive absence of Human Rights within Gaza and indeed the disputed West Bank. For a start the LGBT community is treated very harshly. Ironically Just a few miles north of Gaza, Tel Aviv in Israel holds an annual Pride week. I believe it is only second to the San Francisco Pride week. It is a startling contrast.

I understand the Mayor of Gaza has given his support to this proposal and states he has no affiliation to Hamas. I can assure you that anyone who has any position in Gaza has to be OK'd by Hamas and follow their strict rules. If the twinning went ahead this would give succour to a terrorist regime which is proscribed in the UK in its entirety. Because of this fact there is probably a legal consideration here too. Now Hamas are being challenged by a very nasty group called Islamic Jihad. They were responsible for the recent three day indiscriminate bombing of Israel - incidentally NGO observers believe up to a third of rockets fired from Gaza actually land within Gaza causing many deaths which are usually blamed on Israel.

[REDACTED]

If you wish for peace between Gaza and Israel this is not the way to do it. There are many others ways you can help.

[REDACTED]

Best wishes,

This writer says twinning will "do nothing to improve the lives of the citizens of Gaza". The author believes that after the Jewish residents were moved out in Sept 2005, that Gaza should now resemble Monaco! This society, being Muslim, does not support gambling, so that was never going to happen even if the Israelis departed tomorrow.

Again s/he ignores that Hamas was elected to govern by a majority of Palestinians. They also declare (untruthfully) that Israeli Arabs have equal rights with those calling themselves Jews (there are over 60 laws that discriminate against them, including the Nation State Law, which officially declares Arabs to be second-class citizens).

The author trots out the old claim that aid money is used for weaponry and tunnels (there is no proof of this).

The author then claims there are many other ways (apart from twinning) that the Council can push for peace, but declines to spell these out. What are they? The twinning bid was not to have cost the Council a penny. What other "cost-neutral" actions could the Council take? None are suggested.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Twinning Edinburgh with Gaza
Date: 22 August 2022 11:25:39

Hi I'm contacting you to express my deep concern about the discussion to take place in Edinburgh City Council later this month about the above proposal. I'm sure you'll be well aware of the background of the person Peter Gregson who raised this and his reputation and that of his colleagues associated with this proposal. If you wish me to elaborate further please let me know. I trust you'll appreciate that a proposal like this should be assessed on its merits and not on the racist views of the proposer. The Israel/Palestine situation is clearly troubling but steady positive progress is being made and this is the time to show balance and support that progress. Twinning will not achieve that, it will undoubtedly descend into an opportunity for triumphalism by Gregson and his colleagues and I fear will be misused in other ways in his personal agenda. Can I ask that you please copy this email to all the members of the committee discussing this proposal. Thanks.

[REDACTED]

This starts out with an attack on me, declaring me a "racist" (presumably because I said "Israel was a racist endeavour").

The author concurs that "the Israel/Palestine situation is clearly troubling, but steady positive progress is being made and this is the time to show balance and support that progress".

Presumably the rising toll of murdered Palestinians and land theft is what the writer considers to be "steady positive progress". This is positive progress for Israel, but not for any Palestinian.

The author then says twinning will "undoubtedly descend into an opportunity for triumphalism by Gregson and his colleagues and I fear will be misused in other ways in his personal agenda."

It would be interesting to know where this is leading, but the author signs off at this point.

From:
To: [Committee Services](#)
Subject: Tarnished reputations: Edinburgh "Twinning" with Homophobia, Misogony, The Patriarchy and Human Rights Abuses...
Date: 25 March 2022 22:13:49

Dear Edinburgh City Council-

It is my understanding that on March 29th you plan to discuss "twinning" your city with Gaza as proposed by Peter Gregson.

Before you embarrass your city I will remind you of the deplorable state of human rights in Gaza for women, the LGBTQ+ community, non-muslims and those seeking just governance by assemblages like your own.

Here is what Amnesty International says:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/palestine-state-of/report-palestine-state-of/>

Amnesty International is also very critical of Israel:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

You may disagree with or even condemn Israel for its treatment of Palestinians, but supporting the immoral, violent, religion-based fascist regime Hamas has imposed on Gaza is not the way to do it.

I suggest sending women's rights and gay rights advocates from your city to Gaza first to discuss what can be done to help the plight of marginalized communities there.

Either this Gregson character and his supporters are uninformed about Gaza, or they are very well informed and intend to embarrass council members in a ploy to tarnish them for upcoming election campaigns.

--

[Redacted signature]

This author declares there is a "deplorable state of human rights in Gaza for women, the LGBTQ+ community, non-muslims and those seeking just governance..." Whilst it is true that homosexuality is illegal, none of the rest holds any water. There are Christians and women serving on Gaza Municipality Council (see <https://qaza-city.org/currentCouncil>)

S/he declares Hamas to be immoral, violent, religion-based and fascist, again with no evidence- the only truism here is that they are an Islamic group. The author proposes sending women's and gay rights advocates to Gaza to discuss "what can be done to help the plight of marginalised communities there". Again, there is an assumption that any city we twin with must live by our social mores- not a position that the Council took when it recently chose to twin with two cities in China. The whole point of twinning is to build bridges and to learn from one another- not to condemn another society because it is more conservative than we.

From:
To:
Subject: please forward this email to Councillors
Date: 02 March 2022 15:46:37
Attachments: [image003.jpg](#)

Dear [REDACTED],

I ask you to please forward this email to Edinburgh City Councillors.

Dear members of Edinburgh city Council,

I am horrified to think that the city of Edinburgh is to debate on 29th March a proposal to twin the city with Gaza. Debate, *per se*, is of course not the issue but twinning with a homophobic society which repudiates the human rights of the gay community, is surely unpalatable and if adopted would be a stain on the integrity of Edinburgh.

Under the boot of Hamas, which is recognised to be a terrorist organisation, Gaza, is a homophobic society where human rights count for nothing. On acquiring power Hamas in Gaza disposed of known homosexuals by throwing them from the roofs of tall buildings.

In the name of tolerance and moral integrity I hope that the proposal was be roundly and soundly defeated.

See the following article:

<https://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/palestinians/.premium-pride-and-prejudice-the-hellish-life-of-gaza-s-lgbtq-community-1.7403501>

and also:

“Four gay men and one woman tell what life is really like in a ‘homophobic society’ where pretending to be straight is often a matter of survival.”

Extract from: “The Hellish Life of Gaza’s LGBTQ Community”

The meeting (with a gay man) was fixed for nightfall at one of Gaza City’s beachfront restaurants.

The place is almost empty. Sami (not his real name) sits at a table, looking hesitant. He only starts speaking after the waiter has left us.

“I had to get married so as not to damage my family’s reputation,” the 40-year-old Gazan whispers.

To be gay in the “world’s largest open-air prison” has been a constant struggle, he says. Whereas LGBTQ Palestinians living in Israel or the [West Bank](#) have the opportunity to leave their conservative towns and villages to find relatively safe spaces in Haifa, Tel Aviv-Jaffa or even Ramallah, Gazans are trapped in what he calls a “homophobic society.”

At risk of harassment, torture or worse from Hamas or members of their own families, queer Gazans often hide away in fear. In the Strip, “passing” as straight can be a matter of survival. But this presents Sami with a big problem. “I want to be gay, I want to have a partner and be in love,” he says, struggling to hold back tears.

He takes a deep breath and composes himself. “It’s impossible in this community. I have met many homosexuals in Gaza online. But everyone is afraid of everyone. Some have been punished, some have been killed. Others killed themselves. One of my best friends was gay,” he relates. “He took his own life. His father called me day and night for a week to ask me how his son could have done such a thing

— but I couldn’t say anything. Even dead, I had to protect his honour.

Shortly before he committed suicide, we sat down together and he asked me, ‘If I kill myself, will God forgive me for being gay?’”

While Tel Aviv welcomed thousands of international revellers to its Pride parade earlier this month, just 70 kilometers (44 miles) south,

Gazans say they are deprived of their most basic human rights.....

Sincerely,

This author declares that "on acquiring power Hamas disposed of known homosexuals by throwing them from the roofs of tall buildings." This is quite untrue and was a lie fabricated by Israel; it was actually Islamic State in Iraq who were said to have done this.

There has been but one example of death in connection to homosexuality. Wikipedia declares that in 2016, Gaza executed Mahmoud Ishtawi - one of the Hamas group's leading commanders - under allegations of gay sex and theft.

It also transpires that he was believed to have been spying for Israel, hence his punishment. The truth is that Gaza still follows the British Mandate Criminal Code Ordinance, No. 74 of 1936, which outlaws same-sex acts between men, with the current punishment being up to 10 years in prison.

Other human rights for women and minorities are supported.

Edinburgh – Gaza Twinning Proposal

This communication does not dispute the admissibility of twinning with Gaza. It does point to the misleading and politically motivated nature of the initiative.

The development of the Twinning Petition

The driving force to this proposal is Edinburgh-based LAZIR – Labour Against Zionist Islamophobic Racism – a pernicious organisation headed by Peter Gregson, a former shop-steward expelled from his union for behaviour it recognised as “anti-Semitic and racist in nature” and “simply unacceptable” Holocaust denial. Suspended by the Labour Party he, reportedly, resigned his membership in anticipation of being expelled.

Hamas – A Terror Organisation

Gregson sought and received endorsement for this twinning from Hamas, a terrorist movement, which is considered; “One of the largest obstacles to real peace and prosperity for Palestinians” and criticised by other Palestinian factions for “imposing its leaders on Gaza Strip municipalities away from any form of democracy or accord with the organizations and the civil community”. The UK classifies Hamas as a terrorist organisation. Responsible for suicide bombings against civilian targets, the indiscriminate shelling of Israeli civilian populations and using Palestinian civilians as human shields, Hamas should not be given the legitimacy of engagement with local government officials or parliamentarians.

Anti-Semitic Lectures

The proposer has held a series of public meetings promoted as “An ideal opportunity to learn about the Palestine-Israeli situation and to improve discussion skills in a friendly and supportive environment”; however, the content sought to sow the seeds of hatred and intercommunal disharmony. Outbursts of hateful and discriminatory remarks towards Jews and the Jewish State were interspersed with clips from racist and anti-Jewish videos and websites. Edinburgh’s Quaker Meeting House cancelled a booking for one of the lectures, explaining; while Quakers “Support hearing a range of voices on controversial issues.... The provocative imagery used by LAZIR is not in the spirit of the peaceful resolution of conflict”.

Offensive and Unacceptable

Gregson has publicly expressed the following beliefs:

- a) They’re (Jews) not the same as Nazis because they don’t use gas chambers. But they have got the same idea about racial purity and the racial purity that the Jews want is that you have to be Jewish, otherwise you’re the enemy”.
- b) “Nobody stops this racist march because we feel guilty because of the Holocaust. This is the card that the Jews in Israel play”.
- c) “The Zionists have just as much pleasure killing Arabs”.

Misrepresentation

Based on misrepresentation, falsehood and historical revisionism, the petition lacks honesty and credibility. It bears no semblance to the definition of twinning as expressed here;

<http://www.twinning.org/en/page/a-quick-overview#.XcBRijP7TIU>

“A twinning is the coming together of two communities seeking, in this way, to take action with a European perspective and with the aim of facing their problems and developing between themselves closer and closer ties of friendship”.

The anti-Semitic comparisons between Nazi crimes and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict demonstrate LAZIR’s ulterior motives. It would be shameful if the city council of Scotland’s capital city, having adopted in full the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Anti-Semitism, were to fail a test of sincerity.

Yours, etc

The last page propounds lies about me- I was expelled from my union for criticising Israel- I said it was a racist endeavour and that it exaggerated the Holocaust for political ends. These are both deemed antisemitic under the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, which so many trade unions have adopted. This fraudulent and politicised definition was created to protect Israel and has been promoted by Jewish organisations who support Israel. It has led to the loss of our freedom of speech on Israel. More on Pete’s case at <https://www.onepalestine.land/roques-gallery/#pete-gregson> and on the wider problem of the IHRA Definition at <https://www.onepalestine.land/the-ihra-definition-of-antisemitism/>

The email makes comments about Hamas from unattributed sources- it is unclear which Palestinian factions are saying that it has imposed leaders on Gaza Strip municipalities.

The video showing the election of the mayor at an Itjima (meeting) of several hundred professionals, from every walk of life in Gaza, contradicts this claim. (see <https://www.twingaza.com/gaza-council-explains-how-mayor-was-appointed-no-hamas-involvement>)

The usual slanderous claims against Hamas abound: the author claims it is "Responsible for suicide bombings against civilian

targets, the indiscriminate shelling of Israeli civilian populations" - but armed resistance is acceptable according to the UN.

The email also claims Hamas are "using Palestinian civilians as human shields". This is also untrue. Hamas fire their rockets from Gaza, one of the most densely populated area on Earth. The fighters are physically surrounded by civilians, who support the fight against Israel. The truth is that if rockets are to be launched from Gaza, civilians are present, but not as human shields. The Israelis, on the other hand, have been found guilty of using Palestinians as human shields in their attacks.

In any event, the twinning is not with Hamas, but with Gaza city.

In the paragraph headed "Anti-Semitic Lectures" the author is actually referring to our Palfilm nights where we showed videos about the fight of the Palestinians to survive (the videos screened can be seen at <https://www.onepalestine.land/videos-on-boqus-antisemitism-and-palestine/>).

The author states "the content sought to sow the seeds of hatred and intercommunal disharmony. Outbursts of hateful and discriminatory remarks towards Jews and the Jewish State were interspersed with clips from racist and anti-Jewish videos and websites."

This is a surprising assertion- there were never more than 8 people at these film nights and a Glaswegian Zionist only attended on one occasion. On that evening (as on all the evenings) there was none of the behaviour described. The Zionist was encouraged to share their videos and a respectful discussion ensued.

In the next paragraph "Offensive and Unacceptable" statements are attributed to me, none of which are true.

To conclude, I have never made comparisons between Nazi crimes of the gas chambers and the Israeli-Palestine situation, although the correspondent states that I have.

The email concludes by declaring that Edinburgh Council has adopted in full the IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism and so it would be "shameful" if it twinned with Gaza.

Of course Edinburgh Council has done no such thing.