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**Written statement* submitted by the World Union for Progressive Judaism,
a non-governmental organization on the Roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The Hamas Government in Gaza: A Genocidal Charter and a Legacy of 'Jihadist-Martyrdom'

1. As the WUPJ has stated since 1989, the HAMAS Charter of 18 August 1988 is racist, 'politicial' and 'genocidal'. The entire organization — both 'political' and 'humanitarian' — and its main leaders should be blacklisted by all Member States of the United Nation as an avowed criminal, terrorist group. Any State reluctant to do so should be reminded of the 1948 Genocide Convention, article III (c) which condemns: "direct and public incitement to commit genocide." And article IV too.

2. HAMAS is against any peace process: "*There is no solution to the Palestinian Question except by Jihad. All initiatives, proposals, and International Conferences are but a waste of time and futile.*" (art. 13). The HAMAS slogan has since inspired countless jihadist martyrs worldwide: "*Allah is its goal, The Prophet its model, the Qur'an its Constitution, Jihad its path, and death for the sake of Allah its most sublime belief.*" (article 8). Its article 28 concludes with a strongly racist-religious menace, which has never been condemned: "*Israel, by virtue of its being Jewish, and of having a Jewish population defies Islam and the Muslims. 'Let the cowards never sleep.'*"

3. HAMAS is committed to an eternal *jihad* against "*the Jews*"— until the victory of Allah is implemented. The Land of Palestine must be cleansed from their impurity and viciousness. Muslims are obligated to fight and kill the Jews wherever they find them. This global, genocidal call is justified by an oft-quoted *hadith* ('saying', attributed to Muhammad), that concludes article 7: "*HAMAS aspires to implement Allah's promise, whatever time it may take. The Prophet, prayer and peace be upon him, said: 'The Hour [Day of Judgment] will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews (and kill them); until the Jews hide behind rocks and trees, which will cry: Oh Muslim! Oh Abdallah [Slave of Allah!], there is a Jew behind me, come on and kill him. This will not apply to the Gharqad tree, which is a Jewish tree.'*"

4. This controversial *hadith* — yet related by the authoritative 9th century compilers, al-Bukhari and Muslim — has since become a commonplace belief among Islamists. On 12 April 2002, the PA-nominated Sheikh Ibrahim Madhi delivered a Friday sermon at Gaza City's main Sheikh Ijlin Mosque, broadcast live on PA television. He quoted extensively from this *hadith* — including the odd reference to the "Jewish" Gharqad tree — in preaching genocide and a *jihad-war*: "*We believe in this hadith. We are convinced also that this hadith heralds the spread of Islam and its rule over all the lands (...) 'from the ocean to the ocean'.*" Sheikh Madhi concluded: "*Oh Allah, accept our martyrs in the highest heaven (...) Oh Allah, show the Jews a black day (...) Oh Allah, annihilate the Jews and their supporters (...) Oh Allah, raise the flag of Jihad across the land (...) Oh Allah, forgive our sins.*"

5. The current use of complacent opinions such as 'terrorism'/'fascism'/'suicide bomber' and 'kamikaze bomber' — resulting from 'frustration'/'poverty'/'education' — is misleading. These *jihadist*-bombers follow the strictest religious rulings, designating them as 'martyrs for Allah,' for whom a '*jihad* ideology' and a '*jihad* war' against 'infidels' is considered sacred — as stated by Osama bin Laden in 1998: "*Do Jihad against the Crusaders and Jews.*"

6. Already in 1968, Dr. Abdul-Haleem Mahmoud — later to become Grand Sheik of Cairo's Al-Azhar University — wrote: *“If Jihad leads to martyrdom, the destination is Heaven and approach to Allah. In the Holy Quran and the honorable tradition, there is a most magnificent and beautiful presentation of the martyr's status in the after-life.”*

7. On 19 June 2001, three months before 9/11, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Sheik Yussef al-Qaradawi stated publicly on Al-Jazeera's weekly religious programme that — from a strictly religious viewpoint — the Palestinian attacks are considered as “self-sacrifice,” a person who commits a carnage *“is not a suicide [bomber]. He kills the enemy while taking self-risk, similarly to what Muslims did in the past (...) He wants to scare his enemies and the religious authorities have permitted this.”* He added: *“He who got killed is a Shahid in heaven.”*

8. Article two of the Hamas Charter states: *“The Islamic Resistance Movement is one of the wings of the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine. The Muslim Brotherhood Movement is a universal organisation which constitute the largist Islamic Movement in modern times.”*

9. On 4 April 2002 this opinion was reiterated from Cairo at a reception for Israeli Arab Democrat Party leader Abd Al-Wahhab Darawsheh by the highest spiritual Sunni leader, as reported on a website associated with Al-Azhar University: *“The great Imam of Al-Azhar, Sheik Muhammad Sayyed Tantawi, demanded that the Palestinian people of all factions intensify the martyrdom operations against the Zionist enemy, and described their martyrdom as the highest form of jihad operations. He says that the young people executing them have sold Allah the most precious thing of all (...) [Tantawi] emphasized that every martyrdom operation against any Israeli, including women, children, and teenagers, is a legitimate act according to religious law, and an Islamic commandment.”* At the same reception, Egypt's new mufti, Sheikh Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, agreed with his Al-Azhar colleague, adding that: *“The Islamic countries, peoples and rulers alike must support these martyrdom attacks.”*

10. In June 2002 Dr. Iyad Sarraj, a Palestinian psychiatrist in Gaza, commented on this ‘culture of hate.’ *“They are creating a new culture (...) Once you create such a culture, you create something automatic; even he could not challenge the social acceptance of this ideal by directly criticizing the martyrs themselves. You can say, ‘I condemn terror, I condemn killing civilians,’ but you can't say, ‘I condemn martyrs,’ because martyrs are prophets.”*

11. On 27 June 2002 the TV of the Palestinian Authority (PA) broadcast a documentary on *“Child Martyrs and Lovers of their Homeland.”* Dr. Fatal Abu Hin, a respected lecturer in psychology, explained that a survey carried out by the Islamic University of Gaza in April 2001 showed that 73% of youngsters between 9 and 16 wanted to become ‘martyrs.’ He noted that the word ‘Shahada’ (‘martyrdom’) has different meanings for people, and for Palestinian children, and the narrator of the film declared that *“martyrdom has become the noblest aim and most admirable deed of this generation (...) the way to win prestige (...)”* This percentage has not changed since then, except up.

12. These few examples amply confirm the explanation provided by Franz Rosenthal — eminent scholar and translator of Ibn Khaldun’s *The Muqaddimah / An Introduction to History* (1958) — in his article “On Suicide in Islam” (1946). He explained the real difference between ‘suicide’ and ‘martyrdom’: “*The great authorities of the hadith leave no doubt as to the official attitude of Islam. In their opinion, suicide is an unlawful act (...) On the other hand, death as the result of ‘suicidal’ missions and of the desire of martyrdom occurs not infrequently, since death is considered highly commendable according to Muslim religious concepts. However, such cases are no[t] suicides in the proper sense of the term.*”

13. Article 32 of the HAMAS Charter, like Nazi propaganda, refers to a crude forgery: “*Their scheme has been laid out in The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.*” (13) Article 22 affirms: “*The enemies have been scheming for a long time (...) taking over control of the world media, such as news agencies, the press, publishing houses, broadcasting, and the like. (...) With their money they created secret societies, such as the Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions, and others in different parts of the world, for the purpose of sabotaging societies and achieving Zionist interests. (...) They were behind the French [1789] and Communist [1917] Revolutions, and most of the revolutions we have heard about, and hear about here and there. (...) They were behind World War I so as to wipe out the Islamic Caliphate. (...) They obtained the Balfour Declaration formed the League of Nations through which they could rule the world by. They were behind World War II (...) They inspired the founding of the League of Nations by the United Nations and the Security Council to order to rule the world through them. There is no war going on anywhere without their fingerprints on it.*”

14. At this sixth special session of the Human Rights Council we call on Muslim leaders, both spiritual and secular — particularly the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), representing 56 Muslim States — to speak out unequivocally thus making it crystal clear to the world and to Muslims and non-Muslims alike that the traditional Islamist interpretation of the *jihad*-war ideology and ‘*jihadist*-martyrdom’ terror – as exemplified by the Palestinian Hamas regime in Gaza – is in total contradiction today with the International Bill of Human Rights. This ‘culture of hate and death’ must be firmly outlawed by the international community and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.
