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UNITED STATES

Belastingdienst/Eindhoven Office
Attn. ANBI team
PO Box 90056
5600 PJ Eindhoven
THE NETHERLANDS

Jerusalem, February 14, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Akiva Van Koningsveld, editor with the independent watchdog group HonestReporting.¹ I am writing to you regarding the ANBI tax-deductible status of Stichting The Rights Forum, registered in the Dutch Chamber of Commerce (KVK) under number 09187533. The organization is registered with the Dutch tax authorities under RSIN number 819964384.

It has come to our attention that Stichting The Rights Forum may not be in compliance with the requirements for maintaining an ANBI status as defined in the State Taxes Act 1994 (*“Algemene wet inzake rijksbelastingen 1994”*) and related regulations, including the Implementation Regulation to the State Taxes Act 1994 (*“Uitvoeringsregeling Algemene wet inzake rijksbelastingen 1994”*).

Specifically, The Rights Forum seemingly does not meet the integrity requirement of Article 5b(9) of the State Taxes Act 1994, given its advocacy for and possible ties to Palestinian groups that the Netherlands has designated as terror organizations.

For instance, in 2017, The Rights Forum launched a campaign calling for “freedom for Khalida Jarrar and Khitam Sa’afin.”² Khalida Jarrar is a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), an organization defined as a terror group by the European Union (EU).³

¹ www.honestreporting.com/about/

² www.rightsforum.org/nieuws/arrestatie-khalida-jarrar-benadrukt-israels-heksenjacht-op-palestijnse-leiders/

³ www.bit.ly/33nIU9Y

Two years ago, after the EU introduced a new requirement in grant contracts that prohibits recipients from working with organizations and individuals on the EU's terror lists, The Rights Forum's ELSC project provided "assistance" to the Palestinian NGO Network, which fought against the requirement. PNGO is an umbrella organization comprising 142 Palestinian member organizations, many of which have documented ties to the PFLP terror group.⁴

Previously, one of the Right Forum's current advisory board members, Liesbeth Zegveld, filed a criminal complaint against a Dutch company on behalf of Palestinian group Al-Haq, alleging the firm was complicit in the "commission of war crimes" in reference to the construction of Jewish communities in the West Bank. Al-Haq was among a number of Palestinian NGOs that were proscribed by Israel last year over their links to the PFLP.⁵ Last month, the European Commission suspended EU funding to Al-Haq.⁶

Another Rights Forum board member, Theodora Siemons (also known as Dorien Ballout), has possible ties to Hamas, another EU-designated terror group. Siemons has on several occasions been photographed in the company of Amin Abu Rashed, who according to experts heads the Dutch branch of Hamas.⁷ According to Dutch analyst Kees Broer, Abu Rashed personally "honored" Siemons for her contributions to the "Palestinian struggle."⁸

These and other issues give rise to serious concerns that The Rights Forum does not serve the public benefit as required by law. We kindly request that the relevant authorities investigate this possible abuse.

HonestReporting will gladly assist you in gathering information about The Rights Forum's terror ties.

I await your reply.

Sincerely,

Akiva Van Koningsveld
Editor

⁴ www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/pngos-ties-to-palestinian-terror-groups/

⁵ www.timesofisrael.com/dutch-wont-prosecute-company-in-israeli-fence-case/

⁶ www.bit.ly/3rOUdAT

⁷ www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_10_253_2.pdf

⁸ www.keesjemadurattje.blogspot.com/2020/10/hamas-meisje-is-nu-dries-van-agt-fan.html