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July 8, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Coalition for a Safer Web (CSW), a non-partisan non-profit foundation that exposes and counters online extremist activity and its funding, I am writing to request that the Departments of State, Justice, and Treasury take steps necessary to block the assets of Samidoun (a/k/a the Palestine Prisoners Solidarity Network) in accordance with authorities authorized under Executive Order 13224 as enacted pursuant of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. hereto referred as “the “Act”).

Mr. President, you, and I have known each other since you were first elected as a U.S. senator when I assisted your staff in my position as a national security legislative assistant to Senator Edward M. Kennedy. As you may recall, we recently talked for several minutes on the margins of an informal dinner where I briefly discussed with you critical new approaches necessary against antisemitic incitement. CSW is actively supporting your Administration’s efforts to execute on its National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism, and I am regularly providing the White House staff important updates on antisemitic incitement and extremist plots. It is in furtherance of this mission that I consider it essential your Administration take immediate action against Samidoun.

As set forth in this letter, unlike any other anti-Israel pro-Palestinian protester group agitating in the U.S., Samidoun provides essential assistance to and as acknowledged by several of our closest allies, serves as an affiliate of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in violation of the Act. Moreover, its operational presence in the U.S. is aimed at inciting antisemitic violence, including advocating for Oct. 7-style “resistance” attacks against US and foreign nations, and spreading misinformation about U.S. foreign policy from its office in Iran to the detriment of the security and safety of the American people. The PFLP<sup>1</sup> was designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization under U.S. law in 1997 and the State Department designated the group as a terrorist organization for the purpose of financial sanctions against it on 31 October 2001.<sup>2</sup> Japan, Germany, Canada, and the European Union have also designated the PFLP a terrorist organization.

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<sup>1</sup> a/k/a Halhul Gang; Halhul Squad; Palestinian Popular Resistance Forces; PPRF; Red Eagle Gang; Red Eagle Group; Red Eagles; Martyr Abu-Ali Mustafa Battalion

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dni.gov/nctc/ftos/pflp\\_fto.html](https://www.dni.gov/nctc/ftos/pflp_fto.html)

Samidoun maintains close ties to and collaborates with the PFLP: Samidoun's three senior activists – Mustapha Awad,<sup>3</sup> Mohammed Khatib,<sup>4</sup> and Khaled Barakat<sup>5</sup> are PFLP members.<sup>6</sup> Indeed the two organizations are related by marriage – Barakat is the husband of Samidoun Director Charlotte Lynne Kates, a US citizen who resides primarily in Canada where the group is headquartered. Samidoun and Kates have since the group's founding in 2012 praised the violent work of and mourned the deaths of dozens of international terrorists; including Leila Khaled with whom Samidoun has collaborated and called [00:27:40] a "Palestinian resistance icon."<sup>7</sup>

The corroborating evidence for immediately blocking Samidoun is overwhelming. Among the factors on which our analysis is based:

1. Audio, video and other evidence directly linking Samidoun and its leadership (collectively, "Samidoun") to the incitement of antisemitic and pro-PLFP/Hamas violence at Gaza-inspired protests throughout North America both before and after October 7. (See APPENDIX)
2. Host "Resistance 101" webinars<sup>8</sup> and workshops with PFLP leaders in which they
  - a. Encourage Oct. 7-like attacks on Western nations.
  - b. Recommend repurposing water pipes from Israeli settlements to construct "indigenous rockets"<sup>9</sup>
  - c. Promote the effectiveness of hijacking airplanes as "one of the most important resistance tactics."<sup>10</sup>
3. On-the-record support of and linkages by Samidoun representatives and supporters to the PLFP and Hamas.<sup>11</sup> (See also APPENDIX)
4. Sanctions, entry restrictions, and designations imposed by many of our closest international allies on Samidoun for serving as an affiliate of the PFLP and for supporting Hamas and other designated terrorist organizations.
5. And this Friday, July 5, at the Mayday Space community center in Brooklyn New York, Samidoun is hosting a workshop on the PFLP terror manifesto, "Strategy for the Liberation of Palestine," which details the group's goal to "destroy the state of Israel as a military, political, and economic establishment."

Samidoun innocently describes itself as "an international network of organizers and activists working to build solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in their struggle for freedom."<sup>12</sup> In reality, Samidoun has for decades been a global advocate and apologist for and terrorism and violence against Jews and all those who support the existence and survival of the State of Israel.

In speeches, social media posts and even "Resistance 101" webinars with PFLP leaders, Samidoun celebrates the Oct. 7 Hamas/PIJ terror rampage as the "future of Palestine liberated" and encourages similar attacks on other "imperialist" targets including the United States. In fact, their New York New Jersey Chapter's logo reads "Long Live October 7<sup>th</sup>" with images of a Hamas paraglider and IDF forces

<sup>3</sup> <https://archive.ph/VLo72>

<sup>4</sup> <https://samidoun.net/2024/04/statement-hands-off-mohammed-khatib-stand-with-palestine/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://canarymission.org/individual/Khaled\\_Barakat](https://canarymission.org/individual/Khaled_Barakat)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists\\_in\\_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf#page=22](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists_in_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf#page=22)

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists\\_in\\_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf#page=22](https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/generalpage/terrorists_in_suits/en/De-Legitimization%20Brochure.pdf#page=22)

<sup>8</sup> <https://x.com/lkajomovitz/status/1772486903008247917>

<sup>9</sup> <https://x.com/lkajomovitz/status/1772520817999430032>

<sup>10</sup> <https://x.com/lkajomovitz/status/1772715129768931582>

<sup>11</sup> [https://canarymission.org/organization/Samidoun\\_Palestinian\\_Prisoner\\_Solidarity\\_Network?](https://canarymission.org/organization/Samidoun_Palestinian_Prisoner_Solidarity_Network?)

<sup>12</sup> <https://samidoun.net/about-samidoun/>

under attack. . As explained below, the group is not registered as an official legal entity in the U.S. or Europe.<sup>13</sup>

Samidoun's U.S. website and official statements assert that one of its key principles is the "dismantling" of the State of Israel, with the belief of a "Free Palestine from the River to the Sea," a common call to arms for the violent destruction of the State of Israel. Samidoun's official website states: "The Canadian and U.S. governments are deeply complicit and directly implicated in the ongoing occupation of Palestine and the crimes of the Israeli state. Rather than standing for human rights, they enable, fund, and support occupation, apartheid, mass imprisonment, land confiscation, dispossession, and settlement-building."<sup>14</sup>

### **Activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

Of great concern, Samidoun has a chapter<sup>15</sup> and operational base in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Farsi-language Iranian website<sup>16</sup> (as acknowledged on its own website) that is involved in organizing and supporting its global activities. Samidoun's Iran chapter is active on social media where it echoes and amplifies the state sponsor of terror's support for Hamas and Lebanese Hezbollah and their leaders including the latter's General Secretary, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and his calls for the destruction of Israel. Moreover, Samidoun Iran serves as a drop box to distribute funding from the Iranian government to support their other worldwide chapters.

### **Foreign Government Actions Against Samidoun**

Since the PFLP's creation it has constructed a web of global affiliates intended to generate support, recruitment, and financial assistance to support it. Even as it became internationally outlawed as a terrorist organization, the PFLP accelerated its efforts to mask its global tentacles, including its ties to Samidoun.

An NGO Monitor report<sup>17</sup> details the links between the PFLP and its NGO empire.

- **Israel Designates Samidoun as an Arm of the PFLP**

Israel designated Samidoun as an arm of the Popular Liberation Front for Palestine (PFLP). On and after the Oct. 7 attacks, when about 1,200 people were killed and more than 240 were taken hostage, the PFLP's military wing, the Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, claimed on its Telegram channel that it had participated in the carnage.<sup>18</sup> According to the Israeli National Bureau for Counter-Terror Financing,<sup>19</sup> Samidoun plays a leading role in the PFLP's anti-Israel propaganda efforts, fundraising and activist recruitment.

- **Germany Bans Samidoun as an Affiliate of the PFLP**

In 2023, Germany banned Samidoun as a front for a foreign terrorist organization. In a statement, Germany's Federal Minister of the Interior, Nancy Faeser, described the organization as "disseminating anti-Israel and anti-Jewish propaganda while claiming to promote solidarity with prisoners in different countries."<sup>20</sup> She noted: "Samidoun also supported and glorified various foreign terrorist organizations, including Hamas."<sup>21</sup> A 2022 Berlin Appellate court decision reaffirmed the link between Samidoun leader Khaled Barakat and PFLP, a connection he has not denied.

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<sup>13</sup><https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/samidoun/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://samidoun.net/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://x.com/SamidounIR>

<sup>16</sup> <https://samidoun.net/fa/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/pflp-report/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/s-palestinian-protests-us-rcna143666>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.jns.org/israel-palestinianconflict/samidoun/23/8/27/313776/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.memri.org/reports/samidoun-palestinian-prisoner-solidarity-network-affiliated-us-designated-popular-front>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2023/11/vereinsverbot-hamas-samidoun.html>

- **Samidoun Directs PFLP Operations Into the U.S. from Canada**

Khaled Barakat, a PFLP Central Committee Member is married to Samidoun Director and International Coordinator Charlotte Lynne Kates. The couple resides primarily in Canada where Samidoun is registered as a ‘not for profit’ entity. Barakat previously resided in Germany from 2016 until 2020, when he was deported, over his involvement in terrorist activities and membership to the PFLP terror group, as “well as repeated actions and statements inciting violence and posing a threat to public security or order.” According to the Berlin Administrative Court, which ruled against Barakat in his appeal to overturn the eviction order, the Court found that while living in Germany, Barakat “repeatedly acted as an activist for the PFLP” and that he “supports the activities of the PFLP as a whole and does not distance himself from their terrorist activities.”

### **Samidoun’s US Operations**

According to *NGO Monitor*, Samidoun is part of the antisemitic/pro-Hamas NGO network responsible for antisemitic and pro-terror incitement on campuses.<sup>22</sup> Samidoun’s logo can be seen on posters promoting the PFLP’s agenda and its officials have preached “resistance” (code for terrorism) at campus events.

The Anti-Defamation League’s website identifies Samidoun as follows:

*“Samidoun’s explicit support for those convicted of or accused of terrorism and acts related to terrorism such as Walid Daqqah and Rasmeh Odeh have made it one of the more extreme groups within the Palestinian solidarity activist movement. The group also campaigns on behalf of Palestinian activists imprisoned or arrested in Western countries, including those convicted for alleged involvement with organizations implicated in terrorist activity or “direct actions” for Palestinians.*

*Extreme anti-Zionist rhetoric, including calls to eradicate Zionism, and explicit support for “armed resistance” are core features of Samidoun events and advocacy. Its organizational activities center on campaigns for the release of Palestinian prisoners, which often include protests, webinars, and other “outreach events, often co-organized with other anti-Zionist groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine, Black Alliance for Peace, US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN), Palestinian Youth Movement and Party for Socialism and Liberation.”*

As cited in the APPENDIX Samidoun’s actions in the U.S. exceed permissible peaceful protest.

Since the terrorist attack on October 7<sup>th</sup>, social media accounts disclose Samidoun supporters and its agents inserting pro-PFLP and pro-Hamas visible signs/placards/banners and audible pro-PFLP and pro-Hamas slogans into both peaceful and violent Gaza protests across the United States.

Samidoun’s U.S. “liaison” leader who resides in Canada have crossed back and forth into the U.S. to leverage peaceful campus protests to provoke violence against Jewish students and local authorities to promote the PFLP and Hamas and to solicit financial and material support to promote the PFLP’s worldwide agenda.

### **Samidoun Camouflages Its U.S. Financial Structure**

An affiliated NGO of Samidoun -- the Alliance for Global Justice based in Tucson -- collects tax deductible donations in the US for Samidoun. Samidoun’s website states the organization is fiscally sponsored by the AfGJ. Fiscal sponsorship allows an organization without charitable status to raise funds through an existing 501(c)(3) organization that “sponsors” it. This enables donors to take a tax deduction for their camouflaged contributions to the sponsored organization.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/pflp-and-samidoun-on-american-college-campuses/>

Multiple pay systems<sup>23</sup> including PayPal and Stripe stopped working with AfGJ. In 2019, PayPal, Donorbox, and Plaid shut down the ability for Samidoun to use their platforms to receive donations, after having been presented with "overwhelming evidence" of Samidoun's ties to terrorist groups, namely PFLP. In 2020, Mastercard, Visa and American Express likewise removed the ability to make on-line donations to Samidoun, after being presented extensive evidence of Samidoun's terror ties to PFLP.

In February 2023, following an extensive campaign by the International Legal Forum and other organizations, AfGJ is no longer able to accept and process on-line donations to Samidoun, following presentation of evidence that they could be in breach of federal anti-terror legislation, by providing "material support" to Samidoun.

In addition, during 2016 and 2017, Samidoun European coordinator and PFLP operative Mustapha Awad, facilitated the transfer of funds from PFLP in Lebanon and Syria to Khaled Barakat, who at the time was based in Belgium.

Mr. President, for the foregoing reasons Samidoun must no longer be permitted to operate disguised as just a domestic pro-Palestinian peaceful protest organization. Preventing Samidoun's further incitement of antisemitic incitement and urban/campus-instigated violence on acting on behalf of the PFLP will require three actions by your Administration:

1. Designate Samidoun as an affiliate of the PFLP pursuant to E.O. 13224 and the Act.
2. Block Samidoun's assets and the assets funneled to it and its foreign & domestic officers and agents via its U.S. "fiscal sponsor," notably the AfGJ.
3. Request the Canadian government to designate Samidoun as a Foreign Terrorist Organization order to prevent Samidoun from further inciting antisemitic violence and potential acts of terrorism on behalf of the PFLP in the U.S.

In closing, Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the associate dean of the LA-based Simon Wiesenthal Center stated, "If the U.S. is going to get serious about the pro-Hamas mobs who've wreaked havoc on U.S. campuses, they will have to take action to ban Samidoun and investigate their allies and supporters."<sup>24</sup>

Thank you for considering our urgent appeal. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with your White House staff in the days and weeks ahead and hope to see you again soon.

Very truly yours,

Fmr. Amb. Marc Ginsberg  
President,  
Coalition for a Safer Web

Attachment: APPENDIX

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2581201/paypal-becomes-third-payment-processor-to-stop-working-with-palestinian-terror-tied-group/>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.meforum.org/65923/biden-urged-to-outlaw-antisemitic-palestinian>



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## APPENDIX

**Samidoun actively collaborates with and supports U.S.-designated terror group PFLP. Samidoun also praises and encourages support for Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Houthi militias, Hezbollah, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Following are several recent examples.**



1-July 5, 2024 Samidoun Telegram promotion for in-person study group in Brooklyn, NY on “Strategy for the Liberation of Palestine,” PFLP’s 160-page manifesto urging violence against Israel and its international allies. Samidoun, though recently banned from Facebook and Instagram, maintains numerous shadow social media accounts including at least two on Telegram which they use to promote violence and hate. Samidoun NY/NJ’s logo: “Long Live October 7<sup>th</sup>” with images from the worst attack on Jews since the holocaust.



2 - “Resistance 101” webinars [1] and workshops with senior PFLP official and husband of Samidoun Director husband leaders in which they praise the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel and call for similar “resistance” acts against Western nations including the US[2]; discuss the development of “indigenous rockets” to attack Israel including repurposing water pipes from Israeli settlements to construct these munitions; and praise the effectiveness of hijacking airplanes as “one of the most important resistance tactics” against “Zionist” and “imperialist” targets.[3] [1] <https://x.com/lkajomovitz/status/1772486903008247917> [2] <https://x.com/lkajomovitz/status/1772520817999430032> [3] <https://x.com/lkajomovitz/status/1772715129768931582>



3 - Samidoun Director: "Long Live October 7th." April 6, 2024, speech by Canadian-based Charlotte Kates, a US citizen who is Director and International Coordinator of Samidoun in which she glorifies and praises the October 7 mass murder, gang rapes, torture and kidnapping of Israeli civilians by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Kates said, "We demand a free Palestine from the River to the Sea. And we stand with the Palestinian resistance and their brave and heroic action on October 7th. Long live October 7." Canadian authorities responded by arresting Kates for supporting Canadian-designated foreign terrorist organizations. Ref: <https://www.memri.org/tv/intl-coordinator-samidoun-charlotte-kates-vancouver-long-live-october7-hamas-pfp-pij-hizbullah-heroes>



4 - Feb 4, 2024, Samidoun hosts webinar on supporting Palestinian armed and materiel resistance with Khaled Bakarati, a senior official in the US-designated terror group PFLP. Israel lists Bakarati as terrorist. Webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-Wp2D6ny4I>



5 - Samidoun banner at 2024 NYU protest supporting Ahmad Sa'adat, Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), who was tried and convicted of masterminding the assassination of Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi in 2001. His release from Israeli prison is a top priority of Hamas. Samidoun has been actively involved with US and Canadian campus protests where it inflames antisemitic rhetoric and champions the work of PFLP terrorists.[1] <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/pflp-and-samidoun-on-american-college-campuses/> [2] <https://www.instagram.com/p/C4zIPOPLw9a/?hl=en>



6 - YouTube video of Samidoun director Charlotte Kates' April 15, 2023, at Toronto Al Quds Day event in which she expresses solidarity with and support for numerous terrorists including PFLP terrorist Ghassan Kanafani (1972 plane bombing); Walid Dakka (murdered an IDF soldier in 1984); Ahmad Sa'adat (PFLP General Secretary); Marwan Barghouti (Founder of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade); and other terrorists.





7 - Samidoun "emergency alert" social media "FLOOD CCNY RIGHT NOW NYPD IS GOING TO SWEEP THE CUNY AZA SOLIDARITY ENCAMPMENT AT CCNY! ALL OUT TO 139th & AMSTERDAM RIGHT NOW"



The mob of anti-Israel protesters lit flares and chanted "Long live the Intifada" outside a downtown Manhattan exhibit. FNTV

8 - Samidoun was actively involved with a violent protest in New York on June 10, 2024, that disrupted a peaceful commemoration service honoring the young Israeli's murdered, raped, and kidnapped from the NOVA Music Festival in Southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023



9 - Samidoun has an active presence on social media, where it disseminates content glorifying U.S.-designated terrorist organizations. For example, on May 5, 2024, the organization interviewed Osama Hamdan, the former representative of Hamas in Lebanon and Iran and a U.S.-Specially Designated Global Terrorist. It advertised the interview on its X account on April 4, 2024.



10 - Samidoun X.com posting dated June 26, 2024, promoting their so-called Palestine Media Series #6 for a live discussion with Dr. Ghazi Hamad, the publicly acknowledged leader of Hamas based in Gaza.



1 - Samidoun flier and social media post promoting "Flood Manhattan for Gaza" protest. Samidoun was and remains a lead organizer and provocateur of anti-Israel protests across the U.S., Canada, and Europe.



12 - June 5, 2024, Samidoun signs statement of support for Yemeni Houthi (a/k/a Ansarallah) attacks on U.S. and British targets in the Middle East. Closely linked to the U.S.-designated terrorist organization the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Samidoun was among more than 250 international jihadi and anti-Israel organizations signing on statement in support for the U.S. Specially Designated Global Terrorist Group. (<https://www.memri.org/reports/pflp-linked-samidoun-palestinian-prisoner-solidarity-network-leads-250-international-pro> )



2 - Samidoun hosts "Resistance 101" Webinar at Columbia University, the PFLP-aligned group relies heavily on social media platforms to promote its anti-Israeli and antisemitic activities in the US and abroad. <https://www.instagram.com/p/C4zIPOPLw9a/?hl=en>

For additional information visit [www.CoalitionSW.org](http://www.CoalitionSW.org)