



## The Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe October 1, 2008

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*[For more information on the Muslim Brotherhood, see the NEFA Special Reports on the Brotherhood networks in the U.S., Belgium, and the Netherlands, available at <http://www.nefafoundation.org/reports.html>. Additionally, a series of statements from the Muslim Brotherhood can be viewed at <http://www.nefafoundation.org/documents-brotherhood.html>.]*

### **Synopsis**

The Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE) claims to be an independent organization representing the interests of Muslims in Europe. In reality, the FIOE is an umbrella group that comprises the global Muslim Brotherhood in Europe. Strong links connect FIOE's leadership central institutions and member organizations to the Brotherhood, as well as to Saudi Arabia. Funding for the FIOE is derived largely from Gulf sources, including some of the ruling families of the United Arab Emirates. The FIOE has strong ties to Hamas and Hamas fund-raising organizations, and some FIOE member organizations show evidence of links with Al-Qaida. The FIOE has recently opened a headquarters office in Brussels and has had some success in positioning itself as a "dialog partner" for the EU and other important institutions.

### **Background**

The Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE) has stated that it is "an independent organization formed in 1989 to cater for the religious, social and cultural interests of Muslims in Europe."<sup>1</sup> The Bavarian state intelligence agency adds that the FIOE was "founded by a resolution passed by representatives of the most important Islamic centers, societies and organizations in Europe."<sup>2</sup> FIOE officials have also said that the idea for the FIOE originated in 1984 with a group of Islamic student organizations from eight countries and this group of organizations went on to create the FIOE in November 1989. The nineteen European Islamic organizations listed as the founding members of the FIOE are almost all known to be tied to the global Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>3</sup>

A past FIOE website described the organization as:

"...a non-profitable European organisation, which provides a framework

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<sup>1</sup> "About FIOE"

[http://web.archive.org/web/20010607062629/www.fioe.org/about\\_us/about\\_us.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20010607062629/www.fioe.org/about_us/about_us.htm)

<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.stmi.bayern.de/imperia/md/content/stmi/sicherheit/verfassungsschutz/verfassungsschutzberichte/verfsch\\_2002.pdf](http://www.stmi.bayern.de/imperia/md/content/stmi/sicherheit/verfassungsschutz/verfassungsschutzberichte/verfsch_2002.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> "The Million Petition"

<http://web.archive.org/web/20030812042816/http://209.41.168.178/millions/links.htm>

for its member organisations and institutions. This framework aims to achieve the overall common goals of serving Muslims in European societies (sic). The FIOE also aims to maintain the Muslim presence in Europe and to enhance and develop that presence so that Islam is properly and accurately introduced.”<sup>4</sup>

Until recently, the FIOE was located at the Markfield Conference Center in Markfield, U.K., a small village about 12km northwest of Leicester.<sup>5</sup> The Markfield offices were located in two small rooms rented from the Islamic Foundation, a well-known U.K. Islamic institution tied to both the Muslim Brotherhood and to Pakistan’s Islamist party known as the Jamaat-e-Islami.<sup>6</sup> The FIOE was not registered with U.K. authorities either as a company or as a charity, and FIOE officials had claimed that the FIOE was not required to register because it is neither a religious nor a political organization.



FIOE Headquarters

The new FIOE headquarters in Brussels was inaugurated in May 2007 during the annual General Assembly meeting.<sup>7</sup> The office is located at an address in Brussels in a largely immigrant neighborhood and within several blocks of important EU buildings.<sup>8</sup> At the current time, however, there is no listing for the FIOE in either the Belgian trade register or online telephone records. The current FIOE website also states that the organization is “officially registered” in France, but no listing was found in the official French directory of organizations.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> “The Official Web Site of the Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe”

<http://www.eu-islam.net/about.html> February 8, 2004 (no longer available)

<sup>5</sup> “Contacting FIOE”

[http://web.archive.org/web/20010607071035/www.fioe.org/contact\\_us/contact\\_us.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20010607071035/www.fioe.org/contact_us/contact_us.htm)

<sup>6</sup> Ian Johnson, “Islamic Group’s Ties Reveal Europe’s Challenge,” The Wall Street Journal,

December 29, 2005 and “JI: Leadership: Prof. Khurshid Ahmad”

<http://www.jamaat.org/leadership/pka.html>

<sup>7</sup> <http://rabita.ch/web/pdf/COMMUNIQUEAGFOIE.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> “Contact Us”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=42&Itemid=18](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=42&Itemid=18)

<sup>9</sup> “About Us”

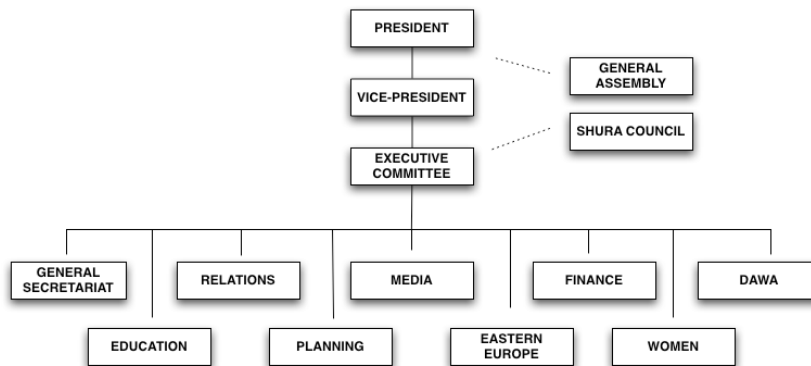
[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=96](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=96)

### **Structure and Funding**

The FIOE is comprised of member organizations that, according to sources close to the FIOE, are issued guidelines with which they may either disagree or follow. The member organizations elect a President and the President then chooses the Executive Committee that is in turn approved by the member organizations. Members of the Executive committee must either be citizens or permanent residents of their respective countries. Further guidance is provided by a General Assembly and a Shura Council. The FIOE General Assembly is an annual meeting held by the Executive Committee and member organizations. The 2007 meeting was held May 24-27 in what was described as the “new seat” of the FIOE in Brussels.<sup>10</sup>

The Shura Council is last known to have met in Istanbul in January 2007, in cooperation with the Turkish FIOE member organization.<sup>11</sup> One of the members of the FIOE Shura is Dr. Kemal Helbawy, a well-known member of the Muslim Brotherhood for 50 years who resides in the UK.<sup>12</sup>

The FIOE Executive Committee is organized into the following administrative departments:<sup>13</sup>



It should be noted that this organizational structure is quite close to that of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt in 1935.<sup>14</sup>

### **Member Organizations**

The current FIOE website lists 28 member organizations, hailing from most of the EU countries, but also non-EU countries, such as Kosovo, Turkey, Moldova, Ukraine, and Russia.<sup>15</sup> One news report also claims that the FIOE has over 1,000 smaller groups based

<sup>10</sup> <http://rabita.ch/web/pdf/COMMUNIQUEAGFOIE.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>12</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>13</sup> “Contact Us”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=42&Itemid=18](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=42&Itemid=18)

<sup>14</sup> Brynyar Lia, The Society of the Muslim Brothers in Egypt: The Rise of an Islamic Mass Movement 1928-1942, (Reading 2006), pp 93-128

<sup>15</sup> Members

<http://www.euro->

in Europe, although it is unclear what this number actually represents.<sup>16</sup> The member organizations in the larger countries such as Germany, France, and the U.K are well known and generally recognized as tied to the global Muslim Brotherhood. Prior NEFA reports on the Netherlands and Belgian have documented that the FIOE members there are part of an extensive Muslim Brotherhood infrastructure in those countries.<sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> Similar relationships appear to exist in most of the other countries as well. A list of FIOE member organizations is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

While extensive analysis of the individual member organizations is beyond the scope of this report, the organizations can be characterized in general as:

- Comprised of Sunni Arabs dominated by the local ethnicity of the resident Arab community and mostly foreign born,
- Started as student organizations,
- Having leadership with backgrounds in Muslim Brotherhood and/or Saudi religious institutions,
- Following the Muslim Brotherhood ideology of “total Islam”,
- Being politically engaged, often with left-wing groups,
- Supporting Hamas.

Activities engaged in by FIOE member organizations include:

- Youth events,
- Joining political demonstrations with left-wing groups,
- Conferences/Events often featuring individuals linked to other Muslim Brotherhood groups,
- Operating schools,
- Interfaith activities,
- Operating community centers,
- Publishing newsletters,
- Charity operations,
- Interacting with host governments.

Some FIOE member organizations have engaged in religiously intolerant activities, including:

- In 2001, a Canadian scholar reported that the FIOE Ukrainian member, the Federation of Social Organisations in Ukraine, published an Arabic language fundraising brochure stating that it would become “...an important breach (thughra) in confronting Christian missionary attacks and Jewish expansion...”<sup>19</sup>
- As late as June 2004, the Austrian FIOE member, the Islamische Liga der Kultur, was listed as the Austrian representative of SKD Verlag, a German publisher of

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[muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=105](http://muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=105)

<sup>16</sup> “Pan-European Muslim org. Forms”

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/Home/Story.aspx?Language=en&DSNO=1073936> (no longer available)

<sup>17</sup> Ron Sandee, “The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Netherlands,” The NEFA Foundation, December 2007

<sup>18</sup> Steve Merley, “The Muslim Brotherhood in Belgium,” The NEFA Foundation, May 2008

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.crimeatau.org.ua/project/islam/itriu.html> (no longer available)

Islamic materials which, according to a reliable source, “distributes some anti-Semitic and extremist publications.”<sup>20 21</sup>

The 2005 annual congress of the Swiss FIOE member, the Ligue Des Musulmans De Suisse, drew widespread media attention as the result of an invitation to Egyptian preacher Wagdy Ghoneim who was denied permission to enter the country by Swiss authorities. In 2005, Ghoneim left the U.S. voluntarily, “rather than face the possibility of a formal removal order from an immigration judge.” According to the U.S. government, Ghoneim had been held without bond following his arrest on immigration violations “because of concerns his past speeches and participation in fund raising activities could be supportive of terrorist organizations, including Hamas.”<sup>22</sup> Additionally, a Swiss media report stated that in Italy Ghoneim had defended suicide attackers and asserted that “the destiny of all the men is to become Moslem, if not they will become like cats or mice.”<sup>23</sup> And, in a 1998 speech, Ghoneim described the Jews as the “descendents of the apes.”<sup>24 25</sup>

- In January 2007, the moderator of the internet forum of the Romanian FIOE member, Assalam, posted a link to a Russian article which claimed that Israeli “vodka companies” were producing vodka bottles for import to Ukraine that had labels showing the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The posting was accompanied by a virulently anti-Semitic cartoon.<sup>26</sup>



<sup>20</sup> SKD Bavaria Verlag und Handel GmbH - Online

[http://web.archive.org/web/20040621035023/http://www.skdbavaria.de/hp\\_de/impressum/vertreter.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20040621035023/http://www.skdbavaria.de/hp_de/impressum/vertreter.htm)

<sup>21</sup> Personal interview, June 3, 2008

<sup>22</sup> “Orange County Imam Admits Immigration Violations, Voluntarily Leaves,” Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Press Release, January 4, 2005.

<sup>23</sup> “Le prédicateur dont la Suisse ne veut pas;” *Le Temps*, September 23, 2005

<sup>24</sup> Transcript of Wagdy Ghoneim’s remarks, Islamic Association for Palestine conference, Brooklyn, New York, May 24, 1998, <http://www.investigativeproject.org/article/567>

<sup>25</sup> In the commentary on Koranic verses (Sura 5 An-Nisaa’) 112-115, the 10<sup>th</sup> century commentator al-Tabari explains that the apostles were punished by being turned into apes and pigs because they did not fulfill God’s demands. Also punishment by transformation into apes and pigs on Judgment Day was for Muslim sinners whose ideas (such as denying predestination) and deeds (such as drinking wine, playing instruments, and singing) had a Jewish or Christian connection. The aim of punishing these sinners with punishments identified with Jews and Christians was to fight foreign influences that had infiltrated Islamic society and were considered a threat to the unique Muslim identity. See: Uri Rubin, “Apes, Pigs, and the Islamic Identity,” *Israel Oriental Studies* XVII, (1997), pp. 93-102.

<sup>26</sup> ASSALAM :: Новые изощрения сионистов: водка - с изображением мечети на - этикетке

<http://www.assalam.md/forum/topic.php%3Fforum%3D5%26topic%3D1>

## **Central Institutions**

The FIOE is also comprised of what it calls its “Central Institutions”:<sup>27</sup>

### **1. European Council for Fatwa Research**

Perhaps the best known of the FIOE’s central institutions is the European Council for Fatwa and Research (ECFR). The ECFR was established in March 1997 as a FIOE initiative and, according to an academic study, grew out of a history of attempts by the Muslim community to deal with issue of the presence of large numbers of Muslims in European countries.<sup>28 29 30</sup> The study also states that the ECFR was “the realization of a wish” repeatedly expressed by Muslim Brotherhood leaders Youssef Qaradawi and Faysal Mawlawi, who were elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the ECFR, positions they still hold today. Both men are living in the Middle East and not in Europe (Qatar/Lebanon).

According to various ECFR membership lists, anywhere from 1/3 to almost 1/2 of the ECFR members were from non-European, mostly Middle Eastern countries, although the ECFR rules limit non-European membership to no more than 25%.<sup>31</sup> As the same academic study explains:

“This percentage has further increased in recent years as the leadership of the ECFR pursues a policy of inclusion of muftis based in the Muslim world, to prevent external criticism, rather than in Europe itself, where several tendencies, including the more modernist remain completely absent from the ECFR.”

ECFR members include some of the most prominent representatives of the global Muslim Brotherhood, such as Bosnian Grand Mufti Mustafa Ceric, former FIOE President Ahmed Al-Rawi, and Tunisian Islamist Rachid Ghannoushi. As noted above, both ECFR Chairman Qaradawi and Deputy Chairman Faysal Mawlawi are strongly associated with the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>32</sup>

In 2000, the ECFR headquarters was moved to the Islamic Center of Ireland

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<sup>27</sup> “About Us”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=96](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=96)

<sup>28</sup> WAMY: World Assembly of Muslim Youth: Muslim, Islam, Dawah, Mohammad, Qur’an, Allah  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20010505091335/http://www.wamy.co.uk/leaflets/fatwaaboutscholars.html>

<sup>29</sup> European Council for Fatwa and Research, First Collection of Fatwas

<http://web.archive.org/web/20050406051316/http://www.ecfr.org/doc/Fatwa+gr1+English.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> “The European Council for Fatwa and Research” Cairo, Alexandra European University Institute Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies Fourth Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting Florence - Montecatini Terms, March 19 - 23, 2003

<sup>31</sup> “European Council for Fatwa and Research, First Collection of Fatwas

<http://web.archive.org/web/20050406051316/http://www.ecfr.org/doc/Fatwa+gr1+English.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> Mawlawi was recently identified by an Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood official as the head of the Muslim Brotherhood in Lebanon. See: Al-Sharq al-Awsat (Internet Version-WWW), August 21, 2008

(ICCI), located in Clonskeagh, a suburb of Dublin, Ireland.<sup>33</sup> The ICCI also houses the largest Sunni mosque in Ireland. Sheikh Hussain Halawa, the imam of the ICCI, is the secretary general of the ECFR, and Dr. Nooh Al-Kaddo, the ICCI executive director, is a former FIOE officer.<sup>34</sup> In October 2007, the ICCI invited Egyptian preacher Wagdy Ghoneim (a.k.a. Wajdi Ghunaim) to speak at an ICCI-sponsored conference.<sup>35</sup> Mr. Ghoneim was discussed earlier in this report in connection with his anti-Semitic comments and defense of suicide bombings. He is also alleged to be associated with Hamas and the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>36</sup> The keynote speaker at the conference was Sheikh Salman Al Awda, a popular Saudi Salafi preacher and former supporter of Osama Bin Laden.<sup>37 38</sup>

The ECFR meets once or twice annually and the last known meeting was held in Sarajevo in May 2007.<sup>39</sup> The fatwas produced by the ECFR are targeted at imams who run mosques and officials in religious organizations. The council also sponsors training sessions for imams. Its rules are explained and all of its rulings are available online in Arabic and English on the Council's own site or Islam Online. Some European scholars have written that the ECFR places emphasis upon "individual responsibility" and "rational considerations" within the "reformist Salafi tradition" and that the ECFR fatwas are more moderate than the conservative Salafi fatwas.<sup>40 41</sup> However, a Wall Street Journal reporter who attended a 2004 ECFR meeting presents another view:

"...members, speaking in Arabic, explained how European Muslim family life was under attack. 'Extremist fundamentalist powers based on aggression on the part of the Crusader and Zionist alliance in the West are now preparing their cultural strategy according to a new wave of secular tendencies,' said Ahmed Ali Al-Imam, a Sudanese religious figure who advocates the implementation of sharia in his religiously divided country. Other

<sup>33</sup> "Fatwa"

<http://www.metroeireann.com/contents/fatwa.htm>

<sup>34</sup> IslamOnline.net

[http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?cid=1119503615027&pagename=IslamOnline-English-Ask\\_Scholar%2FFatwaCounselorE%2FFatwaCounselorE](http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?cid=1119503615027&pagename=IslamOnline-English-Ask_Scholar%2FFatwaCounselorE%2FFatwaCounselorE)

<sup>35</sup> Announcement | ISLAMIRELAND.ie

<http://islamireland.ie/icci-latest-news/announcement>

<sup>36</sup> "Shia Imam Says Visit by Saudi Cleric 'Worrying,'" The Irish Times, October 27, 2007

<sup>37</sup> Chris Heffelfinger, "Dissident Saudi Cleric Brought Further into the Fold," The Jamestown Foundation, October 2, 2007

<sup>38</sup> Ron Sandee, "The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Netherlands," The NEFA Foundation, December 2007

<sup>39</sup> يبوروأل سلجملل <br> قرشع ءعباسلا ءيداعلا ءرودلل <br> يماتخل نايبلا - يعرش - تن نبال نوأ مالسإ  
كسرل او تنسوبلا ءل و دب و فبي يارس تن يدمب ءنق عن لما شوح بل او ءاتفالل

[http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=ArticleA\\_C&cid=1179664411391&pagename=Zone-Arabic-Shariah%2FSRALayout](http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=ArticleA_C&cid=1179664411391&pagename=Zone-Arabic-Shariah%2FSRALayout)

<sup>40</sup> "The European Council for Fatwa and Research" Cairo, Alexandria, European University Institute, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Mediterranean Social and Political Research

<sup>41</sup> "european university institute istituto universitario europeo"

[http://www.let.uu.nl/~martin.vanbruinessen/personal/publications/making\\_authority.htm](http://www.let.uu.nl/~martin.vanbruinessen/personal/publications/making_authority.htm)  
7/30/2006

papers accepted traditional norms that directly contradict Western law and society, especially regarding women and marriage. Women should only cut their hair with their husbands' permission, and "any woman who would marry without a male guardian's consent, her wedding is invalid," declared Muhammad Hawari, a Germany-based member of the group. Sometimes the group's advice seems aimed at Muslims from another era. 'Children should eat clean food and use clean water. They should not urinate in water wells,' Mr. Hawari wrote in a paper. Adoption, he added, was forbidden, because a woman might be seen in a state of undress by a child other than her biological offspring. And if a child is adopted, Mr. Hawari said they should not be given equal rights to biological children."<sup>42</sup>

The same reporter also said that a Council member cited "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a notorious anti-Semitic forgery written in czarist Russia, in a position paper on how Muslim families are under threat in Europe. "The Protocols, the speaker said, was evidence of a Jewish plot to undermine Muslim moral values through sexual permissiveness."

## 2. The Europe Trust

In July 2004, the FIOE website included an organization known as the European Trust in its list of "central organisations", stating:

"The Trust was established in order to support and promote our work by providing stable financial reserves. The Trust has managed to take successful strides towards investing its funds and examining possible venues of high yield return in an attempt to ensure the funding of various projects and organisations in Europe....Funding Islamic work in Europe and promoting the stability of Islamic organisations is one of the major challenges that we face. For this purpose, the FIOE has strived to establish a strong trust, which will help fund the work throughout Europe."<sup>43</sup>

In February 2005, a FIOE officer noted in an interview that the European Trust is also "part of our organization."<sup>44</sup> However, the 2004 Annual Review said that the Trust, now known as the Europe Trust, was founded in 1994, registered in the U.K. in 1996, and is "non-political, non-profit making and independent."<sup>45</sup>

FIOE officials have, at times, also tried to deny the association between the FIOE and the Europe Trust. The Wall Street Journal reported in December 2005, that following an inquiry to U.K. charity regulators about the propriety of a charity supporting a lobbying group, all references to the Trust were removed from the FIOE website.<sup>46</sup> In

<sup>42</sup> "Islamic Justice Finds A Foothold in Europe," The Wall Street Journal, August 4, 2005

<sup>43</sup> [http://web.archive.org/web/20040715151512/http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about\\_en.asp](http://web.archive.org/web/20040715151512/http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about_en.asp)

<sup>44</sup> "Live Dialogue with Veteran Muslim Activist Dr. Ayman Ali," "Eastern Europe's Muslims: Prospects and Challenges," Islam Online, February 28, 2005  
<http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Browse.asp?hGuestID=rbQxt5>

<sup>45</sup> <http://europetrust.eu.com/images/ET%20review%202005.pdf>

<sup>46</sup> Ian Johnson, "Islamic Group's Ties Reveal Europe's Challenge," The Wall Street Journal,



2006, following the Wall Street Journal report on the Trust, language was added to Trust registration documents stating that the Europe Trust “liaises very closely” with FIOE and other similar charities and organisations.<sup>47</sup> A recent FIOE webpage said that the Europe Trust was one of the “professional Islamic institutions” whose establishment it sponsored.<sup>48</sup> The current FIOE website lists “The Institution of European Endowment” as one of its central institutions, presumably the same organization as the Europe Trust.

In the end, the Europe Trust does appear to have an intimate relationship with the FIOE. Evidence of this relationship includes:

- Ahmed Al-Rawi, Chairman of the Trust until 2006, was also the President of the FIOE until 2007.<sup>49</sup>
- Seven of the nine Trustees are either current or past FIOE officers or officers of FIOE member organizations.<sup>50</sup>
- As discussed below, almost all Trust programs funds have gone to FIOE member organizations and/or related organizations or institutions described as FIOE “central organizations”.
- At least two FIOE member organizations, including the Ligue Islamique Interculturelle de Belgique, state in their bylaws that upon their dissolution, all assets pass to the Trust.<sup>51 52</sup>
- The current Europe Trust registration lists the same past U.K. address and telephone number as the FIOE.<sup>53</sup>

The Trust describes itself as a “Waqf”, an Arabic term meaning a religious endowment, in the form of a property earning revenues as regulated by Islamic law. It

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December 29, 2005.

<sup>47</sup> [http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/ScannedAccounts%5CEnds90%5C0001103290\\_ac\\_20061231\\_e\\_c.pdf](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/ScannedAccounts%5CEnds90%5C0001103290_ac_20061231_e_c.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> [http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/Details\\_en.asp?articleid=20&zoneid=2](http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/Details_en.asp?articleid=20&zoneid=2)

<sup>49</sup> “Hijab Advocacy Group to See Light in London”, *Islam Online*, June 13, 2004

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2004-06/13/article06.shtml>

<sup>50</sup> Extract from the Central Register of Charities maintained by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Europe Trust

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showtrustees.asp?Chy=4007138&Reg=1103290&Type=Main+Charity&Name=EUROPE+TRUST&SubID=>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/vzw/vzwf.htm> Numéro de l'association : 410097 No TVA ou no entreprise: 460342697

<sup>52</sup> “Een eventueel batig saldo komt toe aan de organisatie Europe Trust te Birmingham, Engeland”, Akte van Oprichting Vereniging, BVE02C, 2005B27196HS/SR, N3105/26416-27293-27299, July 19, 2005

<sup>53</sup> Extract from the Central Register of Charities maintained by the Charity Commission for England and Wales

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showcharity.asp?remchar=&chyno=1103290>

does appear that the Trust is attempting to develop along these lines. The 2006 Annual Report indicated that the Trust had a real estate portfolio worth almost 5.7 million pounds. The Trust's 2005 Annual Review identifies the following Trust real estate assets:<sup>54</sup>

- Four properties in the UK,
- 40% stake in a property in France,
- Three properties in Germany,
- Two properties in Greece,
- One property in Romania.

Several of the properties in the U.K. are income producing residential properties, while properties in Greece and Romania are local Islamic centers associated with the FIOE member organizations in those countries. The Europe Trust purchased an office building in The Hague on March 11, 2008 for 1.1 million Euros.<sup>55</sup>

The actual sources of the Trust's funding have been identified in several cases. Trust officials have said that funds for real estate purchased by the Trust on behalf of a German Islamic association came from:<sup>56</sup>

- Al-Maktoum Foundation of the ruling family of Dubai,
- The Waqf Ministry in Kuwait,
- The Bayt al-Zakat in Dubai possibly related to the Bait Al-Zakat in Kuwait.

In addition, a company known as Samara Investments transferred residential property to the Europe Trust, probably during 2005/2006.<sup>57</sup> This company is registered in the Jersey Islands and its known ownership includes:<sup>58</sup>

- A company and individuals linked to the Muslim Brotherhood in Bahrain,
- A company linked to one of Saudi Arabia's largest companies registered in the British Virgin Islands,
- An unknown company registered in the British Virgin Islands.

Finally, sources close to the Trust report that Trust management identified Al-Islah Kuwait as an additional source of funds for real estate purchases. Al-Islah in Kuwait is generally considered to be the Kuwaiti branch of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Despite the Trust's claims to be widely supporting social welfare activities throughout Europe, only in the last few years has its real estate portfolio generated any

<sup>54</sup> <http://europetrust.eu.com/images/ET%20review%202005.pdf> (document in author's possession)

<sup>55</sup> Kadaster, Akte van levering, 2008.000243.01/JG, March 11, 2008

<sup>56</sup> Phone conversation with Ulrich Kraetzer Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg, Redaktion "Klartext" / "Kontraste" (ARD) (030) 97993-22866

<sup>57</sup> Nottingham Land Registry

<sup>58</sup> Information provided by Jersey authorities

spendable income and the portion of such income available for programs is still quite small because the Trust is paying “returns” to investors. An analysis of the yearly Trust expenditures indicates that only about 270,000 British pounds was spent by the Trust on programs from 1996-2006 and only about 6,800 pounds was spent in 2006. Following a 2005 Wall Street Journal article on the Trust which noted the small expenditures on programs, the Trust added the following explanation to its 2006 Annual Report:

“The policies to achieve these objects are to rely on revenues either by donations or creating its income through investment and expanding its property portfolio. Donations have been very limited and scarce and that is the reason the Charity is looking to develop (sic) its property portfolio which should increase in value so that the capital gain will ensure a good financial base to fund the above objects in the future.”<sup>59</sup>

When it has actually funded projects, most of the projects involved have related to either FIOE central organizations or FIOE member organizations. For example, of the 99,000 pounds spent in 2005, approximately 71,000 pounds went to:<sup>60</sup>

- Inssan Project - Germany: 34,750 (IGD)
- European Institute Human Sciences - Wales: 24,000 (IESH)
- European Institute Human Sciences - France: 10,279 (IESH)
- Liga van de Islamitische Gemeenschap - Holland: 4,400 (Dutch FIOE member)
- European Muslim Youth - Belgium: 3,044 (probably FEMYSO, see below)

### 3. European Institute for Human Sciences

The website of the Islamic theological training facility known as the European Institute for Human Sciences (EIHS) (Institut Européen de Sciences Humaines) states that it was established to give Islam “stable structures” to meet the needs of European Muslims while taking into account the realities of the environment in which Muslims lived.<sup>61</sup> A French scholar has written that planning for the EIHS began in 1985, around the time that the Union of Islamic Organizations in France (UOIF), the French FIOE member organization, received funding from the Muslim World League.<sup>62</sup> The IESH facility was established in 1992 in St-Léger-de Fougeret in a former vacation camp for Schlumberger, a few kilometers from the Burgundy town of Chateau-Chinon.<sup>63</sup> <sup>64</sup> The first director of the IESH was 39 year-old Zuhair Mahmoud, an Iraqi who had sought political asylum in France ten years earlier and was the President and co-founder of the

<sup>59</sup> [http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/ScannedAccounts%5CEnds90%5C0001103290\\_ac\\_20061231\\_e\\_c.pdf](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/ScannedAccounts%5CEnds90%5C0001103290_ac_20061231_e_c.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> [http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/ScannedAccounts%5CEnds90%5C0001103290\\_ac\\_20061231\\_e\\_c.pdf](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/ScannedAccounts%5CEnds90%5C0001103290_ac_20061231_e_c.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines - Château Chinon  
[http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr](http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr)

<sup>62</sup> Nicolas Beau, Paris, Capital Arabe, Editions de Seuil Paris: 1995

<sup>63</sup> Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines - Château Chinon  
[http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr](http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr)

<sup>64</sup> Nicolas Beau, Paris, Capital Arabe, Editions de Seuil Paris: 1995

UOIF. One media report indicated that \$1 million was spent on buying and refurbishing the chateau and that Mr. Mahmoud said that one-third came from Muslim businessmen in France. The balance was covered by donations from individuals – not governments – in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.<sup>65</sup>

Media reports indicate that the EIHS initially required students to speak French as well as Arabic and to have a baccalaureate degree.<sup>66</sup> The four year curriculum was reported to include courses on Arabic, Islam, comparative religions, both Judaism and Christianity, and Western civilization.<sup>67</sup> A French newspaper said the courses would be given in Arabic, with Arabic-speaking students, and Al Azhar-trained professors from Pakistan and from Saudi Arabia.<sup>68</sup> The graduating class that joined the Institute in 1992 consisted of 12 students who were awarded their diplomas by global Muslim Brotherhood leader Youssef Qaradawi.<sup>69</sup>

While EIHS and UOIF leaders were expressing their support for democracy and tolerance, there were early concerns about connections between the EIHS and Islamic extremism.<sup>70 71</sup> A French newspaper reported that police had identified “extremist individuals” from different areas of France at the Institute.<sup>72</sup> The French State Secretary for Integration claimed that the school had links with Muslim fundamentalist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria and raised questions about the ability of the EIHS to spread the values of secularism and the separation of church and state.<sup>73</sup> A well-known French scholar described the EIHS founders as “politically and intellectually linked to the Muslim Brotherhood”, “stating that their aim was not to promote integration but rather to fight against the French cultural influence because this French society is seen by them as evil.”<sup>74</sup> He also said that the EIHS founders represented “an Islamic movement linked to Saudi Arabia that wants to isolate the Muslims in their own community.”<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Alan Riding, “Europe’s Homebred Imams, Preaching Tolerance,” *The New York Times*, January 24, 1992

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E0CE0DB113AF937A15752C0A964958260&sc p=1&sq=%20Europe's%20Homebred%20Imams&st=cse>

<sup>66</sup> “A Place for Islam in Europe,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 8, 1992

<sup>67</sup> Alan Riding, “Europe’s Homebred Imams, Preaching Tolerance,” *The New York Times*, January 24, 1992

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9E0CE0DB113AF937A15752C0A964958260&sc p=1&sq=%20Europe's%20Homebred%20Imams&st=cse>

<sup>68</sup> “Les balbutiements de l’islam français Bientôt une université islamique à Chateau-Chinon et des rations de viande halal dans les casernes,” *Le Monde*, July 15, 1991

<sup>69</sup> Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines - Château Chinon

[http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr](http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr)

<sup>70</sup> “A Place for Islam in Europe;,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 8, 1992

<sup>71</sup> “French Islamic Schools Backed by Saudis,” *NPR Weekend Edition*, February 16, 1992

<sup>72</sup> “Le centre de formation de Bouteloin veut enseigner une religion authentique et adaptée;” *Le Monde*, February 8, 2002

<sup>73</sup> “A Place for Islam in Europe,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 8, 1992

<sup>74</sup> “French Islamic Schools Backed by Saudis,” *NPR Weekend Edition*, February 16, 1992

<sup>75</sup> “A Place for Islam in Europe,” *Los Angeles Times*, February 8, 1992

A 1996 news story about the EIHS said that there were 75 resident students, half of them women, and some 200 enrolled in correspondence courses.<sup>76</sup> Male and female students were said to mix academically, but not socially, with the women wearing the Hijab. Donations from the Gulf States were reported to have subsidized tuition and living expenses. EIHS directors were reported to have described the Institute at that time as “the first Islamic university in Europe” and they desired the EIHS to rival Al-Azhar in Cairo while enrolling 300 students a year. A 1998 study by a French political scientist reported that the library at the Cateau-Chinon facility was comprised of material donated by Islamic organizations in the Gulf States and were “99% in the Arab language.” The material was described as primarily “hagiographies.” The same study reported that the theological instruction is conducted entirely in the Arab language.<sup>77</sup> A 1997 French newspaper described the EIHS board as “dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood.”<sup>78</sup>

In 1997, the EIHS opened a campus in Wales and another campus in Paris in 1999, offering night and weekend classes.<sup>79</sup> By 2000, the EIHS said that it had some 120 students and an additional 200 correspondence students, probably referring to the Chateau-Chinon campus. However, it also stated that while the EIHS had been financed mainly by Gulf benefactors, at this time such financing was “drying-up” and that the Institute was forced to increase school fees, layoff personnel, and seek alternative financing, directing its efforts to the French Islamic community. It should be noted, however, that in 2002, the Islamic Development Bank granted the Paris EIHS \$260,000 for the “renovation and equipping of their new branch.”<sup>80</sup> At the beginning of June 2003, the IESH laid off five teachers and decided not to renew the contracts for two technical staff, blaming the 9/11 attacks for a reluctance on the part of Gulf donors.<sup>81</sup> At that time, a foundation belonging to Sheik Zayed of the UAE was identifying itself as one of the donors to EIHS.<sup>82</sup>

News reports from 2002 and 2003 said that 40 students had graduated the imam training program and were serving as imams in France.<sup>83 84 85</sup> By the end of 2005, the EIHS was claiming that it had graduated more than 100 imams. In July 2007, however, an EIHS official said that only 15 students per year were graduating from the French EIHS campuses and that not all became imams, with others working in Muslim

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<sup>76</sup> “The Muslims of France,” *Foreign Affairs*, Council on Foreign Relations, September/October 1996

<sup>77</sup> Franck Fregosi, *La Formation Des Cadres Religieux Musulmans en France*, L'Harmattan, 1998

<sup>78</sup> “Après l'attentat de la rue de Tanger, a Paris,” *Le Figaro*, April 2, 1997

<sup>79</sup> Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines - Château Chinon

[http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr](http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr)

<sup>80</sup> “205th Session of the IDB Board of Executive Directors Approves New Finances for about US\$ 531 Million,” Islamic Development Bank Press Release,

[http://web.archive.org/web/20060113035249/http://www.isdb.org/english\\_docs/idb\\_home/news\\_205session.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20060113035249/http://www.isdb.org/english_docs/idb_home/news_205session.htm)

<sup>81</sup> “L'institut de formation de l'UOIF,” *Le Monde*, July 1, 2003

<sup>82</sup> The Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation

<http://www.zayed.org.ae/English/whatwehavedoneWEU.htm>

<sup>83</sup> “RELIGION II y a dix ans, 2 000 musulmans s'étaient réunis à l'appel de l'UOIF.” *Le Figaro* May 9, 2002.

<sup>84</sup> “L'institut de formation de l'UOIF,” *Le Monde*, July 1, 2003

<sup>85</sup> “Le centre de formation de Bouteloin veut enseigner une religion authentique et adaptée;,” *Le Monde*, February 8, 2002

associations probably associated with the UOIF.<sup>86</sup> The EIHS Chateau-Chinon website reports that enrollment has dropped from a high of 180 in 2003 to about 140, with approximately 40% of those women and the majority coming from France.<sup>87</sup>

Many of the instructors, directors, and trustees of the EIHS are associated with the FIOE, including Ibrahim El-Zayat, Ahmed Jaballah, and Khadem Al-Rawi (Director EIHS), brother of former FIOE President Ahmed Al-Rawi. The EIHS is also assisted by the “Conseil Scientifique”, described in 2004 by the EIHS as comprised of theologians and educators who meet once annually and establish the IESH curriculum and evaluate the instruction.<sup>88</sup> The most famous of these was said to be global Muslim Brotherhood leader Youssef Qaradawi, who is still listed by the EIHS website as a member of the Conseil Scientifique.<sup>89</sup> Also associated in the past with the EIHS was the late Mahfoud Nahnah, former head of Algeria’s Society of Peace Movement and who was associated with the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>90</sup> In 2004, the EIHS said that it maintained relations and scientific collaboration with the universities teaching Islamic theology throughout the Arab-Muslim and European world, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, and Malaysia, as well as “French and European universities.”<sup>91</sup>

#### 4. The Federation of Muslim Youth and Student Organizations

The website of the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO) traces its origin to meetings held in 1995/1996 with various youth and student organizations.<sup>92</sup> Another source says that FEMYSO was created by a joint initiative of the FIOE and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth together with several national Muslim youth organizations.<sup>93</sup> In 2004, the FIOE website included FEMYSO as one of its “central organizations” and described it as:

“...a forum that consists of dozens of youth and student organizations and associations spanning most of Europe. The Forum works towards increasing the awareness of Muslim youth and preserving their identity through organizing seminars, conferences, camps, advanced courses as well as through

<sup>86</sup> [Islam & Laïcité - Michèle Alliot-Marie veut améliorer la formation des imams en France (Le Monde, 7 juillet 2007)]

<http://www.islamlaicite.org/article718.html>

<sup>87</sup> Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines - Château Chinon

[http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr](http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=102&lang=fr)

<sup>88</sup> “Historique”

<http://web.archive.org/web/20041205071147/http://www.iesh.org/Html/historique.htm>

<sup>89</sup> Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines - Château Chinon

<http://www.iesh.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=57>

<sup>90</sup> “Leading Islamic Moderate Nahnah Dies In Algeria,” Islam Online, June 20, 2003

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2003-06/20/article02.shtml>

<sup>91</sup> “Historique”

<http://web.archive.org/web/20041205071147/http://www.iesh.org/Html/historique.htm>

<sup>92</sup> “Background,” Forum of European Muslim and Youth Organization

<http://p9445.typo3server.info/20.0.html>

<sup>93</sup> Sara Silvestri, “Interacting with Muslim Communities in the EU,” Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge

[http://www.psa.ac.uk/cps/2003/Sara\\_Silvestri.pdf](http://www.psa.ac.uk/cps/2003/Sara_Silvestri.pdf) (document in possession of author)

publishing leaflets, magazines and books and creating a communication network of members and contacts via the Internet.”<sup>94</sup>

FEMYSO says that it has developed into a network of 37 member organizations, bringing together youth from over 40 countries.<sup>95</sup> The organization is headquartered in central Brussels, occupying one of two offices in a second floor office suite. The adjacent office is occupied by the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY). In 2003, Belgian phone records listed Bassen Hatahet, likely Bassem Hatahet, the FIOE member and Belgium Muslim Brotherhood leader, at the same address and a telephone number that belonged to the FEMYSO operation.<sup>96 97</sup> Ibrahim El-Zayat, a FIOE officer and FEMYSO representative, has said in a recent German newspaper article that FEMYSO does “lobby work” in relation to the EU.<sup>98</sup>

Although FEMYSO has recently elected new and relatively unknown leadership, it appears that the older leadership is still acting behind the scenes, illustrating connections to the German Muslim Brotherhood:

- FIOE officer Ibrahim El-Zayat is one of the founders of FEMYSO.<sup>99</sup> As discussed later in this report, he is the head of the German FIOE member organization in Germany that is known to represent the Muslim Brotherhood in Germany. A May 2007 German news report stated that Mr. Ibrahim El-Zayat is currently the representative of the Brussels office of FEMYSO and, in that capacity, he functions as a lobbyist to European institutions on issues such as the headscarf.<sup>100</sup>
- The former President of FEMYSO is Khallad Swaid, who has also been identified as a former chairman of the Muslimische Jugend (MJD), a FEMYSO member organization with which Mr. El-Zayat and his brother Bilal are closely associated.<sup>101 102 103</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> [http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about\\_en.asp](http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about_en.asp) (no longer available)

<sup>95</sup> Femyso.org: “About Us”

<http://p9445.typo3server.info/profil.0.html>

<sup>96</sup> “Europe “White & Yellow Pages,” Infobel DVD

<sup>97</sup> <http://www.ljp.lv/docs/musulmani.doc> (no longer available)

<sup>98</sup> “Die Macht des Ibrahim El Zayat,” *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 11, 2007

<sup>99</sup> I-G-D e.V.

[http://www.i-g-d.de/cmsde1/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=33](http://www.i-g-d.de/cmsde1/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=66&Itemid=33)

<sup>100</sup> *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

“Die Macht des Ibrahim El Zayat,” *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 11, 2007

<sup>101</sup> Femyso.org: “President & ExCo”

<http://p9445.typo3server.info/15.0.html>

<sup>102</sup> “Muslimische Jugend Deutschland”

<http://www.jugendserver.de/wai1/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=3886> February 14, 2004.

<sup>103</sup> ebiznews Personen und Institutionen

[\[today.de/gesellschaft/personen,195,Der\\\_Vormarsch\\\_der\\\_Muslimbruderschaft,news.htm\]\(http://demo.ebiz-today.de/gesellschaft/personen,195,Der\_Vormarsch\_der\_Muslimbruderschaft,news.htm\)](http://demo.ebiz-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

- The former FEMYSO Vice-President is Hadia Himmat, probably the daughter of Ali Ghaleb Himmat, long-time head of the IGD and Mr. El-Zayat's predecessor, and close associate of Youssef Nada, the "foreign minister" for the International Muslim Brotherhood, and also a former member of the IGD.
- FEMYSO member organizations include the Muslimische Jugend in Deutschland and the youth section of the Turkish Islamische Gemeinschaft Milli Görüs, discussed later in this report.<sup>104 105</sup> Ibrahim El-Zayat plays an important role in both organizations.

Current and former FEMYSO leaders are also active in a Verviers, Belgium Islamic complex that is in turn part of the Belgian Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>106</sup>

The FEMYSO website states that:

"Over the last 4 years it has become the de facto voice of Muslim Youth in Europe and is regularly consulted on issues pertaining to Muslims in Europe and has developed useful links with the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, the United Nations, and a host of other relevant organisations at the European level."

These claims are substantiated by evidence which includes:

- FEMYSO is one of the groups designated by the UN as "Specially accredited to the World Conference against Racism."<sup>107</sup>
- The Council of Europe has designated FEMYSO as one of thirty members of its Advisory Council on Youth for 2006-2008.<sup>108</sup>
- Since 2003, FEMYSO has been meeting with the Group of Policy Advisors (GOPA), a think-tank attached to the President of the European Commission, as well as attending briefing conferences organized by the Commission's Counsellor For Religious Affairs.<sup>109</sup>

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<http://web.archive.org/web/20051222055517/http://www.jugendserver.de/wai1/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=3886>

<sup>105</sup> Islamische Zeitung : Interview: "Die Jugend ist im Wandel"

<http://www.islamische-zeitung.de/?id=8556>

<sup>106</sup> Steve Merley, "The Muslim Brotherhood in Belgium," The NEFA Foundation, May 2008

<sup>107</sup> BILAN 2003 - E/CN.4/2003/19/Add.1

<http://www.hri.ca/forthecrecord2003/bilan2003/documentation/commission/e-cn4-2003-19-add1.htm>

<sup>108</sup> Committee of Ministers - Composition of the Advisory Council on Youth for the period 2006-2008

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=951125&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=DBDCF2&BackColorIntranet=FDC864&BackColorLogged=FDC864>

<sup>109</sup> "Islam in the European Commission's System of Regulation of Religion" in Amazon.co.uk: Islam in Europe: Diversity, Identity and Influence: Books: Aziz Al-Azmeh, Effie Fokas

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Islam-Europe-Diversity-Identity-Influence/dp/0521677513>



- FEMYSO took part in a conference jointly sponsored with the European Youth Forum that was held at the European Parliament in September 2003.<sup>110</sup>

In November 2005, FEMYSO participated in a U.S. State Department conference in Brussels that brought together Belgian and American Muslims. The participating American organizations included all of the major U.S. Muslim Brotherhood organizations, including the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), and the Muslim Students Association of the US and Canada (MSA). Joint initiatives between FEMYSO and the MSA were announced at a follow-up to the conference.<sup>111</sup> In October 2006, FEMYSO participated in a conference titled “International Conference on Muslim Youth in Europe and North America Agenda” held in Wilton Park, U.K. and sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace. The participants included the Muslim Public Affairs Council, a U.S. Muslim Brotherhood organization as well as global Muslim Brotherhood leaders Tariq Ramadan and FIOE officer Ibrahim El-Zayat.<sup>112</sup>

Activities in 2005 included a wide range of activities across Europe, including the release of a report on the Hijab for a EU Steering Committee project in Strasbourg, and a “Seminar on Palestine.”<sup>113</sup> FEMYSO events in 2007 included a voluntary youth service program as part of the Youth Programme of the European Commission and a Cultural Event Competition for young artists between 15 and 30 years of age.<sup>114</sup>

## 5. The Federation of European Arab-Islamic Schools

The current FIOE website identifies an organization known as The Federation of European Arab-Islamic Schools, which appears to be the same organization located in Sweden and known as the European Union of Arabic Islamic Schools (EUAIS).<sup>115</sup> An Islamic school in Sweden that is associated with the Swedish FIOE member has stated that it was a founding member of the EUASI that has members in 18 European countries.<sup>116</sup> The EUAIS was identified as one of the sponsors of the 2002 Muslim Education in Europe conference held in Bonn, Germany. This conference was also attended by important FIOE and Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including officers of the International Institute of Islamic Thought in the U.S. and France, Ibrahim El-Zayat, Ahmed Jaballah of the EIHS, and Tariq Ramadan.<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> “Press Release”

[http://web.archive.org/web/20051104010911/http://www.youthforum.org/en/press/press\\_releases/0576-03EN.pdf](http://web.archive.org/web/20051104010911/http://www.youthforum.org/en/press/press_releases/0576-03EN.pdf)

<sup>111</sup> MDC21

<http://www.muslimdialogue.be/gallery/pages/MDC21.htm>

<sup>112</sup> [http://www.usip.org/muslimworld/projects/muslim\\_youth/1106\\_muslim\\_youth\\_agenda.pdf](http://www.usip.org/muslimworld/projects/muslim_youth/1106_muslim_youth_agenda.pdf)

<sup>113</sup> Femyso.org: “Events”

<http://p9445.typo3server.info/events.0.html>

<sup>114</sup> Femyso.org: “Events”

<http://p9445.typo3server.info/events.0.html>

<sup>115</sup> “Live Dialogue with Veteran Muslim Activist Dr. Ayman Ali,” “Eastern Europe’s Muslims: Prospects and Challenges,” *Islam Online*, February 28, 2005

<http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Browse.asp?hGuestID=rbQxt5>

<sup>116</sup> [http://www.islamiskaskolan.se/is\\_gbg/styrdokument/verksamhetsplan.pdf](http://www.islamiskaskolan.se/is_gbg/styrdokument/verksamhetsplan.pdf)

<sup>117</sup> “Muslim Education in Europe Conference”

A past FIOE website describes an organization known as the Association of Muslim Schools in Europe (AMSE), which may be the same organization as the EUAIS.

This Association was established in Sweden and consists of educational establishments and private Islamic schools as well as schools attached to Islamic centers in various European countries. The FIOE is working tirelessly throughout this session to develop and enhance the performance of the Association.<sup>118</sup>

Another FIOE document says AMSE membership includes educational institutions, schools, and educational institutes in Arab Islamic countries.<sup>119</sup> The document goes on to list the objectives of the organization, which include a unified Arabic curriculum, “entrenching” an Islamic identity, and teaching Arabic. The document also identifies Europe Trust founder and current FIOE president Professor Chakib Benmakhlof as the President of the AMSE/EUAIS.

## 6. The European Forum for Media Professionals

The current FIOE website identifies an organization known as the European Forum for Media Professionals, presumably the same organization listed on an earlier FIOE website as the European Association of Media Personnel (EAMP) and described as follows:

“This establishment falls under the umbrella of the Media Department, and strives to enhance the participation of Muslims in European culture and media. It also works to encourage cultural exchange and dialogue in Europe as well as representing the interests of members and upholding the freedom of the press and media.”<sup>120</sup>

While no information about the EAMP is available, a FIOE document discusses FIOE training courses and workshops held in France, Italy, and Belgium which focused on “media work” and “public relations” training for NGO’s.<sup>121</sup> The document also identified a “special symposium” to “discuss the prospects for electronic and networking opportunities.”

## 7. European Forum of Muslim Women

The current FIOE website lists the European Forum for Muslim Women as a central institution, presumably the same organization as The European Forum of Muslim Women (EFOMW), which was established in March 2006 at a congress in Brussels.<sup>122</sup> The President of the EFOMW is FIOE officer Noura Jaballah, discussed later in this report and who described the organization as follows:

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<http://amssuk.com/docs/pdf/AMSSUK%20MEiE%20Conf%20Sep2002%20-%20booklet.pdf>

<sup>118</sup> [http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about\\_en.asp](http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about_en.asp)

<sup>119</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>120</sup> [http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about\\_en.asp](http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about_en.asp) (no longer available)

<sup>121</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>122</sup> Hadi Yahmid, “European Muslim Women Clear Misconceptions,” *Islam Online*, March 4, 2006

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2006-03/04/article06.shtml>

"The European Forum for Muslim women is primarily a platform for reflection, work and exchanges related to the issue of women, representing nearly a dozen associations based in Europe. The initiative came from France, following the law on secularity in March 2004. The heated debates that preceded the enactment of this legislation have shown a strong stigmatization of the Muslim woman, and showed, basically, a real Islamophobia that has arisen in France. So we wanted to see what was happening elsewhere in Europe. What was the situation in Britain? In Sweden ... five associations have established the Forum, from five countries: Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Britain and France."<sup>123</sup>

Although the EFOMW is not listed as a FIOE organization, the entrance to the Brussels FIOE office lists the Federation of European Muslim Women, likely the same organization. Also, several of the EFOMW member organizations are also known to be associated with the FIOE, including the Ligue Française de la Femme Musulmane, the Ligue Française de la Femme Musulmane, the Associazione Donne Musulmane d'Italia, the Groupement de femmes Musulmanes, and "ARRAID."<sup>124</sup> Finally, an EFOMW report on its founding congress indicates that FIOE President Ahmed Al-Rawi was in attendance.<sup>125</sup> The same report also indicated that the women's division of Milli Görüs of Europe was a member organization.

## 8. European Assembly of Muslim Imams

In February of this year, the FIOE "championed" a two-day conference in Brussels that launched what was described as "an independent, self-regulatory body to train imams across the continent." The European Assembly of Muslim Imams was described as follows:

"The new assembly will be headquartered in Brussels with branches in all European countries. It will seek to unify efforts of European imams on matters of religious guidance and other societal issues. The body will also seek to promote inter-faith and inter-culture dialogue and bridge the gap between different religious Muslim schools of thought. "The Assembly is a new achievement for Europe that will help maintain stability of its societies," read the statement. "It will help imams fulfill their duties and seek promotion of the European-Islamic identity." The statement said that women will play a leading role in the new assembly for imams. "The assembly gives priority to women's participation in its activities as part of a concerted effort to consolidate the principle of citizenship," it stressed. Recognizing that imams play a leading role in promoting social cohesion, the new body will focus on enhancing their skills and knowledge of European history."<sup>126</sup>

<sup>123</sup> Des femmes pour le dialogue et la paix

[http://www.saphirnews.com/Des-femmes-pour-le-dialogue-et-la-paix\\_a8521.html](http://www.saphirnews.com/Des-femmes-pour-le-dialogue-et-la-paix_a8521.html) (software translation)

<sup>124</sup> "Forum Européen des Femmes Musulmanes"

<http://www.efomw.eu/page-4.htm>

<sup>125</sup> European Forum of Muslim Women "Compte rendu de l'Assemblée Générale constituante" Le Samedi 4 Mars 2006 à Bruxelles

<sup>126</sup> "EU Imams Launch Regulatory Body," [Islam Online](http://www.islamonline.net), February 25, 2008

[http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=Article\\_C&cid=1203757388271&pagename=Zone](http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=Article_C&cid=1203757388271&pagename=Zone)

Another report added that although based in Brussels, the Assembly will have branches in other European countries.<sup>127</sup>

### **Future Organizations**

The current FIOE website says that the following are institutions that the Federation seeks to establish during its current term:<sup>128</sup>

- A European human rights institution,
- An expertise house for training and human development,
- A center for studies and research,
- A media institution.

### **Funding**

Although, FIOE officials have stated in the past that that the organization filed with the U.K. tax authorities, little public information is available about FIOE finances. In 2005, the FIOE said it had an annual budget of GBP 900,000, or about \$ 1.5 million, with roughly GBP 400,000 coming from member organizations and the rest from donations; much of this funding comes from anonymous donors in the Gulf.<sup>129</sup> These funds were said to come chiefly from the UAE and, although the donors wished to remain anonymous, they did include the Al Kaqf family and the Al-Maktoum family, the ruling family of Dubai. According to confidential sources, FIOE leaders said that the Muslim World League (MWL) does not provide funds directly, but “business people” donate through the MWL because it is “clear and official.” This also provides the donors with anonymity in the way that annual reports are provided.

The March 2007 FIOE newsletter reported that a FIOE delegation headed by FIOE President Chakib Benmakhoulou visited Saudi Arabia from February 16 through March 1 to “strengthen bonds and introduce plans and projects.”<sup>130</sup> The latest FIOE newsletter reported that Makhoulou headed a delegation to Kuwait on a seven-day trip where he met with the Deputy Minister of Endowment (waqf) and a number of officials at the ministry. The two sides were said to have discussed “the possibility of supporting the activities of Islamic organizations and foundations in Europe and preaching for Islam.”<sup>131</sup> The same newsletter also reported that the FIOE East Europe Bureau held a charitable forum in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia recently that was attended by “people supporting charitable works in East Europe.”

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-English-News%2FNWELayout

<sup>127</sup> <http://www.kuna.net.kw/Home/print.aspx?Language=en&DSNO=1073667> (no longer available)

<sup>128</sup> “About Us”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=96](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30&Itemid=96)

<sup>129</sup> Ian Johnson, “Islamic Group’s Ties Reveal Europe’s Challenge,” *The Wall Street Journal*, December 29, 2005

<sup>130</sup> [http://www.araidd.org/publication/upload/86/1419/fioe\\_elecnewslett03.pdf](http://www.araidd.org/publication/upload/86/1419/fioe_elecnewslett03.pdf)

<sup>131</sup> “The Federation – Monthly Bulletin”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=57%3Athe-federation-monthly-bulletin-&catid=1%3Alatest&Itemid=19](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57%3Athe-federation-monthly-bulletin-&catid=1%3Alatest&Itemid=19)

Funding for FIOE member organizations and central institutions also comes from Gulf sources. Examples include:

- The Swedish FIOE member cooperated with the Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, funded by the former President of the UAE (now deceased), in establishing the Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre in Stockholm, described as the biggest Islamic center in all of the Scandinavian countries and which cost USD \$3.5 million to build.<sup>132</sup>
- The Ukrainian FIOE member recently opened a rehabilitation centre and vocational training center financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) based in Saudi Arabia.<sup>133</sup>
- The Islamic Cultural Center of Ireland, headed by former FIOE officer Nooh Al-Kaddo, established in 1996 by and built with a donation by the Maktoum family, the ruling family of Dubai, one of the Emirates that form the United Arab Emirates<sup>134</sup> It houses the headquarters of the European Council for Fatwa and Research (ECFR), which is led by Sheikh Youssef Qaradawi.<sup>135</sup> Dr. Al-Kaddo is also a trustee of the Maktoum Foundation in the Netherlands, founded and named after Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who is the Deputy Ruler of Dubai.<sup>136</sup>
- As noted above, Europe Trust officials have said that funds for real estate purchased by the Trust on behalf of a German Islamic association also came from the Maktoum Foundation, as well as the Awaqf Ministry in Kuwait and the Bayt al-Zakat in Dubai, possibly related to the Bait Al-Zakat in Kuwait. In addition, real estate was donated to the trust by a company with Bahraini and Saudi owners.
- Also, as noted above, the European Institute for Human Sciences was funded by the Saudi Muslim World League and the Islamic Development Bank.

## **Executive Committee**

### **Former Leaders**

Long-time FIOE officers with questionable backgrounds appear also to have been recently replaced:

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<sup>132</sup> The Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20041215071330/http://www.zayed.org.ae/English/whatwehavedoneWEU.htm>

<sup>133</sup> ALRAID - "Press About Us"

[http://www.araaid.org/92/eng/full\\_news/4848/visibletype/1/index.html](http://www.araaid.org/92/eng/full_news/4848/visibletype/1/index.html)

<sup>134</sup> HH Sheikh Hamdan : Al Maktoum Foundation

[http://web.archive.org/web/20060523210737/http://www.sheikhhamdan.ae/english/al\\_maktoum\\_foundation/Islamic\\_cultural\\_centre.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20060523210737/http://www.sheikhhamdan.ae/english/al_maktoum_foundation/Islamic_cultural_centre.htm)

<sup>135</sup> Wa'il Shihab, "Muslims In Ireland Urged to Volunteer For Special Games," *Islam Online*, June 24, 2003

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2003-06/24/article14.shtml>

<sup>136</sup> Dutch Chamber of Commerce; File number: 24320087

## 1. Ahmed Al-Rawi (former President)

Until recently, the FIOE was led by long-time President Ahmed Al-Rawi, an Iraqi-born U.K. citizen who was the former head of the U.K Muslim Student Society. In October 2004, Dr. Al-Rawi drew U.K. media attention when it was reported that he was one of 93 “international Islamic scholars” who had signed a statement supporting attacks on coalition troops in Iraq and which referred to the “filth of occupation.”<sup>137</sup> In defending the statement, Al-Rawi compared the coalition forces in Iraq with the Nazi invaders of France in 1940.

Dr. Al-Rawi had lent his name to other such statements in the past. For example, in 2001 an Islamic media source reported that Mr. Al-Rawi’s name appeared on a statement in support of the Palestinian Intifada that called for the use of force against the “Zionist enemy.”<sup>138 139</sup> The statement was also signed by leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood and other radical Islamic parties as well as terrorist organizations, including Hamas and Hezbollah. It should also be noted that, as documented earlier, Dr. Al-Rawi is a Trustee of Youssef Qaradawi’s Union of the Good, an organization that will be discussed later and is engaged in fundraising for Hamas.<sup>140</sup> In March 2007, Dr. Al-Rawi’s brother Issam was assassinated in Iraq.<sup>141</sup> Issam Al-Rawi had been a leader of the Association of Muslim Scholars, characterized by one scholar as an Iraqi offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood that strongly supported armed “resistance” to the U.S.-led coalition.<sup>142</sup> Dr. Al-Rawi resigned as FIOE President sometime in 2007 and is currently serving as the President of the Muslim Association of Britain, a FIOE member organization.<sup>143</sup>

## 2. Abdallah Mansour

Former FIOE head of Media Abdallah Ben Mansour was born in 1959 in Sfax, Tunisia and gives his profession as an electrical engineer.<sup>144 145</sup> As a student in France, he was a member of the Groupement Islamique en France (GIF), characterized by one source as a militant group, and was also one of the founders of the Union des

<sup>137</sup> Nicholas Rufford and Abul Taher, “British Muslim Says Troops are Fair Target,” Sunday Times - Times Online, October 31, 2004

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1337931,00.html>

<sup>138</sup> Original statement at

[http://www.rabita.ch/arabe/communiqués/lettre\\_qimmarabia\\_tunis.htm](http://www.rabita.ch/arabe/communiqués/lettre_qimmarabia_tunis.htm)

<sup>139</sup> “Muslim Scholars Call for Intifada Support,” Islam Online, August 22, 2001

<http://www.islam-online.net/english/news/2001-08/23/article3.shtml>

<sup>140</sup> “Islamic Charitable Funds,” The Intelligence & Terrorism Information Center

[http://www.intelligence.org.il/Eng/sib/2\\_05/funds.htm](http://www.intelligence.org.il/Eng/sib/2_05/funds.htm)

<sup>141</sup> “The Biography Of Martyr Dr. Isam Al-Rawi”

<http://heyetnet.org/en/content/view/46/26/>

<sup>142</sup> Roel Meijer, “The Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq,” Middle East Report 237

<http://www.merip.org/mer/mer237/meijer.html>

<sup>143</sup> “Muslims Across Europe Unite Against Extremism,” Muslim Association of Britain Press Release, March 28, 2008

<http://www.mabonline.net/press.php?id=1&art=13>

<sup>144</sup> “Abdallah Ben Mansour: Il n’y a pas d’incompatibilité entre l’islam et la République,” Le Monde, December 24, 1994

<sup>145</sup> France-Echos : Amar Lasfar, l’islamiste du Nord (article mis à jour)

<http://www.france-echos.com/actualite.php?cle=5484> (no longer available)

organizations Islamiques de France (UOIF) in 1983.<sup>146</sup> Mr. Mansour became the Secretary-General of the UOIF in 1985 at the same time Ahmed Jaballah, the current FIOE vice-president, became President.<sup>147</sup> In October 1989, Mr. Mansour and the UOIF came to national attention when they attempted to covertly tape record the remarks of the headmaster of a local college to persuade him to reinstate three young women who had been suspended from the school over wearing an Islamic headscarf.<sup>148</sup> A French court document indicates that Mr. Mansour attempted to obtain French citizenship in the mid-1990s but was rejected on the grounds of the connections of the UOIF to “extremist organizations.”<sup>149</sup> Mr. Mansour is also the CEO of a French company known as Mediacom, located near the UOIF headquarters, whose website features a large variety of Islamic audio-visual materials, including the works of well-known Muslim Brotherhood figures Hassan El-Banna, Tariq and Hani Ramadan, Sayid Outb, and Youssef Qaradawi.<sup>150</sup>  
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### 3. Ali Abu Shwaima

Former FIOE Dawa head Ali Abu Shwaima, is a Palestinian who was born in Amman, Jordan in 1950 and a former medical student who has lived in Italy since 1970.<sup>152</sup> In 1998, Dr. Shwaima was sentenced to five months in prison in connection with the operation of what was described as a “clandestine circumcision clinic”, where operations were performed in unsanitary conditions inside the Segrate mosque where he is the Imam.<sup>153</sup> Also sentenced were his wife, described as an Italian convert to Islam, and two other individuals. An investigation into the clinic began when an eight-month-old girl was admitted to the hospital for massive bleeding following a circumcision. Dr. Shwaima is the director and Imam of the Centro Islamico Di Milano E Lombardia, generally known as the Segrate or Al-Rahman Mosque, which is affiliated with the Unione delle Comunità ed Organizzazioni Islamiche in Italia (UCOII), an organization often identified as associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, and which refers to Dr. Shwaima as a founding associate.<sup>154 155156 157</sup> Dr. Shwaima is also a former Secretary of

<sup>146</sup> Nicolas Beau, *Paris, Capital Arabe*, Editions de Seuil Paris: 1995, p. 248

<sup>147</sup> France-Echos : Amar Lasfar, *l'islamiste du Nord* (article mis à jour)

<http://www.france-echos.com/actualite.php?cle=5484> (no longer available)

<sup>148</sup> Nicolas Beau, *Paris, Capital Arabe*, Editions de Seuil Paris: 1995, p. 248

<sup>149</sup> Conseil d'Etat, 7 juin 1999, n° 178449, Ben Mansour”

[http://www.droit-public.net/imprimer.php3?id\\_article=330](http://www.droit-public.net/imprimer.php3?id_article=330) 4/16/2004

<sup>150</sup> Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., *Worldbase*, February 26, 2006: Mediacom

<sup>151</sup> “Mediacom”

<http://zem.zem.free.fr/>

<sup>152</sup> [http://www.bertoltbrecht.it/archiviobb/inviti\\_comunicati/pdf/1992\\_03\\_12.pdf](http://www.bertoltbrecht.it/archiviobb/inviti_comunicati/pdf/1992_03_12.pdf)

<sup>153</sup>

[http://qn.quotidiano.net/archivio\\_art.php?art=http://qn.quotidiano.net/2001/02/19/pages/art1847484.html](http://qn.quotidiano.net/archivio_art.php?art=http://qn.quotidiano.net/2001/02/19/pages/art1847484.html)

<sup>154</sup> «Il velo legge di Dio» La guerra scoppia in tv - Corriere della Sera

[http://www.corriere.it/Primo\\_Piano/Politica/2006/10\\_Ottobre/22/veloislamico.shtml](http://www.corriere.it/Primo_Piano/Politica/2006/10_Ottobre/22/veloislamico.shtml)

<sup>155</sup> AlHiwar499 1 Il Centro Islamico di Milano e della Lombardia

[http://www.centro-peirone.it/Alhiwar/1999/4\\_99/alhiwar499\\_05.htm#SOMMARIO](http://www.centro-peirone.it/Alhiwar/1999/4_99/alhiwar499_05.htm#SOMMARIO)

<sup>156</sup> “Aggressione”

<http://web.archive.org/web/20041017014133/http://www.islam-ucioi.it/aggressione.htm>

<sup>157</sup> “Centri Islamici e moschee in Italia

<http://web.archive.org/web/20050428075437/http://www.islam-ucioi.it/italia.htm>

the UCOII.<sup>158</sup> In addition to being a FIOE department head, he was the editor of the FIOE newspaper, probably a reference to Al-Europiya discussed above.<sup>159</sup>

These former FIOE officers have been replaced by relatively unknown individuals suggesting that the FIOE may be attempting to improve its public image. The following is a list of current FIOE officers derived from the most current FIOE website.<sup>160</sup>



Chakib Benmakhlouf

### **Chakib Benmakhlouf (President)**

New FIOE President Chakib Benmakhlouf is a relatively-unknown Moroccan born Swedish citizen.<sup>161</sup> He has been the rector of a Swedish Islamic school and is currently listed as the CEO and sole-proprietor of a management consulting company in his name located in Hasselby, Sweden, a borough in the western part of Stockholm where he probably resides.<sup>162 163</sup>

### **Ahmed Jaballah (Vice-President)**

Dr. Ahmed Jaballah was born in Tunis in 1956, attended the Zeitouna, the theological university of Tunis and obtained his doctorate in Islamology from the University of Paris-Sorbonne.<sup>164 165 166</sup> In 1989, Dr. Jaballah was President of the Union des Organisations Islamiques de France (UOIF), a French Islamic organization founded in 1983 and generally considered to be associated with the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>167</sup> In 2002, he was a member of the Advisory Board of the German branch of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS), closely



<sup>158</sup> "Pro-Terror, Racist Imam Expelled from Rome"

<http://www.amislam.com/rome.htm>

<sup>159</sup> "AlHiwar499 1 Il Centro Islamico di Milano e della Lombardia"

[http://www.centro-peirone.it/Alhiwar/1999/4\\_99/alhiwar499\\_05.htm](http://www.centro-peirone.it/Alhiwar/1999/4_99/alhiwar499_05.htm)

<sup>160</sup> "Contact Us"

<http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/yo-yo-yo/contact-us/>

<sup>161</sup> [http://shop.ceps.eu/downfree.php?item\\_id=1556](http://shop.ceps.eu/downfree.php?item_id=1556)

<sup>162</sup> [http://www.arkiv.hig.se/p-inst/religion/C/2000/redovismom3/uppstaser/liv\\_larsson\\_test.doc](http://www.arkiv.hig.se/p-inst/religion/C/2000/redovismom3/uppstaser/liv_larsson_test.doc)

<sup>163</sup> Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., Worldbase, April 10, 2008: Chakib Benmakhlouf

<sup>164</sup> "The Muslims of France," Council on Foreign Relations, Foreign Affairs, September/October 1996

<sup>165</sup> "French Daily Traces History of UOIF Development, Ties to Muslim Brotherhood," World News Connection, December 13, 2002.

<sup>166</sup> "Muslim Education in Europe Conference"

<http://www.amssuk.com/docs/pdf/AMSSUK%20MEiE%20Conf%20Sep2002%20-%20booklet.pdf>

<sup>167</sup> "French Daily Traces History of UOIF Development, Ties to Muslim Brotherhood," World News Connection, December 13, 2002



connected to the International Institute of Islamic Thought in the U.S..<sup>168</sup> In 2005, he was one of the UOIF appointees to the French Council of Muslim Worship.<sup>169</sup> In addition to being a FIOE officer, Dr. Jaballah is a member of the European Council for Fatwa and Research and director of the Paris campus of the European Institute of Human Sciences.<sup>170</sup>

### **Ibrahim El-Zayat (Public Relations)**

One of the most prominent FIOE officers is Ibrahim Farouk El-Zayat, born in 1968 in Marburg, Germany.<sup>171</sup> He is the son of an Egyptian father who founded an Islamic facility in Marburg in September 1986 and a German mother who converted to Islam.<sup>172 173</sup> Following completion of his studies on Islamic economic systems in 1992, Mr. El-Zayat moved to Cologne and was involved with the founding of three Islamic youth organizations, and at one time had been a member of the Ring Christlich-Demokratischer Studenten, an organization describing itself as having “political convictions led by Christian Democratic, conservative and liberal values.”<sup>174 175 176 177</sup>

Mr. El-Zayat is affiliated with numerous organizations tied to the global Muslim Brotherhood:

- Mr. El-Zayat is the head of the FIOE member organization in Germany known as the Islamische Gemeinschaft in Deutschland (IGD), listed by the German domestic intelligence agency as representing the Muslim Brotherhood in Germany.<sup>178</sup>
- The German government has identified Mr. El-Zayat in the past as the European representative of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), based in Saudi Arabia, and an archived WAMY Arabic language web page also makes the same identification.<sup>179 180</sup>



<sup>168</sup> <http://www.amssuk.com/docs/pdf/AMSSUK%20MEiE%20Conf%20Sep2002%20-%20booklet.pdf>

<sup>169</sup> “CFCM: les tractations s’engagent pour prendre les commandes” Agence France Presse, June 20, 2005

<sup>170</sup> “Muslim Education in Europe Conference”

<http://www.amssuk.com/docs/pdf/AMSSUK%20MEiE%20Conf%20Sep2002%20-%20booklet.pdf>

<sup>171</sup> ICC Directors 2005, Europe Trust, Registration No.: 04927787

<sup>172</sup> Conversation with Doctor Ursula Spuler-Stegemann, University of Marburg, February 4, 2004

<sup>173</sup> Al-Islam, Issue #5, 1986

<sup>174</sup> “Die Macht des Ibrahim El Zayat,” Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 11, 2007

<sup>175</sup> RCDS - ProjektZukunft.

<http://www.rcds.de/default.asp?Gebiet=%5FDer+Verband%5FX%5F%3C%21%2D%2D10%2D%2D%3EDer+Verband%5FX&Bereich=%3C%21%2D%2D10%2D%2D%3ERCDS>

<sup>176</sup> VR #6603 Amtsgericht München

<sup>177</sup> “Muslimische Jugend Deutschland”

<http://www.jugendserver.de/wai1/showcontent.asp?ThemaID=3886> February 12, 2004.

<sup>178</sup>

[http://www.verfassungsschutz.de/download/de/publikationen/verfassungsschutzbericht/vsbericht\\_2007/vsbericht\\_2007.pdf](http://www.verfassungsschutz.de/download/de/publikationen/verfassungsschutzbericht/vsbericht_2007/vsbericht_2007.pdf)

<sup>179</sup> “Antwort der Bundesregierung auf die Kleine Anfrage der Abgeordneten Wolfgang Bosbach, Martin Hohmann, Hartmut Koschyk, weiterer Abgeordneter und der Fraktion der CDU/CSU–

- Business databases list Mr. El-Zayat as a board member of both the German and international headquarters of Islamic Relief Worldwide.<sup>181 182</sup>
- Mr. El-Zayat also has important connections to a network of “Muslim social scientists.” This network includes a German organization called the Gesellschaft Muslimischer Sozial und Geisteswissenschaftler (GMSG), the Association of Muslim Social Scientists UK (AMSS), and the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) in the U.S.<sup>183 184 185 186</sup>

Mr. El-Zayat is also close to the Islamische Gemeinschaft Milli Görüs e. V. (IGMG), the Europe-wide organization representing conservative Islamic Turkish immigrants. The German domestic intelligence agency considers the IGMG to be an advocate for Islamic law and a supporter of a publication that contains anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.<sup>187</sup> Mr. El-Zayat is married to Sabiha Erbakan, the sister of Mehmet Sabri Erbakan, the nephew of Turkish Islamic leader and former prime minister Necmettin Erbakan founder of the IGMG.<sup>188</sup>

In addition, Mr. El-Zayat is listed as an officer of a German business called SLM Liegenschaftsmanagement Gesellschaft für Finanzvermittlung und Consulting mbH, established in 1997.<sup>189</sup> Oguz Ücuncü, the General-Secretary of the IGMG, is also listed as an SLM officer. A report of the German domestic intelligence agency lists SLM as an organization connected to the IGMG.<sup>190</sup> Since 1995, Mr. El-Zayat has also been the manager of the Europäische Moscheenbau-und Unterstützungs Gemeinschaft (European Mosque Building Association) (EMUG) that the German domestic intelligence agency refers to as representing the real estate holdings of Milli Görüs.<sup>191</sup> Through SLM and EMUG, Mr. El-Zayat buys properties for the building of mosques, advises the

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Drucksache 15/1551 –Islamistische Bestrebungen in Deutschland”

<http://dip.bundestag.de/btd/15/018/1501820.pdf>

<sup>180</sup>

[http://web.archive.org/web/20050504161146/http://wamy.net/aboutus/secretary/cv\\_alzayat.asp](http://web.archive.org/web/20050504161146/http://wamy.net/aboutus/secretary/cv_alzayat.asp)

<sup>181</sup> ICC Financial Analysis Reports, Islamic Relief Worldwide, December 15, 2005.

<sup>182</sup> Bürger-Firmenprofile Islamic Relief Deutschland e.V. 16. Februar 2006

<sup>183</sup> “Newsletter der GMSG Ausgabe Nr. 2/97”

<http://www.gmsg.de/suche3/NEWSLETTER/NEWSLETTER2/Newsletter2.pdf>

<sup>184</sup> “Offices”

<http://web.archive.org/web/20011006153652/http://iiit.org/Establishment.htm>

<sup>185</sup> “Programm”

<http://www.gmsg.de/JAHRESTAGUNG/PROGRAMM/programm.html>

<sup>186</sup> “Kontakt”

<http://www.gmsg.de/suche3/suche31.htm>

<sup>187</sup> “Annual Report of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution 2002”

[http://www.verfassungsschutz.de/news/vsb2002\\_engl.pdf](http://www.verfassungsschutz.de/news/vsb2002_engl.pdf)

<sup>188</sup> Peter Finn, “Preaching Democracy, Teaching Islam” *The Washington Post*, December 19, 2002

<sup>189</sup> Verband der Vereine Creditreform e.V. Creditreform Deutsche Firmen August 2005

SLM Liegenschaftsmanagem. Gesellsch.f.Finanzverm.u. Consulting mbH

<sup>190</sup> <http://www.im.nrw.de/sch/doks/vs/islam.pdf>

<sup>191</sup> <http://www.im.nrw.de/sch/doks/vs/islam.pdf>

associations about the procedures for the acquisition of building permits as well as the financing, and consults regarding the insurance and other municipal requirements as well as “political questions.”<sup>192</sup> Mr. El-Zayat has been involved with approximately 100 mosque projects in the past and has 30 current projects. In addition to the mosque projects, Mr. El-Zayat buys and sells commercial real estate on behalf of private investors in Arab countries.

In 2001, the FIOE website listed Mr. El-Zayat as the head of the “Youth and Student” section with an address in Cologne.<sup>193</sup> Mr. El-Zayat is a Trustee of the European Institute for Human Sciences in France, which is a central organization of the FIOE discussed earlier in this report.<sup>194</sup>

The Wall Street Journal has reported that in 2002, German police believed Mr. El-Zayat had engaged in financial transactions involving Balkan countries that were probably used for “carrying out fundamentalist Islamic activities in Europe.”<sup>195</sup>

In April 2008, Mr. El-Zayat was sentenced in absentia to 10 years in prison by an Egyptian military court, which had accused him of being an overseas leader of the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>196</sup>

### **Ayman Sayed Ahmed Aly (General Secretariat)**

Ayman Aly was born in 1966 in Zarkah-Demiatte, Egypt.<sup>197</sup> In 2001, Dr. Aly was receiving a monthly stipend from the Muslimische Studenten Vereinigung to support his studies in Nuclear Medicine at the University of Bonn. Dr. Aly has lived in Europe since 1994 and has spent six years in “Eastern Europe and the Balkans.”<sup>198</sup> Confidential sources report that Dr. Aly was originally located in Albania but came to Germany because it was easier to run the Balkan section of the FIOE from there. He is the Assistant Secretary-General of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (IIFSO) “having close relations with the Muslim World League and with the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY).”<sup>199</sup> <sup>200</sup> Dr. Aly is a founding member of the Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organizations (FEMYSO), described earlier in this report as



<sup>192</sup> “Die Macht des Ibrahim El Zayat,” Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, May 11, 2007.

<sup>193</sup> “Contacting FIOE”

[http://web.archive.org/web/20010607071035/www.fioe.org/contact\\_us/contact\\_us.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20010607071035/www.fioe.org/contact_us/contact_us.htm)

<sup>194</sup> <http://amssuk.com/docs/pdf/AMSSUK%20Europe%20Conf%20Sep2000%20-%20booklet.pdf>

<sup>195</sup> Ian Johnson, “Islamic Group’s Ties Reveal Europe’s Challenge,” The Wall Street Journal, December 29, 2005

<sup>196</sup> “El Shater, Malek, Sentenced for Seven years, 15 Acquitted,” Ikhwan Web, April 15, 2008

<http://ikhwanweb.com/Article.asp?ID=16703&SectionID=0>

<sup>197</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>198</sup> “Guest CV: Dr. Aiman Ali”

<http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Guestcv.asp?hGuestID=rbOxt5>

<sup>199</sup> “Guest CV: Dr. Aiman Ali”

<http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Guestcv.asp?hGuestID=rbOxt5>

<sup>200</sup> “The Muslim World After 9/11,” RAND, 2004

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2004/RAND\\_MG246.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2004/RAND_MG246.pdf)

the youth wing of the FIOE.<sup>201</sup> Dr. Ali was the head of the Albanian office of the Taibah International Aid Association.<sup>202</sup> As discussed later in this report, Dr. Aly appears to have been operating both the Taibah office and the FIOE office in Albania simultaneously and from the same facilities. In these capacities, Dr. Aly made financial transfers involving the FIOE, Taibah, WAMY, and other organizations linked to the global Muslim Brotherhood described as dubious by a German money-laundering investigation. The FIOE/Taibah in Albania and Bosnia also appear to have been linked to Islamic fundamentalist organizations operating in that area. Dr. Aly currently lives in Austria.<sup>203</sup>



Foud Alaoui

### **Fouad Alaoui (Planning/Citizenship & Political Studies Department)**

Fouad Alaoui was born in Fez, Morocco in 1961.<sup>204</sup> <sup>205</sup> Dr. Alaoui studied “sciences” in Morocco and at the age of 21 left for Bordeaux, France in order to study, eventually receiving his doctorate in neuro-psychology, most likely in 1993. Following his graduation, he decided to remain in France and worked for five years in a laboratory in Bordeaux. Dr. Alaoui has been married to a French national since 1987 and has four children.<sup>206</sup> Dr. Alaoui met Lhaj Thami Breze, later to become the UOIF President, probably through the Étudiants Musulmans de France, which was formerly called the Union Islamique des Étudiants de France, characterized by one academic study as a “radical organization” and which Dr. Alaoui founded in 1989, becoming the organization’s President.<sup>207</sup> <sup>208</sup> However, Dr. Alaoui has told confidential sources that while he became involved with the UOIF in 1993, he did not become the organization’s Secretary-General until 1995. In 2003, Dr. Alaoui was elected Vice President of the newly created French government Council on Islam, the Conseil Français du Culte Musulman (CFCM), a position which he continues to hold at the current time.<sup>209</sup> In 2004, Dr. Alaoui

<sup>201</sup> “Guest CV: Dr. Aiman Ali”

<http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Guestcv.asp?hGuestID=rbOxt5>

<sup>202</sup> “Contact List: NGO Report”

[http://web.archive.org/web/20000817051700/http://www.reliefweb.int/hcic/cont\\_list.pdf](http://web.archive.org/web/20000817051700/http://www.reliefweb.int/hcic/cont_list.pdf)

<sup>203</sup> “European Muslims Charter Born”

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/Home/Story.aspx?Language=en&DSNO=1059003> (no longer available)

<sup>204</sup> “Muslim of Europe Conference”

<http://www.muslimsofeurope.com/steering.php>

<sup>205</sup> “L’homme à la barbe de la République”

<http://www.uejf.org/tohubohu/dossier/barbe.html>

<sup>206</sup> L’homme à la barbe de la République

<http://www.uejf.org/tohubohu/dossier/barbe.html>

<sup>207</sup> “Muslim of Europe Conference”

<http://www.muslimsofeurope.com/fr/steering.php> (no longer available)

<sup>208</sup> Glen Feder, “The Muslim Brotherhood in France,” *In the National Interest*, September 2005

<http://www.inthenationalinterest.com/Articles/September%202005/september2005Feder.html>

<sup>209</sup> “Le Conseil Français du Culte Musulman (CFCM)”

<http://www.portail-religion.com/FR/dossier/islam/pratique/institutions/CFCM/index.php>

was listed as the Director of the Europe Region for the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, an organization close to the Saudi World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY).<sup>210</sup>

### **Abdessami Nasri (Media)**

Norwegian resident Abdessami Nasri replaced Abdullah Ben Mansour as FIOE media officer and appears to be in charge of the latest FIOE website. In 2005, Mr. Nasri was listed as the Administrator of the Norwegian office of Islamic Relief, a worldwide charity with strong ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>211</sup> He is currently listed as a proprietor of a Norwegian company involved with the wholesaling of food products.<sup>212</sup>

### **Muhammad Abd al-Zaher (Eastern Europe)**

Muhammad Abd al-Zaher from Albania has replaced Ayman Aly as head of the FIOE's Eastern Europe department. Mr. al-Zaher has also been listed in the past as the contact person for the FIOE's Albanian member organization.<sup>213</sup> The telephone number listed for Mr. al-Zaher was also the same number identified in a German investigation money-laundering investigation as that of Taibah International in Albania, formerly headed by Ayman Aly.<sup>214</sup>



Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed

### **Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed (Finance)**

Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed was born in 1962 and received a Diploma in English language, possibly in Saudi Arabia, holds a BA in Arabic Literature, an IT Diploma from an unidentified institution, and an MA in Islamic Philosophy from Birmingham University.<sup>215 216</sup> He is a past president of the Muslim Association of Britain, the FIOE U.K. member organization.<sup>217</sup> Mr. Mohamed has also been a leader in the Muslim Council of Britain, an organization comprised mainly of organizations linked to the Muslim

<sup>210</sup> "IIFSO's Executive Committee Members"

<http://web.archive.org/web/20000407085310/www.iifso.org/Exco.htm>

<sup>211</sup>

<http://www.islam.no/newsite/content/default.asp?Action=Article&nTopPage=98&nPage=27&nATID=298>

<sup>212</sup> Brønnøysundregistrene - Nøkkelopplysninger fra Enhetsregisteret

<http://w2.brreg.no/enhet/sok/detalj.jsp?orgnr=963716230>

<sup>213</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>214</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>215</sup> "Guest CV: Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed"

<http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Guestcv.asp?hGuestID=X211CA>

<sup>216</sup> ICC Directors, Europe Trust, Registration No.: 04927787 2005

<sup>217</sup> "Guest CV: Ahmed Sheikh Mohamed"

<http://www.islamonline.net/livedialogue/english/Guestcv.asp?hGuestID=X211CA>

Brotherhood.<sup>218 219</sup> He lives in Middlesex, U.K. and lists his nationality as British.<sup>220</sup>

### **Adnan Saif (Human Development)**

An online biography states that Adnan Saif was born in Yemen and came to Birmingham as a child.<sup>221</sup> At university, he became involved in the Islamic student movement, becoming President of FOSIS (Federation of Student Islamic Societies), an organization associated with the U.K. Muslim Brotherhood. He started work as head of the Yemeni Institute in Birmingham. During the 1990s, he worked in local government in Birmingham, before becoming Executive Director of Muath Welfare Trust, a Yemeni charity based in Birmingham and associated with the Muslim Association of Britain. He is involved in a number of forums, mainly in the educational field, within the City of Birmingham and is also a member of the Management Committee of the European Institute for Human Sciences.

### **Wanis Mabrouk (Education and Dawaa)**

Wanis Mabrouk is a Libyan-born British citizen who was described in 2006 as a professor of Islamic studies in Wales, probably referring to the EIHS campus there.<sup>222 223</sup> As noted above, Mr. Mabrouk is the President of the European Assembly of Muslim Imams, launched by the FIOE earlier this year.

### **Rawaa Al Abed (Muslim Women)**

No information is available about Rawaa Al Abed, who replaced Noura Jaballah as head of the FIOE Women's Department. Her contact phone number indicates that she resides in Ireland.<sup>224</sup>

### **Karim Chemlal (Youth and Student)**

Karim Chemlal is a forty-year-old resident of Brussels, born in Morocco and now also a naturalized citizen of Belgium.<sup>225</sup> He has a PhD in microbiology and has been employed in that field. He is listed as the Manager of Nitro EU Consulting, where Belgian Muslim Brotherhood leader Bassem Hatahet is an executive. He was also listed in July 1999 as a responsible party on the founding documents for a Moroccan immigrant organization known as Nibras.<sup>226</sup> Dr. Chemlal was one of the nine individuals from Belgium who endorsed

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<sup>218</sup> The Common Good (MCB Newsletter), November 2002

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/downloads/Nov2002Newsletter6.pdf>

<sup>219</sup> "Committee Contacts"

<http://web.archive.org/web/20031003032309/http://www.mcb.org.uk/e46.html>

<sup>220</sup> ICC Directors, Europe Trust, Registration No.: 04927787 2005

<sup>221</sup> <http://www.newscentre.bham.ac.uk/404error.shtml> (no longer available)

<sup>222</sup> "Pan-European Muslim Org. Forms"

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/Home/Story.aspx?Language=en&DSNO=1073936> (no longer available)

<sup>223</sup> Ukba Al-Humaidy, "Tunisian Scholars Decry Anti-Hijab Remarks," Islam Online, January 4, 2006

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2006-01/04/article05.shtml>

<sup>224</sup> "Members"

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=105](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=105)

<sup>225</sup> Nitro EU 2007, Corporate document

<sup>226</sup> Nibras 2660 Hoboken SATZUNGEN \*\*\* Veröffentlichung: 2000-01-13 N. 001029  
Identification : 10292000 MWST oder Unternehmensnummer: : 469124266

the “Amman Message”, a statement that was issued on November 9, 2004 by King Abdullah II of Jordan, calling for tolerance and unity in the Muslim world.<sup>227</sup> Many of the signatories to the Amman message are known to be part of the global Muslim Brotherhood and the effort was based partially on the fatwas of Brotherhood leader Youssef Qaradawi.<sup>228</sup> Recent news reports describe Dr. Chemlal as representing FIOE in Belgium, and he is listed as a contact for the Belgian FIOE member organization.<sup>229</sup>

## **Affiliations**

### **Muslim Brotherhood**

In 2006, then-FIOE President Ahmed Al-Rawi was reported not to have denied a close connection to the Muslim Brotherhood, telling a newspaper interviewer that, “We are interlinked with them with a common point of view... We have a good close relationship.” In addition, a member of the European Council for Fatwa and Research wrote recently:

“If we move a step forward, and look into targets of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (FIOE)- it represents the Muslim Brotherhood’s moderate thought taking into consideration European specialty, and working under European regimes and laws...”<sup>230</sup>

There is substantial evidence to suggest that FIOE, in fact, is the representative of the global Muslim Brotherhood in Europe:

- Most of the FIOE member organizations are linked to the global Muslim Brotherhood. For example, as discussed earlier, the FIOE German member is designated by the German domestic intelligence agency as the Muslim Brotherhood representative in Germany, and the UOIF in France is also generally considered to be close to the Muslim Brotherhood. Prior NEFA reports on Belgium and the Netherlands have documented the close ties between FIOE members and the Muslim Brotherhood in those countries.<sup>231 232</sup> Similar relationships exist in other countries as well.
- Many of the FIOE officers are leaders in the FIOE member organizations with documented ties to the global Muslim Brotherhood, such as Ibrahim El-Zayat of

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<sup>227</sup> “Grand List of Endorsements of the Amman Message and its Three Points,” July 2005 – July 2006

[http://ammanmessage.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=31](http://ammanmessage.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=31)

<sup>228</sup> “The Amman Message”

<http://www.ammanmessage.com/>

<sup>229</sup> <http://www.kuna.net.kw/Home/print.aspx?Language=en&DSNO=1064480> (no longer available)

<sup>230</sup> Salem Abdul Salam Al Shikhi, “The Muslim Brotherhood in Europe and a Course of Reviews, UK an Example,” [Islam Online](http://www.ikhwanweb.org/), August 12, 2008

<http://www.ikhwanweb.org/Article.asp?ID=17575&SectionID=0>

<sup>231</sup> Ron Sandee, “The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Netherlands,” The NEFA Foundation, December 2007

<sup>232</sup> Steve Merley, “The Muslim Brotherhood in Belgium,” The NEFA Foundation, May 2008

Germany, Fouad Alaoui of France, and Karim Chemlal of Belgium.

- As discussed earlier, the most important FIOE central institutions have links to the Muslim Brotherhood including the ECFR, EIHS/IESH, FEMYSO, and the Europe Trust.
- FIOE has posted statements on its website from the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>233 234 235</sup>
- FIOE documents show photographs indicating relationships between the FIOE and U.S. Muslim Brotherhood organizations and their leaders, including Jamal Barzinji and Abdurahman Alamoudi.



Barzinji & Alamoudi  
with Ahmed Al-Rawi

### Saudi Arabia

FIOE also has strong ties to the Saudi Muslim World League (MWL) and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY).

- As noted earlier in this report, “business people” donate to FIOE through the MWL.
- Also as noted earlier, FIOE officer Ibrahim El-Zayat has been the European representative for WAMY and FIOE officer Ayman Aly is the Assistant Secretary-General of the International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations (IIFSO), strongly associated with WAMY.
- A number of the smaller FIOE member organizations are linked to the MWL and/or WAMY including Finland, Bosnia, Romania, and Switzerland.
- FIOE officers have frequently met with Muslim World League officials, including the MWL Secretary-General, spoken at conferences sponsored by the MWL, and MWL leaders have toured FIOE organization facilities such as the EIHS.<sup>236 237 238 239 240</sup>

<sup>233</sup> ميجرلا نجرلا لالا مسب:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010303165908/http://www.fioe.org/news/bian18-10-00.htm>

<sup>234</sup> “Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe Urges Calm,” IkhwanWeb, February 8, 2006  
<http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&D=3847>

<sup>235</sup> ميجرلا نجرلا لالا مسب:

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010303165908/www.fioe.org/news/bian18-10-00.htm>

<sup>236</sup> “Al-Turki Receives Officials of Islamic Organizations in Europe,” The Saudi Arabian Information Resource

<http://www.saudinf.com/main/y3399.htm> (no longer available)

<sup>237</sup> “MWL to Clarify Islam’s Stand on Terrorism in UK”

[http://www.paknews.com/php/main.php?id=15\\_date1=2002-03-04](http://www.paknews.com/php/main.php?id=15_date1=2002-03-04) (no longer available)

<sup>238</sup> <http://www.muslimworldleague.org/paper/1768/articles/page14.htm>

<sup>239</sup> “Clash of Civilizations Squabble Said to be Source of Friction”

<http://web.archive.org/web/20041120193833/http://www.muslims.org/newsdetails.php?t=2&newsId=681&caption=Islamic+News&headId=1>



Most recently, a FIOE delegation, headed by FIOE president Chakib Benmakhlout, visited Saudi Arabia from February 16 through March 1, 2007 in order to “strengthen bonds and introduce plans and projects.”<sup>241</sup> Also, in November 2007, the MWL identified FIOE Vice-President Ahmad Jaballah and ECFR member Bosnian Grand Mufti Mustafa Ceric as members of a newly formed organization sponsored by the League.<sup>242 243</sup>

### **IGMG**

The FIOE maintains close ties with Milli Görüs, the the Europe-wide organization representing conservative Islamic Turkish immigrants. The latest FIOE activity report states:

“Accord with Mille Grouch [sic] to unify Muslims of Europe The Executive Bureau of the Federation of Muslim organizations, seeking to unify Muslims of Europe, has arranged on February 8th 2008 a meeting with officials of Mille Grouch [sic] organization to confer on issues of common interest .The aim is to set up an overall umbrella, similar to FEMO [sic], to put a unified strategy for European Muslims, to establish an Islamic Council for Human rights to coordinate activities within well-known institutions. An atmosphere of cordiality prevailed that meeting.”<sup>244</sup>

Other ties between FIOE and Milli Görüs include:

- A FIOE document containing a photograph with a caption “signing an Islamic-European cooperation agreement between the Union (Dr. Ahmad al-Rawi) and IGMG leader Muhammad Arbikan.”<sup>245</sup>
- As discussed above, FIOE officer Ibrahim El-Zayat is married to the sister of an IGMG leader and is also in charge of the Milli Görüs real estate portfolio in Europe.
- The German domestic intelligence agency reports that the youth organization of Milli Görüs is represented on the Executive Board of FEMYSO.<sup>246</sup>



<sup>240</sup>

<http://www.islam.no/newsite/content/default.asp?Action=Article&nTopPage=26&nPage=&nATID=422>

<sup>241</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>242</sup> <http://www.anba.com.br/ingles/noticia.php?id=16415>

<sup>243</sup> قطبارلا رابخأ

<http://www.themwl.org/News/default.aspx?ct=1&cid=2&nid=491&l=AR>

<sup>244</sup> “The Federation – Monthly Bulletin”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=57%3Athe-federation-monthly-bulletin-&catid=1%3Alatest&Itemid=19](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57%3Athe-federation-monthly-bulletin-&catid=1%3Alatest&Itemid=19)

<sup>245</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>246</sup> <http://www.verfassungsschutz-bw.de/downloads/jabe/2005/jabe-2005.pdf>

### **Activities - EU Relations**

The FIOE and FEMYSO are listed as “non-diplomatic” representatives to the Dialogue with Religions, Churches and Humanisms that is part of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA), a division of the European Commission.<sup>247</sup> FIOE officers have also participated in a number of events related to the European Union:

- In 2004, sources close to the FIOE said that Dr. Al-Rawi participated in a meeting with officials from the European Union (EU) concerning the Hijab in which there were 16 Islamic participants and 14 others. Among the participants was an individual identified as “religious advisor” to then-EU President Romano Prodi. Dr. Al-Rawi and Noura Jaballah were said to have presented papers, and Dr. Al-Rawi gave the introduction to the meeting.



El-Zayat and Al-Rawi at the EU

- On December 2, 2004, Ibrahim El-Zayat, described as head of public relations for the FIOE, met with Sarah Ludford and her assistant Nadia Verjee at the European Parliament in Brussels. Ms. Ludford is a member of the European Parliament from the UK. Also attending the meeting was Ahmed Al-Rawi, President of FIOE.<sup>248</sup>
- In January 2005, Ibrahim El-Zayat, described as a “representative of civil society”, participated in a conference on European integration policy of legal immigrants sponsored by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE). Other participants included Jean-Louis Boulanges (chair of the LIBE committee in European Parliament), Beate Winkler, Director of the Vienna Anti-Racism Institute, and senior civil servants of the European Commission JHA directorate.<sup>249</sup>
- In June 2005, Sajjad Karim, described as the Vice President of the anti-racism and diversity inter-group in the European parliament, organized a conference on Islam in Europe in Strasbourg. Scheduled speakers included Barbara Nolan, head of Unit, Anti-Discrimination and Relations with Civil Society in the European Commission, Ibrahim El-Zayat, head of public relations at the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe, and Dr Hamida Palagi, doctor of physics and teacher in Strasbourg, France.<sup>250</sup>

<sup>247</sup> List of Permanent Missions and Organizations, European Commission, Bureau of European Policy Advisers

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/policy\\_advisers/archives/activities/dialogue\\_religions\\_humanisms/list\\_en.htm#](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/policy_advisers/archives/activities/dialogue_religions_humanisms/list_en.htm#)

<sup>248</sup>

<http://www.sarahludfordmep.org.uk/photos/18.html?PHPSESSID=f65c4dbafbe6788035609b5c3921702a> (no longer available online)

<sup>249</sup> “Unity in Diversity - ALDE Conference on Integration,” Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament, January 5, 2005

[http://www.alde.eu/index.php?id=42&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=7804&tx\\_ttnews%5Bcat%5D=114&cHash=2295bdb1e1](http://www.alde.eu/index.php?id=42&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=7804&tx_ttnews%5Bcat%5D=114&cHash=2295bdb1e1)

<sup>250</sup> European Parliament to host conference on Islam - Irna

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060427034804/http://www.irna.ir/en/news/view/menu->

- In February 2006, a FIOE representative took part in the conference on “Religious Communities in the European Union in Face of Future Challenges” held at the Euro-Parliament at the initiative of several deputies and the European center of the Jewish community. The conference was attended by high-ranking representatives of the European Commission, members of the respective committees of the European Parliament, as well as numerous delegates of Churches and inter-Christian organizations in Brussels.<sup>251</sup>
- In May 2007, the European Forum of Muslim Women reported holding “an intellectual symposium on the image of women in the media” at the headquarters of the European Parliament.<sup>252</sup>

Most recently, in January of this year, the FIOE held a meeting in Brussels to gather signatures for its Muslims of Europe Charter, a document said to describe “the rights and responsibilities of Muslims within European society.” FIOE spokesman Ibrahim El-Zayat, reported to be the coordinator of the project, described the charter as:

“...a message to government and the rest of society, but also directed at Muslims within Europe,... describes how we should act as positive citizens in the societies in which we live and not be a threat,” he continued. The groups hope that the charter will help correct negative images of Islam and improve relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in Europe.”<sup>253</sup>

The charter was reported by the FIOE to have been under development since 2000 and given “greater impetus” by the September 11 attack. The document was discussed first by member organization leadership and then disseminated to a wider Muslim community.<sup>254</sup> One early report said that the charter had “gone thorough juristic, linguistic, cultural and legal reviews and revisions” while FIOE officer Karim Chemlal said that the Kuwait Awaqf Ministry “contributed a lot in establishing the Charter.”<sup>255</sup>

An early version of the charter was posted online in 2006.<sup>256</sup> While a comparison of the two versions is beyond the scope of this report, at least one section shows signs of editing designed to make the document more palatable to Europeans. In the following passage, an explanation of “Jihad” in light with other Muslim Brotherhood presentations, the phrase “to any sovereign state” has previously referred to “any Muslim State”:

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235/0506060347122518.htm

<sup>251</sup> No 86 (February 11, 2006) » Europaica Bulletin » OrthodoxEurope.org

<http://orthodoxeurope.org/page/14/86.aspx>

<sup>252</sup> “Highlight of FIOE Activities”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19)

<sup>253</sup> <http://euobserver.com/?aid=25444>

<sup>254</sup> <http://euobserver.com/?aid=25444>

<sup>255</sup> <http://www.kuna.net.kw/Home/print.aspx?Language=en&DSNO=1064480>

<sup>256</sup> “Muslims in Europe Charter Project,” *Islam Online*, September 4, 2006

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/EuropeanMuslims/PoliticsCitizenship/2006/09/01a.shtml>

“Islam calls for mutual acquaintance, dialogue and co-operation among people and nations so as to enhance stability and guarantee peace in the world. The term Jihad that occurs in Islamic texts means to exert all efforts towards good, starting from reforming oneself to spreading truth and justice between people. Jihad in its understanding as warfare is regarded as one of the means available to any sovereign state when it needs to defend itself against aggression. The teachings of Islam, in this respect, are in line with international law. Based on such an understanding of Jihad, Islam rejects violence and terrorism, supports just causes and affirms the right of all people to defend themselves by legitimate means.”<sup>257</sup>

EU Parliament Vice President Mario Mauro, responsible for relations between the parliament and religious groups, was reported to have lavished praise on the document:

“The charter amounts to a code of good conduct for Muslims in Europe which commits them to taking part in building a united society...It pledges Muslims to helping create harmony and well-being in our societies and to fully playing the role of citizens in upholding justice, equal rights and respect for difference.”<sup>258</sup>

### **Activities - Political Campaigns**

#### **Hijab**

In 2003, the FIOE explained its opposition to the proposed law banning the Hijab (headscarf) in French educational institutions:

“The FIOE urges all European Muslims to use every legal channel to denounce this extremist trend and explain that the wearing of hijab is a divine injunction of which every committed Muslim woman is proud and can by no means violate or disregard; and that forcing her to take it off would lead her to feel humiliated and oppressed, a phenomenon which we would like to avoid in our European societies.”<sup>259</sup>

The FIOE is currently listed as a supporter on the website of an organization known as the Assembly for the Protection of Hijab, also known as Pro-Hijab, which was launched in June 2004 at a press conference held at the British House of Commons and

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<sup>257</sup> “Muslims Of Europe Charter”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&catid=17%3Aarticles&id=39%3Amuslims-of-europe-charter&Itemid=101](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=17%3Aarticles&id=39%3Amuslims-of-europe-charter&Itemid=101)

<sup>258</sup> Teresa Kuchler and Leigh Philips, “400 Groups Sign Charter for European Muslims,” EU Observer, January 14, 2008

<http://euobserver.com/?aid=25444>

<sup>259</sup> The Official Web Site of the Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe  
<http://www.eu-islam.net/news.html> 2/8/2004 (no longer available)

attended by FIOE ex-president Ahmed Al-Rawi.<sup>260</sup> A second Pro-Hijab conference was scheduled to include global Muslim Brotherhood leader Youssef Qaradawi as a guest of honor and Tariq Ramadan was scheduled as a featured speaker.<sup>261</sup> At that time, the organization indicated that the Muslim Association of Britain, the UK FIOE member, played a “pivotal role in the formation of Pro-Hijab. In 2005, the group planned a lobbying campaign at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Fatwas posted on an archived FIOE web page also strongly support the wearing of the Hijab.”<sup>262</sup>

## **Cartoon Crisis**

### **1. Denmark**

The FIOE, its member organization in Denmark, and the leader of the FIOE Fatwa Council played important roles in fomenting the crisis over the cartoons of the Islamic prophet Mohammed, published in a Danish newspaper in 2005. Sheikh Youssef Qaradawi, global Muslim Brotherhood leader and head of the European Council for Fatwa and Research, is widely believed to have ignited the global crisis when he declared a “Day of Anger” over the cartoons on February 4, 2006.<sup>263</sup> It was subsequently revealed in a documentary film that at the time, Qaradawi had not even seen the cartoons in question.<sup>264</sup>

In February 2006, the FIOE issued two lengthy statements regarding the Danish cartoon controversy, both of which were posted on the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood website.<sup>265 266</sup> While calling for calm, the statements spoke about “grave insults” to Islam and to Muslims:

“It is well known that every picture, especially a caricature, carries a message, so what is the message of all these pictures? All the drawings without exception carry a message of extreme insult and denigration. In them is a clear accusation; by tying Islam to terrorism, accusing Islam of oppressing women, and other negative connotations, which is what increased Muslims’ objections to these insulting pictures.”

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<sup>260</sup> “Corporate Support”

<http://www.prohijab.net/english/corporate-supporters.htm>

<sup>261</sup> Ahmad Maher, “Hijab Advocacy Group Officially Declared In London,” *Islam Online*, June 14, 2004

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2004-06/14/article09.shtml>

<sup>262</sup> “Answers to Questions on Women”

[http://web.archive.org/web/20010504010136/http://www.fioe.org/ask\\_the\\_scholar/answers\\_to\\_questions\\_on\\_womwn.htm](http://web.archive.org/web/20010504010136/http://www.fioe.org/ask_the_scholar/answers_to_questions_on_womwn.htm)

<sup>263</sup> David Rennie and Tim Butcher, “Day of Anger Threatened over Cartoons of Prophet,” *The Telegraph*, February 3, 2006

<http://telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/02/03/wcart03.xml>

<sup>264</sup> “Muslims Never Saw Mohammed Cartoons,” *The Copenhagen Post*, October 5, 2007

<http://www.cphpost.dk/get/103789.html>

<sup>265</sup> “Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe Urges Calm,” *Ikhwan Web*, February 8, 2006

<http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=3847>

<sup>266</sup> “Let Us All Work Together to Bring a Peaceful Resolution,” *Ikhwan Web*, February 15, 2006

<http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Press=Show&Lang=E&ID=3891>

The FIOE also called for restrictions on freedom of speech in regard to religion:

“The current crisis invites us today to think seriously about agreeing a set of general guidelines that guarantee freedom of expression, but at the same time protect religious objects and preserve these from mockery and desecration, in order to preserve the elements of co-existence, peace and cooperation between nations, peoples, and religions, and strengthen the pillars of positive relations and constructive dialogue between civilisations.”

In March 2006, the head of the Dansk Islamisk Rad (Danish Muslim Council), the FIOE Danish member organization, was part of a six-man Danish delegation to a conference in Bahrain organized by Youssef Qaradawi to discuss the cartoon issue.<sup>267</sup> Abu Laban, one of the other members of the delegation, had been instrumental in organizing delegations of Danish Muslims to Muslims countries where they were reported to have shown additional inflammatory cartoons never published in Danish media along with a booklet making false claims about oppression of Muslims in Denmark.<sup>268</sup>

## 2. Sweden

In contrast to the Danish crisis, the FIOE responded differently in the summer of 2007, when a Swedish newspaper published a cartoon with the Prophet Muhammad's head on a dog's body.<sup>269</sup> A report carried on the current FIOE website states that the organization acted to prevent a boycott of Swedish goods by making “extensive contacts with a big number of Islamic institutions and bodies to inform them about the real situation in Sweden and that it was totally different from what happened in Denmark.”<sup>270</sup> The differences between Sweden and Denmark identified by the FIOE appear to indicate more of a desire to punish and reward the two countries than a concern for the cartoons themselves. These differences, as stated in the report, were:

- Sweden gives more rights to Muslims than in other European countries, including the right to conduct officially licensed marriage contracts, and allows some Muslim Imams to visit jails in a legal way.
- Sweden had praiseworthy stances on Islamic issues. For example, during the last war on Iraq, it issued a visa for a minister of the first Palestinian government, which had been besieged since it assumed rule, although the

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<sup>267</sup>

<http://www.xignite.com/xWorldNews.aspx%3Farticleid%3DEUP20060326377011+%22jehad+al-farra%22&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=25> (no longer available)

<sup>268</sup> Pernille Ammitzbøll and Lorenzo Vidino, “After the Danish Cartoon Controversy,” *Middle East Quarterly*, Winter 2007

[http://www.meforum.org/article\\_print.php?id=1437&v=6096899021](http://www.meforum.org/article_print.php?id=1437&v=6096899021)

<sup>269</sup> “Sweden Cartoonist Gets Protection,” *BBC News*, September 17, 2007

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/6999652.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6999652.stm)

<sup>270</sup> “Report on Sweden’s Caricatures”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=50:report-on-swedens-caricatures&catid=17:articles&Itemid=110](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50:report-on-swedens-caricatures&catid=17:articles&Itemid=110)

U.S. president George Bush and the Israeli government tried to prevent the issuing of that visa.

- The Swedish government has better relations with Muslims including giving remarkable aid to Muslims for recognized Islamic schools, mosques, and associations. Councils of municipalities include some Muslims, who play good roles in serving Islam. All Swedish governments – with all of their ministers – communicate with Muslims and visit mosques, especially in Stockholm. By doing so, they recognize Islam as a religion which legally enjoys many rights, and Muslims as citizens.
- The Swedish people and government as a whole were not satisfied with the drawings, so it was not fair to judge the majority because of a mistake committed by a minority. In a visit to the general center of Islamic League in Sweden and Sheikh Zayid Mosque, the Prime Minister expressed his rejection to the drawings. The Prime Minister met with Arab and Muslim diplomats and told them he was sorry for publishing the drawings. (did he publish the drawings or was he sorry for the publishing of the drawings?) Many museums prevented displaying the drawings, which was viewed as a positive step on their part. Even the newspaper which published one of the drawings is a mere local one.
- Muslims have good relations with many Christian institutions with which they coordinate concerning many issues since the 1990s.

A statement made by the FIOE President with regard to containing the negative “fallout”...

“Benmakhlouf said many Swedes, though they are not religious, have disapproved of the cartoon and expressed solidarity with Muslims. “They saw the cartoon offensive, immoral and repugnant,” he said. Benmakhlouf said Swedish Muslims, estimated at 500,000 of the country's nine million population, are resolved not to blow the crisis out of proportion. “They refused to be provoked into violent action like burning consulates or flags as happened in the aftermath of the Danish cartoon crisis,” he said.<sup>271</sup>

### **European Campaign to End The Siege in Gaza**

In January, a Gulf newspaper identified the “European Campaign to End The Siege in Gaza” (ECESG) as being run by the FIOE.<sup>272</sup> The website of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood reported that the ECESG issued what was described as an “urgent appeal” to Egypt to reopen the Rafah border crossing with Gaza.<sup>273</sup> The report also cited the following statements by FIOE President Chakib Benmakhlouf to the Egyptian President:

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<sup>271</sup> Ahmad Maher, “Swedish Muslims Upset by Cartoon Ruling,” *Islam Online*, September 22, 2007 [http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=Article\\_C&cid=1189959343888&pagename=Zone-English-News/NWELayout](http://www.islamonline.net/servlet/Satellite?c=Article_C&cid=1189959343888&pagename=Zone-English-News/NWELayout)

<sup>272</sup> “Drive Against Gaza Siege”

<http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=206731&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=30310> (no longer available)

<sup>273</sup> “European Campaign Appeals for Saving Gaza Patients from Impending Mass Death,” Ikhwan

"The suffering in Gaza is no longer a regional problem, but it is now representing a challenge to the feelings of humanity all over the world except some forces which give the occupation the right to do what it likes without taking into account international laws and charters which hold it fully responsible for the humanitarian situation in the areas under its control..." "You have promised Mr. president that you would not accept to starve the Palestinian people and we do believe that the conditions no longer allow more delay in saving the Gaza people in light of international reports warning of impending humanitarian catastrophe."

Benmakhlouf also sent the following comments to the Saudi King and the Syrian President:

"We in the union of Islamic organizations in Europe, the largest Islamic organization in the continent, we are appealing to you in the name of humanity and the strong ties that bind you with the people of Gaza, who are facing mass murder, to take a historical stand ending the siege on this people whose humanity and right to resist the occupation were denied by the hegemonist forces."

In addition to the FIOE, several websites also listed a campaign by the same name and provided contact information for an organization called [freedomforpalestine.org](http://freedomforpalestine.org), whose website is registered to a Dutch organization known as Palestijns Platform voor Mensenrechten en Solidariteit (PPMS).<sup>274</sup> There are links between the PPMS, the local office of the Saudi Muslim World League, and the Dutch office of the Hamas fundraising charity known as the Al-Aqsa Foundation, also close to the Muslim Brotherhood in the Netherlands.<sup>275</sup>

In early April, a far-left organization dedicated to the support of Palestinian causes reported that:

"On March 31st, the European Campaign to End the Siege on Gaza, comprising around 30 international activists from the Basque country, Austria, Scotland, Norway, Italy, Netherlands, France, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, America and India attempted to get in to Gaza. The group left Cairo around 8 in the morning after a small demonstration on a bus plastered with Palestinian flags and posters about the continuing siege on Gaza. They made it over the Suez Canal, but were stopped at a checkpoint about 170 km from Rafah. There the Egyptian police refused to let them pass. The activists then left the bus and held a demonstration against the siege, but specifically against the complicity of European governments and the Egyptian government in continuing the siege. The roads leading onward were blocked and the Egyptian people

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Web, April 20, 2008

<http://www.ikhwanweb.net/Article.asp?ID=16784&LevelID=1&SectionID=0>

<sup>274</sup> Frontlinjer · Europeisk kampanje for å stoppe blokkaden av Gaza

<http://www.frontlinjer.no/2008/03/13/europeisk-kampanje-for-a-stoppe-blokkaden-av-gaza/>

<sup>275</sup> Ron Sandee, "The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Netherlands," The NEFA Foundation, December 2007



inside the waiting cars expressed their solidarity with the people of Gaza."<sup>276</sup>

Pictures of the event show a mixture of European and Arab-looking individuals participating in the event. A prior website advertising the event indicates that it was also sponsored by freedomforpalestine.org.

### **Activities - Other**

#### **Al-Europiya Periodical**

Publication of the FIOE periodical known as Al-Europiya was listed as the responsibility of the FIOE media department. A University library database indicates that at least fourteen print issues were produced between April 1999 and July 2001, but there is no evidence whether it has been published since that time, although a Trust was established to fund the publication.<sup>277 278</sup> Available online content from 2000 consists of news stories about topics relating to Islamic issues and FIOE member organizations. A German academic has also written that Al-Europiya published the rulings of the ECFR and older ECFR web sites had links to the publication.<sup>279</sup>



#### **Conferences and Events**

The FIOE sponsors conferences and events. Recent examples include a July 2006 event in London entitled “Islam Expo”, co-sponsored by the Muslim Association of Britain, a FIOE member, which included well-known figures associated with the global Muslim Brotherhood, including Tariq Ramadan and Jamal Badawi.<sup>280</sup>

In 2007, the FIOE public relations department was reported to have held a gathering in Brussels to “introduce the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe and its activities.” The meeting was said to have been attended by delegations from the church and civil institutions, including the Belgian organization against racism.<sup>281</sup>

#### **Liaison with Islamic Organizations**

The website of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

<sup>276</sup> International Solidarity Movement » Egyptian police block international action in solidarity with Gaza

<http://www.palsolidarity.org/main/2008/04/04/egyptian-police-block-international-action-in-solidarity-with-gaza/>

<sup>277</sup> “Bibliographic Access To Periodical Publications Of Middle Eastern Émigré Groups In Western Europe”

<http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/url/colls/mideast/europubs.htm>

<sup>278</sup> [http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about\\_en.asp](http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/about_en.asp) (no longer available)

<sup>279</sup> [http://www.zr2.jura.uni-](http://www.zr2.jura.uni-erlangen.de/islamedia/publikation/The%20Formation%20of%20a%20European%20Sharia%201-08-2003.pdf)

[erlangen.de/islamedia/publikation/The%20Formation%20of%20a%20European%20Sharia%201-08-2003.pdf](http://www.zr2.jura.uni-erlangen.de/islamedia/publikation/The%20Formation%20of%20a%20European%20Sharia%201-08-2003.pdf)

<sup>280</sup> “Renowned Politicians, Journalists and Authors Speak at IslamExpo”

[http://islamexpo.info/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=23&Itemid=5](http://islamexpo.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=23&Itemid=5)

<sup>281</sup> “Highlight of FIOE Activities”

[http://www.euro-](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19)

[muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19)

(IESCO) indicates that the organization has a “cooperation protocol” with the FIOE, and FIOE officer Ibrahim El-Zayat is an advisor to IESCO in Europe.<sup>282 283</sup> IESCO is an organization composed of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that seeks to “promote education, science, technology, culture and communication through all appropriate means”.<sup>284</sup> In 2001, IESCO reported that a body called The Higher Council for Education and Culture in the West was to hold its first meeting at the invitation and sponsorship of IESCO and that the first meeting would be held in Paris, in coordination and cooperation with FIOE.<sup>285</sup>

The FIOE is also a member of the International Islamic Council for Da’wah and Relief (IICDR), headquartered in Cairo, which describes itself as an Islamic coordinating foundation including more than one hundred Islamic NGO’s and NGO’s from around the world.<sup>286 287</sup> The FIOE is also a member of the International Islamic Forum for Dialog (IIFD), established by the IICDR, and the affiliated Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee discussed below.<sup>288 289</sup> The website of the IIFD contained the following anti-Semitic statements by Dr. Hamid bin Ahmed Al-Rifaiel, the president of the organization. In a “Press Interview,” Dr. Al-Rifaiel responded to the question, “Why is dialogue confined to Christians and excludes the Jews?”

“Any party in the world that lacks commitment to the methodology, standards and values of dialogue and insists on showing disregard to divine standards and civilized norms automatically omits itself from the list of those we conduct (sic) dialogue with. There is no dialogue with those who go against the least standards of respect for human dignity and the values of safe human co-existence. Within the previous context, the Jews, are regarded like the followers of any religion, cult, culture and civilization. We are prepared to conduct dialogue in every legitimat (sic) issue aimed at achieving the best for a safe and just human co-existence (sic) with any party among them who shows commitment to the methods, values and standards of dialogue. This excludes those among them who resent the values of dialogue, and of course, such is the habit of most Jews, who insist today on pursuing the policies of conflict, violation of man’s dignity and suppression of his rights and factors o-f his existence in order to achieve the vagaries and ambitions of international Zionism. Are they not the ones who are perpetrating the foolish

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<sup>282</sup> “Muslims Of Europe In The New Millennium

<http://amssuk.com/docs/pdf/AMSSUK%20Europe%20Conf%20Sep2000%20-%20booklet.pdf>

<sup>283</sup> “List of Cooperation Agreements concluded by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization”

<http://www.isesco.org.ma/English/coop/index.html>

<sup>284</sup> “IESCO Presentation”

<http://www.isesco.org.ma/English/presentation/objectives.html>

<sup>285</sup> “IESCO News”

<http://www.isesco.org.ma/news/Eng/2001/89.htm>

<sup>286</sup> <http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/?p=40> (no longer available)

<sup>287</sup> “Brief - International Islamic Forum For Dialogue”

[http://www.dialogueonline.org/brief.htm#\\_jmp0\\_](http://www.dialogueonline.org/brief.htm#_jmp0_)

<sup>288</sup> <http://www.dialogueonline.org/top.htm>

<sup>289</sup> <http://www.dialogueonline.org/news.htm>

violations and insolent defilement of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and other religious places in Al-Ouds (Jerusalem)? Don't their rash, bloody and contentious massacre of children, women and old people with the blessing of the international Zionism and iniquitous world powers serve as a strong proof of their rebellion against, not only divine values and principles, but against all human standards and customs? In fact, this goes a long way to confirm the fact that there is only one dialogue language that the Jews understand and insist on adopting as a code of life, i.e. the language of rifles, rocket launchers and any means that could help them perpetrate tyranny and mischief in the land, and help them impose their influence on human societies not understand. This of course, legally and customarily, requires that we deal with them reciprocally according to our own legal criteria. God says: {Then whoever transgresses the prohibition (sic) against you, you transgress likewise against him. And fear Allah, and know that Allah is with Al-Muttaqun (the pious)}. Qur'an 2/194.<sup>290</sup>

### **Religious Outreach**

The FIOE is a member of the Islamic – Catholic Liaison Committee (ICLC), an organization formed in 1995, probably under the auspices of the IICDR, and comprised of important Islamist organizations such as the Muslim World League and al-Azhar.<sup>291</sup> The ICLC has been meeting since 1995, with the 12th and last reported meeting held in Brussels in June 2006.<sup>292</sup> FIOE officers appeared to have attended many if not all of the meetings.<sup>293</sup>

In 2007, FIOE President Chakib Benmakhlof and Dr. Karim Chemlal met with the "leadership of the Christian lobby in Europe" in Brussels. They were said to have discussed "ways of cooperation in the common issues, such as maintaining the family, along with issues related to homosexuality and drug problems."<sup>294</sup>

### **Youth**

In April 2006, the FIOE, together with the International Union of Muslim Scouts (IUMS) and the Swiss Islamic Youth and Childhood Group, hosted a five-day leadership course for fifty young Muslims to establish scout teams in their respective European countries. The course was held in La Chaux-de-Fonds.<sup>295</sup>

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<sup>290</sup> "Press Interview with President of the International Islamic Forum for Dialogue"

<http://dialogueonline.org/pressinterview.htm>

<sup>291</sup> "Dialogue Agreement Between IIFD"

<http://www.dialogueonline.org/vatican-d12.htm>

<sup>292</sup> "The Tenth Session of the Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee"

[http://dialogueonline.org/tenth\\_ession\\_of\\_the\\_islamic.htm](http://dialogueonline.org/tenth_ession_of_the_islamic.htm)

<sup>293</sup> "The Ninth Session of the Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee"

<http://dialogueonline.org/9th-session.htm>

<sup>294</sup> "Highlight of FIOE Activities"

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19)

<sup>295</sup> Tamer Abul Enein, "EU Muslim Scouts Integrate Better, Preserve Identity," *Islam Online*, April 17, 2006

<http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2006-04/18/article01.shtml>

### **Future Projects**

The FIOE website lists the following future projects for the organization:<sup>296</sup>

- Upgrading member institutions
- Developing female work in member institutions
- Preparing and promoting youth leadership at the central level and at the level of the countries
- The file of recognising the Islamic religion
- The political file and political participation in the European countries
- The project of the school of leaders and educators
- The project of the European Union for new Muslims
- The European Council for training and educative qualification
- Developing financial resources in preparation for achieving self-sufficiency
- Establishing departments of training and developing human resources on the level of countries
- Establishing a centre for studies and researches
- Originating an umbrella for co-operation among Da'wah institutions in Europe
- Establishing media institution
- The file of the stable Muslim family in the service of the European societies

### **Terrorism**

#### **Statements**

Following the major terrorist attacks in New York, Madrid, London, and Beslan, the FIOE issued statements strongly condemning the actions.<sup>297 298 299</sup> A FIOE statement in French regarding the attacks of 9/11, however, carried a different message. The statement opens by stating that the organization:

“...denounced and condemned clearly and without ambiguity the terrorist acts which struck New York and Washington on September 11, 2001.”<sup>300</sup>

However, the statement goes on to imply that the events of 9/11 would be used to “attack Islam and appears to place a great deal of the blame for the attacks on the U.S:

“The fact that certain Moslems make themselves guilty of terrorist acts cannot justify the attack against Islam, nor its designation as the cause of

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<sup>296</sup> “FIOE Projects”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=34&Itemid=100](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34&Itemid=100)

<sup>297</sup> “FIOE Condemns Madrid Terrorist Attacks” <http://www.eu-islam.net/articles/madrid.htm> 6/7/2004

<sup>298</sup> The Official Web Site of the Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe (no longer available) [http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/Index\\_en.asp](http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/Index_en.asp) (no longer available)

<sup>299</sup> [http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/Details\\_en.asp?articleid=7&zoneid=2](http://www.eu-islam.com/en/templates/Details_en.asp?articleid=7&zoneid=2) (no longer available)

<sup>300</sup> L'Union des Organisations Islamiques en Europe contre les attentats terroristes <http://www.chretiens-et-juifs.org/article.php?voir%5B%5D=615&voir%5B%5D=3522>

terrorism....Deteriorated economic conditions of the people of the Third World, unstable political climates of certain countries, dictatorship, the repression and the violation of humans rights which strike several people - often with the blessing of powerful countries -, the position taken of the world powers in the regional conflicts, following the example American position pro-Israeli in the conflict of the Middle East: all these factors poke hatreds and exacerbate the feeling of injustice. Some lose patience and reason and use of violence to make heard their voice. As for those which chose the peaceful means to fight against the injustice, they are reduced to silence and are prevented from making heard their opinions.....Several wise voices rise - here and there - to inform dangers of a universalization imposed on the rest of the world by the powerful countries having as leader the United States.”

With respect to terrorism in Israel, FIOE statements have taken a different tone. For example, a 2004 FIOE communiqué posted on the organization's website effusively praised the late Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, formerly Hamas' spiritual leader:

“Under the direct orders of Sharon, the symbol of terrorism, the Israeli army has committed an evil, atrocious and heinous act by assassinating Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, on his way from Morning Prayer, in Gaza, Palestine. This great Sheikh was one of the most notable symbols of the Palestinian struggle, which has worked tirelessly for liberation from occupation. Despite his frailty, age and profound disability the determination, perseverance and wisdom he exerted in defending his land and people against aggression and occupation, meant he was held in high regard and admiration, not just amongst his own people and the rest of the Muslim world, but by all those who cherish the freedom of the oppressed.”<sup>301</sup>

Archived FIOE web pages also contained references to the Al Aqsa Intifada such as statements in Arabic by FIOE that accused Israel of “continuous bloody massacres and from the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood calling for support of the Intifada by providing “money and weapons” as well as “the launch of Mujahedeen Hamas and Islamic Jihad from Palestinian prisons.”<sup>302 303 304</sup> One archived FIOE web page also appears to contain a photo showing the bloody corpse of Issam Judeh Mustafa Hamed, allegedly tortured to death by Israeli settlers, but really the victim of a car accident.<sup>305 306</sup>

During the July 2006 conflict in Lebanon, the FIOE issued a statement again accusing the Israelis of “massacres”:

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<sup>301</sup> “FIOE Condemns the Brutal Assassination”

<http://www.eu-islam.net/articles/yassin.htm> (no longer available)

<sup>302</sup> <http://web.archive.org/web/20010408002111/fioe.org/aqsa/index.htm>

<sup>303</sup> <http://web.archive.org/web/20021231065908/www.fioe.org/news/palastine+3-10-00.htm>

<sup>304</sup> مي حرل ان محرل ا ل ل م س ب

<http://web.archive.org/web/20010303165908/www.fioe.org/news/bian18-10-00.htm>

<sup>305</sup> slide0004\_image018.gif 447×357 pixels

[http://web.archive.org/web/20011110233726/fioe.org/aqsa/issam\\_files/slide0004\\_image018.gif](http://web.archive.org/web/20011110233726/fioe.org/aqsa/issam_files/slide0004_image018.gif)

<sup>306</sup> <http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/library/documents/reports/report-death-hamed.pdf>

“For weeks, the Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe (FIOE) has followed with growing alarm, the bloody developments in Palestine, which have widened to include Lebanon in the last few days, in the largest Israeli military campaign witnessed in the region for many years; in its wake, it left large numbers of innocent victims. The wholesale killing of civilians in Lebanon in the past few days, is an extension of the massacres witnessed in the Palestinian territories in the past weeks, due to the use by the Israeli occupation army of massive military force, in land, sea and air, against unarmed innocent civilians...”<sup>307</sup>

The statement made no mention of the activities of Hezbollah.

The FIOE website states that it has recently:

“... issued a number of statements denouncing the Israeli aggressions against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, calling for the application of the international law to all without discrimination. These statements have been circulated to all members of the European Parliament and the European and Arabic media, and a number of the Islamic and international news agencies.”<sup>308</sup>

Also, European Council for Fatwa and Research leader Youssef Qaradawi is well known for his fatwas authorizing suicide bombings in Israel as well as attacks on coalition troops in Iraq.

### **Links to Terror Organizations - Hamas**

#### **1. Union of Good**

As noted above, long-time FIOE President Ahmed Al-Rawi is a Trustee of the Union of Good, a worldwide network of Islamic charities under the direction of global Muslim Brotherhood leader Sheikh Youssef Qaradawi, who is sometimes described as the “spiritual leader of Hamas.” Although the Union of Good, formerly known as the 101 Days Campaign, describes itself as a humanitarian charitable organization, it has been described differently by the Israeli government which recently banned its constituent organizations:

“The ‘Union of Good’ is, in effect, a roof organization for foundations operated by Hamas around the world, especially in Europe and the Persian Gulf countries. It was outlawed by the Defense Minister in 2002 for its massive support of Hamas. The Union is composed of dozens of extremist Islamic foundations around the world. WAMY is especially active in the Persian Gulf countries and in Africa. The activity of Hamas foundations in Europe are led by Interpal in the UK, branches of the Al-

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<sup>307</sup> “The Unrestrained Israeli Aggression in Palestine and the Lebanon Must be Halted,” FIOE Statement, July 17, 2006

<http://www.arabia.pl/english/content/view/105/16/>

<sup>308</sup> “Highlight of FIOE Activities”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3:highlight-of-fioe-activities&catid=1:latest&Itemid=19)

Aqsa Foundation and the Committee for Welfare and Aid for the Palestinians (CBSA) in France. Dozens of foundations that are operated abroad by Hamas, most of which are members of the Union of Good, along with dozens of Hamas charitable associations active in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, form a well organized and coordinated support network, that includes Hamas's fundraising arm abroad and the vital civilian and infrastructure networks in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. In this framework, tens of millions of dollars per annum are transferred from the overseas foundations to Hamas associations in the field. Recently, it has become clear that Union-affiliated foundations are trying to raise funds not only for Hamas charitable associations in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, but for the activities of the Hamas government as well. The Chairman of the Union of Good is the infamous Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi.<sup>309</sup>

The other Union of Good Trustees include many prominent members of both Hamas and the global Muslim Brotherhood, including Faisal Mawlawi, who is also the deputy head of the European Council for Fatwa and Research, a FIOE central institution.<sup>310</sup>

There are other strong connections between the FIOE and Union of Good organizations. Previous NEFA reports have documented the links between the FIOE organizations in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany, and the Al-Aqsa Foundation, a major component of the Union of Good in those countries.<sup>311 312</sup> As discussed in those reports, the German and Dutch governments have acted against the Al-Aqsa Foundations on the grounds that it raises money for Hamas.

Another important Union of Good organization is known as INTERPAL, based in the U.K. As of May 2007, the General Manager of INTERPAL was identified as Abdelkarim Bensiali, who in December 2005 was also the Executive Director of the Europe Trust, another FIOE central institution.<sup>313</sup> In addition, long-time INTERPAL Trustee Mahfuzh Safiee was also a board member of the Muslim Association of Britain, the U.K. FIOE member organization.<sup>314,315</sup> Four other U.K. Union of Good organizations have officers who are also associated with FIOE:

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<sup>309</sup> "Defense Minister Signs Order Banning Hamas-Affiliated Charitable Organizations," Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release, July 7, 2008  
<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2008/Defense+Minister+signs+order+banning+Hamas-affiliated+charitable+organizations+7-Jul-2008.htm>

<sup>310</sup> e2telaf-alkhir  
<http://www.insanonline.net/english/fnews/news.php?id=3>

<sup>311</sup> Ron Sandee, "The Influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Netherlands," The NEFA Foundation, December 2007

<sup>312</sup> Steve Merley, "The Muslim Brotherhood in Belgium," The NEFA Foundation, May 2008

<sup>313</sup> "Return to Core Humanitarian Values," Interpal, May 2007

[http://www.interpal.org/news/archive/2007/news\\_Return\\_to\\_core\\_humanitarian\\_values\\_May07.html](http://www.interpal.org/news/archive/2007/news_Return_to_core_humanitarian_values_May07.html)

<sup>314</sup> Interpal Trustees' Annual Report & Audited Accounts For the Year Ending 31 December 2007

<sup>315</sup> 2005 ICC Directors, Muslim Association of Britain Ltd., Registration No.: 03502114

- Human Appeal International U.K. Trustee Nooh Al-Kaddo is a former FIOE officer and head of the Islamic Cultural Center of Ireland, which hosts the European Council for Fatwa and Research headed by Youssef Qaradawi.<sup>316</sup>
- Dr. Al-Kaddo is also a Trustee of the Human Relief Foundation.<sup>317</sup>
- Three trustees of Muslim Aid are associated with the FIOE: Khadem Al-Rawi, Muslim Aid Vice Chairman, Director of the European Institute for Human Sciences (EIHS) and brother of Ahmed Al-Rawi; Ahmed von Denffer, a prominent member of the Islamic Center in Munich; and Suhaib Hasan probably a board member of the European Council for Fatwa and Research.<sup>318</sup>
- Education Aid for Palestine (EAP) Trustee Mueen Shubib is most likely also the Executive Director of Human Appeal UK, as well as a member of the ECFR.<sup>319</sup>

Other FIOE member organizations are also tied to the Union of Good. Adel Mejri, the President of the Swiss FIOE member organization, is also a board member of the Association de Secours Palestinien, a Union of Good member and the Danish, Swedish, and French Union of Good members also have ties to the FIOE. Finally, the FIOE is a member of the International Islamic Council for Da`wah and Relief (IICDR), discussed above. The IICDR, in turn, is also a member of the Union of Good.

## 2. Other Connections

A report by the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) said that the FIOE Romanian member organization, the Liga Islamica Si Culturala (LICR), was the Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas representative in Romania.<sup>320</sup> It should also be noted that an archived LICR web page contained a link to the Holy Land Foundation, designated by

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<sup>316</sup> Extract from the Central Register of Charities maintained by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Human Appeal International  
<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showtrustees.asp?Chy=1005733&Reg=1005733&Type=Main+Charity&Name=HUMAN+APPEAL+INTERNATIONAL&SubID=>

<sup>317</sup> Extract from the Central Register of Charities maintained by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Human Relief Foundation  
<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showtrustees.asp?Chy=1043676&Reg=1043676&Type=Main+Charity&Name=HUMAN+RELIEF+FOUNDATION&SubID=>

<sup>318</sup> Extract from the Central Register of Charities maintained by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Muslim Aid  
<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showtrustees.asp?Chy=295224&Reg=295224&Type=Main+Charity&Name=MUSLIM+AID&SubID=>

<sup>319</sup> Extract from the Central Register of Charities maintained by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, Muslim Aid  
<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/registeredcharities/showtrustees.asp?Chy=295224&Reg=295224&Type=Main+Charity&Name=MUSLIM+AID&SubID=>

<sup>320</sup> "Hamas Connection," October 28, 2005  
[http://www.worldsecuritynetwork.com/showArticle3.cfm?article\\_id=12097&topicID=34](http://www.worldsecuritynetwork.com/showArticle3.cfm?article_id=12097&topicID=34)



the U.S. government as a fundraising arm of Hamas.<sup>321</sup>

The Ukrainian FIOE member organization ARRAID maintains three Internet domains. The first domain appears to have been created in April 2000 and was registered to an individual identified as Ziyad Sadaqa at an address in Orlando, Florida.<sup>322</sup> Public record databases indicate that this address is associated with three individuals identified as Omar Sadaqa, Ammar Al-Sadaqa, and Ziyad H. Khaleel.<sup>323</sup> According a series of reports by the Associated Press and the St. Louis Post Dispatch, “Ziyad Sadaqa” was a pseudonym used by Saudi-born Ziyad Khaleel when he registered as the administrative and billing contact for [www.palestine-info.net](http://www.palestine-info.net), a multilingual website supporting Hamas<sup>324 325 326 327 328</sup> The reports also indicate that Khaleel worked as the webmaster for the Islamic Relief American Relief Agency, a charity shut down by the U.S. government for funding terrorism, and that he was being investigated for fundraising activities on behalf of either the Islamic Association for Palestine or the Holy Land Foundation, identified by the U.S. government as Hamas front groups. Although the reports indicate that Khaleel may have died in an automobile accident in Saudi Arabia along with his family, it was also reported that federal authorities believe he may have faked his death in order to escape his legal difficulties.

One researcher has written that during the 1990's, Khaleel was also the administrative and billing contact for the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) web site (<http://www.fisalgeria.org>), the Web site of Liberty for the Muslim World (<http://www.lmw.org>), and the Palestine Times Web site (<http://www.ptimes.com>).<sup>329</sup>

### **Links to Jihadi Organizations and Networks**

An investigation of FIOE member organizations in the Balkans and Eastern Europe also found the following evidence of possible contact between these organizations and jihadi networks:

#### **1. Bosnia**

The FIOE and FIOE officers have an intimate relationship with the Bosnian and Albanian branches of an organization known as Taibah International or Taibah International Aid Association.

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<sup>321</sup> Liga Islamica si Culturala din Romania

<http://web.archive.org/web/20051124134137/http://www.islam.ro/Linkuri.htm>

<sup>322</sup> “Domain History”

<http://domain-history.domaintools.com/?page=details&domain=arraid.org&date=2000-04-04>

<sup>323</sup> Documents in possession of author

<sup>324</sup> “Bin Laden's Phone Linked to Columbia,” The Associated Press, September 20, 2001.

<sup>325</sup> “Case Shines Light on Columbia, Mo.,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch, April 24, 2005.

<sup>326</sup> “U.S. Looks For Local Terror Ties, Sources Say; 2 Mosques, Fund Raising Draw Scrutiny Of Federal Grand Jury,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 20, 2003.

<sup>327</sup> “Dead Or Alive, Fund-Raiser Draws Interest Of Federal Authorities; Kuwaiti Native Also Bought Satellite Phone That Ended Up In Bin Laden's Hands,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 20, 2003

<sup>328</sup> “U.S. Looks For Local Terror Ties, Sources Say; 2 Mosques, Fund Raising Draw Scrutiny Of Federal Grand Jury,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch, January 20, 2003.

<sup>329</sup> Steven Emerson, American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us, The Free Press (NY, NY), 2002.

- In 2002, German federal police launched an investigation of Ibrahim El-Zayat. According to copies of a report reviewed by The Wall Street Journal, he transferred more than \$2 million on behalf of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth. Some of that money, according to the report, was sent by Zayat and FIOE officer Ayman Aly to the Albanian branch of Taibah.<sup>330</sup> The report also indicates that the Bosnian office of Taibah was also receiving money from Dr. Aly.
- As noted earlier in this report, Dr. Aly was the head of the Albanian office of Taibah International and appears to have been operating both the Taibah office and the FIOE office in Albania simultaneously and from the same facilities. The German police investigation mentioned above found that Dr. Aly controlled German bank accounts in the name of both the FIOE and of Taibah and that Dr. Aly identified himself both as the East European Director of the FIOE and as the representative of Taibah International in Albania.
- Also noted earlier in this report, Muhammad Abd al-Zaher from Albania has replaced Ayman Aly as head of the FIOE's Eastern Europe department. Al-Zaher is also the contact person for the FIOE's Albanian member organization.<sup>331</sup> The telephone number listed for al-Zaher was also the same number identified in the German police investigation as that of Taibah International in Albania, formerly headed by Ayman Aly.
- The email address for FIOE in Tuzla, Bosnia was listed as "taibah" at a Bosnian domain.<sup>332</sup>

The currently listed FIOE member is AKOS also known as the Bosnia Hercegovina Asocijacija Za Kulturu, Obrazovanje I Sport (Bhakos). This organization has shared an address and telephone number with the Zenica office of WAMY.

In October 2003, a U.S. Customs agent testified that the head office of Taibah was in Falls Church, Virginia; that Abdullah Bin Laden, the nephew of Osama Bin Laden, was the founder and director; and that Abdurahman Alamoudi was the Vice-President of Taibah. The U.S. government has identified Alamoudi, currently imprisoned in connection with a plot to assassinate Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah,<sup>333</sup> as a leader of the U.S. Muslim Brotherhood.<sup>334</sup> As noted above, photographs from FIOE documents indicate a relationship between the FIOE and Alamoudi.

In May 2004, the U.S. Treasury department designated the Bosnian branch of

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<sup>330</sup> Ian Johnson, "Islamic Group's Ties Reveal Europe's Challenge," The Wall Street Journal, December 29, 2005

<sup>331</sup> Document in possession of the author

<sup>332</sup> Prayer Times, Qiblah, Mosques (Masjids), Islamic Centers, Organizations and Muslim Owned Businesses Worldwide

<http://www.islamicfinder.org/getitWorld.php?id=24422&lang=>

<sup>333</sup> U.S. v. Alamoudi, (E.D. VA.), Supplemental Declaration in Support of Detention, Filed October 22, 2003.

<sup>334</sup> U.S. v. Holy Land Foundation, (N.D. TX.), List of Unindicted Co-Conspirators and/or Joint Venturers, Filed May 29, 2007.

Taibah a terrorist entity, stating that it “has significant ties to GRF [Global Relief Foundation], which initially operated in Bosnia under the auspices of Taibah.”<sup>335</sup> The Treasury Department had previously designated Global Relief stating that it had “connections to, has provided support for, and has provided assistance to Osama Bin Laden, the al Qaida network, and other known terrorist groups.”<sup>336</sup> A few days after the U.S. designation, the U.N. added Taibah in Bosnia to the Al-Qaida section of its list of terrorist entities.<sup>337</sup>

Another connection from the FIOE to Al-Qaida in Bosnia was the case of Boudella Hadz, an Algerian who was reported by his wife to have been a “humanitarian worker” for the FIOE in Tuzla and in Sarajevo with Human Appeal, an organization linked to Hamas.<sup>338 339</sup> He was also reported to have been one of the first directors of the Benevolence International Foundation in Zenica, also known as the al-Lajnat al-Birr al-Islamiyya. In January 2002, he was arrested in Bosnia and turned over to American authorities, who suspected him of being one of six Algerians plotting to attack the U.S. Embassy.<sup>340</sup>

Further FIOE connections to terrorism and extremism in Bosnia will be covered in a future NEFA report.

## 2. Czech Republic

The current FIOE member organization in the Czech Republic is listed as the Muslim Student Union. This is likely the Všeobecný Svaz Muslimských Studentů (Muslim Student Union), currently located in Prague.<sup>341</sup> The VSMS was founded by Muhammad Abbas al-Mu'atasim, described as the Sudanese born son of a former Sudanese ambassador to Czechoslovakia.<sup>342</sup> Mr. Mu'atasim is an engineer who has been living in the Czech Republic since 1988 and who launched a real estate business called AMS Trading, which involved renting houses and apartments to Arab visitors. In addition to founding VSVM, Mr. Mu'atasim founded the Muslim Union and was a co-founder of

<sup>335</sup> “Treasury Designates Bosnian Charities Funneling Dollars to Al Qaida,” Treasury Department Press Release,” May 6, 2004

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/js1527.htm>

<sup>336</sup> “Treasury Department Statement Regarding the Designation of the Global Relief Foundation,” Treasury Department Press Release, October 18, 2002

<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/po3553.htm>

<sup>337</sup> “Security Council Committee Adds Two Entities To Al-Qaida Section Of Its Consolidated List,” United Nations Security Council Press Release, May 13, 2004

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/sc8091.doc.htm>

<sup>338</sup> Irham Ceko, “My Husband Did Not Hide Anything from Me,” January 25, 2002

<http://www.ex-yupress.com/dani/dani75.html#dizdarevic>

<sup>339</sup> “Defense Minister Signs Order Banning Hamas-Affiliated Charitable Organizations,” Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Release, July 7, 2008

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Government/Communiques/2008/Defense+Minister+signs+order+banning+Hamas-affiliated+charitable+organizations+7-Jul-2008.htm>

<sup>340</sup> Senad Slatina, “Bosnia: Islamists Furious Over Arab Extraditions,” Published by The Centre for Peace in the Balkans, January 18, 2002

<http://www.balkanpeace.org/index.php?index=article&articleid=13800>

<sup>341</sup> Svaz muslimských studentů v ČR

<http://svazmuslim.cz/kontakt.htm>

<sup>342</sup> <http://www.xignite.com/xWorldNews.aspx?articleid=EUf20050520470001>

Islamic Center of Prague. He is also the chief editor of two Czech Muslim information websites—Muslimske Listy and Muslim-inform—and a member of Sharing, a group for inter-religious dialogue. He has stated his belief that the U.S. was responsible for the 9/11 attacks and editorials he has written are said to have been “imbued with Arab nationalist and anti-American sentiments.” A Czech investigative reporter wrote that Al-Mu’atasim had contacts to Al Qaida and also tried to register the Third World Relief Agency (TWRA) in the Czech Republic.<sup>343</sup> Although he was unsuccessful in registering TWRA, it is said that it continues to operate “within the framework of AMS Trading.”<sup>344</sup>

### 3. Ukraine

As noted above, the Ukrainian FIOE member organization ARRAID uses an internet domain registered to an individual likely to be Saudi-born Ziyad Khaleel. The same reports that identify Mr. Khaleel as a contact for a Hamas website describes Mr. Khaleel as a graduate in computer science from Columbia College who, while at the University of Missouri, advertised his apartment as the local headquarters for the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), a Saudi dissident organization once described as the “ideological voice” of Al-Qaida by its leader.<sup>345</sup> The report goes on to state that during a trial in New York during 2001, prosecutors detailed how Mr. Khaleel, commissioned by the CLDR, purchased the satellite phone (and battery pack/charger/airtime) that was used to orchestrate the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa and which eventually ended up with Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. According to friends of Mr. Khaleel, he purchased the phone as a “business deal” and was in reality a loyal American. One report cited Newsweek as the source of a report that Mr. Khaleel had been detained in Jordan where he provided the FBI with critical information about bin Laden’s U.S. operations. Mr. Khaleel also reportedly testified before a grand jury on Bin Laden’s operations.<sup>346</sup>

## **Appendix 1 – FIOE Member Organizations**<sup>347</sup>

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<sup>343</sup> The TWRA was involved with funding and shipping arms to Islamic radicals in Bosnia and was linked to both the Bosnian government and the Saudi/Muslim Brotherhood network

<sup>344</sup> <http://www.xignite.com/xWorldNews.aspx?articleid=EUF20050520470001>

<sup>345</sup> Maureen O’Hagan and Mike Carter, “Saudi with Notorious Father Fights Deportation,” The Seattle Times, December 29, 2004.

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/politics/2002133716\\_majid29m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/politics/2002133716_majid29m.html)

<sup>346</sup> Michael Isikoff and Mark Hosenball, “Terror Watch: The Money Trail,” Newsweek, October 20, 2004 and Evan Kohlmann, “Axis of Evil,” National Review Online, January 2, 2003.

<sup>347</sup> “Members”

[http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=105](http://www.euro-muslim.net/English/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=35&Itemid=105)

Muslim Students' Union  
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4.20776E+11 4.20776E+11  
a-hamdi@post.cz

The Federation of Social Organisations in Ukraine  
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office@arraid.org

Future Organisation  
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ardhmeria1@yahoo.com

Federation of Islamic Organisations in France  
France  
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it-breze@hotmail.com

Muslim Association of Hungary  
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36-1-2084040 36-1-2081552  
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ibrahim@el-zayat.de

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samirl@wp.pl

Islamic Culture Association  
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Muslim Association in Italy  
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