



Holy Land Foundation For Relief and Development

525 International Pkwy., Ste 509 • Richardson, TX 75081 • Tel: (214) 699-9868 • Fax: (214) 699-0198

June 6, 1997

Mr. Bob Port,
Associated Press

Via fax (212) 621-7046

The following is written to express my disappointment with three articles Mr. Cole wrote entitled Jihad U.S.A. I wish to clarify and right the wrongs that Mr. Cole so callously chose to write. To say the least, we at the Holy Land Foundation (HLF) are outraged to find our name in the middle of an article that is desperately trying to divert attention from the real terrorism that is facing this country. Mr. Cole crossed the lines of ethical journalism when he chose to link our reputable charitable organization to Hamas. We are not as the article stated "a charity fund raising for Palestinian widows and orphans." As a matter of fact HLF is not a Palestinian charity. It is the largest American Muslim organization providing humanitarian relief in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Bosnia as well as, on the national level.

Another erroneous statement is that HLF has an office in Jerusalem which is shut down. HLF has never had an office in Jerusalem. For your information there is a Palestinian organization with a similar name in Jerusalem legally operating under Israeli law (and it is not shut down at the moment). Mr. Cole needs to do his homework and find out the facts.

As for the \$210,000 donated to HLF by Mr. Marzook in 1992; Mr. Cole failed to mention that this was a one time donation and Mr. Marzook was not identified as a Hamas leader at the time. It is our policy to accept donations from legal residents and citizens of the United States for the sole purpose of helping the distressed and displaced. Furthermore, the IRS did not obtain that piece of information on its own. We provided the information voluntarily because we had nothing fearful to hide. This is a fact that Mr. Cole went out of his way to confuse!

These ill spirited articles are nothing but biased blatant inaccuracies meant to intentionally defame and hurt our organization and smear the image of American Muslims and Arabs. A non bias reporter would have had the decency to at least call us and ask for our comments or opinions to the allegations. Frankly, I find Mr. Cole's stories to be nothing but tabloid journalism at its best. Nothing is more dangerous than misinformed masses of people to ignite hate crimes against innocent citizens (in this case Muslims, many of who are born Americans).

Let me make it perfectly clear that the HLF has no association to any political group whatsoever! I demand that the AP right the wrongs that Mr. Cole so unfoundedly wrote. I invite the Associated Press to contact the HLF and find out first hand what we are truly about; a legitime, caring, law abiding charitable organization. Feel free to contact me if you care to know the truth.

Respectfully,

Shukri Abu-Baker, Executive Director.
Holy Land Foundation For Relief and Development

**GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT**
Infocom Search - 1
3:04-CR-240-G
U.S. v. HLF, et al.