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**Participants:**

Sh = Shukri Abou Baker  
Gh = Ghassen Elashi  
Wi = Wijdan Abou Baker  
Ra = Raida (LNU)

**Abbreviations:**

<i>Italics</i>	Spoken in Foreign Languages
IA	Inaudible
UI	Unintelligible
PH	Phonetic
[ ]	Background Conversation / Noise/Translator's comments
SC	Simultaneous conversation

GOVERNMENT  
EXHIBIT  
Baker Wiretap-11  
3:04-CR-240-G  
U.S. v. HLF, et al.

Sh: *Exactly.* You know who is this *Bill* tailored for. This whole *Bill* designed for. It is clear for whom it is designed. I mean, *you can feel the language.*

Gh: It is this article only. Of course, there are other articles, *they have nothing to do with...*

Sh: Only this article.

Gh: *Yeah.*

Sh: It is this article only. It talks about affiliates, but the..., I mean, in the legal language, there is no text relating to the *affiliates*. It talks about *agents*, about those people. So...er, but *that...er, I think that's how they think they can stop* those by saying...er, by saying: "*This is the list of all the organizations that..., foreign organizations..*".

Gh: Are they..., I mean, are they going to go to the Bank and Gaza and say that this so and so charitable organization...

Sh: Yes. yes.

Gh: ...this charitable society and that university are...

Sh: Yes. Those are...

Gh: ....and this hospital are...

Sh: This is how they must do it.

Gh: But...er, but this is injustice.

Sh: That's it. They are going to say that these are *agents* for so and so.

Gh: That's it?

Sh: Of course, do you think we're speaking about justice?

Gh: No, but *I'm trying to formulate what is my answer back for those guys. I think it is not a legal battle as, as... only, it is a political battle.*

Sh: *It is a political, of course, it is a political.*

Gh: *If it is a political battle, you understand me, this means that we...er, should not allow this any way or another.*

Sh: The problem is when the *political battle...*

Gh: Yes.

Sh: *...there is...er.*

Gh: *No equality here.*

Sh: *....reinforced by the law...er, you have no...er, you cannot say anything.*

Gh: *Well, when he moves legally, fine, but, but, but fine, yeah, well.* I mean, it is possible that there are people that the government take action against some people the motive is political. Therefore, the...er, the argument should be...

Sh: You see now, you're a *political...er, you're now...* Imagine a law is made in America which states that *it is a felony or a crime to criticize Israel.* This is a politician who used the law to shut you up and *that is exactly what is happening.* Imagine, in a year or two, a law could be made whoever criticizes Israel.... Just like what happens in our countries: in the Islamic countries whoever curses the religion in the middle of the street, they put him in jail, in some of the Muslim countries, or he who declares he is not fasting during Ramadan, they put him in jail. Er..., we might reach a stage in America in which they tell you *if you criticize Israel openly, we will put you in jail.* This is a law which is in his hands now, *what can you do? You cannot challenge it.* This is what I'm telling you, *this is what... they cannot win this war though the law, the existing law, because the law didn't cover this angle.* That is why they made it now if you support a university, a hospital, an orphanage, you expose yourself to... *what can you do? It say...er, when you read you find that it says you cannot even challenge that.* [Sniffs].

Gh: Just a second. Just a second.

[Shukri is on hold].

Gh: Hello.

Sh: Yes, yes. So...er, [Sniffs] What was I telling you. I mean, *whatever, the..., the law could have some interpretations, but there isn't much room for moving.* Meaning, *this is what is going to happen that they will have to tell you who among the foreign organizations you are not allowed to deal with and you have to abide by that.* I see most of the words, most of the talk is going to that direction as little as they can do is that they tell you: "By God, close down or..., they will have to...", I mean, they don't...er, they don't...er, *the proof of the burden is now theirs. They have come up with a list. Without that list, I don't think they can enforce anything.*

Gh: Hum.

Sh: This is the problem.

Gh: That they...er, *yeah. I don't know about this thing. It is like saying...er...* they don't use that in America because it already has an *economical boy..., boycott,* or what you call it,

*economical what you call it...er, not boycott, economical...er, this economical siege on Iraq.*

Sh: *Ah. Sanctions. Yes.*

Gh: *Yes. Who is being affected with that.*

Sh: *The Iraqi people.*

Gh: *So, nobody cares. America doesn't care*

Sh: *Exactly.*

Gh: *Ok, the same issue could happen to the Palestinian people. Who cares?*

Sh: *Exactly. I'm telling you: "Exactly". And I...er, I..., I don't think anybody in Washington cares about the Palestinian people. So, what is your argument? You want to change the law? Go ahead and make another law and revoke. The law is revokable.*

Gh: *That means that they will have an economic siege...*

Sh: *Yes.*

Gh: *...pm the organizations which they think have a connection with..., with...er, with Hamas*

Sh: *Aha.*

Gh: *...inside Palestine, which constitute a large segment of the social and charitable existence of Palestine.*

Sh: *Aha.*

Gh: *Ok, in this case...*

Sh: *Yes.*

Gh: *...this is considered an economic siege over the Palestinian people.*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *Wait, this means that the issue..., the issue is huge political issue.*

Sh: *It is.*

Gh: *The issue is considered a crime, I imagine it is a crime. Therefore, I imagine that if anything like that happens, we have to be very, very, very, very outspoken. I don't care about the law.*

Sh: *No, you have to be.*

Gh: *Explain it to me.*

Sh: *You have to be very outspoken because it is clear that [SC] they're gonna..., they're gonna... that you're singled out....*

Gh: *I don't care, I don't care about the law. I care about this is injustice. This is a sanction against the Palestinian ...*

Sh: *It is, yes.*

Gh: *....and nobody should touch us and before they touch us, they should go and touch the two..., the over 1,000 Jewish organizations...*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *....and find out what are those Jewish organizations doing and getting the money from America to Israel.*

Sh: *Yeah, yeah.*

Gh: *This is the point...*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *....that you have to take.*

Sh: *But, meanwhile, you have to abide by the law. You could raise your voice...*

Gh: *Well, I'm gonna abide by the law because I won't be able to make a transfer, I know that.*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *But, meanwhile, what I'm gonna do, I'm going to be severely outspoken, I'm going to put*

my neck on the whole issue because this shouldn't happen.

Sh: *Yeah, yeah.*

Gh: Is it enough that Israel is placing a siege on the Palestinian people, then comes America comes with its might wanting to place a siege on a hospital!!

Sh: This will be very clear that this siege...., after they release the lists, *it is gonna be clear, crystal clear* that this is racism against the Palestinian people. When you place 99% of Palestine's organizations, it is clear that this law is tailored for Palestine. Then, *yeah, you need a lot of political....*, then maybe one could do something in court, file a law suit, that this is *racism* against the Palestinian people and that they're being targeted. *Again*, the *sanctions* against Iraq, suppose that Palestine is a state and the U.S. Administration decided to levy sanctions on it, what law could say no to it?

Gh: Nobody.

Sh: *That is the problem.* I mean, that....

Gh: Yes, but this is an international resolution from the United Nations.

Sh: But America itself has the same thing on Cuba, the only country in the whole world and nobody is able to say... The problem is that *you need to fight the law by, by another legislation.* If you have Cuba in the *Congress*, the *Congress* can *revoke the whole thing* in a day. It is right there for you, the *Congress* could change its mind. *Otherwise*, the resolution is effective for two years *once they declare an organization...er*, what you call it, and it is *renewable...er*, its *limitation....* [the la *It is gonna be a big issue, you could..., you could always speak from a political platform criticizing and showing explicitly what is going on*, but it is impossible to violate the law because *that's..., that's exactly what they are trying to do.*

Gh: I know you cannot violate the law, that you cannot make a transfer...

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: ...because, if you made a transfer, they will consider it a violation and they will through you in jail for it.

Sh: *Exactly.*

Gh: We know that.

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *...but that will require...er, you know, a lot of outspokening, you know.*

Sh: *Of course.*

Gh: *...because this is ....er.*

Sh: *Of course.*

Gh: *because there are a lot of people speak against the economic siege on Iraq.*

Sh: *Yes.*

Gh: *Of course, it is like blow air in a sack with a hole.*

Sh: *Yes.*

Gh: *No one really knows about it and they say that 500,000 Iraqi children died and stuff, nobody cares, nobody cares. But I think the situation in Palestine is different.*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *See, the whole world would accept an economical boycott, or whatever you call it, on Iraq and they would accept it on the Palestinian people, why not, because they are not going to make it look like it is on the Palestinian people, they will show that it is on Hamas. And Hamas will be, like they say, Othman's shirt...*

Sh: *Yes.*

Gh: *It is gonna be the excuse, just like Israel keeps bombing Lebanon and the Lebanese people and the excuse is Hizballah, but it is not Hizballah.*

Sh: *That's..., that's it what serves the racist Zionist agenda, that the Palestinian people.... I'm telling you that Emerson... this is..., this is the Zionist theology that the Palestinian people are subhuman, they don't deserve to live and the assistance provided to them is not worthy. For them, they will suffocate the Palestinian people without shedding a tear over them and they will think they're doing humanity a good service by exterminating the Palestintan people. This is the mentality behind these laws, my brother. This is exactly what is going on, all that is happening now, what does it mean, that 2.5 million Palestinians are in...er, in...er, what you call it, closure and there is a media blockade on*

them, you don't see anything in the media.

Gh: *Closure! Who cares about closure now?*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *Nobody even dare to talk about it.*

Sh: *Yeah. Nobody, nobody talks about it. And there are....*

Gh: *You even..., you even find that all of the Lebanon war is an attempt to cover up the cause.*

Sh: *I believe it.*

Gh: *Or it is one..., one of its goals, I mean.*

Sh: *...because it is evident that there is a media blockade and this blockade has a certain goal. There is a blockade completely, there isn't any coverage. Since this..., since this thing took place, there has not been any coverage on the blockade..., on the...er, on the closure. So, there is something cooking, I don't know. I believe, I believe that..., I believe that the Jews somewhere, some groups, they have a plan to exterminate the Palestinian people silently and no one in the whole world would know about them. Even if it takes them ten years by poisoning the water. By God the Almighty, my brother, these people will do more than that. They want to vent all their anger against..., against, all of their anger against Hitler and place it in the Palestinian people. Unbelievable, I mean. So, that is what is gonna happen. And, they're talking about...er, It is clear whom they're talking about whom, I mean. Who is collecting for the Palestinian people, in all of America, who? Nobody, it is mainly...er, mainly our Foundation. The rest of the people collect junk, junk, man. What do they collect? In a little while, they will face a problem, which is not really a problem for them, the United Nations agencies, even the U.S. organizations working in the West Bank and Gaza...er, they're gonna be facing a problem in a little bit.*

Gh: *Ah.*

Sh: *Yeah, they are going to be facing a problem, unless at the end this means that all assistance should pour into Christian organizations, Jewish organizations and organizations affiliated with the Authority. And that is it. There is more evil in this Bill than meets the eye, but what can you do? They're laying in wait for you. They say: "When the law is effective, let them make the mistake and we will show them". I won't make the mistake. I will wait and let them lay in waiting or not. Let them lay in wait or not...But, no, about outspoken, you can always outspoke. You can..., you can criticize any existing*

law, no one will stop you. You could have a demonstration against it, no one will stop you, but *you cannot violate it*.

Gh: Well, *I know this fact...*

Sh: Ah, yes.

Gh: ...but, *but when you speak out, you know, I don't want to take the position saying: "Ah, Ok, America, tell me what I should do, I'll do whatever you want". This..., this, this method might be their goal, I mean.*

Sh: It is possible.

Gh: I mean....er.

Sh: It is very possible.

Gh: I will tell them, "Fine, Ok guys, I'm with you, yes, sir. Send me a list of the organizations you consider to be terrorist organizations and I won't send to them". We're just guessing because we don't know what they'll be sending

Sh: The problem, the problem is *you cannot challenge...*

Gh: My beloved, my beloved

Sh: Notice that..., notice that...

Gh: ...*what I'm trying to say is that they will be sending you a list. If you tell them: "Ok, I'm gonna abide by your law, just give me the list and I'll do whatever you want", and the matter goes unchallenged politically and legally... Ok, they say they suffocated the Palestinian people and we were partners with them. I mean....er, I cannot understand..., of course all of this right now is guessing...*

Sh: Hum.

Gh: ...but I cannot understand how they will come to me and tell me there is a hospital in Hebron that you shouldn't send money to.

Sh: Hum.

Gh: You understand me? The Islamic university, don't send money to it. Ok, this is a

university, it teaches students.

Sh: Yes.

Gh: What are they going to tell me now? Are they going to tell me: "This one is controlled by Hamas?". Ok, how about Yeshiva University from whom Amir graduated...

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: ...what are you going to do about it? And *Beir Zeit University* which Israel descended on it and arrested about 400 students and said that they consider it a large center for the Islamic Movement and others.

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: Why the Islamic Move..., the Islamic University? That means *there is some sort of singling out.*

Sh: Hum.

Gh: You understand me? They tell you so and so charitable organization which has 300 orphans, all of whom are children of families of martyrs, don't send money to them because their parents...

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: ...were members of the Islamic Movement. So, you tell them..., *are we gonna say yes? This is my point. Of course I'm not going to be able to transfer the money...*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: ...because even if you tried to transfer the money, they will cut it off, you won't be able to transfer it in the first place, you understand what I mean?

Sh: Yes, yes, .

Gh: But, *what is my answer to them? I think in my publication in everywhere I write I go I'm..., I'm gonna say this is, this is...*

Sh: Oh, of course.

Gh: *Yeah.*

Sh: *No, of course. You must reveal the truth... You must reveal the truth and expose the main reason, or the real reason behind this Bill.*

Gh: *Yeah.*

Sh: *I think we should. We should be even more outspoken.*

Gh: *Yes.*

Sh: *This will make people even more outspoken against the Zionist movement in this country. I think that is the way we should go. We should continue to talk until a law is made which prohibits talking about the Zionist movement in America. We will continue to talk, who is going to stop you?*

Gh: *Hum.*

Sh: *We have to make it clear to people. But the problem is that you're gonna be talking about an issue...er, will..., will have no effect on the...er, practically on the flow of things. It will have just a moral impact, but as far as the law is considered, he will tell you to get lost. This is the problem.*

Gh: *But this is still better me accepting the Bill.*

Sh: *Of course, of course.*

Gh: *Yeah. I know they will tell me to get lost and stuff...*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *...but this is still better than agreeing to their decision and telling them: "Ok, whatever you tell me I'm gonna...er, I'm..., just give me the list and I'll make sure that I'm not going to transfer".*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: *Er..., [Laughs] Unless they say in a clear manner, unless they bring an insignificant number, four Zakat committees, I don't know, here or there who don't have a clear impact on the...er, on the towns they exist in...*

Sh: *Yeah, yeah.*

Gh: ...that is fine. But if they come to tell me: "Qalqilia Zakat Committee, Tulkarem or Nablus, or other organizations which serve...er, thousands of people and families and stuff", *this is not gonna be accepted because what is the reason, how did you determine? I mean, this is ugly, I mean, this is so ugly that...er.*

Sh: *Yeah.*

Gh: ....the bastards, of course, *they were able to pass this thing to their advantage [SC] who are the Zionists....*

Sh: My friend, God knows best. Maybe..., maybe God the Almighty in His knowledge...

Gh: Hum.

Sh: ...wants the Palestinian people to return to their land and start to plant onions and garlic and do away with donations and do away with external assistance and prepare itself for the day of salvation. You don't know, by God. You know, I stopped... er. Sometimes *when you think of it..., when you think of it, you would say....* And sometimes I think that, by this law which they made might be the one which ends the U.S. assistance to Israel. This is what I think. You don't know, my brother. You know, Moses came out of Pharaoh's palace, *I don't know...er*, because this is scheming..., scheming..., scheming that is very extensive, what they're doing is not a spur of the moment thing. This is long-planned matter and maybe it is God's providence has intervened *somewhere* in the middle, we don't know where at but it intervened. At the end...er, let them stop charity, let them..., let them stop the... Maybe when they put a stop to charity, just like the media says, when they cut off charity from 1,200 orphans, these 1,200 orphans...er, instead of them turning out to be educated and stuff, they would turn out to be highway robbers. They will become..., huh, like this and that who blows himself up. Is that what Israel wants? Is that what Israel wants? To turn the children of Palestine into...er, into...er, what you call it? Let them, *that is their decision, they have to bear with it.* I'm serious about, I mean, *I'm dead serious about it, that is my own conviction* when..., when you deprive little children and show them cruelty...

Gh: I tell you something...

Sh: Yes.

Gh: *...if this happens we should not leave any corner in Dallas, not even in Texas, if possible in America, that we don't get the message right.*

Sh: *I agree with you, 100%.*

Gh: *And I will start in this town. I will not leave any church, any mosque...*

Sh: *You're right.*

Gh: *....and any corner until I stand in it and say that this is injustice, this is the situation, this is America and this is Israel and Israel is South Africa and this is siege on the Palestinian people and this is so and so...*

Sh: *100%.*

Gh: *yes.*

Sh: *The end result..., I'm telling you that this might be good because the end result, people will be outspoken against Israel.*

Gh: *Yeah.*

Sh: *And you will find people with you from churches and from there and we will be encouraged because this is injustice and any reasonable person won't accept injustice, by God. If you sit down with anyone, even those who defame you, you sit with him and explain the situation to him for half an hour, it is impossible he won't agree with half what you're saying. It is not possible that he'd say to you that all what you say is wrong. So, you're gonna be making more friends, more people exposed, we organize the youths as a column as you mentioned. Let us..., let us....er, what you call it, have an educational purpose. Like I told you before, let them touch our work we will turn into a Dawaa organization. By God, I will turn into a Dawaa organization and work and won't leave a church or anything else because this is your natural right. What, is he going to stop you from talking? Are they going to make a law which prohibits talking? Is America going to turn into South Africa or turn into Israel or something else? But, like they say, thank God we're in America. Thank your God you're an American. It is still just and it is still... as much as things exist, good things will still be there. What is that? They're going to come up with a law and they tell you, if you can change it, go ahead. The Jews were clever and came up with a Bill, I mean, this is the politics and we have, you have to understand the politics of this country. They will tell you, "Look...". I mean, if he has a chance to sit with you and say few words, he will tell you, "Come on Ghassan, look..., the Jewish lobby is so strong they're pushing my...", let me not get myself in trouble over that. "... this law through my..., into my throat. Now, if you get as strong, I'm gonna do whatever you want". Like I told you, I don't believe, my beloved brother, that there is a religious connection..., I don't believe that..., I have a conviction that there is no religious*

conviction between America and Israel. The connection is the interest. If the Jewish *lobby* was changed with a Muslim *lobby*, all of America's policy would change.

Gh: This is..., *yeah, I believe that. Anyway...*

Sh: Yes, yes. So, this what any politician would say to you. We sat with some politicians...

Gh: Yes.

Sh: ...they hinted and they said, "The issue is an issue of *power*, I mean. You guys don't elect or support or do anything". When you go to your *Senator* or stuff asking for something, he will tell you...er, he will tell his assistant, "By God, *look up Ghassan and look up this person*. These people, are they *registered voters*? If they're *registered voters*, have they donated to my *campaign* or not? If not, kick them out". *Maybe that's..., that's what the message is.*

Gh: *Yeah.*

Sh: Yes.

Gh: Ok, call me after you call him.

Sh: I'll call you right back and put you on the line, God's willing.

Gh: *Ok.*

Sh: Peace with you.

Gh: Peace.

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