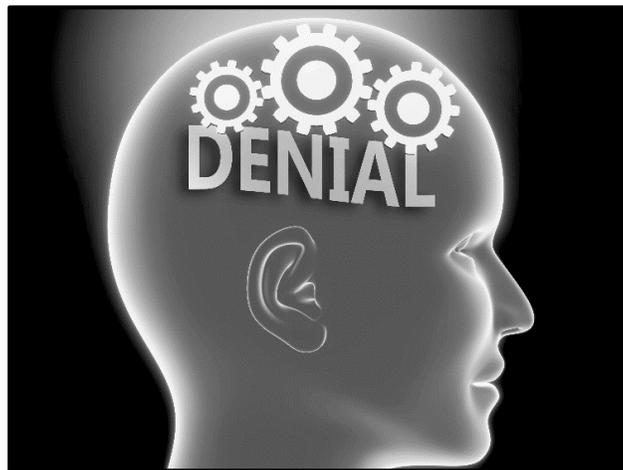


Feb. 5, 2022

C-CAT Update from Iraq #3



The first public endorsement by a major Islamic clerical body of the recent UN resolution condemning Holocaust denial

C-CAT is listed by the Global Imams Council (GIC) as an advisor on terrorism issues. The GIC, based in the Holy City of Najaf, is the “world’s first and largest international non-governmental body of Muslim faith leaders from all Islamic denominations”. The GIC is confronting and interdicting the antisemitic ideational poison at the very heart of Islamist terrorism. These efforts are generating new vistas for change.

The GIC Letter to Abdullah Shahid, UN General Assembly President, Supporting the
Resolution Passed by the UN General Assembly

GIC GOVERNING BOARD 03 FEBRUARY 2022



H.E. Abdulla Shahid
President of The UN
General Assembly

United Nations HQ
405 East 42nd Street,
New York, NY,
10017, USA

Your Excellency Abdullah Shahid, Salamun Alaikum.

The Global Imams Council praises your efforts to establish peace, coexistence, and harmony. We were particularly delighted to see the UN General Assembly approve a resolution condemning Holocaust denial. This Council fully endorses the resolution's provision rejecting "without any reservation any denial or distortion of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part, or any activities to this end."

Your accommodation of our Abrahamic brethren, especially Holocaust survivors, is precisely what serves Islam and reclaims it from extremists that have promoted Holocaust denial and Antisemitism and have tarnished Islam's image for far too long. You have our support and respect in this regard.

In October of the year 2020, we collaborated with the Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the US Department of State to become the first Imams Council to adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism; and its examples, which include "denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust)."

We believe that it was crucial for Holocaust survivors and their loved ones to witness the approval of this UN resolution that condemned the genocide of 6,000,000 people, two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe during World War II.



IMAM M. BAQIR AL-BUDAIRI
PRESIDENT



THE GLOBAL IMAMS COUNCIL
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The Import of the GIC Initiative → see next page



GIC Endorsement of the UN Resolution on Holocaust Denial – Analysis

1. The GIC letter is the first endorsement of this UN resolution in the Islamic clerical world. It provides critical support in Islamic terms for UN General Assembly President Abdullah Shahid – who has been attacked by extremist voices in the aftermath of its passage.

The letter provides *Islamic religious authority* for the content and implementation of the resolution.

The letter is specific in its approbation of this resolution in its capacity “to serve Islam.” This is direct counter-voice to Islamist extremists claiming that Shahid or any other Muslim leader accepting the undeniable historical veracity of the Holocaust or endorsing the UN resolution condemning its denial, in some way undermines Islam or the interests of the Muslim world. The letter provides Islamic religious authority for both the content *and* implementation of the resolution. This serves to also strengthen the [new voices](#) in the Muslim world which have begun to engage the Holocaust and the import of its legacy.

2. The GIC letter specifically censures Islamist extremists as essentially un-Islamic for promoting Holocaust denial and antisemitism, requiring not only denunciation of their ideology but *active responses* like this resolution to “reclaim Islam” from those who utilize it to promulgate antisemitism.

This GIC letter is not a generic statement. It goes beyond a simple endorsement of the UN resolution.

The GIC endorsement weaponizes the power of Islamic clerical authority in the Muslim world to counter one of the most widespread, malevolent, and effective of antisemitic narratives— Holocaust denial and distortion. For Islamist extremists, Holocaust denial is a foundational paradigm couched in theological frameworks akin to an article of antisemitic faith, to legitimize the genocidal antisemitism¹ that is the very engine² of the extremist ideologies promoted by Islamist entities like the Muslim Brotherhood³; the Khomeinists, Hamas, ISIS, Hezbollah and al-Qaeda⁴. Holocaust denial or distortion in its multitude of permutations, is a key Islamist platform to promote what one scholar has termed⁵ Islamism’s “total war” against the Jews.⁶ Jews are defined in the foundational works of Islamism as the irredeemable metaphysical evil, the very source of all historical⁷ evil and corruption⁸, “immutable and permanent, transcending time and circumstances”, whose destruction⁹ is essential to human salvation.¹⁰

3. The GIC endorsement is in direct opposition to the stated policies of Iran, the only UN member to vote against the resolution.¹¹

Expert Matthias Kuntzel: “Never before has the leadership of a nation [Iran] made denial of the Shoah a governmental policy at every level of society.”¹²

The GIC position, in **clear defiance** of Iranian policy, is consistent with the GIC’s previous denunciations of the antisemitism promoted by the IRGC and other Iran-sponsored terrorist proxies like Hamas. Iran is perhaps the globe’s most egregious state-promoter of Holocaust denial.¹³ For Iran, the promulgation of Jew-hatred is both a matter of Islamic Revolutionary principle and an essential ideational instrument for achieving its stated genocidal goal – the destruction of Israel. Put plainly by Iran’s Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in 2006: “If the official version of the Holocaust is thrown into doubt, then the identity and nature of Israel will be thrown into doubt.”¹⁴ As further explained by Matthias Kuntzel: “Every denial of the Holocaust ... tacitly contains an appeal to repeat it – as is evident in the case of Iran which calls openly for the destruction of a UN member state Up until now, Holocaust deniers have wanted to revise the past. Today, Iran’s ... deniers want to shape the future by eradicating Israel....”¹⁵

4. The GIC letter deliberately references its condemnation of Holocaust denial in the context of the GIC’s earlier adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

The letter’s emphasis on the IHRA definition specifically including the definition’s examples, strengthens the Islamic legitimacy and the universality of the IHRA definition as a policy instrument.

The GIC was the first Islamic clerical body to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism on Oct. 26, 2020. The Council’s most recent letter to the UN specifically references the GIC’s adoption of the IHRA definition **and the examples utilized in the IHRA definition**. This detail is significant. The examples provided within the IHRA definition are particularly important for the utility of this definition in providing guidance for its application and are often vigorously opposed by antisemites seeking to dilute or neutralize the substance of the IHRA definition. The letter’s emphasis on the IHRA definition **and** its examples as GIC policy, strengthens the legitimacy and universality of the IHRA definition as a policy instrument; ensconces the IHRA definition in an authoritative Islamic context; and reflects the seriousness of intent in the GIC’s original adoption of the IHRA definition as something not merely declaratory.

5. The GIC letter addresses the importance of the UN resolution for Holocaust survivors.

The GIC has once again recognized and reached out to victims of terrorism and antisemitism.

The declaration goes further than endorsing the resolution as a rejection of an ideological evil. It also references the importance of this resolution for the victims of that evil. The letter therefore does not just refer to the Holocaust as a word or concept – but deliberately **specifies the number of Jews murdered** – referring to the six million Jewish victims as 2/3 of European Jewry. This clearly targets Islamist extremists and others who seek to diminish the proportions of the atrocity to further their own antisemitic ends. **But the GIC also references those Jews who *survived* the inferno as “crucial” witnesses to the import of the passage of this resolution.** This recognition is particularly meaningful on a personal – community to-community level – in an era where Holocaust victims have become subject to the most venomous attacks across social media platforms. The humanitarian tenor of this outreach from some of the most prominent of Muslim clerics to this aged and dwindling population of survivors who survived the unspeakable, speaks volumes to the Jewish and Muslim global communities and requires no further elaboration.

The Global Pervasiveness of Holocaust Denial and Distortion

Hundreds of millions of people globally ascribe to some form of this narrative

Holocaust denial, distortion, and inversion¹⁶ is one of the most perverse, adaptable, and widespread of contemporary antisemitic narratives. It has become a key platform, framework and organizing principle for antisemitic extremists of almost all ideological hues. It offers a comprehensive reinvention of historical and contemporary affairs that legitimizes and incorporates within a single paradigm, virtually every and any antisemitic calumny, through a grotesquely malevolent weaponization the Holocaust against Jews and the totality of Jewish identity. Not bound by denominational affiliation or political orientation, it is a particularly well-suited instrument for the globalization of Jew-hatred under a common global rubric. For ideological antisemites, whether state or non-state actors, Holocaust denial in any of its multiple permutations, is akin to an article of antisemitic faith providing certain invaluable strategic and tactical benefits in promoting the very “political ideologies and conditions suitable for the advent of the very type of event it denies.”¹⁷ The terrorist purveyors of antisemitic violence from all modes of the extremist antisemitic spectrum have almost always viewed the world through this lens.

“2 out of every 3 people surveyed [globally] have either never heard of the Holocaust or do not believe the historical accounts to be accurate”¹⁸

→ **32.9% of North American students** don't know what to think about the Holocaust, think the number of Jews who died has been exaggerated, or question whether the Holocaust even happened.¹⁹ (2022)

→ **23% percent of US millennials and Gen Z** believe the Holocaust happened, but the number of Jews who died has been greatly exaggerated, is a myth and did not happen, or are unsure.²⁰ (2020)

→ **11% of U.S. Millennial and Gen Z** respondents believe Jews caused the Holocaust.²¹ (2020)

→ **CNN: 32% of Europeans** said Jews use the Holocaust to “advance their position or achieve certain goals”.²² (2018)

→ **MENA countries:** “63% who had heard about the Holocaust agreed that “it was a myth or an exaggeration: “there is no parallel in any other post-war societies.”²³ (Nov 2019)

→ **Austrian Government Poll :** 36% agreed that “Jews try to obtain advantages due to the fact that they were victims during the Nazi period.” (2019)

→ **ISGAP European Study:** 62% of Front National sympathizers and 56% of the Muslim interviewees agreed that “The Jews today use their status as victims of the Nazi genocide during the Second World War for their own interest.” (2015)

→ **UK YouGov Poll:** One in eight believe that Jewish people use the Holocaust as a means of gaining sympathy.²⁴ (2015)

→ **The Atlantic:** “The Middle East and North Africa had the largest percentage of doubters, with only 8% of respondents reporting that they had heard of the genocide and believed descriptions of it were accurate. But only 12% of respondents in **sub-Saharan Africa** said the same, and only **23% in Asia**. People in these groups were likely to say they believed the number of deaths has been exaggerated—just over half of Middle Easterners and a third of Asians and Africans think the body count has been distorted over time.” In Israel **28% of Israeli Arabs** deny the Holocaust.”²⁵ (2014)

→ **Gallup Poll Norway:** 25% of Norwegians believe Jews exploit the memory of the Holocaust to their own advantage.²⁶ (2012)

→ **Bielefeld University Poll (Germany):** A quarter of 3,000 people surveyed agreed that “Many Jews try to use Germany’s Third Reich past to their advantage and want to make Germans pay for it.” A further 30% there was “some truth “to the statement.”²⁷(2003)

According to the ADL Global Index 100 Survey on Antisemitism:

1.24 billion people surveyed in over 100 countries believe it is “probably true”

“the Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust”²⁸

ENDNOTES

1 Esther Webman, Redeeming Humanity from the Evil of the Jews: Islamist Rationalization of Antisemitism, November 2019: "Islamism is an apocalyptic ideology which seeks to redeem the world from the ills of all isms ... The Jews ... are perceived as the spearhead of all those ills and of the enmity to Muslims ... suggesting justification of genocidal measures against them to free humanity from their evil."

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337046194_Redeeming_Humanity_from_the_Evil_of_the_Jews_Islamist_Rationalization_of_Antisemitism; <https://jcpa.org/article/parallels-between-nazi-and-islamist-anti-semitism/>

² <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/global-jihad-islamic-radicalism-and-the-challenge-to-europe>

³ <https://www.hudson.org/research/8596-a-history-of-hatred-the-muslim-brotherhood-and-anti-semitism>

⁴

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337046194_Redeeming_Humanity_from_the_Evil_of_the_Jews_Islamist_Rationalization_of_Antisemitism; <https://jcpa.org/article/parallels-between-nazi-and-islamist-anti-semitism/>

⁵ <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/contemporary-antisemitism-among-muslims>

⁶ As noted by Professor David Patterson, in *The Genealogy of Evil*, Cambridge University Press, P.3: "The Jew hatred that characterizes Islamic Jihadism is not about Zionism or the Jewish presence in the Middle East; it is about the Jewish presence in the world." See also Mathias Kuntzel: "... Thus, it is not the escalation of the Middle East conflict that has caused antisemitism; it is rather antisemitism in the Arab and Islamic world that has caused the escalation in the Middle East – again and again and today more than ever." See also the statement by Abdullah al-Akailah, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman, in a 1994 interview with Kenneth Timmerman quoted by Patterson, p. 147: "Our conflict with the Jews is central. It was never a conflict just of three hundred kilometers of land, or over water rights. Every Muslim in the world is with Hamas." <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/islamist-terrorism-and-antisemitism-the-mission-against-modernity>

⁷ For example, see the Hamas Charter Article 22: "... With their money, they took control of the world media.... With their money they stirred revolutions in various parts of the globe... They stood behind the French Revolution, the Communist Revolution and most of the revolutions we hear about... With their money they formed secret organizations – such as the Freemasons, Rotary Clubs and the Lions – which are spreading around the world, in order to destroy societies and carry out Zionist interests.... They stood behind World War I ... and formed the League of Nations through which they could rule the world. They were behind World War II, through which they made huge financial gains.... There is no war going on anywhere without them having their finger in it." https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/Data/pdf/PDF_06_032_2.pdf; <https://jcpa.org/article/parallels-between-nazi-and-islamist-anti-semitism/>; https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337046194_Redeeming_Humanity_from_the_Evil_of_the_Jews_Islamist_Rationalization_of_Antisemitism; <https://jcpa.org/article/parallels-between-nazi-and-islamist-anti-semitism/>

⁸ See for example Kuntzel, Matthias in *Jihad and Jew-Hatred: Islamism, Nazism and the Roots of 9/11*. Telos Press Publishing. Kindle Edition, discussing the ideology of Sayyid Qutb – a founding father of Islamist Jew-hatred: "In Qutb's fantasyland, not only is everything Jewish evil, but everything evil is Jewish. Particularly evil for him, however, are sexuality and sensuality. Alluding to Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and Émile Durkheim, Qutb writes: "Behind the doctrine of atheistic materialism was a Jew; behind the doctrine of animalistic sexuality was a Jew; and behind the destruction of the family and the shattering of the sacred relationship in society . . . was a Jew. . . . They free the sensual desires from their restraints, and they destroy the moral foundation on which the pure Creed rests, in order that the Creed should fall into the filth which they spread so widely on this earth." See also <https://jcpa.org/article/parallels-between-nazi-and-islamist-anti-semitism/>

⁹ <https://jcpa.org/article/parallels-between-nazi-and-islamist-anti-semitism/> ; https://www.researchgate.net/publication/337046194_Redeeming_Humanity_from_the_Evil_of_the_Jews_Islamist_Rationalization_of_Antisemitism; <https://jcpa.org/article/parallels-between-nazi-and-islamist-anti-semitism/>;

¹⁰ Matthias Küntzel, . “National Socialism and Anti-Semitism in the Arab World”, *Jewish Political Studies Review*, (17, Spring 2005) quoted in David Patterson’s *Genealogy of Evil* p.2; see also Robert Wistrich quoting Yusuf al-Qaradawi, religious authority for the Muslim Brotherhood: “Qaradawi emphasized that the coming apocalyptic battle will not be “between Arabs and Zionists, or between Jews and Palestinians, or between Jews or anybody else.” His conclusion could not be more explicit. “This battle will occur between the collective body of Muslims and the collective body of Jews, that is all Muslims and all Jews.” [Robert Wistrich \(2012\). Post-Mubarak Egypt: The dark side of Islamic utopia – Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs on the World Jewish Congress website](#)

¹¹<https://www.iranintl.com/en/202201203872>; Iran has also voted against similar resolutions in the past. See <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/iranian-holocaust-denial-and-the-internet>

¹² <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/iranian-holocaust-denial-and-the-internet>; <https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/holocaust-denial-and-distortion/holocaust-denial-antisemitism-iran>; also see <https://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304640104579489391072215518.html>;

¹³ <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/iranian-holocaust-denial-and-the-internet> : “From the 1990s onward, Iran has gone further than any Arab country in hosting and officially endorsing Western Holocaust deniers who are shunned in their home countries. In 1998, President Mohammad Khatami grieved over the prosecution of “a thinker” like French Holocaust denier Roger Garaudy, and Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei even met Garaudy in person. In 2001, the *Tehran Times* among others called the findings of the Nuremberg trials about Auschwitz „the biggest lie in history“.

¹⁴ <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/iranian-holocaust-denial-and-the-internet>

¹⁵ <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/iranian-holocaust-denial-and-the-internet>

¹⁶ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-holocaust-denial-and-distortion>

¹⁷ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-holocaust-denial-and-distortion>; for more see Goldhagen, Daniel Jonah. *The Devil That Never Dies* (p. 352). Little, Brown and Company. Kindle Edition. Goldhagen succinctly summarizes the spectrum of this “soft core” hatred: “It takes many hues from denying that the Germans slaughtered Jews, to treating the Holocaust in an antiseptic, falsifying way, in order to minimize or conceal its horror, to admitting that the Germans exterminated Jews but saying that, owing to the Jews’ nature or the danger they posed, the Germans were justified in eliminating them, or to saying that the Holocaust was not such a major historical event and does not warrant the attention it receives, because eliminationist assaults against other peoples have also been perpetrated—and that whatever actually happened to the Jews, the most significant fact, as usual, is that Jews exploit the past to harm other peoples, especially Germans and Palestinians....”

¹⁸ <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-global-100-poll>; <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-global-100-poll>

¹⁹ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/a-third-of-students-think-holocaust-exaggerated-or-fabricated-study-1.5753990>

²⁰ <https://www.claimscon.org/millennial-study/>

²¹ <https://www.claimscon.org/millennial-study/>

²² <https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2018/11/europe/antisemitism-poll-2018-intl/>

²³ <http://www.matthiaskuentzel.de/contents/contemporary-antisemitism-among-muslims>

²⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/14/uk-jewish-antisemitism-rise-yougov-poll>

²⁵ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/05/the-world-is-full-of-holocaust-deniers/370870/>

²⁶ <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/anti-semitism-limited-in-norway-survey-shows-1.5178366>

²⁷ <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/germans-annoyed-at-blame-for-holocaust-1.399332>

²⁸ <https://global100.adl.org/map>