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**Written statement* submitted by the Association for World Education (AWE),
a non-governmental organizations on the Roster**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 January 2009]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language received from the submitting non-governmental organization.

1. We call for a humanitarian break-through in Gaza and the continuation of constructive negotiations between the Israeli Government (current and future) and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas – and like-minded Palestinian political leaders: The aim should be a two-state solution, acceptable to both sides and guaranteeing peaceful coexistence and mutual recognition between the two peoples – with human dignity recognised for all.

2. Negotiations between the authorities of Israel and Hamas are made more difficult by the refusal of each to consider the other as legitimate. This difficulty was made evident by the EU and French mediation efforts on 4-6 January 2009. The mediators had to appeal to other intermediaries, whether Syrians, Turks or Egyptians, to undertake discussions with Hamas. Such mutual non-recognition of the legitimacy of each prevents the necessary face-to-face negotiations to cease the current fighting and strive for a peace solution. Hamas considers “the land of Palestine is an Islamic waqf, consecrated for future Muslim generations until Judgment Day.” (Article 11) – and, therefore, Israel will never be a legitimate State and cannot be recognised by Hamas.

3. The Israeli authorities – alongside America, the European Union and the United Nations – consider Hamas as a terrorist organization. The designation of Hamas as a terrorist organization could be rescinded by a statement from a future Israeli government, once there is a clear volte face by Hamas leaders – in the interest of the suffering inhabitants of Gaza. This could be done at the same time as a similar renunciation by the EU and the USA – if Israel decides to take the initiative with Hamas. However, the recognition of Israel’s legitimacy by Hamas is more difficult as the rejection of Israel is a major part of its Charter as outlined below. Clearly, until the Charter is revoked by the Hamas leadership, there will be no change. Conceivably, a mutual recognition of legitimacy could pave the way to such an indispensable step.

4. However, to fully understand the past and current events in Gaza (and in the region), we maintain that there is an urgent need to consider the full implications of the 18 August 1988 Charter of Hamas (available on the net) – since Hamas won the elections three years ago and is the legally elected Gaza Government.¹

5. We have been alerting the Commission about the dangers of this binding Charter since January 1989, but during this twenty year period, there has not been an official UN condemnation of its genocidal contents.²

6. Regarding peace, its Article 13 is totally negative, which indicates that no negotiations are possible: “Initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement. Abusing any part of Palestine is abuse against part of religion. Nationalism of the Islamic Resistance Movement is part of its religion. Its members have been fed on that. (...) There is no solution to the Palestinian question except by Jihad. All initiatives, proposals, and International Conferences are a waste of time and vain endeavours.”

7. Religious hatred of Jews (not only of Israel) is expressed by a hadith or ‘saying’ that concludes Article 7:

“The Day of Judgment will not come about until Muslims fight the Jews (killing the Jews) when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say: O Muslims (...) there is a Jew

behind me, come and kill him. “Only the gharkad tree [evidently a certain kind of tree] would not do that because it is one of the trees of the Jews.” (this hadith is from al-Bukhari and Muslim, both considered by Islamic scholars as highly reliable sources for the hadith or ‘sayings’ of the Prophet Muhammad).

8. This controversial hadith has become a commonplace belief among Islamists. On 12 April 2002, the PA-nominated Sheikh Ibrahim Madhi delivered a Friday sermon at Gaza City’s main Sheikh Ijlin Mosque, broadcast live on PA television. He quoted extensively from this hadith — including the odd reference to the "Jewish" Gharqad tree — in preaching genocide and a jihad-war: “We believe in this hadith. We are convinced also that this hadith heralds the spread of Islam and its rule over all the lands (...) ‘from the ocean to the ocean’.” Sheikh Madhi concluded: “Oh Allah, accept our martyrs in the highest heaven (...) Oh Allah, show the Jews a black day (...) Oh Allah, annihilate the Jews and their supporters (...) Oh Allah, raise the flag of Jihad across the land (...) Oh Allah, forgive our sins.”

9. Article 8, the slogan of the Islamic Resistance Movement – Hamas (widely quoted by clerics and others) has been since 1989, is a blueprint for jihadist terrorism: “Allah is its target, the Prophet is its model, the Koran its Constitution; Jihad is its path, and death for the sake of Allah is the loftiest of its wishes.”³

10. Article 28 widens the circle of hate to include all Jews: “Israel, Judaism and Jews challenge Islam and the Muslim people: ‘May the cowards never sleep.’” The Charter in its preface quotes Hassan al-Banna, founder of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, as saying: “Israel will exist and continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.” Article 2 states: “The Islamic Resistance Movement is one of the wings of Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine. The Muslim Brotherhood Movement is a universal organisation which constitutes the largest Islamic Movement in modern times.”

11. Article 32 refers to an infamous century-old forgery in almost the identical terms used by Adolf Hitler: “Their plan is embodied in ‘The Protocols of the Elders of Zion’, and their present conduct is the best proof of what we are saying.”⁴

12. Article 22 is an update of The Protocols, alleging that “the Jews” control all major world events. It is here quoted in full (but without the Qur’anic verses, which may be found on the various websites in both Arabic and English). This article, and others, indicates the rich ‘conspiracy thinking’ of the Hamas Charter:

“For a long time, the enemies have been planning, skilfully and with precision, for the achievement of what they have attained. They took into consideration the causes affecting the current of events. They strived to amass great and substantive material wealth which they devoted to the realisation of their dream. With their money, they took control of the world media, news agencies, the press, publishing houses, broad casting stations, and others. With their money they stirred revolutions in various parts of the world with the purpose of achieving their interests and reaping the fruit therein. They were behind the French Revolution [1789], the Communist revolution [1917] and most of the revolutions we heard and hear about, here and there. With their money they formed secret societies, such as Freemasons, Rotary Clubs, the Lions and others in different parts of the world for the purpose of sabotaging societies and achieving Zionist interests. With their money they were able to

control imperialistic countries and instigate them to colonize many countries in order to enable them to exploit their resources and spread corruption there. You may speak as much as you want about regional and world wars. They were behind World War I, when they were able to destroy the Islamic Caliphate, making financial gains and controlling resources. They obtained the Balfour Declaration, 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 by trading in armaments, and paved the way for the establishment of their state. It was they that instigated the replacement of the League of Nations with the United Nations and the Security Council to enable them to rule the world through them. There is no war going on anywhere without them having their finger in it. [quotation from the Koran] The imperialistic forces in the Capitalist West and Communist East, support the enemy with all their might, in money and in men. These forces take turns in doing that. The day Islam appears, the forces of infidelity would unite to challenge it, for the infidels are but one nation.” [the Qur’anic quotes follow to prove the point: “if ye understand.”]

13. The CONCLUSION has a subheading: The Islamic Resistance Movement is Composed of Soldiers

under which article 36 states, inter alia, that: “It will only serve as a support for all groupings and organizations operating against the Zionist enemy and its lackeys. The Islamic Resistance Movement adopts Islam as its way of life. Islam is its creed and religion. Whoever takes Islam as his way of life, be it an organization, a grouping, a country or any other body, the Islamic Resistance Movement considers itself as their soldiers and nothing more. We ask Allah to show us the right course, to make us an example to others and to judge between us and our people with truth.” [Al-Araf, v. 89]

14. With the Hamas Charter now binding the Palestinian leadership in Gaza, its call for the destruction of a Member State of the United Nations is in contravention to Article 2 (4) of the 1945 UN Charter. Article 3 (c) of the 1948 Genocide Convention which condemns “direct and public incitement to commit genocide,” which is punishable under its article 4. The grave situation in Gaza – and in southern Israel – is linked to the Hamas Charter of religious and racial hatred, which has never been debated at any United Nations body and should be urgently and seriously addressed at the Ninth Special Session of the Human Rights.

Notes:

1. www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/mideast/hamas.htm and others. Co-authored (dated 18 August 1988) by Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and Dr. Abd al-Aziz al-Rantisi. See NGO written statements on Hamas: E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/NGO/41: The 1988 Charter of Hamas and its evil legacy of ‘jihadist-martyrdom bombings’; E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/NGO/25*: Hamas: Sheikh Yassin / al-Rantisi – The UN and a grave worldwide cultural clash; E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/NGO/26: Muslim Brotherhood / Hamas / Hizbullah / Al Qaeda: Terror Legacy of ‘Jihad-Martyrdom-Bombings’; E/CN.4/2006/NGO/239: The 1988 Covenant of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement – Hamas

2. Quoted by David G. Littman on 31 January 1989 (45th session, Commission on Human Rights), main representative of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (and again in 1990 and 1991); and since then, repeated regularly by him on behalf of the Association for World Education, and recently again for the WUPJ.

3. Article 8 – the slogan of Hamas – is taken from the 1928 Charter of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. Article 2 of the Hamas Charter states: “The Islamic Resistance Movement is one of the wings of Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine. Muslim Brotherhood Movement is a universal organisation which constitutes the largest Islamic movement in modern times.” And Article 1: “The Movement’s programme is Islam.”

4. Philip Graves, *The Truth about The Protocols: A Literary Forgery* (London, 1921 – his articles from *The Times*); H. Rauschning, *Hitler speaks* (London, 1939), pp. 235-36; Norman Cohn, *Warrant for Genocide: The Myth of the Jewish World Conspiracy and The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (London, 1967); Pierre-André Taguieff, *Les Protocoles des Sages de Sion. Introduction à l'étude des Protocoles: un faux et ses usages dans le siècle* (Paris, 1992).
