



Presse release

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EUROPOL and the Hind Rajab Foundation:  
serious questions about the European Police Agency's new partnership

Institut Jonathas questions EUROPOL, the European police agency responsible for supporting EU member states in the fight against serious crime and terrorism, about its recent invitation of the *Hind Rajab Foundation* (HRF) to visit its headquarters in The Hague —information made public by *NGO Monitor*. The HRF is an organization linked to Hezbollah, founded in Brussels in 2024 by Dyab Abou Jahjah and Karim Hassoun.

According to an HRF press release dated November 19, Europol invited them to speak. An American representative of the HRF even publicly praised the fact that the HRF had "*begun working closely with Europol to assist in investigations of war crimes throughout the European Union.*"

Europol justifies this cooperation by explaining that it is part of its efforts to "*maintain and develop cooperation with a number of actors, including civil society organizations that collect and document alleged war crimes around the world.*"

As a reminder, according to its own communications, the *Hind Rajab Foundation* carries out actions aimed at identifying ordinary Israeli tourists, designated as war criminals simply for having served in the Israeli army, like any Israeli citizen. Their goal is to encourage national authorities to initiate prosecutions on the basis of allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Thus, on July 23, 2025, two former Israeli soldiers were arrested while attending the Tomorrowland festival in Antwerp. The complaint that led to the arrest was filed by the HRF for serious violations of international law. After being questioned by the police, the two Israelis were immediately released.

The founder of the HRF, Dyab Abou Jahjah, is no stranger to Belgium. This Belgian-Lebanese citizen, who admitted in a 2003 interview with the New York Times

that he had joined Hezbollah in his youth and “*received military training*,” of which he said he was “*still very proud*”. He became known in the early 2000s for publishing Holocaust-denying cartoons and making statements calling on Israelis to leave “*the Zionist entity... in a suitcase or a coffin*.” In 2002, Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt denounced the ELA as “*a danger to our society*.”

Abou Jahjah was sentenced in 2007 by the Antwerp Criminal Court to one year in prison for his role in the 2002 Antwerp-Borgerhout riots, before being acquitted of the same charges by the Court of Appeal in 2008. In the Netherlands, however, the Arab European League (AEL), which he chaired in the Netherlands and then in Belgium, was fined €2,500 (€1,500 of which was suspended) by the Arnhem Court of Appeal in 2010 for publishing a cartoon on its website questioning the figure of six million Jews murdered, which was deemed “unnecessarily offensive” in that it suggested that the Holocaust had been invented or exaggerated.

The HRF’s founder has ties to the Iranian mullah regime, on behalf of which he organized trips for Hezbollah MPs to various European parliaments in 2009, as director of the International Union of Parliamentarians for Palestine (UIPFB), an NGO created in Iran in 2001.

More recently, in 2024, Abou Jahjah submitted an electoral list called “Viva Palestina” for the Brussels regional elections, which received few votes given its Shiite roots, unlike the Team Fouad Ahidar list.

After Israel eliminated Hassan Nasrallah, Abou Jahjah hailed the Hezbollah leader as “*a historic leader of the resistance*” who “*has allowed us to live in freedom and pride*”, going so far as even nostalgically recalling their meeting in 2001 and Nasrallah’s “*aura, smile, intelligence, and kindness*”, which he described as “*unforgettable*.”

**In light of the above, the Jonathas Institute considers that Europol's recent collaboration with an Islamist group founded by a Lebanese national close to Hezbollah raises serious questions:**

- How does Europol's cooperation with an organization presented as linked to Hezbollah fit in with the European Union's designation of Hezbollah's military wing as a terrorist organization?
- On what basis of verification, control, and counter-expertise does Europol rely on such an organization to play a role in collecting and documenting alleged war crimes in Europe?
- What guarantees are in place to prevent these collaborations from serving partisan political agendas rather than the impartial search for judicial truth ?

Europol owes the public comprehensive and transparent answers to these questions. At stake is not only its credibility but also the confidence of European citizens in the way investigations into international crimes and terrorism are conducted.



*A cartoon depicting Hitler sleeping with Anne Frank ("HITLER: Write this in your diary, Anne") was posted in February 2006 on the website of the European Arab League, led by the now highly regarded Abou Jahjah, a Shiite activist who nevertheless suggested purging Antwerp of its Jews.*



Here is Karim Hassoun with the Europol badge.



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Created in March 2024 following the massacres of October 7 and their repercussions in Europe, Institut Jonathas is a center for study and action against antisemitism and everything that promotes it in Belgium.

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