

# Israel's "Hit List" and Alleged "Information Terrorists". Scott Ritter, Ali Abunimah, Al Mayadeen, ...

By [Rima Najjar](#)

Global Research, August 13, 2024

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

*What do Scott Ritter, Naser al-Laham, Ali Abunimah and Khaled Barakat have in common? They are all purveyors of truthful information (journalists/writers) about crimes committed by Israel and its Western allies. In an Orwellian inversion of reality, they are all dubbed "information terrorists," thus becoming targets of repression or worse.*

I begin with Scott Ritter, because he has recently articulated what "worse" means in this context. Scott Ritter is a former US Marine intelligence officer who served in the former Soviet Union and is now an outspoken and widely watched critic of US foreign policy in Ukraine and Israel.

In a video clip broadcast on June 4th on Judging Freedom Podcast, he describes how, with the guidance and direction of the US State Department, Ukraine established a center for countering disinformation. That center now has a blacklist of "information terrorists" targeted for assassination. He and other Americans are on this hit list. Ritter goes on to say,

"... they said that an information terrorist must be hunted down and brought to justice the same way any terrorist would.

And I have been accused of saying things that make the Ukrainian government unhappy. They now say I must be hunted down and arrested, detained, killed as with any other terrorist in the world ... with the US State Department's support, [they] put out a weekly list that, you know, a weekly list where they say I am the number one of threat to truth." ([Minute 25:05](#) in the video below)

This is how we must understand what Israel is doing in renewing its ban on the broadcasts of Al Mayadeen Media Network, both visual and online. Israel has labeled the Network's correspondents in Palestinian 1948 occupied territories and the occupied West Bank as "terrorists." In a [statement](#) that describes the move as being, in itself, a form of terrorism, Al Mayadeen has this to say:

"The network emphasizes that labeling its correspondents in Palestinian 1948 occupied territories and the occupied West Bank as 'terrorists' is, in itself, a form of terrorism. Al Mayadeen warns against inflicting any harm on its journalists and asserts that it will not yield to any form of extortion or pressure, regardless of its impact or extent.

It is clear that the occupation views Al Mayadeen as an outlet that enjoys a strong

presence and influence, exhibiting the utmost credibility and commitment to its morals. That is why the occupation reacts to the news outlet with a hysterical and puzzling degree of confusion when dealing with every word, image, and on-the-field presence, especially when Al Mayadeen contributes to quelling sedition, exposing and debunking lies, and calling out the crimes for what they are.”

[Nasser al-Laham](#) is one of those journalists that Israel is targeting as “information terrorists.” His achievements include being the editor-in-chief and founder of Ma’an News Agency, Director of Al Mayadeen’s bureau in occupied Palestine, and a member of the Palestinian National Council. He has published several books in Arabic: Tel Aviv: A City with No Secrets (2002); Fatah: The Sword and the Pen (2003); The Popular Front: Learn Well, Fight Well (2005); Media under Hamas (2007); The Blind Do Not Like Carrots (2011); and Body Language in the Israeli Media (2015).

The threat to al-Laham, whose house was raided and his two sons detained in October 2023 by Israeli forces, and to his colleagues is not idle. Read [‘Israel’ deliberately kills Al Mayadeen’s crew in South Lebanon](#).

Germany as well indulges in similar shameful banning of journalists and writers who speak truth about Israel and puts a target on their backs. Ali Abunimah, co-founder of the Electronic Intifada and author of One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse, was recently threatened by authorities with prison for giving a speech via Zoom to an audience in Germany attending [Palestine Conference in Exile](#) (July 25 -26) on Germany’s role in Israel’s ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Abunimah [writes](#):

“About two hours before my scheduled talk on 26 July, I received via a lawyer in Germany a 15-page notice from government authorities in Berlin informing me that I am prohibited from participating in the conference by any means, including online. The penalties include fines and up to one year in prison.”

Ali Abunimah was probably not surprised to get such a notice from the German authorities. The Electronic Intifada had published an article in 2019 titled, “Germany threatens journalist with prison for speaking about Palestine.” That journalist is Khaled Barakat, a Palestinian-Canadian writer and activist and founder of Masar Badil (the Palestinian Alternative Revolutionary Path Movement). He was prevented by Berlin police from speaking at a community event about USA’s “deal of the century” and subsequently expelled from the country. He and his wife Charlotte Kates, the international coordinator of Samidoun (the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network), were banned from entering the EU in October 2022.

Samidoun operates internationally, advocating for Palestinian prisoners and opposing Israeli policies. Israel designated Samidoun as a terrorist organization in 2021, citing its alleged ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). On Nov 2nd, 2023, Germany banned Samidoun from operating within the country and passed an order to stop all activities of the group along with the activities of any other organization operating in Germany that supports Hamas.

Without a shred of evidence, Israeli and right-wing Canadian media continue to allege ties between Khaled Barakat, Samidoun and Masar Badil on the one hand, and Palestinian groups designated as terrorist by Israel, the US and EU on the other. These allegations are

false and dangerous. According to [Influence Watch](#), American national security officials “don’t have that information yet” and have “questioned the Israeli government’s decision on Samidoun and related groups.” In August 2022, US Department of State spokesman Ned Price expressed the administration’s concern about the terrorism-associate label. The allegations and bans I described above put a target on the backs of Palestine advocates and their organizations and chill free speech.

The concept of “information terrorism” emerged as a subset of cyberterrorism, which involves the use of the internet and digital tools to carry out terrorist activities. This term gained more prominence in the late 20th and early 21st centuries as the internet became a critical infrastructure for communication, commerce, and governance. It is now being used by the US and Israel as a legal mechanism to criminalize human rights and antigencidal activism by silencing, in one way or another, those who speak and act nonviolently against their policies.

But suppression of this nature, like the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, does nothing but strengthen the determination of individuals, organizations and groups to report with honesty and integrity and to advocate for Palestinian resistance and liberation.

\*

Click the share button below to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

### [One Month Before Global Research’s Anniversary](#)

*Rima Najjar is a Palestinian whose father’s side of the family comes from the forcibly depopulated village of Lifta on the western outskirts of Jerusalem and whose mother’s side of the family is from Ijzim, south of Haifa. She is an activist, researcher, and retired professor of English literature, Al-Quds University, occupied West Bank.*

*She is a regular contributor to Global Research.*

*Featured image: Al Mayadeen correspondent Naser al-Laham reporting from Bethlehem (Source: Rima Najjar)*

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Rima Najjar](#), Global Research, 2024

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Rima Najjar](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will

not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)