

## Suicide ? The strange death of Riad Hamad, a Palestinian activist, in Austin, Texas

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Global Research, April 20, 2008

Tlaxcala 20 April 2008

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We were greatly shocked and saddened with the news of the murder of Riad Hamad Esolh. Riad's body was found floating in Lady Bird Lake in Austin after he was reported missing since the beginning of the week.

Riad was a dedicated man as chairman of the "Palestinian Child Welfare Foundation", he was helping disabled children in Palestinian refugee camps, and he used to ask for my help to contact these unfortunate children to hand them financial help for medical treatment, education and food. I am sure that these young people and families who had highly appreciated Riad's help and humanity shall be saddened and in tears with the dreadful sad news of Riad's murder. We are sure it is a murder, and not a suicide, for a man who dedicated his life to help the unfortunate to recover from their sickness, complete their schooling, and have enough food so as to live a decent life, even in their retched refugee camps, would not commit suicide. He was helping people to live, then how would he take his own life!!!

What shocked me was to hear that some security agents broke into his house and carried away with them his files and CDs and other things, I didn't know what happened after that, but I was sure that he would be accused of supporting some "terror organizations" or "white washing money"! This is a big joke that Zionists and those who collaborate with them would want to see even disabled Palestinian children helped to overcome the hardships Zionism had brought them.

We call on all those who are in a position to donate to Riad's fund so as his good work will be continued, not to hesitate in doing so. I am sure that with continuing the hard and honest work shall make his soul rest in peace.

Riad comes from Beirut and lived in Beirut not far from the Palestinian refugee camps that surround Beirut, which see first hand their hardships, for who he decided extend his help to enable his Arab compatriots practice their Right of Return to their homes and land.

God bless his soul. A friend that I had never met face to face, but heart to heart.

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