

## Interpal Trustees receive £50,000 in damages as Jewish Chronicle apologises for libels

27 August 2019

The *Jewish Chronicle* has published a [full apology](#) to the Trustees of Interpal, a UK-registered charity that provides relief and development aid to Palestinians in need, over the newspaper's publication of false and defamatory allegations in March 2019.

The Jewish Chronicle has agreed to pay £50,000 in damages to the Trustees, and has undertaken not to repeat false allegations that the Trustees are linked to terrorism or extremism. The newspaper is also paying the Trustees' legal costs.

The defamation complaint related to an article published by the Jewish Chronicle on 21 March 2019. In 2003, Interpal was listed by the US as a "specially designated global terrorist organisation" for allegedly funding designated group Hamas - an allegation that Interpal and its Trustees have always vehemently denied. Following a formal legal complaint by [Carter-Ruck](#), the Trustees' solicitors, the Jewish Chronicle has now accepted that neither Interpal, nor its Trustees, have ever been involved with or provided support for terrorist activity of any kind, and has made clear that the US designation is strongly contested by Interpal and its Trustees. To date and despite repeated requests, neither Interpal, its Trustees nor even the Charity Commission have ever been provided by US authorities with any evidence whatsoever to support the US designation.

As well as publishing a full apology, the Jewish Chronicle took the unusual but welcome step of offering to publish an [article](#) by Ibrahim Hewitt, Chair of the Trustees of Interpal, in which he sets out Interpal's 25-year history of providing humanitarian aid "to people in desperate need; no more, no less".

"Interpal has repeatedly proven its ability to act as a reliable and effective humanitarian operator and its work is highly respected both within the sector and on the ground," writes Mr Hewitt. "British MPs from all three main parties have visited Interpal-supported projects in Palestine and refugee camps in neighbouring countries and lauded its excellent work in the field."

Mr Hewitt called the settlement a "welcome resolution" to the case.

"The Trustees of Interpal welcome the decision by the *Jewish Chronicle* to acknowledge and apologise for the defamatory claims published, and to pay damages as part of the agreed settlement," he said. "This settlement follows a similar [apology](#) and payment of damages by the Daily Mail and MailOnline over similar, false allegations against Interpal, and we view this as a further endorsement of our integrity and commitment to providing humanitarian aid to Palestinians. This remains our unwavering focus, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share Interpal's message and the urgency of assisting Palestinians living under the most drastically challenging circumstances."

-End-

### Note to Editors:

For comment, please contact: [press@interpal.org](mailto:press@interpal.org) , [info@interpal.org](mailto:info@interpal.org) or call: 0208 961 9993

- Interpal was founded in 1994 to provide humanitarian and development aid to Palestinians in need.
- Interpal is a British registered, non-political charity (No.:1040094) working on the ground in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, as well as the refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan. The latter includes support given to refugees fleeing from violence in neighbouring Syria.
- Interpal's aim is to alleviate the suffering and disadvantage faced by the Palestinian people through immediate relief and also to support the Palestinian society through long-term development programmes.
- Interpal has worked for 25 years, ensuring it is a well-established and trusted development agency working with and for the people of Palestine.
- As a specialist charity working for Palestinians, Interpal has unique insight into the issues they face, an extensive set of contacts in the field and access beyond that of many other NGOs. For this reason, Interpal collaborates with various organisations in the field, including UN agencies, and provides support for charities working for Palestinians.