

IMPACT-SE European Tour: November 2009



Introduction:

IMPACT-SE set out in November 2009 on a two-week tour to the UK, Belgium and Germany with the dual goals of raising awareness and demonstrating to European parliamentarians, policymakers, media and public the true nature of Hamas and its anti-Western, anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic ideology, in order to counter calls in Europe for dialog and engagement with the movement. In addition, IMPACT-SE set out to promote the Tunisian schoolbooks and their educational approach as a potential positive role model for other Arab and Muslim countries.

IMPACT-SE presented its findings at the British House of Commons, the European Parliament, and at a number of universities and research institutes, and held a successful press conference in Berlin which received very positive and extensive coverage. The goals of the tour were thus achieved at the political, academic and media/public opinion levels. Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Al- Hussaini, who presented alongside IMPACT-SE team in London, and former jihadist and present-day Muslim reformer Dr. Tawfik Hamid, who was invited by IMPACT-SE to join its team in Brussels and Germany, contributed greatly to the success of the events and the interest shown in them by policymakers, civil society and the press. Following is a brief description of the tour, country by country.

The United Kingdom

IMPACT-SE Director of Communications David Oman and Researcher Ido Mizrahi, London-based journalist and activist Simon Barret and Muslim scholar Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Al-Hussaini of [Scriptural Reasoning](#) attended a November 11 briefing at the House of Commons, organized by Barrett and moderated by MP Patrick Mercer, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Counter-Terrorism. Sheikh Dr. Al-Hussaini presented the essence of the Scriptural Reasoning approach, and [refuted the Hamas Charter](#) from an Islamic scriptural viewpoint, emphasizing the connection of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel as appears in the Koran. David Oman then presented the findings of IMPACT-SE on Hamas' educational approach as manifested in the [Hamas' Web Magazine for Children](#) (*Al-Fateh* – see [in French](#) as well) and its implications for peace in the Middle East and the future of the children of Palestine and Israel, as well as for the future of [British Muslim children exposed to the website](#). The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer session.

See http://www.totallyjewish.com/the_jewish_news/view/c-12820/jewish-news-jn-611-121109/?no_login=1 / <http://www.totallyjewish.com/news/national/c-12804/how-hamas-fills-kids-with-hate/> and <http://www.thejc.com/news/world-news/22131/hamas-education-website-slammed-unesco>.

David Oman and Sheikh Dr. Al-Hussaini were subsequently interviewed by Simon Barrett on “Live at Nine,” the live studio broadcast of Genesis TV, in which they presented their respective findings and answered questions from viewers: [Part 1](#) – [Part 2](#) – [Part 3](#)



Left to right: David Oman, MP Patrick Mercer, Simon Barrett



Sheikh Dr. Muhammad Al-Hussaini

Portcullis House, House of Commons



Brussels:

David Oman was joined by IMPACT-SE Director of Research, Dr. Arnon Groiss, who presented at the European Parliament the findings of his research on the [Tunisian schoolbooks](#) at a November 18 public hearing entitled “The Challenges of Education for Peace & Tolerance & the Attitude towards Diversity - the Tunisian Model & the Role of the EU.” The hearing was organized by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe and hosted by ALDE Members of the European Parliament Ramona Nicole Manescu and Hannu Takkula. Dr. Groiss presented the [Tunisian educational approach](#) which advocates peace, tolerance, acceptance and dialog with the “other” as a potential model for other Arab and Muslim countries. Dr. Groiss’ presentation was followed by that of Dr. Tawfik Hamid (www.tawfikhamid.com) who introduced his innovative educational model, combining use of advanced cognitive psychology tactics, encouragement of critical thinking and utilization of theological educational support to promote values of peace, tolerance and human rights and to counter radical teaching among young Muslims. Tunisian scholars Prof. Muhammad Khelifi and Prof. Muhammad Mahjoub, at the behest of the Tunisian Embassy, then presented the guiding principles of the Tunisian education system, followed by a brief talk by Tomas Sandell of the [European Coalition for Israel](#) on the importance of the role of the EU in tightening oversight and eligibility requirements so that European funding would be granted only to those NGOs that truly promote education for peace, tolerance and dialog.

See: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/Middle-Eastern-academics-speak-to-MEPs-about-the-importance-of-education/97937.php>

For an audio recording of the public hearing, click here: [Non-translated version](#) (English and French); [Version with English-French and French-English translation voiceover](#)

For pictures of the event click here or see below:

<http://www.alde.eu/en/photo/2009/photos-alde-hearing-challenge-of-education/>

Dr. Tawfik Hamid (left) and Dr. Arnon Groiss



From left to right: Prof. Mahjoub, Prof. Khlifi, Tomas Sandell, MEP Manescu, MEP Takkula, Dr. Hamid and Dr. Groiss



David Oman presented the findings of IMPACT-SE on Hamas' educational approach and Dr. Hamid presented his educational model at the [European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center](#), to an audience of civil society activists and a Saudi diplomat. The briefing was sponsored by [Réalité EU](#).

Dr. Hamid at ESISC



Germany:

Dr. Groiss, Dr. Hamid and David Oman delivered presentations at a [symposium](#) at Karlsruhe University organized by [Scholars for Peace in the Middle East](#) and local students and moderated by Prof. Diethard Pallaschke. Some 60 students attended the event which included David's presentation on Hamas' educational approach, Dr. Groiss' presentation on the Tunisian schoolbooks and Dr. Hamid's unique educational program. The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer session.



Dr. Groiss, Dr. Hamid and David Oman presented the abovementioned themes at a [symposium](#) at the [Department of Philosophy and Theology](#) at Bielefeld University, organized by Prof. Ina Wunn and entitled "The Challenges of Education for Peace and Tolerance towards the "Other." Various German professors, a representative of the [Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research](#) and a visiting Iranian professor delivered diverse presentations on subjects including Judaism in the Koran, fundamentalist thought, tolerance in German schoolbooks and the attitude toward Jews and Judaism in Iranian academia. For the first time, [IMPACT-SE International Standards on Education for Peace and Tolerance based on UNESCO Resolutions](#) were used by a German doctoral student to study a local German Muslim curriculum and schoolbook, in line with IMPACT-SE's vision of a global network of scholars and institutions using the International Standards to research and monitor schoolbooks.



Berlin Press Conference

On November 24, David Oman and Dr. Hamid delivered presentations at a press conference at the Berlin Regent hotel, preceded and followed by a number of interviews with German, Russian and Spanish media. David presented Hamas' educational approach while stressing the danger posed by the [indoctrination of Palestinian and German Muslim children](#) accessing the *Al-Fateh* website, which he termed "[child abuse](#)." The press conference, which a number of German Foreign Ministry Officials attended, received impressive coverage by some 40 print, radio and television journalists from such outlets as AFP, APA and the Jerusalem Post. It was successfully organized by R  alit   EU and [Honestly Concerned](#) and moderated by Prof. Gert Weisskirchen, former SPD Member of the Bundestag and Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE on Combating Anti-Semitism.

For a video recording of the press conference, [click here](#).

Berlin Press Coverage

Radio (German):

- http://www.impact-se.org/docs/newsroom/euro-tour2009/Deutschlandradio_Kultur_25112009.mp3
- http://www.impact-se.org/docs/newsroom/euro-tour2009/WDR5_Saturday_Dieter_Wulf.mp3
- http://www.impact-se.org/docs/newsroom/euro-tour2009/SWR2_Wednesday_morning_Dieter_Wulf.mp3

English

Jerusalem Post - http://www.impact-se.org/docs/newsroom/euro-tour2009/Jpost_Hamas_Europe_attacks.pdf and [Print version](#)

Europe News - <http://europenews.dk/en/node/27838>
<http://froehliche-weisheit.com/?p=490>

German

AFP - [Studie: Hamas sucht mit Kinderseite künftige Attentäter im Internet](#)

APA/STANDARD - [Hamas sucht mit Kinderseite künftige Attentäter](#)

20MINUTEN - [Neue Studie beweist: Hamas wirbt um künftige Selbstmordattentäter](#)

BILD - <http://www.bild.de/BILD/news/telegramm/news-ticker,rendertext=10567430.html>

TT - [Hamas sucht mit Kinderseite künftige Attentäter im Internet - Laut einer Studie sollen auch Kinder aus Deutschland und anderer europäischer Länder unter den Lesern der betroffenen Internet-Seite sein.](#)

FREIE PRESSE - [Studie: Hamas sucht mit Kinderseite künftige Attentäter im Internet - Auch Kinder in Deutschland unter den Lesern](#)

PRO - [http://www.pro-medienmagazin.de/?id=gesellschaft&news\[action\]=detail&news\[id\]=2599](http://www.pro-medienmagazin.de/?id=gesellschaft&news[action]=detail&news[id]=2599)

PRO - [http://www.pro-medienmagazin.de/internet.html?&news\[action\]=detail&news\[id\]=2578](http://www.pro-medienmagazin.de/internet.html?&news[action]=detail&news[id]=2578)

ZEIT ONLINE - <http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2009-11/Hamas-Kinderseite?page=all&print=true>

BILD - <http://www.bild.de/BILD/news/telegramm/news-ticker,rendertext=10567430.html>

ZEITONG - <http://www.zeitong.de/ng/da/2009/11/24/studie-hamas-sucht-mit-kinderseite-kuenftige-attentaeter-im-internet/>

RP ONLINE - <http://nachrichten.rp-online.de/article/politik/Rekrutiert-Hamas-kuenftige-Attentaeter-im-Internet/59512>

ISRAELNETZ -

[http://87.106.28.16/israelnetz/cms/index.php?id=44&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=15637&tx_ttnews\[year\]=2009&tx_ttnews\[month\]=11&tx_ttnews\[day\]=27&cHash=bb02e99770](http://87.106.28.16/israelnetz/cms/index.php?id=44&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=15637&tx_ttnews[year]=2009&tx_ttnews[month]=11&tx_ttnews[day]=27&cHash=bb02e99770)

DIE GEMEINDE MAGAZIN -

http://viewer.dialogperfect.de/4003/Die%20Gemeinde%20Januar%202010.html?dia_id=2

Russian

SVOBODANEWS - <http://www.svobodanews.ru/content/article/1888960.html>

Norwegian

AFTENPOSTEN - <http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/uriks/article3390305.ece>

Blogs

<http://blog.echurchwebsites.org.uk/2009/11/25/hamas-site-encourages-europe-attacks-hamas-childrens-web-site-alfateh-indoctrination-suicide-bombing-david-oman-director-communications-institute-monitoring-peace-cultural-tolerance-school-education/>
<http://tundratabloid.blogspot.com/2009/11/hamas-indoctrinating-european-muslims.html>
<http://daledamos.blogspot.com/2009/11/hamas-brand-of-childrens-television.html>
http://www.owurman.com/blog/index_27_11_09.htm (Portuguese)

Prof. Gert Weisskirchen, Dr. Tawfik Hamid and David Oman



