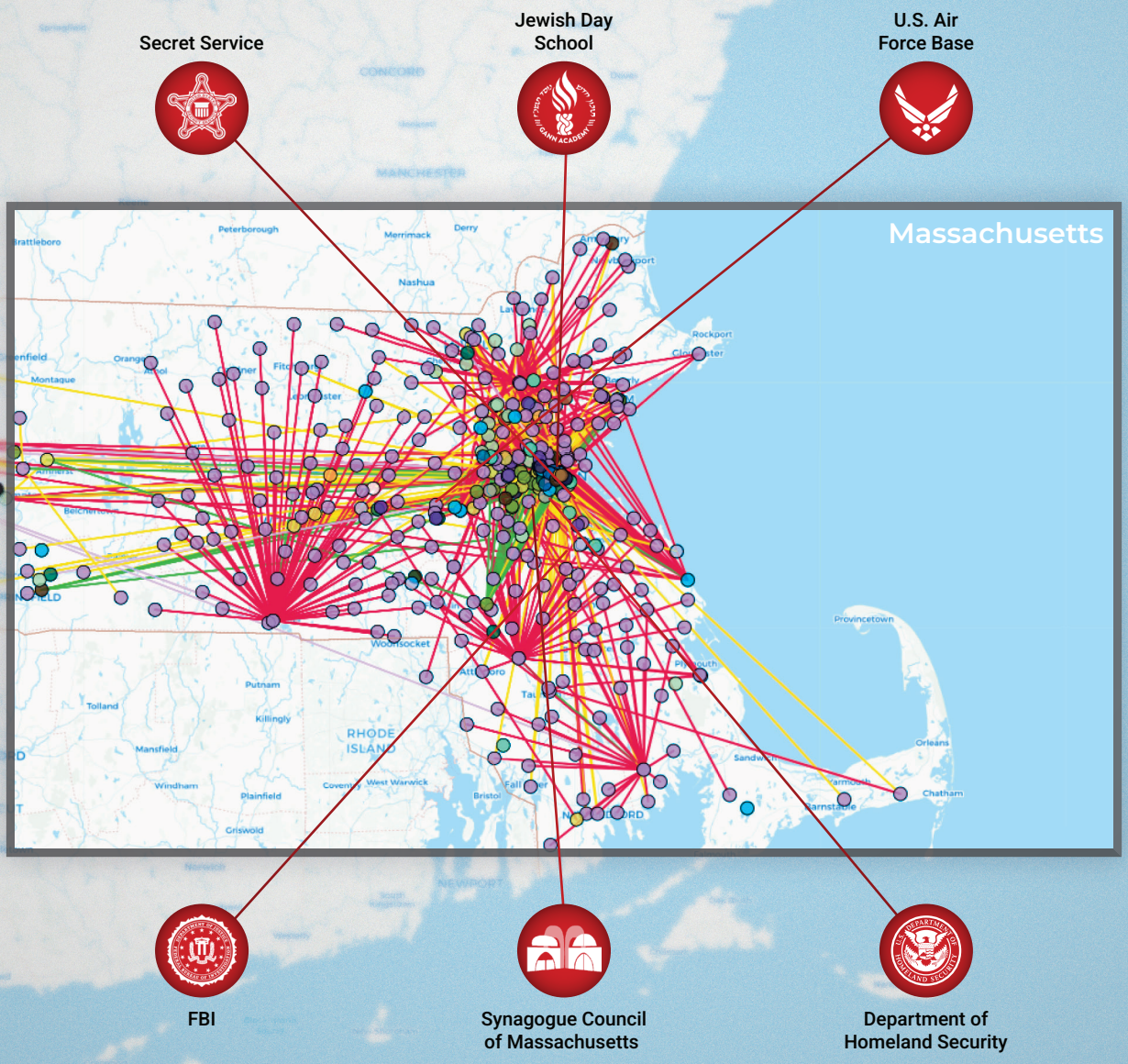
THE UNSEEN THREAT OF THE

MAPPING PROJECT



SPECIAL BRIEF

FEBRUARY 2023

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The Unseen Threat of The Mapping Project

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Authored by:

Zachor Legal Institute

Endorsed by:

ARISE Foundation

B'nai B'rith International

Club Z

Coalition for Jewish Values

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Executive Summary

The Mapping Project website,[1] launched in June 2022, outlines the connections of roughly 500 American civil society organizations, government entities, and security institutions in the Massachusetts area, which they vilify with hostile rhetoric and calls to "dismantle" due to their role in facilitating perceived "harms" in the United States and the State of Israel. This includes institutions such as **police stations, air force bases, naval installations, the US Secret Service, FBI, Homeland Security, US Marshals, and other government offices**. Likewise, several dozen Jewish NGOs, schools, and synagogues are listed among the project's targets – a fact that was emphasized in news reports far more than the targeting of the Massachusetts security apparatus.

Due to its threatening nature, a **coalition of 28 American civil society groups** petitioned the US Attorney General, FBI Director, and US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism in a December 2022 letter to investigate the Mapping Project and other potentially dangerous organizations.[2]

The following report was created to further illuminate the threat presented by the Mapping Project, as mentioned in the coalition's appeal. It is based on findings previously published about the Mapping Project that were gathered and analyzed to glean updated results. The report offers three conclusions that the US Attorney General, FBI, and US Antisemitism Envoy should take into particular consideration if and when they opt to launch an in-depth investigation into the project:

1. First, out of the roughly 500 entities publicly listed on the Mapping Project website, **298 are American strategic security assets and institutions**. This raises concern that the true goal of the project is to map the American security apparatus and that the targeting of the American Jewish community – while real and troubling – may be a façade to obfuscate this plan.
2. Second, the Mapping Project represents an amalgamation of the core ideologies of the extreme left and extreme right antisemitism. It is highly irregular that a single American entity would encapsulate both extremes simultaneously and harmoniously. It is therefore possible that the Mapping Project is the **product of a foreign agenda** exploiting these two extremes to garner support among radical Americans on both sides of the aisle. Who, then, is the culprit behind it?
3. This question leads to the third conclusion. Namely, there is considerable evidence that **Iranian elements** may be involved in creating and promoting the Mapping Project, as indicated in the coalition's December letter.

In light of these findings, the US government and law enforcement agencies should heed the words of the coalition's letter and investigate the Mapping Project's potential foreign ties, links to other organizations, funding, and other aspects of the project.

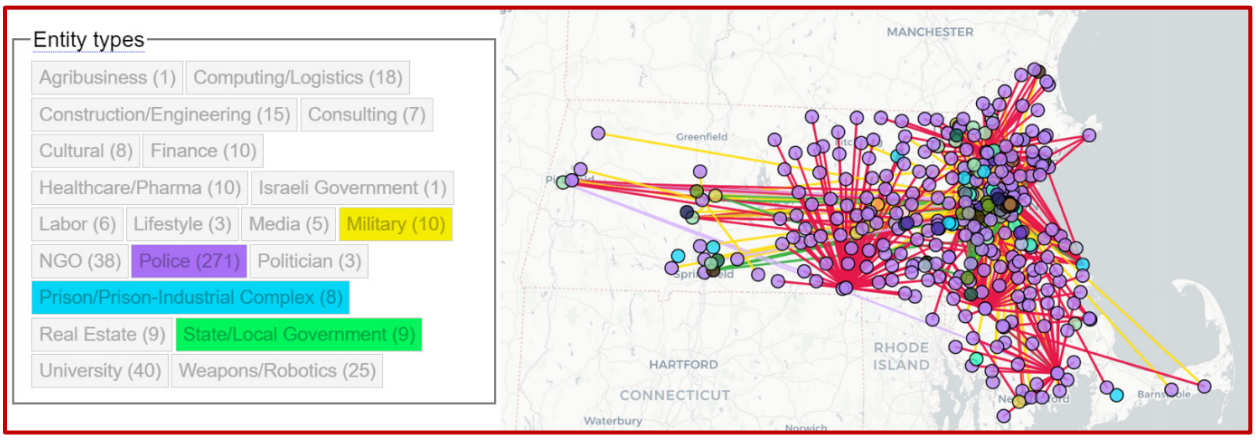
[1] Map Liberation, What we see, accessed 09/22

[2] EIN Presswire, Coalition of 28 Organizations, published 12/13/2022, accessed 12/20/2022; Letter, accessed 12/20/2022

Chapter 1: The Unseen Dangers of the Mapping Project

A particularly noteworthy feature of the Mapping Project is that it provides, in meticulous detail, the **precise addresses of US government institutions and law enforcement offices**. This refers not only to department and agency headquarters but also to numerous local branches and offices of these institutions.

Delineating the exact locations of these security institutions can pose a direct threat to them. It would be controversial enough to list the sites of many sensitive institutions like these in a single place. This may even be the largest such database of American security institutions publicly accessible online. Yet, the issue becomes all the more troubling considering the rhetoric employed by the Mapping Project, which calls for these institutions to be "dismantled." This language, coupled with increasing violence across the country, including by white supremacists and radical anti-establishment groups that have physically attacked government offices in recent years, increases the likelihood that such rhetoric can lead to violence.



The map provides the precise locations of numerous government and law enforcement branches.

Due to the Mapping Project's content, it is possible to argue that the main objective of the initiative is to threaten US stability and homeland security by targeting institutions that are "complicit" in the so-called "harms" listed in the project, including "Colonialism, Militarization, Policing, Prison-Industrial Complex, Propaganda/Normalization, Surveillance, US Imperialism, and Zionism" (the Jewish right to self-determination). These institutions include those integral to the functioning of robust American democracy and the personal security of its civilians, such as the police, military, fire departments, etc.

In the face of this radical anti-establishment and anti-democratic ideology expressed by the Mapping Project, the "Jewish" issue advanced by its proponents may serve only as a **"cover" to conceal the project's real purpose**: attacking American democracy and security from within.

The Mapping Project coats its website with anti-American statements showcasing that it is fundamentally opposed to the US and its internal stability. For example, the project writes that

the **"primary role of police is to maintain colonial and capitalist power relationships through violence and coercion."**[3]

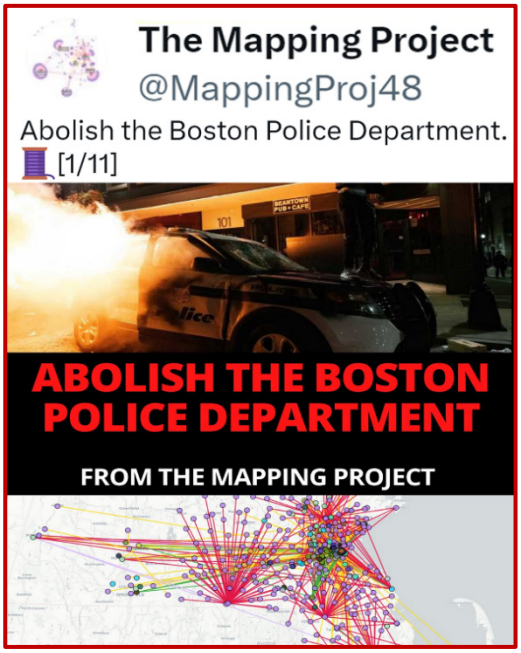
Likewise, it asserts that the US is a "cannibalistic enterprise," and that Massachusetts is the home of "a dense network of centers that support US imperialism," referring to the fact that there are security institutions and police stations across the state.[4]

Unsurprisingly, the Mapping Project does not solely portray the United States as an internal oppressor but as an external one too. In an article written by the project, it states that "**US imperialism is the greatest threat to life on the planet, a force of ecological devastation and disaster impacting not only human beings, but also our non-human relatives.**"[5]

It also explicitly writes that the "The US Army and the US military broadly exist to enforce the United States' hegemonic and unilateral control over global affairs, through physical occupations of territory, mass murder, support for right-wing forces who engage in mass murder, economic warfare through sanctions (which currently deny essential resources to a quarter of the world's population), and the intentional and planned destabilization of nations attempting independent development outside of the dictates of the so-called "rules-based international order."[6]

The Mapping Project also exploits social media to promote its mission of demonizing and destabilizing the United States. For example, on Twitter, it posted a call to abolish the Boston police department (alongside a picture of a police vehicle being torched by a firebomb). It stated that police departments, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, prisons, and "settler nation states" (referring to the US and Israel) "don't keep anyone safe, and they don't make anyone free."[7]

As of November 14, 2022, the Mapping Project Twitter account followed 297 users, including the PFLP-affiliated "Masar Badil" movement, terror-supporting Palestinian Youth Movement, PFLP-affiliated Collectif Palestine Vaincra, and others.[8]



Source: Mapping Project Twitter

[3] Map Liberation, Policing, accessed 01/23

[4] Map Liberation, Massachusetts' Imperialist Landscape, accessed 01/23

[5] Map Liberation, Mapping US Imperialism, accessed 01/23

[6] Map Liberation, U.S. Army in Massachusetts, accessed 01/23

[7] Mapping Project Twitter, published 09/28/22, accessed 01/12/23; Mapping Project Twitter, published 06/30/22, accessed 01/12/23

[8] Mapping Project, Twitter, accessed 09/22; Who Are PYM?, accessed 11/14/2022; France: PayPal shuts down account of pro-BDS group with terrorist links, *i24 News*, accessed 11/14/2022; Michael Starr, Terrorism-linked NGO praising 'armed resistance' to march in Brussels, *Jerusalem Post*, accessed 11/14/2022

Many groups and movements the Mapping Project follows can be regarded as affiliated with communist-leaning anti-Western and terrorist organizations, which make use of so-called "post-colonial" rhetoric and endorse the terror-supporting slogan of "armed resistance."

The Mapping Project clearly aims to foment civil unrest, destabilize, dismantle, and ultimately upend American society and the established political order by painting the US as a global and domestic tyrant. In fact, the project clearly states that:

> "A movement that can identify super-oppressors…. can use this information to identify strategic vulnerabilities of key hubs of power and effectively organize different communities towards common purpose. This is what the Mapping Project aims to do - to move away from traditionally siloed work towards coordination across communities and struggles in order to build strategic oppositional community power."9

The Antisemitic Threat of the Mapping Project

Although the Mapping Project heavily emphasizes the United States and its security apparatus, it also poses a particular threat to the American-Jewish community. As mentioned, the map lists dozens of Jewish businesses, schools, houses of worship, and nonprofits. Despite their innocence, the Mapping Project describes these Jewish entities as "complicit" in the "harms" mentioned above.

In one example of harassment and intimidation by the project, a November 2022 protest outside a Jewish National Fund-USA conference in Boston organized by the Mapping Project saw participants call for "Intifada" (violent uprising) and hold posters in support of the Lion's Den Palestinian terrorist group.[10]

There is a historical precedent for mapping Jews and Jewish-owned institutions and businesses in an intimidating manner. In the 1930s, the German Nazi Party staged a nationwide boycott of Jewish businesses. According to the Holocaust encyclopedia, the boycott signaled the start of the Nazi movement to exclude Jews from all aspects of German society, eventually leading to the systematic slaughter of 6,000,000 Jews across Europe.[11] Although seemingly implausible,neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and even anti-Israel elements may use this project as a roadmap of future targets for attack.

Source: @JoelCHoltzman Twitter

[9] Map Liberation, Mapping US Imperialism, accessed 01/23

[10] Boston Mapping Project protest calls for an intifada, *Jewish News Syndicate*, published 11/10/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[11] The Boycott of Jewish Businesses, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, accessed 11/14/2022

For example, in the last few years, radicals have perpetrated multiple deadly attacks on synagogues due to what they perceived as societal injustices inflicted by Jews and Zionists – precisely the rhetoric used by the Mapping Project. These include the 2017 Poway Synagogue Shooting[12], the 2022 Colleyville Synagogue Hostage Crisis[13], and the 2018 Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting[14], in which 11 Jews were gunned down during prayer.

For these reasons, "a bipartisan group of 37 House members is urging federal law enforcement agencies to investigate the potential use of the Boston-area 'Mapping Project' by extremist groups."[15] Likewise, on June 15, the FBI announced that it was monitoring the map and was "very well aware and are tracking the Mapping Project website, and are working to identify additional information regarding this website."[16]

Although these law enforcement officials and lawmakers correctly addressed the Mapping Project soon after its release, it remains to be seen what actions they will take moving forward – if any. If they grow complacent, the map may lead to attacks against the listed entities. This concern is reflected in the Mapping Project's rhetoric, which justifies **"armed resistance"** – a euphemistic code for violence that includes terrorism against civilians – as a legitimate form of resistance against Israel.

With violence against the American Jewish community on the rise – **antisemitic incidents in New England increased by 42% between 2021-2022** – calls of this nature can and should be seen as an endorsement of violence.[17]

Overlapping Extreme-Left & Extreme-Right Antisemitism

Another unique element of the Mapping Project is that it represents an unusual convergence between the far-left and far-right and how they promote racism and bigotry.

Left-wing antisemitism ("new antisemitism") generally refers to the projection of classical antisemitic tropes regarding global domination and conspiracies against other nations – on the State of Israel, rather than on the Jewish people, as well as denial of the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland in the Land of Israel (Zionism). This often manifests as delegitimization, demonization, and double standards toward Israel.[18] Conversely, right-wing antisemitism ("classic antisemitism") generally refers to those infamous stereotypes and tropes

[12] Julie Zauzmer Weil, The alleged synagogue shooter was a churchgoer who talked Christian theology, raising tough questions for evangelical pastors, *Washington Post*, accessed 11/14/2022

[13] Jonathan Sarna, How antisemitic conspiracy theories contributed to the recent hostage-taking at the Texas synagogue, *The Conversation*, accessed 11/14/2022

[14] Daniel Politi, Synagogue Shooting Suspect Robert Bowers Appears to be Anti-Semite Who Hates Trump, *Slate*, accessed 11/14/2022

[15] Marc Rod, House lawmakers urge federal inquiry into 'Mapping Project,' *Jewish Insider*, accessed 11/14/2022

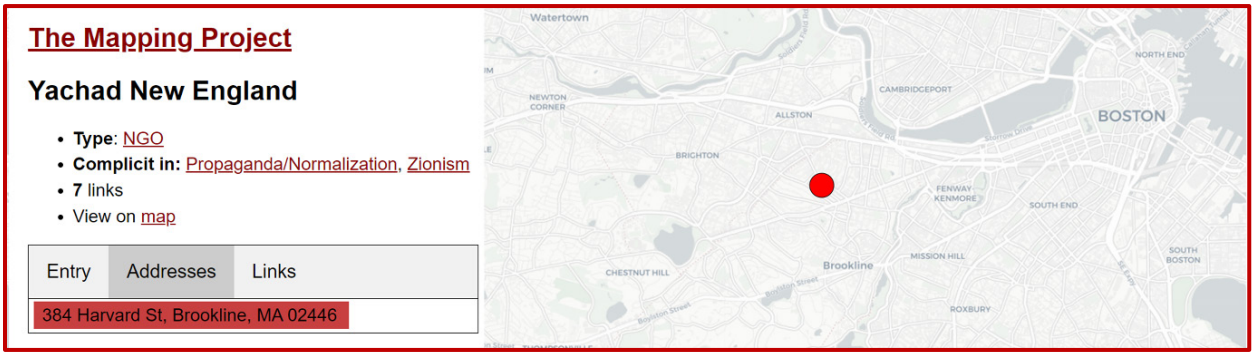
[16] Michael Starr, FBI monitoring BDS mapping site that ties Jewish orgs to police, media, *Jerusalem Post*, accessed 11/14/2022

[17] ADL, Antisemitic Incidents in the New England Region, accessed 01/23

[18] INSS, Left-Wing Antisemitism in the United States: Past and Present, accessed 01/23

relating to Jewish power, greed, and manipulation of world events and powerful institutions. It is regarded as more explicitly racially oriented than left-wing antisemitism.[19] The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is a widely accepted tool used by governments to elucidate and identify both streams of antisemitism.[20]

A prime example of the Mapping Project's left-wing antisemitism can be found on its page describing the "harm" of **Zionism as a "form of white supremacy that supports the colonization of Palestine by a settler population."**[21]



The Mapping Project targets a Jewish organization for disabled people. Source: Mapping Project website.

Furthermore, "Zionist" is frequently used by antisemites as a thinly veiled synonym for Jews.[22] Since demonizing Zionists is socially acceptable in many circles, this allows antisemites to escape the repercussions of their bigotry. One can easily see behind this veil when examining the institutions listed on the Mapping Project's website, which singles out explicitly Jewish nonprofits, foundations, and newspapers. Entities not explicitly Jewish by name are still referred to as Jewish by the project, including the Jewish high school Gann Academy and disabilities assistance organization Yachad, described by the project as "complicit in Zionism."

Other examples of the Mapping Project demonizing Jewish organizations – and there are dozens more – include the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), which it accuses of being "a counterinsurgency and surveillance group with international reach" that seeks to persecute "anti-racist" movements, as well as the Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston, which it alleges "promotes and normalizes Israel's ongoing colonial subjugation of Palestinians and theft of Palestinian land and resources."[23]

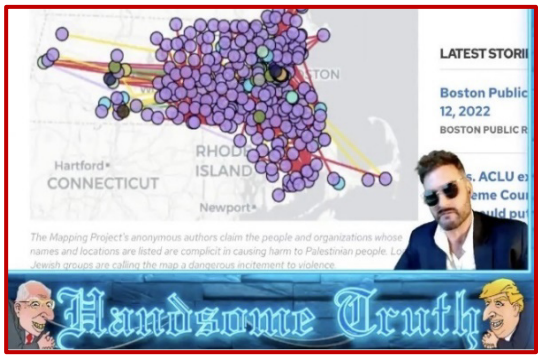
[19] ADL, Antisemitism Uncovered, accessed 01/23

[20] IHRA, What is antisemitism, accessed 09/22

[21] Map Liberation, Harm: Zionism, accessed 01/23

[22] ADL, Anti-Zionism, accessed 01/23

[23] Map Liberation, Jewish Teen Foundation of Greater Boston, accessed 01/23; Map Liberation, ADL, accessed 01/23



The map is endorsed on the neo-Nazi channel GoyimTV. Source: Gabe Stutman Twitter

In addition to left-wing antisemitism, the Mapping Project promotes classic antisemitism usually associated with neo-Nazis and white supremacists. For example, the Mapping Project spreads the age-old antisemitic trope of Jews supposedly buying influence to enact nefarious agendas by claiming that "Boston's Zionist leaders and powerhouse NGOs, which buy legitimacy and support from universities, use their influence to enable a range of oppressive agendas: supporting the Israeli army and Israeli settlements in Palestine; criminalizing Palestine liberation activists on college campuses; funding US police departments and cop unions; extracting wealth from colonized Puerto Rico; and advancing the privatization of US public schools."[24]

A similar example of this trope can be seen when the Mapping Project accuses the ADL, American Jewish Committee, and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee of "manufacturing consent from the public" to overthrow, destabilize, and delegitimize Latin American countries in service of the "US empire."[25]

Moreover, in an article on its website titled "**Charity is Theft: The Gann Foundation and Boston's Zionist NGO circuit**," the Mapping Project employs the trope of Jews as greedy by writing:

> "Non-profits and charities are theft. Charitable foundations are onshore tax havens, and charitable "gifts" are tax evasion scams. Even starting from this place of truth, the massive amount of wealth hoarding conducted by and for rich people is staggering….charitable giving is a way for rich people to amass money—power—and then grant it as they see fit personally, enriching their allies, and bypassing much-needed resource redistribution. The concentration of wealth in New England demonstrates the importance of combatting zionism locally….. We can directly tie the non-profit industrial complex to the colonization of Palestine, demonstrating that the united states tax code facilitates the laundering of wealth from the richest people in the united states to organizations supporting zionism and the genocide in Palestine…."[26]

The fact that two distinct forms of extreme Jew hate can coexist simultaneously within one entity is highly irregular and indicates a non-Western – particularly non-American – worldview. This raises the likelihood of the project having foreign origins or involvement from a foreign entity.

[24] Map Liberation, What We See, accessed 09/22

[25] Mapping Project Twitter, published 08/23/2022, accessed 01/12/2023

[26] Mapping Project, Charity is Theft, accessed 01/23

Chapter 2: Nature and Scope of the Mapping Project

The Mapping Project's Anonymity

The Mapping Project is unique among anti-American and antisemitic initiatives in several ways. Perhaps most notable is that the identity of the project's creator(s) is anonymous. Groups operating in this space – even those widely considered to promote radical agendas – almost invariably have a clear structure, with the identity of their top brass publicly available online. Yet, no information about the entity standing behind and operating the project is available.

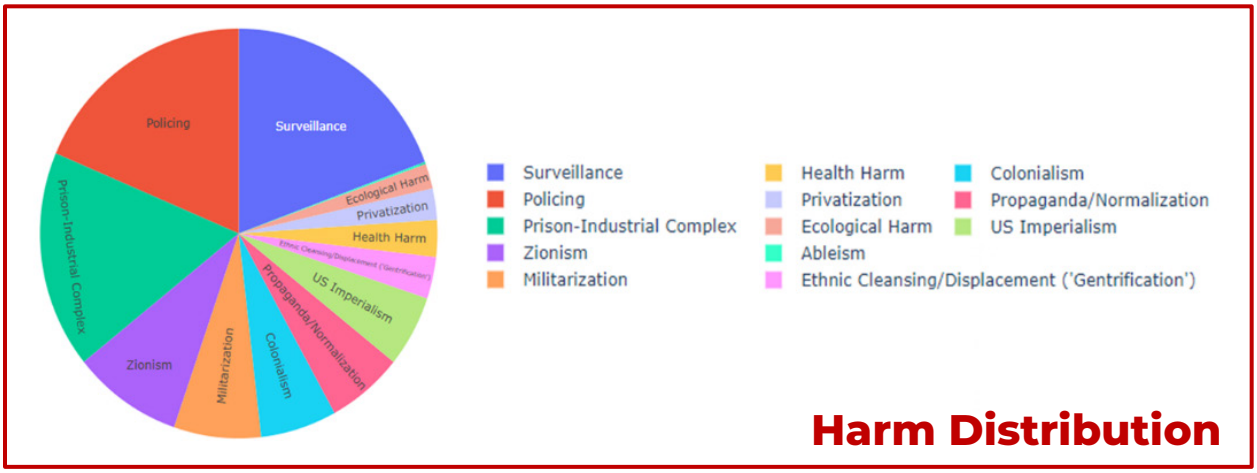
While there are multiple possible explanations for the project's anonymity, it may be concealed because revealing their identity would undermine the project's entire purpose. If, for example, the Mapping Project was the **byproduct of the proxy of a foreign power**, then the project would likely be seen as little more than a tool of that regime to promote its interests and harm its adversary – in this case, the US. Should this notion be proven correct, it would explain why roughly 80% of the entries listed by the Mapping Project are strategic US assets.

Analysis of Mapping Project's Website, Domain Analysis, and Technology

The Mapping Project was created using a geographic information system (GIS). According to ESRI[27], a global GIS market leader, the technology "creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data. GIS connects data to a map, integrating location data (where things are) with all types of descriptive information (what things are like there)." GIS is known to be taught to university students learning architecture and similar fields of study. However, it is also frequently used by militaries and intelligence agencies across the globe in manners that closely resemble the Mapping Project website.

Research partners downloaded the entirety of the Mapping Project website's code. It found that although only 500 entities are openly visible on the map at first glance, **nearly 2,300 entities have been mapped and uploaded to the website** but are hidden in its metadata. In other words, there are approximately **1,800** additional organizations, government offices, and security institutions whose locations can be publicized by the Mapping Project at a moment's notice – putting targets on their backs as well.

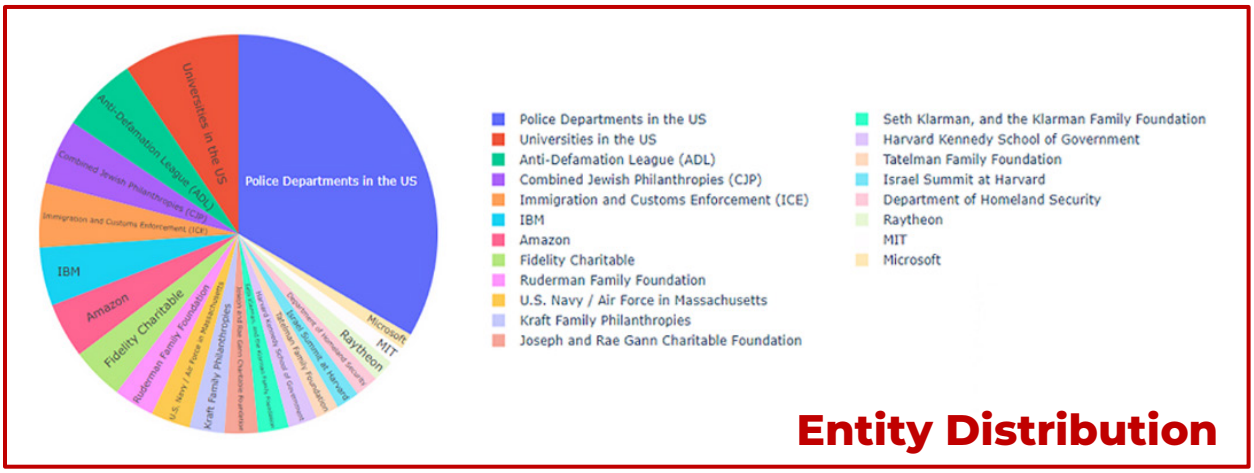
[27] What is GIS?, ESRI, accessed 11/14/2022



Although GIS is not particularly complex to operate, collecting such an enormous amount of data into the website is a massive undertaking requiring months or years of painstaking research to investigate, document, edit, link, and upload onto an appropriate web infrastructure dedicated to carrying it. This indicates that a team of individuals created the project. Moreover, it would require considerable funds to finance such an operation, far more than the standard anti-Israel groups initially suspected to be behind the project, whose yearly budgets do not generally exceed $1,000,000 annually.

The skill and budget required to launch such a project are not found in average nongovernmental organizations or volunteer groups. **Instead, the project was likely created by a state-backed element via a proxy group, private contractor, or civilian intelligence unit.**

For example, the website's entry for the ADL illustrates the gravity of the project and the amount of work likely dedicated to creating it. On the Mapping Project's website, the entry for the ADL – which is alleged to be complicit in Colonialism, Militarization, Policing, Prison-Industrial Complex, Propaganda/Normalization, Surveillance, US Imperialism, and Zionism – runs over 7,600 words long.[28] The entry is replete with photos of old newspaper clippings, photos from decades-old events, financial information, the names and positions of all the ADL's national



[28] Anti-Defamation League, Mapping Project, accessed 11/14/2022

senior leadership and local staff of its New England office, and hundreds of links that redirect to other websites and Mapping Project entries.

Domain analysis of the Mapping Project website yielded few substantive results to help determine who stands behind it. However, it did enable us to successfully pinpoint the service providers that allow the website to remain online, such as its cloud provider, hosting providers, and so on (see Appendix).

The website's domain was registered on December 13, 2021 – almost six months before the official release of the initiative on social media.[29]

Relatedly, apparently recognizing its explicit threat, at least two different hosts removed the Mapping Project from its servers as early as July 13, 2022.[30]

Endorsements & Support for the Mapping Project

Initial Endorsements

The first account to tweet about the project was BDS Boston, a local chapter of the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement (BDS) against Israel.[31] Speculations quickly arose that BDS Boston was responsible for creating the project. This claim will be addressed in a later chapter. That same day, JISR announced the publication of the Mapping Project on its website and Twitter at 10:44 PM.[32]

On June 3rd, the day the Mapping Project's website went live, Mondoweiss published the first interview with the "organizers" without disclosing their identity.[33] On the same day, at 7:39 PM (4 hours after BDS Boston's first tweet), the Muslim Justice League, a Boston-based non-profit organization that advocates for American Muslims' civil rights in the US, shared the announcement of the project's release.[34]

Two weeks later, on June 18, the **Samidoun Prisoner Solidarity Network** – an alleged proxy of the US-designated Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist organization[35] – published a second interview with the "Mapping Project Collective," again hiding their identity.[36]

[29] Who is domain, Map Liberation, accessed 09/22

[30] ADL, Letter to Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs, accessed 01/15/2023

[31] BDS Boston Twitter, published 06/03/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[32] JISR Collective, The Mapping project, published 06/03/2022, accessed 09/22

[33] Adam Horowitz, 'Our struggles are truly connected': an interview with the Mapping Project, Mondoweiss, accessed 11/14/2022

[34] Muslim Justice League, Twitter, published 06/03/22, accessed 09/22

[35] Army of NGOs, The Clarion Project, accessed 11/14/2022

[36] Samidoun, The Mapping Project: "We see the struggle to free political prisoners as an important part of every struggle against oppression," accessed 11/14/2022

It should be noted that since the project was launched, **Samidoun has repeatedly engaged with it on social media**, including endorsing and retweeting its content fairly regularly (the Mapping Project does the same with Samidoun's content). Likewise, dozens of BDS-supporting groups have supported the project since its release.[37] Some of these groups, including the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM),[38] Within Our Lifetime,[39] Collectif Palestine Vaincra,[40] and Masar Badil,[41] have either expressed support for terror, engaged in violence, or are linked to the PFLP, Hamas, and Hezbollah.[42]

Subsequent Support from the PFLP and Iranian Sources

In addition to these organizations, US terror-designated Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) itself published a ringing endorsement of the project on June 24,[43] as did the **Iranian regime-owned PressTV**, which published a supportive column[44] on June 26 and a 30-minute video segment about it on July 9 as part of its Palestine Declassified program.[45] The program hosts lauded the Mapping Project, encouraged its replication, and explicitly accused the ADL of espionage on behalf of the Israeli Mossad.[46]

As PressTV is an Iranian state-owned[47] media channel, it is safe to assume that this endorsement conveys an official Iranian position. In other words, formal Iranian TV officially lauds and endorses a project that pinpoints the exact locations of US police stations, military bases, universities, NGOs, Jewish organizations, and schools while calling to apply this type of mapping around the entire US and elsewhere.

The PFLP expresses support for the Mapping Project. Source: PFLP website.

Iran's PressTV expresses support for the Mapping Project. Source: PressTV

[37] Reject Suppression: Support the Mapping Project, Palestinian Youth Movement, accessed 11/14/2022

[38] Who Are PYM?, accessed 11/14/2022

[39] Stop Antisemitism, Twitter, published 08/08/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[40] France: PayPal shuts down account of pro-BDS group with terrorist links, *i24 News*, accessed 11/14/2022

[41] Michael Starr, Terrorism-linked NGO praising 'armed resistance' to march in Brussels, *Jerusalem Post*, accessed 11/14/2022

[42] Collectif Palestine Vaincra strongly supports PFLP (CPV, Facebook, published 07/18/14, accessed 09/22; Niko Brr, Facebook, published 06/27/22, accessed 09/22); PYM has expressed support for Hamas (PYM, Facebook, published 07/25/18, accessed 09/22). Within our Times showed support for Hezbollah (Stop Antisemitism, Twitter, published 05/19/21, accessed 09/22)

[43] PFLP, The Popular Front appreciates the "mapping project" and calls for exposing the supporters of the Zionist entity, accessed 11/14/2022

[44] Syed Zafar Mehdi, Mapping project lays bare deep linkages between Zionism, US imperialism, *PressTV*, accessed 11/14/2022

[45] PressTV, Mapping Project of Boston BDS, published 07/09/22, accessed 07/22

[46] Ibid

[47] Jon Gambrell, Report: Iran TV airs 355 coerced confessions over decade, *ABC News*, accessed 11/14/2022

Furthermore, Palestine Declassified co-host David Miller published a column in the Hezbollah-affiliated Al Mayadeen supporting the project and called to "make Zionists pay for their crimes."[48]

The Mapping Project was also embraced by white supremacists, once again highlighting the overlap between the two political extremes. On July 18, the Jewish News of Northern California reported that the project was highly praised during a recent live stream of the neo-Nazi Goyim TV, "a virulently antisemitic, homophobic and racist website...."[49] Following the news report, ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt remarked that the ADL "saw this coming" and that "White supremacist groups like GDL are joining the Iranian regime and anti-Zionist bigots to promote the antisemitic Mapping Project. This isn't protected political speech; it's poisonous incitement that endangers the Jewish community."[50]

Chapter 3: Suspected Creators & Partners of the Mapping Project

Calla Walsh & BDS Boston

Immediately upon the Mapping Project's launch, onlookers suspected a deeper involvement on the part of BDS Boston and one of its activists, **Calla Walsh**. Ms. Walsh is a Boston-based progressive activist, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America (as of August 2021)[51], and has written for Mondoweiss[52] (the first outlet to interview the Mapping Project's creators). As of April 2022, Ms. Walsh works as an Office Manager at Massachusetts Peace Action, a "nonprofit organization working to develop the sustained political power to foster a more just and peaceful U.S. foreign policy."[53] She appears to be a freelance social media consultant, having worked on electoral and advocacy campaigns at the federal, state, and local levels.[54]

Ms. Walsh's activism has attracted the attention of prominent news outlets, including the New York Times and the Boston Globe. She has also been photographed with Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.[55]

Since the map's launch, BDS Boston and Ms. Walsh have been identified by multiple publications hostile to Israel as being involved with the project – or are its creators themselves. Iran's PressTV

[48] David Miller, The Mapping Project: How to make Zionists pay for their crimes, *Al Mayadeen*, accessed 11/14/2022

[49] Gabe Stutman, BDS group's map of Jewish Boston shows up on local neo-Nazi's livestream, *J Weekly*, accessed 11/14/2022

[50] Jonathan Greenblatt, Twitter, published 07/19/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[51] Calla Walsh, The Democratic Socialists of America Can Mobilize Gen Z'ers Like Me, *Teen Vogue*, accessed 11/14/2022

[52] Mondoweiss, Calla Walsh (author page), accessed 11/14/2022

[53] 2022-2024 Board Nominees, Massachusetts Peace Action, accessed 11/14/2022

[54] TECHNICAL WORKSHOP: DIGITAL ORGANIZING, Democracy Moves, accessed 11/14/2022

[55] Jordan Frias, INTERVIEW: CALLA WALSH, 16-YEAR-OLD POLITICAL ORGANIZER, Dig Bos, published 10/27/2020, accessed 11/14/2022; Ellen Barry, An 'Army of 16-Year-Olds' Takes On the Democrats, *New York Times*, accessed 01/15/2023; Naomi Martin, Cambridge high schooler's homework, *Boston Globe*, accessed 01/15/2023

refers to the Mapping Project as "a collective project of the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions or BDS - group in Boston…."[56] Similarly, the aforementioned op-ed in Al Mayadeen described it as "a collective project of the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions – or BDS - group in Boston."[57] Al Jazeera stated in a video that Ms. Walsh "participated" in the project.[58] While Ms. Walsh has denied these allegations,[59] on at least one occasion, she referred to the Mapping Project as "us," implying a deeper involvement.[60]

Ms. Walsh often posts about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (including the Mapping Project), anti-imperialist, and anti-colonial topics, and is highly critical of the US government. Over the last few months, she has posted anti-American content and is supportive of the Chinese government, widely perceived as the US's chief geopolitical adversary.

In August 2022, Ms. Walsh appeared on two Chinese state-affiliated media outlets condemning US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, adding that "for the past 40 years, China lifted 800 million out of poverty, while the US has launched genocidal wars."[61] She has also retweeted pro-China, anti-American propaganda by Qiao Collective,[62] a pro-Chinese government group working in the US, as well as Nodutdol Collective, a pro-North Korean group, which also operates freely in the US.[63] Ms. Walsh's myriad posts condemning the US as "genocidal" and other criticisms of US policy closely resemble the anti-American rhetoric of the Mapping Project.

In light of the above, it is likely that Ms. Walsh served as the organizing force behind securing the Mapping Project's initial endorsements, publicity, and its cooperation with other entities. That being said, it appears unlikely that Ms. Walsh would be the sole or primary architect behind the project, as there is no indication that she possesses the requisite funding, expertise, and time to produce something of the project's magnitude.

JISR Collective

One of the primary suspects behind the Mapping Project is another anonymous group named the **JISR Collective**. On June 3rd, at 10:44 AM (7 hours after the first Tweet about the project went live), JISR Collective – until then, an unknown group – shared a link to the Mapping Project website on Twitter and its website. JISR claimed on Twitter that they "proudly support the initiative."

[56] PressTV, Mapping Project of Boston BDS, published 07/09/22, accessed 07/22

[57] David Miller, The Mapping Project: How to make Zionists pay for their crimes, *Al Mayadeen*, accessed 11/14/2022

[58] Al Jazeera Arabic, Twitter, published 07/15/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[59] Calla Walsh, Twitter, published 06/12/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[60] Calla Walsh, Twitter, published 06/09/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[61] CGTN, Twitter, published 08/15/2022, accessed 11/14/2022; T-House, Twitter, published 08/15/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[62] Qiao Collective, Twitter, published 08/02/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[63] Nodutdol, Twitter, published 08/17/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

An anonymous "Arab Diaspora Media" collective supposedly working to counter "Zionism and imperialism" through articles and other content, JISR Collective appears to have **some form of relationship with the Mapping Project**, including several striking similarities and curious links that may indicate ties at an institutional level. The similarities and connections between the Mapping Project and JISR Collective are as follows:

- JISR Collective's Twitter account was launched in September 2021. The first account that followed JISR Collective was BDS Boston, the first social media account to post about the Mapping Project.
- The word "collective," which appears in the JISR Collective name, is a central theme on the Mapping project website and in the anonymous interviews it gave to Mondoweiss and Samidoun. BDS Boston claims that "The Mapping Project is its own collective."[64]
- Both The Mapping Project and JISR Collective define themselves as "multigenerational" groups made of volunteers, and both stress that they refuse any form of financial donations.
- Both the Mapping Project and JISR Collective are focused on exposing and countering "imperialism and Zionism," which they consider fundamental harms that affect the US.
- Both the Mapping Project and JISR Collective offer only one channel through which they can be contacted: an e-mail address provided by Proton Mail, an end-to-end encrypted e-mail service.

Suspicious similarities:

The Mapping Project	Jisr Collective
"We are a multi-generational collective"	*"Multi-generational all volunteer group"*
"We are unpaid and don't report to any donors"	*"We do not accept donations nor do we have any donors"*
mapliberation@protonmail.com	*jisrcollective@protonmail.com*
Sources: Mapping Project	Sources: JISR Collective

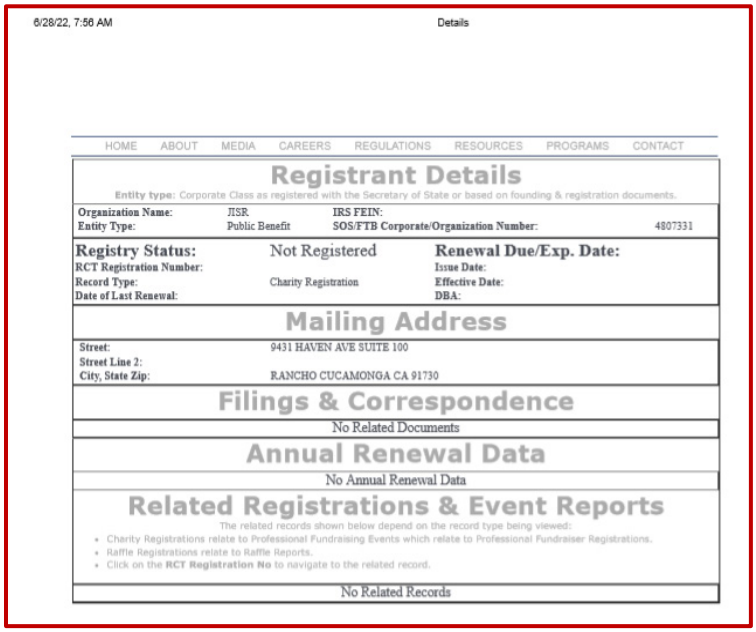
In addition to these similarities, JISR Collective has demonstrated staunch support for the Mapping Project and has defended it far more vigorously than other organizations. In one notable incident, the terror-linked, Ramallah-based BDS National Committee (BNC), which

[64] Israellycool, Iran is Likely Behind the Mapping Project, accessed 01/15/2023

coordinates BDS activities worldwide,[65] distanced itself from the Mapping Project and rebuked BDS Boston for tweeting about it, demanding they take down the tweet or be forced to remove "BDS" from their name.[66]

Although BNC's motives for distancing itself likely stem from public relations considerations – not a genuine disavowal of the project's content or overall goal – this spurred JISR Collective to issue a scathing condemnation of BNC. In an 8,000-word blog post, JISR Collective excoriated BNC for criticizing the Mapping Project and accused it of "supporting the Zionist agenda."[67] The collective also published an 11-tweet thread covering similar points.[68] The blog and Twitter thread contained professionally made graphics explaining what they deem BNC's "oppressive" measures against pro-Palestinian groups.

The origins and official information about JISR Collective also warrant scrutiny. JISR Collective's website domain was established in 2021 and is registered in Los Angeles, California. On October 7, 2021, Masood R. Khan, a Pakistani-American attorney from California, submitted a 501(c)(3) application on behalf of a group named JISR (also in capital letters) to register as a nonprofit organization. As of September 2022, more than 11 months after the application, JISR Collective has yet to be recognized as a non-profit organization.



6/28/22, 7:56 AM Details

HOME ABOUT MEDIA CAREERS REGULATIONS RESOURCES PROGRAMS CONTACT

Registrant Details

Entity type: Corporate Class as registered with the Secretary of State or based on founding & registration documents.

Organization Name:	JISR	IRS FEIN:	
Entity Type:	Public Benefit	SOS/FTB Corporate/Organization Number:	4807331
Registry Status:	Not Registered	**Renewal Due/Exp. Date:**	
RCT Registration Number:		Issue Date:	
Record Type:	Charity Registration	Effective Date:	
Date of Last Renewal:		DBA:	

Mailing Address

Street:	9431 HAVEN AVE SUITE 100
Street Line 2:	
City, State Zip:	RANCHO CUCAMONGA CA 91730

Filings & Correspondence

No Related Documents

Annual Renewal Data

No Annual Renewal Data

Related Registrations & Event Reports

The related records shown below depend on the record type being viewed:

- Charity Registrations relate to Professional Fundraising Events which relate to Professional Fundraiser Registrations.
- Raffle Registrations relate to Raffle Reports.
- Click on the **RCT Registration No** to navigate to the related record.

No Related Records

FILED
Secretary of State
State of California
4807331
Filing Number
11/03/2021
Filing Date

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
JISR

A California nonprofit public benefit corporation

ARTICLE I.
NAME

The name of this corporation shall be JISR.

ARTICLE II.
PURPOSES AND POWERS

This corporation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public and charitable purposes.

The specific purpose of this corporation is to provide educational tutoring services for underprivileged children including those children who are refugees.

This corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and public purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), or the corresponding provisions of any future United States internal revenue law. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation, and the corporation shall not carry any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax Code Section 501(c)(3), or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law, or by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Code Section 170(c)(2) or the corresponding provisions of any future United States internal revenue law.

ARTICLE III.
AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS

The name and address in the State of California for the initial agent for service of process of this corporation is:

Masood Khan
9431 Haven Ave., Suite 100
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

provision of any future United States internal revenue law.

DATED: 10/7/2021

Masood R. Khan, Esq.
Incorporator

One potential explanation for JISR Collective's lack of accreditation is that the certifying authority may have recognized that the group maintains problematic relations with US-designated terrorist organizations and hostile foreign powers. For example, JISR Collective's social media shows that

[65] Armin Rosen & Liel Leibovitz, BDS Umbrella Group Linked to Palestinian Terrorist Organizations, Tablet, published 06/01/2018, accessed 11/14/2022

[66] Aaron Bandler, International BDS Org Calls on BDS Boston to Take Down Mapping Project Or "Remove the BDS Acronym from Your Name," Jewish Journal, published 06/22/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[67] A Tactic Not a Trademark: How the BDS National Committee Supports the Liberal Zionist Agenda, JISR Collective, published 07/05/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

[68] JISR Collective, Twitter, published 07/05/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

the organization has expressed support for terrorists, namely US-designated terror organizations like **Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the PFLP**. It also called for violence against Israelis, glorified suicide bombers, rejected normalization agreements between Israel and Middle East states, and called for the "end of the Zionist entity" (a euphemism for eradicating Israel).[69]

In November 2022, Elon Musk, Twitter's owner and CEO, personally intervened to ban JISR's account from the platform for glorifying a Jerusalem bombing attack that happened earlier in the day.

Source: Elon Musk Twitter

Source: JISR Collective Twitter

Moreover, JISR Collective regularly retweeted posts from accounts affiliated with the Islamic Republic of Iran or Iranian allies like Hezbollah and the Assad regime in Syria. JISR Collective also regularly tweeted and retweeted content sympathizing with Iran and its allies, including posts glorifying now-deceased Iranian Revolutionary Guards former leader Qassem Soleimani, Hezbollah leaders Hassan Nasrallah and Imad Moghniyeh, and Houthi leader Abdelmalik AlHouthi.

In addition to the above, some of the posts on JISR Collective's Arabic-language website contain substantive grammatical errors. **These mistakes would not be made by a native Arabic speaker, and some may be attributed to speakers of Indo-European languages, possibly, but not necessarily, Persian**, the official and primary language spoken in Iran. This further adds to the possibility that JISR Collective is an Iranian entity or related to the regime in some manner and not an "Arab diaspora community." For example, the following mistakes appear in their first blog post[70]:

- The word "Collective" in Arabic in JISR's logo has a mistake: Instead of Jama'iyah (جمعية), they wrote Jimaa'iyah (جماعية), a word that does not exist as a noun, but rather is a direct mistranslation of the word "collective" in English as an adjective, in the feminine form
- Instead of writing "Call your congressman and congresswoman," JISR's blog states: "Call your congressman and your congressman."

[69] JISR, Instagram, published 02/02/22, accessed 09/22; JISR, Twitter, published 09/14/22, accessed 09/22; JISR, Twitter, published 08/08/22, accessed 09/22; JISR, Twitter, published 08/29/22, accessed 09/22

[70] Palestinian refugees and diaspora groups condemn unconditional aid to Israel (Arabic), JISR Collective, published 08/31/2021, accessed 11/14/2022

اتصل بعضو مجلس الشيوخ الخاص بك و بعضو مجلس الشيوخ الخاص بك، حيث يتم نقل مشروع القانون هذا إلى مجلس الشيوخ للتصويت عليه. تاريخ هذا التصويت ليس واضحا بعد، لكن يمكننا أن نتحرك الآن للتأكد من أن الأصوات الفلسطينية تغمر خطوط مكاتبهم.

- Instead of writing "we all saw [كلنا رأينا]," the writer makes a mistake by writing "we all he saw [كلنا رأى]."
- Another Arabic mistake reads, roughly translated: "The military assistance who (they) give her green light to kill Palestinians."

اتصل بمكاتب بيتي مكولوم وإلهان عمر للتعبير عن استيائك من تجاهلهما لحياة الفلسطينيين ولنهجهم المتقلب وأفعالهم التي تساعد على التطبيع مع إسرائيل ونتيجة لذلك فليس لديهم مكان يتحدثون فيه نيابة عنا، خاصة عندما يريدون تكييف، وليس قطع المساعدة العسكرية التي يمنحونها الضوء الأخضر لقتل الفلسطينيين.

Other "Collectives" Sharing the Mapping Project & JISR Collective's Agenda

On Twitter, JISR Collective follows, and is followed by, "Qiao Collective," a "diaspora Chinese media collective" that promotes anti-American messages and content supportive of the Chinese and North Korean governments.[71] When comparing JISR with Qiao, several similarities and links are apparent:

- Both define themselves as "diaspora collectives."
- "JISR" and "Qiao" translate to the word "bridge" in Arabic and Chinese, respectively.
- Both groups focus on "challenging imperialism."[72]

Notably, Qiao Collective was among the organizers of the "International people's tribunal on US imperialism" along with the pro-North Korean Nodutdol, a US and Canada-based "diasporic Korean collective" engaged in "organizing for a world free of imperialism, and for Korea's re/unification & national liberation."[73] In March 2022, the first tribunal event took place under the mediation of Helyeh Doutaghi, an Iranian doctoral candidate in Canada who is a member of PFLP-affiliated and Israel terror-designated group Samidoun and another anti-Western group named Committee of Anti-Imperialists in Solidarity with Iran.[74] Moreover, Nodutdol participated

[71] JISR, Following, accessed 09/22; Qiao Collective, Twitter, accessed 09/22

[72] Qiao Collective, Twitter, accessed 09/22

[73] Sanctions Tribunal, Co-organizers, accessed 09/22; Nodutdol, Twitter, accessed 09/22

[74] Helyeh Doutaghi, Linkedin, accessed 09/22; Samidoun, "Fedayin" screening in Iran highlights case of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, published 07/31/22, accessed 09/22 International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Introducing the International People's Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism: Sanctions, Blockades and Economic Coercive Measures, published 03/01/22, accessed 09/22; Committee of Anti-Imperialists in Solidarity with Iran, video, accessed 01/12/23

in an anti-Israel event organized by New York-based Within Our Lifetime in the summer of 2020.[75] Within Our Lifetime has created maps of Jewish institutions in New York City and encouraged its followers to confront them physically.[76]

Furthermore, Samidoun, Nodutdol, and the Committee of Anti Imperialists in Solidarity with Iran held a joint online event in December 2022, disparaging the US and expressing support for the Iranian regime.[77]

[75] Nodutdol, Twitter, accessed 11/2022

[76] Amid terror wave in Israel, New York BDS group calls to 'globalize intifada' at rally, Jewish News Syndicate, published 03/21/2022, accessed 12/20/2022

[77] 18 December, online event: We Charge Imperialism: US Sanctions Against the Global Majority, Samidoun, published 12/16/2022, accessed 12/20/2022

Conclusions

Several key conclusions can be derived from the analysis above. Most apparent is that the outsized focus the Mapping Project places on the American security apparatus and strategic assets is reason enough to entertain the notion that destabilizing the political order within the US is its true long-term goal and that the explicit targeting of Jews serves as a means to distract from it.

Additionally, the highly unusual nature of the Mapping Project – a single entity occupying both ends of the antisemitism spectrum simultaneously – indicates that the project may be part and parcel of a foreign scheme that seeks to galvanize support from the two extreme fringes of American citizens as a method to destabilize the US from within.

Finally, the available evidence suggests that Iranian elements may be involved in the Mapping Project in some capacity via a proxy group, private contractor, or civilian intelligence unit. In other words, Tehran may be targeting strategic US institutions and inciting dissent and destabilization. Several indicators point in this direction:

1. Repeated endorsements of the project by Iranian-owned PressTV and Al Mayadeen, which is affiliated with US terror-designated Hezbollah, itself part of the Iranian axis.
2. The overwhelming support for the project by the Iranian axis supporters at JISR Collective.
3. Samidoun's deep relationship with the project, including the interview it conducted with its anonymous members and repeated engagement with the project on social media. Here it is relevant to note that the PFLP, Samidoun's parent organization, receives financial and military support from the Iranian regime.[78] Likewise, Samidoun has an active branch in Iran.[79]

In light of these findings, the US Attorney General, FBI, and US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism should immediately heed the coalition's letter and thoroughly investigate the Mapping Project.

[78] Joe Truzman, PFLP Boasts About its Ties to Iran, FDDs Long War Journal, published 11/11/2021, accessed 11/14/2022

[79] Samidoun, "Fedayin" screening in Iran highlights case of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, published 07/31/2022, accessed 11/14/2022

APPENDIX: Service Providers

Below is a list of service providers that can be notified of both the intimidating effect the Mapping Project has on US citizens and the antisemitism included on the site:

A. Cloud service:

Oracle Cloud - Austin,Texas.
Clay Magouyrk (CEO), Matthew Sarboraria (Senior Vice President, Legal)
clay.magouyrk@oracle.com, matthew.sarboraria@oracle.com

B. Map services:

ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) - Redlands, California.
Jack Dangermond (President), John Beck (Global Law)
jdangermond@esri.com, jack.dangermond@gmail.com, jbeck@esri.com

C. Hosting services:

A2 Hosting DNS – Ann-Arbor, Michigan.
Bryan Muthig (CEO), Paul Carter (COO)
bmuthig@a2hosting.com, pcarter@a2hosting.com

D. Web servers:

LiteSpeed - New Jersey.
George Want (President), Lauren Song (Vice President)
gwang@litespeedtech.com, lauren@litespeedpartners.com

E. JAVA Script for Interactive Maps:

Leaflet.
Vladimir Agafonkin (Creator)
agafonkin@gmail.com

F. Email service:

ProtonMail.
Andy Yen (CEO), Edward Gonzales (Vice President of Engineering)
andy@protonmail.com, edward@protonmail.com

G. SSL Certificates:

CPanel SSL - Houston, Texas.
Nick Koston (CEO), David Snead (General Counsel)
nick@cpanel.net, d.snead@cpanel.net, david.snead@dsnead.com