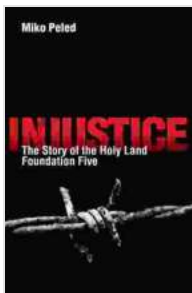


Unveiling the Truth: The Story of the Holy Land Foundation Five



The Holy Land Foundation Five: Shukri Abu Baker, Ghassan Elashi, Mufid Abdulqader, Abdulrahman Odeh, and Mohammed El-Mezain



Injustice: The Story of the Holy Land Foundation Five

by Miko Peled

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 24582 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 224 pages
Lending : Enabled



In the annals of American history, the story of the Holy Land Foundation Five stands as a sobering reminder of the dangers of unchecked power and the fragility of civil liberties.

The Holy Land Foundation (HLF) was a charitable organization based in Richardson, Texas. It was founded in 1991 to provide humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people. The HLF's work included providing food, medical supplies, and educational support to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In 2001, in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, the HLF came under scrutiny by the US government. The FBI alleged that the HLF was a front for Hamas, a Palestinian militant group designated as a terrorist organization by the US government.

In 2003, five HLF employees were arrested and charged with providing material support to Hamas. The five men, known as the Holy Land Foundation Five (HLF5), were:

- Shukri Abu Baker, the HLF's executive director
- Ghassan Elashi, the HLF's chairman
- Mufid Abdulqader, the HLF's treasurer
- Abdulrahman Odeh, the HLF's media director
- Mohammed El-Mezain, the HLF's computer specialist

The HLF5 were held in solitary confinement for over two years before their trial began in 2007. The trial lasted for eight months and ended with the jury deadlocked on all charges. The government refused to retry the case, and the HLF5 were released from prison in 2009.

The case of the HLF5 was a miscarriage of justice. The government's evidence was weak, and the prosecution relied on guilt by association. The HLF5 were never accused of any direct involvement in violence, and their charity work was protected by the First Amendment.

The HLF5 case is a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked government power. In the wake of 9/11, the US government was given sweeping new powers to investigate and detain suspected terrorists. These powers have been used to target innocent people, including the HLF5.

The HLF5 case is also a reminder of the importance of civil liberties. The right to due process, the right to a fair trial, and the right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures are essential safeguards against government tyranny.

The HLF5 case is a story of injustice and perseverance. Despite being wrongfully imprisoned for over a decade, the HLF5 never gave up hope. They fought for their freedom, and they eventually prevailed.

Timeline of the Holy Land Foundation Five Case

1991

Holy Land Foundation (HLF) is founded in Richardson, Texas.

2001

HLF comes under scrutiny by the US government.

2003

Five HLF employees are arrested and charged with providing material support to Hamas.

2007

The trial of the Holy Land Foundation Five begins.

2009

The HLF5 are released from prison after the jury deadlocks on all charges.

Quotes from the Holy Land Foundation Five

"We were not terrorists. We were humanitarians." - Shukri Abu Baker

"We were not trying to hurt anyone. We were trying to help people." -

Ghassan Elashi

"The government's case was based on guilt by association. They never accused us of any direct involvement in violence." - Mufid Abdulqader

"We never gave up hope. We knew that eventually the truth would prevail."

- Abdulrahman Odeh

"We are grateful for the support of our family, friends, and supporters. They never gave up on us." - Mohammed El-Mezain

The story of the Holy Land Foundation Five is a reminder of the importance of civil liberties and the dangers of unchecked government power. It is a story of injustice and perseverance, a story that should never be forgotten.

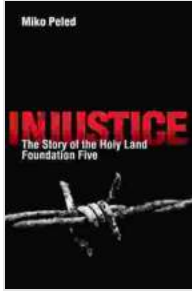
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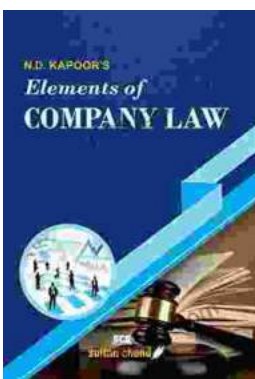


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