



“NOTHING TO HIDE”

**HOW THE UN AND FRANCESCA ALBANESE
ENGAGED IN A COVER-UP TO CONCEAL HER
FUNDING BY PRO-HAMAS LOBBY GROUPS**

“Nothing to Hide”

How the UN and Francesca Albanese Engaged in a Concerted Cover-Up to Conceal Her Funding by Pro-Hamas Lobby Groups

I. Summary

“I have never had, and will never have, anything to hide.” So claimed Francesca Albanese in July 2024 in response to UN Watch’s evidence-based allegations that she took funding from pro-Hamas lobby groups. Yet this report reveals how the UN and its rapporteur engaged in a deliberate cover-up to conceal her funding by pro-Hamas lobby groups, and her commission of other grave ethical violations and financial misconduct, warranting an urgent and independent investigation.

Albanese served as the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2025. While she continues to present herself as a UN official, her purported renewal by the Human Rights Council for a second term was invalid and without legal effect as the President of the Council materially violated the established procedure. He refused to act on information documenting Albanese’s persistent non-compliance with the Code of Conduct, including information on the financial wrongdoing and cover-up that is the subject of this report.¹

As detailed below, in November 2023, Albanese conducted a lobbying trip to Australia and New Zealand in which she did not conduct any investigation pursuant to her mandate. Contrary to her denials and those by the UN, this report documents how the trip was partially funded by “external” groups, most likely pro-Hamas lobby groups in those countries. This financial sponsorship blatantly violated Article 3 of the UN Code of Conduct for Special Procedures, which prohibits mandate-holders from accepting any favors, gifts, or remuneration from non-governmental sources.²

When first challenged about this violation in 2023 and 2024, Albanese, backed by the UN, vehemently denied that there was outside funding, falsely claiming that her trip was funded by the UN. This lie was perpetuated by the UN Secretary-General’s spokesperson, who denied any role in the expenditures. In fact, Albanese’s expenses related to her UN mandate are all managed and overseen by the UN Human Rights Office, which is part of the UN Secretariat, and therefore answerable to Secretary-General Guterres.

¹ UN Watch letter to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, (April 30, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/30-April-UN-Watch-Letter-to-Sec.-Rubio-on-stripping-immunity-from-Francesca-Albanese.pdf>

² Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council, UN Doc. A/HRC/RES/5/2, UNHRC (June 18, 2007), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/SP/CodeOfConduct.pdf>.

When UN Watch submitted multiple complaints demanding accountability, the UN Secretariat orchestrated a cover-up by referring the matter not to an impartial authority, but rather to the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures—a panel lacking investigative authority, and comprised of Albanese’s close friends and collaborators, several of whom had already publicly defended her and pre-judged this very matter.

From the time of UN Watch’s initial complaints in November 2023, the UN and its Coordination Committee for 16 months failed to take any action whatsoever against Albanese’s wrongdoing. Suddenly, however, in late March 2025—when multiple letters were filed protesting Albanese’s renewal for a second three-year term—the Coordination Committee hastily produced a letter that largely exonerated her of wrongdoing.

In protesting the renewal, UN Watch submitted information on Albanese’s gross misconduct, acting under HRC 8/PRST/2 (*Terms of office of special procedure mandate-holders*) which requires the President to bring such controversies before the Human Rights Council for deliberation and appropriate action. With UN Watch leading the way, five governments—the U.S., Israel, Argentina, the Netherlands, and Hungary—publicly opposed her renewal.³ So did numerous lawmakers from multiple jurisdictions. Yet rather than convene a debate on Albanese’s reappointment, as legally required, the Council President instead resorted to an evasive maneuver. He announced that the Coordination Committee had suddenly concluded its 9-months-long investigation, had produced a letter with its findings, and had declared Albanese to be ethically clean — and thus eligible for renewal. A miraculous coincidence of timing.

The Committee found that while “*some*” of Albanese’s tweets “*may*” appear as breaching the Code of Conduct, and “*may have been interpreted by some as antisemitic*,” in fact the Committee was “reassured by the detailed explanations provided by Ms. Albanese,” in particular, “her confirmation that she fully adheres to the principles of impartiality, independence and integrity” of the Code of Conduct, and her confirmation that she “rejects antisemitism and other forms of racism.” In a world first, a UN committee announced that a record of hateful statements that prompted unprecedented condemnations of antisemitism by numerous democracies could be summarily dismissed solely on account of the perpetrator’s “detailed explanations” and “confirmations.” The Coordination Committee was only too happy to provide the UNHRC President with the whitewash of Albanese that he was seeking.

Notably, however, even the shamelessly biased Coordination Committee found itself obliged to concede two major accusations from UN Watch’s complaint:

³ *Opposition to Reappointment of Francesca Albanese*, **UN Watch** (April 4, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/objections-to-reappointment-of-un-rapporteur-francesca-albanese/>.

- 1. Albanese Took Funding From (Pro-Hamas) “External Organizations”:** Contrary to all of her denials and those by the UN, it turns out that Albanese *did* take funding from pro-Hamas groups for her travel in Australia and New Zealand, which the committee euphemistically referred to as “external groups.” The identity of these pro-Hamas groups, named in the report below, is known given that they had themselves boasted online of their “sponsorship and support” for Albanese’s travel. Though the committee tried to spin the funding of her globe-crossing travel as “common practice,” they produced no evidence whatsoever that pro-terrorist lobby groups can fund work by rapporteurs, concerning the very issues on which they are lobbying.

- 2. Albanese’s Asking Money to Address Columbia University Gaza Encampment Was “Inappropriate”:** The Coordination Committee found that Albanese’s solicitation of an honorarium to be paid to her assistant—in exchange for her willingness to speak at a supposed “Gaza solidarity encampment” at Columbia University—was ethically “inappropriate.” Indeed, Albanese herself acknowledged that she “cannot take honorarium for anything she does in her official capacity.” Asking for money to be paid to her office instead was equally unethical.

Conclusion and Call to Action

UN Watch's evidence of Albanese’s financial wrongdoing including taking funding from pro-Hamas lobby groups—key factual elements of which are now confirmed by a UN investigation conducted by Albanese’s close colleagues—establishes that Albanese engaged in grave violations of the Code of Conduct. Yet instead of upholding its rules and enforcing accountability, the UN chose to grant her impunity.

Worse, there was a concerted cover-up. Albanese lied; the UN lied to protect her; and a biased internal committee served as the mechanism to bury misconduct, block accountability, and ensure her renewal.

The UN’s failure to hold Albanese accountable illustrates a systemic failure of oversight and integrity. UN Watch calls on the Secretary-General and all Member States to support an immediate and independent investigation into Albanese’s conduct — and the UN’s cover-up.

II. Background

In November 2023, Francesca Albanese, whose mandate from the UNHRC is only to investigate “Israel’s violations of the principles and bases of international law,” conducted a two-week speaking and lobbying trip in Australia and New Zealand, from November 9 to approximately November 22, 2023. The details and expenses were documented in our complaint of June 3, 2024.⁴ As part of that trip, Albanese delivered the annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture for the Australian Friends of Palestine Association (AFOPA) in Adelaide, made media appearances, including an address to the National Press Club in which she parroted the Hamas narrative that Israel’s right to self-defense was “non-existent.”⁵ She also lobbied a major New Zealand sovereign wealth fund to divest from Israel-related companies.

The trip itself—to a country that has no connection whatsoever with Albanese’s specific mandate and did not involve any investigation by Albanese—was purely a lobbying trip. As detailed below, several pro-Hamas lobby groups in Australia, including AFOPA, stated in 2023 that they had “sponsored and supported” Albanese’s trip. Such sponsorship constituted a blatantly prohibited form of “favour, gift or remuneration” under Article 3 of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures. That provision requires mandate-holders to be “free from any kind of extraneous influence, incitement, pressure, threat or interference, either direct or indirect” and provides that they may not “seek nor accept instructions” from any “non-governmental organization or pressure group whatsoever” or accept any “favour, gift or remuneration from any” from any “non-governmental source” for activities carried out in pursuit of her mandate.⁶

UN Watch immediately brought the matter to the attention of the Secretary-General in a letter dated November 22, 2023, calling for Albanese’s dismissal.⁷ For months, the UN responded only with silence and denials. “My trip to Australia was paid by the UN,” insisted Albanese, in her reply to UN Watch’s Hillel Neuer.⁸ This assertion only led to

⁴ *Violations of Code of Conduct Complaint & Access to Information Request*, **UN Watch** (June 3, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Complaint-Against-Francesca-Albanese-3-june-2024.pdf>

⁵ *Francesca Albanese says Israel’s right to self-defence ‘non existent’ and is committing ‘war crimes’*, **The Australian** (November 14, 2023), <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/breaking-news/francesca-albanese-says-israels-right-to-selfdefence-non-existent-and-is-committing-war-crimes/news-story/99514e7f7928ec92fd68e9a470a5cf27>.

⁶ *Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council*, UN Doc. A/HRC/RES/5/2, **UNHRC** (June 18, 2007), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/SP/CodeOfConduct.pdf>.

⁷ <https://unwatch.org/calls-to-oust-u-n-official-over-australian-trip-funded-by-palestinian-lobby-groups/>

@HillelNeuer, X (November 22, 2023, 8:32 PM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1727394591673049263>.

⁸ @FranceskaAlbs, X (November 23, 2023, 4:26 PM), <https://x.com/FranceskaAlbs/status/1727695227828281568>.

more questions. If the UN paid for the trip, what did the pro-Hamas AFOPA and the other lobby groups mean when they claimed to have “sponsored and supported” the trip? And why would the UN pay for a lobbying trip when UN funds are meant to cover only official country visits?⁹ The trip itself was not considered a country visit by either Albanese or the UN as it was not listed in the 2023 “Facts and Figures” report of the Special Procedures.¹⁰

Following additional violations by Albanese, on June 3, 2024, UN Watch submitted a second complaint to the Secretary-General alleging serious financial misconduct and ethical abuses by Albanese, including her Australia and New Zealand trip being funded by pro-Hamas lobby groups.¹¹ In response to that letter, the UN—through its Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)—opened an official investigation into the alleged violations by Albanese.¹² However, it became clear that this was part of a cover-up when, in early July,¹³ OIOS referred the matter to the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures—a panel consisting of six other so-called UN experts, all of whom are close colleagues and associates of Albanese.

The Coordination Committee took no action on the complaint for nine months. That suddenly changed after UN Watch launched a campaign, on March 25, 2025, to stop the renewal of Albanese’s term.¹⁴ Three days later, out of the blue, the Coordination Committee produced a letter to the UNHRC President exonerating Albanese of all wrongdoing.¹⁵

⁹ *A Practical Guide to the UN Special Procedures*, ISHR (2021), https://academy.ishr.ch/upload/resources_and_tools/HandbookonEngagingwiththeUNSpecialProcedures_2nd%20Edition_EN.pdf.

¹⁰ *Facts and Figures with regard to the special procedures in 2023*, UN Doc. A/HRC/55/69/Add.1, OHCHR (March 21, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/ahrc5569add1-facts-and-figures-regard-special-procedures-2023>.

¹¹ *UN’s Francesca Albanese Accused of Financial Misconduct by Human Rights Watchdog*, UN Watch (June 3, 2024), <https://unwatch.org/uns-francesca-albanese-accused-of-financial-misconduct-by-human-rights-watchdog/>.

¹² *UN opens investigation into allegations its Palestine monitor took funds from pro-Hamas lobby groups*, UN Watch (July 2, 2024), <https://unwatch.org/un-opens-investigation-into-official-accused-of-antisemitism-by-france-germany-us/>.

¹³ @UNWatch, X (July 9, 2024, 9:09 PM), <https://x.com/UNWatch/status/1810738143382958291>.

¹⁴ @UNWatch, X (March 25, 2025, 1:33 PM), <https://x.com/UNWatch/status/1904496825517634006>.

¹⁵ *Letter from Coordination Committee to UNHRC President*, OHCHR (March 28, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Letter-from-the-2023-2024-and-2024-2025-Chairs-of-the-Coordination-Committee-to-the-HRC-President-concerning-allegations-raised-in-2024-again-the-Special-Rap.pdf>.

III. The Coordination Committee

A. Coordination Committee Was Not Qualified To Address UN Watch Complaint

The Coordination Committee was neither qualified nor competent to address UN Watch's complaint on multiple grounds.

First, it has no mandate to investigate or punish alleged violations by special procedures. On the contrary, the main purpose of the Coordination Committee is to advocate for the special procedures and facilitate their work.¹⁶ It's effectively a panel of rapporteurs for the rapporteurs, not to hold them accountable. Its procedure for reviewing complaints against rapporteurs has no disciplinary aspect; rather, "The powers of the Committee are limited by its mandate to enhance and facilitate the work of mandate-holders."¹⁷

Second, as noted, the Coordination Committee is a six-person panel comprised of other UN appointees who are friendly with and closely cooperate with Albanese. The March 2025 letter exonerating Albanese was signed by Isha Dyfan (2023-2024 Chair) and Surya Deva (2024-2025 Chair), both of whom have collaborated with Albanese on joint statements in their capacities as UN human rights experts.¹⁸

Another member of the Committee during the relevant time was Tlaleng Mofokeng of South Africa, the UN Special Rapporteur on Health (Member in 2023-24, Chair in 2022-2023). She has also collaborated with Albanese on many joint statements and a joint report.¹⁹ On May 27, 2024, Mofokeng warmly endorsed Albanese tweeting "Yes!!!! Power to you Francesca."²⁰ On April 5, 2025, days after the publication of her panel's

¹⁶ *Coordination Committee of Special Procedures*, **OHCHR** (Last visited May 11, 2025), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/coordination-Committee-special-procedures>.

¹⁷ *Internal Advisory Procedure to Review Practices and Working Methods*, **Coordination Committee of Special Procedures** (June 25, 2008)

https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/SP/IAP_WorkingMethods.pdf.

¹⁸ See, e.g., *Israel/occupied Palestinian territory: UN experts deplore attacks on civilians, call for truce and urge international community to address root causes of violence*, **OHCHR** (October 12, 2023),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/israeloccupied-palestinian-territory-un-experts-deplore-attacks-civilians>; *Experts hail ICJ declaration on illegality of Israel's presence in the occupied Palestinian territory as "historic" for Palestinians and international law*, **OHCHR** (July 30, 2024),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/07/experts-hail-icj-declaration-illegality-israels-presence-occupied>; *7 October: UN experts call for end of violence and accountability after year of human loss and suffering and blatant disregard for international law*, **OHCHR** (October 7, 2024),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/10/7-october-un-experts-call-end-violence-and-accountability-after-year-human>; *US proposal to 'take over' Gaza would shatter fundamental rules of international order, warn UN experts*, **OHCHR** (February 11, 2025),

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/02/us-proposal-take-over-gaza-would-shatter-fundamental-rules-international>; *The new US administration must recommit to human rights at home and abroad: UN experts*, **OHCHR** (February 27, 2025), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/02/new-us-administration-must-recommit-human-rights-home-and-abroad-un-experts>.

¹⁹ *Id.*; @HillelNeuer, X (January 23, 2025, 12:16 AM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1882190544387834012>.

²⁰ @drtlaleng, X (May 27, 2024, 10:13 PM), <https://x.com/drtlaleng/status/1794990219315343380>.

report and the resulting renewal of Albanese, Mofokeng flaunted her complete lack of impartiality when she tweeted a photo of the two of them embracing:

“My @FranceskaAlbs know how deeply grateful we are to have you. The renewal of your tenure fills many with renewed hope for justice. I wish you the best for the next phase as UN Special Rapporteur... [Heart Emoji]”²¹

Mofokeng routinely uses her social media to spout racism, obscenities, violent threats, and insults. For example, in conduct completely unbefitting a UN official, Mofokeng directed racism, obscenities, and insults at UN Watch Executive Director Hillel Neuer, calling him an “*evil scum white man*” after he demanded that she be disciplined for tweeting “*F**k off*” to Israel’s Prime Minister.²² She has also defended Hamas, tweeting that they are not terrorists,²³ and she encourages prostitution.²⁴

Third, long before OIOS referred UN Watch’s complaint to the Coordination Committee, that same panel had already publicly pronounced itself on the very matters at issue in the complaint, demonstrating that it was not impartial. Shortly after UN Watch’s November 2023 complaint against Albanese over her trip to Australia and New Zealand, in a December 4, 2023 letter signed by Isha Dyfan as Chair, the Coordination Committee complained to the Human Rights Council President about “attacks” on mandate holders.

In other words, the same Isha Dyfan who would later sign the March 2025 letter exonerating Albanese, had already gone on record in December 2023 to state that UN Watch’s evidence-based allegations against Albanese constituted “baseless accusations” about her “integrity and motivations,” which was “deeply regrettable.” Dyfan accused “representatives of civil society” of “unprofessional conduct” and railed against “recent personal attacks” against mandate holders concerning “the resources available to mandate holders to discharge their mandates and how they use such resources”²⁵ — an obvious reference to UN Watch’s complaint against Albanese.

Likewise, in March 31, 2024, Coordination Committee member Tlaleng Mofokeng, who regularly collaborates with and supports Albanese, expressly advocated for Albanese in a tweet. She called on the Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to “deal with” the “attempts to intimidate and threaten Francesca and other UN

²¹ @HillelNeuer, X (April 6, 2025, 5:52 AM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1908714348186423544>.

²² @HillelNeuer, X (April 3, 2025, 12:54 PM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1907733525840769144>.

²³ @HillelNeuer, X (January 23, 2025, 12:23 AM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1882192284374233157>.

²⁴ @HillelNeuer, X (January 23, 2025, 12:17 AM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1882190907904282908>; @HillelNeuer, X (July 9, 2024, 8:53 PM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1810734022189842435>; @HillelNeuer, X (January 23, 2025, 12:50 AM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1882199139414593798>.

²⁵ Letter from Coordination Committee to UNHRC President, UN Secretary-General, and High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR (December 4, 2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/special-procedures/activities/CC-Chair-letter-President-HRC-04122023.pdf>.

experts doing their duties.” Mofokeng alleged that this “seriously undermines our collective efforts.”²⁶

Once again, on May 16, 2024, the Coordination Committee—including Isha Dyfan and Surya Deva, the two panel chairs signed on the March 2025 letter exonerating Albanese, as well as Tlaleng Mofokeng—issued a press release defending Albanese and others from her “severe targeting in social media,” and “baseless accusations” that question her and other officials’ “integrity and motivations.”²⁷

Thus, well before UN Watch’s complaint was assigned to them, the Coordination Committee and its members had publicly declared that our fact-based complaint against Albanese constituted “baseless” and “personal attacks,” and “attempts to intimidate and threaten” her.

Such public pronouncements would be grounds for recusal by any respectable adjudicator in a law-abiding jurisdiction as they show actual bias or the appearance thereof.²⁸ Yet the members of the Coordination Committee wrongly refused to recuse themselves. Likewise, it was wrong for the High Commissioner and the UNHRC President to knowingly assign the investigation of complaints on Albanese’s abuses to to a Committee so obviously tainted by actual bias, not to mention the appearance thereof.

B. Coordination Committee Exonerates Albanese

UN Watch had first complained about Albanese’s ethical violations in November 2023. The UN took no action until July 2024, being one month after UN Watch filed its second complaint about Albanese with the Secretary-General. Although the UN assigned the matter to the Coordination Committee in early July 2024,²⁹ that Committee was completely silent for nine months. They never contacted UN Watch, even though this is contemplated in their rules. The UN effectively ignored UN Watch’s allegations for over a year.

The timing of the Coordination Committee’s March 28, 2025 letter exonerating Albanese, just a few days after UN Watch launched its campaign to protest her renewal for a second three-year term, strongly suggests that the whole process was nothing more than a UN-sanctioned whitewash and cover-up.

²⁶ @drtlaleng, X (March 31, 2024, 11:36 AM), <https://x.com/drtlaleng/status/1774355176549474419>.

²⁷ *Attacks against UN human rights experts must cease: Coordination Committee of Special Procedures*, OHCHR (May 16, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/05/attacks-against-un-human-rights-experts-must-cease-coordination-Committee>.

²⁸ See, e.g. *Prosecutor v. Furundzija* (Appeal Judgement), IT-95-17/1-A, International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ¶ 179 (July 21, 2000) (discussing standards for recusal), <https://www.icty.org/x/cases/furundzija/acjug/en/fur-aj000721e.pdf>.

²⁹ @UNWatch, X (July 9, 2024, 9:09 PM), <https://x.com/UNWatch/status/1810738143382958291>.

The Coordination Committee’s letter itself is replete with contradictions and inconsistencies and does not support the Committee’s ultimate conclusion that Albanese is guilt-free. For example:

- Regarding the issue of antisemitism, the Committee found that while “some of her tweets” could be seen as antisemitic in violation of the Code of Conduct, the Committee was satisfied that the tweets were in fact *not* antisemitic after they spoke to Albanese and declared themselves “reassured” by her “detailed explanations.” So the Committee absurdly relied on Albanese—the person being accused of making numerous antisemitic statements over a decade—to confirm that she is not antisemitic.
- The Committee stated that Albanese’s visit to Australia was “not included in the public database of country visits” because it was not an official “country visit.” At the same time, without providing any examples or precedent, the Committee claimed it was “common practice” for the UN “to use the entitlements for country visits” for “other official travels” that are “related to the implementation of the mandate.” In fact, however, the opposite is true. The “common practice” for those who held the same position before her was altogether different. None of Albanese’s predecessors ever took a \$20,000 UN-funded trip to Australia, or to any other remote country that was completely unrelated to their specific mandate to investigate “Israel’s violations of the principles and bases of international law.” Rather, the common practice at the UN as a whole has been that mandate-holders who are unable to access the country concerned instead visit neighboring countries, in order to interview witnesses. Hence the practice of Albanese’s predecessors was to travel to Jordan or Egypt to interview witnesses. For example, when he was rapporteur in 2016-2022, Michael Lynk traveled three times to Jordan, following which he was unable to travel due to COVID-19.³⁰ Rapporteurs Makarim Wibisono (2014-2016) and Richard Falk (2008-2012) similarly traveled to Jordan or Egypt.³¹ In fact, even Albanese herself conducted

³⁰ *Human rights: New UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine launches first official mission*, OHCHR (July 8, 2016), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2016/07/human-rights-new-un-special-rapporteur-palestine-launches-first-official>; “No end in sight,” says UN human rights expert after five decades of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territory, OHCHR (May 19, 2017), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2017/05/no-end-sight-says-un-human-rights-expert-after-five-decades-israeli>; *Occupied Palestinian Territory: UN human rights expert says Israel bent on further annexation*, OHCHR (July 12, 2019), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2019/07/occupied-palestinian-territory-un-human-rights-expert-says-israel-bent>.

³¹ *See, e.g., UN rights expert in fact-finding mission to the occupied Palestinian territory, Egypt and Jordan*, OHCHR (February 10, 2012), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2012/02/un-rights-expert-fact-finding-mission-occupied-palestinian-territory-egypt>; *Israel must deliver on cease-fire agreement in the Gaza Strip – UN Special Rapporteur*, OHCHR (December 5, 2012), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2012/12/israel-must-deliver-cease-fire-agreement-gaza-strip-un-special-rapporteur>; *UN Special Rapporteur alarmed by devastating impact of Gaza conflict on Palestinian civilians*, OHCHR (September 29, 2014), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2014/09/un-special-rapporteur-alarmed-devastating-impact-gaza-conflict-palestinian>; *Alarming accounts of human rights violations of Palestinians living under occupation – UN expert*, OHCHR (June 19, 2015), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2015/06/alarmed-accounts-human-rights-violations-palestinians-living-under>.

such a visit in 2022 and 2024.³² There is no “entitlement” for special rapporteurs to use UN funds to travel to unrelated countries like Australia and New Zealand in order to undertake activities unrelated to their fact-finding mandate.

- The Committee claimed that “there is full disclosure about the resources received by mandate holders” through their annual report to the UNHRC. However, it failed to take into consideration that Albanese omitted any mention in that report of the “external funding” for her Australia and New Zealand tour. Therefore, that funding was never publicly disclosed. Albanese also never disclosed the amounts and sources of funding for her research assistant Sara Troian, who apparently was supported by private, unknown donors.

Notwithstanding that the purpose and effect of the Coordination Committee’s report was to whitewash the abuses of their close colleague and clear the way for her to be renewed, even they could not avoid several adverse findings:

- **Albanese’s Judgement Questioned:** “The Committee stresses that mandate holders should exercise sound judgement to express their views on social media to preserve integrity, independence and impartiality and to promote constructive dialogue among all relevant stakeholders.”
- **Conflicts of Interest:** “Regarding the allegations related to the Special Rapporteur’s trip to Australia, the Committee recalls the crucial importance of avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest... The Committee emphasizes that mandates holders should exercise due diligence in assessing potential sponsorships from any organizations in a way that does not result in real or perceived conflict of interest, taking into account the specificities of each mandate.”
- **Inappropriate Honorarium:** “Concerning the issues related to the honorarium, the Committee recognizes that it was inappropriate to suggest that the honorarium be transferred toward the fellowship of Albanese’s assistant...”

IV. The Lie and Cover-Up

It is now clear that Albanese lied about the sources of funding for her November 2023 travels in Australia and New Zealand trip and that the UN endorsed that lie and orchestrated a cover-up to avoid disclosing the fact that anti-Israel lobby groups indeed funded parts of that trip. The UNHRC’s Coordination Committee has now confirmed that

³² “Non-Visit” to the occupied Palestinian territory, **OHCHR** (February 27, 2023), <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/countries/palestine/sr-selfdetermination/2023-02-27-Non-Visit-TPs.pdf>; Testimonies from the Occupied Palestinian Territory show new depths of Israel’s atrocities: UN expert, **OHCHR** (April 25, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/testimonies-occupied-palestinian-territory-show-new-depths-israels>.

there was “partial external funding” for Albanese’s “internal trips within Australia and New Zealand,”³³ meaning that parts of the trip were not funded by the UN.

A. The Evidence

In its June 2024 complaint to the Secretary-General,³⁴ UN Watch detailed the overwhelming public evidence that pro-Hamas lobby groups in Australia and New Zealand had funded Albanese’s trip. That evidence includes:

- AFOPA stated on its website that the lobby group “sponsored Albanese’s visit to Australia.”³⁵ *AFOPA is a group that praised the “incredibly moving” Hamas terror leader Yahya Sinwar after he was killed by Israel in October 2024.*³⁶ It explicitly solicits donations³⁷ to fund its lobbying work,³⁸ under which category it cites the Edward Said lecture and the Press Club—both of which were performed by Francesca Albanese during her visit to Australia that was “sponsored” by AFOPA. Albanese thanked AFOPA for “organizing such a busy visit,”³⁹ which included her meetings with pro-Palestinian politicians in New South Wales and South Australia, and in Canberra with politicians of the Australian Green Party and foreign ministry officials.⁴⁰ Notably, Albanese did not thank any UN body or office for organizing her trip or meetings.
- Likewise, according to an Australian government agency, Albanese’s visit to Australia was “as the guest of the Australian Friends of Palestine Association.”⁴¹

³³ *Letter from Coordination Committee to UNHRC President, OHCHR* (March 28, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Letter-from-the-2023-2024-and-2024-2025-Chairs-of-the-Coordination-Committee-to-the-HRC-President-concerning-allegations-raised-in-2024-again-the-Special-Rap.pdf>.

³⁴ *Letter from UN Watch Executive Director Hillel Neuer to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, UN Watch* (June 3, 2024), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Complaint-Against-Francesca-Albanese-3-june-2024.pdf>.

³⁵ *MEDIA RELEASE: Peak Palestinian advocacy organisations condemn allegations against visiting UN human rights expert, AFOPA* (November 20, 2023), <https://www.afopa.com.au/blog/2023/11/21/media-release-peak-palestinian-advocacy-organisations-condemn-allegations-against-visiting-un-human-rights-expert>.

³⁶ @HillelNeuer, X (October 22, 2024, 7:00 PM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1848756221496725555>.

³⁷ *Donate to AFOPA, AFOPA* (Last visited May 11, 2025), <https://www.afopa.com.au/donate>.

³⁸ @HillelNeuer, X (November 28, 2023, 2:45 AM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1729300427961745861>.

³⁹ *Edward Said Memorial Lecture 2023 – Francesca Albanese, AFOPA YouTube* (November 15, 2023), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iv1_lCy6sEQ&t=1442s.

⁴⁰ *UN Special Rapporteur Albanese visits Australia as government refuses to back Gaza ceasefire, Pearls and Irritations John Menadue’s Public Policy Journal* (November 9, 2023), <https://johnmenadue.com/post/2023/11/un-special-rapporteur-albanese-visits-australia-as-government-refuses-to-back-gaza-ceasefire/>.

⁴¹ *Visit of UN Special Rapporteur, Francesca Albanese, Australia Human Rights Commission* (December 5, 2023), <https://humanrights.gov.au/about/news/visit-un-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese>.

- Free Palestine Melbourne stated that it “supported her visit” to Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales.”⁴² Free Palestine Melbourne openly describes how it lobbies politicians, organizes protests, and promotes the anti-Israel boycott, divestment and sanction (BDS) campaign.⁴³ *Free Palestine Melbourne* called the October 7th Hamas massacre of 1200 Israelis “a watershed moment not only for the Palestinians in Gaza, but for the entire region if not the entire world!”
- Australian Palestinian Advocacy Network (APAN), headed by convicted kidnapper and Hamas supporter Nasser Mashni,⁴⁴ said it was “honoured to support the visit” to Australia of Albanese.⁴⁵ APAN explicitly states that it engages in “lobbying” for Palestinians.⁴⁶ Indeed, during her visit, APAN facilitated “a range of meetings” for Albanese “with both parliamentarians and civil society.”⁴⁷ On October 8th, 2023, APAN said that the massacre was “a clear result of Israeli escalation,” saying that Palestinians have “broken through the walls” of “the world’s largest open air prison.” *In 2022, APAN wrote a thread on “Why the Australian Government is wrong to designate all of Hamas a terrorist organisation.” APAN President Nasser Mashni tweeted: “Israel killed more Israelis than Hamas on October 7!”*
- Palestinian Christians in Australia (PCIA) “supported her visit” to Victoria, Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales.⁴⁸ The group engages in “direct lobbying” of politicians.⁴⁹ During her visit, Albanese helped PCIA fundraise by addressing their gala dinner event with the participation of the Palestinian

⁴² MEDIA RELEASE: Peak Palestinian advocacy organisations condemn allegations against visiting UN human rights expert, **AFOPA** (November 20, 2023), <https://www.afopa.com.au/blog/2023/11/21/media-release-peak-palestinian-advocacy-organisations-condemn-allegations-against-visiting-un-human-rights-expert>; See also, Australian peak bodies condemn allegations against UN Rapporteur Francesca Albanese, **Pearls and Irritations John Menadue’s Public Policy Journal** (November 20, 2023), <https://johnmenadue.com/post/2023/11/australian-peak-bodies-condemn-allegations-against-un-human-rights-expert-francesca-albanese/>.

⁴³ *What Can You Do*, **Free Palestine Melbourne** (Last visited May 11, 2025), <https://www.freepalestinevic.org/what-can-you-do/>.

⁴⁴ *Top Palestinian spokesman Nasser Mashni’s criminal history revealed*, **Herald Sun** (November 10, 2023), <https://archive.is/PDgMY>; *Top Australian Palestinian slammed for radio comments on destruction of Israel*, **The Sydney Morning Herald** (November 8, 2023), <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/top-australian-palestinian-slammed-for-radio-comments-on-destruction-of-israel-20231107-p5ei6z.html>.

⁴⁵ *Spring 2023*, **APAN** (December 22, 2023), <https://apan.org.au/spring-2023/>.

⁴⁶ One of APAN’s three stated focus areas is “Political Lobbying,” An APAN intern writes: “Highlights from my experience include meeting UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese and lobbying politicians across the continent to stand up for Palestine.” See *Palestinian Youth Internship (Paid)*, **APAN** (February 27, 2025), <https://apan.org.au/palestinian-youth-internship/>.

⁴⁷ *Spring 2023*, **APAN** (December 22, 2023), <https://apan.org.au/spring-2023/>.

⁴⁸ MEDIA RELEASE: Peak Palestinian advocacy organisations condemn allegations against visiting UN human rights expert, **AFOPA** (November 20, 2023), <https://www.afopa.com.au/blog/2023/11/21/media-release-peak-palestinian-advocacy-organisations-condemn-allegations-against-visiting-un-human-rights-expert>.

⁴⁹ *Bassam Dally – Talks About Advocacy – PCIA Launch Event*, **Palestinian Christians in Australia YouTube** (March 24, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDYwp6CBMQE&t=86s>.

Authority regime.⁵⁰ Ticket prices for the fundraising gala were \$90 for members, and \$99 for non-members. Albanese thanked PCIA, together with AFOPA and APAN, for “inviting me to this country.”⁵¹ Again, Albanese did not thank the UN or mention anywhere that it was the world body that paid for the trip.

- Similarly, Albanese’s visit to New Zealand on November 20-21 was not organized by the UN, but rather by the Palestinians in Aotearoa Co-ordinating Committee (PACC) and Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa (PSNA). *On October 7th, 2023, as the massacre was happening, PSNA [declared](#): “the Hamas attacks are understandable.”* They [doubled down](#) the next day, arguing that Hamas murderers “*should be described as ‘resistance fighters.’*”
- The groups arranged for Albanese to speak with media, politicians, campaign groups, as well as two public events. They also arranged for and joined Albanese to lobby a major New Zealand sovereign wealth fund to divest from Israel-related companies.⁵² According to the notes, Albanese, was accompanied by Sara Troian, described as “volunteer supporter, University of the Netherlands.”⁵³ Albanese’s visit to New Zealand has been the object of a Freedom of Information request concerning her meetings with the foreign ministry.⁵⁴
- As part of her trip to Australia, Albanese delivered AFOPA’s annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture in Adelaide and made media appearances, including an address to the National Press Club in which she parroted the Hamas narrative that Israel’s right to self-defense was “non-existent.”⁵⁵ Once again, it was not the United Nations which arranged the press club event, but rather the Australian Palestinian Advocacy Network (APAN), headed by convicted kidnapper and Hamas supporter Nasser Mashni. “APAN has secured Francesca Albanese... as a speaker for the National Press Club in Canberra,” the group tweeted.⁵⁶

⁵⁰ *Speech by Francesca Albanese, Palestinian Christians in Australia* (November 12, 2023), <https://palestinianchristians.org.au/gathering/gathering-highlights/>; *Speaker Announcement, Palestinian Christians in Australia* (November 12, 2023), <https://palestinianchristians.org.au/gathering/>; *PCIA Fundraising Dinner with Guest Speaker Francesca Albanese, Embassy of the State of Palestine* (November 12, 2023), <https://www.palestine-australia.com/index.php/highlights/embassy-activities/2023/pcia-fundraising-dinner-with-guest-speaker-francesca-albanese/>.

⁵¹ *Speech by Francesca Albanese on current situation in Palestine, Palestinian Christians in Australia YouTube* (November 18, 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzgPph19RN0&t=3s>.

⁵² *Notes on meeting with Francesca Albanese, NZ Super Fund* (November 20, 2023), <https://nzsuperfund.nz/assets/Disclosures/Proactive-Disclosures/Meeting-with-Francesca-Albanese-File-Note-20231120.pdf>.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ *Official Information Request Francesca Albanese visit, Official Information Act Request* (April 2, 2024), <https://fyi.org.nz/request/26287-francesca-albanese-visit>.

⁵⁵ *Francesca Albanese says Israel's right to self-defence ‘non-existent’ and is committing ‘war crimes,’ The Australian* (November 14, 2023), <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/breaking-news/francesca-albanese-says-israels-right-to-selfdefence-non-existent-and-is-committing-war-crimes/news-story/99514e7f7928ec92fd68e9a470a5cf27>.

⁵⁶ *@AFOPA_Australia, X* (September 21, 2023, 5:39 AM), https://x.com/AFOPA_Australia/status/1704686812512555276.

In addition, other unidentified “individual donors” funded the travel of Albanese’s research assistant, Sara Troian. She is a member of Albanese’s Global Network for the Question of Palestine, which lists her as a research officer of the Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development, where Albanese also worked until recently.⁵⁷ At the time of the Australia trip, Ms. Troian was affiliated with Erasmus University in the Netherlands. The two used Erasmus University to raise funds to cover Ms. Troian’s travel expenses for accompanying Albanese on her “country-missions.”⁵⁸ As noted, the Australia trip was not an official UN country visit.

B. Francesca Albanese’s Lie: “The UN Paid For My Trip”

From the moment UN Watch first questioned the ethics of Albanese receiving funding from pro-Palestinian lobby groups in November 2023,⁵⁹ Albanese denied the allegation and insisted that the UN had paid for her trip.

- On November 23, 2023, Albanese tweeted in response to Hillel Neuer’s initial demand for information: *“Yet another trail of egregiously false claims agst [sic] me. My trip to Australia was paid by the UN as part of my mandate’s activities.”*⁶⁰ Albanese’s denial was echoed in the media of Hamas-supporting regimes. *“UN rapporteur debunks claims of ‘Palestinian lobby groups’ funding Australia trip,”* reported Qatar’s Doha News.⁶¹ *“UN expert on Palestine pushes back ‘false claims’ over Australia trip, Francesca Albanese says time wasted on defaming her,”* wrote Turkey’s Anadolu Agency.⁶²
- On November 27, 2023, in a tweet response to a Sky News report about the scandal, Albanese doubled down: *“The ‘Palestinian lobby’—falsely accused by UN Watch of funding my trip to Australia—confirms the UN funded it.”*⁶³ She attached a screenshot of an AFOPA statement: “Ms Albanese was authorised by the UN to accept AFOPA’s invitation to deliver the Edward Said Memorial Lecture. The UN

⁵⁷ *The Global Network on the Question of Palestine, Arab Renaissance for Democracy & Development* (Last visited May 11, 2025), https://ardd-jo.org/networks_and_coaliti/the-global-network-on-the-question-of-palestine/.

⁵⁸ *UN Official Duped By Fake Rabbi’s Invite To Speak On ‘Morality of Intifada’ At Anti-Israel Protest, Daily Wire* (May 7, 2024), <https://www.dailywire.com/news/un-official-duped-by-fake-rabbis-invite-to-speak-on-morality-of-intifada-at-anti-israel-protest>.

⁵⁹ *Calls to oust U.N. official over Australian trip sponsored by Palestinian lobby groups, UN Watch* (November 22, 2023), <https://unwatch.org/calls-to-oust-u-n-official-over-australian-trip-funded-by-palestinian-lobby-groups/>.

⁶⁰ @FranceskAlbs, X (November 23, 2023, 4:26 PM), <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1727695227828281568>.

⁶¹ November 26, 2023, <https://dohanews.co/un-rapporteur-debunks-claims-of-palestinian-lobby-groups-funding-australia-trip/>.

⁶² November 24, 2023, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/un-expert-on-palestine-pushes-back-false-claims-over-australia-trip/3063293>.

⁶³ @FranceskAlbs, X (November 27, 2023, 7:34 PM), <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1729207140441808932>

funded Ms Albanese's travel & accommodation costs. No Palestinian Solidarity group paid for this trip. As this malicious effort to discredit Ms Albanese and AFOPA may have legal implications, further comment will not be made."

- On June 6, 2024, in response to UN Watch's second complaint, Albanese remained steadfast on her refusal to admit the outside funding, tweeting that she performs her duties "without financial compensation to preserve my independence," and that "I have never got paid for anything I have done in this capacity."⁶⁴
- On July 3, 2024, after the UN opened an OIOS investigation regarding UN Watch's complaint, Albanese again doubled down, refusing to acknowledge that parts of her Australia trip had been funded by these external groups. She tweeted: "*I welcome any review of my mandate & all documents are available to the UN because I have never had, and will never have, anything to hide.*"⁶⁵

C. "The Secretariat and Secretary-General Play No Role on Special Rapporteurs"

When asked about the matter at a UN press briefing on June 20, 2024, the UN Secretary-General's Deputy Spokesperson Farhan Haq refused to answer whether the UN had paid for the trip, claiming that "when it comes to special rapporteurs... the Secretariat and the Secretary-General play no role regarding that."⁶⁶ He insisted it was solely the responsibility of the 47-nation Human Rights Council. "It's nothing that I, speaking for the Secretariat, have authority over." Yet this is not true.

In fact, the Council is a legislative body that only meets three times a year, to debate, adopt resolutions, and appoint experts. In the year-round oversight, staff support, approval and disbursement of funds for Albanese's expenses, this is handled by a 1,000-strong department: the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, also known as the UN Human Rights Office. This is a department of the UN Secretariat.⁶⁷ As indicated on its website, OHCHR "provides substantive and technical support to special procedure mandate holders." Likewise, the Manual for Special Procedures (Paras. 60-70) states that OHCHR coordinates and supplies staff for country visits and reimburses travel expenses.⁶⁸ In general, the Manual makes clear that OHCHR

⁶⁴ @FranceskAlbs, X (June 6, 2024, 1:14 PM), <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1798659631448801777>.

⁶⁵

@FranceskAlbs, X (July 3, 2024, 2:00 AM), <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1808274457149984996>. Albanese went on: "[T]he latest UN Watch move is beyond the pale. They use an email from the UN which simply acknowledged the receipt of their complaint to falsely claim that the UN 'has opened an investigation' against me." Albanese lied. In fact, according to the UN, the OIOS referral of the case led to UN Watch's allegations being "examined thoroughly" by the Coordination Committee, culminating in their findings of March 28, 2025.

⁶⁶ @HillelNeuer, X (June 26, 2024, 8:38 PM), <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1806019299426894007>.

⁶⁷ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/secretariat>.

⁶⁸ *Manual of Operations of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council*, OHCHR (August 2008), https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/HRBodies/SP/Manual_Operations2008.pdf.

is the primary entity managing everything related to the work of the rapporteurs, including their travel. Notably, the OHCHR website confirms that its Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Section, headed by Mohammad Ali Alnsour,⁶⁹ “supports the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,” *i.e.*, Albanese.⁷⁰

Notably, in its March 2025 letter exonerating Albanese, the Committee explicitly stated that it had received “confirmation from OHCHR”—in other words, from the UN Secretariat, and not from the 47-nation Council—that Albanese’s “travel to Australia was paid for by the UN regular budget.”⁷¹

Accordingly, the UN Deputy Spokesperson was not truthful when he claimed that the UN Secretariat and the Secretary-General “play no role” on matters relating to the funding for Albanese’s travel. On the contrary, a division of the UN Secretariat, ultimately answerable to Mr. Guterres, that oversees all of Albanese’s UN-related travel and which allowed her to be funded by pro-Hamas groups.

D. UN Human Rights Office’s Lie: “The UN Paid For The Trip”

Even worse, the UN Human Rights Office doubled down on Albanese’s false claim that the UN had paid for her trip. On July 12, 2024, JNS reported that the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva had confirmed in an email to journalist Mike Wagenheim that the UN paid for the trip.⁷² The UN communication to Wagenheim deliberately omitted any mention of the “partial external funding” that financed Albanese’s internal travel in Australia and New Zealand.⁷³

Thus not only did Albanese lie when she denied that pro-Palestinian lobby groups in Australia and New Zealand had funded her trip, but after UN Watch raised the matter in its June 2024 complaint, the UN orchestrated a cover-up to hide the facts. The cover-up included lies by the UN Deputy Spokesperson and the UN Human Rights Office in Geneva.

Ironically, in its March 2025 letter exonerating Albanese, the Coordination Committee defended Albanese by recalling that “there is full disclosure about the resources

⁶⁹ *Our Team in Egypt*, UN (Last visited May 11, 2025), <https://egypt.un.org/en/about/our-team>.

⁷⁰ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/middle-east-north-africa-region/middle-east-north-africa-section-hq>.

⁷¹ *Letter from Coordination Committee to UNHRC President*, OHCHR (March 28, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Letter-from-the-2023-2024-and-2024-2025-Chairs-of-the-Coordination-Committee-to-the-HRC-President-concerning-allegations-raised-in-2024-again-the-Special-Rap.pdf>.

⁷² *UN finally says it paid for Albanese’s anti-Israel lobbying trip*, JNS (July 12, 2024), <https://www.jns.org/un-finally-says-it-paid-for-albaneses-anti-israel-lobbying-trip/>.

⁷³ *Email correspondence between Mike Waggenheim and the UN Human Rights Office* (July 9-12,2024), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Email-from-UN-Human-Rights-to-Mike-Waggenheim-July-2024.pdf>.

received by mandate holders,” referencing the Annual Report of Special Procedures which supposedly lists “funds received outside the OHCHR framework.”⁷⁴ Yet the “external funding” for Albanese’s Australia trip is not listed anywhere in that report—a fact conveniently omitted by the Coordination Committee.⁷⁵

V. “Inappropriate” Honorarium

In its June 2024 letter, UN Watch exposed that Albanese had knowingly and unethically circumvented Article 3 of the Special Procedures Code of Conduct which prohibits mandate holders from accepting remuneration from “any governmental or non-governmental source” for activities carried out in pursuit of her mandate. Although Albanese acknowledged this prohibition, noting that she “cannot take [an] honorarium for anything she does in her official capacity,” she requested instead that, in exchange for her lectures, payments by external groups be made to her research assistant.⁷⁶

In response to a request for Albanese to speak to student protesters at Columbia University on 7 May 2024, her assistant Eleonora De Martin replied to the purported event organizer:

[C]oncerning the honorarium, she [Albanese] cannot take honorarium for anything she does in her official capacity. However, she kindly asks for this honorarium to be transferred to the Fellowship of her volunteer which supports her mandate and work. Could you please provide some detail on the sum of the honorarium? The research institute will then send you the invoice for payment.⁷⁷

In other words, the Albanese correspondence confirms the following:

- As remuneration for speaking, Albanese “kindly” asked that payment of an honorarium be made to her assistant. An unnamed “research institute” issues the

⁷⁴ Letter from Coordination Committee to UNHRC President, **OHCHR** (March 28, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Letter-from-the-2023-2024-and-2024-2025-Chairs-of-the-Coordination-Committee-to-the-HRC-President-concerning-allegations-raised-in-2024-again-the-Special-Rap.pdf>.

⁷⁵ *Facts and Figures with regard to the special procedures in 2023*, UN Doc. A/HRC/55/69/Add.1, **OHCHR** (March 21, 2024), <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/reports/ahrc5569add1-facts-and-figures-regard-special-procedures-2023>.

⁷⁶ *UN Official Duped By Fake Rabbi’s Invite To Speak On ‘Morality of Intifada’ At Anti-Israel Protest*, **Daily Wire** (May 7, 2024), <https://www.dailywire.com/news/un-official-duped-by-fake-rabbis-invite-to-speak-on-morality-of-intifada-at-anti-israel-protest>.

⁷⁷ *Id.* @HillelNeuer, X (May 8, 2024), <https://x.com/hillelneuer/status/1787974974977798513>.

invoices.⁷⁸ This would appear to be the International Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam, which hosted Sara Troian’s fellowship. Indeed, Troian herself wrote that the Erasmus University of Rotterdam “collects funds from individual donors” to fund her travel with Albanese “in her country-missions.” The main host and organizer for Francesca Albanese at Erasmus University is Dr. Jeff Handmaker, a lecturer on law, human rights and development, who said there was “a context” to the October 7th massacre by Hamas.⁷⁹ He runs a “Legal Mobilization Project,” which brings activism into academia.⁸⁰

- This same payment was acknowledged by Albanese to be *improper* for her to accept. Thus Albanese was “kindly” asking that a payment be made indirectly to her assistant which she knows was improper for her to accept directly.
- Contrary to later claims by her colleague Sara Troian that “it was *me* proposing” that the funds be sent, the original email from Albanese’s UNSROPT office made clear that the proposal was made by Albanese herself: “*she* kindly asks for this honorarium to be transferred to the Fellowship of *her volunteer* which supports *her mandate and work*.” (emphasis added).

Even the Coordination Committee, composed of Albanese’s close associates, recognized that it was “inappropriate” to suggest that the honorarium be transferred toward the fellowship of Albanese’s assistant.

VI. Other Questionable Travel

The Coordination Committee’s recent disclosure that Albanese received “external funding” for her Australia trip raises questions about how Albanese’s other international travel has been funded. Just in the past nine months, Albanese, who resides in Tunisia, has traveled widely for speaking tours in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and elsewhere. (See list at the end of Section VII below). The Special Procedures Annual 2024 Facts and Figures Report to the Human Rights Council contains the following note under “*External support received by mandate holders in 2024*”:

Also, the Mandate Holder declared following: Please note that a range of national actors, including universities, international and national NGOs and occasionally

⁷⁸ *UN Official Duped By Fake Rabbi’s Invite To Speak On ‘Morality of Intifada’ At Anti-Israel Protest*, **Daily Wire** (May 7, 2024), <https://www.dailywire.com/news/un-official-duped-by-fake-rabbis-invite-to-speak-on-morality-of-intifada-at-anti-israel-protest>

⁷⁹ *How Erasmus University Empowered Francesca Albanese’s Wrongdoing*, **UN Watch** (May 25, 2025), <https://unwatch.org/how-erasmus-university-empowered-francesca-albaneses-wrongdoing/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.iss.nl/en/research/research-projects/legal-mobilization-analyzing-law-based-advocacy>

large broadcasters, have invited the SR oPt for academic/technical visits - or in-studio interviews in her capacity as a UN independent expert to shed light on the human rights situation in oPt. This included the following countries: Spain (Jan), Qatar (February), Ireland (March), France (April), Belgium (April), Germany (May), Netherlands (May/June), Spain (August), Italy (May, August and September), Portugal (October), US (October), Canada (November), UK (November), and Austria (December).⁸¹

The note does not explain whether Albanese received financial or other support in relation to these visits, none of which are listed as official country visits.

VII. Demand for Independent Investigation and Disclosure

Given the compelling evidence of financial wrongdoing and of a UN cover-up, UN Watch is calling for an external investigation, from credible and impartial examiners outside the UN, and full public disclosure of all relevant expenses and donations received.

A. External Funding For Australia Trip

In light of the confirmation that Albanese did in fact receive “external funding” for her travels in Australia and New Zealand, as alleged by UN Watch in its June 2024 complaint, UN Watch demands full transparency and disclosure from the UN regarding this funding. Moreover, based on the statements by the pro-Hamas lobby groups involved in Albanese’s trip, UN Watch has reason to believe that such groups—including AFOPA, Free Palestine Melbourne, APAN, PCIA, PACC, PSNA—supplied part or all of the “external funding.”

Accordingly, the inquiry must:

- (a) Investigate all sources of funding for Albanese’s travels in Australia and New Zealand; and
- (b) Investigate the actions of the UN Secretariat, including the UN Human Rights Office, and in particular MENA Chief Mohammad Ali Alnsour and anyone else on his staff involved in approving or coordinating Albanese’s itinerary, or in approving and reimbursing expenses for that trip.

UN Watch reminds the Secretary-General and his spokespersons of their duty of integrity, which includes “qualities such as honesty, truthfulness, impartiality and incorruptibility.”⁸²

⁸¹ *Facts and figures with regard to special procedures in 2024*, UN Doc. A/HRC/58/70/Add.1, OHCHR (March 20, 2025), <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/58/70/Add.1>.

⁸² *Putting Ethics to Work: A Guide for UN Staff*, UN Ethics Office (October 2017), https://www.un.org/en/ethics/assets/pdfs/Attachment_2_EN_Putting%20Ethics%20to%20Work.pdf.

UN Watch further demands UN disclosure of the following information:

1. Identify all the sources of “external funding” for Albanese’s November 2023 trip to and within Australia and New Zealand.
2. Explain in what manner the pro-Hamas lobby groups in Australia “sponsored” and “supported” Albanese’s trip.
3. Produce receipts and documentation of all expenses incurred in connection with the Special Rapporteur’s travels to and in Australia and New Zealand, including all travel, hotel, food, and local transportation expenses, whether incurred by Albanese or other members of her entourage, including Sara Troian, the research assistant who accompanied Albanese on her trip.
4. Describe in detail which expenses incurred by Albanese and her entourage in connection with their trip to Australia and New Zealand were, if any, paid for by the UN.
5. Indicate any prior instance in the history of the UN when a Special Rapporteur was funded by the UN to fly to a country as “the guest of” a partisan lobby group—and in a country unrelated to the expert’s mandate—in order to perform media advocacy and lobbying on the basis of which that lobby fundraises.
6. Provide a copy of all meeting notes, minutes, emails, briefing notes, file notes and such like arising from the meetings of Albanese and her entourage while in Australia and New Zealand, in line with the pro-active disclosure made by the New Zealand Super Fund concerning Albanese’s November 20th lobbying meeting in Auckland.
7. State whether Sara Troian received compensation for accompanying Albanese on her trip to Australia and New Zealand, and if so, state the amount and source of such compensation.
8. List all individuals, governmental or non-governmental organizations with whom Francesca Albanese or any member of her entourage, including Sara Troian, met with in the course of the trip to Australia and New Zealand.
9. Detail the UN processes, procedures and officials involved in the approval of funding for Special Rapporteur country-visits and reimbursement of expenses incurred in connection with such visits.
10. Identify all UN employees and departments who processed the UN payment for Albanese’s November 2023 trip to and in Australia and New Zealand.

B. Inappropriate Honorarium

Regarding the inappropriate honorarium, UN Watch demands UN disclosure of the following information:

1. Name, affiliated university, country of every external assistant who has worked for Albanese in her capacity as Special Rapporteur since she was appointed on May 1, 2022.
2. Detail how each of these external assistants is or was funded, including the amount and source of the funding.
3. Explain how funds are raised to support the work of these research assistants.

C. Additional Questionable Travel

Regarding all of Albanese's other trips since she was appointed in May 2022, UN Watch demands that the UN and Albanese make full disclosure by: (1) listing all sources of funding by pro-Hamas lobby groups, and all other non-UN funding, received for these trips, including for flight, hotels, meals, and other expenses, and specifying the amount of funding received from each source; (2) naming all individuals and organizations that in any way "supported or sponsored" such travel, detailing the nature of such support or sponsorship; and (3) naming all individuals and organizations that organized the events or travel for Albanese.

This includes but is not limited to the following events by Albanese:

- University of Bologna, Italy, [hosted](#) by the Department of the Arts (September 9, 2024)
- Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy, [hosted](#) by the La Terna Sinistrorsa student group (September 18, 2024)
- University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, [hosted](#) by the Iscte Centre for International Studies (October 2, 2024)
- University of Coimbra, Portugal, [hosted](#) by the Faculty of Economics (October 4, 2024)
- University of Siena, Italy, [hosted](#) by the Cravos student organization (October 7, 2024)
- Georgetown University, Washington, DC, [hosted](#) by the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and Georgetown University Qatar (October 28, 2024)
- Busboys and Poets bookstore, Washington, DC, [hosted](#) by the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding (October 28, 2024)
- Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, [hosted](#) by the Department of Near East Studies (October 29, 2024)

- Barnard College (Columbia University), New York, NY, [hosted](#) by the Departments of Human Rights, Economics, and Anthropology (October 30, 2024)
- John Jay College, New York, NY, [hosted](#) by the Department of Economics (October 31, 2024)
- The New School, New York, NY, [hosted](#) by the The New School for Social Research (November 1, 2024)
- Saint-Pierre Center, Quebec, Canada, [hosted](#) by the Coalition du Québec EMERGENCY Palestine (November 3, 2024)
- Exact location unknown, Quebec, Canada, [hosted](#) by the The Canadian Palestinian Foundation of Quebec (November 3, 2024)
- McGill Law School, Quebec, Canada, [hosted](#) by Law Students for Palestine at McGill (November 4, 2024)
- University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, [hosted](#) by the Department of History (November 4, 2024)
- University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, [hosted](#) by student groups including the Students for Justice in Palestine Carleton (November 5, 2024)
- University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, [hosted](#) by student groups including Toronto Students for Justice in Palestine (November 7, 2024)
- Mississauga Convention Center, Ontario, Canada, [hosted](#) by Islamic Relief Canada (November 8, 2024)
- University of Greenwich, London, England, [hosted](#) by the School of Law and Criminology (November 10, 2024)
- SOAS University of London, England, [hosted](#) by the SOAS Centre for Human Rights Law (November 11, 2024)
- London School of Economics, England, [hosted](#) by LSE Student Unions' Palestine Society (November 11, 2024)
- Queen Mary School of Law, London, England, [hosted](#) by the The International State Crime Initiative (November 12, 2024)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, England, [hosted](#) by the Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre (November 12, 2024)
- Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland, [hosted](#) by the MENA Initiative (November 28, 2024)
- The Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark, [hosted](#) by Amnesty International Denmark (February 5, 2025)
- UN City Copenhagen, Denmark, [hosted](#) by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (February 5, 2025)
- Copenhagen University, Denmark, [hosted](#) by The Palestinian Culture Institute (February 6, 2025)
- Aarhus University, Denmark, [hosted](#) by Palestinian Solidarity Action - Aarhus (February 7, 2025)
- University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway, [hosted](#) by Palestine Committee Agder (February 8, 2025)

- University of Bergen, Norway, [hosted](#) by Bergen Global (February 11, 2025)
- Vulkan Arena, Oslo, Norway, [hosted](#) by the Palestine Committee of Norway (February 9, 2025)
- Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway, [hosted](#) by PRIO (February 10, 2025)
- University of Oslo, Norway, [hosted](#) by Students for Palestine (February 10, 2025)
- University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, [hosted](#) by the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research (February 11, 2025)
- The New Church, The Hague, Netherlands, [hosted](#) by The Rights Forum (February 12, 2025)
- Exact location unknown, Amsterdam, Netherlands, [hosted](#) by the Nuhanovic Foundation (February 13, 2025)
- Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam, Netherlands, [hosted](#) by Legal Mobilization Platform (February 13, 2025)
- Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, [hosted](#) by the including the Humanitarian Studies Centre (February 14, 2025)
- Utrecht University, Netherlands, [hosted](#) by the Conflict Studies Group (February 14, 2025)
- Munich Peace Conference, Germany, [hosted](#) by the Munich Peace Conference (February 15, 2025)
- Exact location unknown, Munich, Germany, [hosted](#) by the Decolonial Practices Group (February 16, 2025)
- King's College London, England, [hosted](#) by the King's Race Research Network (March 17, 2025)
- U.K. Parliament, London, England, [hosted](#) by the International Centre of Justice for Palestinians and Amnesty International U.K. (March 18, 2025)
- University College London, England, [hosted](#) by UCL Action for Palestine student group (March 18, 2025)
- Maynooth University, Ireland, [hosted](#) by the Maynooth University School of Law and Criminology (March 19, 2025)
- Edinburgh Law School, Scotland, [hosted](#) by the Scottish Council on Global Affairs (March 19, 2025)
- Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, [hosted](#) by Academics for Palestine (March 20, 2025)
- University of Galway, Ireland, [hosted](#) by the Palestine Solidarity Student Society and Irish Centre for Human Rights (March 21, 2025)
- Les Relais Solidaires, Pantin, France, [hosted](#) by Platform for Palestine, (April 5, 2025)
- Orion Theatre, Rome, Italy, [hosted](#) by the Association Schierarsi (April 24, 2025)
- Sapienza University, Rome, Italy, [hosted](#) by the Sinistra Universitaria student group (April 24, 2025)

- CNR Headquarters, Rome, Italy, [hosted](#) by the Centro Nazionale delle Ricerche (April 24, 2025)
- Città dell'Altra Economia, Rome, Italy, [hosted](#) by Amnesty International Italy (April 25, 2025)
- Angelo Mai Arts Center, Rome, Italy, [hosted](#) by Angelo Mai and Blue Motion Theatre (April 25, 2025)
- Amnesty International Tunisia Headquarters, Tunis, Tunisia, [hosted](#) by Amnesty International Tunisia (May 7, 2025)