U.N. Watch: Connect the dots

August 27, 2017

The Tribune-Review

<http://triblive.com/opinion/editorials/12631558-74/un-watch-connect-the-dots>

The dots between the terrorist group Hamas and United Nations staff once again become apparent in the arrest last month in Israel of a U.N. official who works in Gaza.

Hamdan Timraz, a Palestinian and deputy head of the U.N. Department of Safety and Security, no less, was arrested after crossing into Israel and charged with what the Israeli security service Shin Bet called “security related offenses.” Based on a report from Ynetnews, he was released after an Israeli court decided not to charge him, according to his son. But reportedly other staffers from the same U.N. agency in Gaza are under investigation for aiding and abetting Hamas.

Any collusion between U.N. staff and what the U.S. State Department has designated a “Foreign Terrorist Organization” is not exactly unheard of. Earlier this year a Palestinian on staff with the U.N. Development Programme was sentenced by Israel for using agency resources to build a jetty for Hamas naval forces.

It's one thing for the U.N. to perpetuate its anti-Israel biases in various resolutions and rebukes. It's quite another when the world body's staffers in Gaza are alleged to be in cahoots with known terrorists. At the very least, the continuing allegations should prompt a U.N. investigation.