Clergy Discipline Measure 2003
In the Clergy Discipline Tribunal – Diocese of Winchester
Re the Reverend Dr Stephen Robert Sizer

WITNESS STATEMENT OF
TANAS ALQASSIS

I, **TANAS ALQASSIS**, of 12 Kempson Crescent, Oxford, OX4 4QE, **WILL SAY** as follows:

1. I make this statement on behalf of the Reverend Dr Stephen Sizer ("**Stephen**") in support of his Answer to a Complaint made against him by the Board of Deputies of British Jews ("**the Board of Deputies**").

Biography

2. I was born in Beit Sahour, Palestine to a Christian family.

3. I am the Regional Manager, Europe, Middle East & North Africa, for the Church Mission Society (CMS). I am a Palestinian and chair of the Board of Trustees of Bethlehem Bible College ("College"). I have also served with World Vision and am a director and trustee of Peacemaker Trust.

4. Stephen has a long and close association with the College – an institution which does not discriminate on grounds of religious background; it opens its doors for people of all faiths, and it helps in building leaders to serve their community. It plays a large role in bringing traditional churches together with the evangelical churches. And for us, Palestinian Christians, this is very important because we are minorities, and we need to be unified together.

5. I have a Master's degree in Leadership, and Doctorate in Ministry concentrating on Practical Leadership. My goal is to change the way the West views the Middle East and the way the Middle East views the West through my passion for education and media that brings people to the Kingdom of God.

Peacemaker Trust

6. I am a director and trustee of the Peacemaker Trust.

7. I have known Stephen for more than 10 years now.

Board of Deputies

8. The Board of Deputies have one goal and one goal only and that is to silence anyone who speaks the truth about the state of Israel. I wish they can see the speck in their own eyes before they talk about the others. I want peace and justice for all and it is sad to see the board of deputies making excuses for wrong doing. There are so many amazing Jewish people and some of them are my close friends, they want peace too and they are against what the Israeli government is doing.

Christian Zionism

9. In my article published in 2013, *'Palestinian Christian Struggles with Zionists' Support for Israel'*) I questioned the Christian Zionist thinking that the Palestinians have no right to exist, prosper and have self-determination. The bible is about Jesus and not Israel, it is about love, peace and reconciliation, not wars and enmity.

Anti Semitism

10. It is simply untrue that Stephen has ever been anti-Semitic in his speeches or his writing. I fear that he is being falsely accused for telling the truth by the same people who have shown me and my fellow Palestinians such hostility. It seems as everyone knows the truth about what Israel is doing to the Palestinian and about the occupation but not many have the courage to speak about it. Criticizing the evil work of the Israeli government, like the occupation, house demolitions, restriction Palestinian freedom of travel, imprisoning children and others without any cause, is not anti-semitic, it is purely showing the reality of the situation.

11. I have talked to Stephen on many occasions and he has a gentle loving heart, he is kind and seeks peace and reconciliation. I am grateful that he is prepared to tell the truth

and reality of the Palestinian people which brings with it considerable personal risk to him, as these proceeding show.

Statement of truth

I believe the facts and matters in this statement to be true.



TANAS ALQASSIS

Date: 16 October 2020