Joachim Kuhs, MEP

EU Parliament Wiertzstraat 60 B-1047 Brussels



Echo Chamber: The Quango Feedback Loop

Issues of Concern

with the EU Budget 2019

by Joachim Kuhs, Rapporteur EU Commission Discharge 2019





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Executive Summary

The EU Commission funds a vast array of "Non-Governmental" Organizations (NGOs) which are almost exclusively left-wing, and lobby EU member governments and the EU itself to further their political agenda and lobby for more funding, thus creating a taxpayer-funded Feedback Loop and Echo Chamber that unfairly discriminates against conservatives and violates EU obligations to political neutrality.

These "civil society" NGOs are often related to the left-wing network centered around the *Open Society Foundation* (OSF) and associated organizations, which have fine-tuned the practice of siphoning off taxpayer Euros for political lobbying in favour of a left-wing agenda of No Borders, illegal migration, lawfare and media campaigns against conservative politicians and opinions, which are delegitimized as so-called "hate speech".

Far from being "Non-Governmental" Organizations, many of these NGOs have thus become quasi-governmental bodies (**Quangos**) that the EU and governments use to outsource their political agendas and activism at taxpayer expense, while attacking and undermining conservative governments in EU member nations and abroad, especially in the State of Israel.

We have identified €34,185,722 in 2019 EU Commission grants going to NGOs known to be related to OSF. Due to lack of transparency, the actual figure is probably much higher.

Together with funding for projects with rogue dictatorships and terror states, we have identified €471,774,222 in EU funding for problematic projects and organisations 2019.





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1. European Union

1.1. EU funding for the European Council on Foreign Relations

The EU Commission funded the *European Council on Foreign Relations* (ECFR), which pursues a pro-migration and anti-Israel agenda, with €29,930 in 2019 for the "ECFR Project on European Sovereignty", while the ECFR consistently attacks the sovereignty of member nations like Poland and Hungary.

The ECFR counts many leading center-left politicians among its members and was co-founded 2007 by German Green leader Joschka Fischer and Mabel van Oranje, then-director of EU affairs of the Open Society Institute in Brussels. It plays a very prominent role in formulating EU policy. Thus the EU is paying the ECFR to lobby the EU, creating an ECFR Echo Chamber in Brussels and throughout the EU. The ECFR refers to Israel as the "occupying power" and as an "Apartheid state", and opposed the Trump Peace Plan, which led to the historic Abraham Accords.

1.2. EU funding for "Civil Society" QUANGOs in the EU

The EU Commission funds left-wing "civil society" NGOs that pursue a one-sided political agenda, in support of "No Borders" policies and illegal migration, and against conservative politicians, opinions, media and organizations. These "civil society" NGOs, which are often related to the left-wing network centered around the Open Society Foundation, received over **25 million taxpayer Euros** from the EU Commission 2019 in EU states alone. This funding 2019 includes:

€172,832	Associazione Antigone (Italy)
€967,298	Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana (ARCI) (Italy)
€267,392	Centar za mirovne studije / Center for Peace Studies (Croatia)
€81,363	Civil Rights Defenders (Sweden)
€88,379	Coalizione Italiana per le Liberta e Diritii e Civili (CILD) (Italy)
€129,691	Eesti Inimõiguste Keskus / Estonian Human Rights Center (Estonia)
€887,410	Helsinki Committees
€38,118	Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka / Helsinki Foundation for Human
	Rights (Poland)
€17,847	Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (Hungary)
€56,928	Irish Council for Civil Liberties (Ireland)
€157,493	Lithuanian Center for Human Rights (Lithuania)
€281,797	Mirovni Institute / The Peace Institute (Slovenia)
€96,617	Nederlands Juristen Comite voor de Mensenrechten (Netherlands)
€31,112	Neue deutsche Medienmacher (Germany)
€75,001	Open Democracy (UK)
€211,237	Open Knowledge Foundation (UK)
€117,420	Open Knowledge Foundation (Greece)
€15,000,000	Tides Foundation
€6,465,412	Transparency International
€25,143,347	





1.3. EU funding for Radical Islam

The EU Commission funded NGOs with ties to radical Islam, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, which supports a program of Islamisation in Europe and has close ties to terrorist and anti-Israel organisations, with at least €1,869,141 in 2019.

EU funding 2019 included:

€550,000 for "Islamic Relief Germany" for earthquake and flood emergency response programs. Although it purports to be a kind of Islamic Red Crescent, "Islamic Relief" has ties to Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Muslim Brotherhood. In <u>Spring of 2020</u>, the German Foreign Ministry suspended cooperation with "Islamic Relief Germany" after a three-year probe by the Federal Court of Auditors. In September 2020, German charity "Aktion Deutschland Hilft" suspended cooperation with Islamic Relief due to revelations about its Muslim Brotherhood ties.

€14,398 for the "Forum of European Muslim Youth & Student Organizations" (FEMYSO). FEMYSO is a front organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, the German Bundestag Research Service wrote in 2015. FEMYSO in turn acts as a lobbying organization in Brussels, protesting against the new EU commission 2019, calling it "not diverse" enough and therefore "far-right." So the EU is paying a Muslim Brotherhood front group to lobby itself and call it "far-right."

€1,156,162 for the <u>European Network against Racism</u> (ENAR) which includes FEMYSO. ENAR leadership includes Intisar Kherigi, daughter of Rached Ghannouchi, founder of the Tunisian arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, the <u>Ennahdha Party</u>. ENAR head <u>Michaël Privot</u> was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood until 2008.

€90,368 for the *European Muslim Union*, which Jacques Chitayat of the <u>Canadian Institute for</u> <u>Jewish Research</u> calls "part of the Muslim Brotherhood" network.

€58,213 for the Islamic Youth Forum North Macedonia, which lists its goals as to "encourage the universal Islamic values" and to "protect young people from deviations".





2. Israel

2.1. EU Funding for NGOs in the Palestine Authority with Ties to Terror and BDS

According to the NGO Monitor report "Analysis of EU Funding to NGOs in 2019: Divisive Politics, Terror Links, and Antisemitism", at least 3 grants totalling €5.8 million involve Palestinian NGOs with ties to the *Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine* (PFLP), an EU-designated terrorist group:

2019 Grants

€2,441,589 for *Defence for Children International-Palestine* (DCI-P) and *Ma'an Development Centre*, which have <u>close personnel ties</u> to the PFLP;

€2,086,757 and €611,368 for the *Society of St. Yves*, whose "head of advocacy" Raed Halabi was convicted for his activity in the PFLP terror organization;

€648,000 for the *Red Crescent Society for the Gaza Strip*, which has close personnel ties and organizes events with the PFLP.

Ongoing Grants

€296,600/March 2018-February 2021 for *Al-Haq*, whose General Director Shawan Jabarin is associated with the PFLP.

€261,914/2018-2021 for the *Palestinian NGO Network* (PNGO), an umbrella framework with 142 NGO members based in Gaza and the West Bank, with ties to the PFLP.

€3.7 million/2017-2021 for the *Union of Agricultural Work Committees* (UAWC), the agricultural arm of the PFLP, which works to illegally annex territory by agriculture. The financial director of the UAWC, Samer Arbid, was arrested in 2019 for the bombing murder of 17-year-old Rina Shnerb at Ein Buven on Aug. 23, 2019.

2.2. EU Funding for NGOs that Interfere with Israeli Democracy

According to the NGO Monitor report, "The EU supports highly politicized NGOs to influence Israeli public attitudes on the conflict, to lobby public officials, and to intervene in the legal system." At least 3 grants totaling €1 million "aim to directly to influence Israeli democracy":

€299,988 for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), the Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF), and the Movement for Freedom of Information for the program "Democratizing Israeli Democracy: Accountable, Transparent, Inclusive and Participatory Governance and Respect for Human Rights in Israel."

€298,514 for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) and Kav Laoved for the Project "Dignity in Work: Upholding Labour Rights for Palestinian Workers Employed in Israel."





In 2018-2020, the EU also provided ACRI with €299,988 for "<u>Eradicating Racism and Discrimination in Israel</u> through Government Compliance with Decision 2254(ETP/16)."

2.2.1. EU Funding for Lawfare against the Israeli Prime Minister

Left-wing NGOs and prosecutors are waging a "lawfare" campaign against the democratically elected Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which US legal scholar Alan Dershowitz has called "the weaponization of criminal justice for political purposes". Among the lawfare NGOs seeking to undermine Israeli democracy with endless legal challenges is the *Association for Civil Rights in Israel* (ACRI).

2.2.2. EU Funding for Violent Protests in Israel

According to Likud MK and Chair of the Knesset Caucus on Combating **Delegitimization** & Anti-Semitism Ariel Kallner, the NGO *Human Rights Defenders Fund* (EU funding 2019: €299,988 with ACRI and MFI) provides legal counsel to "violent protesters demonstrating in front of the official residence of the Prime Minister of Israel."

According to conservative NGO *Im Tirtzu*, these protests are supported by *Ir Amim* (EU funding 2019: €299,977 with *Workers Advice Center*), *Physicians for Human Rights* (EU funding 2019: €680,277) and *Breaking the Silence* (EU funding 2019: €299,988 with B'Tselem).

2.3. EU Funding for Left-Wing Israeli NGOs in Area C

The EU Commission supports left-wing Israeli NGOs active in Area C of Judea and Samaria, which it refers to as the "Occupied Territories", which habitually criticize Israel and have been found to fabricate evidence, while ignoring problems with terror, violence, corruption, anti-Semitism and lack of democracy on the Palestinian side.

€299,988 went to left-wing NGOs B'Tselem and Breaking the Silence for the project "A Symbiotic Relationship in the West Bank: Holding Israeli Authorities Accountable for Settler Violence." B'tselem and Breaking the Silence both support BDS, have been charged with fabricating evidence and seeking one-sided testimony to incriminate the Israeli Defense Forces.

On 17 March 2016, Israel's Channel 2 news aired an exposé showing activists from *Breaking the Silence* caught on camera trying to obtain sensitive information from veteran Israeli soldiers, including details of Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) military tactics, operations and special equipment. Former *Breaking the Silence* spokesman Dean Issacharoff is alleged to <u>have fabricated testimony</u> about physically abusing a Palestinian detainee.

Breaking the Silence was allowed to organize a photo exhibit in the EU Parliament in Brussels Feb. 25, 2019, portraying alleged "war crimes" by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) and associating the IDF with mass murderer Baruch Goldstein. This exhibit was protested by conservative NGO Reservists on Duty, who called the IDF a "moral Army."

€600,000 went to Molad – The Center for the Renewal of Israeli Democracy, which identifies itself as a left-wing think tank and opposed the Trump peace agreements, for a project called "Closing the Confidence Gap: Restoring the Viability of the Two State Solution." Molad





actively opposes Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli sovereignty in Area C. The EU does not fund conservative think tanks in Israel.

€299,977 went to *Ir Amim* and *Workers Advice Center* for the project "Decision 3790: Maximising its Opportunities and Countering its Harmful Effects to Realise Socioeconomic Rights in East Jerusalem." Project Description: "To hold Israel as the occupying power accountable to respect, protect and fulfil the socioeconomic rights of the Palestinian population in East Jerusalem."

2.4. EU Funding for Illegal Settlements in Area C of Judea and Samaria

The EU funds illegal building by the Palestinian Authority and local residents in Areas designated as under Israeli administration ("Area C") in the Oslo Accords 1995, as documented by the NGO *Regavim* in its report "<u>EU Involvement in Illegal Building in Area C</u>" 2018. The land grabs are organized by the EU-funded *Palestinian Authority* and supported by EU-financed NGOs like the *UAWC* (agricultural land grabs) and the *Society of St. Yves* (lawfare).

On Oct. 19, 2019, EU representative in the PA Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff visited a PA school constructed illegally on Israeli territory with EU funding, on a trip sponsored by left-wing NGOs B'Tselem and Breaking the Silence, as the Jerusalem Post reported.

There is no transparency of EU funding of illegal PA building projects in Area C. "<u>Electronic Intifada</u>" writes of "\$2 million in EU Aid" demolished by Israel since 2015. In a 2016 publication "funded by the European Union", "<u>Spatial Plans for Palestinian Communities in Area C of the West Bank</u>", the PA writes of 116 settlements in Area C.

The EU must act immediately to end funding of illegal PA building and create complete transparency over all funding for illegal land grabs, which undermine the peace process and reward corruption, theft and obstruction.

2.5. EU Funding for UNRWA

The EU funded the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency* (UNRWA) with a total of **US \$ 131,742,673** in 2019, according to the <u>UNRWA website</u>. UNRWA has close ties to the terrorist organizations Hamas and Fatah, and employs anti-Semitic schoolbooks in its schools, which have also been used to store rockets for Hamas. While it sounds like a neutral "UN" organisation, UNRWA in fact <u>employs PA teachers</u> and a PA curriculum, while neglecting or even denigrating the Israeli point of view.

In 2019, UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl and several other top executives had to resign in a massive corruption scandal. The EU is the largest contributor to UNRWA.

2.6. EU Funding for the PA

The EU funded the <u>Palestinian Authority</u> (PA) with € 257,450,000 for the year 2019 from the program "PEGASE: Direct Financial Support to Recurrent Expenditures of the Palestinian Authority". According to the <u>EU website</u>, the EU provides a total of €300,000,000 to Palestine, mainly through the "European Neighbourhood Instrument".





The PA finances the families of killed and imprisoned terrorists with approx. \$300 million a year in so-called "Martyr's Pensions". As part of the "Pay-for-Slay" program, legislation enacted by the Palestinian Authority provides an automatic pension for life for anyone who murders a Jew, and for the family of anyone who murders a Jew.

The PA produces school books which glorify terrorists, reinforce anti-Semitic stereotypes and advocate for the eradication of the State of Israel.

The EU funding rewards a corrupt cadre of PA apparatchiks who have not conducted democratic elections since 2006, and provides no incentive to compromise, negotiate or otherwise seek peace with the Israeli side. In May 2018, PA President Mahmud Abbas held a speech before the Palestinian National Council, blaming Jews for the Holocaust, prompting calls for his resignation. Abbas remains PA President.

2.7. Funding for Palestinian Universities with Hamas Ties

The *Islamic University of Gaza* (IUG) was founded 1978 by Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin. "During fighting with Israel in 2008, <u>rockets and explosives</u> fired at Israeli civilians were produced by Hamas at the university. ... In 2007 it was reported that sixteen of the university's lecturers and teachers were <u>elected Hamas members</u> of the Palestinian legislature." Former Jerusalem bureau chief of the <u>New York Times Steven Erlanger</u> described the Islamic University of Gaza as "one of the prime means for Hamas to convert Palestinians to its Islamist cause." According to the Israeli Defence Force, the IUD was also used as a rocket factory in 2014, which was disabled with an air strike Aug. 2, 2014.

As Professor Cory Nelson of the University of Illinois writes in "Not in Kansas Anymore: Academic Freedom in Palestinian Universities": "A widespread trend in the West has been to treat Palestinian universities— including An-Najah, Birzeit, and Islamic University of Gaza—as institutions comparable to our own," <u>Arutz Sheva reports</u>. However, "IUG is not simply politicized; it is militarized; its mission is indoctrination ... An-Najah and Birzeit (Universities), on the other hand, are deeply fraught and compromised, politicized so thoroughly as to make their difference from Western standards one of character and kind, not degree. All three institutions are among those Palestinian universities that create socially, politically, and conceptually coercive environments in which academic freedom as we know it cannot thrive."

EU Funding 2019 for Hamas-linked Universities

€490,612	Islamic University of Gaza
€168,527	Birzeit University, Ramallah
€320,890	An-Najah National University
€980,029	





3. Balkans

3.1. North Macedonia

The EU has interfered severely in North Macedonian politics, often in coordination with left-wing NGOs like the Open Society Foundations (OSF). *Foundation Open Society Macedonia* received €1,225,528 from the EU in 2019 for the project "Stay @ School – Action for Inclusion of Roma in Primary Education" and €199,998 for the project "Access to Justice for the Most Marginalized".

The Civil Organization Institute for Human Rights Skopje received €66,043 for the Project "Human Rights for All". The media project Metamorphosis received 997,394 € in 2019 for "Increasing Civic Engagement in the Digital Agenda". Reactor - Research in Action received €1,241,535 for the project "Furthering Gender Equality through the EU Accession Process." Margins Skopje received €140,000 for the project "Access to Justice for Marginalised Communities". €12,002 went to the Youth Alliance Krusevo for the project "Capacity Building: Exploring the Role of Youth in Reconciliation and Peacebuilding."

€1,225,528	Foundation Open Society Macedonia	
€199,998	Foundation Open Society Macedonia	
€997,394	Metamorphosis	
€77,690	Step by Step	
€139,197	Macedonian Young Lawyers Association	
€53,998	Helsinki Committee	
€1,241,535	Reactor - Research in Action	
€ 29,795	Youth Cultural Center Bitola	
€140,000	Coalition Sexual and Health Rights of	
	Marginalized Communities - Margins Skopje	
€12,002	Youth Alliance - Krusevo	
€4,117,137		

€58,213 went to the *Islamic Youth Forum North Macedonia*, which lists its goals as to "encourage the universal Islamic values" and to "protect young people from deviations".

3.2. Kosovo

The same pattern can be observed in Kosovo, Serbia, Albania and the rest of the Balkans, where the EU funds "civil society" NGOs with close ties to the Open Society Foundations, such as the *Balkan Investigative Reporting Network* BIRN, which received €397,204 for "Solidifying the Resilience of Kosovo's Current and Future Journalists" 2019. Almost a million Euros are shared between *Metamorphosis* North Macedonia (997,394 €) and *Open Data Kosovo*, *Center for Research Transparency and Accountability* Serbia (CRTA) and NGOs in Estonia, Albania and Montenegro for the project "Increasing Civic Engagement in the Digital Agenda". Over a million Euros were shared between *Reactor* North Macedonia (€1,241,535), the *Kosovo Women's Network* and NGOs in Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Hercegovina and Sweden for the project "Furthering Gender Equality through the EU Accession Process."





4. China

The People's Republic of China (PRC) has become one of the world's most powerful countries. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) dominates all aspects of life in it, and is responsible for numerous grave human rights abuses: The oppression of Tibet, the Uighurs and Hong Kong, by far the largest number of executions in the world, the suppression of Christians, Falun Gong, Muslims and Tibetan Buddhism, the suppression of free speech, free press, free internet and political opposition since Tiananmen Square.

The CCP has embarked on an ambitious project of global expansion and military build-up, currently threatening the Republic of Taiwan with invasion, and seeking to delegitimize and boycott Taiwan. The CCP is conducting a global campaign of infiltration and espionage, to infiltrate Western media and institutions and use its economic power to silence criticism. The US Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe has concluded the PRC interfered with the 2020 US Presidential elections.

Nonetheless, the EU Commission sponsored €148,160,369 worth of programs involving China in 2019, including at least €3,258,740 of taxpayer Euros going directly to Chinese institutions and organisations.

This includes programs costing €11,602,749 associated with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which has been cited as being at least partially responsible for the outbreak of the Corona pandemic; €88,436 went directly to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which has been alleged to have ties to the bioweapons program of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

€18,774,652 went to programs involving Tsinghua University, the elite cadre school of the CCP, of which at least €223,124 went directly to Tsinghua University.

Unlike EU projects in Israel, Italy or Hungary, for example, there is no record of projects in China that are critical of the government, which speak up for human rights, against oppression of minorities, or against "propaganda" and "hate speech".





5. Iran, Cuba, Venezuela

As in the case of China, there is no record of EU projects in the dictatorships of Cuba, Venezuela and Iran that speak up for human rights, against oppression of minorities, or against "propaganda" and "hate speech". Programs in these countries must be approved by the government and ruling party.

EU Commission Funding for Government-Compliant Programs in Dictatorships

€6,399,873	Cuba
€2,197,679	Iran
€3,144,539	Venezuela

5.1. Iran

On Nov. 15, 2019 protests against the Islamic regime broke out across the nation. On Nov. 16-18, these protests were brutally struck down by regime forces, killing approx. 1500 mostly young people, as three government officials confirmed to Reuters. Iran Human Rights Monitor released the names of 700 dead. It was perhaps the worst crime of the Iranian regime ever, far worse that the suppression of the Green Revolution 2009, when 72 people were killed.

The EU installed the trade mechanism INSTEX 2019 to circumvent US sanctions and allow EU companies to trade with murderous regime.

5.2. Cuba

On Sept. 3, 2019, EU High Representative of Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini – a former member of the Youth League of the Italian Communist Party – met with Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez and promised to almost <u>triple EU taxpayer funding</u> for the Cuban dictatorship, from €50 million to €140 million. The EU-Cuban Cooperation Agreement 2016 had "intensified relationships and created numerous opportunities for cooperation", Mogherini said. She called the EU the largest investor in Cuba, and its biggest trading partner.

Following the meeting, there was a wave of 481extrajudicial arrests of opposition activists in Cuba, as the <u>Cuban Human Rights Observatory</u> reported. There are currently over 100 political prisoners in Cuba, the Observatory reports.

5.3. Venezuela

On January 23, 2019, Juan Guaido was sworn in as President of Venezuela and recognized by the EU, but not by his predecessor, dictator Nicolas Maduro. In the clashes that ensued, approx. 4.5 million refugees fled Venezuela. At a <u>donor's conference</u> on Oct. 30, 2019, the EU and its member nations pledged €320 million in humanitarian aid. Only <u>7.9% of Venezuelans</u> reported receiving foreign aid.





6. South Africa

The Republic of South Africa has been ruled by the revolutionary African National Congress since 1994, which has instituted strict racial quotas (*Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment* - BBBEE) and actively discriminates against the ethnic Afrikaner minority. With its racist policies and corruption, the ANC government has virtually destroyed the South African economy. It has failed to act against a campaign of horrendous violence against South African farmers (*plaasmoorde*) and denies its existence. The ANC government continues to raise the potential of land grabs ("expropriation without compensation") despite the negative effect this has on foreign investment, while many ANC leaders reap the benefits of wealth and corruption, partly made possible by generous foreign aid. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa began his career as a union organizer and is now one of the richest men in Africa, while his country spirals into poverty, violence and blackouts.

The EU Commission spent €171,171,076 on programs involving South Africa in 2019, including €36,414,547 directly for projects in South Africa. At least €3,599,614 went to NGOs with direct ties to Open Society.

The EU Financial Transparency System lists €18,700,000 in funding directly for the Republic of South Africa. Groups operating in South Africa must comply with the racist BBBEE laws. Racist policies are not permitted in EU institutions.

The EU funds NGOs in South Africa which pursue the left-wing agenda advanced by the Open Society Foundations, such as the *Southern Africa Human Rights Litigation Centre* (SALC), which "supports human rights lawyers in Southern Africa countries with expert legal advice, technical support and funding". The SALC is a joint project of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and the *Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa* (OSISA). SALC was funded with €1,992,350 by the EU 2019, along with 5 other NGOs, for the project "Out & Proud: LGBTI Equality and Rights in Southern Africa".

The African Policing Oversight Forum, which lists the Open Society Foundations among its Primary Funders, received €475.000 from the EU for "Developing the Capacity of South African Police Service to Prevent and Respond to Xenophobic Violence and Related Hate Crimes".

NGO Gender Links, which lists the Open Society Foundations among its sponsors, received €142,500 from the EU for "Ending Gender-Based Violence Community by Community in Botswana".

Gender Links and the Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust (WLSA), a partner of OSISA, received €989,764 from the EU for "Socio-Economic Empowerment through Gender-Responsive Policies, Legislation and Action" in Lesotho.

There was no record of EU funding to fight massive government corruption, astronomical crime rates, infrastructure collapse, incitement of racist violence by radical hate preachers like Julius Malema or Andile Mngxitama, or the waves of hideous violence and torture killings of South African farmers.



