

‘DOSSIER OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING THE ISRAELI OCCUPYING FORCES (IOF)’: PILLARS OF A CAMPAIGN TO DISRUPT IOF ACTIVITIES

On 25 September 2025 the South African Jews for Free Palestine (SAJFP) launched an initiative to disrupt activities supporting the Israeli Occupying Forces.

The initiative of the SAJFP currently has 4 pillars:

1. Providing support for Israeli refuseniks
2. Campaigning to prohibit IOF recruitment activities in South Africa.
3. Supporting efforts of the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, where possible, to ensure that South Africans serving, or who have served, in the IOF are prosecuted.
4. Preventing Israelis who have played a direct role in perpetrating the genocide, in human rights abuses in the occupied territories and of Palestinians in Israel whilst in the IOF, and Israelis likely to organise activities to support for the IOF e.g. Telfed, from entering South Africa.

This document also contains demands related to South Africa’s withdrawal of the visa exemption for Palestinians.

1. Providing support for Israeli refuseniks

The aim of this pillar is to provide solidarity with Israeli “refuseniks” who have chosen not to serve in the Israeli Occupying Forces due to their moral opposition to the ongoing genocide and occupation Israel enforces against the Palestinian people. We invited activists who were involved in public forms of refusal to fight in the apartheid army in South Africa to express their support for the Israeli “refuseniks”. Over 100 people signed a statement which was sent to the “refuseniks’ support network. Our campaign was initiated in consultation with those who were involved in the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) in South Africa in the 1980s. We are still exploring other forms of support that we can provide e.g. fundraising as per the call by the Refusenik Network.

2. Campaigning to prohibit IOF recruitment activities in South Africa

South African legislation prohibits citizens from participating in foreign armed conflicts or rendering military assistance without express government permission. This prohibition is derived from the **Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act (RFMAA) 15 of 1998** which criminalises mercenary activity and the rendering of "foreign military assistance" without approval from the **National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC)**. The prohibited activities include recruitment, training, financing or direct engagement.

A report published in ‘Declassified UK’ in March 2025 on foreign nationalities serving in the Israeli military indicated that 415 dual national SA citizens were serving in the Israeli military and an additional 74 South Africans with multi-nationality were serving in the Israeli military. This is an extremely high number considering that Australia with a much bigger Jewish population had just under 100 more Australians serving in the IDF than SA. Given the South African legislation it is very unclear why there have been no prosecutions to date.

2.a *Telfed (The South African Zionist Federation in Israel):*

Telfed is an Israeli-registered NGO whose primary mandate is to support South African and Australian immigrants to Israel. Among its seven core focus areas, Telfed provides support for “Lone Soldiers”—a term referring to immigrants serving in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) without immediate family in the country.

Telfed actively promotes, facilitates and recruits South African citizens to serve in the IDF. Its website and promotional materials advertise the Garin Tzabar program. Garin Tzabar is an Israeli government-backed pathway that helps foreign nationals enlist in the IDF.^[1] Published figures show that approximately 30% of Garin Tzabar participants serve as officers or NCOs, and 78% of male participants serve in combat roles.

In addition to recruitment, Telfed provides material and logistical support to South African citizens serving in the IDF, including food parcels, holiday vouchers, scholarships, access to Telfed rental apartments, housing coordination, emotional support and post-service reintegration assistance.^[2]

During the ongoing hostilities in Gaza, at least 120 South African and Australian citizens reportedly served in the IDF with Telfed’s documented support.^[3]

Finally, Telfed also promotes and supports the Mahal program— an official IDF initiative enabling non-Israeli citizens, including South African nationals, to serve in combat or support roles for 12 to 18 months without immigrating.^[4]

South African Funding of Telfed

Approximately one-third of Telfed’s budget is derived from community support and donations. In South Africa, the United Jewish Campaign (UJC) is a leading donor. UJC describes itself as the “Cape Town Jewish Community’s umbrella fundraising body.” Philip Krawitz, Executive Chair of Cape Union Mart, serves as the Chair of the UJC Board of Trustees. Each year, UJC raises roughly R60 million, which it allocates to about 35 organizations across three divisions. One of these divisions, the Israel United Appeal, supports three organizations: Keren Hayesod, Lions of Judea, and Telfed. Approximately 15–17% of UJC’s annual funding (around R9 million) is directed towards this division. The Wings programme is the most financially explicit example of Keren Hayesod — the organisation Krawitz chairs in South Africa — directing donor funds to active IDF service members. At USD\$8.8 million in cash grants to 2,200 IDF soldiers in 2024 alone, this is not a marginal programme activity.

The following categories of financial data are definitively not in the public domain and cannot be obtained without legal process:

- Individual donor names and amounts contributed to UJC/IUA/KH-UJA campaigns in Cape Town
- The specific rand amount raised during the 2014 KH-UJA Emergency Solidarity Campaign in Cape Town under Krawitz's leadership
- Philip Krawitz's personal annual donations to KH-UJA, JAFI, the Victims of Terror Fund, or any other Israel-linked organisation
- Any donations made through family trusts, deferred giving, or estate planning instruments

- Cape Union Mart's total revenue, net profit, or dividend payments to shareholders
- The split of UJC's annual campaign between local (UCF) and Israel (IUA) allocations
- The annual ZAR total raised by the UJC in its annual campaign

South Africa's specific donor community to the UJC/IUA/KH-UJA is not publicly identified in any available record. High-net-worth individuals in the Cape Town Jewish community who are likely campaign donors include the leadership of other major Jewish-owned businesses, but no specific names or amounts are documented.

The UJC does not publish annual accounts, total campaign figures, or per-branch allocations in any publicly accessible document. No NPO annual return for the UJC is in the public domain at the time of this report. A PAIA (Promotion of Access to Information Act) request to the NPO Directorate would be the appropriate mechanism to obtain these figures.

The revocation of the Jewish National Fund of Canada's charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on 25 July/8 August 2024 is the most directly relevant international regulatory precedent for Krawitz's South African activities. Key facts:

- CRA conducted an audit of JNF Canada following a 2017 complaint by Independent Jewish Voices Canada that JNF used charitable donations to build infrastructure for the IDF — including on Israeli army, air and naval bases
- CRA found that JNF Canada's mission was inconsistent with Canadian laws governing charitable activity, including the principle that 'supporting the armed forces of another country is not charitable'
- JNF Canada was ordered to wind up its operations and disperse remaining assets valued at approximately CAD\$31 million
- The revocation followed JNF Canada having already ceased IDF base projects in 2016 when first warned by CRA — but the CRA revoked status on the basis of the broader mission incompatibility
- A second charity, the Ne'eman Foundation, also had its charitable status revoked simultaneously for links to IDF units and West Bank settlements
- JNF Canada's appeal to the Federal Court of Appeal was also lost

The Canadian standard ('supporting the armed forces of another country is not charitable') has been explicitly cited by advocates in Australia and South Africa as a model for regulatory action against UJA Australia and KH-UJA South Africa.

South Africa's regulatory framework for non-profits differs significantly from Canada's and Australia's:

- South Africa's NPO Act (Act 71 of 1997) requires NPOs to file annual reports but does not have the Canadian 'charitable activities test' or Australia's ACNC External Conduct Standards
- South Africa's Income Tax Act (Section 18A) provides tax deductibility for certain PBO (Public Benefit Organisation) donations — if the UJC or KH-UJA South Africa holds PBO status, donations could be deductible, raising equivalent questions about public subsidy of foreign military activities
- South Africa's Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act and Prevention of Organised Crime Act include provisions on foreign funding of activities that could be

construed as military support — though no application to KH-UIA South Africa has been reported

- The South African government is explicitly and aggressively pursuing Israel's genocide case at the ICJ — creating a political environment in which regulatory scrutiny of KH-UIA South Africa would be more politically feasible than in most other countries

⚠️ **REGULATORY RISK:** The JNF Canada precedent and the Australian ACNC scrutiny suggest that Krawitz's dual roles as UJC Chairman and KH-UIA South Africa Chairman could expose these organisations to SARS review of their PBO/Section 18A status if the Wings Lone Soldier programme and Mechinot pre-army funding are determined to constitute 'support for a foreign army' under South African tax principles analogous to those applied in Canada.

The following South African legal instruments are relevant to an assessment of the regulatory implications of Krawitz's Israel-related organisational activities:

- **NPO Act, 1997 (Act 71 of 1997):** Requires registered NPOs to file annual reports and financial statements with the NPO Directorate in the Department of Social Development. UJC, CSO and KH-UIA South Africa should have filings here — but these are rarely scrutinised and are not published online in a searchable form
- **Income Tax Act, 1962 (Section 10(1)(cN) and Section 18A):** PBO status grants tax exemption; Section 18A approvals allow donors to deduct donations from taxable income. If UJC holds Section 18A status and channels funds to KH-UIA for IDF-adjacent programmes, a parallel argument to the JNF Canada case could be made
- **Exchange Control Regulations (under SARB Act):** Any transfer of funds from South Africa to Israel must be processed through the SARB authorised dealer system. KH-UIA South Africa's annual remittances to Jerusalem would be captured in SARB exchange control records — not publicly accessible but available to SARS and the FIC
- **Financial Intelligence Centre Act (FICA):** The FIC monitors suspicious or unusual financial flows, including transfers to foreign entities. Transfers to entities that fund IDF-adjacent activities could theoretically be the subject of an FIC inquiry under specific circumstances
- **Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act:** Criminalises corruption broadly; not directly applicable to charitable donations unless there is evidence of fraud
- **International humanitarian law and the ICJ genocide proceedings:** South Africa's legal obligations under the Genocide Convention and its active ICJ case against Israel create a legal environment in which South African NPO funding of IDF-related activities may face novel scrutiny

Possible investigations

The following specific PAIA (Promotion of Access to Information Act) requests could yield significant financial data currently unavailable in the public domain:

- **NPO Directorate, Department of Social Development:** Annual returns and financial statements of UJC, CSO Cape Town NPC, and KH-UIA South Africa
- **SARS:** Section 18A approval status and any audit history for UJC and KH-UIA South Africa (third-party requestor access is limited but possible in some circumstances)

- SARB/Authorised Dealer: Historical exchange control approval records for transfers from KH-UIA South Africa to KH-UIA Jerusalem (highly unlikely to be disclosed to third parties but could be obtained by law enforcement)
- Master of the High Court: Trust register for any Krawitz family philanthropic trusts
- CIPC: Full corporate family search including all directorships, trusteeships and membership interests associated with Philip Krawitz and family members

2b. IDF recruitment event in South Africa: Aliyah Expo

The *Aliyah Expo* is an annual event hosted in Johannesburg and Cape Town that actively facilitates the recruitment of South African citizens into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). The event is organized and run by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the Israel Centre, Ofek Israeli, Keren Hayesod, and the World Zionist Organization (WZO), with support from Telfed and the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF).

In 2024, activists attempted to access the Expo. Although denied entrance on the day, they were able to obtain a booking sheet and roster of participating organizations (available at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pyAUIHT0Sjrg2YLK7Xr4ngiBhsQv-Ylp/edit?gid=953730436#gid=953730436>). Among the panelled organizations was Garin Tzabar, an Israeli initiative that recruits and assists foreign volunteers to enlist in the IDF (as discussed in the previous section).

Demands

- **People suspected of involvement in recruitment of South Africans to fight in the IOF should be investigated and prosecuted.**
- **People involved in fundraising for supporting activities of the IOF should be investigated and prosecuted.**
- **Staff or Board members of Telfed in Israel should not be permitted to enter SA**

2c. Role of Jewish Schools in SA

^[1] <https://www.jewishagency.org/they-fight-for-israel/>

^[3] [Braai in appreciation of our young South African and Australian Olim - Telfed](#)

^[4] [Lone Soldiers - Telfed & http://www.mahal-idf-volunteers.org/index.html](#)

In an article published in Middle East Eye: Feb 8 2024, Ilham Rawoot outlined ways in which Herzlia supports recruitment of South Africans into the IOF. The Herzlia's principal, along with guest speakers, often encourages students to enlist in the Israeli army. Apparently some of the teachers at the school are ex IDF. According to an interview with an Israeli news channel last year, the Herzlia school's director of Jewish identity and culture, Geoff Cohen, and the school's executive director, Andries van Renssen, said that more than 20 percent of their ex-pupils go to Israel after they finish their studies, of whom an unspecified number serve in the Israeli army. Students sing the Israeli anthem during assembly every two weeks, along with

the South African anthem, celebrate Israel's national day and Yom HaZikaron, the day of remembrance for slain Israeli soldiers. There is also a [large mural](#) in the school of Theodor Herzl, the founder of the modern Zionist movement in the "student pause" section of the school.

Na'eem Jeenah, a senior researcher at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection, said that Herzlia needed to be held accountable for its actions. "By inviting Israeli soldiers to interact with learners and glorifying what our government has already proclaimed as war crimes and, now genocide, Herzlia is, itself, glorifying and promoting genocide and numerous violations of international law," he said. Jeenah added that the implicit message of these visits and the indoctrination from a young age means that Herzlia is allowing and promoting violations of the law. "Our society should not be tolerating a situation where young children are taught to hate others in such profound ways that they would be encouraged to take up weapons and kill those others. That amounts to abuse of children, and incitement to violence."

Demands

- **We demand an investigation into IOF recruitment activities in South Africa. This investigation should include the role of the Jewish day schools and the United Jewish Campaign, which raises funds for the Israel United Appeal. The Israel United Appeal provides funds to Telfed.**
- **United Community Fund.**
- **The organisers of the Aliyah expos should be informed that recruitment activities are prohibited.**

3. Supporting efforts of the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign to ensure that South Africans serving in the IOF are prosecuted. The Palestinian Solidarity Campaign is leading this pillar.

The **Regulation of Foreign Military Assistance Act (RFMAA) 15 of 1998** criminalises mercenary activity and the rendering of "foreign military assistance" without approval from the **National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC)**. The prohibited activities include recruitment, training, financing [or financial support] or direct engagement. South Africans violating these prohibitions can be prosecuted. The Act also includes the doctrine of command responsibility, meaning superiors can be held liable for crimes committed by their subordinates if they failed to prevent them.

South African citizens involved in assisting or fighting in the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) can potentially also be charged under the **Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols**, though such charges would need to be brought via specific domestic legislation that incorporates international law. South Africa has integrated these international obligations into its own legal system through two primary acts:

- i. Implementation of the Geneva Conventions Act (2012)

This Act incorporates the **Geneva Conventions** and their **Additional Protocols** into South African domestic law. It allows South African courts to prosecute individuals for "grave breaches" of the Conventions (such as wilful killing, torture, or inhuman treatment of protected persons) regardless of where the crime was committed.

Illegal Financial Activities

- **Financing Mercenaries:** It is strictly prohibited to directly or indirectly finance any mercenary activity, defined as direct participation in armed conflict for private gain.
- **Unauthorised Funding:** Providing financial or logistical support to a foreign state, organ of state, or any other entity for military purposes is illegal unless the **National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC)** has granted specific authorisation.
- **Aiding Recruitment:** Institutions (such as NGOs or religious groups) that provide financial aid to facilitate the recruitment of South Africans into foreign armies (e.g., the IDF) may be found to be "aiding and abetting" illegal activity if they do not have official state approval.

2. Implementation of the Rome Statute (ICC Act) of 2002

Because South Africa is a signatory to the Rome Statute, it enacted the **International Criminal Court Act**, which provides a domestic framework for investigating and prosecuting South Africans alleged to have committed:

- **War Crimes:** Serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict.
- **Crimes Against Humanity:** Widespread or systematic attacks against civilian populations.
- **Genocide:** Acts committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group.

Demands

- **South Africans who violate the prohibitions in any of the above Acts should be investigated and prosecuted.**
- **The activities of the United Community Fund should be investigated.**

4. Preventing Israelis who have played a direct role in human rights abuses of Palestinians whilst in the IOF and Israelis likely to organise activities to support for the IOF e.g. Telfed from entering South Africa

Visas for entry into South Africa are required by a number of war torn countries in Africa such as Niger, Sudan, Southern Sudan, the Central African Republic, Burkina Fasso, and Somalia. Most countries in Asia, and Eastern Europe require visas for South Africa, whereas many in the Americas and Western Europe are exempt. Countries needing visas in Europe include Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, and Albania. Major nations in Africa and Asia needing visas

include Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, and Pakistan. *As of Feb 2026, China, India, Indonesia, and Mexico nationals can use eVisa/ETA for tourism.*

[South Africa ended visa-free entry for Palestinians in December 2025](#) allegedly because its intelligence services uncovered abuse of the 90-day exemption by Israeli-linked actors facilitating irregular emigration and potential forced displacement from Gaza, involving suspicious charter flights and deceptive travel arrangements, leading SA to reinstate visa requirements for proper vetting for Palestinians, while maintaining asylum processes.

According to the PSC in a statement on 8 December 2025 “ The wholesale withdrawal of the exemption, purportedly in response to the arrival of the two flights of Palestinians on 28 October and 13 November, unjustifiably shifts responsibility onto Palestinians themselves for circumstances entirely beyond their control.

Rather than holding Al Majd Europe to account, the shady organisation with Israeli links that organised the chartered flights, and the airlines who partook in the operation, the Minister’s decision penalises Palestinian nationals. The Minister has not demonstrated that the Department exhausted all remedies available to it to prevent similar flights from entering South Africa before resorting to this extreme measure”.

The Department now requires all Palestinian nationals to apply for visas abroad prior to coming to South Africa. However, individuals in Gaza have no functional access to South African visa processes. The effect is therefore materially different from a state whose nationals enjoy freedom of movement and ordinary access to consular services.

The Minister’s decision to cancel the 90-day visa exemption effectively removes South Africa as a viable country of asylum for Palestinians in Gaza or in exile abroad.

4a. Israeli Mobility, Genocide, and Visa Regimes

Over the last two years, Israel’s assault on Gaza has been widely described as genocide by states, UN experts, and social movements. For most Israelis, especially tourists, global mobility remains largely untouched. They can move freely, enjoy visa waivers, and enjoy beach holidays and city breaks while Palestinians are trapped behind walls and checkpoints and refugee camps or in prisons. The same age cohort that is dropping bombs on Gaza is buying cocktails in Koh Phangan and renting guesthouses in Arugam Bay. Mobility is not a neutral privilege; it’s the continuation of impunity by other means.”

Visa exemptions for Palestinians wishing to enter South Africa were ended whilst Israelis continue to enjoy visa-free entry. Palestinians face siege, exile, and deportation. Israelis enjoy visa-free entry, fast-tracks, and resort discounts. Given South Africa’s official policy position on support for the Palestinian liberation struggle this differential treatment is totally indefensible. The visa free dispensation for Israel is in contradiction with the visa regime for other war torn countries.

Internationally there are sadly very few examples of cracks in the travel privileges of Israelis.

- Australia: uses an existing “character test” framework, which allows refusal of visas to people suspected of involvement in serious human-rights abuses or crimes against humanity. Home Affairs insists visas are not refused *simply* for IDF service, and that

each case is looked at individually, but the pattern clearly links denials to recent service in Gaza.

- New Zealand: uses an IDF related questionnaire. This questionnaire asks whether the applicant has served in the IDF or is a reservist. It includes requests for unit details, dates of service, ranks, roles, and military ID numbers, There are additional human-rights / war-crimes questions.
- Maldives: uses legislation to prohibit entry to holders of Israeli passports.
- Colombia: severed diplomatic relations with Israel in early May 2024, with President Gustavo Petro calling Israel's actions in Gaza "genocide" and explicitly framing the break as a response to that. Visas are required for all Israelis.
- UK: can use visas to prevent access for people with a history of human rights abuses. Applications for visas include questions on involvement with war crimes.
- EU: Parliament backs legislation to toughen the visa-free suspension mechanism. Council gives final approval in November 2025 to reforms which enable suspension of visa-free travel for any third country over human-rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. Amnesty International attacks the EU's refusal to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement, calling it a betrayal of the EU's own human-rights commitments in light of Gaza.
- Bolivia: cut diplomatic ties with Israel in Oct 2023 over Gaza, and Israel later advised its citizens to reconsider travel to Bolivia due to tensions. As of late 2025, there are reports of possible restoration of relations. Currently a paper/embassy visa must be obtained by all Israelis.
- Chile: has taken symbolic and material steps (e.g. excluding Israeli companies from Latin America's biggest aerospace fair, and signalling diversification away from **Israeli** defence ties over "Gaza genocide"). However, for ordinary Israeli tourists, the current information still shows no visa required for short stays in Chile.

Other countries refusing entry to people carrying an Israeli passport are Algeria, Bangladesh, Brunei, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen

4b. Legal hooks – how to justify travel restrictions in law

1. Genocide Convention (Art. I – duty to prevent)

- States have a positive obligation not just to punish, but to prevent genocide. Preventing easy global mobility for alleged perpetrators and participants can be framed as part of that obligation.
- ICJ provisional measures in the South Africa v. Israel case
 - ICJ orders that Israel must prevent genocidal acts and ensure its forces do not commit them. States can argue that granting carefree tourism and study visas to recent IDF personnel undermines the effectiveness of ICJ measures and their own duty of non-complicity.

See Quick reference table on visa dispensations

Table 1

<u>Country / Bloc</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Date / Period</u>	<u>Gaza / Genocide Link</u>	<u>IDF / Military Relevance</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Maldives</u>	Total entry ban on Israeli passport holders	Announced 2024, written into law April 2025	Explicitly framed as solidarity with Palestine and response to atrocities/genocide in Gaza	Blanket by nationality, not service-specific	Strongest tourism-related measure so far; Global South precedent.
<u>Colombia</u>	Imposition of visa requirement for Israeli citizens	Post-May 2024, after breakdown in ties	Part of wider rupture: Petro accuses Israel of genocide and cuts diplomatic relations over Gaza	Not officially IDF-specific, but politically linked to Gaza context	Framed as reciprocity, but sits inside sanctions posture.
<u>New Zealand</u>	Enhanced visa questionnaires for some Israeli applicants	Reports from late 2023–2024	Emerges as Gaza war escalates and international scrutiny of war crimes grows	Applicants asked to disclose IDF service, units, roles; at least one denial for an ex-soldier who served in Gaza	Government denies blanket rule; important <i>practice</i> precedent.

<u>Australia</u>	Visa refusals to Israeli IDF veterans using “character test”	2024–2025 media reports	Linked in reporting to crimes in Gaza and international war-crimes discourse	Detailed IDF-service forms and war-crimes questions; some visas refused	Shows willingness to use existing law to restrict Israeli soldiers’ mobility.
<u>EU</u>	Reformed visa-waiver suspension rules	2024–2025 reforms	Allows suspension of visa-free travel over human-rights/IHL breaches and non-compliance with ICJ/ICC	Could be applied to Israelis, especially given ICJ case	No use yet, but key legal lever to target.
<u>UK / US / others</u>	Targeted visa bans and sanctions on settlers/officials	2024 onwards	Framed as responses to settler violence / serious human-rights abuses	Applies to specific individuals , many with IDF or paramilitary complicity	Useful to show states already restricting <i>some</i> Israelis on human-rights grounds.

Demands

- Minister of Home Affairs and all relevant government departments should reinstate the visa waiver for Palestinians, as well as to keep to its commitment of not enabling or supporting the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in a manner that does not prejudice Palestinian nationals or limit their already scarce freedom of movement.
- Introduce visa requirements for all Israeli travellers, citing genocide and ICJ proceedings/or Introduce IDF disclosure and war-crimes screening e.g. “character” and “human rights provisions” for any Israeli visa applicant or arrival/or ban entry for named officials implicated in Gaza operations/or Israelis living in settlements in the occupied territories
- Call on member states within the African Union and the Hague signatory countries to trigger the visa-suspension mechanism for Israel.

ANNEXURE

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C. Keren Hayesod Financial Data & Programme Documents

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