



Ramallah, 4 November 2021

Ms. Michelle Bachelet  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais Wilson – United Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Ms. Bachelet,

Our organisations would like to express our appreciation and thank you for the support of your office in condemning the baseless and unlawful designations issued by the Israeli Minister of Defense on 19 October 2021, criminalizing Palestinian civil society and human rights work. Our six organisations would like to reiterate our call to the international community to continue the pressure and support.

The designations are effectively outlawing our organisations and placing them at risk of imminent reprisals, attempting to stifle human rights and civil society organisations' work. With this move the Israeli government has put our staff and any supporters in immediate danger due to their tireless efforts in defending human rights of Palestinian people, and Palestinian civil society as a whole.

Therefore, continuous international support and attention to our cause of defending human rights is needed now more than ever and we are grateful to your office for standing with Palestinian civil society and recognizing the urgency of this situation. An attack on Palestinian civil society and Palestinian CSOs is an attack on the global struggle for human rights.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our position and to urge you to ensure the protection of human rights in Palestine and support our recommendations for the international community and Third States:

1. Call on Israel, to urgently rescind the designations as acts which violate the freedoms of opinion and expression, and freedom of association, and amount to an acts of apartheid prosecutable under Article 7(2)(h) of the Rome Statute;
2. Publish a bulletin to banks and financial institutions, putting them on notice to dismiss as inapplicable, Israel's terrorist designation of the six Palestinian organisations;

3. Communicate directly with, and recommend, that the European Union and Third States remove “terrorism” clauses as internal conditions placed on donor funding of civil society organisations in the occupied Palestinian territory;
4. Call on UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Ms. Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, to examine the compatibility of the Anti-Terror Law, 2016 with International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law;
5. Denounce the application of the Anti-Terror Law, 2016 to civil society organisations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) as an overreaching of Israel’s domestic law to the OPT;
6. Call on Israel to repeal the Anti-Terror Law, 2016 effectively used to institutionalize the persecution of human rights defenders and entrench its colonial domination over the Palestinian people and their lands;
7. Urge Israel to immediately cease its systematic and ongoing policies and practices aimed at intimidating and silencing Palestinian civil society and human rights defenders, in breach of their right to freedom of expression, including through arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, institutionalized hate speech and incitement, residency revocation, deportations, and other forms of coercive or punitive measures.

We thank you for your consideration. We remain at your service should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

- Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association (Addameer),
- Al-Haq Law in the Service of Man (Al-Haq),
- Bisan Center for Research and Development,
- Defence for Children International-Palestine (DCI-P),
- the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC),
- the Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees (UPWC).