

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State U.S.
Department of State
2201 C Street NW Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Letter from U.S. Organizations & Leaders in Solidarity with Palestinian Civil Society

Dear Secretary Blinken:

The undersigned U.S.-based social justice, civil rights, and human rights leaders and organizations write to demand that you immediately and unequivocally condemn the Israeli government's recent decision to outlaw and criminalize six Palestinian human rights and community-based organizations.

The Palestinian organizations currently targeted under the Israeli government's draconian 2016 Counter-Terrorism Law¹ form part of the bedrock of Palestinian civil society that has been protecting and advancing Palestinian human rights for decades across the full spectrum of issues of global concern, including children's rights, prisoners' rights, women's rights, socio-economic rights, the rights of farmworkers, justice and accountability for international crimes. They are: Defense for Children International - Palestine, Al Haq, Addameer, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and Union of Palestinian Women's Committees.² They are trusted partners in our collective work to secure human rights for all.

The Biden administration has repeatedly expressed a commitment to center and promote human rights worldwide and protect the role of civil society. These actions by the Israeli government are a clear attack on human rights. As such, we urge you to issue a swift rejection of this unprecedented attack on Palestinian human rights organizations and the attempt by the Israeli government to shut down, delegitimize, isolate, and chill a growing human rights movement. We agree with 17 UN Special Rapporteurs that "the freedoms of association and expression must be fully respected in order to enable civil society to perform its indispensable work, and cannot be undermined by the manifestly egregious misuse of counterterrorism and security legislation."³

¹ See Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, "Anti-Terror" (Counter-terrorism) Law." *Discriminatory Laws in Israel*. Available online: <https://www.adalah.org/en/law/view/598>

² Palestinian NGO Network and Palestinian Human Rights Organization Council, "PNGO & PHROC: Israel's Sinister Designation of 6 Leading Palestinian Organizations As "Terror Organizations" is an Attempt to Silence and Control Palestinians," October 23, 2021. Available online: <https://www.pngo.net/?p=3774&lang=en>

³ OHCHR. "UN experts condemn Israel's designation of Palestinian human rights defenders as terrorist organisations," October 25, 2021. Available online: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27702&LangID=E>

Smearing the promotion and defense of human rights as "terrorist" activity is a dangerous, well-worn tactic of authoritarian regimes and a shameful political maneuver to undermine the vital work of these organizations. In a [joint statement](#), Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International called the move "appalling and unjust" and "an alarming escalation that threatens to shut down the work of Palestine's most prominent civil society organizations" and linked Israel's emboldened authoritarian actions to decades of inadequate responses by the international community to Israel's ongoing grave human rights abuses. This should change.

As groups committed to social justice, civil rights, and universal human rights, we have seen first hand the ways that the charge of "terrorist" and the so-called "war on terror" threatens not only international human rights defenders, but also social movements and marginalized communities here in the U.S.: Indigenous, Black, brown, Muslim, and Arab activists and communities have similarly faced silencing, intimidation, criminalization and surveillance under such baseless charges. A threat against the Palestinian human rights movement is a threat against movements for social justice everywhere, and in order to protect human rights and human rights defenders, all states must be held accountable for taking such manifestly unjust actions. While our government has long offered unconditional support to the Israeli government,⁴ our movements and organizations will always stand first and foremost with the rights and safety of people.

Therefore, we the undersigned organizations and individuals, call on you as Secretary of State, to:

1. Affirm that the Biden administration's commitment to human rights has universal applicability;
2. Issue a public statement that rejects the Israeli government's false accusations levied against Palestinian civil society organizations;
3. Publicly condemn and rebuke Israel for this authoritarian action, and call on Israeli authorities to immediately reverse their decision and end all efforts aimed at delegitimizing and criminalizing Palestinian human rights defenders;
4. Support Palestinians seeking the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights, justice and accountability, including at the International Criminal Court.

Sincerely,

⁴ Nadya Tannous, *Al-Shabaka*, [Policy Brief: Restricting US Military Aid to Israel in the Age of Normalization](#), September 14, 2021

National Organization Signers

About Face: Veterans Against the War
Action Center on Race & the Economy
ActionAid USA
Adalah Justice Project
Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine
American Friends Service Committee
American Muslim Bar Association
American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Americans for Justice in Palestine Action
Amnesty International USA
Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)
Armenian-American Action Network
BackYard Mishkan
Beit Sahour USA
Catalyst Project
Center for Constitutional Rights
Center for Jewish Nonviolence
Charity & Security Network
Civil Liberties Defense Center
Coalition for an Ethical Psychology
CODEPINK
Committee in Solidarity with the People of Syria - CISPOS
Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism
Corporate Accountability Lab
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)
Detention Watch Network
Disciples Palestine Israel Network
Dissenters
DonkeySaddle Projects
DSA BDS & Palestine Working Group
Episcopal Peace Fellowship
Episcopal Peace Fellowship - Palestine Israel Network
Eyewitness Palestine
Family Farm Defenders
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA)
Feminists for Justice in Palestine
Fight for the Future
Free Democratic Palestine Movement
Freedom Forward
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
Friends of the MST (US)
Front Line Defenders
Global Justice Center
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Grassroots International
Hindus for Human Rights
Historians for Peace and Democracy
Human Rights Watch
ICAHD-USA
ICNA Council for Social Justice
IfNotNow
Indigenous World Association
International Association of Democratic Lawyers
International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)
FIDH, within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Jahalin Solidarity
Jetpac Resource Center
Jewish Liberation Theology Institute
Jewish Voice for Peace
Jewish Voice for Peace Action
Jewish Voice for Peace Health Advisory Council (JVP HAC)
Jewish Voice for Peace/Vermont-New Hampshire chapter
Jews for Palestinian Right of Return
Just Foreign Policy
Just Vision
Justice Democrats
Justice for All
JVP Havurah Network
Kairos USA
Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute

Labor for Palestine
MADRE
Media Education Foundation
MediaJustice
Middle East Children's Alliance
Mosquito Fleet
Movement for Black Lives
Movement Law Lab
MPower Change
National Association of Democratic Lawyers
(South Africa)
National Family Farm Coalition
National Iranian American Council
National Lawyers Guild
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee
Rights
National Students for Justice in Palestine
Network in Solidarity with the People of
Guatemala
NOVACT International Institute for Nonviolent
Action
On Earth Peace
Our Revolution
Our Sacred Circles (OSC)
Oxfam America
Palestine Legal
Palestinian Alliance for Peace
Palestinian American Organizations Network
Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace
Palestinian Feminist Collective
Palestinian Youth Movement
PARCEO
Partnership for Civil Justice Fund
Pax Christi USA
Peace Action
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Progressive Democrats of America
Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED)
Project South
Quaker Palestine Israel Network-Portland
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
ReThinking Foreign Policy, Inc.
Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
South Asian Americans Leading Together
(SAALT)
Sunrise Movement
The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
U.S. Labor Against Racism and War
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle
East
United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church
Ministries
United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights
US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural
Boycott of Israel (USACBI)
US Palestinian Council
USA Palestine Mental Health Network
Veterans For Peace
Win Without War
Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom US
Women's International League of Freedom
Working Families Party
World Can't Wait
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT),
within the framework of the Observatory for the
Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

Local Organization Signers

1for3.org
Agroecology for All - California
American Iranian Friendship Committee (AIFC)
Arab American Civic Council

AZPal
Bay Area Women in Black
Black Christians For Palestine
Black Lives Matter Philly

Brooklyn For Peace	Harvard Divinity School Students for Justice in Palestine
Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture Ethical Action Committee	Human Rights Awareness: Palestine Israel/CD3 (HRA:PI/CD3)
California Scholars for Academic Freedom	Hurriyyah Collective
Central Florida Popular Front	Indiana Center for Middle East Peace
Chavurah for a Free Palestine of Kehilla	Israel Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Community Synagogue	Ithaca Committee for Justice in Palestine-Jewish Voice for Peace
Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression	Jewish Alliance for Economic Justice
Chicago Committee Against War & Racism	Jewish Voice for Peace - Austin
Christian-Jewish Allies for a Just Peace for Israel-Palestine	Jewish Voice for Peace - Boston
Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites - Seattle	Jewish Voice For Peace - Central Ohio
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition	Jewish Voice for Peace - Chicago
Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine	Jewish Voice for Peace - Detroit
Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism - Corvallis Chapter	Jewish Voice for Peace - Hudson Valley
CommonWealth Kitchen	Jewish Voice for Peace - Indiana
Concerned Families of Westchester	Jewish Voice for Peace - Knoxville
Corvallis Divest from War	Jewish Voice for Peace - Las Vegas
Corvallis Palestine Solidariy	Jewish Voice for Peace - Los Angeles
Coulee Region Coalition for Palestinian Rights	Jewish Voice for Peace - New Haven
Culture and Conflict Forum	Jewish Voice for Peace - New York City
D8 for Justice	Jewish Voice for Peace - Portland
Dallas Palestine Coalition	Jewish Voice for Peace - Sacramento
Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights	Jewish Voice for Peace - Santa Barbara
Demilitarize Portland-to-Palestine	Jewish Voice for Peace - Seattle
Dream Defenders	Jewish Voice for Peace - South Bay
East Side Jews	Jewish Voice for Peace - South Florida
Ecumenical Peace Institute/Clergy and Laity Concerned	Jewish Voice for Peace - Tacoma
Falastiniyat	Jewish Voice for Peace - Triangle NC
Florida Palestine Network	Jewish Voice for Peace - Tucson
Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition	Jewish Voice for Peace - Twin Cities
Friends of Sabeel-Colorado	Jewish Voice for Peace - UCLA
Friends of Wadi Foquin	Jewish Voice For Peace - Westchester
Gay Liberation Network	Jewish Voice for Peace Bay Area
Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace	Jewish Voice for Peace Portland
Good Citizens Of DFW	Jewish Voice for Peace San Diego Chapter
Green Mountain Solidarity With Palestine	Jewish Voice for Peace- Cleveland
Green Party of Yavapai County	Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)
Harvard Black Graduate Student Alliance	Jews Say No!
	Justice for Muslims Collective
	JVP-Central NJ chapter
	Kairos Puget Sound Coalition

Kavod Boston
 Kehilla Community Synagogue
 Linn-Benton Pacific Green Party
 Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land
 Madison-Rafah Sister City Project
 Main Street Legal Services, Inc.
 Meet a Muslim
 Middle East Crisis Response
 Minnesota Peace Project
 Missourians for Justice in Palestine (MJP)
 MSA West
 Mujeres Unidas y Activas
 Muslim Justice League
 Nevada Green Party USA
 Nevadans for Palestinian Human Rights
 New Hampshire Palestine Education Network
 NorCal Sabeel
 Northern New Jersey Jewish Voice for Peace
 Occupation Free DC
 Occupy Bergen County
 Oregon Coalition for Land and Peoples' Rights
 Our Revolution Colorado Springs CD5
 Our Revolution Florida
 Our Revolution Northern Virginia
 Pacific Green Party of Oregon
 Palestine Solidarity Committee - Seattle
 Palestine Teaching Trunk
 Palestinian American Community Center
 Parable of the Sower Intentional Community
 Cooperative
 PATOIS Film Festival, New Orleans
 Peace & Planet News
 Peace Action - Chicago Area
 Peace Action - New Hampshire
 Peace Action - New York State
 Peace Action - Wisconsin
 Pittsburgh Palestine Solidarity Committee
 Progressive Jews of St. Louis (ProJoSTL)
 Progressive Peace Coalition
 Queer Mikveh Project
 Reject Raytheon Asheville
 Rural Education Action Project, DBA Rural
 Vermont
 Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian
 Rights
 Sacred Monsters Havurah
 Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine
 Schaumburg Area Progressives
 Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) NYC
 St. Louis Friends of Bethlehem
 Students for Justice in Palestine - Rutgers New
 Brunswick
 Students for Justice in Palestine - Seattle
 University
 Students for Justice in Palestine - UMass
 Amherst
 SU Total Abolition Coalition
 SURJ Lower Columbia & SWWA
 Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville
 Syracuse Peace Council
 Tackling Torture at the Top
 The Holy Land Ministry at Spirit of Grace,
 Beaverton Oregon
 The Lace Midrash
 The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center
 Tikkun Olam Chavurah
 Tree of Life Educational Fund
 Tuck Away At Global Village Farm
 Tufts Students for Justice in Palestine
 Tzedek Chicago
 Unite Oregon
 United Methodists' Holy Land Task Force
 University of the Wild
 Veterans for Peace - Chapter 157 Eisenhower
 Veterans for Peace - Hector Black Chapter
 Veterans for Peace - Santa Fe Chapter
 Veterans For Peace - Smedley Butler Brigade
 Chapter 9
 Veterans For Peace Linus Pauling Chapter 132
 Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR)
 Voices for Justice in Palestine
 Washington Advocates for Palestinian Rights
 Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the
 Environment
 We Refuse to Be Enemies
 Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
 WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

White People for Black Lives
White Coats for Black and Indigenous Lives
Women Against Military Madness
Women in Black Union Square
Women of a Certain Age

Women's International League for Peace and
Freedom - Minnesota Branch
Yemeni Liberation Movement

Partial list of individual signers - affiliations listed for identification purposes only

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State Senator Jabari Brisport, New York State Senate
Sen. Dwight Bullard, Former Florida State Senator
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James Lafferty, Governing Board, ACLU of Southern California
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Assemblymember Marcela Mitaynes, New York State Assembly
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Tarso Ramos, Political Research Associates
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Dr. Alice Rothchild, Jewish Voice for Peace

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