

August 29, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write because your administration's consistently yielding response to the Israeli government's escalating attacks against prominent Palestinian human rights and civil society groups over the past 10 months has put the safety and well-being of Palestinian human rights defenders at serious risk. We call for immediate action in response to the Israeli government's latest escalation so as to curtail any further imminent repressive tactics by Israeli authorities and ensure Palestinian civil society is free to continue its critical work.

Last week, in a significant escalation, Israeli military forces raided the offices of seven Palestinian human rights and community organizations in the occupied West Bank on 18 August 2022, sealing shut their doors, ordering them closed, and seizing computers and other confidential materials. In the following days, directors of the organizations were summoned by the Israeli military and Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) for interrogation. All staff are currently under threat of imminent arrest and prosecution. While many in the international community were swift to condemn the Israeli government's shameful political maneuver in October 2021 designating leading Palestinian human rights organizations as "terrorist" under Israel's draconian Counter-Terrorism Law, your administration has refused to act or reject this clear attack on Palestinian civil society, and even took affirmative steps including canceling the valid U.S. visa held by the head of one of the targeted organizations.¹ The response so far has only enabled and empowered the Israeli government to sustain and escalate its repression.

The targeted organizations 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, and justice and accountability for international crimes. They include: Defense for Children International - Palestine, Al Haq, Addameer, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and Union of Palestinian

¹Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), "Letter to Sect. of State Blinken re Denial of Travel for Sahar Francis" (May 9, 2022) available at <https://ccrjustice.org/letter-sect-state-blinken-re-denial-travel-sahar-francis-0>

Women's Committees.² They are trusted partners in our collective work to secure human rights for all.

Since the Israeli government officially outlawed these civil society groups, international human rights groups, the United Nations, and governments that did investigate Israel's claims – found them to be baseless. This includes 10 European governments that dismissed the allegations in mid-July 2022.³ In a deeply troubling report released this week, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency reportedly assessed information passed on by the Israeli government earlier this year finding none of the so-called evidence supported the Israeli government claims.⁴ Additionally, members of Congress have called on your administration to condemn and reject the Israeli government's clear attack on Palestinian civil society.⁵

As groups committed to social justice, civil rights, and universal human rights, we have seen firsthand 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,⁶ our movements and organizations will always stand first and foremost with the rights and safety of people.

Therefore, we the undersigned organizations, call on you, in your authority as President to immediately:

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>; note that the office of Health Work Committee (HWC), a Palestinian organization committed to securing the right to health was also raided on 18 August.

³See Government of the Netherlands. "Joint statement on the Israeli designation of six Palestinian civil society organisations as terrorist organisations." 12 July 2022, <https://www.government.nl/documents/diplomatic-statements/2022/07/12/joint-statement-on-the-israeli-designation-of-palestinian-civil-society-organisations-as-terrorist-organisations>; see also, "Norway Becomes 10th European State to Reject Israel's Blacklisting of Palestinian NGOs" *Haaretz*. (July 21, 2022)

⁴ Isaac Scher, *CIA unable to corroborate Israel's 'terror' label for Palestinian rights groups*, *The Guardian*, Aug. 22, 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/22/cia-report-israel-palestinian-rights-groups>

⁵ "Pressley Leads Letter to State Dept. Regarding Israeli Government's Criminalization of Six Palestinian Human Rights Organizations" <https://pressley.house.gov/media/press-releases/pressley-leads-letter-state-dept-regarding-israeli-government-s-criminalization> and "McCollum Resolution Calls on U.S. House to Condemn Israel's Repressive Decision to Designate Six Prominent Palestinian Human Rights and Civil Society Groups as Terrorist Organizations" <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-resolution-calls-us-house-condemn-israel-s-repressive-decision>

⁶ Nadya Tannous, *Al-Shabaka*, [Policy Brief: Restricting US Military Aid to Israel in the Age of Normalization](#), September 14, 2021

1. Condemn the Israeli government's repressive tactics and escalating campaign of criminalization and intimidation against Palestinian civil society organizations and their staff and board;
2. Reject the Israeli government's unsubstantiated accusations levied against Palestinian civil society organizations and demand Israeli authorities rescind the designations;
3. Take diplomatic action, in concert with European counterparts, that serves to protect the targeted Palestinian organizations, their staff and board, premises, and other assets;
4. Refrain from imposing any obstacles or policies that would prevent direct engagement between the U.S. government and Palestinian civil society, or otherwise preclude full, comprehensive public understanding of the severity and impacts of Israeli repression;
5. End U.S. efforts to undermine the right of Palestinians and Palestinian civil society organizations to pursue justice and accountability, including at the International Criminal Court;
6. Ensure no actions are taken at the federal level that in any way encumbers funding from U.S.-based organizations or individuals to the targeted Palestinian organizations; and
7. Suspend U.S. military funding to the Israeli government and cease any diplomatic efforts that enable systemic impunity for Israel's gross violations of internationally-recognized human rights.

Sincerely,

U.S.-based Organization Signers

1for3.org
 Access Now
 Action Center on Race & the Economy
 Adalah Justice Project
 Advance Native Political Leadership
 Al-Awda New York: The Palestine Right To Return Coalition
 Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, Yale Law School
 Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine
 American Federation of Ramallah, Palestine
 American Friends Service Committee
 American Muslim Bar Association
 American Muslims for Palestine (AMP)
 American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
 Americans for Justice in Palestine Action

Amnesty International USA
 Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)
 BackYard Mishkan
 Beloved Community at Gesu Catholic Church
 Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace
 Black Liberation Party
 Black Lives Matter Grassroots
 Boston University International Human Rights Clinic
 Brooklyn For Peace
 Brooklyn Shabbat Kodesh Organizing Team
 Butler University Students for Justice in Palestine
 CAIR-Minnesota
 California Scholars for Academic Freedom
 Catalyst Project
 Center for Constitutional Rights

Center for Jewish Nonviolence
Central Jersey JVP
Charity & Security Network
Chavurah for a Free Palestine of Kehilla
Synagogue
Chicago Area Peace Action
Christian-Jewish Allies for Justice and Peace
in Israel/Palestine
Civil Liberties Defense Center
CODEPINK
Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and
Palestine
Communist Workers League
Concerned Families of Westchester
Corporate Accountability Lab
Corvallis Palestine Solidarity
Coulee Region Coalition for Palestinian
Rights
Council on American-Islamic Relations
(CAIR)
Culture and Conflict Forum
Dallas Palestine Coalition
Delawareans for Palestinian human Rights
(DelPHR)
Democracy for the Arab World Now
(DAWN)
DSA Long Beach CA, Steering Committee
Don't Shoot Portland
East Bay Citizens for Peace
East Side Jews Activist Collective
Edmonds Palestine Israel Network
Episcopal Bishop's Committee for Justice
and Peace in the Holy Land (Diocese of
Olympia)
Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel
Network
Equality Labs
Eyewitness Palestine
Face to Face
Fight for the Future
Friends of Sabeel -Colorado
Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)
Friends of the MST (US)
Friends of Wadi Foquin
Global Justice Center

Global Ministries of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) and the United Church
of Christ
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance
Grassroots International
Harvard Advocates for Human Rights
Hawai'i Committee for Human Rights in the
Philippines
Highlander Research & Education Center
Hindus for Human Rights
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
ICNA Council for Social Justice
IfNotNow
IfNotNow Los Angeles
Indiana Center for Middle East Peace
Institute for Policy Studies, New
Internationalism Project
International Corporate Accountability
Roundtable
International Human Rights Clinic, Cornell
Law School
International Human Rights Clinic, Harvard
Law School
International Human Rights Law Institute
International Network for Economic Social
and Cultural Rights
Islamophobia Studies Center
Jahalin Solidarity
Jewish Voice for Peace - Detroit
Jewish Voice for Peace - North Carolina
Triangle Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace - South Bay
Jewish Voice for Peace Action
Jewish Voice for Peace at the University of
California, Los Angeles
Jewish Voice for Peace Austin
Jewish Voice for Peace Bay Area
Jewish Voice for Peace Boston
Jewish Voice for Peace Central Ohio
Jewish Voice for Peace DC-Metro
Jewish Voice for Peace Havurah Network
Jewish Voice for Peace Hudson Valley
Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace Ithaca
Jewish Voice for Peace New Haven

Jewish Voice for Peace New York City
Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council
Jewish Voice for Peace Seattle Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace South Florida
Jewish Voice for Peace Vermont-New
Hampshire
Jewish Voice for Peace- Milwaukee
Jewish Voice for Peace-Central New Jersey
Jewish Voice for Peace-Chicago
Jewish Voice for Peace-Los Angeles
Jewish Voice for Peace, Philadelphia
Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace, Albany, NY Chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace, Los Angeles
Jewish Voice for Peace, Portland OR chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace, Tacoma chapter
Jewish Voice for Peace, Tucson chapter
Jews for Palestinian Right of Return
Jews Say No!
jmx productions
Just Peace Israel Palestine - Asheville
Justice Democrats
Justice for All
Kairos Puget Sound Coalition
Kairos USA
Labor Fightback Network
Labor for Palestine
Louisville Youth Group
Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land
Madison-Rafah Sister City Project
MAIZ San Jose - Movimiento de Accion
Inspirando Servicio
Maryland Peace Action
Massachusetts Peace Action
Mending Minyan
Mennonite Palestine Israel Network
(MennoPIN)
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Moratorium NOW! Coalition
Movement for Black Lives
Movement Law Lab
MPower Change
Muslim Counterpublics Lab
Muslim Justice League
National Lawyers Guild

National Lawyers Guild, Detroit &
Michigan Chapter
New Hampshire Palestine Education
Network
Newman Hall Non Violent Peacemaking
Group
NO RIGHTS/NO AID
North New Jersey Democratic Socialists of
America BDS and Palestine Solidarity
Working Group
Occupy Bergen County (New Jersey)
Olive Branch Fair Trade Inc.
Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace
(OMJP)
Palestine Legal
Palestine Solidarity Committee-Seattle
Palestine Teaching Trunk
Palestinian American Community Center
PATOIS: The New Orleans International
Human Rights Film Festival
Pax Christi Rhode Island
Peace Action
Peace Action Maine
Peace Action New York State
Peace Action of San Mateo County
PeaceHost.net
People for Palestinian-Israeli Justice
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
Progressive Democrats of America
Progressive Jews of St. Louis (ProJoSTL)
Progressive Technology Project
Project South
Queer Crescent
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and
Justice
RECCollective LLC
Rethinking Foreign Policy
South Asian Americans Leading Together
(SAALT)
Students for Justice in Palestine at Rutgers -
New Brunswick
Texas Arab American Democrats (TAAD)
The Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the
Presbyterian Church USA
The Jus Semper Global Alliance

The United Methodist Church -- General
Board of Church and Society
Tree of Life Educational Fund
Tzedek Chicago Synagogue
U.S. Palestinian Community Network
(USPCN)
Union Street Peace
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic
Community
Unitarian Universalists for Justice In the
Middle East
United Church of Christ Palestine Israel
Network
United Methodists for Kairos Response
(UMKR)
United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC)
University Network for Human Rights
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights
(USCPR)
US Campaign for the Academic and
Cultural Boycott of Israel
US PALESTINIAN COUNCIL
USA Palestine Mental Health Network
USC International Human Rights Clinic
Veterans For Peace Linus Pauling Chapter
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Virginia Coalition for Human Rights
Visualizing Palestine
Voices For Peace in ME
Washington Advocates for Palestinian
Rights
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Whatcom Peace & Justice Center
White People for Black Lives
Win Without War
Women Against War
Working Families Party
Yale Law School National Lawyers Guild

International Organization Signers

Academia for Equality, *Israel*
Al Mezan Center for Human Rights,
Palestine
Al-Marsad - Arab human rights Centre in
Golan Heights Heights, *occupied Syrian
Golan*
ALTSEAN-Burma, *Thailand*
Amman Center for Human Rights Studies,
Jordan
Asamblea Permanente de Derechos
Humanos de Bolivia (APDHB), *Bolivia*
Asociación pro derechos humanos de
España, *Spain*
Asociación Pro Derechos
Humanos-APRODEH, *Peru*
Association Démocratique des Femmes du
Maroc, *Morocco*
association tunisienne des femmes
démocrates, *Tunisia*
Associazione delle organizzazioni italiane di
cooperazione e solidarietà internazionale,
Italy
ASSOPACEPALESTINA, *Italy*
Australian Centre for International Justice,
Australia
Bahrain Human Rights Society, *Kingdom of
Bahrain*
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies,
Egypt
Cambodian League for the Promotion and
Defense of Human Rights (LICADHO),
Cambodia
Canadians for Justice and Peace in the
Middle East (CJPME), *Canada*
Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El
Salvador, *El Salvador*
Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos
Humanos - Perú EQUIDAD, *Peru*
Child Rights International Network (CRIN),
United Kingdom
Civil Society Institute, *Armenia*
Colectivo de Abogados JAR, *Colombia*

Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, *Mexico*
Defence for Children International, *Switzerland*
DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, *Botswana*
European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights (ECCHR), *Germany*
EuroMed Rights, *Denmark*
European Legal Support Center (ELSC), *United Kingdom*
FAIR Associates, *Indonesia*
Finnish League for Human Rights, *Finland*
Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Économiques et Sociaux, *Tunisia*
Fundación Regional de Asesoría en Derechos Humanos, *Ecuador*
Housing and Land Rights Network - Habitat International Coalition, *Switzerland/Egypt*
HRM "Bir Duino-Kyrgyzstan", *Kyrgyzstan*
Independent Jewish Voices Canada, *Canada*
Instituto Latinoamericano para una Sociedad y un Derecho Alternativos ILSA, *Colombia*
International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, *France*
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific), *Malaysia*
Internationale Liga für Menschenrechte, *Germany*
Jewish Liberation Theology Institute, *Canada*
Justiça Global, *Brasil*
Justice For All, *Canada*
Latvian Human Rights Committee, *Latvia*
LDH (Ligue des droits de l'Homme), *France*
League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran (LDDHI), *Iran*
Ligue des droits humains, *Belgium*
Maldivian Democracy Network, *Maldives*
Manushya Foundation, *Thailand*
Moroccan Organization for Human Rights OMDH, *Morocco*

Movimento Nacional de Direitos Humanos - MNDH, *Brazil*
Observatorio Ciudadano, *Chile*
Odhikar, *Bangladesh*
Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), *Palestine*
Piattaforma delle Ong italiane in Mediterraneo e Medio Oriente, *Italy*
Programa Venezolano de Educación-Acción en Derechos Humanos (Provea), *Venezuela*
Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (RADDHO), *Senegal*
Réseau des avocats du maroc contre la peine de mort, *Morocco*
Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains (RNDDH), *Haiti*
Rinascimento Green, *Italy*
Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, *Jerusalem*
Scientists For Palestine (S4P), *United Kingdom*
Serve Globally / Evangelical Covenant Church, *International*
Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression SCM, *France*
The Palestine Institute for Public Diplomacy, *Palestine*
The Palestinian Human Rights Organization "PHRO", *Lebanon*
Union of Agricultural Work Communities, *Palestine*
Vento di Terra, *Italy*
World BEYOND War, *International*
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, *International*
Zimbabwe human rights association, *Zimbabwe*