

UAWC rejects and condemns Israeli designations of six Palestinian NGOs

26 October 2021

On 19 October 2021, the “Israeli Minister of Defense Gantz” designated six leading Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations: apart from UAWC, Addameer, Al-Haq, Bisan Center, DCI-Palestine and UPWC.

The designated NGOs are at the heart of Palestinian civil society. They provide **essential services to tens of thousands of Palestinian families**, which suffer from Israel’s occupation and settlements; in addition to promoting fundamental rights and accountability for Israel’s violations of human rights and international law.

Israel’s decision to designate the six NGOs amounts to a **declaration of war on Palestinian civil society at large** and is a flagrant violation of the values and principles of human rights and humanitarian work. This decision is not just shrinking space for such work, but an attempt to break the backbone of Palestinian civil society, which plays a critical role in promoting and protecting Palestinian rights.

UAWC rejects and condemns Israel’s unsubstantiated allegations directed at UAWC and the other NGOs, which are politically motivated. It is telling that the Israeli government refuses to release any “evidence” to substantiate its allegations.

UAWC supports thousands of Palestinian farmers and their families, mainly in ‘Area C’ of the Occupied West Bank, where Israel’s illegal settlements are located. Our vital work to **consolidate the Palestinian presence in Area C** is the reason why we have been attacked for many years. Israel’s recent designation is the culmination of these attacks.

Since the designations were announced, we have received **countless messages of support**. We are most grateful for these expressions of solidarity with UAWC and look forward to continuing the relationships with our governmental and civil society partners in Palestine and abroad.

We call on the international community, in particular on Europe, to **reject all designations** and to **mobilize effective pressure on Israel to revoke them**. Apart from moral considerations, such pressure serves the interests of anyone committed to human rights and to a sustainable solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on two states.

In addition, we call on the international community to take concrete measures to **protect the board members and employees** of the designated NGOs and to **maintain the funding** for these NGOs, including UAWC.

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) is an independent local Palestinian civil society organization, which has **no religious, political or sectarian affiliation**. Equality and justice are basic values of our work that is guided by human rights and international law.

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