Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)

Urgent Appeal
for Humanitarian Aid and Rehabilitation, the Gaza Strip and Area C in the West Bank
Contribute to the Summud of Gaza and Area 'C' Residents from the On-going Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing

To our partners and believers in justice and freedom worldwide:

The recent horrors of war have left Gaza battered, bruised, and on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. As we pen this message, an entire population is grappling with overwhelming loss, pain, and destruction.

Over 8 months since the onslaught, the numbers are terrifying: Over 36,550 lives lost, more than 82,959 wounded, of which a staggering 70% of these are children and women. Thousands of homes lie in ruins; infrastructure, including roads and essential basic services (including even bakeries), has been obliterated. Gaza is plunged into darkness with no electricity, scant water supplies, dwindling food stocks, and limited communication infrastructure.

Israel's offensives have not just targeted basic community infrastructure, but also the very essence of livelihood. A vast portion of the Gaza Strip’s agricultural sector, a lifeline for its population, is under threat, and not just from the very limited water supply. 48% of Gaza’s land is Farmland, around 40% of this farm land has been destroyed by Israeli military activity. Approximately 7,500 greenhouses existed in Gaza before Oct. 7 a third of which have been destroyed by ground invasions and bombs. Simultaneously, thousands of farmers are still attempting to accessing their fields and land at no prevail. The use of starvation as a weapon against civilians is evident.

Basheer, a resident of Gaza City and a staff member of UAWC was displaced due to the no-stop bombardment and relocated to the south of the Gaza Strip, describes a devastating humanitarian situation. He struggles to provide the essentials for his children. For instance, they lack access to clean water, resorting to using the limited and contaminated supply available. To conserve water, they visit the bathroom only once a day. Bread, the Palestinian food staple, is absent, prompting them to use rice as a substitute, attempting to soothe their children who constantly ask for bread. Food is so scarce that Basheer can barely provide one meal a day. On top of their basic needs, he adds, "We spend our nights gazing at
the sky, fearing the descent of the next missile. The darkness of the night terrifies us, as we anticipate death at any moment."

For the sake of humanity, this genocide must cease. War criminals must be held accountable, and this prolonged occupation needs to end. Like all other humans, the people of Gaza long for a life of dignity, freedom, and peace - a life they haven’t tasted for decades.

**An alarming situation in West Bank's Area C**

There's another catastrophe unfolding in the West Bank that many are overlooking. Settlers and the army are launching deadly attacks on various regions of the West Bank, especially in areas classified as "Area C." Taking advantage of the brutal assault on Gaza, settlers are carrying out ethnic cleansing campaigns in "Area C." To date, approximately 90 Palestinians have been killed, and over 1,100 have been injured across the area. Furthermore, more than 100 families have been forcibly evicted from their homes and lands in "Area C." Settlers have destroyed and burned houses, tents, and livestock sheds, also looting their contents. Since Oct. 7th till today multiple incidents from Al-Mughayyir, Arab Al Mlehat, Umm Al Khair, Jordan Valley, Em Safer Yatta and surroundings, have all been routinely attacked by settlers with the aggression escalating. Settlers are now military reserves, they use their uniform as a tactic of legitimizing their attacks on Palestinians in Area C. They attack vegetation and livestock farmers, by restricting their movement, burning their property, farms and belonging. Therefore, driving them away from their homes, subsequently occupying them, and stealing more than 300 heads of livestock. Currently, Area C lands are being seized brazenly and in broad daylight. It's worth noting that Area C constitutes over 60% of the total area of the West Bank, and is inhabited by over 300,000 Palestinians, all of whom are now being attacked, killed and/or displaced.

**Kamal** is a livestock farmer residing in Arab Al Mlehat in the West of Jericho. On November 28th at 6:00pm, Kamal and his family were brutally attacked by settlers. At least 30 fully armed settlers attacked their goat enclosure and home stealing 35 goats, tagged them then called the Israeli civil police and framed him with theft. They stormed his home and stole silver, money and three cellphones (they were being used to fill what was happening to them). His wife was hit and beat by the settlers while she was inside her home. He was charged with theft and was detained for three days. During these three days, settlers stormed his home in the middle of the night with his wife and children sleeping fully armed.
and with flashlights. They would ransack his home every night, terrifying his wife and children. One night, they broke his four-year-olds arm. Kamal was finally able to post bail paying 17,000 shekels. On top of losing a fair number of livestock, his source of livelihood, Kamal spent money he did not have to be able to be reunited with his family and support them as the only breadwinner.

Till now, Kamal and his family have been displaced to another area within the Arab Al Mlehat community. He and his family are still routinely attacked, as well as, the whole community has been struggling to graze and feed their livestock due to settler restrictions and attacks. The settlers use these tactics to seize as much land as possible to grow and build more settlements on Palestinian land.

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**Emergency Aid Request: Critical Needs for Displaced Families in Gaza and Area C**

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In this dire time, we appeal to you to **STAND WITH GAZA**! Your contributions can rebuild homes, rehabilitate farms, and most importantly, bring hope to a population that has endured too much. As a global community, let's unite and ensure that the people of Gaza can and should have a life, one that they rightfully deserve.

Through this urgent appeal, we implore you to swiftly provide critical support to assist us in the immediate intervention in the following areas:

1. **Provision of food and water** for the affected and displaced families in Gaza and Area C in the West Bank.

2. **Supply of tents and clothing** for the families in Gaza, especially winter ones, as the weather has become colder, and the displaced have little clothes, having left them in their destroyed/bombed homes. Their number is in the thousands.

3. **Rehabilitation of agricultural land and facilities** that were destroyed and which provide food for the population of Gaza. Their number is in the hundreds.
4. **Water supply and rehabilitation of water sources** in Gaza, especially springs that were destroyed by bombing, to quickly resume irrigation/watering of crops.

5. **Legal support for residents** of Area C in the West Bank, to pursue their cases of land that has been seized.

6. **Providing housing and tents for the displaced** in Area C in the West Bank.

7. **Supply of housing materials and essentials for the displaced** Area C in the West Bank.

8. **Provision of infant milk and its various needs** for families in Gaza and Area C in the West Bank.

9. **Provision of women's needs** in Gaza and Area C in the West Bank.

**Urgent Funding Needed: A Breakdown of Our €1 Million Aid Plan for 5,000 Families in Gaza and Area C**

In response to the escalating humanitarian situation, UAWC has conducted a quick assessment, revealing an immediate need to intervene on behalf of approximately **5,000 vulnerable peasant families**. Of these, an estimated 4,000 families are situated within the Gaza Strip, while an additional 1,000 families reside in the West Bank, specifically in Area C. In our commitment to alleviating the hardships faced by these affected communities, we project that a sum of **one million** euros is imperative to facilitate comprehensive interventions and support mechanisms for the steadfastness of the indigenous population.

The facts and figures noted in this appeal are provisional and unfortunately continually increasing. UAWC has prioritized areas where they have and continue to work, and families are known to the team. They cater to farmers who have borne substantial losses. Several among them tragically lost their lives in the bombings, and hundreds of dunums of land stand devastated. Given the prevailing security circumstances, pinpointing precise figures, or evaluating material losses remains unfeasible.

Every thought, every euro, every share, every prayer counts and can make a difference!

Thank you for your compassion, support, solidarity, and action!