

Birgitta Tazelaar  
Director Middle East North Africa  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands  
The Hague, The Netherlands

July 24, 2017

Dear Ms. Birgitta Tazelaar,

Thank you for the response to our letter regarding the *Women's Affairs Technical Committee* (WATC) and the *Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling* (WCLAC) sent on June 30, 2017.

We commend the Dutch government and other Secretariat donors for suspending cooperation with WATC. Unfortunately, the fact that cooperation was suspended only after WATC participated in building the center named after the terrorist Dalal Mughrabi demonstrates a significant lack of oversight. This is part of a recurring trend in Dutch funding to NGOs via the Secretariat, where funding is regularly directed to organizations that oppose the goals of peace and a two-state framework.

In addition, we note that you view the "reprehensible statements" of WCLAC fieldworker Manal Tamimi as personal statements that were not endorsed by WCLAC. While WCLAC may have privately conveyed this rejection to donor governments, in public, far from condemning Manal Tamimi's actions, WCLAC [filed a complaint](#) to the UN in 2016, promoting "Mrs. Manal Tamimi" as a "[human rights defender](#)."

Tamimi was also hailed as a "prominent human rights defender" by Secretariat core funding recipients [Addameer](#), [Al-Haq](#), [DCI-P](#), [BADIL](#), [Al-Mezan](#), and [PCHR](#) in a [joint submission](#) to the UN in November 2016. It is important to add in this context that the UN [removed](#) Tamimi from the list of human rights defenders in its report following an [official complaint](#) sent by NGO Monitor's legal advisor, Anne Herzberg.

In light of the above, we kindly request your response to the following questions:

1. What sort of evaluation process does the Netherlands undertake prior to selecting core funding recipients?
2. Will the Netherlands require a public condemnation of Manal Tamimi's statements and demand WCLAC remove its complaint and defense of Manal Tamimi that describes her as a "Palestinian human rights defender" as conditions for continued funding?
3. Will the Netherlands conduct a public investigation into the Secretariat's funding for anti-peace groups, as well as for NGOs that promote antisemitism?

Sincerely,

Prof. Gerald M. Steinberg  
President

Olga Deutsch  
Europe Desk Director

CC: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bert Koenders  
H.E. Gilles Beschoor Plug, Dutch Ambassador to Israel

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