



# EU Funding to terror-linked Palestinian NGOs since 2011

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NGO Monitor's mission is to provide information and analysis, promote accountability, and support discussion on the reports and activities of NGOs claiming to advance human rights and humanitarian agendas.

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## INTRODUCTION

In 2011-2018 (latest available data),<sup>1</sup> the EU authorized grants of **at least €25 million** to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with ties to EU-designated terrorist groups.

- NGO Monitor has identified 23 grants, totaling €25 million in funds, provided to terror-tied NGOs, including the Union of Agricultural Committees (UAWC), Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (UPWC), Al-Dameer, Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCI-P), Health Work Committees (HWC), Bisan Center, Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), Al-Haq, and the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO).
- For example, one grant of €699,236 (2017-2019) went to five Palestinian organizations, four of which have ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) terrorist group. In December 2019, the Israeli media reported that the Israel Security Agency [arrested](#) a 50-person terror network operating in the West Bank allegedly responsible for the bomb attack that murdered a teenager in August 2019. Among those arrested were three senior employees of NGO beneficiaries to this EU grant, including financial officers.

For years, NGO Monitor has documented how a lack of clear and comprehensive policies, as well as a lack of sufficient oversight, allows for EU funds to be distributed to projects that involve terror linked, hateful and/or antisemitic beneficiaries.

This problem has become more urgent over the past six months. In December 2019, during a meeting with EU officials, representatives from Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) – an umbrella organization of 142 Palestinian NGOs – “[refused to sign an EU grant request](#) which stipulates among its criteria that beneficiaries must refuse to transfer any EU aid given to terrorist groups or entities...claiming Palestinian terrorist groups are merely ‘political parties.’”

The new EU requirement, introduced into contracts with NGOs beginning in 2019, states that “Grant beneficiaries and contractors must ensure that there is no detection of subcontractors, natural persons, including participants to workshops and/or trainings and recipients of financial support to third parties, in the lists of EU restrictive measures” (General conditions, Annex G.2, Annex II, Article 1.5 bis). In the Palestinian context, the list of EU restrictive measures includes Hamas, Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

According to various reports, a number of European officials have responded sympathetically to PNGO’s complaints:

- Then Acting EU Representative in Ramallah Tomas Niklasson in the abovementioned [December 2019 meeting with PNGO](#).
- Palestine Desk Officer of European External Action Service Paloma Portela and Francesca Pessina from the European Commission Department for International Cooperation and Development

<sup>1</sup> The EU is expected to publish information on projects that began in 2019 in July 2020.

(DEVCO), in a January 22, 2020 meeting in Brussels with officials from Palestinian NGOs.

- The head of the EU Representative Office to the West Bank and Gaza, sent a March 2020 [“clarification letter regarding the EU-funded contracts”](#) to PNGO, stressing that “it is understood that a natural person affiliated to, sympathizing with, or supporting any of the groups or entities mentioned in the EU restrictive lists **is not excluded from benefiting from EU-funded activities**, unless his/her exact name and surname (confirming his/her identity) corresponds to any of the natural persons on the EU restrictive lists” (emphasis added).

The implication is that, even if a Palestinian NGO applying for EU grants is an affiliate of EU-designated terrorist groups or employs individuals from these groups, the EU will still provide the organization with funds and legitimacy.

In May 2020, there was extensive media coverage of the March 2020 clarification letter, and Members of the European Parliament and civil society organizations expressed major concern. Then, during a May 19, 2020 meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement Olivér Várhelyi stated that he had instructed the heads of EU delegations to Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza to “look deep” in to the allegations that some EU funds go to terror-linked or -supporting NGOs, declaring that such funding “will not be tolerated.”

On June 1, 2020, EU Ambassador to Israel Emanuele Giaufret [insisted](#) in a media interview that the EU “does not support organizations linked to the Popular Front. If there is evidence of improper use of EU funds, we will investigate it.”

## SUMMARY OF GRANTS

Grant	Amount	Years	NGO Beneficiaries of Concern
“Strengthening Community Resilience and Social Cohesion in East Jerusalem on Both Sides of the Separation Wall”	€699,236	2017-2019	Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees (UPWC), Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI-P), Health Work Committees (HWC), and Bisan Center
“Prevention, mitigation, and rehabilitation for Palestinian children	€981,298	2017-2020	DCI-P

exposed to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”			
“Contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to association in the Gaza”	€446,482	2016-2019	Al-Dameer and Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)
“Empowering Palestinian Civil Society to Promote the Effective Reporting and Implementation on International Rights Instruments Palestine acceded to in 2014”	€296,600	2018-2021	Al-Haq
“Torture is a humiliation of dignity”	€261,914	2018-2021	PNGO
“Palestinian Civil Society Platforms: A Vehicle for Grassroots Civil Society Development and Policy Influence”	€1.2 million	2017	PNGO
“Juthoor: Land, Water, and Human Resource Development in Vulnerable Areas of the West Bank”	€3.6 million	January 2015-April 2017*	UAWC2
“Moving herders from aid dependence to self-sustaining growth through livestock husbandry development and market expansion”	€1.9 million	October 2013-October 2015*	
“Making olive oil competitive through the introduction of local value chain approach in the oPt”	€609,895	January 2013-June 2015*	
“Moving herders from aid dependence to self-	<u>€3.5 million</u>	October 2013-	

<sup>2</sup> In 2019-2022, The European Solidarity Corps, an EU initiative, is funding two programs that send European young adults to volunteer at the PFLP-linked NGO Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC): “[Missions beyond borders – A French-Palestinian Tandem](#)” (€19,168; 2019-2021), and “[From Germany to Palestine: toward more understanding for a durable peace](#)” (€15,378; 2020-2022).

sustaining growth through livestock husbandry development and market expansion"		September 2015	
"Making olive oil competitive through the introduction of local value chain approach in the oPt"	<a href="#">€2.48 million</a>	February 2013- July 2015	
"Food security governance of Bedouin pastoralist groups in the Mashreq,"	80% of <a href="#">€1.87 million</a>	2013-2016	
"Enhancement of food security in Taybeh and Ramoun through rural development and agricultural extension"	80% of <a href="#">€2.9 million</a>	2011-2014	
"Making wastewater an asset: increasing agricultural production by introducing irrigation from non-conventional water sources"	80% of <a href="#">€3 million</a>	2011-2014	
"Strengthening the Role of Palestinian Civil Society in Development"	€399,692	2014	PNGO
"Strengthening human rights and access to information in the Gaza Strip"	<a href="#">€ 411,861</a>	2014-2016	PCHR
"Contributing to the protection and promotion of rights of PwDs and to their enhanced participation in increasingly inclusive and accessible communities in Hebron district"	€113,112	2014	HWC
"Contributing to the protection and promotion of rights of PwDs and to their enhanced participation in	€105,679	2014	HWC

increasingly inclusive and accessible communities in Hebron district"			
"Contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to freedom of association in the Gaza Strip"	€100,707	2014	Al-Dameer
"Contributing to the protection and promotion of rights of PwDs and to their enhanced participation in increasingly inclusive and accessible communities in Hebron district"	<u>€356,350</u>	2014-2016	HWC
"Economic Development and Promotion of the Tourism and Cultural Sectors in East Jerusalem"	€950,000	2012	Bisan
"Contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to freedom of association in the Gaza Strip"	<u>€281,251</u>	2012-2015	Al-Dameer, PNGO
"Mobilising Media to Empower Citizens and Civil Society for Human Rights, Democratic Reform, and Intra-Palestinian Reconciliation"	<u>€288,290</u>	2011	Al-Haq

\*Dates provided by the EU in response to a FOI query (on file).

## DETAILS ON TERROR-LINKED BENEFICIARIES

### 1. Grant: [“Strengthening Community Resilience and Social Cohesion in East Jerusalem on Both Sides of the Separation Wall”](#)

**Amount/Years:** €699,236 / 2017-2019

**NGOs of Concern Involved:** Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees (UPWC), Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI-P), Health Work Committees (HWC), Bisan Center, and Land Research Center (LRC)

- Employees of two of the grantees, HWC and Bisan, were arrested in 2019 for being part of a PFLP [terror cell](#):
  - **Walid Hanatsheh (Abu Ras)**, HWC’s [finance and administration manager](#). Hanatsheh is on trial for allegedly being the leader of PFLP “military” operations and commanding the PFLP terror cell that carried out the August 2019 bombing attack in which the 17-year-old was murdered. According to the indictment against him, Hanatsheh [bankrolled the bombing](#). He is also listed as a PNGO [board member](#) on behalf of HWC.
    - On June 9, 2015, the Israel defense minister announced that the Jerusalem branch of the Health Work Committee is an [unlawful association](#), **designated as a terrorist organization by the Israel High Court of Justice (HCJ 3923/15; emphasis added)**.
  - **Ubai Aboudi**, Bisan’s [Executive Director](#): In June 2020, Aboudi was sentenced to 12-months in prison. . In an indictment of another PFLP leader, Aboudi is mentioned as a PFLP member who was told to recruit more members to the cell.
  - **Iteraf Hajaj (Rimawi)**: Served as Bisan’s Executive Director in [2017](#) while the NGO was receiving funding from the EU. He was [arrested on September, 23, 2019](#) by Israeli forces. A statement from the General Security Service (Shabak) refers to Rimawi as being [responsible for PFLP clandestine operations](#).
- Numerous UPWC staff members and board members have ties to PFLP. (For more information read NGO Monitor’s report [“Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees’ Ties to the PFLP Terror Group.”](#))
- See below for details regarding DCI-P.

### 2. Grant: [“Prevention, mitigation, and rehabilitation for Palestinian children exposed to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment”](#)

**Amount/Years:** €981,298 / 2017-2020

**NGOs of Concern Involved:** DCI-P

- Numerous individuals with alleged ties to the PFLP terrorist organization have served as employees and as board members at DCI-P.
- In June 2018, in light of these PFLP links, [Citibank and Arab Bank](#)

[closed accounts belonging to DCI-P.](#)

- In early February 2020, Belgium, which held the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council, invited DCI-P's Senior Advisor for Policy and Advocacy to brief [the Council](#). Following a [public information campaign highlighting the terror links of the NGO](#) and diplomatic protests by the Israeli government, Belgium [rescinded the invitation](#). The evidence suggests that, at the time of the invitation, Belgian officials did not properly vet the NGO and were unaware of the nature of its activities and the links to the PFLP organization.

### 3. Grant: [“Contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to association in the Gaza”](#)

Amount/Years: €446,482 / 2016-2019

NGOs of Concern Involved: Al-Dameer and Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)

- Numerous Al-Dameer staff members and board members have ties to PFLP. (For more information read NGO Monitor's report [“Al-Dameer's Ties to the PFLP Terror Group.”](#))
- PNGO is an umbrella framework with 142 NGO members based in Gaza and the West Bank, which has also ties to the PFLP (see our report [“PNGO's Ties to Palestinian Terror Groups”](#)).
- According to media reports, during a December 2019 meeting with EU officials, [PNGO rejected the EU's Anti-terror Funding Requirement](#) (Article 1.5 bis of “ANNEX II General conditions applicable to European Union-financed grant contracts for external actions”).
- In 2013, PNGO condemned the EU Partnership for Peace program for encouraging [“normalization between Palestinian and Israeli civil society organizations.”](#)
- Several PNGO member organizations have ties to the PFLP terror group, including [Union of Agricultural Work Committees \(UAWC\)](#), and [HWC](#) (see above), which both have a seat on [PNGO board](#), [Addameer](#) (“[executive member](#)” of PNGO, according to Addameer's website), [Al-Dameer](#),<sup>3</sup> and [UPWC](#).<sup>4</sup>
- In 2007, PNGO [spearheaded a boycott of USAID funding](#) following the introduction of anti-terrorism clauses in grant agreements.



*PFLP Prisoners Committee Official Ka'abi speaking in front of the PNGO logo.*

<sup>3</sup>Al-Dameer, “Evacuation of Responsibility”: <https://www.aldameer.org/en/Evacuation%20of%20Responsibility.html>

<sup>4</sup> UPWC, “عن الإتحاد”: [https://upwc.ps/?page\\_id=408](https://upwc.ps/?page_id=408)



4. Grant: "[Empowering Palestinian Civil Society to Promote the Effective Reporting and Implementation on International Rights Instruments Palestine acceded to in 2014](#)"

Amount/Years: €296,600 / 2018-2021

NGOs of Concern Involved: Al-Haq

- Al-Haq's General Director [Shawan Jabarin](#) has been associated with the PFLP. In 2007, the Israeli High Court referred to him as a "Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde, acting some of the time as the CEO of a human rights organization, and at other times as an activist in a terror organization."

5. Grant: "[Torture is a humiliation of dignity](#)"

Amount/Years: €261,914 / 2018-2021

NGOs of Concern Involved: PNGO and Hurryat

- See above for details regarding PNGO.

6. Grant: "[Palestinian Civil Society Platforms: A Vehicle for Grassroots Civil Society Development and Policy Influence](#)"

Amount/Years: €1.2 million / 2017

NGOs of Concern Involved: PNGO

- See above for details regarding PNGO.

7. Grant: "[Juthoor: Land, Water, and Human Resource Development in Vulnerable Areas of the West Bank](#)"

Amount/Years: €3.6 million/ January 2015-April 2017

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- In 2019, two senior financial employees of UAWC were arrested and are currently standing trial for being part of a PFLP terror cell responsible for the August 2019 murder of 17-year old Rena Shnerb.
- Samer Arbid, UAWC accountant and previously UAWC "financial officer": Samer Arbid is on trial for commanding a PFLP terror cell that carried out a bombing, murdering Shnerb, and injuring her father and brother. According to the indictment against him (on file), Arbid prepared and detonated the explosive device.
- Abdel Razeq Farraj, UAWC "Finance and Administration Director": According to his indictment (on file), Razeq Farraj held a senior PFLP post and authorized the August 23, 2019 bombing. He is currently standing trial.

8. Grant: ["Moving herders from aid dependence to self-sustaining growth through livestock husbandry development and market expansion"](#)

Amount/Years: €1.9 million/ October 2013-October 2015

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- See above for details regarding UAWC

9. Grant: ["Making olive oil competitive through the introduction of local value chain approach in the oPt"](#)

Amount/Years: €609,895/ January 2013-June 2015

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- See above for details regarding UAWC

10. Grant: ["Moving herders from aid dependence to self-sustaining growth through livestock husbandry development and market expansion"](#)

Amount/Years: €3.5 million/ October 2013- September 2015

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- See above for details regarding UAWC

11. Grant: ["Making olive oil competitive through the introduction of local value chain approach in the oPt"](#)

Amount/Years: €2.48 million/ February 2013- July 2015

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- See above for details regarding UAWC

12. Grant: ["Food security governance of Bedouin pastoralist groups in the Mashreq"](#)

Amount/Years: 80% of €1.87 million/2013-2016

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- See above for details regarding UAWC

13. Grant: ["Enhancement of food security in Taybeh and Ramoun through rural development and agricultural extension"](#)

Amount/Years: 80% of €2.9 million/ 2011-2014

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- See above for details regarding UAWC

14. Grant: "[Making wastewater an asset: increasing agricultural production by introducing irrigation from non-conventional water sources](#)"

Amount/Years: 80% of €3 million/ 2011-2014

NGOs of Concern Involved: UAWC

- See above for details regarding UAWC

15. Grant: "[Strengthening the Role of Palestinian Civil Society in Development](#)"

Amount/Years: €399,692/ 2014

NGOs of Concern Involved: PNGO

- See above for details regarding PNGO

16. Grant: "[Strengthening human rights and access to information in the Gaza Strip](#)"

Amount/Years: € 411,861/ 2014-2016

NGOs of Concern Involved: PCHR

- The Gaza-based NGO claims to document "human rights abuses" and is one of the leaders in lobbying the International Criminal Court to prosecute Israeli officials. Multiple PCHR officials have ties to the PFLP, including its General Director, Raji Sourani, who was [publicly honored by the PFLP in 2014](#). (For more information read NGO Monitor's report "[Palestinian Centre for Human Right's Links to the PFLP Terror Group](#).")

17. Grant: "[Contributing to the protection and promotion of rights of PwDs and to their enhanced participation in increasingly inclusive and accessible communities in Hebron district](#)"

Amount/Years: €113,112/ 2014

NGOs of Concern Involved: HWC

- See above for details regarding HWC

18. Grant: "[Contributing to the protection and promotion of rights of PwDs and to their enhanced participation in increasingly inclusive and accessible communities in Hebron district](#)"

Amount/Years: €105,679/ 2014

NGOs of Concern Involved: HWC

- See above for details regarding HWC

19. Grant: "[Contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to freedom of association in the Gaza Strip](#)"

Amount/Years: €100,707/ 2014

NGOs of Concern Involved: Al-Dameer

- See above for details regarding Al-Dameer

20. Grant: "[Contributing to the protection and promotion of rights of PwDs and to their enhanced participation in increasingly inclusive and accessible communities in Hebron district](#)"

Amount/Years: €356,350/ 2014-2016

NGOs of Concern Involved: HWC

- See above for details regarding HWC

21. Grant: "[Economic Development and Promotion of the Tourism and Cultural Sectors in East Jerusalem](#)"

Amount/Years: €950,000/ 2012

NGOs of Concern Involved: Bisan

- See above for details regarding Bisan

22. Grant: "[Contributing to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to freedom of association in the Gaza Strip](#)"

Amount/Years: €281,251/ 2012-2015

NGOs of Concern Involved: Al-Dameer, PNGO

- See above for details regarding Al-Dameer and PNGO

23. Grant: "[Mobilising Media to Empower Citizens and Civil Society for Human Rights, Democratic Reform, and Intra-Palestinian Reconciliation](#)"

Amount/Years: €288,290/ 2011

NGOs of Concern Involved: Al-Haq, Ma'an Network

- See above for details regarding Al-Haq; see below for details regarding Ma'an Network

## EU FUNDING TO WATC

In addition to the above-listed grants, in December 2014, the EU authorized a [€499,735](#) grant for a 30-month project titled “My Right to My Future - Women's Participation in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution - My Right.” The project, funded via the EU Partnership for Peace Programme, was implemented by the Palestinian NGO Women’s Affairs Technical Committee (WATC) and the international NGO CARE.

In May 2017, apparently during the EU grant period,<sup>5</sup> WATC inaugurated a youth center for girls in the town of Burqa, near Nablus. As reported by [Palestinian Media Watch](#), the center was named after Dalal Mughrabi, a terrorist who in 1978 murdered 37 civilians, including 12 children.

Funding for this building was provided by Norway, UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women), and Palestinian Authority Ministry of Local Government. Upon learning that the center had been named after a terrorist, the [Norwegian government](#) and the [United Nations](#) issued [strong condemnations](#). Norwegian [Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende](#) stated that “We have asked for the logo of the Norwegian representation office to be removed from the building immediately, and for the funding that has been allocated to the centre to be repaid.”

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<sup>5</sup> According to CARE, the project [started in May 2015 and ended in September 2017](#).

# EU Funding to Terror-Tied NGOs

2017-  
2018



NGO Monitor research shows that in 2017-2018 (latest available data), the EU authorized grants of at least **€3.6 million** to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with ties to EU-designated terrorist groups.

2019



The EU introduces **a new requirement in its contracts with NGOs**, under “General conditions applicable to European Union-financed grant contracts for external actions” (Annex G.2, Annex II, Article 1.5 bis), stipulating that “Grant beneficiaries and contractors must ensure that there is no detection of subcontractors, natural persons, including participants to workshops and/or trainings and recipients of financial support to third parties, in the lists of EU restrictive measures.” In the Palestinian context, the list of EU restrictive measures includes Hamas, Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

DECEMBER  
2019

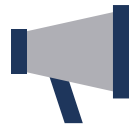


According to media reports, during a December 2019 meeting with EU officials, representatives from Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) – an umbrella organization of 142 Palestinian NGOs – **refused to sign** an EU grant request which stipulates among its criteria that beneficiaries must refuse to transfer any EU aid given to terrorist groups or entities...claiming Palestinian terrorist groups are merely ‘political parties’” (emphasis added).

DECEMBER  
2019



According to the European Legal Support Center (ELSC), a Netherlands-based initiative of PNGO and Rights Forum, then **Acting EU Representative in Ramallah** Tomas Niklasson told PNGO, “Given that there is no individual Palestinian included in the EU (anti-terror) list; the obligation not to transfer funds to any of the seven Palestinian organisations currently on the list does not create any additional obligation for civil society organisations (beyond their obligations under domestic legislation) and that there is no obligation or expectation from the EU’s side that we would discriminate against a person based on political affiliation.”



DECEMBER  
30, 2019

Multiple Palestinian NGOs, including PNGO members, launch a “Palestinian National Campaign to Reject Conditional Funding,” **renouncing the EC’s “conditioned funding” and “so-called anti-terrorism clauses and policies...on preventing terrorism that affect the history and struggle of our people”** (emphasis added), justifies the use of violence and claims that the “Palestinian resistance factions are not terrorist organizations.”



JANUARY  
20, 2020

During a **meeting between officials from Palestinian NGOs and EU representatives in Brussels**, the EU’s appeasement message is reiterated. According to ELSC, Palestine Desk Officer of the European External Action Service Paloma Portela and Francesca Pessina from the European Commission’s Department for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO) told the NGO officials that “the [anti-terror] clause did not impose new nor different obligations on EU beneficiaries in Palestine.”

MARCH 3,  
2020



ELSC publishes a memo analyzing the anti-terror clause and assessing, like the EU representatives, that “**the inclusion of this clause will not have any tangible effect on Palestinian Civil Society Organizations**” (emphasis in original).

MARCH 30,  
2020



The EU Representative Office to the West Bank and Gaza sends “clarification letter regarding the EU-funded contracts” to PNGO. In it, the EU diplomats appear to **give in to Palestinian pressure and effectively annul EU regulations** that prohibit the transfer of EU funds to terror groups or individuals connected to these groups (what Palestinian NGOs label “political parties” and “resistance factions”).

APRIL 30,  
2020



NGO Monitor sends a letter to the President of the European Commission regarding the EU anti-terror clause and demonstrating that there are **direct connections** between “natural persons” employed by or serving on the boards of **some of EU-funded NGOs and the PFLP terror organization**.

MAY 6,  
2020



The March 30 EU letter is made public in Israeli media, and the EU Ambassador to Israel is summoned for a demarche at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



MAY 7,  
2020



The Palestinian NGO BADIL, which initiated the “Palestinian National Campaign to Reject Conditional Funding” and claims to be a PNGO member, publishes a “Position Paper: European Union Conditional Funding: Its Illegality and Political Implications.” According to the paper, “The current **counter-terrorism framework** imposed on Palestinian civil society by means of Article 1.5 bis criminalizes the Palestinian people’s struggle for their right to self-determination, contributes to the de-politicization and alienation of Palestinian civil society, and **neglects the Palestinian people’s right to legitimate resistance**” (emphasis added).



**AJC Transatlantic Institute issues statement** calling “for an emergency hearing in the European Parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee and a comprehensive review of the standards and criteria by which the bloc provides NGO funding in general and specifically to Palestinian groups.”



**MEPs table parliamentary questions**, including on the “use of European funds by entities and persons associated with terrorist organisations.”



As reported by AJC Transatlantic Institute, the leadership of the Transatlantic Friends of Israel, **a cross-party group of MEPs in the European Parliament**, sends an official letter to High Representative Josep Borell calling for clarification and an investigation.

MAY 8,  
2020

MAY 13,  
2020



An article in *la Repubblica* quotes the European Commission spokesperson stating that the EU requirement “makes the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated with terrorist organizations categorically incompatible with any European funding” and that a “**mistake was made by the ambassador**” (emphasis added).



MAY 19,  
2020

European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), **Commissioner for Neighborhood and Enlargement** Olivér Várhelyi states that he has **instructed** the heads of EU delegations to Israel and West Bank/ Gaza to “look deep” in to the allegations that some EU funds go to terror-linked or -supporting NGOs, declaring that such funding “will not be tolerated.”



MAY 21,  
2020

An article in JNS quotes the spokesperson for EU Neighborhood and Enlargement, International Cooperation, and Development Ana Pisonero-Hernandez, who notes that “the letter sent by Ambassador Kühn von Burgsdorff refers exclusively to the application of our restrictive measures and explains to Palestinian beneficiaries (civil society organisations) their own contractual obligations related to compliance with E.U. sanction lists. It did not intend to reflect the full range of safeguards that are in place. These **safeguards make the participation of entities, individuals or groups affiliated/linked/supporting terrorist organisations categorically incompatible with any E.U. funding**. There have been misleading suggestions that compliance with the E.U. restrictive measures is a new obligation or that it was specific to Palestine. This is not the case. We are doing the necessary outreach to make this position very clear to all those who are concerned” (emphasis added).