



**ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

NGO Monitor
Prof. Gerald M. Steinberg
President, Institute for NGO Research
10 Yad Harutzim, 4th floor
Jerusalem, Israel 9342148

Your ref.:

Our ref.:

Date:

05.10.2020

Dear Professor Steinberg

We wish to thank you for several letters from NGO Monitor during the last few months relating to the Norwegian funding to programmes carried out by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC).

As you know, Norway has had a strong commitment to the Middle East peace process for decades, and continues to do so. We value our close partnerships and friendly relations with both Israel and Palestine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs underscores that Norway does not provide support to organisations that incite violence, or that promote racism, antisemitism or hate speech. Our Minister of International Development, Dag-Inge Ulstein, reiterated this principle in his statement to the Storting (Norwegian parliament) on 3 March 2020.

The Norwegian government does not cooperate directly with the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), but supports their activities through our partnership agreements with the Norwegian People's Aid, a non-governmental organisation. To date, we have not uncovered conclusive information that the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), as an organisation, is involved in or supports acts of terrorism. Allegations of such links have been refuted previously, including in the Australian study which Mr Ulstein referred to in his statement in March of this year.

The Norwegian Government has robust systems in place to detect and deal with any misuse of development funding. We welcome any information that can help us to detect such misuse, provided that it is substantiated by credible evidence.

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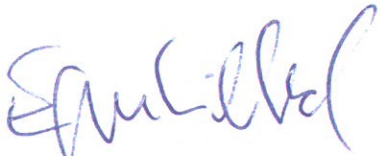
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Mr Ulstein stands by the essence of his statement made to the Norwegian parliament. However, the inadvertent fusion of two sentences created the unfortunate impression that NGO Monitor had been criticised in the aforementioned Australian study. This is not the case, and Mr Ulstein regrets that his statement gave this impression.

His intention was to refer to the Australian study only in relation to the work of the UAWC. As a separate point, we note that NGO Monitor has been criticised elsewhere for its methods and political agenda, among others by the Policy Working Group to which you refer. We hope that this can serve as clarification to your questions, which otherwise appear to have been answered in Mr Ulstein's statement to the Storting.

Yours sincerely,



Espen Lindbæck
Deputy Director General



Mattis Raustøl
Senior Advisor