

July 25, 2022

## The Netherlands Condemns Israeli Designation of Terror-linked NGOs

Dear Ministers Wopke Hoekstra and Liesje Schreinemacher,

Last week, the Netherlands joined a brief statement rejecting Israel's designation of terror-tied organizations based on their affiliation to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The statement claimed that: "No substantial information was received from Israel that would justify reviewing our policy towards the six Palestinian NGOs on the basis of the Israeli decision to designate these NGOs as 'terrorist organizations.'"

However, we note that this statement did not refer to an independent investigation initiated by the Dutch government that confirmed substantial ties between at least one of the NGOs, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), and the PFLP terrorist organization.

- As noted by [in January 2022](#), Minister de Bruijn announced that the investigation determined that UAWC had **34 employees with ties to the PFLP in 2007-2020, 12 holding leadership positions in the terrorist group concurrent to their employment at UAWC**. In reporting to parliament, Ministers de Bruijn and Knapen added that "the large number of board members of UAWC with a dual mandate is particularly worrying."

As systematic and readily verifiable NGO Monitor research has demonstrated, the affiliations and statements of NGO officials and employees are critical to properly vetting potential partners. This research was shared with you repeatedly over the past two years.

In addition, we note that in May 2022, the European Parliament approved the 2020 discharge report, "[EU general budget – Commission and executive agencies](#)," which calls on the European Commission to "make sure that individuals or groups affiliated, linked to or supporting terrorist organisations are excluded from [European] Union funding."

Due diligence and accountability, based on evaluating all of the available evidence, are essential to ensure that state funding for civil society organizations is not diverted to terror affiliated activities .

We therefore request a clarification as to the discrepancy in your statement that ignores a letter to parliament from Dutch ministers, an independent Dutch investigation, and significant open source information all showing substantial ties between to terrorist groups and the six designated NGOs.

Respectfully,

Professor Gerald Steinberg

President

Olga Deutsch

Vice President

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CC: Ambassador Mr. Hans Docter, the Netherlands Ambassador to Israel