

November 21, 2022

To: The Honorable Josep Borrell Fontelles

HRVP of the European Commission

EC relies on terror affiliated NGO on children rights and violence

36 Palestinian minors killed while engaging in violence - stabbings, hurling explosives

Dear Mr. Borrell,

In your November 18 [response](#) to a parliamentary [question](#) submitted by Belgian MEP Marc Botenga (The Left), you cited the Palestinian NGO Defense for Children International-Palestine (DCI-P) regarding the deaths of Palestinian teens in 2022. We are writing to inform you that DCI-P is not a valid source, both due to its links to an EU-designated terrorist organization, and to its false reports.

In October 2021, Israel designated¹ DCI-P as a terrorist entity over its ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), reinforcing the detailed and independently verifiable open source evidence. In 2018, Citibank and Arab Bank closed DCI-P accounts and the online donation platform Global Giving stopped providing services following terror-financing concerns.

As the record clearly demonstrates, in its accusations, DCI-P regularly ignores or minimizes violent attacks perpetrated by Palestinian teenagers. Similarly, the NGO rarely acknowledges that many of these Palestinian teens are affiliated with designated terrorist organizations - in blatant violation of the international legal prohibition on the “recruitment and use” of children by armed groups and a clear violation of their human rights.

In erasing this essential context, DCI-P seeks to criminalize Israeli self-defense measures intended to protect the lives of Israeli civilians and personnel. The [murder of three Israeli civilians by 18 year-old Muhammed Soof](#) in a November 15 stabbing spree underscores the phenomenon of Palestinian teenagers launching terror attacks.

As documented by NGO Monitor, these distortions not only appear in DCI-P publications, but the NGO contributes to and shapes UNICEF’s distorted reporting and data – also cited in your November 18 response.

¹ DCI-P is one out the 6 Palestinian NGOs that were designated as terror organizations by the Israeli Ministry of Defense (MoD) in October 2021. The MoD claims these NGOs are operated by and for the benefit of the EU-designated terror group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). The MoD further accuses the NGOs with diverting humanitarian funds from European donors to the PFLP and with recruiting members for the terror group.

DCI-P claims that 53 Palestinian minors have been killed in the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. NGO Monitor's [analysis](#) found that 36 of them were killed by Israeli forces while engaging in acts of violence, including attempting stabbings, and hurling explosives, Molotov cocktails or stones at Israeli civilians and security personnel. Moreover, at least fourteen of them were affiliated with EU-designated terrorist organizations, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), PFLP and Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades, while at least thirteen others were affiliated with other Palestinian factions. A review of social media also highlights abundant evidence of many of these teenagers carrying automatic weapons and ammunition (see annex below).

For instance, NGO Monitor research has revealed several such photos of Odai Salah, referenced by MEP Botenga in his original question, but from which this fundamental fact was erased.



Salah holding military grade rifles and equipment. (Sources : <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=5705724729446356&set=a.100909103261308>; https://twitter.com/goat_and_beyond/status/1570848393676861440/photo/1)

We call on European Commission officials to better vet the organizations they rely on regarding such important issues, and to ensure that EC policy reflects objective fact-based analysis, and not the politicized advocacy of a terror-linked NGO actor.

We look forward to your response.

Professor Gerald Steinberg, President, NGO Monitor

Olga Deutsch, Vice President, NGO Monitor

CC: Ambassador Mr. Dimiter Tzantchev, EU Ambassador to Israel

Annex: Examples of DCI-P Ignoring Palestinian Teens Carrying Weapons

NGO MONITOR

Defense for Children International - Palestine
 11 November 2024
 Israeli forces killed 15-year-old Mahdi Mohammad Hamdalah Hachash yesterday. As Israeli forces opened fire, live bullets also struck a homemade explosive object near Mahdi and other Palestinian youth, causing the object to detonate.

DCI-P vs. REALITY

Defense for Children International - Palestine
 17 Mar
 Israeli forces shot and killed 16-year-old Nader Haitham Fathi Rayyan with live ammunition in the northern occupied West Bank Tuesday morning. Israeli forces shot him at least twice in the back. Nader is the fourth Palestinian child killed by Israeli forces in the last month.
https://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_shoot_kill_16_year_old_palestinian_boy_in_nablus

DCI-P vs. REALITY

Defense for Children International - Palestine
 31 Mar
 Israeli forces shot Sanad Mohammad Khalil Abu Atiya, 16, in the chest with live ammunition as he approached a Palestinian man who had been shot to offer aid. Sanad is the fifth Palestinian child shot and killed by Israeli forces in 2022. <http://ow.ly/fBA550brXm>

DCI-P vs. REALITY

Defense for Children - @DCIPalestine
 BREAKING: Israeli forces shot and killed 17-year-old Oday Trad Hisham Salah around 5:30 a.m. today in Kafir Dan, a village west of Jenin in the northern occupied West Bank. Full report soon.

DCI-P vs. REALITY

Defense for Children @DCIPalestine
 Israeli forces shot and killed 16-year-old Amjad Walid Hussein Fayed around 2:30 a.m. today in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin. He sustained multiple gunshot wounds and was pronounced dead in hospital shortly after.

DCI-P vs. REALITY

اللَّهُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا رَبِّ

شهدت العواجة
 نسل الحجاج
 أمجد وليد الفاييد