

## Joint call by Israeli civil society organizations to donors of designated Palestinian NGOs

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3 January 2022

In a [joint statement](#) published in Haaretz on 5 November 2021, we called on the international community to *unequivocally oppose* the Israeli government's designation of six Palestinian civil society organizations as 'terrorist organizations'. As our statement says: criminalizing the work of these prominent Palestinian NGOs is an *act of cowardice*, characteristic of repressive authoritarian regimes.

The designations are *intended to intimidate international donors* of the six NGOs and of Palestinian civil society more broadly. For years, the Israeli government and groups affiliated with it have been waging aggressive campaigns to defund NGOs that peacefully challenge Israel's occupation and annexation policies. Palestinian NGOs have been the main target of these campaigns. The recent designations are the Israeli government's ultimate attempt to defund them.

**We urge all donors of the six NGOs – governments, foundations and individuals – to maintain and, if possible, to increase their funding.** Defunding the designated NGOs based on unsubstantiated allegations and designations will cause irreparable damage to Palestinian civil society at large and would undermine decades of humanitarian and human rights work.

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Association for Civil Rights in Israel

Breaking the Silence

B'Tselem

Combatants for Peace

Hamoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual

Human Rights Defenders Fund

Ir Amim

Ofek – The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

Parents Against Child Detention

Physicians for Human Rights–Israel

Yesh Din

- ADVERT -

# DRACONIAN MEASURE AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

The Minister of Defense's designation of prominent Palestinian civil society organizations, among them our colleagues in the Palestinian human rights community, as terrorist organizations, is a draconian measure that criminalizes critical human rights work. Documentation, advocacy, and legal aid are fundamental activities for the protection of human rights worldwide. **Criminalizing such work is an act of cowardice, characteristic of repressive authoritarian regimes.** Civil society and human rights defenders must be protected. We stand in solidarity with our Palestinian colleagues, and call on members of the Israeli government and the international community to oppose this decision unequivocally.

Adalah | Allex | Institute for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Research | B'Tselem | Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights | Breaking the Silence | Combatants for Peace | Eneq Shavah | Gisha | Hamoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual | Haaretz – In Defense of Human Rights | Human Rights Defenders Fund | Ir Amim | KarLavaas – Workers' Hotline | Keren Haetz | Machsom Wach | PeaceNow | Physicians for Human Rights based Standing together | The Association for Civil Rights in Israel | The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel | Yesh Din | Zaitim – Community Action

In accordance with Israeli legislation aimed to delegitimize human rights organizations, we are required to state that some of the signatories receive most of their funds from foreign state entities.