



Palestinian reactions to Israel's decision to outlaw organizations affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)

November 2, 2021

Overview

- ▶ On October 22, 2021, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz issued an order designating **six Palestinian social-civilian organizations (NGOs) as terrorist organizations**. The order permits the legal confiscation of the organizations' assets and the legal sanctions to be imposed on anyone participating in their activities. The order was preceded by Israeli security force activities which exposed the connections of the organizations, some of which receive most of their funding from European countries and international institutions and organizations, with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which has been designated as a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States, the EU and Canada.
- ▶ The Israeli ministry of defense stated that the organizations were controlled by senior PFLP functionaries and employed many PFLP operatives in field and administrative roles, including operatives who participated in terrorist activities against Israel. The organizations concealed their affiliation with the PFLP out of concern measures would be taken against them by security and law-enforcement agencies in Israel and around the globe. They received large amounts of money from European countries and international organizations through fraud and forgery, and thereby helped the PFLP finance its terrorist activities and give money to the families of terrorist prisoners and the shaheeds, pay its operatives, recruit new operatives, promote terrorist activity, engage in military buildup, and disseminate their ideology (Israeli defense minister's information unit, October 22, 2021).
- ▶ The order led to reactions from the Palestinian Authority (PA), Hamas and other terrorist organizations, as well as from many Palestinian NGOs, including those designated as terrorist organizations. Many called Israel's action illegal and part of the State of Israel's ongoing campaign attacking Palestinian NGOs, and especially their sources of income. They called on the international community and global NGOs to fight the order. They also stated they intended to continue to fight Israel in the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague and in other venues.

- ▶ In addition to issuing protests, the PA and the Palestinian NGOs considered a number of practical measures. The Palestinian leadership said it would operate in formal channels to raise the issue of the Palestinian cause wherever possible with international and legal organizations. PA Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh spoke about it with Josep Borrell Fontelles, representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, while visiting Belgium (Wafa, October 27, 2021).
- ▶ NGO representatives met with ambassadors and general consuls, including an EU representative. The organizations also plan to appeal to members of the American Congress, and are examining holding activities in front of Israeli legations abroad. They are also examining making appeals to the relevant legal institutions. On the popular level, they are planning to hold a national protest day and weekly demonstrations in front of Red Cross offices. NGO representatives have already met with 27 general consuls and ambassadors to the PA territories, including the EU representative.
- ▶ The organizations belonging to the PFLP represent themselves as social-civilian-humanitarian NGOs. Most of their funding comes in the form of donations from foreign organizations and countries, with a small number of local donations. The investigation conducted by the Israeli security forces from March to May 2021 exposed significant information about the organizations' activities and the way the PFLP uses them to raise money for its organizational and military activities.
- ▶ The NGOs serve to increase the PFLP's hold and influence over the Palestinian population by exploiting their civilian status. They enable the PFLP to locate and recruit new operatives, create obligation towards the organization from the people who receive its services, disseminate its propaganda, etc. In addition, the NGOs serve as a source of employment for PFLP operatives, including terrorist operatives, and their offices serve as bases for organization activities.



The logos of the outlawed organizations

Palestinian Reactions

► The order issued by the Israeli defense minister led a series of reactions from the PA, Hamas and other organizations, as well as the many Palestinian NGOs, including those to which the order related. Many claimed the order was illegal and part of a continuing Israeli campaign to attack Palestinian social-civilian organizations,¹ and especially their sources of funding. Many also declared they intended to keep fighting Israel in the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other venues, and called on countries and NGOs around the globe to enlist in fighting the order.

The Palestinian leadership

► On **October 24, 2021**, a Palestinian leadership meeting was held in Ramallah where **Mahmoud Abbas** condemned the Israeli declaration against the NGOs which, he claimed, operated in accordance with Palestinian law. The Palestinian leadership stressed its support for the continuation of the NGOs' activities and their rejection of the Israeli order (Wafa, October 24, 2021).

► On **October 25, 2021**, Mahmoud Abbas met in his office with **representatives of the six organizations** designated by Israel as terrorist organizations. Other members of the

¹ According to a ruling handed down by the Israeli supreme court and according to the 2016 anti-terrorism law, a human rights organization can be designated as a terrorist organization when it has been proved that over time it has supported a terrorist organization, affiliated with it or operates for it, even when the organization also carries out civilian humanitarian activities (Haaretz, October 25, 2021).

Palestinian leadership attended, including **Mahmoud al-'Alul**, deputy Fatah chairman; and **Mahmoud al-Habash**, both Mahmoud Abbas' advisor for religious matters and a judge in the Sharia high court. **Mahmoud Abbas** told them he condemned and rejected the Israeli order and supported the organizations, which fulfilled their duty to expose to the world the crimes committed by Israel ("the occupation"). He promised the PA would conduct formal activities in the international arena to fight the order. He also said Israel did not have the right to intervene in the activities of organizations working within the framework of Palestinian law. He called for more Palestinian efforts to fight Israel over the order. The representatives of the organizations said they would continue their activities to criticize Israel and expose the "crimes the occupation" committed against the Palestinian people. They also said they would operate in full coordination with Mahmoud Abbas' office and the official Palestinian institutions to fight the order (Mahmoud Abbas' Facebook page, October 25, 2021).



Mahmoud Abbas meets with representatives of the six outlawed Palestinian organizations (Mahmoud Abbas' Facebook page, October 25, 2018).

► **PA Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh** said he rejected the designation of the six Palestinian organizations as terrorist organizations and called on the international community and human rights organizations around the globe to reject it as well. He called it a dangerous attack on international law because the "institutions" designated by Israel as terrorist organizations operated in accordance with Palestinian law. They also had ties to international institutions, which had the duty to condemn Israel's designation and intervene to prevent its implementation (Wafa, October 22, 2021). He posted similar sentiments to his Facebook page (Muhammad Shtayyeh's Facebook page, October 22, 2021). Muhammad Shtayyeh also raised the issue before **Josep Borrell Fontelles, EU representative for foreign affairs**, during his visit to Belgium (Wafa, October 27, 2021).

► At the weekly PA government meeting, Muhammad Shtayyeh said the government would not recognize the Israeli order because the organizations in question were official PA

institutions working within the law, received international support and had international cooperation (Wafa, November 23, 2021).

► **Kayed al-Ghoul, a member of the PFLP's political bureau from the Gaza Strip**, claimed the objective of the Israeli order was to tighten the "siege" around the Palestinian people and its institutions. He said accusing the organizations of affiliation with the PFLP was a poor attempt to influence their functioning and their status in international circles, including the BDS movement. He claimed another objective was to prevent the organizations from pursuing their legal actions against Israel in European courts, including the ICC in The Hague, and to prevent them from receiving financial donations. He said the six organizations operated within Palestinian law and they were supervised by the relevant PA agencies (PFLP website, October 23, 2021).



Kayed al-Ghoul (PFLP website, October 23, 2021).

► **The PA foreign ministry** condemned the Israeli order, calling it "an insane attack of the occupation regime on Palestinian society and its institutions." It described the order as "a hostile invention, defamation and an attack on Palestinian society and the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, which resisted [sic] the Israel occupation." The foreign ministry called the order humiliating, and not the last such measure in the Israel's extensive, systematic campaign against the more prominent Palestinian civilian-human rights organizations (PA foreign ministry Facebook page, October 24, 2021).

► **Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian delegate to the UN**, claimed the order was part of a systematic campaign against Palestinian civilians because they dared to expose the [alleged] "crimes of the occupation." He called on the international community and UN agencies to oppose the order and defend the right of the Palestinian NGOs to continue functioning without persecution (Dunia al-Watan, October 23, 2021).

► **Saleh Rafat, a Democratic Union (FIDA) member of the PLO's Executive Committee**, said the operation of the organizations in question had been formally authorized by the PA (Wafa, October 22, 2021).

► **Dalal Salama, a member of Fatah's Central Committee**, said the order would not prevent the organizations from carrying out their important legal and social functions. She called on all Palestinian civilians to unite in a struggle in the international arena against the narrative of Israel ("the occupation") and the imposition of conditions that would designate the Palestinian struggle as terrorism. She also warned against the acceptance of such orders by a number of institutions, which was liable to pave the way for Israel to attack all the Palestinian organizations (QudsN, October 23, 2021).

► **Hamas** officially condemned the order, claiming it was one of a series of terrorist maneuvers in Israel's "fanatic" war against Palestinian existence. **Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem** claimed the order of the "Israeli minister of war" classifying NGOs and human rights organizations as terrorist was one of the ways Israel was waging war against the Palestinian existence in an effort to weaken it. He called for a national campaign to fight the order and called on the international community to expose what he called "Zionist terrorism" (Hazem Qassem's Telegram channel, October 23, 2021).

► **Palestinian legal authority Majed al-Aroui** claimed the order was part of an Israeli campaign against Palestinian civilian institutions because of the role they play in representing the Palestinian cause as the top legal-political priority of the international community. He said the PA had the responsibility to inform banks to object to the order and not to halt or freeze the accounts of the organizations, as ordered by Israel (Sanad, October 24, 2021).

The Palestinian social-civilian organizations and NGOs

► Representatives of the organizations designated by Israel as terrorist organizations held a joint press conference where they rejected the designation and said would keep their offices open, adding that no one could silence "the voice of truth." **Al-Haq director general Shawan Jabarin** claimed the order had come as a "surprise," made because of political rather than security considerations. He said its intention had been to defame the Palestinian organizations, hinder their activities in the international arena and reduce their international funding. He said he was certain international institutions would continue to stand with the Palestinians. He said they would continue hounding senior Israeli officials, including Defense

Minister Benny Gantz because he was a [so-called] "war criminal" whose had the blood of Palestinians from Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria on his hands. He alleged it was not a coincidence that "punishment" from Israel and similar declarations were issued at the same time it became possible to open an ICC investigation against Israel (Wafa, October 24, 2021).

► **Omar Hijazi, aide to the Palestinian foreign minister for bilateral relations**, condemned the Israeli order and stated Israel was responsible for the lives of the employees of the designated NGOs. He stressed the organizations' importance in the Palestinians' efforts against Israel, adding that the PA would continue to support them. He called on international organizations not to cooperate with the Israeli order. He also said that in any case, the PA would not cease its activities against Israel in the ICC. He added that the Palestinian foreign minister had demanded the ICC's new chief prosecutor, when he entered office, open an investigation, informing him the PA was prepared to cooperate with ICC employees. He stated that every month they delivered information about Israel's activities against the Palestinian NGOs to the chief prosecutor's office (QudsN website, October 23, 2021).



Press conference held in Ramallah with the participation of representatives of the six organizations, headed by Shawan Jabarin, secretary general of al-Haq (center). At the right is the aide to the Palestinian foreign minister (QudsN, October 23, 2021).

► On **October 25, 2021**, the Palestinian prisoners' and human rights organizations held a meeting at the headquarters of the PLO's prisoners' commission. The meeting was also attended by lawyers and figures from the PA's department of prisoners' affairs. They discussed the need to unite their efforts to oppose the order, both locally and internationally. According to reports, the Palestinian leadership was investing efforts through official channels by discussing the issue with international legal organizations and by organizing a protest petition. They were also trying to put the issue on the agenda of international conferences. In the meantime, they would act through legal channels. A suggestion was made to boycott Israeli military courts for a specified time. At the popular level, a national

protest day would be declared, as well as weekly protests in front of Red Cross offices. The representatives of the organizations noted that the campaign was not only for their own sake, it was for the entire Palestinian people (Watan, October 25, 2021).

► **Shawan Jabarin** noted the PA's activities regarding the order, saying the organizations had asked the PA to defend their financial activities and continue funding and supporting them. He reported that the organizations continued their activities against the order through their contacts with partners and other NGOs both locally and globally. He said the representatives of the organizations had already spoken with 27 general consuls and ambassadors to the PA, including the EU representative. The organizations' representatives asked for continuing support and for practical measures to be taken to revoke the order. They stated they were planning to appeal to the United States Congress and were also examining suggestions to hold activities in front of Israeli legations abroad, with the option of appealing to the relevant legal agencies (al-Araby al-Jadeed, October 25, 2021).

► **Sahar Francis, head of the Addameer Association**, noted the importance of the PA's diplomatic activity with countries and agencies to ensure cooperation with PA organizations would continue (al-Araby, October 25, 2021).

► **Samidoun**, an organization outlawed in February 2021, said in an announcement that designating the six organizations as terrorist had come after it and the British-based EuroPal Forum had been designated at the beginning of the year. According to the organization, Israel had adopted the policy of designating as terrorist all organizations which challenged it and exposed its [alleged] "crimes" at the local, regional and international level (Samidoun website, October 22, 2021).

► **Raji Sourani, director of the Gazan Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR)**, claimed Israel's objective was to put a stop to Palestinian organizations' activities with the ICC at a sensitive time, when a serious investigation of Israel's [alleged] "crimes" had begun. He said Israel was using the same tactic as Trump had when he said he would prosecute anyone who cooperated with an ICC investigation of the United States or Israel. Sourani claimed Israel's order was intended to destroy the organizations by diminishing their sources of financing by linking them to terrorism. He added that they expected further measures would follow, such as closing bank accounts and preventing organization employees from traveling, and they were raising alerts to possible physical attacks (PCHR website, October 23, 2021).

► **The Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO)** said it was planning to operate at the international level against the order and to use "all the necessary legal tools and channels." The PNGO said it would present its files to the EU and international coalitions because in the network's opinion, the [alleged] Israeli attack was part of a broader program to end the NGOs' operations (PNGO website, October 23, 2021).

► **The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC)** said the Israeli order had come after years of persecuting the NGOs that were documenting "Israel's [alleged] crimes" and cooperating with UN agencies and the international community. The Council appealed to all the relevant agencies to take a clear stand on the issue and to exert pressure on Israel to rescind the order (Council website, October 23, 2021).

► **Omar Shahr, holder the Human Rights Watch (HRW) Israeli-Palestinian portfolio**, said the order involved the six most prominent and important Palestinian NGOs which monitored not only Israel's actions but also the actions of the PA and Hamas regarding human rights violations. He said designating the organizations as terrorist organizations put them in danger of being closed, having their equipment confiscated and their operatives detained (al-Tariq, October 23, 2021).



The names of the six organizations with the caption, "All [of them are] terrorist" (al-Hayat al-Jadeeda, October 25, 2021).

► **The PLO's professional unions and popular associations** called the Israeli order "racist, without value and illegal, like all Israel's other orders against the Palestinian people and its national institutions," and designated the Israeli organizations Regavim² and NGO Monitor³ "terrorist organizations" operating outside international law. The PLO-affiliated unions and associations called on all the international organizations to which they have ties to end all

² "Regavim is a public movement dedicated to the protection of Israel's national lands and resources." <https://www.regavim.org/about-us/>

³ "NGO Monitor is a globally recognized research institute promoting democratic values and good governance." <https://www.ngo-monitor.org>

connections and cooperation with Israeli organizations because they operate by following instructions from the Israeli military and directly from the "fascist occupation government." They claimed NGO Monitor was expert in falsifying facts and the objective of all its reports was to defame Palestinian activities in every field and define them as terrorist. As to Regavim, they claimed it specialized in supporting settlement activity, and monitoring and supervising Palestinian activity throughout Area C.

► The professional unions said they were prepared to use all means available to them, human and financial, to exploit their connections with the Arab-international world. They also announced an international campaign to help the six organizations have the Israeli order revoked to ensure their continued international financing (PNN, October 27, 2021).



Israel needs a tank to combat six Palestinian NGOs
(Palestinian cartoonists' Facebook page, October 27, 2021).

Appendix

Overview

- **The PFLP is a member organization of the PLO.** Since its inception the PFLP has carried out several terrorist attacks, including suicide bombing attacks, killing many Israelis. It has been designated as a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States, Canada and EU member states.
- In addition to its political and military-terrorist activities in Judea and Samaria, the PFLP operates a network of organizations calling themselves "social-civilian networks." Their income, which they use to employ PFLP operatives, comes mainly from donations from foreign countries and a small amount of local donations. Since 2007 it has issued a number of reports based on open sources documenting the close ties between the PFLP and Palestinian civilian society. The ties made headlines when PFLP operatives were accused of the terrorist attack at Ein Bubin on August 23, 2019. **Samer al-Arbid**, who was the accountant of the Union of Agricultural Work Committees, was detained for his involvement in the attack. Until 2015 he was also the CFO of Addameer. **He was tried on 21 counts, including commanding the terrorist squad that carried out the attack.**



Operatives of the terrorist squad. Left to right, Nizam Amtir, Yazan Maghamas, Qassem Barghouti, Samer Arbide (asramedia, September 29, 2021).

- An **Israeli Security Agency** investigation conducted between March and May 2021 exposed a significant amount of information about the six organizations' operations, how they raised funds, and how they diverted funds to the PFLP for its own use. The investigation focused on the **Health Work Committee** (HWC), considered the PFLP's central institution. Its stated objective is operating health centers and providing social services such as kindergartens and centers for people with special needs in Judea and Samaria.

- ▶ The investigation revealed how, on paper, the organizations operated as social service providers but in effect laundered money for the PFLP and its military-terrorist activities, and its offices often served as meeting places for terrorist operatives. The information supplemented reports accumulated over the years about how the PFLP and its network of organizations collect funds for promoting its activities. One of the operatives interrogated described the network's importance, stating that the organizations, specifically those designated as terrorist, were interconnected and served as the PFLP's economic and organizational financial pipeline.
- ▶ The PFLP diverted humanitarian aid funds from Europe to itself in a number of ways for example by having the NGOs issue reports about fictitious projects, transmit falsified documents, forge and inflate receipts, bias the receipt of tenders, forge bank documents and seals, report inflated salaries, etc. Funds received were transferred to the families of shaheeds, used to pay operatives' salaries and recruit new operatives, promote terrorist activity and spread the organizations' ideology, etc. (Israeli Security Agency, May 6, 2021).
- ▶ The institutions fully collaborated with one another through the PFLP operatives they employed, some of them also military-terrorist operatives who were involved in terrorist attacks. For example, **Walid Hanatsheh was the Health Work Committee's CFO** from 2001 until he was detained in 2019. He was one of the operatives commanding the terrorist squad that carried out the attack in which Rina Shnerb was killed.⁴ **Samer Arbid, from the Union of Agricultural Work Committees**, was also involved in the attack.
- ▶ In August 2021 the EU's European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF⁵) began an investigation of EU support for Palestinian NGOs following a Dutch government decision to suspend its funding for the Health Work Committee and investigate its ties to terrorism. The EU representative said he had instructed the heads of the EU delegation to Israel and Judea and Samaria to conduct **a thorough investigation of the claim that some of the EU funds were diverted to organizations with ties to terrorism or which supported terrorism.**

⁴ On the morning of **August 23, 2019**, an IED was detonated to attack an Israeli father and his two children who had come to visit Ein Bubin (Mayan Dani) near the Israeli community of Dolev, northwest of Ramallah. Rina, 17, was mortally wounded and died; her father and brother were seriously injured. About a month later the terrorist squad was detained, all of them PFLP operatives..

⁵ The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) is the EU body mandated to detect, investigate and stop fraud with EU funds..

The Organizations and Their Ties to the PFLP

The Union of Palestinian Women's Committees (UPWC)



The UPWC was founded in 1980 and formally registered in 2001. It is based in Ramallah and coordinates the activities of the women in the PFLP leadership in the PA districts in Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem, with eight offices, one in each district. Its stated objective is to struggle "to build a civil, democratic, progressive Palestinian society free from all forms of discrimination and to achieve justice...[aiming] to improve the status of Palestinian women and empower them to ensure true equality between men and women and social justice for all segments of society" and to the Palestinian national struggle against the "Israeli occupation." According to its website, UPWC operates various projects, including those which serve the PFLP, such as cultural centers, kindergartens, etc. (UPWC website). It focuses on supporting populations important to the PFLP, such as the families of shaheeds and terrorist prisoners.

- ▶ Some of the profits generated by the projects are considered UPWC income. **It does not publish financial statements and operates without transparency.** It receives some of its funding from a Basque organization in Spain and from Norway (NGO Monitor, January 2020).
- ▶ The organization is headed by women who are PFLP activists. Sometimes it calls itself the PFLP's female branch (Dunia al-Watan, July 11, 2021). Its president is senior PFLP activist **Hitam al-Saafin**. She was detained by Israel in 2017. Other senior organization figures are vice president **Suheir Khader**, who is a PFLP Central Committee member. **Samira Abd al-Halim** coordinates with the Gaza Strip and is a PFLP Central Committee member (NGO Monitor, January 2020).
- ▶ During the return marches in the Gaza Strip the organization affiliated itself with the 12-member "Female Gender Committee." Its chairman was **Iktimal Hamad**, a PFLP Central Committee member (PFLP website, October 15, 2018) and head of the UPWC in the Gaza Strip (PFLP website, November 24, 2017).



Right: Iktimal Hamad gives speech at one of the flotilla events in the northern Gaza Strip (Iktimal Hamas' Facebook page, October 15, 2018). Left: From an UPWC activity in the northern Gaza Strip (Facebook page of the PFLP's information unit in the northern Gaza Strip, December 20, 2021).



Right: Iktimal Hamad (in the corner seat in front of the standing man) at a meeting of the National Authority leadership with an Egyptian security delegation (Iktimal Hamas' Facebook page, November 1, 2018). Left: Three members of the Female Gender Committee interviewed together: Iktimal Hamad, Imana Hamid and Kifah al-Rimali (Iktimal Hamas' Facebook page, March 29, 2018).

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)



► The UAWC was founded in 1986 as an NGO by a group of volunteers in response to what they called "the sensitive socio-political situation of farmers caused by the [so-called Israeli] occupation." Its offices are in Ramallah. Its stated objectives are to help Palestinian farmers and promote agricultural research and development projects (UAWC website). In reality it is an important PFLP institution, subordinate to the leadership in Judea and Samaria, and

serves as a significant source of funding for the organization (NGO Monitor, National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing – NBCTF website, October 19, 2021). The organization is listed by Fatah as affiliated with the PFLP (Fatah, May 6, 2021). A USAID report written in 1993 states the UAWC is affiliated with the PFLP (USAID, May 1993). In March 2017 the Israeli Security Agency stated the organization was controlled by the PFLP and the UAWC branch in Israel was closed by court order in light of its ties to the PFLP (Takdin, January 25, 2018). It was outlawed in Judea and Samaria in 2020 because of its affiliation with the PFLP.

► The UAWC does not issue financial statements or information about its donors or sources of income. Among its donors are the governments of France, Holland and Canada, and organizations in Spain and Norway. The organization cooperates with the UN FAO. On July 20, 2020, Holland announced it would end its support of the organization because of its ties to the PFLP (NGO Monitor).

► **Razeq Barghouti**, UAWC chairman in 2019, gave a speech at an event in Ramallah where he praised **Ahmed Saadat**, the PFLP general secretary, imprisoned in Israel for his part in the assassination of Israeli Minister of Tourism Rehavam Ze'evi (Wafa, October 2, 2013). The UAWC's previous chairman was **Bashir al-Hariri**, a member of the PFLP leadership (Ma'an, August 2018)

► **Samer al-Arbid** was the UAWC's CFO from 2016 until his detention in 2019. **He was one of the commanders of the terrorist squad** that carried out the attack at Ein Bubin that killed Rina Shnerb, a 17-year-old Israeli girl. Another terrorist operative is **Abd al-Rizaq Faraj**, the current CFO and administrative director, who was detained by Israel in 2014 on suspicion of PFLP membership. He was detained again in September 2019. After their detention, the command of the PFLP leadership remained intact.

Addameer – The Association for Prisoner and Human Rights Support



► Addameer was established as an NGO in 1991 by a group of activists who claimed to be human rights workers. The organization claims it is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution that works to support Palestinian political prisoners, that is, Palestinian terrorist operatives detained by Israel, especially PFLP operatives and their families. The organization is located in Ramallah and has a branch in the Gaza Strip (Addameer website). A large number of the prisoners receiving support from the organization are PFLP terrorist operatives, including those involved in lethal terrorist attacks against Israel. The organization recently geared up in support of the PFLP operatives detained after the IED attack at Ein Bubin in August 2019. Addameer operates internationally and leads campaigns for the release of PFLP prisoners.

► **Addameer has not issued a financial statement since 2014.** Among its financial supporters are Ireland, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the Heinrich Bell foundation in Germany. According to a report, since 2019 donations have dwindled and the organization is in financial trouble (NGO Monitor).

► Addameer is headed by **Sahar Francis**, who was born in Fasouta in the Galilee and studied law at Haifa University. In 2021, when appointed head of the organization, she moved to Ramallah. Most of the organization's employees are affiliated with the PFLP, including **Yaqoub Jawda, Ali Jaradat, Samoud Saadat** and other senior figures. **Khalida Jarar**, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, was formerly deputy head of Addameer. She was detained a number of times, including after the Ein Bubin attack. While serving as deputy head she was imprisoned for a year and a half and released in June 2016. In 2017 her prison sentence was exchanged for administrative detention because of her senior position in the organization (Addameer website).

► In August 2019 Jarar was detained after the terrorist attack at Ein Bubin. On **March 1, 2021**, a military court sentenced her to two years in prison. Addameer condemned the sentence and stressed the illegality of an Israeli military court which "violated the right to a fair trial" (Addameer website, March 21, 2021). She was recently released from prison.



Khalida Jarar (Wafa, December 15, 2021).

► **Samer Arbid** was a PFLP operative until April 2017. He was one of the commanders of the squad that carried out the IED attack at Ein Bubin. His wife, **Nora Arbid**, has been PFLP board of directors treasurer since November 2017 (PFLP website).

► **Salah Hamori** is a PFLP field investigator. He was detained in 2005 on charges of being an operator in a PFLP squad planning to assassinate former Israeli Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef (PFLP website, December 20, 2011), and released in the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal. Interviewed in his home the first time after his release, he said he and the operatives in the squad had the "right" [sic] to assassinate Israeli Chief Sephardic Rabbi Ovadia Yosef because he "deserved to die" [sic] (Reuters, December 20, 2011). The Israeli minister of the interior recently moved to revoke his status as an Israeli resident due to his continuing PFLP activity.

► **Bashir Khouri** is a member of the PFLP general assembly, an advisor and in the past deputy head of the organization. He was formerly a senior operative (PFLP website, August 28, 2014). He was imprisoned in Israel for 17 years and released in the Jibril prisoner exchange deal in 1985. Since then he has been detained several times, most recently on October 29, 2021. He served as chairman of the UAWC (Ma'an, May 2, 2021).

Bisan Center of Research and Development



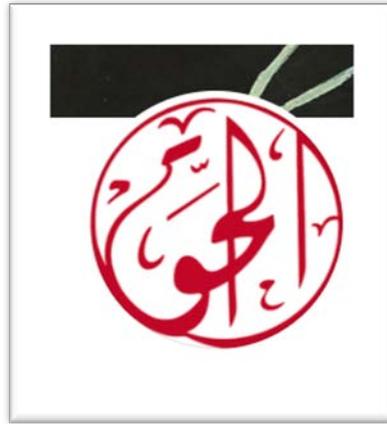
► **The Bisan Center** is a Palestinian NGO which represents itself as "an active civil society organization, non-governmental and not for profit with democratic and progressive values." It was founded in 1989 and officially registered with the PA ministry of the interior in January 2004. Its stated objective is "to enhance Palestinian's resilience and to contribute in building an effective democratic civil society" (Bisan website). It is based in Ramallah, and works in collaboration with the Health Work Committee. It publishes reports reflecting the PFLP's stance on Israel. In the past it was funded by an Italian NGO, the EU legation and the Spanish government.

► **Itiraf Rimawi**, a PFLP operative, was CEO and project director. He was detained by Israel several times for PFLP activities, most recently in September 2019, along with several dozen other PFLP operatives, in connection with the terrorist attack in Ein Bubin.

► **Fatima Dana** is a lawyer, PFLP activist, member of the PFLP general assembly and a member of Addameer. She is also the **wife of Ra'ed Nizar**, who was commander of the PFLP's military-terrorist wing.

► **Ubai al-Aboudi** is the PFLP general director. He holds American citizenship, studied at Birzeit University and was also general director of the UAWC. He was detained on November 13, 2019 at his home in Kafr 'Aqab, northeast of Jerusalem (Mondoweiss, November 25, 2019).

Al-Haq



- ▶ The al-Haq website refers to the organization as "an independent Palestinian human rights organization based in the city of Ramallah in the West Bank. Founded in 1979, Al-Haq monitors and documents human rights violations committed by parties to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, issuing reports on its findings and producing detailed legal studies." In reality, the organization is an arm of the PFLP.
- ▶ Al-Haq has not issued financial statements or a list of donors since 2009. It is common knowledge that many countries donate funds to it, among them Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Norway and the EU, and it has ties to many European organizations (NGO Monitor). It not only does not publicly reveal its affiliation with the PFLP, it denies the relationship, having decided that would be the best way to continue receiving financial donations and prevent its credibility and reputation from being damaged in the eyes of the international community.
- ▶ Al-Haq's head is **Shawan Ratab Abdallah Jabarin**, born in the village of Sair, near Hebron, in 1960. He is a lawyer with a BA in sociology from Birzeit University. In 2004 he began law school in Ireland, specializing in international law. While still in school he volunteered as a field researcher with al-Haq. He also belonged to the PFLP student cell in Birzeit University. He later became involved in recruiting PFLP operatives and was imprisoned in Israel for his activities. After he finished his studies in Ireland he was elected to the position of al-Haq general director. Since 2010 he has also lectured parttime at Birzeit University.



Shawan Jabarin (France24, July 23, 2015).

► In 2009 Shawan Jabarin appealed to the Israeli supreme court because he had not been permitted to go to Holland to receive an award for fighting for democracy and against discrimination, persecution and racism. His appeal was rejected out of security considerations. The supreme court ruling clearly illustrated his dual role as a terrorist operative and activist in an organization purporting to support human rights. For example, on June 20, 2007, the court called him a "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," who spent some of his time directing a human rights organization, and some of his time as an operative in an organization which did not hesitate to commit murder or attempt to commit murder, which have no connection to human rights, but rather negate the most fundamental right, the right to live, without which no other rights exist. On February 22, 2012, the travel ban imposed on his was temporarily lifted.

► **Ali Jaradat**, a journalist and author who works as a PFLP investigator, is also one of the organization's operatives. In the past he was the editor of al-Hadaf, the PFLP's weekly publication. He was detained by Israel five times (Addameer website, March 30, 2017).

Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCI-P)



The DCI-P is one of 35 branches operated by a global movement based in Geneva. According to the Israeli order, the Palestinian branch serves as an arm of the PFLP. Its website claims it

is "an independent, local Palestinian child rights organization dedicated to defending and promoting the rights of children living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip," and has, since 1991, "investigated, documented, and exposed grave human rights violations against children... provided legal services to children in urgent need; held Israeli and Palestinian authorities accountable to universal human rights principles; and advocated at the international and national levels to advance access to justice and protection for children." The Palestinian branch of the organization was registered with the PA in 2003 as an independent Palestinian NGO (DCI-P website).

► Many of the DCI-P employees are PFLP operatives. For example, **Hashem Khader Abu Maria**, who was the community recruitment unit coordinator, was killed on July 25, 2014, in a clash with the Israeli security forces in Bayt Umar. The PFLP's mourning notice for him referred to him as a "comrade," i.e., an organization member. The notice praised his work for the PFLP, stating he had been active in the "ranks of the struggle for national liberation" and in the PFLP from an young age (al-Watan, July 25, 2014). **Hasan Abd al-Jawad** was formerly a member of the board of directors, and a PFLP candidate for Palestinian Legislative Council membership in the 2006 elections (al-Watan, May 12, 2006). **Nasser Ibrahim**, a member of the board of directors, was the editor of al-Hadaf, the PFLP's weekly publication, and contributed to the organization's Syrian and Lebanese websites. For many years Al-Haq director **Shawan Jabarin** was a member of the organization's board of directors, as was **Sahar Francis** (NGO Monitor).

Organizations previously investigated

Health Work Committee (WHC)

► On May 6, 2021 four PFLP operatives were detained. The investigation focused on the **Health Work Committee (WHC)**, considered one of the PFLP's most important organizations. The WHC's stated objective, according to its website, is "a Rights-Based Approach providing Health Services and building development models to all segments of the Palestinian Population particularly the poor and the marginalized; and, lobbying and advocating in support of favorable policies and legislations for the realization of free democratic society and its citizens enjoying their social rights." It operates health centers in Judea and Samaria. Israel designated it as a terrorist organization in 2015. An investigation of the WHC exposed extensive material about the WHC and other important PFLP institutions, including the UAWC, Addameer, the Bisan Center, al-Haq, the DCI-P and the UPWC.

- ▶ The four PFLP operatives detained were:
 - ◆ **Taysir Abu Sharbak**, 47, from Ramallah, the WHC's accountant.
 - ◆ **Sayid Abidat**, 46, from Ramallah, the previous WHC accountant who was fired in 2019 on charges of embezzlement.
 - ◆ **Amro Hamouda**, 46, from al-Bireh, former WHC head of purchasing.
 - ◆ **Hawani Rashmawi**, 63, from Bayt Sahour, who holds Spanish citizenship. She worked for the WHC for many years, and was responsible for the receipt of donations from EU countries.
- ▶ The investigation of the HWC exposed a mechanism for financing the PFLP in Judea and Samaria with millions of euros transferred by human rights organizations and NGOs operating in Europe (Israeli Security Agency website, May 6, 2021).

Samidoun

- ▶ On February 28, 2021, **Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz**, with recommendations from the National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing (NBTCF) and the Israeli Security Agency, signed an order designating Samidoun as a terrorist organization and part of the PFLP. Samidoun was established in 2012 and its representatives operate in many countries in Europe and North America. The network is headed by **Khaled Barakat**, a senior PFLP operative abroad, who in the past was involved in terrorist attacks in Judea and Samaria and abroad. According to their website, the network calls itself the "Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network...an international network of organizers and activists working to build solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in their struggle for freedom." However, in reality it focuses on PFLP prisoners, among them senior operatives who carried out devastating terrorist attacks. According to the Israeli order, it operates as a PFLP front organization in Europe (Jerusalem Post, February 28, 2021).
- ▶ Following the order issued by the Israeli defense minister, Samidoun posted an announcement to its website stating that despite the order, it would continue and increase its activities, and would not shirk its duty towards the Palestinian prisoners (Samidoun website, February 28, 2021).

