

July 28, 2020

To: Robin Wettlaufer, Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority

Dear Ms. Wettlaufer,

I am writing to inform you of an important development concerning a Palestinian NGO that has received Canadian funding, and may still benefit from Canadian taxpayer support provided through the UN. Significant new evidence has emerged linking the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which Canada designates as a terrorist organization.

On July 20, the Dutch government announced a suspension of funding for the NGO after Foreign Minister Stef Blok and Development Minister Sigrid Kaag revealed that an internal government audit concluded that Dutch funds were used to pay the salaries of two individuals arrested for murder.

These two, Samer Arbid and Abdel Razeq Farraj, are currently standing trial for being part of a PFLP [terror cell](#) that perpetrated the August 2019 murder of a 17-year-old Israeli. Arbid was UAWC's [accountant](#) and previously its "[financial officer](#)"; according to the indictment against him, he commanded the cell, and prepared and detonated the explosive device that killed the Israeli teen. Razeq Farraj was UAWC's "[Finance and Administration Director](#);" according to his indictment, he held a senior PFLP post and authorized the August 2019 bombing. (For more information on UAWC's PFLP ties, read NGO Monitor's report "[Union of Agricultural Work Committees Ties to the PFLP Terror Group](#).")

In previous years, UAWC received Canadian funding, and the NGO may be currently involved in Canadian grants:

- According to the UN's Financial Tracking System, [Canada has committed over \\$12.6 million \(USD\) in 2020 to West Bank and Gaza projects](#) facilitated by the local branch of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA-oPt). UAWC is a frequent partner on OCHA-oPt projects.
- Due to a decrease in transparency on the part of OCHA-oPt, it is difficult to ascertain which NGOs are currently implementing and partnering on such projects.
- According to a July 14, 2020 update from the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Canadian funding includes over \$1.8 million (USD) to OCHA's COVID response. OCHA has cited UAWC's involvement in multiple COVID-response grants. In 2017, Canada committed \$3.5 million to Oxfam Italia for "[Recovery](#)

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[support to vulnerable farmers, fisherman and herders in Gaza Strip](#),” with UAWC listed as an implementing partner.

- Similarly, in 2016, [Canada committed \\$3 million](#) to CARE International for “humanitarian assistance – emergency livelihoods response to small-scale farmers affected by the Gaza crisis.” Ma’an Development Center was the primary “implementing partner,” with the project description noting that it will work in “close coordination” with UAWC and others.

Currently, the European Union is engaged in an internal review of its support for various Palestinian NGOs and the PFLP. In light of this and the developments in the Netherlands, we urge Canada to immediately freeze any funds that may be going to UAWC to ensure that Canadian funding is not inadvertently supporting terrorism.

Respectfully,

Yona Schiffmiller

Director of Research

CC: Russell Milon, Director of Parliamentary Affairs, Office of the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie