

Statement from the Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Promote Palestinian Human Rights (November 9, 2021)

As legislators from North America and Europe, we strongly condemn the Israeli government's latest attack on Palestinian civil society. On October 19th, Israel designated six important civil society organizations (CSOs) as "terrorist organizations," a move which is intended to criminalize and eliminate Palestinian advocacy, and to intimidate the international community into cancelling their funding and partnership ties. In addition to the catastrophic effect that this attack is likely to have on the ability of CSOs to continue their critical human rights work, we are also deeply concerned about threats that this poses to the personal rights and safety of their employees and volunteers.

This is a critical moment for the international community. It is imperative that we respond forcefully to Israel's criminalization of Palestinian civil society. We urge our governments to listen to the demands from Palestinian CSOs, and use all available means to end Israel's impunity and hold authorities accountable for their egregious attacks on civil society and human rights defenders.

This latest crisis further demonstrates the importance of advancing legislative initiatives which can stop governments from funding the violations of Palestinian human rights under Israeli occupation. One important initiative is H.R. 2590, the *Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act*, which was introduced by Congresswoman Betty McCollum to the United States House of Representatives. This legislation would ban the US from funding Israeli practices including: 1) the military detention of Palestinian children; 2) the demolition of Palestinian homes and property; and 3) the further annexation of Palestinian land in violation of international law.

We encourage the urgent adoption of this legislation by the United States, and commit to seeking out ways to adopt these principles in our respective legislatures. Concrete measures of accountability are necessary to ensure that no more public money is used to subsidize Israel's ongoing oppression of Palestinians.

Signed,

- Steven De Vuyst, Member of Parliament, Belgium (Workers Party of Belgium)
- Simon Moutquin, Member of Parliament, Belgium (Ecolo)
- Patrick Costello, Teachta Dála, Ireland (Green Party/Comhaontas Glas)
- Paidrag MacLochlainn, Teachta Dála, Ireland (Sinn Féin)
- Gino Kenny, Teachta Dála, Ireland (People Before Profit)
- Veronika Honkasalo, Member of Parliament, Finland (Left Alliance)
- Idoia Villanueva, Member of European Parliament in AFET Committee, Spain (Podemos)
- Matej Tašner Vatovec, Member of Parliament, Slovenia (Left Party)
- Erasmo Palazzotto, Member of Parliament, Italy (Liberi e Uguali)
- Leah Gazan, Member of Parliament, Canada (New Democratic Party)
- Niki Ashton, Member of Parliament, Canada (New Democratic Party)
- Matthew Green, Member of Parliament, Canada (New Democratic Party)
- Ruba Ghazal, Member of National Assembly, Québec (Québec Solidaire)