

Peter Mollema,  
Head of Mission  
**Netherlands Representative Office**  
12 Hollanda Street, El Bireh  
Ramallah  
Palestinian Territories

[ram@minbuza.nl](mailto:ram@minbuza.nl); [ram-ca@minbuza.nl](mailto:ram-ca@minbuza.nl)

13 May 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

## **Re: Your donations to the Union of Agricultural Work Committees**

1. We understand that you have donated in the past and/ or continue to make donations to the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (“UAWC”). We are concerned that the UAWC is associated with a terrorist organisation and therefore seek from you details as to your organisation’s due diligence process in deciding to make such donations.

### **The PFLP**

2. It has come to our attention that UAWC has strong links with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (“PFLP”). The PFLP has been recognised as an active terrorist organisation by various governments.
3. The US Department of State Bureau of Counter Terrorism lists the PFLP as a Foreign Terrorist Organisations, and designated it as such on 10 August 1997.<sup>1</sup>
4. The European Union updated its list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism on 12 July 2016. It confirmed that those listed in its annex have been involved in terrorist acts and that they should continue to be subject to restrictive measures. The PFLP was included in this list.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016D1136&qid=1474969819578&from=EN>

Ludgate House, 107-111 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AF  
Email: [info@uklfi.com](mailto:info@uklfi.com) Website: [www.uklfi.com](http://www.uklfi.com)

Patrons: Lord Carlile CBE QC, Lady Cosgrove CBE QC, Baroness Deech DBE QC, Lord Dyson PC,  
Sir Bernard Eder, Lord Howard CH PC QC, Sir Ivan Lawrence QC, Sir Gavin Lightman, Lord Millett PC QC,  
Lord Pannick QC, Professor Richard Susskind OBE, Lord Trimble PC, Rosalind Wright CB QC, Lord Young CH PC DL

5. Canada has also published a list of terrorist entities which includes the PFLP.<sup>3</sup> The description of the PFLP on the Canadian Government website states that “*The goals of the PFLP are the destruction of the State of Israel and the establishment of a communist government in Palestine.*”
6. Atrocities for which the PFLP has claimed responsibility include:
- a. an attack on those praying at a synagogue in West Jerusalem on 18 November 2014, in which five Jewish worshippers and a Druze policeman were murdered and six other worshippers were injured, with axes, knives, and a gun;<sup>4</sup>
  - b. a drive-by shooting of passengers in a car on 29 June 2015, injuring four Israelis, one of whom died the following day;<sup>5</sup>
  - c. a suicide bombing in the Carmel Market in Tel Aviv on 1 November 2004, which killed 3 Israelis;<sup>6</sup>
  - d. a suicide bombing in the bus station at Geha Junction in Petah Tikva on 25 December 2003 which killed 4 Israelis;<sup>7</sup>
  - e. a suicide bombing in a pizzeria in Karnei Shomron on 16 February 2002, killing three Israeli teenagers;<sup>8</sup>
  - f. The assassination of Israeli Minister for Tourism Rehavam Zeevi on 21 October 2001;<sup>9</sup>
  - g. The hijacking of a Lufthansa Flight 181 from Palma de Mallorca to Frankfurt on 13 October 1977;<sup>10</sup>
  - h. The hijacking of four passenger aircraft in September 1970 from Pan Am, TWA and Swissair on flights to New York from Brussels, Frankfurt and Zurich;<sup>11</sup>
  - i. the hijacking of TWA Flight 840 from Los Angeles to Damascus on 29 August 1969 by a PFLP cell led by Leila Khaled;<sup>12</sup> and

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrnt/cntr-trrrsm/lstd-ntts/crrnt-lstd-ntts-en.aspx#2042>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/jerusalem-synagogue-attack-popular-front-for-the-liberation-of-palestine-claims-responsibility-9868981.html>;

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/11237316/Jerusalem-attack.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.haaretz.com/israeli-man-dies-following-west-bank-shooting-1.5374726>

<sup>6</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/3970995.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3970995.stm)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/1450299/Suicide-bomber-kills-three-at-Tel-Aviv-bus-stop.html>

<sup>8</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/1824767.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/1824767.stm)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2001/oct/17/israel2>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.liveleak.com/view?t=a1b\\_1172741315](https://www.liveleak.com/view?t=a1b_1172741315)

<sup>11</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/12/newsid\\_2514000/2514929.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/september/12/newsid_2514000/2514929.stm)

<sup>12</sup> <https://adst.org/2015/08/the-pflp-hijacking-of-twa-840/>

- j. An attack on the El Al Flight 432 passenger jet at Zürich airport on 18 February 1969.<sup>13</sup>

### **Links between UAWC and the PFLP**

7. UAWC is the official agricultural affiliate of the PFLP. A research paper for US AID by the Democratic Institutions Support Project clearly shows this link.<sup>14</sup> The report states: “*The PFLP's agricultural extension services are provided by the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), based in Bayt Hanina.*”
8. UAWC was founded in 1986 by members of the PFLP.<sup>15</sup> UAWC continues to be listed as an official “affiliate”<sup>16</sup> of the PFLP.
9. The organisation NGO Monitor details various links between UAWC and PFLP on its website.<sup>17</sup>
10. UAWC’s 2014 report and accounts are available on its website.<sup>18</sup> UAWC’s board of directors is listed at page 8. The secretary of UAWC is Sahar Francis. She is currently director of Addameer, another PFLP linked affiliate and, in October 2017, spoke on a platform alongside Leila Khaled, a leading member of the PFLP and a hijacker of two passenger flights.<sup>19</sup> Sahar Francis also sits on the board of DCI-P.<sup>20</sup>
11. Bashir al Khairi, former President of the UAWC board of trustees,<sup>21</sup> was convicted of terrorist offences in 1969 and jailed for 15 years. Khairi was the head of the PFLP political bureau.<sup>22</sup> He was an active representative of the PFLP until at least 2012. An article on the PFLP website records a meeting of a delegation of “a number of ex-detainees, including fighter and leader Bashir Khairi” (15 January 2012).<sup>23</sup> A Google search for “Bashir al Khairi” provides, as one of the very first results, a detailed article by *The Spectator*, Australian edition, in which al Khairi’s links to known terrorist organisations are set out at length.<sup>24</sup>
12. Abd al-Al-Razeq Farraj,<sup>25</sup> former UAWC director of Administrative and Financial Affairs, was arrested many times since 1986 by Israeli security forces and was

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.revolvy.com/page/El-Al-Flight-432-attack>

<sup>14</sup> [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PNABY769.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNABY769.pdf) see table on page 8 and page 14 of Report

<sup>15</sup> Building a Palestinian State: The Incomplete Revolution By Glenn E. Robinson

<sup>16</sup> FATAH website listing PFLP affiliates (item 2), translated by Google Translate on Chrome.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20150924010641/http://www.fatehorg.ps/index.php?action=show\\_page&ID=11455&lang=ar](https://web.archive.org/web/20150924010641/http://www.fatehorg.ps/index.php?action=show_page&ID=11455&lang=ar).

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/union\\_of\\_agricultural\\_work\\_committees\\_uawc/](https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/union_of_agricultural_work_committees_uawc/)

<sup>18</sup> <http://uawc-pal.org/Files/3a6e8918-0e80-4922-a607-7a83c05e31e3.pdf.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <http://pflp.ps/english/2017/10/05/zionist-organizations-attempt-and-fail-to-shut-down-comrade-leila-khaled-in-europe/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://cmes.berkeley.edu/sahar-francis-in-conversation-with-samera-esmeir-the-struggle-for-palestinian-political-prisoners/>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.uawc-pal.org/Files/annual\\_report\\_2008\\_en.pdf](http://www.uawc-pal.org/Files/annual_report_2008_en.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2002/WORLD/meast/08/27/mideast/>

<sup>23</sup> [www.pflp.ps/news.php?id=889](http://www.pflp.ps/news.php?id=889)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/08/world-visions-blind-spot/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.frontline.in/world-affairs/fighting-for-dignity/article6141906.ece>

sentenced to 6 and 4.5 year imprisonment terms (in 1986 and 1993 respectively). He was re-arrested by administrative order in 2002, 2009 and 2011. The Israeli military court in the West Bank upheld the administrative arrest based on classified intelligence information. The military court noted that Abd al-Al-Razeq Farraj is an operative of PFLP and that his release may constitute a danger to the security of the area.

13. The UAWC directly makes its assets available for PFLP use. For example the PFLP celebrated its 42nd anniversary at the UAWC's hall in Khan Younis, Gaza on 12 December 2009, when it *“organized on Saturday evening of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - the leadership of Shaheed Muhammad Alsakulai ‘Abossalh’ a meeting of cadres and cadres and friends in the front hall to maintain the Union of Agricultural Work Committees.”*<sup>26</sup>
14. Senior PFLP personnel have been actively and publicly involved in UAWC activity: On 16 October 2010 the UAWC, together with the PFLP held an event to express solidarity with the Secretary-General of PFLP, Ahmad Saadat.<sup>27</sup> Saadat was convicted in Palestinian and later in an Israeli court of masterminding the assassination in 2001 of the Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi. In his speech during the event that took place in Gaza, Muhammad al-Bakri, the Executive Director of UAWC in Gaza, sent his greetings to Ahmad Saadat and to all Palestinian prisoners and detainees on the eve of “the anniversary of the Ze'evi's assassination” (16 October 2010). This demonstrates that the UAWC overtly promotes and supports the terrorist activity of the PFLP.
15. PFLP spokesman Ali Jaradat spoke at the official UAWC conference in Ramallah in 2011.<sup>28</sup> He also spoke at the Farmers, Rural Workers and Fishermen's conference organised by the UAWC in November 2011.<sup>29</sup>
16. The PFLP actively supported the UAWC's political protest outside UN Headquarters in Gaza City in 2011 with PFLP central committee member Abu Rahma speaking at the event.<sup>30</sup>
17. UAWC's official publication praises Palestinian terrorists, and spreads the doctrine of the PFLP.

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<sup>26</sup> [ajrasal3awda.ahlamontada.net/t6566-topic#top](http://ajrasal3awda.ahlamontada.net/t6566-topic#top) (Item 14) Translated by google translate)

Source: [ajrasal3awda.ahlamontada.net/t6566-topic#top](http://ajrasal3awda.ahlamontada.net/t6566-topic#top)

<sup>27</sup> <http://samanews.ps/ar/post/78928/%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AF-%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%AA%D8%B6%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%B1%D9%89-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86>  
(translated on Google Translate on Chrome)

<sup>28</sup> PLFP Arabic website as reported in Jerusalem Post 17 Feb 2012

<sup>29</sup> [www.alternativenews.org/english/index.php/topics/news/3877-palestines-place-in-the-global-farmers-struggle](http://www.alternativenews.org/english/index.php/topics/news/3877-palestines-place-in-the-global-farmers-struggle)

<sup>30</sup> PLFP Arabic Facebook page as reported in Jerusalem Post 17 Feb 2012

- k. On 30 March 2013 the UAWC issued a supplement named “The Call of the Land”<sup>31</sup> attached to the Palestinian al-Ayyam daily. The magazine headline was: “*On the anniversary of Land Day, the blessing of the homeland [is sent] to the martyrs of Palestine who dyed the land with their blood*” (translation Jonathan Halevi).
- l. The unsigned editorial on the front page praises the Palestinian “martyrs” and “prisoners” for their struggle to liberate Palestine.
- m. Ali Jaradat<sup>32</sup> spokesperson of the PFLP, wrote in an article: “...*There are 5,000 [Palestinian prisoners] in the darkness of the prisons [because of their fighting] for the freedom of the people and defending the land as it is the [Palestinian] homeland. They are still in the first line of confrontation, steadfast and fighting. After the martyrs, they [prisoners] are the finest young men and women...*”

### **Justification of your organisation’s donations to the UAWC**

- 18. In light of the above, we are very concerned that your organisation’s donations to the UAWC have encouraged and/ or facilitated acts of terrorism, through the UAWC’s political and material support for the PFLP.
- 19. There may well be legal ramifications of such support, in numerous jurisdictions around the world.
- 20. In light of the above, please can you confirm how your organisation decided to donate funds to the PFLP, and what due diligence you carried out prior to the making of such donations.
- 21. Specifically, please could inform us of whether you relied on any of the following factors:
  - n. Representations by UAWC representatives;
  - o. On-the-ground investigation of UAWC activities;
  - p. Audits of UAWC’s accounts carried out by PwC which made no reference to terrorist support;
  - q. Any other factors (and if so which).
- 22. We hope you will also share our concerns that your organisation’s charitable work is not tainted by any terrorist associations, and that donations to promote the economic and social wellbeing of the Palestinian people should be made via proper mechanisms.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://uawc-pal.org/Files/ef72dfd3-67a2-4a8b-9274-b84a4ce9d914.pdf.pdf>

<sup>32</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/meast/10/22/mideast.pflp/index.html?related>

23. We look forward to hearing from you **within 28 days of the date of this letter**. If we do not hear, we will draw appropriate conclusions and reserve the right to report our concerns to the relevant authorities.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "C" and a clear "Turner" following.

**Caroline Turner**  
Director, UK Lawyers for Israel