



31 December 2019

H.E. Josep Borrell

*High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Vice-President of the European Commission
European Union*

Dear High Representative Borrell,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of your new appointment as the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission. I have no doubt that during your term the deep friendship shared between Israel and the EU will continue to flourish with mutual understanding, common ideals and close cooperation. As such, I hope that during your term we can come to an understanding regarding a number of issues in which I was in contact with your predecessor. This includes the matter surrounding EU funding to terrorist-affiliated organizations.

Two weeks ago, as a result of an Israel Security Agency investigation into the August 2019 "Ein Bubin" bombing, which resulted in the murder of 17-year-old Rina Schnerb and injury of her brother and father, some 50 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) terrorists were arrested. The PFLP is designated as a terrorist group by the EU, US, Canada and Israel.

Those detained included senior officials who served in Palestinian "civil society" organizations including the Palestinian NGO Addameer, an organizations which, alongside its ongoing campaign to boycott and delegitimize the State of Israel, calls for the release of PFLP terrorists while providing them legal representation.

According to media reports in recent days, there have been discussions between the EU and Palestinian civil society organizations over grants which include criteria stipulating aid would only be given to organizations which have no connections to EU-designated terrorist groups. Palestinian organizations are reportedly demanding to erase this clause, expressing their opposition to the inclusion of "Palestinian parties" which are deemed terrorist entities, such as the PFLP.

Like Addameer, Al-Haq is another Palestinian organization that promotes a boycott against the State of Israel and has ties to the PFLP. The director of the organization is Shawan Jabarin, a former PFLP senior operative who has served a prison sentence for his terrorist activities. Over the years, Jabarin has employed other PFLP operatives who also have served prison sentences. According to data released by the EU regarding 2018 (data concerning 2019 has not yet been published), the EU has provided Al-Haq substantial financial support. Moreover, there are



grounds for concern that, because of the close connections of the two, funds may have been funneled from Al-Haq to the PFLP.

In light of the above, I ask that in 2020 the EU will ensure its funds will only be provided to organizations with no connections of any sort to designated terrorist entities. Additionally, it is vital that the EU requires beneficiary organizations to increase their transparency in relation to the causes for which the aid money is used. I urge the EU to safeguard the implementation of such criteria and cease funding to Al-Haq and any organization that is affiliated with terrorist groups.

In closing, I would like to send you my best wishes ahead of the New Year, and hope that 2020 will bring you good news on both a personal and professional level.

My staff and I are at your disposal for any further information or assistance which you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Erdan'.

MK Gilad Erdan
Minister of Strategic Affairs
Minister of Public Security