



# ELDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights

WITH LAWYERS  
IN 21 COUNTRIES

EJDM Europäische Vereinigung von Juristinnen & Juristen für Demokratie und Menschenrechte in der Welt  
EJDH Asociación Europea de los Juristas por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos en el Mundo  
EJDH Association Européenne des Juristes pour la Démocratie & les Droits de l'Homme  
EGDU Associazione Europea delle Giuriste e dei Giuristi per la Democrazia e i diritti dell'Uomo nel Mondo

Equality Privacy Social Rights  
No Racism Peace No Torture No War  
Self-Determination of Peoples Civil Rights Democracy  
Human Rights Rights of Migrants

Bologna, Düsseldorf, London, Vienna, 27 October 2021

## ELDH Statement on Israel's declaration that six Palestinian civil society groups are "terrorist organisations"

The European Lawyers for Democracy and Human Rights (ELDH) with members in 21 European countries, joins several United Nations Human Rights Special Rapporteurs, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and many humanitarian, development, human rights and faith organisations working to support the rights and welfare of the Palestinian people, to condemn the Israeli Government's shocking decision to declare six Palestinian civil society groups as 'terrorist organisations'.

On 19 October 2021, the Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz declared six Palestinian civil society groups as 'terrorist organisations'. The six include some of the most well-established Palestinian human rights organisations working in the occupied Palestinian territory including:

- Addameer, which provides legal services to Palestinian detainees and prisoners held within Israel's military detention system;
- Al-Haq, a human rights organisation that has been internationally recognised for its work – including receiving the 2018 Human Rights Prize of the French Republic;
- Defence for Children International - Palestine, a child rights organisation that protects and promotes the rights of Palestinian children living in the occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

These organisations have long and well-established partnerships between international humanitarian and human rights groups, such as Amnesty International, Oxfam, War on Want and Save the Children. The risk of operations ending for some of those organisations, is an attack on human rights and will leave Palestinian children and others unable to access adequate and essential services.

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The organisations targeted fulfil crucial roles in civil society, such as:

- Providing health care to the most vulnerable communities and sections of Palestinian society;
- Organising legal support to people arrested and detained in the occupied Palestinian territory, including children;
- Conducting crucial research and local programming to promote gender justice, right to health, and other broader civil society and human rights issues;
- Monitoring, collecting evidence of, and reporting human rights violations committed by Israeli and Palestinian authorities in the occupied Palestinian territory.

This announcement follows years of relentless delegitimization of civil society groups which seek to expose and end human rights violations. Groups such as Al-Haq and Addameer are critical of human rights abuses conducted both by the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority.

We note that according to the UN Human Rights Office in the occupied Palestinian territory, last Friday's decision published by the National Bureau for Counter Terror Financing of Israel "lists extremely vague or irrelevant reasons, including entirely peaceful and legitimate activities such as provision of legal aid and 'promoting of steps against Israel in the international arena'".

ELDH calls on the International Community, especially the European Union, to reject this move to obstruct the essential work of these organisations, and to continue supporting them.