



Action Guide: Accountability for Israel's Assault on Human Rights Defenders

"Anti-terrorism legislation' is nothing but a racist tool to crush Palestinian society." - [Mohammed El-Kurd](#)

Key resources: [Click-to-Call Tool](#) | [Amnesty & HRW statement](#) | [MOC tweets](#) | [AP article](#)

Share this toolkit: bit.ly/DefendPalHR

10/22: [URGENT: Today Israel declared the work of 6 leading Palestinian human rights & civil society organizations to be "terrorism."](#) This is textbook repression, threatening to shut down leading organizations that document Israel's apartheid abuses and to cage their workers via "administrative detention," indefinite detention without charge or trial. This is the work for justice that apartheid Israel is trying to shut down:

- [Defense for Children International-Palestine \(statement\)](#): Advocates for Palestinian children subject to a military court system with a 99.7% conviction rate & documents extrajudicial killings
- [Al Haq](#): Leading human rights documentation and advocacy organization exposing Israel's occupation and apartheid policies since 1979
- [Addameer: Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association](#): Supporting political prisoners, under occupation where about 1 in 5 people have been incarcerated
- [Union of Agricultural Work Committees](#): supports farmers resisting land grabs and other impacts of Israel's settler colonialism on agriculture & livelihoods
- [Bisan Center for Research and Development](#): Advocating for civil rights, human rights, and socio-economic rights.
- [Union of Palestinian Women's Committees](#): a feminist, progressive grassroots Palestinian organization.

Repressive governments regularly use baseless claims of 'terrorism' to cage and criminalize advocates for justice, a tactic U.S. organizations in the Black Lives Matter, environmental justice, and Palestine solidarity movements are all too familiar with. **By rising together we make repression unacceptable anywhere. Join us in raising our voices to keep them safe, and demand our members of Congress use their power to do the same.**

1. **Ask congressional staffers you're in relationship with to put out a strong statement in defense of these organizations & demanding action ASAP:** Find sample language to copy-paste below.

Note: You can check if your member of Congress is a cosponsor of H.R. 2590, advocacy led by one of the organizations under assault, Defense for Children International-Palestine, [here column L](#), and make the connection for those members of Congress.

[Members of Congress who have spoken out - see thread:](#)

- [Omar](#): "Labelling effective NGOs "terrorists" is a textbook way to evade accountability for human rights violations."
- [Pocan](#): "Israel should rescind their blanket decision to label Palestinian civil rights organizations as terrorist groups. "
- [McCollum](#): "For years, I have worked with Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP) to protect the rights of Palestinian children who are imprisoned in Israeli military detention facilities. I trust and value DCIP's work advancing human rights."

2. Call you member of Congress demanding action: [Use this click-to-call tool here.](#)

3. Amplify the analysis & support for these vital Palestinian human rights organizations on social media, and expose Israel's brutal apartheid regime:

- From rights organizations:
 - [DCIP Statement on Israeli Authorities' Designation of DCIP as a "Terrorist Organization"](#)
 - [Amnesty International & Human Rights Watch statement: Designation of Palestinian civil society groups as terrorists a brazen attack on human rights](#)
 - [Adalah Legal Center statement of support for Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations](#)
 - [B'Tselem statement in solidarity with Palestinian human rights organizations](#)
- From Palestinians:
 - [Diala Shamas on how this follows failed attempts to get US & EU to defund Palestinian HR orgs](#)
 - [Jamil Dakwar on the death sentence to Palestinian civil society groups](#)
 - [Mohammed El-Kurd on the war on Palestinian civil society](#). Also make sure to read and share his article in *The Nation*, ["The New Campaign to Smear Palestinian Human Rights Defenders as Terrorists."](#)
 - [Jehad Abusalim on Defense for Children International-Palestine's work](#)
- From orgs & influencers:
 - [USCPR statement in Twitter thread](#), [Instagram post](#), and [Facebook post](#)
 - [Adalah Justice Project thread amplifying the work of these organizations](#)
 - [Palestine Legal thread on Israel's racist propaganda, scare tactics, and lawfare to criminalize and undermine Palestinian human rights work](#)

Email congressional staffers with talking points:

Subject: URGENT: Speak out against Israeli govt criminalization of 6 leading Palestinian human rights orgs

Dear [Staffer Name],

I'm reaching out as a member of [local org, add a few words about it] to ask that [Representative X] publicly condemn [Israel's unprecedented threat to Palestinian human rights defenders today, designating six leading Palestinian civil society organizations as "terrorist" organizations](#)—organizations engaged in defending children's human rights, human rights, political prisoner's rights, farmer's lands and livelihoods, gender justice, and more.

[Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International called this a "brazen attack on human rights"](#) and declared that "The decades-long failure of the international community to challenge grave Israeli human rights abuses and impose

meaningful consequences for them has emboldened Israeli authorities to act in this brazen manner.” Through diplomatic military funding support of over \$3.8 billion a year, our tax dollars fund routine Israeli repression that this designation threatens to unleash on leading human rights organizations, including military raids on human right organizations, criminalizing support for these organizations, and holding their staff in indefinite detention without charge or trial, a practice known as “administrative detention.”

I ask you to [join members of Congress](#) including Reps. [McCollum](#), [Omar](#), and [Pocan](#) in speaking out to defend Palestinian human rights and ask the Biden administration to immediately condemn this criminalization of Palestinian civil society. Additionally, [you can uplift and heed the advocacy of one of these organizations, Defense for Children International—Palestine, by supporting H.R. 2590](#), the “Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation Act,” which seeks to ensure that no U.S. funds are used for Israel’s worst abuses.

For more, see context from Palestinian analysts including human rights lawyers [Diala Shamas](#) and [Jamil Dakwar](#), Sheikh Jarrah activist [Mohammed El-Kurd](#), advocate from Gaza [Jehad Abusalim](#), and [Adalah](#) the Palestinian legal center in Haifa. Also see the recent report [The Alarming Rise of Lawfare to Suppress Civil Society: September 2021 The Case of Palestine and Israel, September 2021](#).

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request.

[Your Name]

Top-Line Talking points: ([for more see here](#))

- **These six organizations targeted by the Israeli apartheid regime are all dedicated to absolutely vital work for Palestinian human rights, and that's exactly why Israel is threatening them with indefinite detention:** [Defense for Children International- Palestine](#) advocates for Palestinian children subject to a cruel military court system and documents extrajudicial killings, [Al Haq](#) has been exposing Israel's occupation and apartheid crimes since 1979, [Addameer](#) supports political prisoners under occupation where about 1 in 5 Palestinian people have been incarcerated, the [Union of Agricultural Work Committees](#) supports farmers resisting land grabs and other impacts of Israel's settler colonialism, the [Bisan Center for Research and Development](#) advocates for civil rights, human rights, and socio-economic rights, and the [Union of Palestinian Women's Committees](#) is a feminist, progressive grassroots Palestinian organization.
- **The Israeli apartheid regime is attempting to shut down Palestinian human rights work** as part of its **larger strategy** to repress any criticism of its human rights violations and evade all accountability for its crimes against the Palestinian people.
- Israel is threatening to imprison the employees of these six organizations through “**administrative detention**,” **indefinite detention without charge or trial. This is textbook repression to intimidate and silence Palestinian human rights defenders who dare to hold apartheid Israel accountable for its crimes.**
- **Israel has a long history of using baseless “terrorism” accusations and disinformation propaganda to target Palestinian human rights organizations**, such as [raiding and shutting down the Palestinian Health Work Committees](#), one of the main providers of critically needed health services in occupied Palestine. Israeli forces previously [raided the DCIP headquarters](#) a few months ago, and it's no coincidence that Israel is targeting their organization again: **DCIP co-led the push for H.R. 2590, the Palestinian Children and Families Act, which would stop Israel from using U.S. military funding for child detention, home demolitions, and land theft.**
- Increasingly international organizations are at last recognizing what Palestinian leaders and human rights organizations have long known to be true: **Israel is a separate-and-unequal apartheid regime that discriminates against, systematically oppresses, expels, and limits the movement of the Palestinian people under its control.** This year, Human Rights Watch and B'Tselem both released reports documenting Israel's crimes of apartheid. Read [“A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution”](#) and [“A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid”](#).