



Mr. Akiva Tor

Ambassador

Israeli Embassy in South Korea

October 29, 2021

Dear Ambassador Akiva Tor,

We greet you on behalf of the Christian community in Korea.

The NCKK, Korea YMCA and Korea YWCA wish to express our concern with the news that the Israel Department of Defense has designated six Palestinian human rights organizations as “terrorist organizations”. The Defense Minister Benny Gantz issued this decision against Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights, Al Haq, Defense for Children International/Palestine, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), and the Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees. We have received a statement (attached) written by Palestinian Christian Organizations some of whom maintain a partnership with us.

We join our Christian partners in Palestine in condemning this anti-human rights decision. We have been aware of the work of some of these civil society organizations and we know that they are focused on defending the human rights of Palestinians, providing legal aid, and advocating for policies toward Palestine based on justice. We believe, along with these civil society organizations, that human rights must be guaranteed for all humans including the enemies of the state in which we live. To deny human rights to anyone, and especially to suppress civil society groups working to protect human rights, threatens all civil society organizations and undermines the premise of democracy.

We ask the Israel Department of State to revoke this decision, to restore the status of these civil society organizations, and we will continue to support rights of the Palestinian people for justice, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,



Rev. Hong-jung Lee
General Secretary
National Council of Churches in Korea

Mr. Kyung-min Kim
General Secretary
National YMCA in Korea

Young-hee Won
President
National YWCA of Korea