



H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
New York

24 January, 2025

Excellency,

I am writing to you pursuant to the legislation recently passed by the Israeli Knesset concerning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and communications between the Government of Israel and Israeli officials and the United Nations on the matter of UNRWA. Specifically, I refer to the letter of the Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the President of the General Assembly dated 3 November 2024, withdrawing Israel's request issued to UNRWA as outlined in the "Exchange of Letters constituting a Provisional Agreement between the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and Israel concerning Assistance to Palestine Refugees", dated 14 June 1967; thus, terminating this provisional agreement. I also refer to my letters to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council in this regard, dated 18 December 2024 (all letters enclosed herein).

At the outset, and as detailed in the enclosed correspondence, I would like to recall that the said developments came as a direct response to the acute national security risks posed by the widespread infiltration of UNRWA's ranks by Hamas and other terrorist organizations, and the Agency's persistent refusal to address the very grave and material concerns raised by Israel, and to remedy this intolerable situation. Months of good-faith engagement with the United Nations, and years of related grievances conveyed to UNRWA, have been met with blatant disregard, compromising its fundamental obligation to impartiality and neutrality beyond repair.



In accordance with applicable Israeli law, including the said legislation, and following the termination of the aforementioned Provisional Agreement, UNRWA is required to cease its operations in Jerusalem, and evacuate all premises in which it operates in the city, no later than 30 January 2025.

Without prejudice to the legislation, and as previously communicated to UNRWA by the Israeli competent authorities, I would like to refer to two properties in particular, in which UNRWA is currently operating in Jerusalem – the property located in the Maalot Dafna neighborhood, where UNRWA has been operating its Jerusalem headquarters; and the property in the neighborhood of Kfar Aqueb.

Clear and explicit notices were sent to UNRWA from the Israel Land Authority, with regard to both said properties, on 14 January, 2024 and on 28 May, 2024, indicating that UNRWA's use of the properties is done without proper authorization, and demanding the evacuation of the properties, the demolition of all immovables constructed without acquiring the proper authorizations, and payment for past use. These notices were bluntly disregarded by UNRWA, while shielding behind its immunity.

In Maalot Dafna, UNRWA constructed buildings and has been operating a hazardous gas station, without acquiring the proper authorization. Thus, creating safety hazards to its staff and local communities.

Furthermore, in Kfar Aqueb, UNRWA has walled off a large plot of land, of which a significant portion is left unused, without the landowner's consent. Thus, denying the Municipality of Jerusalem from establishing a much-needed educational compound for the Arab population residing in the neighborhood, including children with special needs. Despite numerous attempts by the Government of Israel in the past, UNRWA has refused all avenues to reach an agreed solution for the benefit of the local residents, once again in *mala fide* abuse of its immunity.



This conduct reflects a clear abuse of UNRWA's immunities and disregard for local laws and regulations, contrary to its obligations under Article 21 of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

Given all of the above, Israel expects that UNRWA take all the necessary steps to cease its operations in Jerusalem and evacuate all premises in which it operates in the city within the stated timeframe.

Excellency, please accept my highest assurances, that this demand is fully aligned with Israel's steadfast commitment to its obligations under international law, and its readiness to cooperate with the UN and any of its agencies that have not been infiltrated by terror organizations. International law does not require any State to assist and cooperate with an entity that undermines its national security, not least one that has proven itself to be anything but neutral and impartial.

It is in the best interest of the United Nations to put an end to the unprecedented infiltration and abuse of a UN organ by terrorist organizations, so that its credibility is maintained and that impartiality, accountability, and the safety of all concerned can be guaranteed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Danon'.

Ambassador Danny Danon
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

CC: H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang
President of the General Assembly
United Nations
New York