

# UN High Commissioner Must Release Database Into Business Activities in Settlements

More than 90 organizations call for action  
March 18, 2019

High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais Wilson – United Nations

Geneva, Switzerland

March 18, 2019

Re: Release of the UN database on business activities in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in the current Human Rights Council session

Dear Ms. Bachelet,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express deep concern at the recent letter you wrote to the President of the Human Rights Council ('the Council') seeking further delay in fulfillment of the UN Human Rights Council mandate in resolution 31/36 to “produce a database of all business enterprises involved” in Israeli settlements.

We note that Council resolution 31/36, which established the mandate for your Office to produce the database, requested that it “be updated annually, and [for your Office] to transmit the data therein in the form of a report to the Council at its thirty-fourth session.” Continued delay in releasing the database would inhibit the Council’s ability to provide transparency to the Palestinian people, all member-states, as well as investors that require authoritative sources of data on which to make sound investment decisions.

Additional delay also does a great disservice to the work of the Council’s independent fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the human rights of the Palestinian people. The findings of the fact-finding mission were the foundation of resolution 31/36, and the Council’s request to your Office to produce the database. We recall that the fact-finding mission’s report found that “the existence of the settlements has had a heavy toll on the rights of the Palestinians. Their rights to freedom of self-determination, non-discrimination, freedom of movement, equality, due process, fair trial, not to be arbitrarily detained, liberty and security of person, freedom of expression, freedom of access to places of worship, education, water, housing, adequate standard of living, property, access to natural resources and effective remedy are being violated consistently and on a daily basis.” Furthermore, and particularly pertinent in the context of the database, the international fact-finding mission also highlighted that “some private entities have enabled, facilitated and profited from the construction and growth of the settlements, either directly or indirectly.”

For your office to now further delay release of the database would severely undermine the coming to fruition of long-awaited measure of transparency regarding business activities – activities that the Council has already established help maintain and perpetuate illegal settlements. In addition to serving as a practical tool to end business support for illegal settlements, the database will also constitute an important example of a measure for advancing normative clarity around the responsibilities of businesses operating in other areas under occupation.

Your role as High Commissioner is pivotal in realizing human rights, even in the most challenging of situations and locations. We urge you now to exercise your notable experience in diplomacy and political leadership to ensure that there is no further delay in releasing the database. In doing so, you will be working to support the long-standing efforts to end the ongoing human rights violations that Palestinians experience every day.

Yours sincerely,

- Center for Constitutional Rights
- Amnesty International USA
- Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum
- Observatoire d'etudes et d'appui a la responsabilite sociale et environnementale ( OEARSE )
- Observatorio Ciudadano
- WESPAC Foundation, Inc
- Jewish Voice for Peace Boston
- Green Mountain Solidarity With Palestine
- Atlanta Jewish Voice for Peace
- Santa feans for justice in Palestine
- National Students for Justice in Palestine
- Palestinian American Community Center
- United Methodists for Kairos Response
- BDS-LA for Justice in Palestine
- Jewish Voice for Peace KC
- LA Jews for Peace
- MN Break the Bonds
- Delawareans for Palestinian human Rights (DelPHR)
- Israel Palestine Mission Network Presbyterian Church PC(USA)
- U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN)
- United Methodists' Holy Land Task Force
- Friends of Palestine WI
- Committee for Palestinian Rights (Howard County, Maryland)
- Students for Justice in Palestine at UTSA
- Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights
- N.H. Veterans for Peace
- Jewish Voice for Peace - Bay Area
- Al-Nakba Awareness Project
- Corvallis Palestine Solidarity
- University United Methodist Church
- Azzad Asset Management

- Keep Hope Alive Bay Area
- Women Against Military Madness
- Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice
- Jewish Voice for Peace, member of Bay Area chapter
- Labor for Palestine
- Jews for Palestinian Right of Return
- Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights
- Biosocial Research Foundation
- Chico Palestine Action Group
- United Methodist Upper NY AC Task Force on Peace with Justice in Palestine/Israel
- Sacramento Area Peace Action
- USA Palestine Mental Health Network
- Maine Voices for Palestinian Rights
- Spokane Veterans For Peace Chapter #035
- Arab American Association of Central Virginia
- Madison-Rafah Sister City Project
- People for Palestinian - Israeli Justice
- Episcopal Peace Fellowship Palestine Israel Network
- Middle East Children's Alliance
- American Friends Service Committee
- Richmonders for Peace in Israel-Palestine
- United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network
- Palestinian Rights Committee of Upper Hudson Peace Action
- ALTSEAN-Burma
- Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
- Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights
- United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network
- BADIL Resource Center For Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
- The Palestinian Center for Human Rights
- Broederlijk Delen
- Mutinta Hadunka
- Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)
- African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA)
- Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Society for International Development (SID)
- Trócaire
- Centre de Recherche sur l'Environnement, la Démocratie et des Droits de l'Homme
- Comité Ambiental en Defensa de la Vida
- Endorois Welfare Council
- CCFD - Terre Solidaire
- Freedom Forward
- Otros Mundos AC
- Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
- Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organisation (BIRUDO)
- WoMin African Alliance
- Pax Christi International

- Plateforme des ONG françaises pour la Palestine - Platform of French NGO's for Palestine
- CIDSE
- International Federation for Human Rights- FIDH
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- The Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO)
- Corporate Accountability Lab
- Amigos de la Tierra América Laguna y el Caribe
- Dynamique des Femmes des Mines
- Friends of the Earth International