



# The Sabra Report

## Nine European Nations Condemn IDF's Closure of Palestinian NGO Offices

Tovah Lazaroff, Jerusalem Post, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2022

### Recap:

After classifying seven Palestinian Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) as terrorist groups, Israel faces pressure to increase transparency into its terrorist designation process.

### The Context:

- ✧ An NGO is a nonprofit organization that operates independently of any government. NGOs are usually immune when undertaking advocacy for political issues or criticizing the government.
- ✧ The IDF raided seven Palestinian NGOs last week, demanding their immediate closure. The raid occurred in Area A of the West Bank, which is under the control of the Palestinian Authority (PA).
- ✧ Israel claimed "ironclad" intelligence that tied the NGOs to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a group that has carried out deadly attacks against Israel and is labeled a terror organization by both the US and Israel [1]. Israel claims the NGOs operate under the guise of performing humanitarian activities but actually help recruit operatives and raise funds for the PFLP [2]. Israeli authorities have previously charged the PFLP for siphoning millions from NGOs to fund its terrorist activities [3].
- ✧ Nine European nations and 45 Israeli rights groups condemned the raid, saying the allegations were baseless, demanding additional evidence [4]. Many of the shuttered NGO's receive considerable funding from EU member states and the United Nations [5].

### Conversation Points:

- ✧ Should a country have a right to criticize another country's internal affairs?
- ✧ Should Israel be more forthcoming with its evidence?
- ✧ Was the terror designation intended to dry up European funding to Palestinian NGOs?
- ✧ Are Palestinian NGOs unfairly targeted because of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

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### Notes:

1. [Israel shuts Palestinian rights groups, drawing diplomatic backlash](#), Miriam Berger, Washington Post, August 18, 2022.
2. [Israel designates three PFLP-affiliated groups as terrorist organizations](#), Israel Defense, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022
3. [Israeli rights groups condemn 'baseless' terror listing of Palestinian advocacy orgs](#), Times of Israel, 22 August 2022
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.

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