



March 11, 2020

Statement by the Palestinian Performing Arts Network

We, active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, reject the decision of the European Union to implement political conditional funding and classification of Palestinian political movements according to European standards of 'terrorism'. This decision is severely biased and indicates no balance in defining the ruthless and dehumanizing actions of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people. The Palestinian context is unique, with specific implications and rights and therefore cannot be lumped or compared to other contexts with regards to anti-terrorism. These new funding conditions extends an unwavering hand of support to the continued oppression and illegal occupation of the Palestinian people.

. These new measures will enhance the already shrinking capacity of Palestinian NGO activity implementation in marginalized communities. Over the years, the European Union has been instrumental in ensuring the sustainability of Palestinian civil society organizations and has witnessed first hand the devastation and destruction of EU supported activities and physical structures by the Israeli occupation.

These new funding conditions obliges Palestinian institutions to adopt instructions that are contrary to the Palestinian Associations Law, particularly Article 32, which states that institutions are not entitled to receive conditional funding. Thus, the conversion of European funding to conditional funding is illegal in accordance with Palestinian law.

Accepting these funding conditions would also mean accepting the exchange of donor funds for a political stance, condemning the actions of the Palestinian resistance, accepting their stigmatization, and excluding the legitimate struggle of the Palestine people from its international legal framework and including it in the circle of terrorism.

The Palestinian Performing Arts Network will not discriminate its target audience or final beneficiaries based on political opinions, race, and or religion. The Performing Arts Network is guided by its vision of the Palestinian society: "A free and just Palestinian society that promotes knowledge and culture, respects pluralism, equality and freedom of expression". Accepting these new conditions, undermines the values of the network and undermines the reason for its establishment. These new conditions, will unfortunately criminalize the Palestinian people's legitimate national struggle and right to defend themselves from the unjust claws of Israeli occupation.

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As the implications and difficulties arising from the spread of the corona-virus begins to affect the fabric of Palestinian society, the European Union, as a friend of the Palestinian people, is required to play a more crucial role with the Palestinian people. Most of these efforts to combat and quell the spread of the virus will be in direct partnership with the Palestinian civil society. The decision to include these funding conditions will complicate EU support to the Palestinian when the need is the greatest.

On behalf of the active civil society organizations of the Palestinian cultural sector, we urge the European Union to abolish their new funding policies, and thoroughly re-assess and re-evaluate the valuable impact of Palestinian NGOs in light of Israel's continued occupation. We also call upon the European civil society sector, EU member states and European artists, especially those movements, states and organizations in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their rights, to reject the conditional funding policy and pressure the European Union to eradicate this unjust condition.

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