



August 27, 2014

His Excellency
The United Nations Secretary-General
The Honorable Ban Ki Moon

Your Excellency,

Re: Inquiry into UNRWA Activities

I write to you on behalf of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, a Category II NGO at the UN, whose members are lawyers, judges, judicial officers and academic jurists in many countries.

In light of mounting evidence of collusion between UNRWA personnel in the Gaza Strip and the Hamas terrorist organization as well as reports of wholesale abuse of UN facilities, particularly during recent weeks, we call upon His Excellency to initiate an **urgent inquiry into the activities of UNRWA in the Gaza Strip**.

According to documented reports, including by UNRWA itself, on at least three occasions stockpiles of rockets have been found on UNRWA premises in the Gaza Strip. Based on this fact alone, it is reasonable to suspect that this is just the tip of the iceberg and a thorough investigation is warranted. A further subject for inquiry is how these weapons were disposed of by UNRWA since there is reason to believe that they were handed over to Hamas.

In another incident, the Israeli military uncovered an attack tunnel dug from an UNRWA clinic. While troops were searching the building, 12 explosive devices were detonated by Hamas operatives killing three Israeli soldiers.

Moreover, our organization has been following the activities of UNRWA over the past year and has seen evidence of a heavy Hamas influence among UNRWA employees. Consequently we have seen the abuse of UNRWA facilities for military purposes as well as for jihadist recruitment and incitement to violence against Israelis and Jews. There are also genuine concerns regarding the diversion of UNRWA funds and aid consignments for terrorism purposes.

Needless to say, it is completely unacceptable that one of the UN's largest agencies should be sullied in this way.

We therefore call upon His Excellency to mount an immediate, independent, impartial, thorough, comprehensive and transparent inquiry into UNRWA activities in the Gaza Strip. We suggest that the inquiry be charged not only with fact-finding but with recommending measures to put a stop to the abuses outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

Irit Kohn,

President, IAJLJ