

His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
The United Nations
New York, NY 10017

July 18, 2017

Re: ESCWA's Ongoing Use of "Israel Apartheid" Slur

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

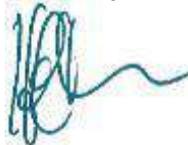
As you have just [sworn in](#) a new head of ESCWA, we urge your intervention on a serious matter. In March, you rightly took action to remove ESCWA's unauthorized publication of a false report that obscenely demonized Israel as an "Apartheid" state. As you noted, the Executive Secretary of ESCWA is a representative of the Secretary-General, and as such you are obliged to uphold UN discipline.

We are therefore alarmed to discover that, despite your clear and unequivocal stand, numerous ESCWA webpages, Facebook posts, and tweets continue to display this same "Israel Apartheid" slur. For example, on 6 March, your then-representative Rima Khalaf abused the occasion of International Women's Day at UN House in Beirut—with [your photo](#) on display, and right after your message was read—to [attack](#) "the Israeli apartheid regime." A room full of UN officials heard it, yet failed to object. Ms. Khalaf is gone, yet her obscene remarks are still [online](#) on the UN site.

Likewise, ESCWA's Facebook page includes the following posts, dating from 2014 to 2017: "[Israel, like South Africa, is an apartheid state](#)"; Israeli practices "[amount to apartheid](#)"; the Palestinian people are being "[subjected to an apartheid system](#)." In one post still online, your then-representative even called for the "[overthrow](#)" of "the Israeli apartheid regime." In [this new UN Watch report](#), we document at least 20 different UN publications or posts that demonize Israel as an "apartheid" state.

Former secretary-general Kofi Annan rightly described the General Assembly's 1975 "Zionism is Racism" resolution as the low point of the UN's experience with antisemitism. ESCWA's "Israel apartheid" slurs are but the latest reincarnation of the same libel—and we respectfully urge you to order them removed immediately.

Sincerely,



Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director

cc: Amb. Nikki Haley, U.S. Permanent Representative