

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres
The United Nations
New York, NY 10027
United States

30 June 2026

Re: Demand to Waive Immunity of Philippe Lazzarini for Crimes Against Humanity

Dear Secretary-General Guterres,

I write to demand that you exercise your authority under Article V, Section 20 of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations and immediately waive any immunity enjoyed by outgoing UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini for his alleged complicity in acts of terrorism, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, insofar as necessary to permit his investigation and prosecution by competent national authorities.

Immunity is granted solely in the interests of the United Nations, and not for personal benefit of the UN official, in this case, Mr. Lazzarini. Where immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of the Organization, the Convention requires that it be waived. This is your duty.

For years, UN Watch repeatedly provided Mr. Lazzarini and his administration with [detailed evidence](#) of Hamas infiltration of UNRWA, including evidence concerning teachers, school principals, union leaders, and other employees who openly supported, assisted, or were affiliated with Hamas and other terrorist organizations. We documented [repeated interactions](#) between senior UNRWA officials—including Mr. Lazzarini himself—and leaders of Hamas and other terrorist groups. We warned that UNRWA facilities, resources, personnel, and institutional structures were being [exploited](#) for the benefit of terrorist organizations. Our [online database](#) mapping out the UNRWA terror network is here.

Despite these repeated warnings, Mr. Lazzarini continued to oversee the payment of salaries to thousands of UNRWA employees in Gaza, many of whom have since been shown to have deep ties to Hamas and other terrorist groups. He continued to administer facilities that provided terrorist organizations with access to students, employees, infrastructure, and institutional legitimacy. He continued to assure donor governments and the public that UNRWA's neutrality mechanisms were functioning effectively, even as evidence of terrorist infiltration continued to mount.

These facts raise grave questions as to whether Mr. Lazzarini knowingly facilitated, enabled, or provided material support and assistance to individuals and entities involved in terrorism, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. At a minimum, they establish reasonable grounds to investigate whether he bears responsibility for complicity in such crimes.

No credible commitment to accountability can permit the head of a United Nations agency to invoke immunity while serious allegations of this magnitude remain beyond the reach of criminal investigators. The interests of justice require that competent authorities be allowed to determine the facts.

We therefore call upon you to waive any applicable immunity for Mr. Lazzarini without delay, publicly announce that decision, and ensure the full cooperation of the United Nations with any resulting criminal investigation.

The credibility of the United Nations depends on demonstrating that immunity is not a shield of impunity for perpetrators of terrorism, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Sincerely,



Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director