

Ms. Rashida Manjoo
Special Rapporteur on violence against women
OHCHR-UNOG,
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland

The Public Council

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Joshua Sobol

Zeev Sternhell

Re: Prevention of Access to the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Dear Ms. Manjoo,

It is with great disappointment that we received the news of the cancellation of your visit to the occupied Palestinian territory, due to lack of cooperation from the Government of Israel (GOI).

There is ample evidence pointing to the fact that women living under occupation and in conflict zones are at an increased risk of gender-based violence.

As Israeli human rights organizations working to advance the rights of Palestinians under occupation, we consider the decision of the GOI a deliberate obstacle to the advancement of women's rights in our region, and a cynical abuse of its authority as an occupying power.

We have addressed a letter to the GOI outlining our concerns and protesting the decision to impede your travel (please find attached).

Finally, we would like to express our solidarity with your work, and our support for your mandate.

On behalf of: Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Amnesty International Israel, B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, Bimkom – planners for planning rights, Breaking the Silence, Gisha – Legal Center for Freedom of Movement, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, The Public Committee against Torture in Israel, HaMoked: Center for the Defence of the Individual, Yesh Din- Volunteers For Human Rights, Rabbis for Human Rights and Physicians for Human Rights - Israel.

Sincerely,
Adv. Neta Patrick
Executive Director
Yesh-Din - Volunteers for Human Rights