

# Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa

27 August 2019

Winston Peters  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

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Kia ora Mr Peters,

## **New Zealand government funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency**

We are aware of reports suggesting the New Zealand government has suspended funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency following news of a UN investigation into claims of corruption and unacceptable behaviour among some senior managers of the agency.

It appears however that some such reports have been mischievous and the position of the New Zealand government has not been to suspend any due payments but to evaluate the outcome of the UN investigation before the next scheduled contribution from this country in 2020.

We would welcome your confirmation that this is the position of the New Zealand government.

It is very important to emphasise that the claims under investigation relate to a very small group in the senior management and must not be allowed to impact on the heroic work the UNRWA undertakes in extremely difficult circumstances for millions of Palestinian refugees who have been denied the right to return to their land and homes by the Israeli government.

We are aware the United States and Israeli governments, isolated in their refusal to fund or support the UNRWA, are doing their best to demonise the organisation and weaken international support for Palestinian refugees. We expect the New Zealand government to resist any pressure to join this small minority of humanity who are on the wrong side of history,

We look forward to your response.

Na,

John Minto  
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