



Coalition for the International Criminal Court

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NGO Coalition Concerned by Raid of Palestinian Member's Office
Addameer Premises in Ramallah Raided by Israeli Military

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court today expresses—on behalf of the entire Coalition membership of over 2,500 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 150 countries around the world—its utmost concern over the reported raids on offices of NGOs, including a member of the Coalition, by the Israeli military earlier last week.

Early in the morning of 11 December, Israeli forces raided the Ramallah offices of the NGO Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, an advocate for Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. According to a joint statement issued by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, which includes Addameer and Coalition member Al Haq, the raid—in which computers and files were seized and furniture destroyed—was part of a continuous campaign to target and hinder the work of human rights organizations and their supporters, as well as to gather information on the employees of civil society organizations. The offices of two other Palestinian NGOs—the Palestinian NGO Network and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committee—were also raided.

The Coalition calls on the Israeli authorities: to immediately return the items confiscated during the raids; to conduct an impartial and thorough investigation into the legal basis for the raids, the actions of the authorities during the raids and to publish the results of the investigation; and to lift any travel bans imposed on NGO members for their human rights work and to release those detained. The Coalition strongly condemns this attack on human and women's rights and civil society organizations and calls on all states to respect the rights of human rights organizations, human and women's rights defenders and activists to work free from state threats or interference, without fear of reprisals and free from all undue restrictions.

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court is a global network of civil society organizations in over 150 countries working in partnership to strengthen international cooperation with the ICC; ensure that the Court is fair, effective and independent; make justice both visible and universal; and advance

stronger national laws that deliver justice to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. For more information, visit: www.coalitionfortheicc.org