

United Nations
Office at Geneva
STAFF UNION



Office des Nations
Unies à Genève
SYNDICAT

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5 June 2024

Dear Mr. Lazzarini,

We are writing to inform you that the UNOG Staff Union has transferred a donation of 33,313 CHF to UNRWA. This money was donated by UN Secretariat staff in Geneva, in solidarity with our UNRWA colleagues and to aid affected Palestinians living in almost impossible circumstances given the land and air bombardment and deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid.

From the beginning of the war in Gaza, Geneva staff have been actively showing their solidarity by organizing events such as a commemoration for fallen colleagues in Palestine and a demonstration to request the Organization to do more to protect staff and ensure accountability for their deaths.

Our staff union federation, CCISUA, has also written letters to the Secretary-General, first requesting that the UN flag be lowered, and also calling for stronger accountability.

However, after a number of Member States suspended their contributions to UNRWA on the basis of allegations which were never substantiated, staff wanted to show their support in a practical and material way. We are glad to see that most of these States have since resumed their contributions and hope that those remaining will do so in the near future.

We hope that the donation will help UNRWA continue to provide vital services for the people of Gaza. Lastly, we pledge to continue advocating with the Secretary-General to do everything possible to protect all UN staff from attacks, including those perpetrated and supported by Member States.

Kind regards,

Laura Johnson

Executive Secretary

Handwritten signature of Laura Johnson in blue ink.

Ian Richards

President

Handwritten signature of Ian Richards in blue ink.

Mr. Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East