



**Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**15 May 2018**

### **Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA condemns killing of Palestinians, including our colleague from MA'AN Development Centre**

On the eve of the 70th anniversary of the founding of Israel – or Nakba as Palestinians refer to it (*Nakba* means 'catastrophe' in Arabic) – thousands of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza have been engaged in protests. These organised protests, comprised mainly of Palestinians made stateless from the Nakba 70 years ago, were met with live ammunition, rubber bullets and other lethal force.

On Monday 14 May 2018, more than 55 Palestinians were killed, including 6 children. Over 2,700 were wounded, with a further 40 reported to be in a critical condition. The Palestinian Ministry of Health has reported that of the wounded, at least 200 are children, 78 are women and 11 are journalists. More than 950 Palestinians were injured from Israel's use of live ammunition.

Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA is particularly sad to report that a colleague working with the MA'AN Development Centre, our partner organisation in Gaza, was killed during the protests. Ahmed Abdullah Al Adine was standing with other protesters when he was fatally shot in his stomach by an Israeli sniper several hundred metres away. The thoughts of all of us at Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA are with his family and friends, with our colleagues at MA'AN and with all those who lost loved ones.

Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA condemns the use of lethal force against civilian protesters and calls for immediate restraint from Israel, guaranteed humanitarian access to those injured, and an end to the ongoing Gaza blockade.

Palestinians have been protesting the denial of their right of return to their former homeland as well as the opening of the US embassy to Israel in occupied Jerusalem. Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA has been working with Palestinian refugees since 1984 and is committed to a peaceful and just resolution to the conflict that ensures security for both Palestinians and Israelis, and the UN mandated right of return for Palestinian refugees.

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