

UN Renews Agency Helping Palestinian Refugees in Defiance of US

Most countries renewed the mandate of the United Nations Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees.

By [Telesur](#)

Global Research, December 16, 2019
[teleSUR](#) 13 December 2019

Region: [Middle East & North Africa, USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice, United Nations](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

With 169 votes in favor, nine abstentions, and two votes against, the [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) Friday extended the mandate for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) until June 30, 2023.

"The General Assembly... expresses special commendation to the Agency for the essential role that it has played for almost seven decades since its establishment in providing vital services for the well-being, human development and protection of the Palestine refugees and the amelioration of their plight and for the stability of the region," the UN resolution states.

Favorable reactions to the UNGA decision were immediate, especially among those who know from their own experience [the consequences of the Israeli military occupation](#).

"We welcome the decision to renew the international mandate to UNRWA and we see it as another failure to hostile U.S. policies to the Palestinian rights," the Hamas spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri said.

When most people picture [#Bethlehem](#) this time of year, they don't imagine these scenes - refugee camps, 8m high walls, & Israeli military checkpoints. Yet this is what Oisín McConville saw when he visited the 'little town' of Bethlehem in [#Palestine](#). <https://t.co/84yKTwcDuA>
[pic.twitter.com/7ER0hFg8vM](https://t.co/84yKTwcDuA)

— Trócaire (@trocaire) [December 13, 2019](#)

Established in 1949, the UN humanitarian agency provides housing, education, health, relief services, and microfinance assistance to more than 5 million Palestinian refugees who are currently living in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi also praised the vote and said it was the UN's responsibility to combat the U.S. and Israeli attacks on Palestinian refugees.

"All attempts at trying to limit the mandate of the UNRWA, defund it or attack

it have failed, and we hope that the international community will continue to come to the rescue," she said.

The U.S. and Israel, which have been leading a smear campaign accusing UNRWA of mismanagement and anti-Israeli incitement, voted against the resolution entitled "Assistance to Palestine Refugees."

The nine abstentions came from Cameroon, Canada, Guatemala, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, and Vanuatu.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above or below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

The original source of this article is [teleSUR](#)

Copyright © [Telesur](#), [teleSUR](#), 2019

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Telesur](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca