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Dear Prime Minister, Ministers, and Ambassador:

We write to you in support of the recent call from Birzeit University (BZU), Al-Haq, and Adalah—the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel for an immediate halt to the policy of targeting Palestinian academic freedom and Palestinian institutions of higher learning. As teachers and scholars, we wish to express our dismay regarding the severe and unreasonable limitations imposed on foreign nationals who are faculty members at Birzeit and other Palestinian universities in the West Bank and Gaza. These faculty members, some of whom have been teaching for years in Palestinian universities, now have to deal with a wide range of arbitrary demands and conditions in order to obtain visas that permit their employment in Palestinian universities. Moreover, for the past three years, the Israeli authorities have increasingly denied visas—both new and re-entry—to such academics. These restrictions severely imperil the quality of Palestinian education and the right to education of Palestinian students.



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We, therefore, call upon you to ensure that these professors can obtain entry and receive visas for the duration of their work contracts, and that the academic restrictions, whose sole purpose seems to be to make it exceedingly difficult for foreign nationals to work in academic institutions in Palestine, be abolished immediately. We ask that Israel make public a clear and lawful procedure for issuing entry visas and work permits for international academics in the West Bank in order for Palestinian universities to manage and maintain their academic freedom.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
ASSOCIATION**

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