To: Swiss Parliament and Federal Council

**Full transparency in the matter of UNRWA/Pierre Krähenbühl**

The undersigned call upon the Swiss Federal Council to,

1. to work with the UN Secretary-General to ensure that the conclusions of the investigation into Pierre Krähenbühl are made transparent

2. to publicly rehabilitate Pierre Krähenbühl if the investigation - as is known from the media so far - has not brought to light any significant incriminating conclusions - and to open the way for him to a Swiss or international diplomatic service.

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The first signatories (in short form)

The full list can be found here >>> https://www.palaestina.ch/de/ <<<

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**Why is this important?**

DFA in need of explanation: the Krähenbühl case

27 January 2021 SRF TV Rundschau

https://tinyurl.com/1trb1mdd

Pierre Krähenbühl - Pawn of a beleaguered UN?

19 January 2021 SRF Radio Echo der Zeit

https://tinyurl.com/1ryeb25k

L'enquête de l'ONU sur Pierre Krähenbühl ne pointe que de légers manquements

17 December 2020 RTS TV Temps présent

https://tinyurl.com/2z2dv3p9

What is UNRWA?

UNRWA, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, is mandated to provide assistance and protection to the original 750,000 and now (as of 2019) 5.5 million Palestine refugees. UNRWA's areas of activity include education, medical care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, micro-credit, emergency shelter or reconstruction of destroyed buildings and humanitarian assistance.

UNRWA's mandate is regularly extended for three years by the UN General Assembly, most recently in November 2019 by a large majority (170 in favour, 2 against, 7 abstentions). Switzerland also approved the extension. The United States and Israel were against.

UNRWA operates in a highly polarised environment. In 2018, the then US administration of President Trump decided to cut off funding to the organisation for political reasons. This plunged UNRWA into an existential crisis that was only overcome through forceful action by the leadership team and the generous support of many donor countries.

In the same year, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis told journalists that UNRWA was part of the problem and not the solution, a statement that Jared Kushner, advisor to US President Trump, had also already made to Krähenbühl. After Switzerland had previously always backed UNRWA, Federal Councillor Cassis' statement was perceived as bringing Switzerland's official Middle East policy closer to the political line of the Trump administration and Israel.

In 2019, numerous complaints were submitted to the UN against UNRWA and its Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl. The UN promised to examine this by means of an investigation, with the aim of enabling "transparency" in UNRWA and, if necessary, reorganising the UN institution UNRWA.

In 2020, the investigation report was completed. All complaints were groundless, minor errors, which occur in any organisation of this size, were insignificant. However, the report is to be kept under lock and key and thus the desired transparency is not guaranteed. macos/deepLFree.translatedWithDeepL.text