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Dear Sirs,

Palestinian Workers' Strike in UNRWA

On behalf of Public Services International (PSI), representing more than 20 million women and men workers in the public sector, I would like to express our concern in relation to the labour dispute between the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) in Palestine and its local employees.

We have been informed by our Palestinian affiliate of the workers' strike at UNRWA, which has now been ongoing for 48 days. We have also been informed that 30 workers have been on a hunger strike for 23 days and many of them have been transferred to hospitals in a critical state.

The main demands of the workers are:

- 1) Wage equality between the workers of the West Bank and the rest of the regions, particularly the Gaza Strip where there is a wage difference of 11%;
- 2) The reintegration of 55 dismissed workers;
- 3) The reintegration of 5 workers who were dismissed as a result of their arrest by the Israeli authorities;
- 4) The implementation of international labour standards, especially within the International Agency for Refugees.

PSI calls on the UN authorities to immediately reopen a dialogue with the union in order to find a solution to the situation, to reintegrate all trade union members who were dismissed and to implement international labour standards to secure human and trade union rights in the country.

PSI expresses solidarity with the Palestinian trade unions and supports them in their struggle.

Yours sincerely,

Rosa PAVANELLI
General Secretary