Press Release
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"Hand in Hand": the European Union participates in olive picking with Palestinians

The village of Nahalin today welcomed over 70 volunteers who took part in an all-day olive picking event organized by the European Union and the Palestinian Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC). The activity marks the Palestinian national olive picking season as families and landowners harvest the olives as part of their traditions celebrated over generations and practiced across the West Bank.

The EU Representative Ralph Tarraf, together with Palestinian and international volunteers, participated in the day to help Palestinians living in Nahalin village harvest their olives. This activity aims to share with Palestinians a national season that is equally shared in many of the European Member States where olives are considered a national resource and plays a crucial role in the economic life.

Nahalin village is also a beneficiary of EU-funded "Juthoor" project implemented by UAWC which aims to assist Palestinian in activities related to road rehabilitation, land reclamation and water facilities construction. The village also faces continuous challenges related to their owned lands resulting from the surrounding settlements and continued settlement expansion.

"Hand in hand, we continue to work with Palestinians to improve their living conditions and enable them to live in dignity and enjoy their fundamental human rights. We are in the field today with Palestinian families harvesting olive trees, which for many are the only source of income and a long tradition pursued by generations. We are committed to work with Palestinians, not only today, but every day, to ultimately build a democratic, transparent, accountable Palestinian State," said the **EU Representative Ralph Tarraf** on the occasion.

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