



Subject: Request for clarification regarding LinkedIn's geographic classification of locations in Palestine

5 January 2026

Dear CEO Roslansky,

I am writing on behalf of 7amleh – The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media to raise a serious concern regarding LinkedIn's geographic classification practices as they relate to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

This concern has arisen in the context of an upcoming public event organised by 7amleh in Bethlehem, Palestine, which is being promoted and referenced on LinkedIn's platform. In the course of this process, we identified that LinkedIn categorises Bethlehem, along with other locations in Palestine, under the designation "Judea and Samaria, Israel." We are attaching screenshots documenting this designation as it appears on the platform.

Palestine is internationally recognised as a single occupied territory, including the West Bank (with East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip. This understanding has been consistently affirmed by the United Nations and was most recently reiterated by the International Court of Justice in its 2024 Advisory Opinion, which confirmed that Israel's continued presence in the territory is unlawful and that international actors should avoid recognising or reinforcing this situation. Against this widely accepted international framework, the terminology "Judea and Samaria" is not used by the United Nations and is closely associated with settlement-related political narratives rather than neutral geographic description.

From a digital-rights perspective, geographic naming and classification systems are not neutral technical features. They are part of the core information architecture of platforms and play a significant role in shaping visibility, identity, and access in digital spaces. When terminology aligned with the internationally recognized illegal settler movement is applied to Palestinian locations, it risks normalising contested political claims within the digital environment and misrepresenting the lived and legal reality of Palestinians.

For Palestinian users and organisations, this has concrete impacts. It affects the right to self-identification, access to accurate information, and equal participation in digital spaces that are increasingly essential for professional, civic, and economic life. In



practical terms, such classifications can marginalise Palestinian organisations and individuals, distort how their location and identity are presented, and create barriers when using the platform for events, networking, and outreach.

Furthermore, LinkedIn also has obligations under the EU Digital Services Act to assess and address systemic risks arising from the design and functioning of its services, including risks to fundamental rights and the spread of misleading or legally inaccurate information. Geographic classification practices in conflict-affected contexts fall squarely within this responsibility, particularly where they may affect protected groups.

In parallel, LinkedIn's own commitments under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights require human-rights due diligence across products and services, including structural design choices such as location taxonomies. From a digital-rights standpoint, this includes ensuring that platform architecture does not contribute to discrimination, misrepresentation, or the normalisation of unlawful situations.

In light of the above, we respectfully seek clarification regarding LinkedIn's internal approach to geographic naming for locations in occupied or disputed territories, including the basis for the use of "Judea and Samaria, Israel." We further encourage LinkedIn to review its geographic taxonomy relating to Palestine as a single occupied territory and to consider corrective steps to ensure alignment with international standards, EU digital-rights obligations, and LinkedIn's stated human-rights commitments. We would also like to know what sort of, if any, human rights impact assessment was done before the implementation of this policy change? Furthermore, it would be helpful to know what LinkedIn's human rights due diligence systems look like with regards to these sort of company policies.

This matter is not merely technical. Decisions about how places are named and classified shape whose realities are recognised in digital public space. 7amleh remains committed to constructive engagement and looks forward to your response. We remain available to provide any further information required beyond the attached screenshots.

Yours sincerely,

Lama Nazeeh

Advocacy Manager, 7amleh - The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media