



DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PALESTINIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- The Chair -

H.E. Mr Oded ERAN
Ambassador Designate
Head of the Mission of Israel to the EU
avenue de l'Observatoire 40
B-1180 Bruxelles

313491 19.09.2006

Your Excellency,

I have been informed by the coordinator of the Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories Working Group of Amnesty International about the case of Mr Ziyad Hmeidan, an Amnesty International Prisoner of conscience who was detained at a checkpoint in May 2005 and has since been held in detention. The second renewal of his administrative detention ordered by the Israeli Authorities occurred in March 2006. His appeal regarding his detention was rejected on 10 May.

Mr Hmeidan is from the al-Khass village near Bethlehem, and has been a fieldworker with the human rights organisation Al-Haq since 2000. He is responsible for monitoring and documenting violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the Bethlehem area of the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

No formal charges have been brought against him, nor has the evidence supporting his detention been made available to his lawyer. He has not even been questioned in relation to any specific incident.

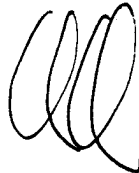
I wish to bring to your attention that Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Israel is a State Party, guarantees to everyone the right not to be subjected to arbitrary detention. It also gives everyone the right, if arrested, to be promptly informed of the reasons for the arrest and of any criminal charges. The UN Human Rights Committee has made it clear in its 1998 periodic review of Israel's compliance with the ICCPR that a State party may not depart from the requirement of effective judicial review of detention. Moreover, administrative detention must be of a short duration and cannot be for an indefinite period. It therefore appears that Mr Hmeidan's treatment does not conform to these obligations.

I would also like to take the opportunity to raise the case of about 3000 prisoners among whom are people working in NGOs including those financially the European Union, who are held in administrative detention without any judicial procedure.

In my view, the Israeli policy of administrative detention is unacceptable as it violates international human rights and humanitarian laws.

I would therefore be grateful if you could give me further details about the above mentioned case of Mr Ziyad Hmeidan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Adamos ADAMOU

Copy : Mr Javier Solana, High Representative for Common Foreign Security Policy

Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External relations
and European neighbourhood policy