

NGOs Join Forces in Support of Palestinian Human Rights Defenders



Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Palais Wilson 52 rue des Pâquis CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Urgent appeal on behalf of Youth Against Settlements coordinator Issa Amro

Date: 21 September 2016

Dear Mr. High Commissioner,

The undersigned organizations and individuals are writing to you to express their concern about the case of Palestinian Human Rights Defender (HRD) Issa Amro, who will be tried in an Israeli occupation court on 25 September 2016 for specious charges that place him under imminent risk of imprisonment.

Issa Amro is an EU recognized HRD and coordinator of Youth Against Settlements who has won the OHCHR award "Human rights Defender of the year in Palestine 2010." Issa Amro is well-known by the UN and has been in Geneva several times, where he met with officials from the OHCHR, offered presentations during side-events at the UN, and delivered oral statements before the Human Rights Council.

The recent charges brought by the Israeli government against Issa Amro are the latest in a series of attempts by the Israeli authorities to punish him for his effective advocacy for his people. Over the years he has been arrested, detained, threatened and beaten numerous times, and almost daily he receives death threats from side of the Israeli army and settlers alike. Already in 2013 a group of United Nations independent human rights experts warned that "Israel must stop harassment, intimidation and abusive treatment of rights defender Issa Amro"

Despite these warnings Issa Amro continues to be targeted. In December 2015 several United Nations independent experts expressed "grave concerns at continued reports that human rights defenders particularly in Hebron in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), are being subjected to physical attacks, harassment, arrest and detention, and death threats, in an apparent bid by Israeli authorities and settler elements to stop their peaceful and important work."

Although none of the 18 charges against Issa, dredged up from incidents between 2010 and 2016, is serious in itself (e.g. incitement, entering a closed military zone, organizing illegal demonstrations) and



include incidents the UN has already expressed concern about, the sheer number of charges might lead to a sentence between one and several years. It is further feared that Issa Amro will be taken into custody at the start of the trial.

The undersigned organizations and individuals believe that Issa Amro is being unfairly targeted because of his human rights activities. His case stands symbolic for the systematic reprisals against HRDs by Israel in the OPT that requires your immediate attention.

We call on you to urge Israeli authorities to drop the trumped up charges against Issa Amro, to end their systematic harassment against him, and to take all necessary measures to guarantee his protection and safety as well as guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders in the West Bank are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals.

Yours Sincerely,

Albertville Jourdain Vallée Solidarité

Alliance of Jewish Progressives

American Friends Service Committee

Australian Jewish Democratic Society (AJDS)

Center for Jewish Nonviolence

Codepink

Dr. Curtis FJ Doebbler, Professor of law (visiting), University of Makeni, Sierra Leone

Prof. Dr. Richard Falk, Professor of International Law, Emeritus, Princeton University and former UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine

Friends Of Sabeel North America (FOSNA)

Geneva International Center for Justice (GICJ)

Human Rights Defenders Fund

Interfaith Peace Builders

International-Lawyers.Org

International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD)

International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations (ISMUN)

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)

Jewish Voice for Peace - Atlanta Chapter

Jewish Voice for Peace- Austin Chapter

Jewish Voice for Peace - Los Angeles

Jewish Voice for Peace - North Bay Chapter



Jewish Voice for Peace - Pittsburgh

Jewish Voice for Peace - Central Ohio

Jewish Voice for Peace - So Florida

Jews for Justice for Palestinians

KURVE Wustrow - Center for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action

National Lawyers Guild

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network

South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP)

Scales for Justice

Youth Forum Kashmir (YFK)

[Video: Human Rights Defender Issa Amro on Trial](#)

