



EUROPEAN UNION - Delegation to the State of Israel

האיחוד האירופי - המשלחת למדינת ישראל

الاتحاد الأوروبي - البعثة إلى دولة إسرائيل

Ramat Gan, 26/09/2018

Mr Gerard Horton  
Military Court Watch  
www.militarycourtwatch.org

Dear Mr Horton,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 1 February 2018 regarding the "*Forcible transfer of protected persons from the West Bank*" and to apologize for the delay in my response.

The European Union places the defence of Human Rights at the heart of its external policies.

The issue of Palestinian prisoners in detention in Israel has been regularly addressed by the European Union (EU) with Israel through normal diplomatic channels. The EU has been repeatedly and consistently calling upon Israel to respect its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

The European Union has, in the framework of its regular dialogue with Israel, also been expressing its long-standing concern about Israel's extensive use of administrative detention without formal charge. Detainees have the right to be informed about the charges underlying any detention, must be granted access to legal assistance, and be given a fair trial within a reasonable time or be released.

The EU also follows very closely the issue of the detention of Palestinian children by Israeli authorities. In a related statement issued on 12 January 2018, the EU Representative and the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah recalled the importance of respecting and protecting the rights of children, including and in particular during arrest, detention and judicial procedures.

The European Union will continue to raise its concerns about the arrest and detention of Palestinians, in particular of Palestinian children, on a regular basis, both in established bilateral fora and during ad-hoc encounters, and in multilateral fora, in particular within the framework of Israel's UPR recommendations.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to ensuring the protection of Human Rights in Israel and in the broader region.

Yours sincerely,

  
Emanuele Giaufret  
EU Ambassador  
Delegation of the European Union to the State of Israel

cc: Raja Shehadeh, Nery Ramati, Danny Friedman QC, Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC, Diala Shamas, Saimo Chahal QC