

*Benita Ferrero-Waldner*  
*Member of the European Commission*

*Rue de la Loi 200 - B-1049 Bruxelles*  
*Wetstraat 200 - B-1049 Brussel*

Brussels, 17 May 2006  
D/06/763  
Lien A/06/144

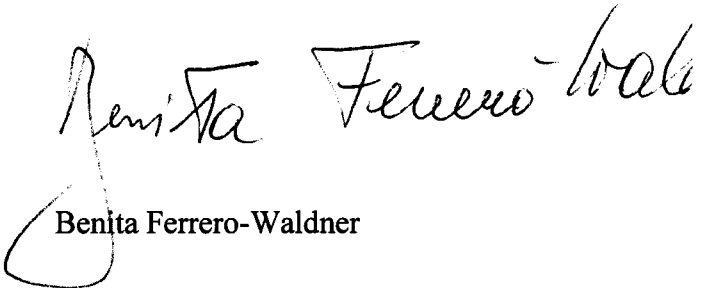
Dear Dr Lucas,

I have taken very careful note of the concerns you raise about the detention, trial by Israeli military court, and sentencing of Mr Hussam Khader when still an incumbent member of the Palestinian Legislative Council. The European Commission is naturally concerned at any instance where individuals are detained for excessive periods, and where the normal accepted standards of judicial procedure set out in international law appear to be waived.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan agreed with Israel reinforces the pivotal importance of human rights principles, as shared values, in the EU's relations with Israel, as indeed with all our ENP partners. The Action Plan contains a set of commitments on furthering the role of human rights, and provides the means through political dialogue and judicial co-operation to encourage the application of these rights by Israel.

I shall ensure that the case of Mr Khader is brought to the attention of the Presidency in the context of preparations for political dialogue with Israel.

Yours sincerely,

  
Benita Ferrero-Waldner

Dr Caroline Lucas  
Member of the European Parliament  
European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
1049 Brussels