



Member of the European Parliament

DR CAROLINE LUCAS
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Ambassador Ran Curiel
Ambassador of Israel to the European Union
Mission of Israel to the EU
40 Avenue de l'Observatoire
1180 Uccle
Brussels

17 November 2009

Dear Mr Ambassador,

Urgent call for the immediate and unconditional release of Mr Mohammad Othman

I have been made aware of the case of Mr Mohammad Othman, a volunteer with the "Palestinian Grassroots Stop the Wall Campaign" who was arrested on September 22, 2009 at the Allenby Bridge Border as he returned home from a human rights visit to Norway. He remains held in administrative detention since, without charges or being able to know the reason for his arrest and access to his attorney has recently been banned. Mr Othman's situation is currently under review by the Israeli courts.

I am writing to you to express my deepest concern about the detainment of Mr Othman which I fear is a result of his peaceful criticism of violations of international law by Israeli authorities. The charges against him have not been made clear, but there is reason to believe that he has been arrested solely for his human rights work.

I strongly urge you to do all in your power to ensure that all possible measures are taken to ensure Mr Othman's immediate and unconditional release. In addition, whilst being held, Mr Othman should be protected from any form of torture or ill-treatment, and the conditions of his detention should fulfill the requirements of international law.

I urge the Israeli authorities, in this and similar cases, to comply with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly on December 9, 1998, in particular Article 1, which states that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the

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