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ALL OUR RESPECT FOR THE ISRAELI "Refuseniks"

Thus far, hundreds of reserve combat officers and soldiers of the Israeli Defence Forces have pledged to refuse to serve for moral reasons. In their letter "Courage to refuse", they state: "We, who sensed how the commands issued to us in the Occupied Territories destroy all values on which we were raised (...), we shall not continue to fight beyond the 1967 borders in order to dominate, expel, starve and humiliate an entire people (...), the missions of occupation and oppression do not serve this purpose and we shall take no part in them".

In its resolution of 10 April 2002 on the "situation in the Middle East", the European Parliament expressed its full support for those working for peace, "including the Israeli reservists refusing to serve in the Occupied Territories". In its resolution of 23 October 2003 "on peace and dignity in the Middle East", the European Parliament expressed again "its solidarity with the group of Israeli Air Force pilots who declared they would refuse to fly missions that could endanger civilians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, on the basis that airstrikes are immoral and illegal on account of the fact that they kill innocent civilians".

We, as Members of the European Parliament from different political groups, reaffirm our solidarity and stand with all the the courageous Israeli "refuseniks": they are among the moral voices of Israel and the world, they show the way to peace. We urge Israeli authorities to refrain from punishing them and, especially, to release the five conscientious objectors recently sentenced to jail and to enable them, as well as other young men and women, to serve the Israeli society in an alternative civil service.

Mr Graham WATSON
ELDR President
coordinator - AFET

Mr Francis WURTZ
GUE/NGL President

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Mrs Luisa MORGANTINI
EP-PLC President

Mr Emilio MENENDEZ DEL VALLE
PSE Group, former rapporteur on Middle East

**If you want to support this appeal in solidarity with the Israeli "refuseniks"
as Member of the European Parliament**

please reply to this message and send an email to ssquarcina@europarl.eu.int

OR

please send a fax to the internal EP number 41324 with name / signature / political group