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27 January 2023

Financial assistance for Palestinian Interior Ministry and security services must be withheld until significant human rights progress is made

Written declaration No. 761

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

We are gravely concerned by reports of human rights organisations and the UN Committee against Torture about the systemic practice by Palestinian Security Services of abusing national security charges and anti-money laundering laws to arbitrarily arrest, torture and freeze bank accounts of the regime's critics.

The lack of proper investigation of the political killing of Nizar Banat, a well-known critic of the Palestinian Authority's Government is unacceptable. We call to immediately release and drop fabricated criminal cases against witnesses of the assassination of Banat: Hussein and Mohamed Banat, a family lawyer Gandhi Al-Rubaie, and stop the prosecution of Ghassan Banat for seeking justice before the International Criminal Court.

We condemn the attempt to assassinate anti-corruption activist Fadi Elasalameen, as well as the deliberate leak of sensitive information on his home address and banking transactions from the Bank of Palestine to the Al Akhbar newspaper, owned by the Hezbollah terrorist organisation in order to intimidate him.

We call for the exclusion of the Palestinian Interior Ministry and security services from European Union financial assistance until effective steps are taken to stop torture, hold liable those responsible for those acts, including the culprits of the assassination of Nizar Banat and release political prisoners.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thórhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
BARDELL Hannah, United Kingdom, NR
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BEN CHIKHA Fourat, Belgium, SOC
BONELL Mònica, Andorra, ALDE
CARVALHO Nuno, Portugal, EPP/CD
CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
CEGONHO Pedro, Portugal, SOC
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GUNNARSSON Björn Leví, Iceland, SOC
GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio, Spain, SOC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JONSSON Mattias, Sweden, SOC
LAGRIMINHA Mara, Portugal, SOC
LEYTE Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
MOUTQUIN Simon, Belgium, SOC
NAUDI Carles, Andorra, ALDE
O'LOUGHLIN Fiona, Ireland, ALDE
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
TROY Robert, Ireland, ALDE

Total = 23

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group