Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**Doc. 15754**
27 April 2023

# Palestinian Intelligence Services must cease political harassment of human rights lawyers

**Written declaration No. 769**

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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.

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We, the undersigned, declare the following:

The Palestinian Ministry of National Economy's refusal to renew the registration of the Palestinian human rights organisation Lawyers for Justice is a serious breach of international obligations. The decision to freeze the organisation's registration was based on a request from the Palestinian Intelligence Services under the false claim of having accepted "foreign funding".

in view of the written declaration No. 761 (Doc. 15696), the persecution of Lawyers for Justice and its leader Mohannada Karaje, reflects a broader trend of shrinking space for civil society organisations and further abuse of power by the Palestinian Intelligence Services. Mohannada Karaje leads a group of lawyers who document and provide legal defense to victims of political persecution and torture such as in the case of Nizar Banat.

In view of the recent release of Hussein and Mohamed Banat, witnesses to the political killing of Nizar Banat, we demand an end to the harassment of lawyers Gandhi Al-Rubaie, Mohannad Karaje and Ghassan Banat who are seeking justice at the International Criminal Court.

We urgently call for clarification on the distribution and monitoring of financial aid by the European Union to the Palestinian Authority, ensuring that no support is provided to the intelligence services as long as human rights are not respected.

*Signed (see overleaf)*

*Signed*[1]*:*

CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
ARSLAN Sibel, Switzerland, SOC
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
FAXE Sascha, Denmark, SOC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KATROUGALOS George, Greece, UEL
KILJUNEN Kimmo, Finland, SOC
KÖCK Eduard, Austria, EPP/CD
LEIGH Edward, United Kingdom, EC/DA
LOMUTI Arnaldo, Italy, NR
MARIE Didier, France, SOC
PETIT Maud, France, ALDE
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SHARMA Virendra, United Kingdom, SOC
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
ŚMISZEK Krzysztof, Poland, SOC
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE

Total = 20

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance
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