

25 February 2016

Dear Ms Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

We are writing to you, as you are currently holding the position of the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice- President of the European Commission, to express our deep and well founded concern for the deteriorating condition of the Palestinian journalist Mohammed al-Qeeq, who has today reached his 90th day of hunger strike.

Al-Qeeq, 33, who is a reporter for Al-Majd, was detained by Israeli forces on the 21st of November. He has been on hunger strike since the 25th of that month, initially in protest at his torture upon arrest, and subsequently his sentence of six months imprisonment without trial or charges. He is currently being held in HaEmek hospital in Afula, and while his administrative detention was deemed as suspended by the Israeli supreme court, he still cannot

leave the hospital and the Israeli military denied his request to be transferred to a Palestinian hospital in the West Bank. He has maintained his strike and says he will accept treatment only under conditions of freedom in a Palestinian hospital.

Although al-Qeeq has been denied visitors on the grounds of his extremely fragile medical condition, he has been visited by Archbishop Atallah Hanna, who reported that al-Qeeq is in critical condition and suffering from severe pain. ““The imprisoned al-Qeeq is on hunger strike for the freedom that he deserves. He is entitled to return to his family and to his children who are impatiently waiting. We stand in solidarity with him and with all prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails,” said Hanna. The HaEmek

hospital waiting room in Afula has filled with visitors for al-Qeeq, 40 Palestinians are on hunger strike in solidarity with al-Qeeq in front of the hospital, five of whom have been arrested

by Israeli forces, and Knesset member Haneen Zoabi was forced to leave the hospital.

Doctors have reported that he has now lost much of his hearing and ability to speak; and describe him as being in danger of death at any time, and predict his experiencing medical consequences that will continue after his detention.

Echoing the UN's call to either charge or release al-Qeeq, we urge you to take immediate and effective action to ensure his safety.

We urge you to make a public statement to demand the release of Mohamed Al Qeeq to a facility where he can receive adequate care in a safe environment. Furthermore we look forward to hearing from you what other action you have taken and what the responses have been from the Israeli officials.

Sincerely,

Bart Staes (Greens)  
Paloma Lopez Bermejo (GUE/NGL)  
Stefan Eck (GUE/NGL)  
Molly Scott Cato (Greens)  
Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL)  
Nessa Childers (S&D)  
Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL)  
Miguel Urban Crespo (Podemos)  
Neoklis Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL)  
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