

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Managing Director

Middle East and North Africa

Brussels, 28.11.2016
eeas.md-mena.dir (Ares(2016)6243830

Mr Mustafa Barghouti, General
Secretary of the Palestinian
National Initiative (Al Mubadara)

Mr Jamal Juma, General
Coordinator of the Stop the Wall
Campaign

Ms Maren Mantovani, Stop the
Wall
global@stopthewall.org

Subject: Arrest of Salah Al Khawaja

Dear Mr Barghouti,
Dear Mr Juma,
Dear Ms Mantovani,

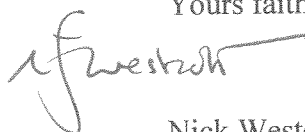
Thank you for your letter dated 1 November 2016 addressed to the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission Ms Federica Mogherini, concerning the arrest of Human rights defender Salah Al Khawaja. The High Representative has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The European Union is aware of the case of Salah Al Khawaja, including reports about his bad health conditions. The issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention is of key importance to the EU. We address this subject with Israeli authorities on a regular basis using all diplomatic channels. The EU has repeatedly called on the Israeli authorities to respect the human rights of prisoners including the right to a fair trial, which is a fundamental right. Detainees should be informed about the reasons for their detention and access to legal aid should be guaranteed. Moreover decisions on detention should fully respect the principle of proportionality, an essential rule of law principle.

The EU has been following the case of Mr Al Khawaja since his arrest on 26 October 2016 in detail: the interrogation phase has been extended several times by the Israeli military court in Petah Tikva. The latest extension was issued on 23 November 2016 for

a further nine days. During this period Mr Al Khawaja has been kept in isolation. The hearings at the court in Petah Tikva are closed, which appears to be a result of the application of military law in such cases. Once Mr Khawaja's case has been moved to Ofer military court, the Office of the European Representative in Jerusalem will attend the hearings. In addition to our efforts on the ground in Israel, we have also raised Mr Al Khawaja's case with the Mission of Israel to the EU. The EU is committed to continuing to follow the case.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Westcott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nick Westcott