

[INSERT NAME AND
CONTACT DETAILS]

The High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Baroness Catherine Ashton
European External Action Service
BERL 12/207
1046 Brussels
Belgium

Sent via email: c/o Michael.MANN@eeas.europa.eu

X September 2014

Dear Baroness Ashton,

RE: Dr. Yousef Abdul Haq, 73 year old community leader, being held without trial or charge by Israeli Authorities

I am writing to you to ask for your support in raising the issue of the internment without charge or trial of Dr. Yousef Abdul Haq by the Israeli authorities. Dr. Yousef is 73 years old and suffers from high blood pressure. He was arrested from his home in Nablus city in the occupied West Bank on 26 August 2014. He is being held without charge or trial by Israel in what is known as administrative detention.

Dr. Yousef is a retired lecturer from An-Najah National University in Nablus. He has been imprisoned by Israel 3 times, most recently for 4 months in 2010. He is a founding member of the Tanweer Cultural Centre in Nablus, where youth and the community gather to organize cultural events, such as poetry readings, filming showings and community volunteering. As a result of his non-violent resistance to the illegal occupation of his land Dr. Yousef is constantly being harassed.

I implore you to use your weight as EU representative to work for the release of Dr. Yousef. Dr. Yousef's family is distraught and very concerned for his health.

As you may know administrative detention is based on Military Order 1226 – the order which empowers military commanders to detain an individual for up to six months if they have “reasonable grounds to presume that the security of the area or public security require the detention.” On or just before the expiry date, the detention order is frequently

renewed. Detainee's lawyers are not informed of the reasons and have no access to any of the 'evidence'.

Israel's use of administrative detention, while permitted under international law under certain circumstances, has been widely condemned by human rights groups. In practice, Israel routinely uses administrative detention in violation of the strict parameters established by international law. Palestinians can be detained for months, if not years, under administrative detention orders, without ever being informed about the reasons or length of their detention. Detainees are routinely informed of the extension of their detention on the day that the former order expires. Under the existing administrative detention procedures, Palestinians have no effective means by which to challenge their administrative detention.

I ask you to kindly work towards the release of Dr. Yousef, demanding from Israel his immediate and safe return to his family. I also hope you will support and raise the issue of the wider illegal use of administrative detention by Israel against Palestinians and work towards its full cessation.

Kind regards,