



**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 commits only those who have signed it

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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)*

*Doc. 15754 Written declaration*

*Signed<sup>1</sup>:*

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

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Total = 20