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Press Release
(For Immediate Publication)

‘Ahmed Dib miet issa fl-isptar.’

Bianca

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If you happen to be a Jew living in Israel you are always a victim and never an aggressor. If you are an international activist you are some times considered as a victim, your shooting is regretted but possibly you are manipulated and used. If you are a Palestinian you must be a terrorist - violence, murder, violation of human rights are always justified in your regards even if you are simply a civilian taking part in a peaceful, non-violent activity. This is the dangerous logic which we are told over and over again, have to believe and are asked not to question. Such logic is deadly not only for the thousands of innocent Palestinian people but for Israel itself and the international community!

Nidal and Hind were injured together with Bianca but also many other Palestinian people are injured or murdered, frequently. Deaths and injuries we do not hear about. They are not killed for committing any acts of terrorism but for working their land, or at times trying to protect their homes, family or land. Nidal will not be able to walk again at least for six more months. Ahmad Dib, 21 whilst participating in another peaceful demonstration was killed by a dum dum bullet. A bullet that breaks into shrapnel once inside the body. Ahmad Sliman Salem Dib dies of blood loss, shot and fatally injured during another demonstration.

Unless we are all safe, no one is safe! It is dangerous to create a group of people towards whom violence, brutality and murder can be justified. Jewish people know this too well. Violations of human rights cannot and should not be justified because of one's own ethnic origins or nationality. Such justification is a form of apartheid. **Sadly the state of Israel has become an embarrassment for the International Community.**

In light of such reflection SKOP urges EU institutions to reconsider EU-Israel privileged relations. We also urge the 25 MEPs delegation visiting Israel this month to address human rights violations perpetrated by the State of Israel against humanity.

Moreover we urge all those of good will who want justice for the Palestinian people to demand boycott, divestments and sanctions of Israeli companies and institutions that keep turning a blind eye to the occupation. In Bianca's own words:

“Boycotts can be effective in getting Israelis to realise that not all is alright, and they have to range from academic to commercial and artistic boycotts of everything Israeli, while supporting Palestinian products made in Palestine,”

“There is no middle road. You're either against injustice or else you're accepting it.”

Bianca Zammit

Background Information - Eyewitness of Dib's murder:

British ISM activist and eyewitness Adie Mormech stated:

“We were standing next to the gathering of young men behind a large rock most of whom were chanting and waving flags, about 50 metres from the border fence. Although some of the men were throwing stones from the ground, we didn't see any reach the fence let alone go over it. Suddenly to our left, in front of the rock where 10 people had gathered about 30 metres from the fence, there was a single shot without any warning, and a young man was carried away. I could see the bullet had blown apart a large section of the top his leg, with a large amount of blood. He was carried about 100m with blood pouring down his leg before a waiting ambulance drove him away.”

According to Eva Bartlett, Canadian ISM activist and eye witness:

"Israel's policy of using live ammunition for crowd dispersal is part of it's complete disregard for the lives of a million and a half Palestinians living in brutal conditions under the ongoing Israeli siege on Gaza. International observers play a critical role in documenting and potentially deterring Israel's violence, but are denied access to Gaza."

British ISM activist Rada Daniell added that:

"The popular resistance demonstrations will continue up and down the border until Palestinians have access to their most arable farmland, which is effectively annexed by the Israeli imposed 300m buffer zone on the Gazan side, and until the siege is lifted from the Gaza Strip. Bianca, a Maltese international activist who was shot at noon on Saturday in the leg, will rejoin the other internationals regularly attending and reporting on the local initiatives against the buffer zone."

Background Information: European Jews call for Israel to be saved from its government's "political errors" and "moral failings"

European Jews are calling for Israel to be saved not only from the threat of foreign enemies but also from dangers, described as "political errors and moral failings", caused by the continuation of settlement-building policies and practices by the current far right coalition government.

The petition will be launched officially at the European Parliament on 3 May in the presence of Green MEP Daniel Cohn-Bendit, Zeev Sternhell, Avi Primor, Elie Barnavi and other leading European Jews.

More than 2,500 people in Europe and Israel have so far signed the petition, stating that as Jews and citizens of European countries, they are involved in the political and social life of their respective countries. Irrespective of their personal lives, connections with the state of Israel are part of their identity, they add, expressing concern about the future and safety of Israel, to which they are inextricably linked. The petition adds that the existence of Israel is again under threat and far from underestimating the threat from its enemies abroad, the signatories know that the threat is also located in the uninterrupted continuation of settlements on the West Bank and the Palestinian quarters of East Jerusalem, which they describe as a "political error and a moral failing" that feed into an unacceptable de-legitimisation of Israel as a country.

The petition can be signed online at www.jcall.eu. The website echoes a US website (www.jstreet.org) set up to counter the influence of the Israeli far right on opinion in the United States.

Other Background Info

SKOP - The National Platform of Maltese NGDOs is Malta's broadest network of voluntary and non-governmental organisations working in international development and humanitarian aid. SKOP is a member of CONCORD. (www.skopmalta.org).

For further information about boycott, divestments and sanctions please log on to:

<http://bdsmovement.net/>

For further information about the Buffer Zone in the Gaza Strip (please also see attachment).

http://www.pchrgaza.org/portal/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=55&Itemid=201

For further information about the International Solidarity Movement please log on:

<http://palsolidarity.org/>

For Further information about EU-Israel Relations

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/enp/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/israel/index_en.htm

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/delegations/homeDel.do?language=EN&body=D-IL>

Other information

<http://journeytogaza.blogspot.com/>

If you would like to obtain further information, kindly contact us on 79342328 or mario.gerada@maltaforum.org.