



Strasbourg, 13 June 2012

Mrs Catherine Ashton
High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Madam High Representative

We, Members of the European Parliament, ask your urgent intervention in favor of Mr. Nabil Al-Raei, Palestinian citizen, artistic director of "*Freedom Theatre*" - a cultural Centre and Theatre School working since 2006 at Jenin Refugee Camp in West Bank, who has been arrested at his home at early hours of 6th June by Israeli armed forces, with their face covered and no explanation given.

Since then, there is no clear information on where he has been carried to, the conditions of his detention, his physical and mental health status and what is more on the reasons for his detention. According to some information by the Israeli authorities Mr. Nabil Al-Raei is detained in a prison in the north of Israel and cannot be contacted, not even by his lawyer.

As you probably know, "*Freedom Theatre*" is an institution dedicated to work with children and young people aiming to help a population living under very tough conditions, surrounded by a 3-meter high concrete wall.

The "*Freedom Theatre*" group's work has been shadowed by permanent threats by the Israeli authorities. After the assassination of its founder, Juliano Mer-Khamis, late 4th of April 2011, detentions of its members became a routine for the group.

We consider that it is a duty of the international community and much more of the European Union, to demand from the leaders of the State of Israel to respect international law and cease maintaining the repressive and brutal wave of detentions, contrary to the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Furthermore, the EU should support the cultural work done that helps bring about a climate of understanding.

Given the urgency of the situation, we would appreciate your response to safeguard and protect the life of Nabil Al-Raei.

Thank you for keeping us informed of any initiatives that you plan to take.

Kind regards.

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