

Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association
Al-Haq – Defending Human Rights
Huryyat- Centre for Defence of Liberties and Civil Rights
Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights
Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies
Independent commission for Human Rights (Observer)



Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights
Aldameer Association for Human Rights
Defence for Children International – Palestine
BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and
Refugee Rights
The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Date: 03.07.2019

PHROC Condemns Israel's Denial of Entry to UN Special Rapporteur, Mr. Michael Lynk

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) condemn Israel's deliberate denial of entry to Professor Michael Lynk, the United Nations Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) since 1967. Israel has denied UNSR Lynk entry to the OPT to carry out his mission between 8-12 July, 2019.

Israel has continuously denied Mr. Lynk access to the OPT since his appointment in 2016, in a clear attempt to frustrate and impede his role as [mandated](#) by the UN Human Rights Council to “investigate Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law” in the OPT. As a result, the Special Rapporteur (SR) has been unable to directly monitor the human rights situation on the ground in the OPT. The denied entry, follows a pattern of non-cooperation from Israel regarding the Special Rapporteur's mandate, an issue that both of his [predecessors](#) had also encountered. In light of Israel's consistent dismissal of its fundamental duties under the Charter of the United Nations, Mr. Lynk will once again be forced to conduct his annual regional investigation between the 8th and 12th of July 2019 from Amman, Jordan where he will endeavour to carry out his mandate to the fullest extent possible.

Over the past three years, Mr. Lynk has worked distinctly from the OHCHR Country Office with the aim of investigating and documenting Israel's alleged violations of international law and international humanitarian law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, in the OPT. In order to achieve this in the most effective way possible, it is necessary for the Special Rapporteur to undertake regular missions or visits to the OPT to ensure that the annual report he is tasked with presenting to the Human Rights Council is accurate and authentic. However, Israel's persistent refusal to allow him to enter the OPT means that Mr. Lynk has no choice but to rely on communications from civil society organisations and on statements from people present in the OPT, such as witnesses, victims, Palestinian government officials, and other UN representatives. The SR has repeatedly expressed his disappointment at Israel's refusal to engage in an open dialogue, which he believes is crucial to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights.¹

Israel has denied Mr. Lynk access to the OPT since his appointment three years ago, epitomising Israel's blatant disregard for its obligations as United Nations Member State to comply with the

¹ A/73/45717, “Situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967” (22 October 2018), p. 2, para. 2.

Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association
Al-Haq – Defending Human Rights
Huryyat- Centre for Defence of Liberties and Civil Rights
Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights
Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies
Independent commission for Human Rights (Observer)



Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights
Aldameer Association for Human Rights
Defence for Children International – Palestine
BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and
Refugee Rights
The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

mechanisms and committees of the United Nations. Israel's strategy of non-cooperation has been continuously condemned by the international community and branded as an obstacle to the peace process.² During Mr. Lynk's mission to Amman, Jordan in June 2018, he described the human rights situation in the OPT as the '[bleakest period yet](#)', with particular emphasis being placed on the accelerating advancement of the Israeli annexation project in the West Bank and the deteriorating state of the Gaza strip.

PHROC considers that Israel's policy of non-compliance and non-cooperation is having detrimental effects on the implementation and protection of human rights in the OPT. It is therefore critical for the SR to be granted official access at this time in order to fulfil his duties mandated by the UN Human Rights Council and to conclusively communicate to the Council, pressing human rights issues in the OPT. The aim is not only to prevent further deterioration of the human rights situation in the OPT, but to ensure overall improvement.

In light of these concerns, PHROC calls on the international community, particularly UN member states to take measures to ensure Israel's compliance with UN procedures and mechanisms as a member state, and particularly with regards to the special procedures of the UN, and access for SRs, most crucially the SR on the OPT, Mr. Michael Lynk.

END

² This fact was included in the previous Al-Haq letter <http://www.alhaq.org/advocacy/targets/united-nations/205-denial-of-entry-to-un-special-rapporteur-demonstrates-once-again-israels-duplicity-in-its-relations-with-the-un>

Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association
 Al-Haq – Defending Human Rights
 Huryyat- Centre for Defence of Liberties and Civil Rights
 Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights
 Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies
 Independent commission for Human Rights (Observer)



Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights
 Addameer Association for Human Rights
 Defence for Children International – Palestine
 BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and
 Refugee Rights
 The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council comprising:



Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association
 Sahar Francis
 General Director



Addameer Association for Human Rights
 Hala Jaber
 General Director



Al-Haq
 Shawan Jabarin
 General Director



Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
 Issam Younis
 General Director



Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
 Nidal Azzah
 General Director



Defence for Children International Palestine Section
 Khaled Quzmar
 General Director



Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies
 Suhaib Sharif
 General Director



Hurryyat - Centre for Defense of Liberties and Civil Rights
 Helmi Al-Araj
 General Director



Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights
 Issam Aruri
 General Director



The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
 Raji Sourani
 General Director