



المؤسسة الفلسطينية لحقوق الإنسان (شاهد)  
(علم وخبر 195/أد)  
Palestinian Association for Human Rights (Witness)

Date:20/10/2017

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner  
for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
Palais Wilson  
52 rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

**Dear Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**  
**UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

RE: An invitation to follow up the trial of Raed Salah

For the time, an Israeli court set up a session on the 6/9/2017 for the purpose of reading the indictments against Sheikh Salah and to present it to him. Salah, leader of the Northern Branch of the Islamic Movement a political party in Israel, who in the past appeared several times before the Haifa Magistrate Court in a hearing to address the false charges of incitement to terrorism which was filed against him by the Public Prosecution.

Charges against Salah are not supported by any evidence; but rather, evidence has been presented that proves his innocence as it falls within the framework of the right to freedom of belief and freedom of opinion and expression.

Salah, who has been detained since August 15, 2017, complained during his latest hearing of the poor conditions he is facing in detention. He said that his prison cell in Hasharon Prison "is not suitable for animals." He is being held in a toilet, where he eats, drinks, sleeps and prays in a place full of waste, and with cameras monitoring him around the clock. When Salah complained of the detention conditions to the prison administration he was told it was "superior orders".

Israeli authorities have turned a blind eye to thousands of extremists and Rabbis, including ministers in the Netanyahu government, who openly call for ethnic cleansing and dispossessing of Palestinians through various media sources. No charges have been filed against any of them.

Accusations against Salah are fabricated and have nothing to do with terrorism. There is, however, great interest in the activity of Salah in the office of Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, as he is considered a threat to current and future projects aimed at demolishing the al-Aqsa Mosque and building the Temple.



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We consider the activities of Sheikh Raed Salah consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all international laws that protect the right to belief, demonstration, and freedom of opinion and expression.

We confirm that what Salah is exposed to is not new as he has been arrested several times previously on the very same charges. Indeed, he is not alone in this kind of repressive treatment, for anyone who is active in the defense of al-Aqsa and Jerusalem is either killed or arrested, be it a child, woman or man.

We invite representatives from the Office of your delegation in Palestine, to attend the trial hearing for Mr Salah that will be set later.

We invite you to observe the trial procedure and the nature of the charges put against him, as the intransigent decision of releasing him on bail, and insistence of keeping him detained in a cell that lacks any human life necessities is unseen in similar cases.

We also call upon the Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to announce that the detention of the Sheik is an arbitrary detention, it is contrary to international law and that his trail is one that goes against freedom of opinion, expression and belief.

If you need further information kindly do not hesitate to contact us .

Yours sincerely,  
**Dr. Mahmoud El hanafi**  
Director