



Israel

Representatives of the civil society must be respected !

On 1 and 3 May, Mr. Ameer Makhoul, Director of the Union of Arab Community Based Organisations in Israel (Ittijah) and founding member of the Euromed Non-Governmental Platform, was subjected to unacceptable treatment by the authorities at Ben Gurion airport.

Mr. Makhoul, who had participated to a meeting of the Platform's Executive Board (Paris), was arrested and forcibly subjected to "security searches".

During the three hours of his detention, Ameer Makhoul faced particularly violent and persecutory behaviour from the airport security forces: search through his personal belongings, his computer and mobile telephone, denial of any telephone contact, even with his family, for over one hour, attempted extensive body search...

These measures taken are completely disproportionate and unacceptable.

This abuse of fundamental rights constitutes one more event in a long series of harassment and humiliation against a part of the Israeli population, namely the Arab citizens.

The Euro Mediterranean Human Rights Network declares its complete solidarity with Mr. Makhoul and voices the strongest protests against the Israeli authorities. It also calls on the European Union to raise the issue of the security practices currently applied at Ben Gurion airport with the Israeli authorities.

09 May 2007