



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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## Palestine/Israel

### PAL/83 - Aziz Dweik

*Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 197<sup>th</sup> session (Geneva, 21 October 2015)*

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Referring* to the case of Mr. Aziz Dweik, Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), and to the decision it adopted at its 196<sup>th</sup> session (March-April 2015),

*Recalling* that Mr. Dweik was elected to the PLC on the Electoral Platform for Change and Reform and arrested during the night of 15 to 16 June 2014, along with and followed by scores of other Palestinian leaders, following the abduction, which Israel blamed on Hamas, of three Israeli teenagers, who were subsequently found killed; according to the complainant, after first being placed in administrative detention, Mr. Dweik is now facing criminal charges,

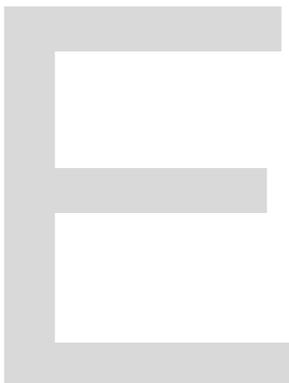
*Recalling* that, on 4 September 2014, an indictment was reportedly handed down against a member of the Hebron branch of Hamas, Mr. Hussam Qawasmeh, charging him with helping to plan the abduction of the three Israeli teenagers; the document, as described in Israeli news reports, spells out a detailed account of the crime's planning, execution and aftermath, but does not appear to contain any evidence that the leadership of Hamas – or anyone else outside of Mr. Qawasmeh's family, which reportedly controls the Hebron branch – had any knowledge of the crime before or after its commission,

*Considering* that, on 25 May 2014, the Israeli military court in Ofer Prison sentenced Mr. Dweik to a one-year prison term and a fine on charges apparently related, according to the complainant, to a speech he made at a public gathering and other activities linked to his political work; on 9 June 2015, Mr. Dweik was released upon serving his sentence,

*Recalling* that Mr. Dweik was previously arrested during the night of 5 to 6 August 2006 by the Israeli Defence Forces, and later charged with membership of a terrorist organization, namely Hamas, and leadership of that organization through his membership of the PLC and assuming the role of Speaker of the PLC; on 16 December 2008, the judge handed down her verdict, finding him guilty of membership of an unauthorized organization and leadership of that organization through his membership of the PLC and, on account of his poor health, sentenced him to 36 months' imprisonment, which he served until his release on 23 June 2009,

*Recalling* that since then, Mr. Dweik was re-arrested in 2012 and spent six months in administrative detention in Israel until his release on 19 July 2012,

1. *Notes* that Mr. Dweik has been released;
2. *Deeply regrets* that the Israeli authorities have not seen fit to convey to the Committee a copy of the sentence handed down on Mr. Dweik; and hence *remains concerned* therefore, in the light of Mr. Dweik's case history and the allegations from the complainant, that his latest conviction may not have been based on formal charges of any specific criminal activity, but rather on his political affiliation, and that it therefore may have been carried out for non-judicial purposes;



3. *Requests* the Israeli authorities to provide a copy of the verdict as a matter of priority in order that it may carry out its own assessment of the case;
4. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the relevant authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;
5. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.