ISRAEL / OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro face baseless charges for peaceful protest

Human rights defenders Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro peacefully oppose the existence of Israeli settlements wherever they discriminate against Palestinians. The government has levelled ridiculous charges against them in order to stop their protests.

The settlements are considered a war crime stemming from Israel's 50-year occupation of Palestinian land. Israel has made many parts of the occupied territories impossible for Palestinians to move about in freely.

Dedicated to non-violence, Farid and Issa brave constant threats and attacks by Israeli soldiers and settlers.

- Farid, a lawyer who exposes abuses by the Palestinian and Israeli authorities, faces harassment.
- Issa encourages Palestinian youth to find non-violent ways to oppose Israel's occupation and discriminatory laws in Hebron. For this, Israeli forces have arrested him more than once. They have beaten, blindfolded, and interrogated him. "The Israeli occupation forces target us to silence us," he says. He was detained briefly in September 2017.

In February 2016, Farid and Issa joined a peaceful protest in the city of Hebron to mark 22 years since Israel first closed one of its streets to Palestinians. The men now face 23 charges like shouting "no retreat" and waving Palestinian flags. The charges are clearly designed to obstruct their human rights work. They are on trial in an Israeli military court where 95% of cases of Palestinians end in conviction. If they are found guilty and sent to prison, Amnesty International would consider them to be prisoners of conscience.

Farid and Issa defend their right to freedom of expression. We defend their rights.

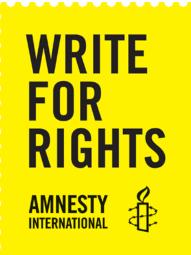
Tell Israel to drop all charges against Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro immediately.



Artwork © Rebecca Hendin

Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing...in the determination... of any criminal charges against him.

> Article IO, Vniversal Declaration of Human Rights



Unleash your pens and keyboards!

Please write to the prime minister.

- Start with Dear Prime Minister.
- Describe who you are and what concerns you about the constant threats and attacks Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro endure by Israeli soliders and settlers.
- Ask him to drop all charges against Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro immediately.

Send your message to

Benjamin Netanyahu Office of the Prime Minister 3 Kaplan Street, PO Box 187 Kiryat Ben-Gurion Jerusalem 91950, Israel

 Postage:
 \$2.50

 Fax:
 011 972 2 560 5000

 Email:
 pm_eng@pmo.gov.il

 Twitter:
 @IsraeliPM

Please send a copy to

His Excellency Nimrod Barkan Ambassador for Israel 50 O'Connor Street, Suite 1005 Ottawa, Ontario KIP 6L2

 Postage:
 \$.85

 Fax:
 (613) 750-7555

 E-mail:
 info@ottawa.mfa.gov.il

Human rights defenders like Farid and Issa are at risk around the world. Join Amnesty's efforts to protect the rights of those who defend our rights. www.amnesty.ca/wedefend #WeDefend



In solidarity with Palestinian human rights defenders Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro



Support Farid al-Atrash and Issa Amro!

Farid and Issa would welcome a message from you so they can feel your support from afar. Use a non-religious greeting. You may mention Amnesty International and include your return address, if you wish.

Issa reads both English and Arabic. Farid prefers to receive messages in Arabic; otherwise use English.

Farid and Issa Amnesty International PO Box 42 626 Jerusalem Israel

Sample Tweets

.@IsraeliPM Please drop charges against Farid al -Atrash, Issa Amro now. Respect freedom of opinion and expression. #W4R17 #Write4Rights

I'm writing to @IsraeliPM to ask him to drop the charges against human rights defenders #FaridAndIssa. #W4R17 #Write4Rights

TAKE PART: writeathon.ca