

Ruchama Marton

President and Founder

Physicians for Human Rights-Israel

Tel Aviv

Dear Ms. Marton,

I would like to inform you that the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will hold a **United Nations International Meeting on the Question of Palestine from 7 to 8 February 2011 in Cairo, Egypt**. The theme of the Meeting is "*The urgency of addressing the plight of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention facilities*".

The organizers would be very interested to have you participate in the Meeting as an expert speaker in Plenary I of the Meeting, entitled "The current situation and conditions of imprisonment of Palestinians in Israeli prisons and detention facilities", under the sub-theme: "The situation of Palestinian women and minors in Israeli detention facilities; physical and psychological concerns and denial of family visitation right; the urgency of protection."

The purpose of this Meeting is to raise awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people and especially Palestinian political prisoners and to strengthen the support of the international community for a solution to this issue, namely their speedy release and reintegration into the Palestinian society. The Meeting, among other things, will look into the current situation and conditions of imprisonment of Palestinians in Israeli prisons and detention facilities, including the situation of women and minors. It will also discuss legal aspects of the arrests and detentions of Palestinians by the occupying Power, including Israeli legal claims, the use of administrative detentions and the legal responsibilities of the occupying Power. The Meeting will, as well, consider the issue of Palestinian political prisoners in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian political process and discuss ways of strengthening the role of the wider international community, as well as non-governmental actors in promoting a solution.

Invitations to the Meeting will be sent out to internationally-renowned experts on the issue, representatives of United Nations Members and Observers, parliamentarians, representatives of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, representatives of civil society, as well as the media.

At the opening session of the Meeting, statements are expected to be made by a representative of the Egyptian Government, a representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and a Representative of Palestine. The Meeting will continue with plenary sessions, during which experts will address specific issues. The official languages of the Meeting will be Arabic, English and French. The provisional programme of the Meeting is attached for your information.

The United Nations would provide round-trip transportation, from your place of residence to Cairo, by most direct route, and would pay subsistence allowance at approved United Nations rates for the duration of your stay at the Meeting.

Should you agree to participate in the Meeting, a formal invitation will be sent to you promptly.

In view of the limited time and the various arrangements that are yet to be made to ensure the success of the

Meeting, I would appreciate your advising me at your earliest possible convenience, and **no later than 17 December 2010**, whether you are in a position to accept this invitation. **Additionally, if you are unable to participate, we would appreciate if you could suggest other speakers from Physicians for Human Rights-Israel.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,