A statement issued by the Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists - General Secretariat

On December 27, 2017, the Israeli occupation forces arrested Munther Amira, a former general secretary of the Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists and a member of the Popular Resistance Movement, during a peaceful march demanding the release of detained children who are suffering harsh conditions of detention in a desperate attempt to silence every voice that rejects the occupation and its practices against the Palestinian people, especially children.

Munther Amira is a social worker who fights for freedom, justice and dignity for the land and people of Palestine. He condemns the Israeli occupation, its arbitrary measures and its immoral practices against the Palestinian people. The occupation only arrested him in front of local and international media.

Munther expressed his moral and patriotic duty towards injustice and oppression towards his people, based on the principles of freedom, dignity and justice for Palestine and rejection of the occupation and its practices, stressing the role of social and psychological specialists on the issues of their homeland and their people with freedom and independence and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its holy capital.

The International Federation of Social Workers in a statement issued on 7 January said that social workers and psychologists in Palestine have a very difficult task in defending the rights of their people and in their efforts to defend the children in detention in very difficult conditions, and to protect their children from the dangers of the Israeli occupation forces and settlers. In many cases, social workers and psychologists are arrested and sometimes shot and killed (as was the case with the martyr Hashim Abu Mariya) when they perform their humanitarian duties, which are consistent with the values of social work and the principle of human rights. And so it is with our fighter, Munther Amira, for freedom, justice and dignity.

We, the Union of Social and Psychological Specialists in Palestine (PUSWP), together with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and its Human Rights Commission, joined by an increasing number of other national social work associations, are calling for Munther’s immediate release. We call on all national social work organizations to participate actively in the international campaign for solidarity to release Munther Amira. We stress the justice of our cause and the rights of our Palestinian people. We call for the immediate release of our colleague, Munther Amira.

Freedom for Munther Amira

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