

Brussels, 28 September 2017

Dear Honourable President Tajani,

We would like to bring to your attention “The Role of Women in the Palestinian Popular Struggle” event that was organised by the GUE/NGL Group and Unadikum at the European Parliament in Brussels on 26 September 2017. The event violates Council Common Position of 27 December 2001 on the specific measures to combat terrorism (2001/931/CFSP) and the updated Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1426) of 4 August 2017 by directly and indirectly giving support to a EU designated terrorist organisation, including the provision of services to a person acting on behalf of the organisation. The Council Decision designates the ‘Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine’ (PFLP), amongst Hamas and Hezbollah’s military wing, as a terror organisation, and thus Parliament shall refrain from inviting representatives of a EU designated terror organisation to the European Parliament.

Ms Leila Khaled is a current member of a EU designated terrorist organisation, the PFLP, and previously responsible for the hijacking of American and Israeli airlines, the spread of incitement and the promotion of hatred and violence. Her current membership of and activities for the PFLP, her provocation to commit a terrorist act by joking about hijacking an airplane – and receiving a standing ovation for that remark during her speech in Parliament – are furthermore clear violations of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. The speeches by the Unadikum representative and Ms Leila Khaled unquestionably amounted to direct and indirect incitement through the use of multiple references of terrorist offences being necessary and justified, the drawing of comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis, the denial of the right of the Jewish people to self-determination and the use of symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterise Israel or Israelis. The dissemination of such messages furthermore regrettably violates the definition of Anti-Semitism adopted by Parliament in June 2017. Please note Appendix I, II, III and IV as evidence for the above charges.

We fully recognise the weight that the European Parliament carries in political and public debate and therefore regret the tarnishing of the Parliament’s good name and the message that the event sent to European citizens and Member States. We strongly believe that the Parliament carries a responsibility to all European citizens to take a united stand against terrorism and its incitement, especially at a time when Europe has experienced the agonising truth of terrorist attacks across its continent. We urge that in cases, in which EP regulations and Council Decisions were violated, adequate measures are taken against the persons, political groups and/or entities responsible for the organisation of the event as their actions undermine the united fight against terrorism.

In light of the above, we kindly ask you, under your honourable leadership, to investigate the details surrounding the event and whether the funding for the event on 26 September by the GUENGL Group, notably if EU taxpayers money was used that violated EP regulations and Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1426). The selling and advertising of merchandise from an outside organisation during the meeting as well as the covering of the EP logo on the podium in the meeting room go against the overall customary EP principles of provisions and rules governing meetings of political groups at the European Parliament. If any irregularities have taken place, we urge for appropriate action to be taken and funds to be returned to the budget of the European Parliament.

We thank you very much for your cooperation and we look forward to your reply,

Yours sincerely,

Anders Vistisen (ECR)
Bas Belder (ECR)
Jan Zahradil (ECR)
Cristian Preda (EPP)
Rupert Matthews (ECR)
Beatrix Von Storch (EFDD)
Peter Lundgren (EFDD)
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)
Lars Adaktusson (EPP)
Marcel de Graaff (ENF)
Martusciello Fulvio (EPP)
Marijana Petir (EPP)
Frédérique Ries (ALDE)
Franz Obermayr (ENF)
Péter Niedermüller (S&D)
André Elissen (ENF)
Olaf Stuger (ENF)
Patricija Šulin (EPP)
Stefano Maullu (EPP)
Jussi Halla-Aho (ECR)
Branislav Skripek (ECR)
Bernd Kölmel (ECR)
Hans-Olaf Henkel (ECR)
Helga Trüpel (Greens)
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Petras Austrevicius (ALDE)
Marcus Pretzell (ENF)
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Evzen Tosenovsky (ECR)
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Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)
James Nicholson (ECR)
John Flack (ECR)
Peter Van Dalen (ECR)
Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)

APPENDIX I

COUNCIL COMMON POSITION of 27 December 2001 on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (2001/931/CFSP)¹

2. For the purposes of this Common Position, ‘persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts’ shall mean:

groups and entities owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such persons; **and persons**, groups and entities **acting on behalf of, or under the direction of**, such persons, groups and entities, including funds derived or generated from property owned or controlled directly or indirectly by such persons and associated persons, groups and entities.

Article 3 The European Community, acting within the limits of the powers conferred on it by the Treaty establishing the European Community, shall ensure that funds, financial assets or economic resources or financial or **other related services** will not be made available, **directly or indirectly**, for the benefit of persons, groups and entities listed in the Annex.

B. COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2017/1426 of 4 August 2017 updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2017/154²

16. ‘Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine’ — ‘PFLP’.

APPENDIX II

Evidence proving that Leyla Khaled is a current member and activist of the PFLP

1. There are numerous publications on the PFLP website which include Laila Khaled, in both the official Arabic and English sites. In all references she is referred to as an icon of resistance and member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. For example:
 - a. Arabic: The post was written by Ms. Khaled and she is staring in the attached video wearing PFLP logo³.
 - b. English: Comrade Leila Khaled launches tour of Germany, Sweden and Austria. You can se Ms. Khaled wearing a scarf with PFLP logo in the photos.⁴

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001R2580&from=EN>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32017D1426&from=EN>

³ goo.gl/PJswcg

⁴ <http://pflp.ps/english/2016/04/13/comrade-leila-khaled-launches-tour-of-germany-sweden-and-austria/>

- c. Searching for Leila Khaled on the site brings numerous results⁵

APPENDIX III

Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism^{6*}

Warsaw, 16.V.2005

Article 5 – Public provocation to commit a terrorist offence

1. For the purposes of this Convention, "public provocation to commit a terrorist offence" means the distribution, or otherwise making available, of a message to the public, with the intent to incite the commission of a terrorist offence, where such conduct, whether or not directly advocating terrorist offences, causes a danger that one or more such offences may be committed.

Provocation – came from a working group and experts report on terrorism – included ‘apologie du terrorisme’ -the public expression of praise, support, or justification of terrorism.

Indirect incitement - ‘presenting a terrorist offence as necessary and justified, and ‘the dissemination of messages praising the perpetrator of an attack, the denigration of victims, calls for funding of terrorist organisations or other similar behavior⁷

Article 8 – Irrelevance of the commission of a terrorist offence

For an act to constitute an offence as set forth in Articles 5 to 7 of this Convention, it shall not be necessary that a terrorist offence be actually committed.

Article 11 – Sanctions and measures

1. Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to make the offences set forth in Articles 5 to 7 and 9 of this Convention punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties.
2. Previous final convictions pronounced in foreign States for offences set forth in the present Convention may, to the extent permitted by domestic law, be taken into account for the purpose of determining the sentence in accordance with domestic law.
3. Each Party shall ensure that legal entities held liable in accordance with Article 10 are subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal or non-criminal sanctions, including monetary sanctions.

Note: Every state signatory to the treaty is obliged to legislate domestic laws that will enable the effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties. To this effect, the EU's establishments are expected to be respectful of these rules as well. Hosting a current member of a terror group, providing her a stage to disseminate her message, providing legitimacy to the organisation and facilitating financial is in stark violation of the treaty.

⁵ <http://pflp.ps/english/?s=khaled&searchsubmit=>

⁶ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/090000168008371c>

⁷ <https://rm.coe.int/16800d3811>

APPENDIX IV

Prominent examples that amount to indirect and direct incitement to violence, spoken by Ms Leila Khaled and the Unidakum representative during the conference, time indications as shown in video of the event webstreaming: <http://web.guengl.streamovations.be/index.php/event/stream/the-role-of-women-in-the-palestinian-popular-struggle>

1. “we do not recognize Israel as a nation” (loud applause) [18:54:55]
2. “We also have a living legend with us here today, a living legend of the Palestinian resistance, who we can call the Che Guevara of Palestine, Leila Khaled” (standing ovations for 2 mins) [19:02:21]
3. “As long as we have progressive lawyers that take on the challenge and stand up to this fascist Nazi military courts, Zionist racist courts, as long as we have these lawyers we have no fear.” [19:40:48]
4. “Today we have some sections are more racist than the Nazis themselves, the Zionist movement in fact has followed the pattern to the key and has even collaborated with German Nazis to detain Jews that were not in favour of their plans.” [19:44:50]
5. Thus the Zionist State themselves have arrested a number of Jews and imprisoned them, and used practices that the Nazis themselves have come up with. These are not just accusations but this is reality. [19:45:10]
6. “What happened in Auschwitz during the Holocaust is also Holocaust comparable to what happens in Gaza today. The Nazis have been judged by the world in Nuremburg, however, up until this today no Zionist has been tried for anything.” [19:46:43]
7. “This means that this movement is a movement [Zionism] that is not legitimate, this is what we are trying to say... We are facing a project that is not just local but is global. We have to remind G23 of the Zionist movement.” [19:48:00].
8. “I tried to look for resolutions with respect to this, (...) but there is no specific definition what are the Jews, there is no specific definition of who is a Jew...” [19:49:50]
9. “Because they Zionist movement has decided in their congress number 23, that in the next 100 years, will be repeated in which they will be able to dominate the world economy...” [19:53:00]
10. “Today we have had a martyr; today the Zionist forces shot had them and we have a martyr” (applause) [19:56:06]
The attack she is referring to is a terror attack committed by a Palestinian who shot and murdered 3 Israelis and injured others. This is a clear glorification of a terror attack.
11. “How are we going to oppose this? Well, let us just hijack a plane? I’ll be frank, I saw that as the only way out. Those were the circumstances that pushed me to do this thing.” (Applause) [19:59:33]