

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 6, 2017

The Honorable President Mahmoud Abbas  
c/o The General Delegation of the PLO to the United States  
1732 Wisconsin Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear President Abbas:

We write to request that you immediately drop the baseless charges and release Mr. Issa Amro, a recognized community leader, nonviolent activist and the previous recipient of the United Nations' Human Rights Defender of the Year in Palestine award.

From our understanding, Mr. Amro was detained by the Palestinian Preventative Security for simply expressing his own personal opinion on his social media page, criticizing the conduct of the Palestinian Authority (PA). In 2014, the PA signed and became officially bound by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Under article 19, your government is committed to honoring and ensuring individuals' right to freedom of expression.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Amro has an inviolable right to freedom of opinion and expression.

Free and fair public debate is critical to establishing peace in the region. Mr. Amro's detention is extremely concerning as the United States continues discussions with Israel and the Palestinian Authority to seek a two-state solution. We urge you to immediately drop the charges and release the internationally renowned human rights defender Mr. Amro from his unjust detention. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Earl F. Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

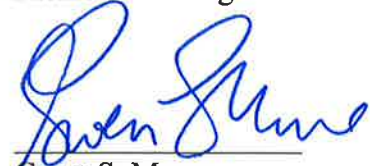


James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>

  
John Conyers  
Member of Congress

  
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member Congress

  
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress