

Minister Alexander Schallenberg
Federal Ministry for European and
International Affairs
Minoritenplatz 8
1010 Vienna
Austria

14 September 2020

Dear Foreign Minister,

We are extremely concerned about the case of Rami Aman, the Palestinian peace activist in Gaza who has been [famously jailed](#) by Hamas since April 9th for having organized a [Zoom video call](#) between Israeli and Palestinian peace activists. Mr. Aman is being accused of treason for having engaged in peace dialogue with Israelis.

UN Middle East peace envoy Nickolay Mladenov has called for the release of Mr. Aman.

As you may know, a cross-regional coalition of 70 UN-accredited NGOs, including United Nations Watch, recently filed a [legal complaint](#) with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to demand the release of Mr. Aman. The complaint alleges that his detention is arbitrary on multiple grounds because, *inter alia*, it violates Mr. Aman's rights to freedom of speech and association, and Hamas's treatment of Mr. Aman violates his rights to due process and a fair trial.

This Friday, September 18th, at the 45th Session of the UN Human Rights Council, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention will hold an Interactive Dialogue with UN member states and civil society. We urge Austria to take the floor at this debate and to call for the release of Rami Aman. This matter is urgent, particularly now when Mr. Aman faces increased danger due to fears of the coronavirus spreading in prison in Gaza.

Sincerely,



Hillel C. Neuer
Executive Director