



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS  
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN  
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

**Paul MURPHY**

Member of the European Parliament

Paul Murphy MEP,  
Socialist Party (Ireland),  
GUE/NGL,  
The European Parliament,  
LOW T05014,  
Strasbourg.  
0033 388 175836 (Strasbourg)  
0032 228 45836 (Brussels)

15 November 2011

Mr. Jerzy Buzek MEP,  
President,  
The European Parliament,  
LOW T15003,  
Strasbourg

Dear Mr. Buzek,

As you know, I was detained for a week in Israeli prison from 4 November to 11 November along with 14 other European citizens. We were participating in the operation "Freedom waves", attempting to breach the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza, which has condemned the people of Gaza to a humanitarian crisis. Our boats were violently boarded in international waters and we were brought to the port of Ashdod in Israel and detained under the spurious and ridiculous charges of entering Israel illegally.

The Israeli authorities were due to release all prisoners after 72 hours detention, i.e. on the morning of Tuesday 8 November. However, instead, they only released the first prisoners on Thursday 10 November and held some of us in detention until the morning of Friday 11 November. This was despite calls from yourself as President of the European Parliament, the First Vice President of the Parliament, Gianna Pittella and the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, calling for our quick release. It is clear that while we were in detention, false and misleading information was deliberately given to the Irish embassy about the timing of our release and the reasons why the first seven Irish citizens to be deported were not permitted to board the scheduled plane, an action which was obviously very disturbing for their families.

I feel that the actions of the Israeli state, which were consciously designed to intimidate protestors from repeating the attempt to break the siege of Gaza, cannot go unanswered by the European Parliament. In response, I am requesting you to revoke the credentials of the Israeli embassy staff from the European Parliament.

I await your response.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Murphy MEP