

Letter to Lord Goldsmith
Attorney General
House of Lords
Westminster, London S.W.1

By fax: +44 0207 271 2494

Paris, London, 15 September 2005

Dear Lord Goldsmith,

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), an international organization comprising 141 affiliated human rights organizations worldwide, wishes to express its deep concern at the case of Major General Doron Almog, an Israeli officer, who evaded arrest at Heathrow airport on 11 September 2005, despite the warrant issued by Bow Street magistrates' court the day before.

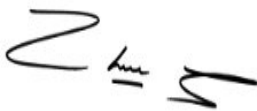
The FIDH notes that following an application made by Hickman and Rose on behalf of the Palestinian Center for Human Rights (the FIDH member-organization in Gaza) and others, the Chief London Magistrate issued a warrant of arrest under the Geneva Convention Act 1957, on the basis of suspicion of Doron Almog's involvement in the destruction by the Israeli Army of 59 Palestinian homes in a refugee camp in the South of the Gaza Strip on 10 January 2002.

The fight against impunity being one of the main priorities of FIDH action, we would point out that the failure to arrest a war crimes suspect is a clear violation of the United Kingdom's international unconditional obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and under national law. Therefore, at the suggestion of Liberty, its member organization in the UK, and in support of the action of the PCHR as well as its other Israeli and Palestinian partners against impunity, the FIDH demands:

- an immediate investigation by the British Government into the events surrounding the attempted arrest of Doron Almog. This investigation should seek to establish the culpability of any court or police officials who may have been responsible for perverting the course of justice through leaks to the media and/or associates of the suspect
- that your Government immediately request that the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs waive the diplomatic privileges accorded to its officials on this matter to enable the police to investigate and recall the Israeli Ambassador and the Military Attaché
- a full investigation by the relevant authorities to establish why the police did not board the aircraft to arrest the suspect and whether senior officials from the Israeli Embassy were given access to the suspect (and if so why).

The FIDH also calls on the UK authorities to urge Interpol to circulate the warrant of arrest.

Yours respectfully



Sidiki Kaba
President of FIDH