



Date: April 26, 2021

Iyar 14, 5781

Ref:1388/21

Re: **Your letter concerning Ata Khattab**

We received your enquiry regarding Mr. Ata Khattab, and would like to address your concerns, according to information forwarded to us by the relevant authorities.

1. On February 2, 2021 Mr. Ata Khattab was detained under criminal charges by Israeli security forces.
2. The State of Israel has incriminating evidence against Mr. Khattab pointing to his connection with the organization the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (herein: PFLP), which has been designated a terrorist organization by, *inter alia*, Canada, the United States of America and the European Union.¹ Based on this evidence, it is believed that Mr. Khattab's dance activities and choreography serve as a guise for terrorism-related activities.
3. From February 2, 2021, Mr. Khattab was held in detention for the duration of the prosecution's investigation. During the investigation, he confessed to several terrorism-related crimes by stating that his cultural activities are part of an organization which is a branch of PFLP and has also been declared an illegal organization in the West Bank over the past year.
4. The prosecution pressed charges against Mr. Khattab on March 29, 2021.
5. The indictment includes three (3) offenses: employment by an illegal organization, membership of an illegal organization and provision of service for an illegal organization, under Sections 84-85 of the *Security Rules Order (West Bank) (Number 1651)*, 5770-2009.

¹ See US Department of State, Foreign Terrorist Organizations, <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>; Public Safety Canada, Listed Terrorist Entities, <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/cntr-trrrsm/lstd-ntts/index-en.aspx>; Official Journal of the European Union, L 43, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L:2021:043:FULL&from=en>.



6. Mr. Khattab's detention has been extended for the duration of his trial.
7. The criminal trial is currently ongoing. The first court hearing was held on April 18, 2021.

Respectfully,

Public Inquiries Unit

Ministry of Justice