Date: 25/01/2021

## Assaf Kaplan's Place Is Prison, Not the British Labour Party

Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK) criticized the appointment of an Israeli intelligence officer in the office of Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, to be in charge of the party's social media work. AOHR UK described this move as a blatant breach of the ethical and human rights system of the British society.

Assaf Kaplan worked as an analyst and officer in Unit 8200 of the Israeli Military Intelligence between 2009-2013, where he monitored, collected, and analysed information on all Palestinian, regardless of their status.

## A disgraceful record

Unit 8200 constantly breaches international laws and conventions, as it dates back to the period before the establishment of Israel when it was known as Shin Mem 2, which worked on collecting information for Zionist gangs that committed massacres against the Palestinians. Following the establishment of Israel, it worked under different names until the 1973 war, when it was restructured and called Unit 8200. It continued the same work which resulted in the assassination of thousands of Palestinians, and it also blackmailed Palestinians in order to recruit them.

In September 2014, 43 officers published a letter revealing the filthy role of this unit and how the information it gathered led to the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinians, especially in during the wars on the Gaza Strip. The officers pointed

out that this unit does not follow any law to control its operations, and no espionage operations reviewed as long as the target is the Palestinian citizen.

AOHR UK confirmed that Kaplan's CV, as well as the past and present of this unit, are known to officials in the British Labour Party, thus raising many questions about the reasons behind his employment given the risks he poses to the security of the party, as Kaplan and his ilk still have close relations with the Israeli security establishment, despite the end of their work as officers.

## **Domination of the Zionist Lobby**

AOHR UK affirmed that this case cannot be dealt with lightly and all options will be available to deal with it, as there is no doubt that Kaplan was in charge during the war launched by Israel on the Gaza Strip under the name of the Pillar of Cloud operation in November 2012, which resulted in the killing of 162 Palestinians, including 42 children and 11 women, and the injury of about 1,300, as well as complete damage of 200 homes and partial damage of 1,500 homes, in addition to dozens of public facilities being damaged.

AOHR UK called on the leaders of the Labour Party and its supporters to reject this appointment, which brought shame to the party.

The party's orientations after Keir Starmer assumed leadership is disturbing, given his complete submission to the Zionist lobby, which uses anti-Semitism as a cover to eliminate any supporter of the Palestinian cause within the party.

Arab Organisation for Human Rights in the UK (AOHR UK)