

**Brussels, 16 April 2007**

**Letter of support for the release of BBC-journalist Alan Johnston**

Alan Graham Johnston (born May 17, 1962) is a journalist working for the BBC. He has been the BBC's correspondent in Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Gaza. He went missing in March 2007, prompting fears that he had been kidnapped. On March 26, his captivity became the longest of a foreigner in Gaza in two years, having been missing two weeks. His captivity has led to many protests in the Palestinian territories, as well as the British government meeting a Hamas member for the first time.

We, members of the European parliament, urge the Palestinian authorities, and all other authorities and organizations that may possibly be of help, to do everything in their power for the release of BBC-journalist Alan Johnston, who has been kidnapped on March 12.

Without journalists, conflict zones become white spots on the world map of information. On these white spots only barbarity, impunity and arbitrary rule will spread. Journalists of independent media are the eyes and the ears of the world, and by their very presence journalists protect local inhabitants against violence.

This makes the rapid release of Alan Johnston so urgent, just as important as the protection of any journalist working in Gaza and elsewhere in the Middle East.

We believe that the European Union, and in particular the most important donor countries of the European Union to Palestine, should react strongly and emphasize the need for releasing Alan Johnston and to call for press freedom .

Undersigned by the following Members of the European Parliament:

<b>Martin Schulz</b>	<b>(DE)</b>
<b>Daniel Cohn-Bendit</b>	<b>(DE)</b>
Hannes Swoboda	(AT)
Thijs Berman	(NL)
Sarah Ludford	(UK)
Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert	(NL)
Christa Prets	(AU)
Lapo Pistelli	(IT)
Sajjad Karim	(UK)
Jan Marinus Wiersma	(NL)
Alexandra Dobolyi	(HU)
Senator Jim Higgins	(IRE)
Bart Staes	(BE)
Gyula Hegyi	(HU)
Lilli Gruber	(IT)
Marie-Arlette Carlotti	(FR)

Proinsias De Rossa	(IRE)
Glenis Willmott	(UK)
Edit Bauer	(SLW)
Maria Carlshamre	(SW)
Catherine Stihler	(UK)
Esther de Lange	(NL)
Jean Lambert	(UK)
Adeline Hazan	(FR)
Jean Marie Cavada	(FR)
Angelika Beer	(DE)
Bernadette Bourzai	(FR)
Roger Helmer	UK)
Edward McMillan-Scott	(UK)
Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann	(DE)
Anne van Lancker	(BE)
Ieke van den Burg	(NL)
Liz Lynne	(UK)
Anders Samuelsen	(DK)
Jules Maaten	(NL)
Elisa Ferreira	(PT)
Claire Gibault	(FR)
Peter Skinner	(UK)
Robert Navarro	(FR)
Gary Titley	(UK)
Eoin Ryan	(IRE)
Gay Mitchell	(IRE)
Lidia Geringer de Oedenberg	(PL)
Ari Vatanen	(FR)
Lena Ek	(SW)
Marianne Mikko	(EST)
Hanna Foltyn – Kubicka	(PL)
Rihards Pīks	(LAT)
Chris Davies	(UK)
Guntars Krasts	(LAT)
Richard Ashworth	(UK)
Pierre Schapira	(FR)
Bogdan Klich	(PL)
G.V.Kristovskis	(LAT)
Inese Vaidere	(LAT)
Kyriacos Triantaphyllides	(CYP)
Ana Gomes	(PT)
Edite Estrela	(PT)
Jamila Madeira	(PT)
Jean-Luc Bennaïmias	(FR)

Paul van Buitenen	(NL)
Struan Stevenson	(UK)
Anders Wijkman	(SW)
Ivo Belet	(DE)
Corina Cretu	(ROM)
Michael Cashman	(UK)
Monica Frassoni	(IT)
Alexander Alvaro	(DE)
Ioannis Kasoulides	(CY)
Mojca Drkar Murko	(SL)
Magda Kósáné Kovács	(HU)
Margie Sudre	(FR)
Giovanni Berlinguer	(IT)
Dan Mihalache	(ROM)
Pasqualina Napoletano	(IT)
Andrew Duff	(UK)
Adina Ioana Valean	(ROM)
Borut Pahor	(SL)
Caroline Lucas	(UK)
Katalin Levai	(HU)
Panayiotis Demetriou	(CY)
Louis Grech	(MLT)
Glyn Ford	(UK)
Ioannis Varvitsiotis	(GR)
Bernadette Vergnaud	(FR)
Richard Corbett	(UK)
Margrete Auken	(DK)
Adriana Ticau	(ROM)
Ovidiu Victor Gant	(ROM)
Gabor Harangozó	(HU)
Fausto Correia	(PT)
Csaba Tabajdi	(HU)
Marian Harkin	(IRE)
Dacianav Sarbu	(ROM)
Hannu Takkula	(FIN)
Robert Evans	(UK)
Marian-Jean Marinescu	(ROM)
Richard Howitt	(UK)
Milan Horacek	(DE)
Pia Locatelli	(IT)
Gianni Pittella	(IT)
Luisa Morgantini	(IT)
Avril Doyle	(IRE)
Mario Matsakis	(CY)
Istvan Szent-Iványi	(HU)

Cem Özdemir	(DE)
Elspeth Attwooll	(UK)
Liam Aylward	(IRE)
Josef Zieleniec	(CZ)
Paulo Casaca	(PT)
David Hammerstein	(SP)
Brian Simpsom	(UK)
David Casa	(MT)
N.J. Camre	(DK)
Edith Mastenbroek	(NL)
Richard Falbr	(CZ)
Gitte Seeberg	(DK)
Erna Hennicot-Schoepges	(LX)
Eluned Morgan	(UK)
Raimon Obiols	(SP)
Caroline Jackson	(UK)
Genowefa Grabowska	(PL)
Timothy Kirkhope	(UK)
John Purvis	(UK)
David Martin	(UK)
Göran Färm	(SW)
Dominique Vlasto	(FR)
Raül Romeva	(SP)
Antonyia Parvanova	(BU)
Josu Ortuondo Larrea	(SP)
Kathalijne Buitenweg	(NL)
Vittorio Agnoletto	(IT)
Nikos Vakalis	(GR)
Brian Crowley	(IRE)
Irena Belohorska	(SLW)
Tchetin Kazak	(BU)
Jim Allister	(UK)
Dariusz Rosati	(PL)
Mary Honeyball	(UK)
Marie-Line Reynaud	(FR)
Linda Mcavan	(UK)
Catherine Trautmann	(FR)
Elena Valenciano	(SP)
Bronisław Geremek	(PL)
Luigi Cocilovo	(IT)
Jan Andersson	(SW)
Jens-Peter Bonde	(DK)
Johan Van Hecke	(BE)
Eduard Raul Hellvig	(ROM)
Anne Laperrouze	(FR)

Alojz Peterle	(SL)
Mairead McGuinness	(IRE)
Donato Verardi	(IT)
André Brie	(DE)
Justas Paleckis	(LIT)
Andres Tarand	(EST)
Assuncao Esteves	(PT)
Pawel Piskorski	(PL)
Anne Ferreira	(FR)
Janusz Wojciechowski	(PL)
Umberto Guidoni	(IT)
Nathalie Griesbeck	(FR)
Neena Gill	(UK)
Gianluca Susta	(IT)
Andrea Losco	(IT)
Dorete Corbey	(NL)
JL Dehaene	(BE)
Ignasi Guardans	(SP)
Kinga Gal	(HU)
Jill Evans	(UK)
Karin Riis-Jørgensen	(DK)
Arlene McCarthy	(UK)
Véronique De Keyser	(BE)
Vladimir Manka	(SLW)
Karin Resetarits	(AT)
Claude Moraes	(UK)
Mia De Vits	(BE)
Libor Rouček	(CZ)
Graham Watson	(UK)
Pierre Jonckheer	(BE)
Francis Wurtz	(FR)
Jan Mulder	(NL)
Roberts Zile	(LAT)
Jim Nicholson	(UK)
Satu Hassi	(FI)
Mr. Sánchez Presedo	(SP)
Nirj Deva	(UK)
Charles Tannock	(UK)
Anna Zaborska	(SLW)
Mr. Menéndez del Valle	(SP)
Geoffrey van Orden	(UK)
Fernando Madrinha	(PT)
Mr. Musacchio	(IT)
Mr. Severin	(ROM)
Mr. Catania	(IT)

Maria Badia (SP)  
Maciej Giertych (PL)

**In total 197 Members of the European Parliament signed.**