

# Press Release

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## The abduction of Alan Johnston is hurting the interests of the Palestinian people

*Statement by Terry Davis, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe*

Strasbourg, 30.04.2007 – “It is 50 days since BBC correspondent Alan Johnston was abducted in Gaza. Those who abducted him are not only violating his human rights but also acting against the interests of the Palestinian people. Men, women and children who are caught in the daily ordeal of the Middle East conflict are the ones who will lose most if journalists are no longer able to work there without fear for their personal safety. If journalists are forced to leave, lies and propaganda will triumph over the truth and the region will sink even deeper into the quagmire of extremist violence. The Palestinian Authority should do all in its power to liberate Alan Johnston and guarantee safe working conditions for all journalists in the territory under its jurisdiction.”

## L'enlèvement d'Alan Johnston dessert les intérêts du peuple palestinien

*Déclaration de Terry Davis, Secrétaire Général du Conseil de l'Europe*

Strasbourg, 30.04.2007 – « Cela fait 50 jours que le correspondant de la BBC, Alan Johnston, a été enlevé à Gaza. Les auteurs de ce rapt violent non seulement les droits de l'homme mais agissent aussi contre les intérêts du peuple palestinien. Les hommes, les femmes et les enfants, qui souffrent au quotidien en raison du conflit israélo-palestinien, seront les plus grands perdants si les journalistes ne peuvent plus travailler au Proche-Orient sans craindre pour leur sécurité personnelle. En effet, si la presse est contrainte de quitter la région, les mensonges et la propagande triompheront de la vérité et le Proche-Orient basculera encore davantage dans le chaos de l'extrémisme. C'est à l'Autorité palestinienne de faire tout ce qui est en son pouvoir pour libérer Alan Johnston et garantir la sécurité de tous les journalistes sur son territoire. »

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