

Brussels, September 16th 2026

*MS. Kaja Kallas
High Representative for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy and Vice-President
of the European Commission*
addressed by e-mail: cab-kallas-contact@ec.europa.eu

Subject: Urgent concerns regarding threats against the filmmakers of NAZA and the protection of journalistic sources in Israel

Dear High Representative,

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the recent developments involving Israeli filmmakers and journalists Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor, authors of the documentary NAZA, which was awarded the Special Jury Prize at the 83rd Venice International Film Festival.

Following the film's recognition in Venice, Israeli Minister of Culture and Sports Miki Zohar publicly announced his intention to seek the revocation of the Israeli citizenship of the two filmmakers, accusing them of treason.

The situation has since become even more concerning. Minister Zohar has asked the head of Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security service, to investigate the sources of the information, testimonies and materials used in the documentary, including how these materials reached the filmmakers and the identity of those involved.

The documentary relies, among other material, on the anonymous testimony of 24 members or former members of the Israeli military and intelligence services.

Whatever one's assessment of the content and conclusions of the documentary, journalists and filmmakers must be able to investigate matters of public interest without facing threats to their citizenship, intimidation or disproportionate measures aimed at uncovering their confidential sources.

The protection of journalistic sources is an essential component of media freedom. Attempts by state authorities or security services to identify confidential sources can have a profound chilling effect, discouraging whistleblowers and other sources from disclosing information of legitimate public interest.

These developments have already prompted serious concern within Israel and internationally. Israeli civil society organisations and filmmakers have called for an end to threats against Abraham and Szor and their sources, while international organisations defending press freedom have called on the Israeli authorities to ensure their safety and refrain from using citizenship rights as a means of pressure against journalists.



Parlamentum Europaeum

The European Union has repeatedly affirmed that freedom of expression, media freedom, the safety of journalists and the protection of journalistic sources are fundamental components of a democratic society. These principles must also inform the Union's external action and its political dialogue with partner countries.

The EU-Israel Association Agreement, and in particular its Article 2, establishes respect for human rights and democratic principles as an essential element of relations between the European Union and Israel. The EU has already used the framework of the Association Agreement to raise concerns regarding respect for human rights with the Israeli authorities.

In light of these developments, we call on you to urgently raise this case with the Israeli authorities and:

- Seek clarification regarding the request for Shin Bet to investigate the filmmakers and the sources and materials used in NAZA;
- Call on the Israeli authorities to guarantee the safety and freedom of expression of Yuval Abraham and Rachel Szor and to respect the confidentiality of journalistic sources;
- Express the European Union's concern regarding any attempt to use the revocation of citizenship as a response to journalistic or documentary work;
- Ensure that these developments are addressed within the EU's political and human rights dialogue with Israel, including in the framework of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

The issue at stake goes beyond one documentary and beyond any assessment of its content. It concerns the fundamental democratic principle that journalists must be able to investigate, question public authorities and protect their sources without fear of retaliation.

We therefore ask the European Union to follow this case closely and to make this position clear in its dialogue with the Israeli authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the European Parliament