



ELDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights

EIDM Europäische Vereinigung von Juristinnen & Juristen für Demokratie und Menschenrechte in der Welt

EIDH Asociación Europea de los Juristas por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos en el Mundo

EIDH Association Européenne des Juristes pour la Démocratie & les Droits de l'Homme

EGDU Associazione Europea delle Giuriste e dei Giuristi per la Democrazia e i diritti dell'Uomo nel Mondo

WITH LAWYERS
IN 22 COUNTRIES

Equality Privacy Social Rights
No Racism Peace No Torture No War
Self-Determination of Peoples Democracy
Human Rights Rights of Migrants

Bologna, Donostia, Düsseldorf, Vienna, 14 May 2024

ELDH Condemns the ongoing attacks on the freedom of expression of those protesting against Israel and the arrest and charges brought against IADL Bureau member and NLG International Committee Organizer, Charlotte Kates

The arrest, detention and charge of Ms. Kates, is a clear example of the ongoing criminalisation of those who choose to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for self-determination and against Israeli occupation, apartheid and genocide.

Ms. Kates, who is also the International Coordinator for the Palestinian prisoner solidarity network Samidoun, was apprehended in Vancouver while commuting home after having participated in the establishment of a Palestine solidarity encampment at the University of British Columbia. She was subsequently charged with “public incitement of hatred” and “wilful promotion of hatred” for a speech she delivered on 26 April.

Detaining and charging Ms. Kates for voicing her support to the legally acknowledged resistance against occupation, is a violation of her right to freedom of speech. Moreover, the conditions attached to her bail which prevent her from attending rallies, demonstrations or assemblies until her next court appearance are forms of unacceptable prior restraint.

Based on this:

- ELDH demands for the Canadian authorities to drop the charges against Ms. Kates and to stop the criminalization and persecution of those who stand in solidarity with Palestine.
- ELDH condemns the attacks on the freedom of expression and freedom of association in the US and in many countries through the instrumentalization of the necessary fight against antisemitism when denouncing the Israeli army crimes against humanity.
- We express our solidarity with Charlotte Kates and our IADL and NLG comrades.

ELDH European Association of Lawyers for Democracy & World Human Rights

Co-President: Urko Aiertza (lawyer), Donostia, Basque Country

Co-President: Barbara Spinelli (lawyer) Bologna

Co-Secretary General: Thomas Schmidt (lawyer), Düsseldorf | E-Mail: Thomas.schmidt@eldh.eu | Phone +49 (0)172 68 10 888

Co-Secretary General: Serife Ceren Uysal (lawyer), Vienna | E-Mail: serifecerenuysal@gmail.com | Phone +43 664 4853347

Postal address: ELDH | Thomas Schmidt | Platanenstrasse 13 | D – 40233 Düsseldorf (Germany)

Website: www.eldh.eu