

Pressured by Pro-Israel Lobby, France's Minister of Justice Refuses to Present The French Republic's "Official" Human Rights Award to Al-Haq, B'Tselem

By [Middle East Monitor](#)

Global Research, December 16, 2018

[Middle East Monitor](#) 10 December 2018

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [History](#)

The French justice minister has refused to present a prestigious human rights award to Palestinian and Israeli human rights organisations Al-Haq and B'Tselem after being pressured by a French-Jewish organisation.

Nicole Belloubet was supposed to present Al-Haq and B'Tselem with the Human Rights Awards of the French Republic this evening, after the organisations were among five laureates conferred the prestigious prize. The ceremony will take place at the Ministry of Justice in the French capital Paris, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Yet Belloubet has refused to present the award after receiving a letter from Francis Kalifat, the president of CRIF (Representative Council of the Jewish Institutions of France). CRIF acts as an umbrella of French-Jewish organisations and has regularly [lobbied](#) France to support Israeli positions.

In this letter Kalifat called on Belloubet not to present the award, claiming the "two organisations [are] known to call for the boycott of Israel [...] which is banned by [the French] criminal code," the [Jerusalem Post](#) reported. Kalifat added that for the French Justice Ministry to present Al-Haq and B'Tselem with the award, "even in the absence of the minister [Belloubet], is insulting justice".

"I ask you [...] not to support the action of those who act in contradiction with our laws," he implored.

Pressure to withhold the award has also come from Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, Tzipi Hotovely, who likewise wrote a letter to Belloubet asking him to reconsider. According to [Ynet](#), Hotovely called France's decision "a badge of honour to anti-Israeli organisations", adding:

"B'Tselem is an organisation that bases its activity on unreliable sources in order to harm Israel, while Al-Haq promotes a boycott against Israel and some of the organisation's members are linked to terror groups, such as the Palestinian Liberation Front."

Since the decision was [announced](#) last week, Israeli ministers have reacted with anger and

slammed both France and the NGOs. Israel's Deputy Minister for Diplomacy, Michael Oren, said:

"France gives its highest award to B'Tselem and al-Haq organisations that accuse Israel of [apartheid](#), delegitimise us internationally, defend terror, and support [BDS](#). The same France cannot claim that it fights antisemitism."

Meanwhile Israel's Culture Minister, Miri Regev, labelled B'Tselem "a Trojan horse," saying the organisation should be ashamed for sharing an award with Al-Haq.

This is not the first time Israel has tried to discredit B'Tselem on the international stage. In October B'Tselem's executive director Hagai El-Ad [gave](#) a speech at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in which he slammed Israel's occupation and its violations against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Several days before El-Ad's appearance, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [branded](#) the organisation a "disgrace", while Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, said El-Ad's intention to speak at the UNSC was not only a "disgrace for the organisation, but also the crossing of red lines by foreign countries with an anti-Israel agenda, which finance and invite him to provide 'evidence' against us".

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above and below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

The original source of this article is [Middle East Monitor](#)
Copyright © [Middle East Monitor](#), [Middle East Monitor](#), 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Middle East Monitor](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca