**PRESS RELEASE**

Nakba Day: EBCO stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Israeli conscientious objectors

Brussels, 15 May 2021

On the occasion of the Nakba Day and given the escalating violence and military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO) expresses its **solidarity with the Palestinian people and the Israeli conscientious objectors** who are prosecuted because of their refusal to serve in the Israeli army.

As Mesarvot stated yesterday "**Specifically now, in such violent and dark days, refusal has great power to create a better, more just, more empathetic and more solidar reality**". Mesarvot is a network of Israeli activists supporting conscientious objectors in their refusal to become soldiers and take part in the occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people.

"**EBCO supports the call of Amnesty International to the international community to press Israel to address root causes of the latest flare up in violence which includes longstanding impunity with war crimes and other violations including forcible eviction and dispossession of Palestinians such as those in Sheikh Jarrah**", EBCO’s President Alexia Tsouni stated today.

**NOTES:**

Take action to end violence in Occupied Palestinian Territories. Call on US to urge Israel to address root causes and stop cycle of impunity. Join people around the world calling for an end to injustice: [http://amn.st/6183y8Re5](http://amn.st/6183y8Re5)

EBCO was founded in Brussels in 1979 as an umbrella structure for national associations of conscientious objectors in the European countries to promote the right to conscientious objection to preparations for, and participation in, war and any other type of military activity as a fundamental human right. It enjoys participatory status with the Council of Europe since 1998 and is a member of its Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations since 2005. It provides expertise and legal opinions on behalf of the Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe. It is involved in drawing up the annual report of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament on the application by the Member States of its resolutions on conscientious objection and civilian service, as determined in the "Bandrés Molet & Bindi Resolution" of 1994. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum since 1995.