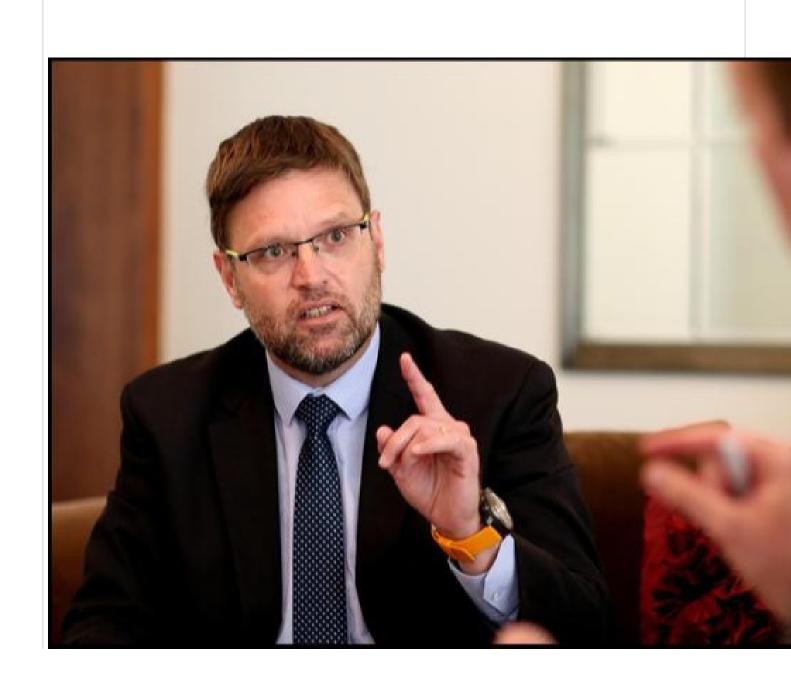
Over 50,000 sign petition calling for expulsion of Israeli ambassador to Ireland



Israel's ambassador to Ireland Ophir Kariv on a recent RTE radio program in Dublin, trying to defend his government's atrocities in Gaza

Dublin, May 20 (RHC)-- An on-line petition calling on the Irish government to expel Israeli ambassador to Ireland over the latest aggression against Palestinians in Gaza has garnered more than 50,000 signatures.

The petition, which was organized by Ogra Shinn Fein, the youth wing of the Irish political party Sinn Fein, was launched in response to the current violence, which began with Palestinians being evicted from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem al-Quds and led to intense bombings of the besieged Gaza Strip, killing some 230 people to date, including many children.

Commenting on the petition, Ogra Shinn Fein Leas-Cathaoirleach and International Officer Ciaran O Meachair said in a statement that it was a reflection of the strong public anger against the actions of Israel in recent days.

"Israel has been attacking Gaza with near-impunity and a decision by the Irish government to expel the Israeli ambassador be a landmark moment internationally and show Israel the extent to which their actions have been met by disgust around the world," the statement said.

"There are other moves such as the Occupied Territories Bill and the official recognition of the State of Palestine that the Irish government needs to stop delaying," the statement added. "Ogra Shinn Fein continues to campaign in support of the Palestinian people until they achieve justice, freedom and equality," it concluded.

Since last Monday, the Israeli regime has been conducting military strikes against Gaza. That started after resistance groups based in the enclave started launching hundreds of rockets into the occupied territories in response to Israeli violence against fellow Palestinians in the occupied lands.

The combination of atrocities has incurred far-and-wide international ire. Israel has waged three all-out wars against the territory so far, killing thousands of Palestinians each time.

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