

Quarterly Newsletter—January to June 2013

This quarter has seen an intensity in violations against Palestinian political prisoners with the deaths of Arafat Jaradat, who was tortured to death during interrogation, and Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh, who was denied medical treatment for cancer, the escalation in individual hunger strikes, and intensified collective punishments and raids on the prisoners. In light of these increased violations, Addameer launched a Stop Administrative Detention campaign on 17 April, Palestinian Prisoners Day, to highlight one of the gravest violations against Palestinians: indefinite detention without charge or trial. This international campaign which has sparked interest globally, hopes to curb Israel's use of administrative detention until its ultimate elimination. Key issues this quarter were the Israel Prison Services' (IPS) continued medical negligence, use of isolation, increase in raids, the military court's use of Article 186 of Military Order 1651, detention and torture of child prisoners under the age of 16 and increased detention of journalists, Jerusalemites and human rights defenders. Addameer maintains that increased international pressure and forceful actions must be taken to oblige Israel to act within international law parameters until the imminent abolition of the military prison system.

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Medical Negligence

Since 1967, medical negligence has been a consistent form of repression of Palestinians in Israeli prisons. In light of the death of Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh, who died on 2 April 2013 due to the IPS' refusal to allow him independent medical care for a malignant tumor that turned into cancer, there has been increased attention to the forms of medical negligence in the prisons. Over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners suffer from a variety of medical issues, and the IPS has acknowledged that at least 25 of them suffer from cancer. 54 prisoners have died from deliberate medical neglect since 1967, five in the past two years alone. Addameer has also documented several prisoners who died shortly after their release due to medical negligence during imprisonment, such as the case of Ashraf Abu Dhra' who fell into a fatal coma one week after his release from prison. Ashraf, who had several health conditions, was denied treatment throughout his 6.5 year sentence and died on 21 February 2013.

Medical negligence in the prisons includes:

Inefficiency: Each prison has one clinic that is administered by a "prison doctor," who is a soldier with some medical training. The clinic is only open one day per week, and only a limited number of prisoners who sign up in advance are allowed to visit the clinic. This has caused delays in treatment, exasperating many medical issues. In many cases, prisoners have told Addameer that they have had to wait for months to visit the clinic, during which time their health deteriorated rapidly. This causes not only health complications but also a loss of confidence in the health system among the prisoners, forcing many prisoners to self-diagnose and self-treat to avoid the prison clinic.

Lack of proficiency: Prisoners have also complained to Addameer that the clinicians training is minimal, and they are unable to diagnose cases outside the realm of minor health issues such as influenza, cough or muscle pain, and often give the wrong treatment or diagnosis. In more serious issues, the clinician usually delays treatment to be referred to the Ramleh Prison Hospital.

Failure to diagnose: Samer Areeedi (33 years old, Arraba, Jenin), who has suffered from hypertension for ten years, and takes five different medications daily recently began to suffer from new symptoms such as a tingling in the heart, increased heart beat and chest pain. His repeated requests for a re-diagnosis have been denied by the IPS, causing him to stop his medication until he is re-diagnosed.

Medical Procedure Errors: Wael Mohsin, a child prisoner, was being given a medical examination in the prison clinic, in which a piece of cotton was left deep in his ear after he was treated for an ear infection. The doctor did nothing to re-assess the situation despite Mohsin's complaints that he felt something in his ear. Another nurse treated him at his next examination, in which he was given another ear wash and the cotton ball was removed.

Malpractice: Naser Al-Shuwesh from Aqaba, Jenin, has been only given painkillers and advised to stop smoking after complaining from an inflammation in the lungs and sharp chest pains. Additionally, in 2009, he twisted his spine while playing sports during recreation time. Since his injury, he has only received 5 sessions of physiotherapy for his leg, which has effectively caused him to lose the ability to walk on his leg. Tha'er Halahleh, an ex-hunger striker and administrative detainee, confirmed to Addameer that during a tooth extraction the prison clinician used non-sterile medical tools that still had blood on them, and that he contracted Hepatitis from the unsanitary practice.

Intentional delay in treatment: Mahmoud Suleiman (55 years old) who is detained in Ramleh Prison Hospital, suffers from several health conditions including an enlarged heart, clogged arteries, diabetes and asthma. According to Suleiman, the doctor has acknowledged that his health condition is dangerous, especially as his lungs are not absorbing oxygen normally and recommended an open heart surgery nearly four months ago, which was to be scheduled within 60 days. To date, there has not been a scheduled surgery.

APPEAL FROM RAMOUN PRISON:



After the most recent attacks on the prisoners at Ramoun, they issued a demand for a popular movement amongst all factions and the unification of the struggle for prisoners issues, arguing that it is not reasonable for solidarity with the prisoner to come only from their relatives. They also expressed support for the Minister of Detainees' and Ex-Detainees' Affairs, Issa Qaraqe, and demanded that he go to the international forums and courts in support of prisoners' issues, especially with respect to medical neglect.

Denial of Medical Treatment: The death of Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh, and subsequent collective punishments of other prisoners

64-year-old Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh suffered from a number of illnesses since 2007, including bleeding in the stomach, high blood pressure and cholesterol. He was not provided with treatment for these conditions, causing his health to deteriorate rapidly and become emaciated, falling to a dangerously low weight and even losing the ability to speak. He was also denied the annual medical examinations until the beginning of 2013, in which an exam showed an outbreak of cancer in his glands and throat which spread rapidly as a result of late diagnosis. Despite his life-threatening condition, the IPS refused the requests from the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian human rights organizations to immediately release him for treatment. He was only transferred to a hospital on 30 March, merely 48 hours before his death.

Outraged by the death of an elderly prisoner due to medical negligence, Palestinians across the 17 prisons staged rebellions in the prisons by banging on the doors of the cells and chanting. The IPS' response to the prisoners was harsh. According to human rights defender and prisoner Hassan Karajah, the administration cancelled family visitation rights for one month. In Nafha Prison, the rebellion lasted for only twenty minutes before the IPS unleashed special forces to squash the rebellion. In Ramoun Prison, the prisoners revolted for over 3 hours until the Nahshon and Matseda special forces were called to quell the prisoners, including tear gasging them and attacking them to force them back into their cells. As punishment, the Special Forces stormed sections 4 and 5 of Ramoun Prison and confiscated all of the electronics. The IPS collectively punished the prisoners at Ramoun in all sections by denying visits within the prisons, (including allowing the spokespersons for the different factions from communicating) closing the library and washing machine room, cancelling a shipment of vegetables for the canteen and reducing the hours of yard recreation time from 3 hours per day to 1 hour. The IPS has promised the prisoners that other repercussions are forthcoming as well.

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Hunger Strikes Escalate

The individual hunger strikes continue to escalate. At the time of publication, there are thirteen prisoners on hunger strike, five of them Jordanians in protest of their denial of family visits and deteriorated conditions. Overall this quarter, there have been 29 individual hunger strikers.

Current Hunger Strikers:

Ayman Hamdan started a hunger strike on 28 April 2013 in protest of his administrative detention. Hamdan was arrested on 21 August 2012, and has been on administrative detention ever since. He was issued his second administrative detention order on 20 February 2013. He is currently detained in Ofer Military Prison in isolation. **Ahmed Hamdan**, his brother, started a solidarity strike on 24 June 2013.

Jordanian prisoners: On 2 May 2013, 5 Jordanian prisoners (**Mohammad Al-Rimawi**, **Hamzah Othman**, **Munir Mare'e**, **Alaa Hamdan**) started a hunger strike to draw attention to their case and demand family visits, which they are currently being denied. There are currently over 30 Jordanians languishing in Israeli prisons. **Abdallah Barghouhi**, who is serving 67 life sentences, started a hunger strike on 2 May 2013 in Gilboa Prison. He is on strike with the Jordanian prisoners, as well as to protest the denial of visits from his family members in Jordan. Barghouhi was swiftly moved to isolation in Ramoun prison upon announcing his hunger strike and is now held in Ramleh Prison Hospital due to his deteriorating health condition.

Imad Batran started his hunger strike on 7 May 2013 in protest of his administrative detention. He has been held on an administrative detention order for 19 months. Imad Batran was in isolation in Ofer Prison before being transferred to Ramleh Prison Hospital for health reasons.

Ayman Tabbisheh started a hunger strike on 23 May 2013 in protest of his administrative detention. He is currently being held in isolation in Ofer Prison and is only drinking water.

Adel Salameh Hareebat started a hunger strike on 23 May 2013 in protest of his administrative detention. He was arrested in November 2012 and has been on administrative detention since his arrest. He is held in isolation in Ofer Prison.

Ghassan Aliyan (22 years old from Aida refugee camp) started a hunger strike on 10 June 2013 in protest of his re-arrest after his release in the prisoner exchange.

Iyad Abu Khadeer began his hunger strike in protest of the IPS refusing to release him after his 8 year sentence had expired. Addameer has received this preliminary information from Iyad's family.

Husam Matir began a hunger strike on 1 June 2013.

Other Hunger Strikers This Quarter:

Ayman Saker, **Omar Dar Ayyoub** and **Sofian Rabie** went on one day solidarity hunger strike on 20 February 2013 in support of long-term hunger striker Samer Issawi.

Jafar Azzidine and **Tarek Qa'adan** who were both arrested on 22 November 2012, shortly after the most recent attacks on Gaza, started individual hunger strikes on 28 November 2012. During their hunger strike, their administrative detention order was renewed for an additional three months. They continued their hunger strike for 92 days until they were able to negotiate their release for 8 May 2013. Until now, they have not been provided evidence for the reasons of their arrest, nor subsequent administrative detention orders.

Mona Qa'adan, went on hunger strike in solidarity with her brother on 20 February 2013, as his health condition became dangerous. She was on hunger strike for seven days, until the end of her brother's hunger strike.

Ayman Abu Daoud started a hunger strike on 14 April 2013 to protest his re-arrest and the military prosecutions' request to have him serve the remainder of his previous sentence of 28 years. He was put in isolation shortly after starting his hunger strike. Ayman ended his hunger strike on 23 May 2013 after 40 days. His lawyer struck a deal with the IPS for him to be deported to Gaza for ten years in exchange for an end to the strike. The deportation will be enforced three months after the signing of the deal.

Maher Younis, one of the longest serving prisoners who was arrested on 20 January 1983, started a hunger strike on 24 February 2013 for 11 days in Gilboa Prison. The goal of his hunger strike was to draw attention to the prisoners arrested before the Oslo Accords were signed, and the lack of attention and priority they have received since. He ended his hunger strike at the promise from the Palestinian Authority that pre-Oslo prisoners will become a priority in negotiations.

Five prisoners started hunger strikes this quarter in protest of their administrative detention. They are: **Younis Huroub**, **Hazim Tawil**, **Mohammad Al-Najjar**, **Ibrahim Khalil** and **Mohammad Abu Armeela**. **Amer Mousa** started a hunger strike on 16 March 2013 for ten days when his mother was denied a visit for security reasons. It is unclear if he reached an agreement with the IPS.

Ayman Sharawna and Samer Issawi reach agreements with IPS, ending their long-term hunger strikes

Two long-term hunger strikers, Ayman Sharawna and Samer Issawi reached an agreement with the Israeli Prison Service to end their hunger strikes during this quarter.

Ayman Sharawna launched a hunger strike on 1 July 2012 and periodically went on hunger strike until his release on 17 March 2013. Ayman was in danger of imminent death forcing him to reach a deal with the IPS to be released to Gaza instead of his home in Dura Al-Khalil / Hebron. Ayman was arbitrarily arrested on 31 January 2012 and subjected to Israeli Military Order 1651, Article 186 that allows for a military committee to determine if a prisoner who has been previously granted amnesty should serve the remainder of his previous sentence. Ayman, who was released in a prisoner exchange on 18 October 2011, would have served an additional 28 years in prison according to Article 186.



Samer Issawi also reached a deal with the IPS this quarter negotiating his release for 23 December 2013. Samer embarked on a 266 intermitted hunger strike, also in protest of Article 186, which would have had him serve the 20 remaining years of his previous sentence. Samer was arbitrarily arrested on Jaba' checkpoint and accused of violating the terms of the agreement for his release in the prisoner exchange on 18 October 2011. He ended his hunger strike after a deal was brokered with the IPS on 23 April 2013 for

his release to his home in Jerusalem. Samer refused several deportation attempts during his hunger strike.

Stop Administrative Detention!



In light of the increase in hunger strikers fighting their administrative detention, on 17 April 2013, Palestinian Prisoners Day, Addameer re-launched the Stop Administrative Detention campaign across the globe. Participating countries staged protests, events and informational sessions about administrative detention. Administrative detention is a procedure that allows the Occupation to detain Palestinian prisoners indefinitely without charge or trial indefinitely. There are currently 156 administrative detainees, including Ahmad Qatamish, a prominent academic and political scientist who had his administrative detention order renewed for an additional 6 months this quarter.

For more information about the campaign, visit www.stopadcampaign.com. There, you can find posters, fliers, fact sheets, prisoner profiles and videos of ex-prisoners speaking about their experiences.

Photo: Solidarity demonstration on Liverpool's Church Street on 20 April 2013. 3,000 leaflets were given out to passers-by, and over 175 signed a petition urging Liverpool City Council not to do business with G4S, a security firm that services Israeli prisons. The organizers of the protest fasted in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners as well.



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Female Prisoners

There are currently 15 female prisoners detained in HaSharon prison. On 13 June 2013, **Salwa Hassan**, a 55-year old mother who was arrested on Atsyouh checkpoint on 19 October 2011, was released after serving a 21-month sentence. Salwa, from Hebron, was barred from family visits during her detention.

Since the beginning of 2013, there have been nine women who have been arrested and detained. They are:

Alaa Abu Zeitun (23 years old) from 'Asira Al Shamal/Nablus. She is a university student who was arrested on 9 February 2013 at Huwwara Military Checkpoint near Nablus after she was detained and searched. She is currently detained in HaSharon.

Naheel Abu Issa (33 years old) from Hebron was arrested on 13 March 2013 after her home was raided in Jabal Abu Rumman in Hebron. She is an ex-prisoner, who has been arrested more than once. She is currently detained in HaSharon awaiting trial.

Hiba Badeer (27 years old) from Bethlehem, was arrested on 2 April 2013 after her home was raided. She is married and has 2 children (Malak, 7 years old, Yara, 5 years old). She is currently in HaSharon Prison.

Hiba Abu Jajeh (28 years old) from Dhesheh Refugee Camp/Bethlehem, was arrested on 27 March 2013, and she is married with two children. She is currently in HaSharon Prison.

Tahreer Sateeh Mansour (31 years old) from Kufr Qaleel, Nablus, was arrested on 12 May 2013 from her family's home, she was arrested with her brother Saddam at the same time. She is currently detained in HaSharon.

Sireen Suwafta (26 years old) from Tubas/Jenin was arrested on 15 May 2013 from a military checkpoint on her way home from Al-Quds Open University in Nablus. She is currently detained in HaSharon.

Ana'am Colombo from Jerusalem was arrested in March 2013 for her participating in a solidarity demonstration with the prisoners at Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. She was brutally attacked during her arrest by Israeli soldiers. She is currently being detained in HaSharon and awaits trial.

Nariman Tamimi and **Rana Nazzal** were arrested on 28 June 2013 while participating in the weekly demonstration in Nabi Saleh. They were detained for 4 days before their release.

PLC Members

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) continue to detain elected Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members, essentially making the Palestinian lawmaking body unable to function. Currently, there are 13 PLC members detained, eight of them held in administrative detention without charge or trial.

During this period, the IOF released 4 PLC members, but then arrested another 5, all which were put on administrative detention.

Ahmad Mubarak and **Nayef Al-Rujoub** were released from administrative detention once their orders expired in March. On 6 May 2013, **Jamal Al-Tirawi** was acquitted of his charges and released after nearly six years in detention. If found guilty, he would have been sentenced to 30 years.

On 6 June 2013, **Fathi Qarawi**, a representative of Tulkarem was released after serving a 3-month administrative detention order. That same day, **Abd Al-Jabbar Al-Foqah** was arrested from his home in Ramallah. He has previously served over three cumulative years on administrative detention.

On 27 March 2013, **Mohammad Jamal Al-Natsheh** from Hebron was arrested and given an administrative detention order. On 2 April 2013, **Mohammad Al-Tul** and **Hatem Qafeesha**, both representatives of the Hebron district, and **Ahmad Attoun** from Jerusalem but exiled to Ramallah, were given 6 months administrative detention orders.

To date, there have been over 40 PLC members arrested, the majority of whom belong to the Change and Reform bloc after their victory in the 2006 elections.

The arrests of PLC members is to punish the Palestinian people who are exercising their guaranteed political rights as prescribed in Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. The continuous arrests of PLC members coincides with the advancement of steps towards Palestinian reconciliation which derives from the national Palestinian unity that manifested in Palestinian society during the most recent assault on the besieged people in the Occupied Gaza Strip.

Spike in Arrests of Journalists

Currently, there are 13 journalists languishing in the Occupation's prisons. Alarmingly, most of the journalists were arrested this year, six of them being arrested in the last three months alone in comparison to 2012, in which there were three cases of arrests of journalists during the entire year.

Below are the names of the journalists who are detained in the Occupations' prisons, arranged by the longest serving:

Yassin Abu Khadier from Shofat/Jerusalem is the longest serving Palestinian journalist serving in the Occupation's prisons. He was arrested on 27 December 1987 and sentenced to 28 years. He worked for Al-Quds Newspaper.

Mahmoud Issa from Anata/Jerusalem has the highest sentence among the imprisoned journalists. He was arrested on 6 March 1993 and sentenced to 3 life sentences and 41 years. He worked for "The Rights and Freedom Newspaper" that is published in the Occupied 1948 territories.

Ahmad Al-Sayfi from Birzeit/Ramallah was a student at Birzeit University studying journalism and media at the time of his arrest on 19 August 2009. He was sentenced to 19 years.

Amer Abu Arafah from Hebron has been held in administrative detention, without charge or trial, since 20 August 2011. He was a presenter for Shehab Agency.

Sharif Al-Rujoub from Hebron was arrested on 3 June 2012, and is currently awaiting trial. He worked for "The Voice of Al-Aqsa" station in Hebron.

Murad Abu Al-Abha' from Ramallah was arrested on 15 June 2012. He is currently awaiting trial. He was working as a media specialist for the Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah.

Osama Shahin from Dura/Habron was arrested in October 2012 and put on administrative detention. His administrative detention order was renewed for an additional 6 months on 26 June 2013. Osama was the director of the Palestinian Center for Prisoners' Studies.

Anan Ajawi from the village of Ojah, Jenin was arrested on 16 January 2013 from Allenby Border Crossing. He has not been charged or tried. He was returning from Egypt where he was working as a journalist for various agencies.

Mosab Shawur from Hebron was arrested on 25 February 2013. He is still detained without charge or trial. Before his arrest he was working as an anchor for a radio show about prisoners on Radio Al-Khalil.

Bakir Ateeli (27 years old) from Nablus, was arrested on 6 March 2013 and is still detained without charge or trial. Before his detention he was working as a photographer and independent producer for various television stations.

Walid Khalid from the village of Sakaka/Salfit was arrested on 10 March 2013 and is in interrogation until this moment. Before his detention he was working as the Director of the Journalism Department for Palestine Today.



Photo: Cartoon by Mohammad Saba'aneh.

Three journalists were released during this period. **Mohammad Al Taj** from Tubas/Hebron, was released on 18 April 2013, after he was detained for 10 years. He was arrested on 19 November 2003 and sentenced to 14 years. He was working as a writer and journalist with the Palestine Liberation Front.

Tarek Abu Zaid from Jenin was released on 26 May 2013 after he served his sentence of 3 months. He was arrested on 8 March 2013. He was a correspondent for Al-Aqsa station.

Mohammad Saba'aneh from Qabatiya/Jenin was arrested on 17 February 2013 from Allenby Border Crossing when he was returning from Jordan. He was sentenced to 5 months and released on 1 July 2013. He is a cartoonist.

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Child Prisoners

Addameer has seen an increase in child detention since January 2013, with the current number of children detained reaching 236 (39 of them under the age of 16). Child prisoners are generally held in Ofer Prison outside of Ramallah or HaSharon Prison, which was re-opened in 2012 despite the terrible living conditions of the cells. Currently, 44 children are held in HaSharon, 18 from Jerusalem, 1 from Gaza and the rest from the West Bank. According to accounts from the children, the cells are in immensely poor condition and are not fit for human life. The prison building itself is deteriorating, very humid and filled with diseases and germs. Children are provided only 4 hours of education per week. They are not provided with any curriculum and only study Mathematics and Arabic at two levels. Additionally, they are often prevented to take their final exams, thus severely impeding their education. Article 94 of the Fourth Geneva Convention imposes a duty on the detaining power to encourage educational pursuits and to provide adequate premises for such. The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners mandates, in Article 77, that "provision shall be made for the further education of all prisoners." It further iterates that "the education of illiterates and young children shall be compulsory and special attention shall be paid by the administration." Further, Israel's treatment of these children, regarding the continuance of their education, is in direct contravention of Articles 13.5, 22.1, and 26.2 of the Beijing Rules, which fervently insist on the right of minors at every stage of their arrest and detention to a full and unimpeded education.

Most concerning is the harsh interrogation and subsequent torture the children face upon their arrest. Often children are arrested in the middle of the night from their home by a large brigade of soldiers, such as the case of Ali S., a 16 year old child who faces 25 years for attempted murder for throwing stones.

Article 186

The Occupation forces pre-empted the prisoner exchange with the Hamas movement by updating the Military Orders that relate to the release of prisoners through exchanges and other means of amnesty in Article 186.

Article 186 establishes a special military committee, headed by an IOF officer, that is empowered to cancel the reduced sentence granted to prisoners who were released in the aforementioned exchange. It is important to note that in the latest prisoner exchange on 18 October 2011, prisoners were not granted amnesty, which is usually a policy granted by the head of state. They were instead offered reduced sentences by the military court. Article 186 allows the military forces to re-arrest ex-prisoners that were released in the exchange, specifically the prisoners released in the latest exchange on 18 October 2011, thus forcing them to continue their previous sentence. The basis of their detention is on a secret file submitted by the special military committee in the presence of a representative of the military prosecution. This information is not disclosed to the prisoner or his lawyer.

Since the completion of the second phase of the prisoner exchange, Addameer Association has documented the re-arrest of dozens of Palestinians who were released in the prisoners exchange, among them 13 prisoners whom the occupation forces intend to have serve the remainder of their previous sentence as prescribed by Article 186. The remainder of their sentences ranges from 1 year to 30 years.



Spotlight – Ali S.: Interrogation and Torture

Ali S. was arrested at 3 am on 13 March 2013 from his home in Haris, Salfit. He is 16 years old and in the 11th grade. He was arrested by a force of soldiers that broke into his home, arrested him, handcuffed his hands behind his back and blindfolded him. He was made to sit on the floor of a military jeep with soldiers sitting in front of him and behind him. They continuously pushed him with their knees and hit him on the head more than ten times, as well as banging his head against the knees of the soldiers (at least eight times). They also practiced humiliation tactics against him, by trying to sit on his head, and continuing to physically assault him until he was bleeding and required medical attention. During the interrogation, the soldiers slurred at him, telling him that they would "eat shit" and they would make life difficult for his family if he did not confess. The interrogator also told him that if he did not confess, they would detain him for ten years. During the interrogation periods, Ali was held in isolation in a 2x2 meter cell, with no light, ventilation and only a hole to relieve himself. His every move was exposed to the guards.

After his extensive interrogation, the military prosecution is charging Ali with attempted murder. They are accusing Ali of throwing stones that caused a car accident on Route 5, a settler road near Hares village. Ali faces at least 25 years in prison.

Ali's case is an example of harsh and excessive punishment of children. In the week Ali was arrested, over 15 minors were arrested from Haris and brought into interrogation. Five, including Ali, remain in prison on attempted murder charges.



Photo: Ali's mother shows his favorite football shirt that he wore regularly.

Raids and Violations

The Nathson, Metseda, Dror and Yilmaz Special Forces conducted at least 21 raids on Palestinian security prisoners since the beginning of 2013. There were 4 raids in Nafha, 7 in Aysheh, 2 in Naqab, 2 in Askalan, 3 in Rimoun and 3 in Megiddo, affecting at minimum 890 prisoners. Thus far, there have been 275 prisoners that have been transferred to other prisons as a direct consequence of the special forces' raids. Raids and searches are often conducted in the early hours of the morning, in which prisoners are corralled outside of the cells, usually shackled at the hands and feet, into the yard for hours while the special forces raid the cells. Search dogs are often brought into the cells to search and destroy the belongings of prisoners, and various items are confiscated from the prisoners, never to be recovered. If the prisoners contest the raids, they face harsh consequences. In Askalan, the Special Forces shot rubber bullets at the prisoners during one of the raids. During a large raid in Nafta in late January, 80 prisoners were forcibly removed to other prisons. On 28 February 2013 in Rimoun, the prison authorities attacked and gravely injured 3 prisoners. On 2 May 2013, the prisoners were subjected to an intrusive and humiliating section-wide strip-search.

Child prisoners are not exempt from harsh treatment by the Special Forces. In HaSharon, the representative for the child prisoners, Mohammad Q., also a child prisoner, was transferred to Ofer Prison after he lodged a complaint against the prison authority about the lack of natural sunlight in his cell, due to metal sheet installed in front of the window. He was a constant advocate for the rights of child prisoners, and consequently was transferred to Ofer as an attempt to prevent him from "causing civil disobedience."

In March, the prison authorities used several tactics to punish the prisoners due to the escalation of individual hunger strikes. In Section 2 in Megiddo, the water was cut off for at least an entire day, in addition to threats of physical and psychological violence and transfers of prisoners.

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Death in Interrogation: Arafat Jaradat

The Occupation Forces arrested Arafat Jaradat (30 years old) on 18 February 2013, taking him from his home in Sa'eer near Hebron at exactly 12 midnight and accusing him of throwing stones at settler cars. That same day he was transferred to Jalameh Interrogation Center in the northern West Bank before being transferred again to isolation in Megiddo Prison in northern Palestine.



According to his lawyer, Mr. Kameel Sabbagh from the Ministry of Prisoner and Ex-Prisoners Affairs, Jaradat's legal representation in the Jalameh Military Court on the Thursday, 21 February 2013, Jaradat told him that he was subjected to "shabih," a procedure wherein the prisoner is tied to the interrogation chair in a stress position for long hours. Jaradat also informed his lawyer that he suffers from pain in his back. When the lawyer informed the judge of the terrible conditions surrounding Arafat's interrogation and detention, and subsequently requested the court to take into consideration Arafat's health conditions, the judge extended Jaradat's detention for an additional 12 days, and ordered the medical authorities in the interrogation center to provide Jaradat with a mental and physical examination. The judge further ordered that the results of both examinations be reported to the General Security Services (GSS) and the court.

Two days later, on 23 February 2013, it was discovered that Arafat Jaradat had died in the special interrogation section for the GSS (Shabak) in Megiddo Prison.

The family of the martyr Arafat Jaradat reported that he had been badly beaten by the Occupation Authorities during his arrest and that he screamed painfully while being taken out of the village. His wife added that "the security agent that came to arrest my husband after they took him out of the house requested that they return him to the house momentarily so that Arafat could say goodbye to his wife and children," which she now considers a deliberate intention to kill him. The martyr Arafat Jaradat was born 14 January 1983. He was a university student at Al Quds Open University, married with two children, Yara (4 years), and Mohammad (2 years). His wife was in her fourth month of pregnancy at the time of arrest, and gave birth to their son Arafat Jaradat on 1 July 2013.

The death of Arafat Jaradat raises the number of prisoners killed in the Occupation's prisons since 1967 to 203 prisoners. 73 prisoners have died as a result of torture, 54 as a result of deliberate medical negligence and 74 from injuries sustained during their arrest. 7 have died from being shot within the prison.



Photo: An isolation cell that prisoners are usually locked in between interrogation sessions.

Military Court Hearing Updates

The trial of human rights defender and Addameer employee **Ayman Nasser** continues as his next court hearing is 24 June 2013. Ayman is charged with inciting support and solidarity for the Palestinian prisoners during the 2012 hunger strikes as well as allegedly belonging to an illegal organization, the PFLP. The prosecution has yet to make a substantial argument confirming his charges.

Youth Activist **Hassan Karajah** continues to be detained. Hassan is the youth coordinator for Stop the Wall Grassroots Organization. His next hearing is on 7 July 2013.

In Photos



Family members of prisoners attending Addameer's 20th anniversary commemoration on 4 March 2013.



Mazen Al-Danbak's home was raided in Nablus in June. Mazen was arrested during the midnight raid, and his whereabouts are currently unknown.