

Silencing the Voices: Arrest and Detention of Palestinian Journalists



20 June 2016

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The *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders* defines human rights defenders as individuals who play an important role in furthering the cause of human rights through activities such as the documentation of violations, providing support and assistance to victims seeking remedies, combating cultures of impunity and mainstreaming human rights culture and information on an international and domestic level. Human Rights Defenders in the occupied Palestinian territory face various types of harassment and rights violations by the occupation forces, irrespective of the protection afforded to them in international conventions, and particularly the *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*. Since October 2015, the occupation forces intensified prosecution of human rights defenders in the occupied Palestinian territory, aiming to silence them and punish them for their role in exposing violations and crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

The Israeli occupation forces arrested 8 Palestinian journalists since the beginning of 2016, bringing the number of journalists detained in Israeli jails to 21 journalists. These arrests and prosecutions reached dozens of correspondents, local cameramen, photographers, as well as members of the press, many of whom were detained under administrative detention orders; this includes Addameer colleague and Media Coordinator [Hasan Safadi](#), who was arrested on 01/05/2016 while crossing Al-Karameh bridge and was placed under administrative detention, after 40 days of interrogation. Additionally, [Omar Nazzal](#) was also arrested while en route to participation in the European Federation of Journalists General Meeting on 23/04/2016. Mr. Nazzal was placed under administrative detention set to end on 22 August 2016. This shows how journalists are being targeted due to their efforts to document Israeli violations, including its practices of land confiscation, house demolitions and

movement restrictions on the Palestinian population.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association condemns the continued and systematic targeting and arrests of journalists. Addameer considers journalists to be human rights defenders in accordance with the *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders*, which characterizes the following as activities of human rights defenders: (a) *Collecting and disseminating information on violations*; (b) *investigating, gathering information regarding and report on human rights violations*; (c) *investigating and reporting on violations to help end ongoing violations*. Thus, the persecution of journalists hinders dissemination of information on human rights violations currently taking place in occupied Palestine, and constitutes repression of press freedom as well as freedom of speech.

Following is a table of journalists arrested by occupation forces until 20 June 2016:

Name	Place of Residence	Place of Work	Type of Arrest	Date of Arrest
Ahmad Fathi Khatib	Tulkarem	Photo in Al-Aqsa Channel	Administrative Detention	04/07/2014
Hammam Atili	Tulkarem	Media Student in Najah National University	Charges	12/08/2014
Ali Oweiwi	Hebron		Administrative Detention	21/10/2015
Mujahed Al-Sadi	Jeinen	Correspondent for Palestine Today TV	Detained	12/01/2016
Mohammed Mahmoud Issa	Jerusalem	Correspondent for Sawt Al-Haq Wal Hurriya	Life sentence	1993
Salah Addin Awwad	Nablus	Director of the media department at Prisoners' Club	7 years	2011
Anan Samir Ajawi	Jenin		3 years and a half	16/01/2013
Ahmad Al-Saifi	Ramallah	Media Student at Birzeit University	19 years	19/08/2009
Walid Khaled	Salfit	Director of Palestine Newspaper	4 years	10/03/2013
Qutayba Qasem	Hebron	Correspondent for Asda'a Al-Sahafi	Detained	10/12/2014
Amir Abu Hleil	Hebron	Media Student at Al-Quds University	Detained	25/01/2015
Mohammad Atta	Ramallah	Media Student at Al-Quds University	Detained	27/01/2015
Sami Al-Sa'ai	Tulkarem	Correspondent for Fajr Al-Mahali	Administrative Detention	09/03/2016
Samah Dweik	Jerusalem	Hurra	Detained	10/04/2016
Musab Qafisheh	Hebron	Media Student	Administrative Detention	29/03/2016
Omar Nazzal	Ramallah	Freelancer	Administrative Detention	23/04/2016
Hasan Safadi	Jerusalem	Addameer Media Coordinator	Administrative Detention	01/05/2016

Bassam Al-Sayeh	Nablus		Detained	08/10/2015
Adeeb Al-Atrash	Hebron	Freelancer	Detained	20/06/2016
Nasser Khaseb	Ramallah	Lecturer at Birzeit University	Detained	20/06/2016
