

Five Palestinian journalists arrested by PA security forces



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On the evening of 7 August 2017, the Palestinian Authority's intelligence service carried out a campaign of arrests against a number of Palestinian journalists in the West Bank. Five Palestinian journalists were arrested by PA security forces, and they are:

1. Journalist Mamdouh Hamamra from Bethlehem, a correspondent for Al-Quds News Channel.
2. Journalist Amer Abu Arafa from Hebron, who works for Shehab News Agency.
3. Journalist Tariq Abu Zeid from Jenin, who works for Al-Aqsa TV.
4. Journalist Ahmad Halayqa from Hebron, who works for Al-Quds News Channel.
5. Qutaiba Qassem from Bethlehem, a freelance journalist working with several agencies.

Initially, A source from the PA security forces states that the arrests were made based on "leaking information and communicating with hostile parties." However, after the journalists' union contacted PA security forces this morning, their response was that the journalists were arrested in order to pressure Hamas to release another journalist detained in the Gaza Strip by Hamas.

The PA has been cracking down on journalists, writers and activists and even Palestinian news sites who are critical of the Palestinian Authority leadership. Addameer strongly condemns the arrest of these five journalists and confirms that the Palestinian Authority must comply with the conventions to

which it is a party, especially considering the ongoing deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories
