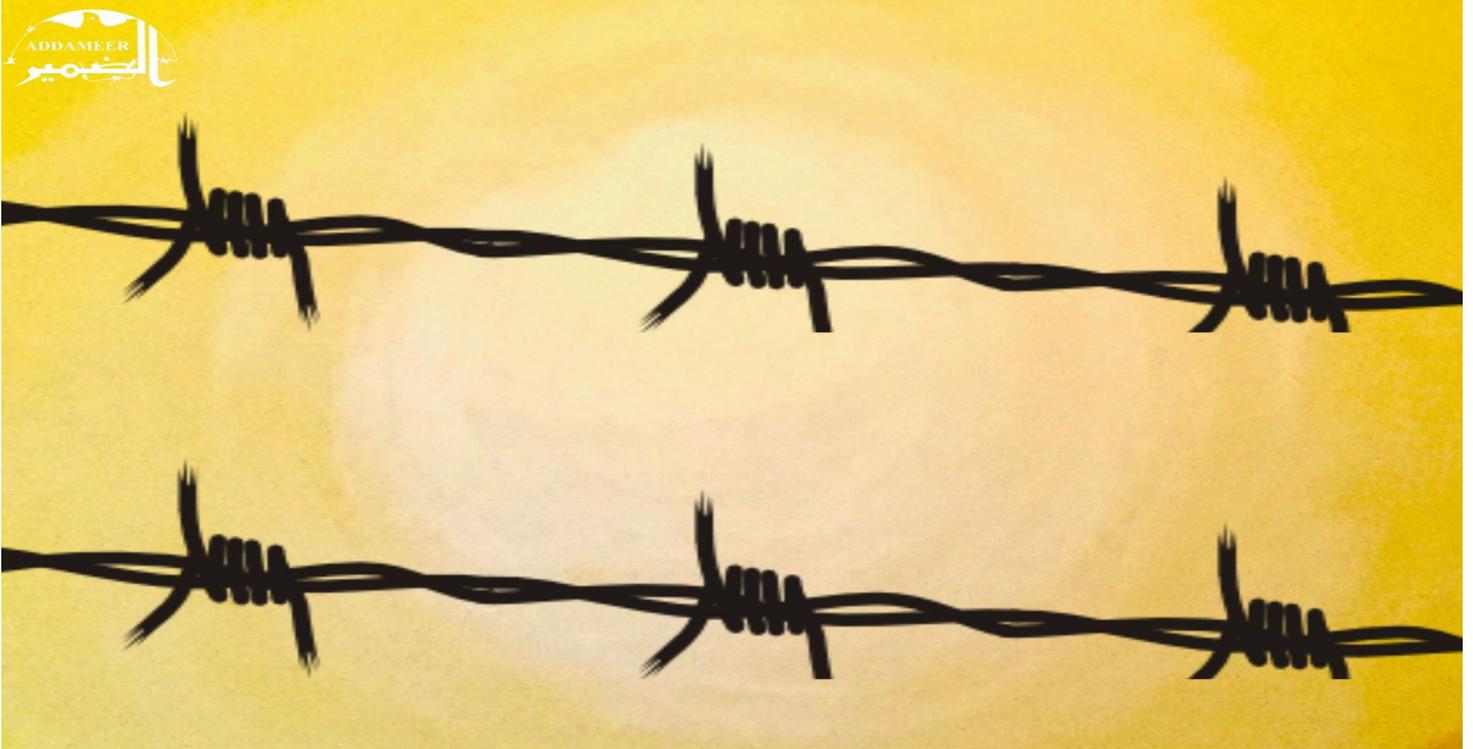


Monthly Newsletter

August 2020



Top August Topics

- Palestinian child detained in isolation for 45 days under harsh conditions after testing positive for coronavirus.
- Master's student Tasneem Qadi is still in interrogation since her arrest a month ago.
- Addameer releases its 2019 annual report.
- Two Palestinian female prisoners end 70 days in solitary confinement.
- HRD and BDS coordinator Mahmoud Nawajaa was released after 18 days of interrogation .
- Live testimonies of human rights violations by the Palestinian Preventive Security Forces against "Tafah Al Kayl" (Arabic for 'Enough is Enough') initiative members.
- Four Palestinian detainees continue their hunger strike.

Since the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in the occupied Palestinian territories, Palestinian administrative detainees have been a major concern due to the serious health negligence, over crowding and the general inadequate living conditions in Israeli prisons. Despite many demands by civil society groups to protect Palestinian detainees and release all ill and elderly administrative detainees due to their higher risk for severe illness, and various calls to the Israeli Prison Service to implement the relevant measures and guidelines of prevention and sanitization. However, the Israeli occupation has taken no action, and the IFO continues to carry out dozens of arrests, notwithstanding the alarming threat and spread of the Virus, the capacities of detention centers and military prisons or any guidelines of prevention and distancing.

News

Mahmoud Ghaeth, a child in isolation for 45 days after testing positive for coronavirus:

On 23 July 2020 around dawn, Mahmoud Ghaeth, 15 years old, was arrested from his home, his father was beaten and Mahmoud's siblings were terrified. Mahmoud's detention was extended twice before the Israeli Prison Service declared that he had been infected with the coronavirus. Consequently, he was put in isolation in a room that lacked the minimal standards of adequate living, including the lack of sanitation and clean clothes. Mahmoud was provided with only one oversized winter hoodie which he spent all the duration of his isolation in, till he was released on 3 September 2020. The Israeli Prison Service conducted four coronavirus tests on Mahmoud, the first and second time he tested negative, however the third time Mahmoud tested positive, and the fourth time he tested negative consequently transferring him back to Ofer prison. In isolation, Mahmoud was held in severe tough conditions in a small room alone with no access to anyone, and he was banned from going outside. He was not provided with any medicine, health care or sanitizing items, only shampoo and soap later after 14 days of isolation. Despite many efforts and demands by Addameer lawyer to improve the isolation conditions for Mahmoud, the Israeli Prison Service did not take any action on that matter. Mahmoud was released from Ofer prison on a 1,000 NIS bail and a third party bail, after 45 days in harsh conditions in isolation infected with the coronavirus. children in Israeli prisons.

It is reported that till August 2020, there are around 140 Palestinian children in Israeli prisons.

After imposing a punishment of 70 days in solitary confinement at Al Jalameh prison, the Israeli Prison Service return Palestinian detainees Fadwa Hamada and Jihan Hashimeh to Damon prison:

On 10 June 2020, the Israeli Prison Service claimed that Fadwa Hamada and Jihan Hashimeh had a confrontation with a female prison guard, consequently imposing on them a punishment of 70 days in solitary confinement at Al Jalameh prison. Before Fadwa and Jihan's transfer to Al Jalameh prison, they were handcuffed with plastic wires for hours in a room in Damon prison. The two Palestinian female detainees faced severe hardships while in solitary, mainly the lack of minimal adequate living conditions as they were held in a small, unclean and unsanitized cell with 7/24 surveillance cameras violating their right to privacy.

Tasneem Qadi under ongoing Interrogation:

On 4 August 2020, Tasneem Qadi, 29 year old Master's student, was arrested from her home in Al Bireh. After her arrest, Tasneem was held under interrogation in the Petah Tikva Interrogation center, where she was subject to cruel interrogation and ill treatment. The Israeli Occupation Forces threatened to arrest her family members. Notably, her brother, 18 years old, was also arrested afterwards.

The military court of Salim extended her detention twice on the 6 and 13 August, the first time for eight days and the second time for 11 days. Tasneem's arrest comes as part of the Israeli occupation's ongoing harassments of Palestinian university students.

Human Rights Defenders: Israeli Occupation Authorities' Continued Harassment of BDS Coordinator:

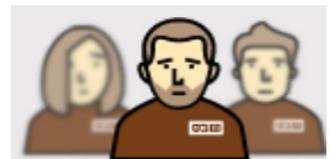
On 17 August 2020, the Israeli occupation authorities released human rights defender and BDS Mahmoud Nawajaa, after 18 days of detention and interrogation, under no conditions. During his detention, Mahmoud was denied access to his attorney.

Political Arrests Against Activists During the Corona Pandemic:

During the corona pandemic, the Palestinian Security Forces launched a series of arrests against Palestinian activists who call for anti-corruption marches, as 19 activists were arrested near the anticipated location of the anti-corruption march held on 19 July 2020. On the second day of arrest, the activists were presented to the Public Prosecutor, who extended their detention for 48 hours under the pretext of "unlawful gathering and violating the emergency situation regulations and instructions". Later on, the Magistrate Court extended their detention for an additional 15 days. As a form of resistance against this order, many activists declared a hunger strike. According to statements taken from some detainees to Addameer, the conditions of their detention were tough, as they were all placed in a small cell with no ventilation inadequate for the large number of detainees. Notably, there was one toilet in the cell and only a few beds with unclean sponge mattresses.

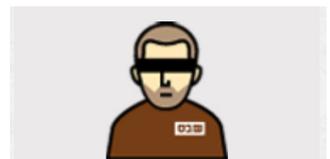
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Numbers of Palestinian prisoners at Israeli occupation prisons by the end of August 2020.



Total Number of Political Prisoners

4500



Administrative Detainees

340

(4 PLC members)



Child prisoners

140



Female prisoners

41

Individual Case

Targeting the Right to Education and Freedom of Opinion: Detainee Professor Imad Barghouthi
The Israeli occupation has been deliberately targeting Palestinian scholars in order to impede the Palestinian educational process. Such ongoing harrasments include arrests of Palestinian univeristy students and targeting professors and teaching assistance. Most recently, Prof. Imad Barghouthi, a Palestinian scientist and professor of physics at Al-Quds University, was arrested by the Israeli Occupation Forces on 16 July 2020 at a check-point near Anata, North East of occupied Jerusalem. Imad is now in administrative detention in Ofer prison till 15 November 2020. Notably, this is not the first time the renowned Palestinian astrophysicist has been arrested. Back in 2014

Prof. Imad was held in administrative detention for two months without any charges or allegations against him. Later in 2016, he was arrested from his home in Beit Rima and put in administrative detention for six months under the pretext of incitement against the Israeli occupation on Facebook. Since the end of 2014, we have witnessed a significant rise in the Israeli occupation's arrest campaigns targeting Palestinian university students and scholars on charges related to content shared on social media platforms, in particular Facebook. Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association released a publication regarding "Arrests on Charges of 'Incitement' on Social Media Platforms and Israeli Government Policy" in 2019.

EVENTS

18/08/2020: The Effect of Fragmentation on the Reality of the Joint Palestinian Prisoners Movement and on the support and solidarity with the movement /Centre for Development Studies at Birzeit University

An oral intervention from Addameer Director, Adv. Sahar Francis, on the effect of fragmentation on the reality of the joint Palestinian Prisoners movement and consequently its effect on the support and solidarity with this movement.

19/08/2020: The Right to Narrate, No Justic Without Palestinian Voices/ U.S Campaign for Palestinian Rights

An oral intervention from Addameer Director, Adv. Sahar Francis, on the Israeli occupation authorities' attacks against individuals and institutions that demand accountability, aiming to silence them.

20/08/2020: Virtual Act for the Freedom of Palestinian Prisoners/ Comite Argentino de Solidaridad con el Pueblo Palestino

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association Director, Adv. Sahar Francis, participated in a virtual event via zoom regarding detention as a tool to oppress and control the Palestinian people. The Israeli occupation's policy of targeting those who criticize and resist the Israeli occupation policies. Moreover, Adv. Sahar discussed the situation of Palestinian prisoners under the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Publication

The year 2019 witnessed many Palestinian human rights violations by the Israeli occupation authorities. According to Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association 2019 Annual Report, the number of Palestinian detainees last year reached over 5000 detainees in Israeli military prisons and detention centers. Addameer completed 138 prison visits over the year, in addition to 44 visits specifically documenting the Israeli occupation authorities' violations in prisons. The concluding reports of the visits included documenting the use of torture, illtreatment and inhumane methods during the arrest, interrogation and detention phase of Palestinian detainees. Bearing in mind, the Israeli occupation authorities increased the use of military interrogation measures against Palestinian detainees, which included the "banana position", "the imaginary chair position", "the squatting position", and many other degrading positions. Moreover, the Israeli occupation authorities increased the application of collective punishment as a mean to use families to pressure Palestinian detainees.

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LOCATION:

Ramallah- AlMasyoun, Rafiden Square, Mousa Tawasheh Street, Sebat building, 1st floor

P.O. Box Jerusalem 17338

info@addameer.ps