



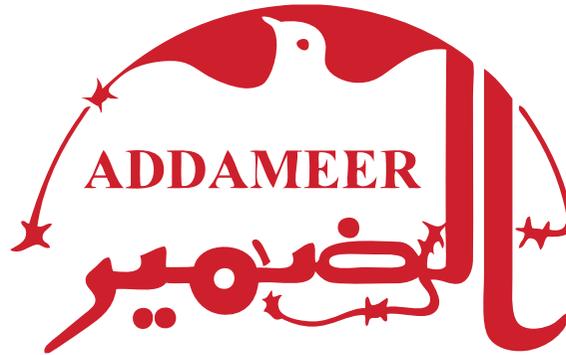
ANNUAL REPORT

2009



# 2009 Annual Report

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights  
Association



Activity Report for 1 January – 31 December 2009



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## Preface

Throughout 2009, pain and suffering continued to be a reality in the daily life of the Palestinian people. This distress was brought to a head at the very beginning of 2009 with the 23-day Israeli military aggression against the Gaza Strip, which took place from 27 December 2008 – 18 January 2009. During this offensive, which claimed more than 1,400 Palestinian lives and wounded more than 5,300 Gazan residents, the IOF kidnapped dozens of Palestinians from Gaza and placed them under detention according to the Unlawful Combatants Law of 2002. Other Palestinian residents of Gaza who were already under Israeli detention at the onset of the aggression and had completed their sentences found their detention extended indefinitely under the same law. Furthermore, the ground air and sea and aerial incursion in Gaza was simultaneously accompanied by an escalation of oppressive measures and policies by Israeli security authorities, including arrests, detentions, unlawful use of force and killings, by Israeli forces throughout the rest of 1967 Palestine occupied territory and inside 1948 areas as well.

Regretfully, the Israeli policies and practices that further entrench apartheid practices, colonial expansion and a displacement/settlement regime also continued in 2009 and, in many cases, were brought to new levels. Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) continued throughout the year to construct the illegal Annexation Wall, bringing with it the accompanying racist movement, access and harassment regimes. Israeli authorities intensified their repressive measures against human rights defenders – be they farmers or human rights activists – who combined forces in their nonviolent resistance activities against the Wall and other human rights violations. In addition, Israeli colonial practices experienced unprecedented levels of expansion throughout 1967 occupied territory, especially in and around Jerusalem, but also in Hebron and elsewhere in the Negev, and near the Galilee inside 1948 territory as well. These displacement activities were accompanied by an escalation of State-protected settler violence against Palestinians. Furthermore, Israeli military roadblocks and checkpoints remained pervasive in the OPT amidst steady expansion of the system settler 'by-pass' roads which continue to link more and more settlement pockets. Moreover, in 2009, hundreds of

Palestinian houses and commercial structures in the OPT and 1948 territory were demolished or received military demolition orders. Many Palestinian villages also suffered from development restriction policies that leave large numbers without affordable housing options. Occupied East Jerusalem in particular witnessed the most coordinated displacement strategies in 2009, with dozens of houses demolished or taken over by Israeli settlers, large numbers of families forcefully evicted and displaced, and hundreds of Palestinians revoked of their residency ID cards.

Thus, as in years past, it remains a difficult – and perhaps even impossible – task to list in their entirety all the violations and repressive measures that were levelled by Israeli actors against Palestinians from all areas across the OPT and 1948 territory and across all social or economical backgrounds, be they workers or farmers, merchants or professionals.

Nonetheless, despite the overwhelming character of the violations against the Palestinian people in 2009, the sad tone on which the year started and the continuation of the internal Palestinian political divide that remains as a major justification for Palestinian violations of human rights, 2009 also saw positive changes in the international arena regarding Palestine. One such major development was the formation in the United Nations Human Rights Council of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, an international investigation team led by Justice Richard Goldstone to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Israeli authorities during the aggression in Gaza. This investigation, barred from 1948 territory and the OPT but conducted on the ground in Gaza and in briefings in Geneva, Switzerland, displayed high standards of professionalism and objectivity and resulted in a 500-plus page report detailing the events of the 23-day conflict and providing careful legal analysis with practical recommendations for the whole international community. In the Mission's report, commonly referred to as the "Goldstone Report", a full chapter was devoted to Palestinian prisoners and the violations they are subjected to in Israeli prisons and detention centers. The report's recommendations called for Israel to abide by international standards regarding treatment of prisoners and for the release of all Palestinian political prisoners.

Other positive changes occurred in the context of the international Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, where serious decisions were made by a few governments and

many international companies to divest from economic activities or partnerships with companies that support the Israeli military occupation or are involved in human rights violations, war crimes, and other forms of oppression against Palestinian civilians. Positive development was particularly evident in relation to activities around the continuation construction of the Wall and the expansion of colonial settlements and ethnic cleansing activities in Jerusalem.

In 2009, amidst this context of ongoing human rights violations and increasing, positive international action, Addameer steadfastly continued with its activities in support of Palestinian political prisoners and universal human rights. Sustained focus was paid to cases of Palestinian political prisoners under the Israeli military occupation regime, and serious steps were also taken to expand the organization's monitoring, reporting and legal defense in regards to political detention and repression under the Palestinian Authority (PA).

In general, the situation of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees in both Israeli and PA detention remains of significant concern. As of the end of 2009, there were approximately 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli detention. Torture and ill-treatment of Palestinians during arrest, under interrogation, and in detention continued unabated, in particular during and after the conflict in Gaza. In addition, conditions inside Israeli places of detention remained poor, and many abusive measures against prisoners and detainees continued with impunity, particularly with regards to Palestinian prisoners and detainees affiliated to or linked with certain political parties such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

This report will present the challenges and achievements of Addameer's various programs on behalf of these prisoners and detainees throughout 2009. The work will be presented in relation to the strategic objectives of the organization as stated in its latest Strategic Plan document and in its 2009 Work Plan.

During 2009, Addameer exerted increased efforts to bring the case of Palestinian prisoners to the attention of international audiences. Addameer served as a primary and reliable source for a number of international bodies including the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, consulates and representative offices of the European Union and other States, UN agencies

such as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and international organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. In so doing, Addameer provided statistics and documentation on Israeli arrest practices, legal procedures and detention conditions, cases of arbitrary detention, child detainees and women prisoners, repression of human rights defenders and instances of torture and ill-treatment.

Those positive actions in the international arena would not have been possible if not for the developments in the performance and the work of Addameer's other programs. Achievements were reached in 2009 on enhancing the organization's legal aid work, its monitoring and documentation, legal research, and its awareness raising and lawyers training programs.

While Addameer is proud of these achievements, the team understands that there is still much more work to do and that the organization and all the staff must strive to offer excellent services and show continued improvement. Addameer appreciates all efforts by its board and staff members and their dedication to fulfil their role in making positive changes. Addameer also extends its thanks and token of appreciation to friends of the organization and its partners and sponsors.



**First General Objective:**

**End Israeli violations against prisoners,  
detainees and their families during arrest and/or detention**

Violations against prisoners, detainees and their families during arrest and/or detention will only truly end when all Palestinian prisoners are freed from Israeli detention facilities and when arbitrary arrest and detention practices cease. The failure of Israeli occupation authorities to adhere to the requirements of past bilateral agreements by releasing all Palestinian political prisoners is one of the factors that led to failure of the Oslo political process (1993-2000), and is a key element stymieing this aim.

However, development towards this objective was observed in 2009 in the increasing international attention paid to the issue of violations against Palestinian prisoners during arrest and/or detention. While international human rights organizations and relevant UN bodies, in addition to international populations, have for many years shown interest in and concern about the issue of Palestinian prisoners, in 2009, mounting official diplomatic attention was noticeable as well, including amongst the traditional State allies of Israel. Subsequently, many of these diplomats and governmental bodies have expressed the position that Israel should release Palestinian prisoners in the framework of political negotiations to achieve a real solution to the conflict.

### **First Immediate Objective:**

**Decrease the number of cases of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment amongst Palestinian prisoners and detainees and their families.**

Through its free legal aid program, Addameer aims to provide support to Palestinian prisoners and to their families in their attempt to oppose daily violations of their rights and oppressive measures to which they are subjected.

Addameer's team of lawyers work within a clear legal strategy based on international humanitarian and human rights legal standards regarding the treatment of prisoners and detainees, whether under interrogation, charged or pending trial, or even under detention. Addameer lawyers always try to exhaust all existing local legal remedies to oppose torture, ill-treatment, unfair trial, arbitrary detentions, and other sorts of violations and punishments suffered by detainees and prisoners.

Though Addameer diligently tries to address all those violations, it does not have the capacity or resources to represent all Palestinian political prisoners and detainees, as their numbers

are very high and are well beyond the capacity of any single organization. For this reason, Addameer coordinates with other organizations, such as Nadi al Aseer al Falastini (Palestinian Prisoners Society) and Defense of Children International – Palestine Section in attempt to promote a common strategy in opposing the unjust Israeli occupation military legal system.

At other times, especially concerning cases of collective violations or public interest issues, Addameer joins forces with other Palestinian or Israeli human rights organizations in filing specific cases in front of the Supreme Court of Israel.

In addition to its free legal aid program, Addameer seeks to raise awareness among prisoners, their families and the general public of the process of arrest, detention, and prosecution before the Israeli military judicial system, and of individuals' rights at each stage. Believing that the knowledge of one's rights is the first step in protecting and defending those rights, Addameer offers these awareness activities through regular public forums, lectures, and talks where the organization's program staff and lawyers address these issues in cooperation with different community-based institutions and groups throughout the most-affected geographical areas. Over the course of 2009, numerous community-based groups from various sectors, particularly those focused on women or children and youth requested that Addameer hold these forums with their own constituencies. 2009 also featured a series of forums held in cooperation and coordination with Stop the Wall Campaign and their local committees in many villages, and with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and the Union of Palestinian Women Committees.

In 2009, Addameer also utilized Know Your Rights and Defend Your Rights booklets as tools in its raising awareness activities. These booklets were disseminated during public forums and talks and were also stocked in numerous public areas. Recently, Addameer started to prepare for further types of booklets to be distributed inside detention facilities for prisoners and detainees to have full reference of their rights and available tools and mechanisms for them to defend their own rights.

Though it's not a new domain to Addameer programming and advocacy, radio shows are now to be used as a much more systematic and planned means of raising awareness. Addameer is currently in the process of setting up a series of radio shows to address detailed issues of concern to prisoners, their families, and the general public.

Furthermore, Addameer believes that having advanced skills is one of the most important factors affecting the ability of Palestinian lawyers working in the military courts to oppose Israeli violations of prisoners' and detainees' rights. To this end, in 2009, Addameer conducted a lawyers training program specialized in the Israeli military courts system, including the military orders that establish offenses before the courts and the procedures followed within this system. The trainings linked the military courts with Israeli criminal code and discussed the possibility of using procedures available in the Israeli civil courts system at military tribunals or the differences present between the two systems. Part of these trainings address international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) as related to Palestinian prisoners and detainees as well as the available international protection mechanisms, particularly through the UN, that may be used to protect the rights of prisoners and detainees and seek remedies.

Addameer succeeded to a good degree in 2009 in addressing this objective. This could be seen through details provided later discussing the outputs and outcomes and activities under the goal.

### **Output One:**

**Provision of specialized and professional legal representation and rights services in a timely manner and in accordance with international legal standards (including international humanitarian law and human rights law) to Palestinian prisoners and detainees.**

#### **Results:**

1. Legal cases taken on by Addameer lawyers see positive results for detainees;
2. Detainees and their families are satisfied with the services provided by the organization.

## Activities and Accomplishments:

### Legal Aid Services

Addameer received 300 new applications for legal aid services during 2009, in addition to ongoing cases received in previous years that continued to be followed by the organization. Though Addameer planned a maximum limit of 350 new applications to be followed, 2009, as in past years, witnessed a stability in the work of other organizations providing legal services to prisoners that reduced the burden and allowed Addameer not to have to reach the planned maximum caseload.

The 300 new applications for legal services in 2009 came from various parts of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and Gaza. Two-hundred and thirty nine of these applicants were adults while 61 were minors, and 27 were women.

During 2009, Addameer followed 394 legal cases for the 300 new applications received during the year. Additionally, Addameer followed 92 new legal cases for applications received during 2008. Thus, Addameer followed 486 new legal cases during 2009, as compared to the 551 cases followed during 2008. Additionally, Addameer continued to follow 172 legal cases that continued from the year before.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, Addameer lawyers represented clients in 1,173 court hearings during 2009, including detention-extension hearings during holding or interrogation, court and military tribunal hearings, administrative detention reviews and appeals, appeals against court rulings or detention-extension decisions, and Israeli High Court sessions. This figure can be compared

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1. Application or applicant for legal services means a 'client', where each of the clients might receive more than one legal service named as 'legal case'. An example, a new client request Addameer follow up during interrogation or trial at military court, thus a legal case is followed accordingly; while or after this case was being followed the client might be transferred to administrative detention, then there will be a second legal case for the same client. A client from past periods might request from Addameer to follow up on a new case, for example a complaint against torture or isolation. Each time a new type of legal follow up is started for a client, a new legal case file is opened at Addameer.

to the 1,437 court hearings that Addameer lawyers attended 2008. The lower figure in 2009 is due to a conscious effort by the organization, when taking into consideration the time-consuming process of court hearings, to reduce each attorney's court hearing workload so they could contribute to other activities, like case-analysis for advocacy purposes or public awareness raising activities.

Further, in 2009, 22 detainees and prisoners were released during the year as a result of Addameer lawyers interventions (compared to 28 detainees released during 2008). Moreover, Addameer lawyers received positive results in 58 cases of detention and interrogation, when detention extensions were for periods shorter than requested by military prosecutors (compared to 61 cases during 2008).

During 2009, Addameer followed 79 cases of administrative detainees, where 13 clients received a substantial shortening of their detention orders as a result of Addameer interventions (compared to only six during 2008). In another 13 cases, detention orders were shortened insubstantially (compared to 15 during 2008). Addameer also followed three cases of hostages from Gaza who were detained under the Unlawful Combatants Law of 2002. Two of these detainees were ordered released as a result of Addameer interventions, while the third's detention order was confirmed.

Addameer also filed nine appeals to the High Court of Israel in 2009. These appeals concerned challenges against cases of administrative detention, prohibitions banning a detainee from meeting with his or her attorney, and detention under the Unlawful Combatants Law. However, these appeals were only successful in two cases.

In addition, military court trials of 75 clients were concluded during the year (compared to 86 during 2008); in 49 of these cases the results were in some way in favor of the detainees, giving Addameer a success rate of 65% (the success rate being only relative, considering that chances for fair trial are extremely minimal under the unjust Israeli military legal system). The following table shows procedures taken and their results:

Number	Procedures Taken	Results
10	Full Trial	One detainee was acquitted of all charges; In one case, the prosecution withdrew the charges; In one case the detainee was ordered released on the ruling day as the court was satisfied with time already spent under detention; In 7 cases detainees were issued sentences less than what the prosecutors requested from the court
39	Court procedures ended with plea-bargains	In 8 cases the courts ordered detainees released satisfied with days spent in detention; In 31 cases plea-bargains were 'relatively' in favour of the detainees

Addameer filed a total of 88 appeals in front of military appellate courts, of which only 12 received a relatively positive result and the ruling came in favour of prisoners, meaning a success percentage of 13.6%. Although seemingly low, this success rate is actually much higher than the overall rate of success for prisoners and detainees filing appeals in the military courts, which in recent years has consistently been below 2%. In 2009, the military prosecution filed appeals in 10 cases followed by Addameer lawyers and got positive results in seven of them, meaning a success rate of 70%. It is worth noting that this success rate rises to 100% when the appeals concerned a military court ruling or an administrative detention review as opposed to simply an extension of detention; another evidence of the unjust military legal system, where military prosecutors and judges are in collusion to repress Palestinians.

## Complaints:

In 2009, Addameer set for itself a target of 50 complaints to be filed during the year. In practice, Addameer attorneys filed 48 complaints (as compared to 35 complaints filed during 2008). Most of the complaints filed concerned allegations of torture, cruel and ill-treatment of detainees during arrest and interrogation, banned family visits, and obstruction of lawyers' work and access to detainees and prisoners.

Twenty four of the 48 complaints filed in 2009 were in regards to Israeli security authorities decision to ban first-degree family members from visiting their detained relative in a prison or detention center. In 12 of these cases family members did get permits to visit, while another three were required to provide additional documents. Addameer filed 17 such complaints during 2008, 14 of which got permits during the same year; while two of those cases got permits in 2009.

Addameer also filed 17 complaints protesting torture and ill-treatment at the hands of Israeli authorities (compared to four during 2008); in 13 of these we received acknowledgment that the complaints were referred to general prosecution for investigation. Four of these 13 were said to be referred to general attorney to check the possibility of filing charges against officers involved in alleged violations. In the additional four cases, response from the authorities declared that files will be closed either because detainees did not appear for questioning (usually out of fear of being rearrested and placed under detention), because authorities found there was insufficient evidence to support the allegations, or because the officer's behaviour was not deemed to be a violation. In one case filed in 2008, Addameer received a rejection of its complaint declaring that it was unfounded.

Addameer filed seven complaints in 2009 asserting that Israeli authorities hindered Addameer's lawyers work and violated procedure followed or taken during lawyers visits to detention centers. Three of these complaints received positive answers declaring that procedures during a lawyer's visit will be changed to reduce waiting times before and during the visit. In the rest, answers were still pending as of the end of the year.

Within the framework of Addameer's Protection of Palestinian Women Prisoners Project in cooperation with UNIFEM, 21 complaints were filed on various violations of women's rights and conditions of detention; 36 other requests were filed to move women prisoners from one detention facility to another or requesting allowing access to special needs, both individual and collective. Though there were varying degrees of success in response to these complaints and interventions, the overall harsh detention conditions and ill-treatment of women prisoners did not witness major changes.

### **Other Types of Cases and Visits**

Of the 300 new clients Addameer took on in 2009, Addameer lawyers were able to visit 146 prisoners and detainees. Addameer was prevented from visiting the remainder of new clients due to procedures imposed by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) or because of Israeli Security Agency (ISA) orders banning detainees from meeting with lawyers.

Addameer lawyers followed 15 cases regarding health-care and eight regarding isolation during 2009. The lawyers visited each of the 15 detainees facing problems with their medical care while in Israeli detention, carefully noting their detention conditions. In these cases Addameer lawyers requested medical history files from the IPS and, upon receiving them, transferred the files to Physicians for Human Rights – Israel to assess these files by specialized doctors. Legal procedures or medical interventions were then taken according to recommendations by the PHR-affiliated physicians.

Finally, 26 cases in 2009 involved legal procedures at military tribunal where families of detainees assigned lawyers other than Addameer to take over legal representation. The vast majority of these cases were from north of West Bank, and involved situations where the detainee and/or the family preferred to go for plea-bargains, while Addameer attorneys felt that putting on a full legal defense was the stronger path.

## **Beneficiaries' Satisfaction:**

Throughout 2009, Addameer continued to measure beneficiaries' satisfaction through specialized evaluation forms. In total, 81 families receiving legal assistance from Addameer were surveyed during the year, with 75 of the 81 surveys completed correctly. The results of the analysis of these surveys showed that 39 of the 75 families learned about Addameer through family friends, 17 through other detainees, four from other NGOs, five from community-based organizations and committees, two through other means, and eight who'd had dealings with Addameer on previous cases. Altogether, 75.7% of those surveyed expressed satisfaction with Addameer office staff, while 68.6% expressed satisfaction with their lawyers' work. In all, 70% expressed their overall satisfaction with services provided by Addameer.

## **Obstacles:**

While some of the obstacles in Addameer's work in 2009 were internal organizational issues, most obstacles faced during the year were related to procedures and policies imposed by Israeli occupation forces and the military judicial system. Some of these challenges involved procedures at Israeli military courts, such as the policy of not assigning exact timing for a hearing. As a result of this problematic policy, a lawyer might lose a whole working day waiting to attend only one short hearing. This intentional delay caused by the courts appeared to be particularly common when Addameer lawyers insisted on exhausting all legal procedures in a case and pursuing a full trial instead of succumbing to pressure from military prosecutors and judges to strike a deal through plea-bargains. Obstacles were also encountered during the first period of detention, when Israeli authorities brought detainees to remand hearings without ever informing either lawyers or families that the hearing was to take place. Of course, the primary obstacle in the military courts remains the fact that the Israeli military judicial system continues to refuse to abide by international fair trial standards in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other applicable international treaties and agreements.

Further, hundreds and hundreds of cases since the 1967 occupation have long since proven it to be inherently useless to address the violations of the Israeli military justice system

using Israeli civil court system. This is largely because the Israeli High Court has repeatedly approved the military commanders' self-given authority to issue military orders and expand jurisdictions in the occupied territory. In Addameer's experience, the Israeli civil judicial system – including the High Court – has never adjudged the legality of the content of military orders issued by a military commander. For example, in 2002, the Israeli High Court decided only to advise the Israeli army commander to review his decision regarding the Military Order 1500 after six months. This controversial military order extended the permissible period of detention of Palestinians held by Israel before they must be brought in front of any military court or judge from eight days to 18 days. The court ruled that it does recognize the security concerns and needs expressed by the military to issue this order amending the detention period without judicial procedures.

As a result of the futility of pursuing justice in the domestic legal systems, Addameer instead focuses a lot of its efforts in this regard on monitoring and documentation and preparing cases to use international protection mechanisms when possible and on advocacy and lobbying in an attempt to bring Israeli occupation powers to account under international law.

Regarding internal obstacles affecting the legal services provided by Addameer in 2009, the primary challenge was the ongoing overload on Addameer lawyers and legal team. Because of their consistently heavy workload, Addameer lawyers were not able to provide proper visits to every new detainee whose case was followed by Addameer. Also, though Addameer filed 48 complaints against violations, there were more cases for which complaints could have been filed but lawyers failed to do so, especially during the second half of the year. Although this occurred because the organization's lawyers are overloaded with court cases, it still should not have happened. Serious measures are therefore being taken to address this situation by redistributing the caseloads among the lawyers and by recruiting a new lawyer who will be responsible for visits and filing complaints on violations. In 2010, Addameer has decided to reduce this serious problem altogether.

Another of Addameer's concerns remains the cases of detainees who decide to engage the services of other lawyers after working with Addameer. Be it their dissatisfaction with the

work of Addameer lawyers or a disagreement with their legal strategies, it remains an issue of concern. Addameer evaluates on a case-by-case basis each incident of dissatisfaction and endeavours to correct the situation immediately. However, cases of client-lawyer disagreement on legal strategies also reinforce the necessity for Addameer to continue its long-term strategies of raising public awareness of the Israeli military court system and the best strategies to confront its unjust nature.

## **Output Two:**

### **Provision of legal and rights counselling services**

#### **Results:**

1. Increased awareness on the part of detainees and their families of their rights;
2. Increased demand on the Know Your Rights booklets and activities.

#### **Activities and Achievements:**

For 2009, Addameer projected the provision of 170 rights counselling sessions and 30 cases of legal counselling services. However, in practice, Addameer provided only 140 cases of rights counselling (as compared to 175 in 2008). Of the 30 planned cases of legal counselling, Addameer provided services only to 8 families and detainees, a decrease from the already low number of 11 during 2008.<sup>2</sup>

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2. Rights and legal counseling services are stated separately from legal services as these are counseling services to clients, whose legal cases are not followed by Addameer lawyers.

During the year, Addameer held seven public forum meetings throughout the West Bank in coordination with committees of families of prisoners, local authority councils and other community-based organizations such as YMCA and Union of Palestinian Women Committees (UPWC). Addameer held four additional meetings, in coordination with Stop the Wall village committees, in villages heavily affected by Israel's illegal Annexation Wall, where dozens of village residents had already been arrested, detained and prosecuted in the military courts because of their involvement in protests against the confiscation of their land or the denial of access to their land by the illegal Wall.

Though Addameer planned to hold 10 such meetings, in the end 11 were held because the increased coordination, networking and cooperation with community-based organizations revealed that the need amongst local communities for such activities and awareness-raising efforts is tremendous and much appreciated. In recognition of this fact, Addameer will intensify and expand such awareness activities in the coming years, especially as they also serve to mobilize local communities around Addameer's policies and campaigns.

During these public forum meetings, Addameer lawyers and staff explained typical procedures of arrest, detention, interrogation and prosecution, and also explained the fundamental rights of prisoners and detainees enshrined in international law. They also



discussed Israeli military orders and the military court system in thorough detail, along with information on the Israeli civil courts system. Addameer's general 'Know Your Rights'

booklet, which includes details regarding an individual's rights in detention, the procedures to be expected upon arrest and while in detention, the common violations committed by Israeli authorities and how to oppose them, and contact details of organizations providing various types of services, was distributed together with a 'Know Your Rights' booklet relating specifically to administrative detention. These booklets are also regularly delivered to various local institutions, community organizations and local authorities to serve as references for the public.

An evaluation form was distributed among attendants in three of the villages where forums were held in 2009. A total of 41 evaluation forms were collected, revealing the following:

- a. 72% of respondents said that they positively benefited from the presentations and that they had learned new and valuable information on topics that they did not understand in the past;
- b. 76% of respondents stated that the detailed topics offered at the forum covered a variety of issues of concern and provided valuable information; and,
- c. 64% of respondents felt that the speaker explained the issues in a simple, patient, comprehensive, and tolerant way.

In the 'suggestions' section of the evaluation forms, respondents gave their recommendations on how Addameer might improve these forums. Their suggestions mainly addressed timing and organizational aspects, proposing that sufficient advance notice be given when scheduling a meeting and that arrangements take into consideration the work schedule of those interested in attending. Respondents also expressed wishes that a longer time (more than two hours) be devoted for these forums so that there is sufficient time for more questions and discussion.

Respondents also expressed the need for such thorough forums covering all aspects of arrest and imprisonment to take place regularly in each location. Some respondents also suggested that a former detainee or prisoner be present to speak about their experiences in an effort to add a practical component to the meetings.

In response to these suggestions, Addameer planned to broadcast at least four radio shows that prisoners and detainees could listen to while in detention. These programs would provide specific information as to what mechanisms are available in detention to defend their rights

and how to document rights violations so their lawyers and human rights organizations can make best advocate for them as individuals and for the general Palestinian prisoner population. Addameer thoroughly prepared for the production of these programs, subdividing each program into topics and advice with consultants. Through focus group sessions, Addameer was able to refine the objectives and topics of each radio show and decide upon the most appropriate participants or speakers for each program. Thorough research of relevant legal material was conducted and written out for presenters in accessible language. However, Addameer was unable to broadcast the programs during 2009 due to internal production failures caused by staff turnover and other issues, which forced Addameer to postpone the recording and airing these radio shows to 2010.

Another awareness raising tool Addameer planned for 2009 was the production of a full and comprehensive guidebook addressing how prisoners and detainees could defend themselves or their fellow prisoners, and help lawyers and human rights organizations to defend their rights. This guidebook was to include detailed explanations of prisoners' and detainees' rights under IPS rules and directives. IPS Code and Directives were translated in full, outline and structure of the guidebook was prepared, and later it was enriched with explanatory text. However, time and workload constraints meant that the final production of the guide was not completed as planned and will be published instead in 2010.

### **Obstacles:**

Regarding Addameer's public forums, one challenge the organization experienced in 2009 was in securing sufficiently high attendance levels. It was noticeable that attendance numbers were not reflective of levels of arrest in each specific location. Research into the issue revealed that scheduling difficulties and the way the forums are publicized remain the key reasons for low attendance. These shortcomings are being addressed to assure better attendance in upcoming forums. The format of these forums is also being adapted to include most of the recommendations collected in the evaluation forms.

Though planned from the beginning of the year, as mentioned, neither the production of the radio shows nor the 'Defend Your Rights' booklet for prisoners and detainees were completed by the end of 2009. One major obstacle was that staff with the required knowledge and skills

to finalize these projects were grossly overloaded with other work. Attempts to strengthen Addameer's capacity were partially successful with the employment of a new, dedicated legal researcher. As a result of the capacity added by the extra team member, tasks were redistributed and positive results have been noticeable. The booklet and radio shows aimed at the specific situation of women prisoners will be published early in 2010, to be followed by additional shows and publications focused on all prisoners.

### **Output Three:**

**Palestinian lawyers build their capacity to integrate international legal standards into their legal defence work and increase their ability and expertise in the provision of professional legal services.**

#### **Results:**

1. Trained lawyers gain additional skills to help them represent prisoners more effectively; and,
2. lawyers trained to be able to incorporate international legal standards of fair trial in their representations.

#### **Activities and Achievements:**

In 2009, Addameer developed a training program for Palestinian lawyers and senior law students to increase their knowledge of and expertise in Israeli military orders, the military court system and Israeli criminal law procedures, in addition to standards of fair trial under international law. The training program was divided into three levels. The first addressed the

military orders and military courts system, and procedures of arrest and interrogation allowed under that system. The second addressed criminal procedures followed at the military courts, comparing those procedures with the procedures in Israeli civil courts, focusing on aspects such as the use of evidence and cross-examination of witnesses. The third training session addressed the status of Palestinian prisoners under international law and the available mechanisms for the protection of their rights according to international standards.

The first and second training sessions each comprised 30 hours and were supplemented by training manuals distributed to participants that include legal materials, court decisions, case studies of relevant precedents, training exercises, etc. The third level of training is designed to be a 20 hour course.

At the beginning of the year 18 lawyers were registered for the first training level. After three three-hour training sessions had taken place, the fourth training session was postponed due to failure of trainees to regularly attend training sessions. The training was rescheduled for the end of year, to occur in cooperation with the Palestinian Lawyers Bar Association. An agreement was reached with the Bar Association whereby they will participate in announcing and selecting the trainees. However, the training sessions were not resumed due to shortcomings in coordination and organization on Addameer's part, but also largely because the Bar Association reneged on their commitment to assist in publicizing the training.



Meanwhile, Addameer was in contact with Palestinian university law schools as to a possible training and lecture series to train senior law students in the first training session level. This resulted in a pilot program with Al Quds University Human Rights Clinic during 2008 and 2009.

2010 will see the first level one training sessions run at four Palestinian University law schools.

The second lawyers training level also began with 18 lawyers registered, 16 of whom completed the training. Throughout 10 three-hour training sessions, in addition to lectures and training materials, lawyers performed practical exercises including moot courts and other practical exercises where trainees acted as military prosecutors, judges and witnesses. In line with the trainees' positive overall evaluation of the training program, Addameer lawyers monitoring performance of trainees at military courts reported gradual positive changes in the work on cases. This forms a real indicator to the achievement of the goal behind the training program.

The third training level was held over three consecutive days. 16 trainee-lawyers participated. In addition to training provided by Addameer, Al Haq and OHCHR were invited to each present a session. The training covered issues of international law and the status of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. International protection mechanisms, including UN special procedures, were also covered during the training. Both trainees and trainers gave a very positive evaluation of this part of the training program, giving recommendations and expressing wishes to expand this training level to include further more specialized and focused trainings and to explore the possibility to invite international experienced trainers, who have work experiences in other parts of world.

### **Obstacles:**

Despite the expressed needs of lawyers for these trainings, it was clear that lawyers were not committed to attend the trainings sessions regularly. Stretching training sessions over 10 three-hour sessions was an onerous commitment for some lawyers. As a result, a restructuring of the format of the training was necessary. Using the model of the third training level sessions, which were held over 3 full consecutive days, it was decided that level one and two training sessions will be redesigned so that they can be completed in fewer sessions of longer duration. As a result to the suspension of the first level training program due to reasons mentioned above, Addameer staff will redesign the training program as a series of lectures and field trips to military courts which will be given to senior law students in cooperation with law schools at universities.

## Second Immediate Objective:

**Oppose violations resulting from policies and practices during arrest, imprisonment or trial that are in contravention of international humanitarian and human rights law.**

Over the course of many years opposing Israeli human rights violations, Addameer has come to believe that legal interventions on their own are not enough to prevent or deter the Israeli authorities' systematic practices of violating Palestinian prisoners' and detainees' rights, as well as those of their families. Instead, legal interventions must be accompanied by equally comprehensive work documenting violations and exposing them through international advocacy. Raising public awareness locally and internationally on the issue of Palestinian prisoners and Israel's violations against them, including details of the use of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, unfair trials, and abhorrent detention conditions, as well as the suffering of prisoners' and detainees' families, is a necessary step if we are to see any changes for prisoners and their families in this regard.

To be able to exert real pressure on Israeli occupation authorities to bring an end to systematic rights violations, the experience of these prisoners must be documented thoroughly and professionally. Precise and reliable information must be the foundation of reports and studies that detail and analyze the various aspects of violations against prisoners and their families. These reports and studies are the means to raise awareness amongst local and international communities and drive them to intervene and exert pressure on Israeli occupation authorities to end these practices.

During 2009, Addameer documented a significant amount of information on conditions of detention and stories of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli occupation authorities' prisons, detention and interrogation centers, and military courts. Addameer produced several publications and disseminated them to various bodies with the aim of increasing their knowledge of the issues and urging them to intervene.

In March 2009, Addameer launched the international Stop Administrative Detention (SAD) campaign, and issued many urgent calls on individual cases of detainees. Informative materials, letters, statements and calls to action were widely distributed, together with lobbying letters to various bodies. Addameer distributed individual case profiles and reports on cases of torture and arbitrary detention to UN bodies, EU institutions, diplomatic missions and international human rights organizations for use in their own advocacy and solidarity work.

Addameer notes that 2009 witnessed a slight positive change in the way international official bodies such as the International Parliamentarians Union, the EU Parliament and the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict started to address the issue of Palestinian prisoners. These changes show that international bodies are beginning to recognize the centrality of the Palestinian prisoner situation in any efforts to achieve a just peace. Addameer believes it played a crucial role in providing information and strong advocacy materials that led to this change.

### **Output One:**

#### **Monitoring, documentation and research/publications on human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees during and after arrest or imprisonment/detention.**

#### **Results:**

1. An increase in visits to detention centers and prisons by lawyers, and improvement of documentation procedures;
2. An increase in requests for information by institutions and bodies, and an increase in dissemination of the information; and,
3. Increased satisfaction and positive evaluation of the content and quality of information provided and increased trust in its reliability.

## Activities and Achievements:

Addameer lawyers conducted 143 visits to detention and interrogation centers and prisons in 2009, compared to 111 visits in 2008. During these visits, Addameer met with 363 detainees and prisoners, of the 474 prisoners and detainees the organization sought to meet.

In the annexed Table 1, numbers of visits by detention facility are detailed. Table 2 explains the visits by purpose, while Table 3 shows the numbers of visits compared to those who requested a visit. Finally, Table 4 compares visit statistics from 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Addameer visits detention and interrogation centers to monitor detention conditions in these facilities, and to document cases of torture and other violations of human rights perpetrated during arrest and detention. Twenty-four different categories of torture and ill-treatment were documented in 2009.

When conducting detention visits to assess the conditions, Addameer staff aim to monitor health and hygiene conditions in cells, and violations of prisoners' and detainees' human rights regarding the nature and quality of their surroundings and treatment. Addameer particularly monitors the use of isolation, denial of health care, denial of access to education, forms of punishment, access to and bans on family visits, as well as many other forms of systematic and cruel violations. Violations against families of prisoners and detainees – whether during arrest, at military court hearings, or en route to or during visits – are also closely monitored. Twenty different types of violations against families of prisoners and detainees were also documented in 2009.



During the year, Addameer lawyers collected 65 sworn affidavits from detainees and prisoners, as compared to 41 affidavits collected during 2008. Twenty-one of the sworn affidavits were collected from recently released prisoners and the families of detainees and prisoners.

Further, in its Monitoring and Documentation program, Addameer utilizes numerous sources of information to monitor violations of rights during arrest, interrogation and detention, including through cooperation with other organizations working on prisoners issues. In 2009, Addameer



regularly conducted visits to these organizations and recorded information, collected publications, and monitored material published on their websites or sent by email. Addameer also closely monitored written, audio and visual media reporting and records incidents after verifying the reliability of the reporting. After collecting information, the Monitoring and Documentation unit analyzes the information gathered, and records it using a specially developed database system.

One of the main outputs of this monitoring and documentation process is the production of detailed data relating to the imprisonment of Palestinians, including procedures of and human rights violations perpetrated during arrest and detention, and numerical and other data relating to the following classes of prisoners:

- prisoners held in isolation
- administrative detainees
- women prisoners
- child prisoners
- Palestinians resident in Gaza kept hostage as so-called 'unlawful combatants' under the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law of 2002

- prisoners detained for more than 20 years
- prisoners held since before the Oslo Accords in breach of past bilateral agreements
- members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)
- Palestinians from the 1948 territory, and,
- child administrative detainees.

This data is then used to prepare regular detailed reports on prisoners and detainees, prison conditions and international law violations perpetrated in prisons, and detention and interrogation canters. In 2009, Addameer published seven such reports. An annual report on the harsh treatment of, and international humanitarian and human rights law violations committed by Israel against, Palestinian prisoners, detainees, their families and communities during 2009 is to be published in 2010.

During 2009, Addameer published (in print and/or on its website) 20 profiles of administrative detainees as part of the organization's 'Stop Administrative Detention' campaign. Throughout the year, these profiles were updated to reflect new developments in detainees' conditions. Amongst the profiles published in 2009 were the stories of five female administrative detainees. Also published were profiles on child administrative detainees, PLC members under administrative detention, and some of the longest-serving administrative detainees.

Information collected and stored in the monitoring and documentation process was also used by Addameer in 2009 in the annual testimony it provides to the UN Special Committee set up to investigate Israel's practices in 1967 occupied Palestinian territory. Furthermore, Addameer relied on this collected information to testify before the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict in relation to alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Israel during the assault on Gaza. Amongst other things, Addameer provided the UN Fact Finding Mission with the names of persons detained during the assault on Gaza and those individuals who were used as human shields. The UN Fact Finding Mission later interviewed those individuals when visited Gaza to continue its investigations. As the Mission was banned entry into either of 1948 areas or 1967 occupied West Bank, Addameer helped in making contact with individuals who were later called for interviews with the Mission in Amman, Jordan.

Since 2007, Addameer has worked in partnership with Palestinian Counseling Center (PCC) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on its 'Protection of Palestinian Female Prisoners and Detainees in Israeli Prisons' project. In 2009, in the second phase of the project, Addameer conducted 137 visits to the two prisons where women prisoners are held, Damon and HaSharon. These visits enabled Addameer staff to document the conditions of detention and treatment of women prisoners. This information was then disseminated to other concerned organisations, especially to groups engaged in letter writing campaigns to prisoners coordinated by Addameer. Addameer staff gave special attention during documentation and reporting to health and hygiene conditions, and closely examined all cases of emergency medical situations where consultation with external doctors had take place. In the last quarter of 2009, Addameer held a workshop with former female prisoners and detainees in order to hear direct accounts of detention conditions in an environment more amenable to communication than typical lawyer visits. At the conclusion of the workshop, the women in attendance provided recommendations on improvements which could be made to Addameer's protection of women in detention program.

In addition, Addameer's documentation and research officers provided many local researchers, university students, press and others with detailed documents and analysis upon request. Addameer lawyers and documentation officers also provided a training on best documentation practices and standards for sworn affidavits to lawyers participating in a training program with the local organization leaders. Similar training was provided to law students participating in the human rights clinic at Al Quds University, with whom Addameer cooperates on various projects.

Addameer also continued to cooperate with the Ministry of Culture and other cultural institutions to collect and publish literature of prisoners.

### **Obstacles:**

Noticeable progress has been made in Addameer's monitoring and documentation activities. In 2009, more visits to detention facilities were conducted than in previous years, and the data

collection and analysis improved in terms of the scope of data collected and analyzed. However, certain obstacles are still affecting this work, such as a lack of field workers and the slow development of a database system which will ease the burden of filing and analyzing the data. Addameer continues to work on the development of the database system and has stepped up its efforts in 2010 to complete and implement the improved database.

Furthermore, the progress in monitoring and documentation is paralleled by the progress of the organization as a whole, and brings with it new pressure in the increasing demands for precise and reliable information. This increasing responsibility demands that the monitoring and documentation team, comprising lawyers and documentation officers, have even better skills, training and expertise. The need for Addameer to have additional highly skilled qualified fieldworkers, as well as legal team members responsible for visits to detention facilities for documentation purposes, has also become apparent. These demands will be addressed as part of the assessment of Addameer's organizational development in mid-2011.

## **Output Two:**

**Build local, international and regional networks of organizations that work on and support issues related to prisoners and detainees**

### **Results:**

1. Activate existing networks and coalitions;
2. Expand solidarity networks; and,
3. Create new networks based on need and potential.

## Activities and Achievements:

Addameer believes that the issue of Palestinian political prisoners is inseparable from the broader picture of the human rights situation for all Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. Therefore Addameer believes that work on Palestinian human rights cannot be addressed without fully incorporating the issue of Palestinian prisoners. With this understanding, and through its role within Palestinian civil society and participation in various coalitions and networks, in 2009 Addameer continued to advocate for bringing Palestinian prisoners issue to the forefront of the political consciousness of Palestinian civil society. Addameer also continued its programs to mobilize support for and solidarity with prisoners and their families.

At present, Addameer is a member of several networks and coalitions, such as the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO), the Palestinian Higher Committee of Prisoners' Affairs, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, the Palestinian Coalition Against Torture, the Palestinian Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the Protection Cluster Working Group under the coordination of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Working Group under UN SC Resolution 1612 on the protection of children in armed conflicts.

As an elected member of the Steering Committee of PNGO, Addameer not only shares and disseminates information on prisoners among PNGO members, but also meets with international delegations visiting PNGO to provide information and updates on the situation of Palestinian prisoners. In its work representing PNGO locally, regionally and internationally, Addameer ensures that the issue of Palestinian prisoners is at the forefront of the minds of the delegates and others it encounters.

In addition, as a member of the Palestinian Higher Committee on Prisoners' Affairs, Addameer participates in the regular meetings of the Committee, where common action plans are devised. This forum also meets to devise and implement emergency actions in situations such as prisoner hunger strikes and boycotts of family visits or military court hearings. As the Secretariat of the Legal Sub-Committee, Addameer leads meetings where legal strategies and actions are planned.

As a member of the Secretariat of the Palestinian Coalition Against Torture, Addameer participated during 2009 in preparing the Coalition's Memorandum of Understanding and led the preparation of the Coalition's annual work plan. As part of organizations' joint action within the Coalition, the Coalition presented a paper concerning torture of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons at the First International Conference on Prisoners held in November 2009, a paper that included significant contributions from Addameer.

The November conference was held under the initiative of Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' and Former Prisoners' Affairs, in cooperation with local institutions working on issues of concern to prisoners. Addameer worked as part of the preparatory committee for the conference, and presented a paper on 'The Israeli Military Legal System and Palestinian Prisoners' at the conference.

In 2009, Addameer applied for membership of Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) but the application was unfortunately not accepted as the Network felt there were already too many Palestinian member organizations relative to the total number of represented organizations. Nevertheless Addameer continues to work closely with the network and regularly provides it with information and appeals that are then taken up and lobbied for by the entire Network.

Throughout the year, Addameer also continued to communicate and cooperate with the Observatory project of World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) on issues of human rights defenders, especially cases related to detention of activists active against the Annexation Wall.

As a member of International Platform Against Isolation, Addameer participated in two international conferences during 2009, one in Turkey and another in London. Addameer's presentation concerned the use of isolation against Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. At both conferences, Addameer also disseminated the joint study by Addameer and Physicians for Human Rights—Israel (PHR) published in 2008 concerning isolation and its psychological effects on prisoners.

In 2009, Addameer also provided data relating to child prisoners and detainees to the 1612 Working Group.<sup>3</sup> Addameer further presented data to the Protection Cluster Working Group concerning the use of Gazan prisoners as human shields during the assault on the Gaza Strip, and the use of the 'unlawful combatants law' to detain Gaza hostages or to continue the detention of Gazan prisoners who have completed serving their sentences.

### **Obstacles:**

Despite the notable success Addameer enjoyed in working with large networks concerned with the Palestinian human rights situation in general and prisoners' rights in particular, and Addameer's provision of timely and reliable information to these networks, organization staff found that working as part of several coalitions and networks proved to be time-consuming and difficult. Often this work exerted significant additional pressure on the Addameer team and consumed more time and energy than Addameer could readily devote. Addameer continues to evaluate its position within these networks and coalitions in an attempt to achieve best practices and opportunities possible for sharing work between member organizations, and to ensure the best use of time and resources amongst the members of these networks and coalitions.

### **Output Three:**

#### **Establish local, regional and international awareness campaigns**

##### **Results:**

1. Increase the number of participants in campaign activities; and,
2. Increase requests for information and campaign materials to organization.

3. 1612 working group is a workgroup established from local and international organizations and facilitated by OHCHR to follow up on UN SC resolution 1612 on the protection of children in armed conflicts.

## Activities and Achievements:

### Stop Administrative Detention (SAD) Campaign

On 26 March 2009, Addameer launched its international Stop Administrative Detention (SAD) campaign in Ramallah with the participation of both former administrative detainees and families of current administrative detainees, in conjunction with local and international human rights organizations. Seventy five representatives of UN bodies, diplomatic missions and human rights organizations were present, and the event was covered by local and international media. At the launch, Addameer presented background information on administrative detention under Israeli military orders, distributed campaign materials, elucidated its strategies, campaign goals and recommendations, and called on other concerned groups to participate in the campaign.



Parallel to the launch event, Addameer organized a street activity in the center of Ramallah. A tent was erected at the entrance of Baladna Cultural Center, and staff and volunteers distributing leaflets and campaign material and a 'Know Your Rights' booklet on administrative detention to passers-by. Interviews were conducted with people on the street or in the tent, and staff recorded information on several cases of former administrative detainees and many cases of relatives of administrative detainees. Dozens of passers-by registered their names and contact details and offered their help in promoting the campaign in different locales throughout the occupied West Bank.

## Speaking Tours

Two speaking tours – in Europe and North America – were organized for 2009 in the framework of the SAD Campaign and the issue of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees, with a particular focus on detained women and children.

The first speaking tour took place in July in France and Denmark. In France, the tour was organized in cooperation with France-Palestine Solidarity Association (AFPS). During the tour, Addameer held public talks in four cities and towns addressing the public, interested activists and local and regional press. In the French city of Quimper, Addameer attended a meeting with the deputy mayor. Addameer also gave a presentation at the 'Fête de l'Humanité' in La Courneuve organized by the Communist Party of France. Meanwhile, at the festival, AFPS and other organizations mobilized around the issue of Palestinian political prisoners and undertook a range of relevant activities in partnership with Addameer. The central activity organized was a letter writing campaign to Israeli officials demanding the end of administrative detention. Organizers prepared pro-forma letters and distributed them at the festival. Attendees could then sign and post the letters in their own names. The organizers also distributed Addameer publications and campaign materials, particularly Addameer's report on the condition of women prisoners and a short film on administrative detention.

In Denmark the speaking tour was organized in cooperation with the International Forum and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). In addition to speaking at various public meetings, Addameer met with Amnesty Denmark, Human Rights Watch and the Danish-Palestinian Friendship Organization, as well as with several Danish politicians. Given its findings on Palestinian political prisoners, the Report of the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict (the Goldstone Report) emerged as a central discussion topic in meetings with politicians in Denmark. During meetings with Danish politicians, including former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Mognes Lykketoft, officials at the Middle East Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, parliamentarians such as Frank Aaen of the Red Green Alliance, and Pernille Frahm of Socialist People's Party, Addameer strongly urged that they endorse the Report and pressure the Danish government to do so. Addameer also gave three press

interviews with Danish media and widely disseminated SAD campaign material and other Addameer publications.

The second speaking tour, during November 2009, included talks in eleven cities across the United States. Addameer engaged in public lectures on university campuses, at community centers, cultural institutes, and churches, among other venues. In Chicago, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Minneapolis, New York City, Philadelphia, Youngstown, Detroit, College Park, Washington DC, Columbus, and Portland, Addameer presented over 20 public talks to human rights activists, university students bodies, churches and community organizations, as well as to Palestinian community organizations.

Addameer also held meetings with solidarity organizations and activists groups, including Students for Justice in Palestine at several campuses, Arab Culture and Community Center, Break the Siege, Freedom Archives, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, Arab Resource and Organizing Center, Anti-War Committee, San Francisco 8 Defense Committee, Women Against Military Madness, Al-Aqsa Institute, Coalition for Palestinian Rights, Al-Awdah Network, United States Palestinian Communities Network, the Chicago Solidarity Group, the Center for Constitutional Rights, Palestine Office, Jewish Voice for Peace, the Committee for Justice in Palestine, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Al-Nakba Awareness Project, Desis Rising Up and Moving, the Jericho Movement, New York City Labor Against the War, and the Palestine Right to Return Coalition.

Addameer also gave lectures at campuses with the cooperation of university law departments, Middle East Studies departments and Arab-Israeli Conflict Studies programs. Press and radio interviews were given in each city, one of which was broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR). Full recordings of lectures and interviews were also aired on community radio stations and television networks. As in Europe, Addameer distributed its publications extensively.

## **Campaign Publicity Materials**

Addameer sent out nine urgent appeals on behalf of administrative detainees during the year

and created five case studies of the 20 overall profiles prepared earlier. The appeals, case studies and profiles were printed and disseminated and on the website. Updating those profiles and case studies continued as well as preparing new ones for publication.

Addameer also sent all materials, case studies, urgent appeals and profiles to EU Parliamentarians and committees, the EU Commission and its offices, various UN bodies, local and international human rights and civil organizations, diplomatic missions, and to third country parliamentarians and decision makers. Many of the urgent appeals have subsequently been redistributed by international organizations either by email or on their websites. Solidarity organizations and others, including International Lawyers for Palestine, World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), also issued statements based on information provided by Addameer in these materials.

During 2009, Addameer disseminated more than 600 folders of SAD Campaign materials and other publications, with a particular focus on Addameer's women prisoners study, to international activists and delegations visiting Addameer and the occupied Palestinian territory.

### **Briefings and Delegations**

Addameer also briefed EU Commission delegates in Tel Aviv on the issue of Palestinian political prisoners, especially administrative detainees, and children and women prisoners and detainees. EU parliamentarians who visited Palestine in 2009 were briefed on the same.

### **Campaign for Human Rights Defenders**

Following the arrest and detention of activists Mohammad Othman, Jamal Juma' and Abdallah Abu Rahma, Addameer – in cooperation with Stop The Wall – launched a local and international campaign to defend Palestinian activists persecuted and imprisoned for their work in organizing resistance against the Annexation Wall and/or protesting house demolitions and the displacement of families. As well as defending individuals and securing the release of these activists, this campaign allowed Addameer to illuminate the illegalities and injustice inherent in the Israeli military legal system, and identify the Israeli policy of using administrative detention

when no charges could be laid. Addameer also identified different means of torture and ill-treatment used by Israeli Security Agency (ISA) officers, and isolation, denial of access to legal counsel, and deliberately unfair trials – all methods of deterring human rights defence work and civil activism among Palestinians.

In the short period between launch of the Human Rights Defenders campaign in late 2009 and the end of the year in review, Addameer issued seven statements on human rights defenders, three of which were issued jointly with Stop The Wall, and one issued jointly with the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council. Most of these statements were reproduced and disseminated by other organizations and groups like the International Solidarity Movement, Electronic Intifada, Jewish Voice for Peace, the Palestine Solidarity Network, Occupation Magazine, and many others.

Since the beginning of the campaign, Addameer has built and strengthened its relation with the UK, Swedish, and Spanish Consulates in Jerusalem, and with the German Representative Office in Ramallah, in addition to its already established relations with Irish and Dutch Representative Offices in Ramallah. Addameer provided these offices with information on the cases of human rights defenders, briefed them regularly with updates, and encouraged them to attend military court hearings as observers, an invitation which many representatives and their nationals working in Palestine accepted.

In December 2009 Addameer, together with Stop The Wall, hosted a meeting with EU country representatives from the Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, Spain and Italy, along with an officer from the Canadian Representative Office in Ramallah. During the meeting, Addameer briefed attendees on cases of incarcerated human rights defenders and Palestinian civil activists and the Israeli military legal system. Addameer's briefing also included discussion of the UN and EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. Addameer urged the diplomatic representatives take required measures to defend the persecuted activists. Following this meeting, the EU representatives established a rotating military tribunal monitoring mechanism whereby EU diplomats regularly attend military tribunals to observe the cases of detained human rights defenders.

In 2009, Addameer also briefed a larger European diplomatic representatives group at the EU

Commission Offices in Jerusalem. The briefing included a summary of Addameer's findings on arrests and detention of human rights defenders, the use of administrative detention as a form of arbitrary detention, and an overview of the Israeli military court system. The UK Consulate General in Jerusalem, leading the newly implemented rotating monitoring mechanism, played an active role in following up on these cases. They arranged for other diplomats to attend and themselves attended many military court hearings and the High Court, and then reported to their headquarters on their observations. Other missions, like the Representative Office of Germany in Ramallah and the Consulate General of Spain, also became active on these cases. As a result, human rights defender Mohammad Othman's then-ongoing administrative detention was discussed during questioning in the German Bundestag. In the Scottish Parliament, two discussions of Othman's case resulted in two bills; S3m-5062 Bill Wilson, and S3M-5330 Bill Wilson.<sup>4</sup>

Addameer believes that these activities and the campaign on human rights defenders and related interventions played a major role in securing the release of Mohammad Othman and Jamal Juma' from detention in early January 2010.

Addameer also briefed local and international human rights organizations on the detention of human rights defenders in 2009. Machsom Watch and the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, both Israeli nongovernmental organizations, used information collected by Addameer to write letters to Israeli officials demanding policy changes in regards to human rights defenders. On 4 December 2009, Human Rights Watch issued a statement on behalf of Mohammad Othman using information provided by Addameer. Though not citing Addameer explicitly, instead referring to "a reliable source", OMCT sent out two urgent appeals, on 1 and 23 December 2009, on the cases of Mohammad Othman and Jamal Juma' using information provided by Addameer. Also on the basis of information provided by Addameer, Front Line Defenders issued two calls for urgent intervention on these cases, and Amnesty International published a statement and a call for action on human rights defenders in the occupied Palestinian territory.

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<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/motionsandamendments/motions.htm>.

Among the various media outlets that published material on human rights defenders and quoted Addameer, Der Spiegel's (Germany) article on 23 December and Le Monde's (France) article on 30 December, both concerning the arrest and detention of activists against the Wall, were noteworthy. Associated Press, Radio France International and Media Line were also among the many media sources publishing stories using information from and quoting Addameer.

## **Letter Writing Campaign**

During 2009, Addameer continued to coordinate international letter writing campaigns to Palestinian women prisoners, child prisoners, administrative detainees and victims of torture and ill-treatment. For its female prisoner letter writing campaign, Addameer updates lists of names and addresses of women prisoners and provides this information each month to networks of activists in France, Belgium, Austria and Switzerland. These activists write letters regularly to women prisoners expressing their concern and solidarity. Additionally, in collaboration with another activist network in France, a lobbying-letters writing campaign for child administrative detainees is ongoing.

In 2009, Addameer reached out to new activist groups in countries including Britain, Canada and the United States to expand its international solidarity campaign work to include a new letter writing campaign to administrative detainees and human rights defenders.

Addameer believes that the exchange of letters between prisoners and solidarity workers helps to break the isolation of the detention experience and offers prisoners and detainees the opportunity to communicate with the outside world. It also brings some comfort to those in detention to know that their suffering and that of their family does not go unnoticed or uncared about by the international community.

## **Obstacles:**

The main obstacles to Addameer's local and international awareness raising campaigns remain the limited resources available to the organization, both human and financial. The frequency



and wide range of violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees deserve to be addressed through specified awareness campaigns, which require significant human and financial resources.

Another obstacle is related to accessibility and travel issues. Travel and speaking tours and strong media relations are requirements for a good campaign; however, travel expenses for such tours are very high and movement restrictions cause problems for many of Addameer's senior staff.

While Palestinian staff face these often significant movement and travel restrictions and sometimes struggle with linguistic challenges, international staff face entry visa problems that ban them being able to stay and work for extended periods of time. As a result, the organization must periodically recruit new international advocacy officers and good campaigners to replace those denied entry, interrupting the important ongoing work of maintaining effective international campaigns.

## **Output Four:**

**Generate international public support to bring Israel to account and to pressure it to change its policies and practices.**

### **Results:**

1. An increase in reports and individual complaints distributed to concerned international organizations, including UN bodies;
2. An increase in requests from international official institutions for information from Addameer; and,
3. An increase in decisions and statements by international official institutions condemning Israeli occupation violations and demanding it change its practices.

### **Activities and Achievements:**

Addameer displayed noticeable improvement in performance of this objective during 2009. Throughout the year, Addameer went to great lengths to institutionalize its lobbying and accountability program and now has in place a formal program of providing regular reports to UN bodies and filing individual complaints on behalf of victims.

One of the main achievements during 2009 on this level was the active participation and contribution by Addameer in the international investigation of the Israeli assault on Gaza. Soon after the announcement that the UN Human Rights Council had established a fact finding mission headed by Justice Goldstone, the Secretariat of this mission contacted Addameer and asked for information on violations against detainees that took place during the assault on

Gaza. Addameer provided the Committee with information on the Israeli use of detainees as human shields during the 23-day aggression; the Fact Finding Mission later interviewed those victims when it visited Gaza. In July 2009, Addameer also provided testimony before the Fact Finding Mission in a closed session in Amman and in an open session in Geneva. That testimony included a comprehensive background on the issue of Palestinian detainees and prisoners and the Israeli court system, violations of international law perpetrated against Palestinian prisoners, and racist Israeli policies of Israel that affect Palestinians. In its final report issued in September 2009, the Fact Finding Mission included a full chapter on prisoners and detainees, relying in large part on information provided by Addameer. Moreover, in the report, the Fact Finding Mission called on Israel to end its human rights violations against prisoners and detainees and called for their release. Addameer has since worked actively, both alone and jointly with other organizations, in a continuous campaign to force Israel to implement the Report's recommendations through meetings with international diplomats and lobbying letters to various Parliamentarians and officials.



During 2009, Addameer also continued its cooperation with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Jerusalem, providing it with regular updates on the issue of prisoners and detainees. Addameer updates were featured in the March issue of OCHA's Humanitarian Report, which addressed Addameer's SAD Campaign, and the October issue, which discussed Addameer's Human Rights Defenders Campaign.

Cooperation with OHCHR has also continued on many levels, including regular briefings that keep the local office up-to-date on arrests and detentions during the assault on Gaza and local complaints filed against various Israeli authorities and the replies received.

## Reports and UN Links

In February 2009, Addameer filed a shadow report to UN Human Rights Council for use in the Council's Universal Periodic Review of Israel.

In addition, in cooperation with the United Against Torture Coalition, Addameer filed a shadow report to the UN Committee Against Torture, who was reviewing Israel's report on its implementation of the UN Convention Against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The shadow report was filed in April 2009, and included information and analysis on the ongoing use of torture by Israeli authorities against Palestinian women prisoners.

In June 2009, Addameer also filed a report submission on Israeli military orders and the military court system to the UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers.

In July 2009, Addameer submitted a report concerning Israel's practices and policies in the occupied Palestinian territory as they relate to its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to the Human Rights Committee, the UN body charged with monitoring State implementation of the ICCPR.

As in past years, in July 2009 Addameer presented its annual testimony to the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories during the Committee's hearing in Amman, Jordan.

Throughout the year, Addameer continued to publish and disseminate information to human rights organizations, diplomats, and the press. Addameer also published three major reports in 2009, and continued to disseminate earlier publications such as its studies on women prisoners, isolation and the legal status of administrative detention.

### **The major reports and papers published by Addameer in 2009 concerned:**

- Arrests and detention of activists against the building of the illegal Annexation Wall, published on 9 July 2009, the fifth anniversary of ICJ ruling on the illegality of the Wall

and settlements;

- Israeli military judicial system and international law, published in November 2009;
- Prisoner releases and the 'peace' negotiations process, published in December 2009;
- The use of isolation and solitary confinement against Palestinian prisoners and detainees;
- The right to education for Palestinian children in Israeli prisons (final draft).

In addition to the formal publication of these papers and distribution to concerned bodies, the reports were widely disseminated to politicians, activists, UN committees and others through Addameer's mailing list, as well as being published on Addameer's website.

### **Solidarity Groups and Visiting Delegations**

In 2009, Addameer organized and received 31 international delegations from several European and North American countries. Addameer briefed these delegations on a variety of topics related to the situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including the use of torture, arbitrary detention, the military courts system, unfair trials, health conditions in detention, and family visit policies. Special focus was often given to the state of women and child detainees in Israeli prisons. Additionally, Addameer staff answered the inquiries of dozens of individual researchers, human rights activists, students and academics on a daily basis.

### **Conferences, Workshops and Seminars**

Throughout the year, Addameer took part in, attended, and contributed to many conferences, workshops, or seminars on human rights issues, both locally and internationally, including:

- A workshop at the EU Parliament, organized by the EU Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee on 29 April in Brussels, Belgium, under the title of "Palestine 2009: How to Break the Vicious Circle". Addameer was invited by the organizers to present a paper on the issue of prisoners;
- An international conference titled "Re-Envisioning Israel/Palestine" organized by Human Sciences Research Council in Cape Town in South Africa. Addameer presented the case of Palestinian prisoners as an example Israel's colonial apartheid policies as evidenced in the Israeli military court system used against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank;

- An international conference organized by the Arab Association for Human Rights held in Qatar to address the effects of the Israeli assault on Gaza;
- A regional conference on “Draft UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Measures other than Detention for Women Breaking the Law” organized by International Organization for Criminal Justice Reform held in Amman, Jordan. Addameer provided comments on the draft rules taking into consideration the status and conditions of Palestinian women prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centers;
- A workshop in November 2009 organized by EUROMED and APRODEV in Beit Jala, Palestine, entitled “Lobbying and Advocacy in the European Union”;
- The first international conference on Palestinian political prisoners, organized by Palestinian Authority Ministry of Detainees’ and Ex-Detainees Affairs in cooperation with human rights organizations, held in Jericho between 23 to 26 of November 2009. Addameer presented a paper on Israeli military orders and the military court system; and,
- Two international conferences on isolation, the first in July 2009 in Turkey and the second in December 2009 in London, organized by International Solidarity with Political Prisoners. Addameer gave presentations on the use of isolation and solitary confinement by against Palestinian political prisoners Israeli prison authorities and presented a study on the medical effects of isolation on Palestinian prisoners.

### Statements and Press Releases

Addameer issued 19 public statements in 2009, seven of which were jointly issued with Stop The Wall and related to the detention of activists Mohammad Othman and Jamal Juma’. While a few of Addameer’s statements concerned specific detainees, other statements covered various aspects of the Palestinian political prisoner issue in general, including statements on the Goldstone Report and the assault on Gaza, and statements marking special occasions such as Palestinian Political Prisoners Day and the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Fourth Geneva Conventions in August 1949.

Additionally, Addameer participated in 15 other joint statements within the Palestinian Human

Rights Organizations Council, which, on occasion, organizations who are not members of the Council also joined. Some of these statements were addressed to UN member states, contracting parties to the Geneva Conventions and diplomatic missions in the occupied Palestinian territory. Several joint statements were also addressed to the UN Human Rights Council, particularly in relation to the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, which was sponsored by the Council, and the Mission's recommendations. These statements formed part of collaborative efforts amongst human rights organizations to utilize a collective lobbying voice when addressing international policy makers in the attempt to secure support for the various human rights issues facing Palestinian people.

Addameer also continued providing media outlets with information on the issue of prisoners, especially on urgent cases and on special occasions. In addition to sending out all communication to media mailing lists, Addameer conducted more than 64 direct interviews with various media outlets and radio and television channels. Addameer was specifically quoted in more than 126 news stories during the year. As mentioned earlier, articles in major international newspapers and outlets covering Addameer's work were notable in the cases of Stop Administrative Detention and Human Rights Defenders Campaigns. These media outlets and channels were local, regional and international, including Al Jazeera (Arabic and English), Nile, MBC, Der Spiegel and Le Monde.

In addition, Addameer provided information for photographers and film makers and arranged for interviews with former detainees and families of prisoners for several documentaries.

Further, Addameer published the first issue of an electronic newsletter, which will be condensed into Quarterly Updates, which included information and news on Addameer's major activities



and accomplishments with a special focus on child detainees, women prisoners, administrative detention, human rights defenders, torture, and updated statistics. In future issues, the Quarterly Update will be published in a special section on the organization's website and will be disseminated widely through Addameer's mailing list.

During 2009, Addameer also developed a program for local and international interns. In 2009 alone, 10 interns were hosted at the organization for various periods of time, providing them with work experience and benefiting from their help in field research, documentation, legal research, writing of profile and case studies, daily media monitoring and other tasks.

### **Obstacles:**

Despite the many achievements and the improvement in Addameer's work in international advocacy and lobbying, certain obstacles remain. Most notably, the number of 'special' cases that should be the subject of intensive lobbying and advocacy are in fact very high. Though this should be an opportunity, limited human resources prevent the organization from addressing a larger number of high-urgency cases and bringing them to the attention of the public and decision and policy makers. Because Addameer does not have a dedicated Media Officer per se, this has revealed a clear gap in the work the organization is able to do, especially on the local level, where statements in Arabic are rarely issued. Considering Addameer's significant successes on the level of international advocacy, this issue will have to be addressed and resolved in the near future.



## **Second General Objective:**

**Ensure that the legislation, policies and practices of the Palestinian Authority pertaining to arrest, detention, imprisonment and punishment are in line with international human rights law**

It is almost impossible to build society based on principles of democracy, the rule of law and the protection of basic rights and freedoms when this society has been under a colonial settler military occupation for more than 42 years. The ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestine has massive security, economic and political ramifications on Palestinian society, ramifications that have been compounded by a number of political agreements brokered by international governments and the Palestinian Authority (PA) which require the PA to implement policies that violate both the individual and collective rights of the Palestinian people.

Moreover, internal Palestinian political factionalism, which has escalated since 2007, has further enabled the ongoing violation of human rights in occupied Palestine. Particular problems in regards to protecting human rights have been encountered with PA President Mahmoud Abbas issuing decrees as de facto laws that have worsened Palestinian society's human rights situation, especially in relation to arrest, detention, interrogation and judiciary procedures. Authorizing security forces to arrest and detain people contrary to regulations prescribed by Palestinian laws such as the law that an arrest order must be issued by the general prosecutor, or to try civilians in military tribunals, has given the PA security forces the freedom to conduct arbitrary arrest and detention campaigns. Such arrests were prevalent in 2009.

However, with the total paralysis of an independent legislative authority within Palestinian territory, it has become clear that enshrining the rule of law and protecting basic rights and freedoms is close to impossible.

Addameer's primary work under this objective, which focused on monitoring cases of political arrests and detentions and using the Palestinian civil court system to argue the illegality of arbitrary detention before the Palestinian High Court, was relatively successful during 2009. Addameer also actively participated in many joint efforts with human rights organizations and civil society institutions to pressure the PA, especially its executive branch, to end abusive practices. Some of these lobbying efforts, particularly in relation to the PA's use of torture, were successful, albeit on a small scale.

## First Immediate Objective

### **Develop a Palestinian judicial system that guarantees accountability for the violations of rights enshrined in international human rights law**

As discussed above, the paralysis of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) since the factional fighting that erupted following the January 2006 Palestinian elections has obstructed any democratic process that might enable new legislation under Palestinian Basic Law. As it stands, current Palestinian law does not effectively protect Palestinians against certain human rights violations. For example, although torture is illegal under the Basic Law, under the Criminal Code currently in effect in the West Bank, there is no clear article stating that torture constitutes a crime, nor is there any article that details procedures for holding investigators accountable for the use of torture.

For this reason, in 2009, Addameer actively called for amending the current legislation to clearly criminalize torture. The campaign involved sending letters to, and raising the issue at meetings with, relevant policy makers and executive authority officials. In these venues, Addameer clearly criticized the PA's use of torture and was adamant that internal disciplinary measures within each security apparatus cannot replace effective legislative and judicial oversight.

Addameer also publicly condemned the Palestinian security forces' use of the military justice system to detain and prosecute civilians and filed dozens of appeals to Palestinian High Court protesting against the detention of civilians based on orders issued by the military Attorney-General. Although Addameer was successful in securing rulings from the High Court ordering the release of political detainees on the basis that their detention under military orders constituted illegal arbitrary detention, security forces routinely refused to implement these court rulings and manoeuvred around them. In each case, this manoeuvring required Addameer to write letters to various authorities objecting to these practices and demanding the release of political detainees. Recipients of these letters included the Prime Minister, the Minister of Interior, and various heads of the security forces. Addameer also met with the Prime Minister

to discuss the issue in further detail. As the year came to end, despite Addameer's repeated appeals to executive authority officials, these practices continued with impunity. In 2010, Addameer will continue to exert pressure on the executive branch to secure the rule of law and defend basic freedoms, with the cooperation of other civil society institutions, community mobilization and the judiciary.

## **Output One:**

### **Provide legal aid for political detainees and regular monitoring of conditions**

#### **Results:**

1. Increase in number of cases brought to the judicial system; increase in successes of these cases;
2. Increase in number of complaints against violations of rights; increase in positive results; and,
3. Increase in numbers of visits to detention and interrogation centers; increase in documentation of violations.

#### **Activities and Achievements:**

Addameer did not set a target number of cases of PA political detention in its 2009 work plan. This was due to two factors: (1) the difficulty of predicting the scale of arrests, since it is dependent on political reality, and (2) not being confident of Addameer's ability to follow cases due to obstructions and restrictions on this type of work imposed by the PA. Therefore, the number of cases Addameer followed during the year cannot be measured against a planned number to assess successes and failures.

However, in 2009, Addameer received 229 new cases of political detention under the PA, and continued to follow up on two cases that had been received in 2008. Thus Addameer followed 231 cases of PA detention during the year.

In addition, Addameer filed 84 appeals to the Palestinian High Court during the year protesting illegal detention and lack of due process, and appeared in 227 court hearing sessions. In the 56 cases, the High Court ordered the immediate release of the detainee involved. Nonetheless, as discussed, in the vast majority of those cases, security forces refused to implement court orders altogether. In other cases, the security forces filed paperwork indicating that they released the detainees only to actually keep them in detention under “new” arrest orders. In several documented cases, detainees were brought to the gates of the prison to be released only to be immediately re-arrested. A number of detainees that were actually released were also repeatedly arrested by different security branches.

In each case where the High Court ordered a release, Addameer wrote to the Prime Minister’s office requesting his intervention to ensure respect for the court’s decision and the rule of law. As a result, some improvement could be noticed in the behaviour of security forces in relation to implementing court orders. However, Addameer also experienced even more restrictions on their work imposed by security officials as a result.

In 2009, Addameer also filed 205 complaints to the Attorney-General against arbitrary detention, only to receive – after great delay – almost identical responses declaring that the person in question was detained under the military justice system or by orders of Military Attorney-General, and asserting that their detention is legal. These PA responses uniformly ignored the civilian status of the detainee.

In addition, Addameer filed dozens of requests to visit detainees in PA detention centers across the West Bank and operated by various security apparatus. However, with nearly every visit request, regardless of whether those detainees were under interrogation or not, each time Addameer found itself in a dead end. In the vast majority of the cases followed by Addameer, lawyers did not manage to meet with or visit their client while they were in detention. This

consistent ban indicated that a systematic policy of ignoring visit requests was clearly in place by the PA executive.

For this reason, Addameer managed to conduct only eight visits to a total of 17 detainees in PA detention during 2009. Repeated communications with the Minister of Interior and officials and legal advisors from the PA security forces detaining Addameer clients had no positive results. On the contrary, whenever Addameer attorneys made further attempts or filed complaints protesting the ban on visiting detainees, even more restrictions were imposed and the Addameer's work to defend these clients became obstructed even further. PA security forces employed a number of methods of intimidation against Addameer attorneys, and even employed personal threats and intimidation against an Addameer lawyer.

Through these very limited visits with individuals under PA detention, and through many meetings with released detainees, Addameer found that many violations of detainees' rights had taken place while they were held in PA detention, including the systematic use of torture and ill-treatment. Of the dozens of detainees interviewed by Addameer in detention or upon their release, only 18 agreed to give sworn affidavits on the treatment they were subjected to in detention; the remaining detainees feared re-arrest and further torture or threats should they swear an affidavit. Detainees who reported the torture they suffered to their lawyers during visits following their release were frequently re-interrogated by PA security forces, tortured again and threatened with further torture if they ever spoke of what happened to them in detention. Many of those detainees who were further abused after speaking of their torture later sent messages to Addameer and/or their lawyer asking them not to use the information they had communicated.

### **Obstacles:**

The relative success Addameer had in securing release for a number of PA political detainees through its legal interventions contributed to a gradual rise in the numbers of detainees requesting Addameer's legal counsel. This rise led to a severe burden on the human resources of the legal team; with its current staff Addameer cannot properly respond to this level of need to provide

competent legal counsel. Since an expansion of the legal team was not financially feasible, Addameer was forced to consider limiting the number of cases to which it could devote sufficient time in 2010 should the scale of political arrests and detention remain at 2009 levels. A decision to turn down requests for help from political detainees would obviously be an excruciating one for Addameer, but it may become necessary given Addameer's current human capacity.

As discussed extensively above, the main obstacle Addameer faced was the obstructions to visits to detainees due to the policies of the security forces and executive authority, an obstacle that remains entirely outside the control of the organization. For this reason, Addameer plans during 2010 to continue its lobbying pressure on all official levels in an effort to alleviate and overcome this obstacle and force a change in the policy.

## **Output Two:**

### **Participate in cooperation with others in developing relevant legislation.**

#### **Results:**

1. Propose amendments to existing laws and draft new laws and procedures in related topics; and,
2. Actively participate in workshops organized for this purpose.

#### **Activities and Achievements:**

Because the PLC has been paralyzed for several years, no new laws or amendments to existing laws have been passed in recent years, and attempts by Addameer and other organizations to draft proposals to amend legislation have also suffered. A number of Presidential Decrees were issued during this period to make new arrangements for law creation. However, Addameer

has been extremely critical of these decrees as it believes that this method of legislating has extremely negative effects on the principle of separation of powers and on Palestinian democracy itself. Addameer has expressed its strong objections to these methods of law-making in cooperation with other coalitions and networks such as PNGO Network and Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council.

Nevertheless, the Ministry of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs continued to organize workshops to discuss a law for Prisoners and Released Prisoners, where certain preferential rights and services are guaranteed, and ways of re-integration into the society after release. Addameer participated in those workshops, presented its comments on the law itself and proposals, and comments on the draft procedures.

During 2009, Addameer also closely cooperated with the Coalition to Draft a New Criminal Code, a coalition of Palestinian organizations formed in 2001 for this purpose. Addameer actively campaigned for the Coalition to include torture as a crime in its proposed Criminal Code as required by the UN Convention Against Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Addameer also advocated for abolishing capital punishment by the PA.

It became clear towards the end of the year that the current government – which, it must be noted is merely an executive authority, and not legislative – is inclined to approve a Palestinian Criminal Code to replace the Jordanian Criminal Code of 1961 that is currently in effect in the occupied Palestinian territory. This development will require Addameer to intensify its lobbying efforts and pressure the government to adopt the draft proposed by the Coalition, while still hoping for a resumption of the PLC's work as the legislating authority.

### **Obstacles:**

The main obstacle Addameer faced in 2009 in its work for Palestinians detained by the PA and broader legislative changes to enshrine fundamental human rights in Palestinian law remains the internal divide within the Palestinian political system and the PLC's ongoing paralysis. Under such conditions, any hope for change remains minimal if the political situation does not

undergo a massive transformation. As it stands, human rights organizations are forced to have prescient relevant drafts of laws and amendments ready in case the political climate changes, and to monitor presidential decrees and directives issued by the executive authority. Meanwhile, more work is required to keep monitoring the performance of various other PA bodies and guaranteeing that there is a rule of law in Palestine, including by trying to mobilize public pressure.

### **Second Immediate Objective:**

**End punishments and procedures in laws and implementation codes that are in contravention of international human rights law and legal standards, focusing on torture and the death penalty.**

Throughout the year, Addameer monitored and documented the use of torture in various PA security forces prisons and detention centers and on capital punishment rulings from Palestinian courts. Addameer played an important role in partnership with other civil society institutions to expose such grave violations of human rights. This work was of particular importance during the Israeli assault on Gaza (27 December 2009 – 18 January 2010) and its aftermath. An active group of Palestinian organizations repeatedly cooperated to exert pressure to end the use of torture, arbitrary detention, the trials of civilians before military tribunals, and to pressure President Mahmoud Abbas to not ratify death sentences handed down by the courts (as the President's ratification is required under Palestinian law for any death sentence to be carried out).

Although a small decrease in the number of torture cases was noticeable towards the end of 2009, no fundamental change on the policy of the use of torture by the PA was evident during the past year. Legally, no progress was made to criminalize the use of torture or to bring any perpetrator to legal or other accountability for its use. Throughout the year, not one member of the PA security forces was brought to court, charged or tried for the use of torture even as an offense, despite the fact that torture is an offense under the Jordanian Criminal Code currently in effect and is clearly illegal under Palestine Basic Law. In a very limited number of cases,

questionable internal investigations and disciplinary measures were announced to have taken place against members of the security forces. However, in each instance information alleged such action as against an 'unknown' member or members of the preventative security forces in relation to the death of a detainee during interrogation and provide no specific information that could be verified by civil society. Since such internal investigations and disciplinary measures can by definition never be independent, pressure must continue to be exerted on the PA to approve a Criminal Code that clearly identifies torture as a crime and clarifies mechanisms of accountability and punishments for perpetrators.

As part of the Palestinian Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Addameer demanded throughout 2009 that President Abbas not ratify any court rulings that sentenced defendants to the death penalty. At present, President Abbas has not ratified any capital punishment rulings; however, abstaining from ratifying is not a legal obligation, but is merely discretionary. Therefore, it is imperative that pressure continue to be exerted on the PA to adopt a Criminal Code that does not include capital punishment as a sentencing option for any criminal offence. Tremendous advocacy work still lies ahead until this will be achieved.

## **Output One:**

### **Monitoring and documentation and publications on the use of torture and death penalty under the Palestinian Authority**

#### **Results:**

1. An increase in regular visits to detention centers and prisons;
2. An increase of in the number of affidavits collected;
3. Issuance of papers and reports on torture and the death penalty; and,
4. An increase in the use and public satisfaction of published and disseminated papers and reports.

## Activities and Achievements:

Addameer conducted only eight visits to PA detention centers and prisons during the year. Although Addameer filed dozens of requests to visit with relevant security forces taking part in political arrests and detention, Addameer was obstructed with intentional delays and denied access. Even in the limited number of cases where permission to visit was granted, these visits were not without obstacles. One of the forms of restriction experienced during the visits was the interference of security personnel and guards, who would stay very close to where the lawyer and client were speaking and listen to the entire discussion. The security officials and guards would even interrupt what international law has guaranteed must be a confidential dialogue and order detainees not to talk about certain aspects of their detention conditions. In addition, the authorities would sometimes prevent the lawyer from documenting certain information or taking an affidavit.

Other even more serious measures of interference by security forces and guards also occurred. For example, during one visit an Addameer lawyer was held in the visitation room at Jericho Central Prison for three hours, and was told he had no authority to take any notes during the visit and was threatened with detention if he did not hand over all the documents he had in his possession to PA personnel. The Addameer lawyer refused to comply with the order to turn these documents over for a "security check" because to do so would have breached his ethical obligations to his client and countermanded Addameer's mission to defend detainees' rights and to force a change in abusive policies. It took the Addameer team three hours of contacting high-ranking officials in order to secure the lawyer's release. During other visits, Addameer attorneys were forced in some detention facilities to conduct the client visit without papers, notebooks or a pen.

The violence, threats and intimidation employed by PA security forces during arrest, interrogation and detention, and the way detainees' lawyers are treated has created an atmosphere of fear among detainees and their families, which often prevents them from giving statements to Addameer or other human rights groups. In 2009, Addameer interviewed dozens of detainees who were tortured after their release, but they refused to give formal statements and requested

our assurances that their names would never be cited as sources of information. These requests were clearly the result of what Addameer submits are legitimate fears of being re-arrested, detained and tortured again – legitimate insofar as Addameer has documented two cases of detainees being re-arrested, detained and tortured in retaliation for statements they had given to their lawyer after their first release concerning the torture they were subjected to during their first interrogation. Despite these fears and obstacles to the work of its lawyers, Addameer managed to take 10 affidavits from detainees while in detention on the use of torture and eight affidavits from former detainees and their families.

Addameer prepared a draft of a report on the use of torture in PA detention towards the end of 2009. Additional analysis is required before it is published in 2010.

Although Addameer has not published a full-length report on this subject, information Addameer has gathered on political detention, the use of torture, subjecting civilians to military law and procedures, the death penalty, and other forms of violations of political and civil rights by Palestinian actors has been passed on to many human rights organizations working on Palestinian human rights issues. Those organizations include Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, OHCHR, Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims (RCT) and others. These issues were also raised in meetings with diplomatic missions to the PA or visiting diplomatic delegations. In these meetings, Addameer demanded that diplomats of countries donating to the PA pressure the PA to end these practices and make their funding conditional upon the PA's abolition of the use of torture of the death penalty and its respect for human rights.

During 2009, two death penalty court rulings were issued against defendants. The Palestinian Coalition Against Death Penalty promptly issued statements of condemnation and sent letters to the PA president demanding that he not ratify the rulings (as would be required by the law for the executions to take place). Although no capital punishment sentences were carried out in 2009, this did not prevent extra-judicial killings or a suspicious death in PA custody.

## **Obstacles:**

The PA and its security forces' policies of denying visits to detainees, interfering in the conduct and content of the visits, and otherwise obstructing the work of Addameer remains a major obstacle in Addameer's service provision to detainees in PA prisons. In response, Addameer will continue to lobby and pressure the government to end these unlawful policies and strategies through a range of advocacy measures, including writing letters to senior members of the security forces, the Minister of the Interior and the Prime Minister, and filing cases and complaints. However, Addameer maintains that until there is a major shift in the political climate whereby the PLC can resume its work, no major changes in PA policies are likely.

The other obstacle facing the protection of persons in PA detention – which is of equal importance to the practical difficulties imposed by the PA – is the fear detainees and their families feel and their reluctance to give statements or testify as to the violations of their rights, including the use of torture against them. Addameer will continue in its public awareness campaign, which includes the message that fear and silence contributes to the continuation of human rights violations. Using legal interventions and securing some protection against violations (however small), together with work on the advocacy and lobbying level should also help convince detainees and their families to speak out.

Addameer is also planning to develop further projects that focus on community awareness raising and community mobilization, believing that awareness and knowledge is the first step which will enable Palestinians to defend their rights.

## **Output Two:**

### **Build Lobbying and Advocacy Campaigns**

Addameer did not independently build any campaign as such on the issue of PA violations such as torture or the death penalty. However, Addameer's lobbying and advocacy on the issue of PA violations remained constant and a substantial amount of public activity was undertaken on the

issue of death penalty within the work of the Coalition. Shortcomings in terms of the intensity of campaigning were again a result of the burden on human resources of the legal team, as well as the continuous deterioration of the internal Palestinian political situation. The situation in Gaza being equally dire in terms of restrictions on the work of human rights organizations and local advocacy made it not feasible to launch campaigns, especially local ones.

### **Third Output:**

#### **Actively participate in local, regional, and international coalitions and networks.**

##### **Results:**

1. Addameer plays an active and effective role in the Coalition Against Torture;
2. Addameer plays an active and effective role in the Human Rights Council and the National Campaign for Defending Freedoms; and,
3. Addameer increases its participation in activities demanding an end to torture and the death penalty.

During a mid-year review of the 2009 action plan, Addameer concluded that it had become increasingly necessary to focus on joint work with other organizations, especially within existing coalitions and networks established for specific issues, such as the Coalition Against Torture and the Coalition Against the Death Penalty. This cooperative work became all the more important when it became apparent that human rights organizations were being targeted by both the Ramallah and Gaza authorities, whose methods ranged from direct attacks, office raids, forcible shutting down of NGOs, intimidation and deliberate hindrance of organizations' work.

## Activities and Achievements:

Unfortunately, the Israeli assault on Gaza in January 2009 was accompanied by a rise in human rights violations committed by the PA in the West Bank. In addition to the continuation of political arrests and detentions and the use of torture, there was a rise in other forms of repression, particularly attacks on the right to expression and peaceful assembly. PA bans on or violent dispersal of protests became commonplace, and the closure of charitable and human rights organizations, in addition to firing people working in the public sector from their jobs, based on individual political affiliation or expression of opinion, all went to new levels.

These policies and practices forced human rights organizations and other civil society organizations to focus the majority of their energies on opposing these violations and pressuring the authorities to end these practices. Public statements, letters to and meetings with officials, lobbying meetings with international actors and public activities were all tactics pursued in an attempt to put an end to these violations and seek accountability from perpetrators.

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, in cooperation with the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network and the representatives of other civil society institutions and political parties (excluding representatives of Fateh and Hamas) organized several public protests in 2009. They issued several statements and held two conferences (one in Gaza and one in Ramallah) during the year that were open to the public in order to voice their opposition to all forms of human rights violations and the denial of public freedoms regardless of the perpetrators.

The Coalition Against Torture held their inaugural National Conference in June 2009. Coalition member organizations also held a number of additional meetings during the year to discuss the means by which to 'popularize' the Coalition and its objectives and responsibilities, especially amongst victims of torture and their families.

During these meetings, Coalition members drafted a memorandum of understanding and an action plan was for 2010. In accordance with this plan, coalition members formed a moni-

toring committee comprised of Coalition members. The role of the committee is to monitor detention centers and facilities in an attempt to deter the use of torture and to document and monitor cases where torture was committed. The monitoring committee and the Minister of Interior conducted a meeting to discuss the formation of both the Coalition and the monitoring sub-committee. Following this meeting, the Coalition and the Ministry reached a preliminary agreement by which monitoring committee members would be permitted to conduct 'unhindered' regular visits to monitor all PA detention and interrogation centers and prisons. Addameer, as a member and the elected Secretariat of the Coalition, and as a member of the monitoring committee, played a leading role in drafting this agreement. Coalition members hope that the Ministry will be accept this agreement and sign it in 2010.

During 2009, The Coalition Against the Death Penalty's action plan included public meetings, television programs and a national conference to discuss the mechanisms required to eliminate the death penalty from Palestinian legislation. The Coalition held three public meetings at Birzeit, Al Quds and An Najah universities. Coalition members also recorded one television show that was aired on several local television stations discussing the death penalty and the legitimate reasons behind the call for its abolition. Finally, the Coalition held the Second National Conference Against the Death Penalty in December 2009. As part of this Coalition, among other activities, Addameer prepared a short awareness booklet to be publicized throughout the community that explains the legitimate justifications behind the necessity of abolishing the death penalty. The booklet will be published in 2010.

### **Obstacles:**

Despite the firm belief that collaborative work between human rights organizations is not only important but a necessity, experience has proved that this is not an easy task. Without a clear work plan agreed upon by all members, and the integration of such a plan into each individual organization's work plan, collaborative work cannot develop into that of a real coalition. The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, the Coalition Against Torture and the Coalition Against the Death Penalty were only re-formed and re-structured in 2008, and during the escalation of events in 2009 – whether as a result of the assault on Gaza and the formation of

the UN Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, or what followed in terms of the intensifying internal political split – it became increasingly difficult to prepare plans of action in advance and to implement them since each event required immediate action, which consumed a lot of time and resources. On the other hand, these events and civil society actions in response, even if not within a work plan, proved that joint actions and common initiatives are much more effective than any individual organization’s work. For this reason, many human rights organizations increasingly believe that Palestinian coalitions should be further developed and fostered. Ad-dameer will continue to work hard and take initiatives to strengthen these coalitions and will keep pushing for collective action and concerted joint work plans.



**Third General Objective:**

**Development of society and institutions protecting civil and political rights of individuals and groups for whom such rights have been violated**

The Third Strategic Objective stems from the belief that grassroots and voluntary human rights work should be utilized by Palestinian organizations as opposed to utilizing purely professional work. It is also one of Addameer's newly implemented goals, developed into a program and implemented in late 2008.

The main goal of this program is to create a network of grassroots human rights activists throughout the occupied Palestinian territory, who are (a) equipped with a strong awareness of political and civil rights, (b) capable of monitoring and assessing human rights violations within their own local communities, and (c) have the knowledge and skills to campaign, empower, motivate and mobilize the local community to defend their own rights without having to wait for 'professional' services from human rights organizations to defend their rights and demand redress for violations.

Thus, the first group of grassroots human rights activists with whom Addameer collaborated throughout 2009 were selected from groups of university students, youth clubs and other community-based organizations.

### **Immediate Objective:**

**Raise social awareness of groups whose civil and political rights have been violated**

Addameer succeeded in arranging a first engagement with grassroots human rights activists in 2009, in a pilot phase of the program that brought with it many practical lessons for the future. Addameer formed this first group of core activists end of December 2008 and beginning January 2009 and implemented a full theoretical and practical training program throughout the year. During the program, the group decided on four sub-issues to work on within the greater community and, by the end of the year, they had created sub-groups to focus on each issue and started to formulate action plans for 2010. However, the sub-groups faced difficulties in creating and implementing their action plans since travel restrictions and delays within the

West Bank meant that coordination for meetings was difficult. Nonetheless, following a full assessment and evaluation of the experience and the lessons learned, this first group will remain as one of Addameer's support groups of local activists, taking part in its activities and local campaigns, while further work on achieving this objective will take a different path, with some members of the existing group joining others in forming a new, smaller group. This new group will take the proximity of members' residence into consideration when coordinating meetings and actions.

### **Output One:**

**Creation of local youth groups to develop/increase knowledge of identified areas of civil and political rights in order to raise awareness of and to protect civil and political rights within their own communities (Addama'er)**

#### **Results:**

1. Establishment of youth groups that have the knowledge and ability to work on political and civil rights issues of concern within their own local communities;
2. Public support and satisfaction of the work of these groups; and,
3. Satisfaction of activists and members of groups regarding quality of training provided as per their needs, and demonstrated commitment of activists to the program.

## Activities and Achievements:

Addameer formed a group of 40 activists from all over the West Bank in January 2009, following the first introductory and orientation meeting regarding the program, which was held at the end of 2008. Throughout 2009, Addameer organized series of training sessions and seminars addressing various issues.



Addameer staff held two training workshops on international humanitarian law, the available protection mechanisms it provides and its relevance and practical application to the occupied Palestinian territory. Staff also held another training workshop on international human rights law, in particular the International Bill of Human Rights, which comprises the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A major focus of this

training was on political rights recognized in these fundamental treaties. Addameer staff also gave a presentation to the group during this training on Addameer's international Campaign to Stop Administrative Detention. The idea of involving group members in the Campaign as a training exercise was discussed.

Another six training workshops were held throughout the year to empower the group with a range of skills. These sessions included training on communication skills, team work, how to form community activists groups, time management, planning activities, evaluating action plans, media campaigns, raising awareness and mobilizing the community, strategic planning, defining a mission statement and public relations messages, formulating goals and creating work plans for each sub-group.

Meanwhile, each of the four sub-groups formed at the group's first meeting elected a coordinator who held a series of meetings throughout 2009, both one-on-one and as a group. Coordinators within each sub-group were intended to lead the process of setting up the action plans for each of the sub-groups so as to start implementing their community activities before the end of 2009 and then to continue in 2010. However by the end of 2009, only one of the sub-groups – the one concerned with political arrests and repression under the PA – had finalized its action plan. The other three sub-groups had only managed to put down initial ideas and preliminary outlines for work plans.

At the end of 2009, Addameer had the activists evaluate the training programs and topics offered during the year. Consensus among the participants was difficult to achieve, given the widely varying levels of knowledge and experience each held before joining the program. Generally speaking, the evaluations found that participants felt that the training was much needed and important, but a few felt that the topics covered did not include all necessary practical skills that activists need to improve their capacity to work within the community. Different levels of skill and experience among participants, and the obstacles this situation can pose for efficient execution of program activities, is an issue that will be taken into consideration in the future planning for this program.

## **Obstacles**

As mentioned, once the program was launched, it became clear that the participant selection process was flawed in that it grouped participants with a very diverse range of pre-existing knowledge and experience in grassroots human rights activism and coordination. Although this heterogeneity certainly provided positive aspects to group dynamics in the trainings – where those with more experience could assist and mentor less experienced participants – assessments have also revealed some negative aspects to this grouping strategy, in particular arranging efficient and effective training programs. A more targeted selection process will be implemented to alleviate this challenge in future.

The large size of the initial participant group and its geographical diversity proved during the year to pose additional problems. Addameer staff found it very difficult to arrange a work plan with 40 people coming from distant parts of the West Bank, given the many travel restrictions in place throughout the area, and attempts to find suitable dates for all participants repeatedly caused delays and postponements of meetings and training sessions. When forming the sub-groups the same obstacle arose, since participants could not extensively meet and therefore could not adequately develop work plans. This led to a decision to work with smaller groups in future and for members of these groups to be selected from geographic areas close to each other so that travel arrangements are easier.

Overall, Addameer decided that in the future groups should focus on one geographical area at a time, selecting participants locally. In addition, the application form and interview structure will also be changed to give more focus to past activism experiences and to be able to better assess potential participants' earlier community work experience. Finally, smaller groups will be formed to avoid the difficulties encountered working with larger groups.





**Fourth General Objective:**

**Develop the capacity of the organization to achieve its goals**

Addameer's performance and achievements during 2009 reflect certain achievement under the Fourth Strategic Objective to improve the staff's overall performance and its commitment to constant improvement and development in order to achieve its goals efficiently. Developments in the organization's performance are also linked to the improvement of good governance practices. Improvements in relations between the General Assembly and Board of Directors, and the improvement in the performance of the Board of Directors and its close oversight of the organization's implementation of activities and contribution to Addameer's local and international relations, have contributed to Addameer's successes and its rising profile and increased role in defending the human rights of Palestinian people, something that positively affects the sustainability of the organization.

Improvements in the organization's performance during 2009 were particularly evident in two areas that were identified as weaknesses by a 2006 external evaluation: (1) lobbying and advocacy, and (2) work on PA political detainees. The progress shown in these two areas throughout the year indicates that the improvements were not only positive and professional, but also were of a high standard in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. Nonetheless, challenges in these areas remain, in particular in regards to publishing all organization documents in Arabic as well as in English.

### **First Immediate Objective:**

**Provide an environment that allows staff to work towards realizing their work plans and activities effectively and efficiently.**

The results of a review of Addameer by the Palestinian Ministry of Interior – conducted without any prior warning to the organization – were, overall, very positive and supported the position of Addameer as a well-established Palestinian civil society organization. The review further determined that all administrative and financial procedures at Addameer adhere to both standard professional procedures and the requirements of Palestinian law. Addameer has already committed to undertaking further development of these procedures to meet the changing needs of the organization.

## Output One:

**Develop internal by-laws and procedures and implement regular administrative and financial procedures.**

### Results:

1. Appropriate procedures and regulations are in place and are being utilized; and,
2. Procedures and regulations adhere to the relevant laws.

### Activities and Achievements:

The Board of Directors held six regular meetings during 2009, followed the implementation of work plans, and implemented the General Assembly's recommendations. Board members contributed to widening their network and relations with local, regional, and international organizations through their participation in conferences and meetings on various levels.

At the annual Board of Directors session in June 2009, the Board presented



administrative and financial reports to the General Assembly. Members of the General Assembly put forward Comments regarding the reports, discussed them, and approved the reports with their amendments. A new Board of Directors was elected at the session for a two-year period. Amendments to the institution's by-laws were then made and approved based on the recommendations of internal reviews and the Ministry of Interior.

The Board also engaged in periodic review of the organization's by-laws and administrative and financial procedures throughout the year. Following these reviews, the Board discussed any needed steps and voted on proposed amendments. New procedures were then communicated by organization management to staff as appropriate. All staff displayed a high level of commitment and adherence to these regulations and procedures.

Addameer's management conducted monthly program reviews to evaluate the implementation of monthly work plans. Other periodic evaluation meetings were also held as needed to assess the results of these programs. In addition, full program evaluations took place end of June and beginning of July of the year, the results of which determined amendments to both the work plan and the budget for the second half of the year.

At the end of the year, the management conducted a full review in which the management conceptualized work plans for the following year, evaluated individual employees' performance during the past year. These individual evaluations attempted to identify skill gaps among the staff in order to plan specific trainings and capacity building efforts for the next year. The evaluations were also used to assist decisions as to annual raises for employees.

### **Obstacles:**

Staff work load during 2009 prevented the completion of work manuals for every program (e.g., the monitoring and documentation program, training program, and lobbying and advocacy program). This was largely the case because Addameer is developing these manuals internally without any help from external consultants. Work to finalize these manuals will continue in 2010 and will be given high priority.

In addition, efforts to implement a management system and an agreement to run the Employees' Savings Fund were not completed during 2009. Organization management will focus in 2010 on encouraging staff to make collective decisions in this regard in order to finalize both efforts.

## **Output Two:**

### **Develop the professional capacity of Addameer staff**

#### **Results:**

1. Recruitment of professional staff;
2. Staff participation in training programs and workshops; and,
3. Staff satisfaction regarding job security.

#### **Activities and Achievements:**

During 2009, two new staff members joined the Lobbying and Advocacy program, in addition to a legal researcher, and a lawyer dedicated to following up cases of political and arbitrary detentions by the PA.

Throughout the year, Addameer staff from all programs took part in a number of training workshops. For example, Addameer Monitoring and Documentation Unit staff and lawyers took part in a training seminar organized by Al-Haq regarding criminal autopsy and documenting evidence on the use of torture. Lobbying and Advocacy Unit officers participated in a workshop on advocacy directed to the European Union that was organized by Christian Aid, Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN), and the Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organizations in Europe (APRODEV). Unit staff also attended a workshop on

advocacy and lobbying in the US that was held in cooperation with the Open Society Institute.

During the year, Addameer staff also identified several areas that would benefit from formal organized trainings in the future.

In 2010, Addameer plans to conduct strategic planning for the years 2011-2013. During this process, the organization will give priority to the issue of impact assessment, means of verification, and indicators in its monitoring and evaluation matrix, and how to provide proper and timely training for the staff in these areas.

## **Second Immediate Objective:**

### **Develop the financial sustainability of the organization**

Addameer was very successful with respect to its financial sustainability in 2009. Much of this stability can be traced to sustained external donor trust in the organization, which stems from reliable quality in the organization's work that has established Addameer as the primary organization defending political prisoners and detainees, and as the most trusted source on these issues.

In 2009, Addameer successfully created a number of new funding relationships. However, recognizing the organization's dependence on external funding, and the variable nature of this resource given international economic ebbs and flows, the General Assembly highlighted in its recommendations to the Board of Directors that the organization search for alternative funding sources and new strategies to avoid dependence on external funding.

## **Output One:**

### **Develop external relations, locally, regionally, and internationally**

#### **Results:**

1. An increase in requests for information from the organization;
2. An increase in requests and invitations for the organization to take part in activities and conferences, locally and internationally;
3. An increase in the number of funding partners; and,
4. An increase in overall funds and individual contributions.

#### **Activities and Achievements:**

When reviewing the organization's activities and participation in local, regional and international activities, conferences and workshops related to human rights issues it becomes evident that overall public trust in the organization has increased. The number and variety of delegations received during the year also reflects the reputation of the organization, especially given that some of these visitors came as a result of recommendations of friends and funders of Addameer.

In addition, Addameer's speaking tours in 2009 (see page 21) contributed to building new relationships throughout United States and Europe that can be leveraged in the future to increase individual contributions.

## Output Two:

### Fundraising campaigns targeting local, Arab, and international organizations and individuals

#### Results:

1. Increase in the number of funding organizations and individuals working with Addameer; and,
2. Funding partners and the public are satisfied with the work of Addameer.

#### Activities and Achievements:

Addameer did not go on any fundraising tours in 2009, though relations with several new funding partners commenced and many individuals contributed financially to Addameer for the first time.

The ability of the organization to sustain and improve its performance was met with signs of approval and continuous support by strategic partners, which has encouraged Addameer to further develop its programs and formulate new funding proposals to be presented to new potential partners.

Addameer's General Assembly discussed the need to widen sources of funding and explore new ideas to financially sustain Addameer in light of the international economic situation, and passed clear recommendations to the Board of Directors to develop a clear plan of action to ensure financial sustainability.

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council discussed the concerns of member organizations regarding the continuous dependence on many of the same sources of funding, changes in the global economic and political situation and what might result in a threat to the sustainability of the human rights sector. Ideas for common strategies and possible collaboration on how to meet this potential threat were discussed. It was agreed that a small draft paper would be prepared in order to facilitate an in-depth analysis.



# Annexes

**Table 1: Number of visits by type of facility (prison, detention center and interrogation center)**

Month	Central Prisons																	
	Ofer	Shate'	Gilboa	Megiddo	Al Damon	Ashmorit- Kfar Yona	HaSharon- Rimolim	HaSharon- Telmond Juveniles	HaSharon- Telmond Women	HaSharon (Mail)	Hadarim	Netsan- Al Ramleh	Ayalon- Al Ramleh	Neva Tertza ( Al Ramleh- Women)	Al Ramleh Prison Hospital- Marsh	Shikma- Asqelan- Al Majdal	Ohali Kedar- Bir al Sabe'	Eshal - Bir al sabe'
Jan.			1	1				1									1	
Feb.				2			1	1	1						1	1		
Mar.	1		1	1				1		1						1		1
Apr.				1	1												1	
May.	2	1	1	1						1		1		1	1			
Jun.	1			2			1											1
Jul.			1	2			1			1				1	1	1	1	
Aug.	1	1		2			1									1	1	1
Sept.				3														1
Oct.	2		1	3			1										1	1
Nov.				1			2			1		1		1				
Dec.	1			2						1						1		
TOTAL	8	2	6	22	1		5	2	3	2	4		2		4	6	5	5
TOTAL	103																	

				Military Detention Centers						Interrogation Centers				TOTAL
penelson Hospital	Nafha	Rimon	Al Naqab	Salem	Kedummim	Huwarra	Binyamin - Ofer	Etzion	Erez	Al Jalami - Kishon	Petah Tikva	Al Muscobbiyeh	Asqalan	
			1								1			6
	1	1		1						1				11
						1				4	2			14
										1	1		1	6
	1	1	1							1	1			14
		1	1	1		1					1	1		11
3											3	3		17
		1	2							1	2			14
	1	2		1						3				11
		1	2							5				17
		2	3	1						2	1			14
			1			1				1				5
3	3	9	11	4		3				19	12	4	1	
				7						36				146

**Table 2: The number of detainees who were visited percentage of those who asked for the visit**

Month	Central Prisons																	
	Ofer	Shate	Gilboa	Megiddo	Al Damon	Ashmorit- Kfar Yona	HaSharon- Rimonim	HaSharon- Telmond Juveniles	HaSharon- Telmond Women	HaSharon (Mail)	Hadarim	Netsan- Al Ramleh	Ayalon- Al Ramleh	Neva Tertza ( Al Ramleh- Women)	Al Ramleh Prison Hospital- Marash	Shikma- Asqelan- Al Majdal	Ohali Kedar- Bir al Sabe	Eshal - Bir al sabe
Jan.			5	3					5								4	
			4	3					4								2	
Feb.				8			1	2	1						4	6		
				3			1	2	1						3	4		
Mar.	4		5	5					1		3					1		3
	3		5	2					1		3					1		3
Apr.				6	2												1	
				5	2												1	
May.	8	4	7	6							4		1		1	5		
	6	4	6	6							3		1		1	4		
Jun.	6			10			4											3
	6			5			4											2
Jul.			5	11							3				6	6	3	
			3	11							2				2	3	1	
Aug.	3	4		3												5	2	3
	3	4		3												3	2	2
Sept.				15														2
				13														2
Oct.	9		6	14													4	4
	8		5	9													2	3
Nov.				4							5		3		5			
				4							3		3		3			
Dec.	4			11						5						5		
	2			8						2						1		

				Military Detention Centers						Interrogation Centers				TOTAL	
penpelson Hospital	Nafha	Rimon	Al Naqab	Salem	Kedummim	Huwarra	Binyamin-Ofer	Etzion	Erez	Al Jalami-Kishon	Petah Tikva	Al Muscobbiyeh	Asqalan		
			4								3				24
			4								3				20
	2	3		3						3					33
	2	2		2						1					22
						5				4	5				36
						4				4	5				31
										2	2		2		15
										2	2		2		14
	3	2	4							1	2				58
	2	2	1							1	2				39
		3	6	4		7					1	2			46
		3	6	1		1					1	2	31		31
3											4	4			48
2											4	4			34
		2	8							4					37
		2	5							4					31
	2	8	2	2						4					33
	2	6		2						4					29
		4	10							5					60
		3	8							5					46
		7	11	4						3	2				49
		6	9	4				3		2	2				44
			4			4				2					35
			2			4				2					21

474 Were asked for visits

363 Were visited

### Table 3: Lawyers Visits by Objective

	INTERROGATION CONDITIONS	PRISON CONDITIONS	DETENTION CONDITIONS	FEMALE DETANIEES	CHILD DETANIEES	ADMINISTRATIVE DETANIEES	HEALTH CONDITIONS	TURTURE AND ILL- TREATMENT	LEGAL FOLLOW- UP	COMPLAINTS	DETENTION CONDITIONS	ILLEGAL FIGHTER	ISOLATIONS	TOTAL
Jan.	1	4		1			2		1	1			4	14
Feb.	3	6	1	1	1		2		1				2	17
Mar.	7	3	1	1		1	2		1				2	18
Apr.	4	1			1						2		1	9
May	4	9				1	4		3				2	23
Jun.	3	6	2		2	1	2		1	2			1	20
Jul.	6	6			2		5		1	1	1			22
Aug.	2	5			2	4	3						1	17
Sept	3	5	1		2	2	2		1				1	17
Oct.	5	4			5	2	5	1					2	24
Nov	3	1	1		3	2	1					1	3	16
Dec.	1	2	1				2	1	2	2			1	12
TOTAL	42	52	7	3	18	13	30	2	11	6	3	1	20	209

# Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

Addameer is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution that focuses on human rights issues. Established in 1992 by a group of activists interested in human rights, the center offers support to Palestinian prisoners and detainees, advocates for the rights of political prisoners, and works to end torture through monitoring, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns.

Addameer is surrounded by a group of grassroots supporters and volunteers, Addama'er, who share Addameer's beliefs and goals, actively participate in its activities, and endeavor to support Addameer both financially and morally.

Addameer is a member of the Palestinian NGO Network, the Palestinian Coalition for the Defense of Civil Rights and Liberties.

Addameer is a member of the Regional and International Coalition to "Abolish the Death Penalty. Addameer is also a member of the International Network against Torture".

Addameer (Arabic for conscience) believes in the importance of building a free and democratic Palestinian society based on justice, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights within the larger framework of the right to self-determination.

## **Addameer strives to:**

- End torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Abolish the death penalty
- End arbitrary detention and arrests
- Guarantee fair, impartial, and public trials
- Support political prisoners by providing them with legal aid and social and moral assistance and undertaking advocacy on their behalf
- Push for legislation that guarantees human rights and basic freedoms and ensure its implementation on the ground
- Raise awareness of human rights and rule of law issues in the local community
- Ensure respect for democratic values in the local community, based on political diversity and freedom of opinion and expression
- Lobby for international support and solidarity for Palestinians' legitimate rights

## **Addameer's programs:**

- **Legal Aid:** Addameer provides free legal counseling and representation to Palestinian detainees and their families. Services include legal defense; regular visits to prisons, detention and interrogation centers; submission of petitions and complaints against cases of torture, ill-treatment and other violations.
- **Research and Documentation:** Addameer documents violations committed against Palestinian detainees, monitors their detention conditions through regular lawyers' visits, and collects statistics and lists of detainees, providing the basis for the publication of research papers and reports.
- **Advocacy and Lobbying:** Addameer publishes statements and urgent appeals on behalf of detainees, submits alternative reports and complaints to the United Nations and other international forums, and briefs international delegations as well as the media on the situation of Palestinian prisoners. The advocacy and lobbying unit also works towards building local, Arab and international solidarity campaigns to oppose torture and arbitrary detention while supporting the rights of Palestinian prisoners.
- **Training and Awareness:** Addameer raises local awareness regarding prisoners' rights on three levels: by training Palestinian lawyers on the laws and procedures used in Israeli military courts to improve their efficiency; by increasing the prisoners' own knowledge; and by reviving grassroots human rights activism and volunteerism and working closely with community activists to increase their knowledge of civil and political rights from an international humanitarian law and international human rights perspective.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

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