

# Monthly Newsletter

December 2020



## Top December Topics

- Israel's Designation of the Democratic Progressive Student Pole an "[Unlawful Association](#)" Is Another Manifestation of its Apartheid Regime.
- Civil Society Organize [Webinar](#) "HRD Salah Hammouri at Imminent Threat of Deportation from Jerusalem: Israel Must Be Held Accountable".
- [The Israeli Military Court of Appeal Confirms the Release of Child Detainee Amal Nakhleh.](#)
- [International Human Rights Day](#)- Restoring Faith in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- PNGO, PHROC and Al-Muntada against Domestic Violence against Women Call on the Palestinian Government to Take Responsibility for the Events that Occurred in Nabi Musa Shrine and Call for the Immediate Release of Ms. Sama Abdul Hadi.

The year 2020 witnessed the Israeli Occupation Forces' continued arbitrary arrests and harassment campaign against Palestinians. The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) detained around 4,636 Palestinians, including 543 minors under the age of 18 and 128 women. Moreover, the Israeli occupation issued a total of 1,114 Administrative Detention orders. By the end of the year 2020, there are 4,400 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons and detention centers, including 40 women, 170 minors, and 26 Palestinians held since before the Oslo Accords in 1993.

Notably, there are 380 Palestinian administrative detainees held without charge. It is estimated that the number of ill Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli prisons and detention centers has reached more than 700 cases, 300 of those suffering from terminal or chronic illnesses.

# News

## Conditions in Israeli Prisons and Detention Centers Amidst the Pandemic:

With the coronavirus pandemic outbreak, the conditions inside Israeli prisons and detention centers have significantly worsened. The Israeli Prison Services (IPS) continue to subject Palestinian prisoners to harsh living conditions that do not align with the bare minimum of adequate living standards. The overcrowding, insufficient ventilation, and lack of hygiene products make it impossible to restrain the virus's spread inside prisons.

On 23 July 2020, the Israeli High Court ruled that social distancing as a preventative measure cannot be applied in Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli prisons. Also, the IPS implemented restrictive measures against family and lawyer visitations. According to the Palestinian Prisoners' Associations, as of April 251, 2020 cases of COVID19- infected Palestinian prisoners were documented. November being the highest month, where over one hundred prisoners in Gilboa prison tested positive. To add more hardship to Palestinian prisoners, the Israeli Public Security Minister Amir Ohana and the IPS declared that they do not intend to provide the coronavirus vaccine to Palestinian prisoners.

## Targeting University Students

On 21 October 2020, the IOF officially declared the Democratic Progressive Student Pole (DPSP), the leftist bloc at Birzeit University, an "unlawful association". The designation of the Pole as an unlawful organization was issued under the Defense (Emergency) Regulations 1945, which have been consistently and systematically used to suppress and silence opposition to Israeli practices and policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt), and the construction and maintenance of an institutionalized regime of racial domination and oppression, amounting to apartheid. Palestinian youth and students have been persistently targeted as part of Israel's protracted silencing campaign. In particular, students at Birzeit University have been subject to systematic attacks, raids on their campus, arbitrary detention, and torture and ill-treatment, all of which serve Israel's ultimate goal of maintaining its apartheid regime over the Palestinian people. During the -2019 2020 academic year at Birzeit University, the Israeli Occupation Forces detained around 74 students. Student unions, in their role representing the voices of youth, are essential elements of a democratic society. In Palestinian society specifically, youth and student unions have contributed to the mobilization of popular resistance and transnational solidarity against Israel's apartheid regime and towards social change. The targeting of the DPSP represents an attack by Israel on the right of Palestinian youth to freedom of association, expression, and to form student unions.

## Call for the Palestinian Government to Take Responsibility for the Events that Occurred in Nabi Musa Shrine and the Immediate Release of Sama Abdul Hadi

After following up on the repercussions of the music event held in Nabi Musa Shrine on 26 December 2020, PNGO, PHROC, and Al-Muntada against Domestic Violence against Women call the Palestinian Authority, represented by both the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs, to take responsibility for their lack of proper management of the Shrine, and failure to provide detailed instructions and standards for the use of the space, especially amidst a pandemic outbreak. The Palestinian Authority's (PA) silence increased public tension, alleviating the anger of the Palestinian people who were left with no official statement addressing the situation. Consequently, leading the PA to arbitrary detain young Palestinian DJ artist Sama Abdul Hadi, who coordinated and took lead of the event.

The situation became more critical following the -15 day extension of Sama's detention. Bearing in mind, Sama had prior authorization and approval from the Ministry regarding the music event in Nabi Musa shrine. Our organizations consider such detention arbitrary and a scapegoating tactic used by the Palestinian government to absorb public outrage. Under such circumstances, PNGO, PHROC, and Al-Muntada urged the Palestinian Authority to reform the current investigation committee to include civil society representatives, the Independent Commission of Human Rights, and the State Audit Administrative Control Bureau. This way, impartial investigations are held relating to officials' conduct following the public outrage, in the widespread incitement on social media, and to address deficiencies in managing historical and religious sites. The committee aims to hold the responsible individuals accountable for their actions and negligence and take lessons for similar future incidents. Moreover, we encourage the Palestinian Authority to issue instructions on how to properly manage historical and religious sites through its relevant Ministries.

## Numbers of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons by the end of December 2020.



# Individual Case

The case of Palestinian former child detainee M.M represents the ill and inhuman treatment of Palestinian child detainees and the Israeli Occupation Forces' brutality. On 29 November 2020, M.M, 16 years old, was arrested from his home while preparing breakfast for the family. During his arrest, an Israeli soldier hit M.M three times on his face, particularly on his left jaw, with the back of his rifle, leaving M.M's mouth to bleed nonstop. After which, the IOF blindfolded M.M and cuffed his hands to the back, transferring him to the military jeep. M.M requested medical care as his mouth continuously bled. In response, the IOF threw him out of the military jeep and left him out in the open space.

At Etzion detention center, M.M was strip-searched and left again out in the cold for an hour before he was taken for interrogation. Afterward, he tested for a coronavirus; meanwhile, the medical staff did not care to ask about his bleeding mouth and the pain he was feeling from his jaw. For six hours, M.M was left alone in an open area without

food or drink or even the possibility to use the bathroom. The following day around 3:00 am, the IOF transferred M.M to Hadassah Hospital. Only two days after reaching the hospital, he underwent jaw surgery without the knowledge of his parents and with the presence of an Israeli soldier inside the operating room. After the surgery, M.M woke up to find himself shackled to the hospital bed, unable to move or speak. A month after his brutal arrest, on 27 December 2020, M.M was released on bail. All actions taken against M.M by the IOF violate the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Israel ratified in October 1991.

The detention of Palestinian children in harsh conditions in Israeli prisons and detention centers subjects them to different forms of psychological and physical torture, including policies of intimidation and severe punishments that prevent them from living and growing up in dignity and health. The Israeli occupation systematically targets Palestinian children through arbitrary arrests to oppress and threaten a future Palestinian generation.

## Publication

### [Addameer's Annual Violation Report](#)

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association's Annual Violation Report documents the various Israeli violations against Palestinian prisoners, starting from the first moments of their arrest, throughout the interrogation stage, and inside Israeli prisons. The report aims to shed light on prisoners' lives and their suffering during incarceration, as well as the extent of Israeli violations of international conventions and agreements, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984. This report follows a fact-based descriptive, analytical methodology based on the data collected.

The Annual Violations Report is an integral part of Addameer's continuous efforts to seek justice and release all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prison. The report addresses the issue of all Palestinian prisoners as one unified cause out of Addameer's firm belief that the Palestinian prisoners from Jerusalem, the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank share the same cause and carry the same burden, suffering through the same horrendous conditions and fighting a joint battle for dignity and liberty.

Also, Addameer prepares an [Annual Administration Report](#), which highlights its activities during the year and analyzes and evaluates the annual goals and outcomes established for each unit. This report also presents the difficulties and obstacles Addameer faced during the year while discussing measures taken or to be taken to remedy issues and to avoid similar obstacles in the future.

### FIND US ON:



[www.addameer.org](http://www.addameer.org)



[/addameerassociation](https://www.facebook.com/addameerassociation)



[@addameer](https://twitter.com/addameer)



[Addameer21](https://www.youtube.com/Addameer21)



[Addameer\\_Pal](https://www.instagram.com/Addameer_Pal)

### LOCATION:

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

P.O. Box Jerusalem 17338

[info@addameer.ps](mailto:info@addameer.ps)

## EVENTS

### **HRD Salah Hammouri at Imminent Threat of Deportation from Jerusalem: Israel Must Be Held Accountable/ Civil Society Organizations**

15 December 2020: Palestinian, regional and international civil society organizations held a joint webinar joined by speakers from Al-Haq, Human Rights Watch, Association France Palestine Solidarité, in addition to Professor S. Michael Lynk, the UN Special Rapporteur, HRD Salah Hamouri, and his lawyer and legal representative Adv. Leah Tsemel to discuss the continuation of civil society's efforts to highlight Mr. Hammouri's case.

### **The 6th European Conference in Solidarity with Palestinian Detainees/ The European Alliance in Defence of Palestinian Detainees**

13 December 2020: The 6th European Alliance in Defence of Palestinian Detainees conference focused on sick Palestinian prisoners amidst the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Adv. Sahar Francis, Director of Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, participated in the conference through sharing a solidarity video over zoom.

The video described the situation and conditions of ill Palestinian prisoners inside Israeli prisons

### **Zoom Talk about Administrative Detention/ Haifa University Student Body**

23 December 2020: Adv. Sahar Francis, Director of Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, gave an online lecture on the Israeli occupation's systematic policy of arbitrary arrests and administrative detention against Palestinians, including elderly, women and children.