

Quarterly Newsletter—January to March 2015


With the onset of the new year and throughout this quarter, January through March 2015, Addameer has documented continued human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Administrative detention continues as a policy which deprives detainees of trials and access to evidence, and formal charges against them. Key issues persistently include the detention and ill treatment of child prisoners and ongoing detention of journalists, Jerusalemites and human rights defenders. Addameer holds that the fulfillment of human rights and humanitarian law standards is crucial, and that ill treatment, torture, and arbitrary detention are grave violations of those standards.


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Detention by Numbers

Throughout the quarter, between January and March 2015, about 1174 Palestinians were arrested by Israeli forces*. At the beginning of January, there were approximately 6200 Palestinian political prisoners. There were 450 administrative detainees, among which were 11 Palestinian Legislative Council Members. At the beginning of February, there were approximately 6000 Palestinian political prisoners. There were 454 administrative detainees, among which were 9 Palestinian Legislative Council Members. At the beginning of March, there were approximately 5820. There were 426 administrative detainees, among which were 8 Palestinian Legislative Council members. Altogether, there has been a decrease in the total numbers of Palestinian political prisoners, but a rise and then a subsequent fall in the numbers of administrative detainees. From the beginning of January to the beginning of March, the number of child prisoners went from 152 to 182, signifying a marked increase in child detention.

*Numbers obtained by the Palestinian Monitoring Group (PMG).

Highlight on Lina Khattab



Lina Khattab, a first-year student at Birzeit University studying media and journalism and a dancer in the El-Fanoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe since 2011, was arrested on 13 December 2014 near Ofer military base in Beitunia near Ramallah. A report by Palestine Today Television shows a video of her arrest, in which a large number of number of soldiers stormed her and dragged her to a military jeep. Lina reported that one of the soldiers pulled her from the back so violently that he ripped her shirt and caused her arm to bruise. The soldier dragged her to a military jeep while another twisted her arm until they arrived to Ofer prison.

When Lina arrived to Ofer prison, the soldiers shackled her arms and legs with iron shackles and made her wait on a bench for two hours. Then, she was taken into an underground room and interrogated. The soldiers accused Lina of participating in an illegal demonstration and throwing stones at Israeli soldiers. When the interrogation ended Lina was searched by a female soldier and then shackled again. She was left outside the prison for about three hours and then transferred to HaSharon prison by military bus. Lina arrived at HaSharon Prison at 11:30 PM and was put in solitary confinement until the next day when she was transferred to the cells with other Palestinian female prisoners.

On 18 March 2015, Lina Khattab was denied release upon serving two-thirds of her 6-month sentence. Release following the serving of two-thirds of the sentence is based upon a behavior report, the charges, and an Israeli intelligence report. An assessment submitted by the Occupation's intelligence claims that if released from prison, Lina would pose a risk to the security of the region. The decision cited that her release may give the impression that she may be rewarded for her actions with an early release from prison. The decision also stated that she showed no remorse for her behavior towards the committee who makes the decision. The decision also cited that her family is evidently unable to the control her behavior. It should be noted that the information submitted by the Occupation's intelligence is secret, and neither Lina, nor her legal team, can review the allegations.

Ahmad Rimawi, once the youngest administrative detainee, released



Ahmad Rimawi was released on 12 February 2015, after spending about 27 months under administrative detention. He was given a 6-month administrative detention order which was renewed five times.

Just days following his eighteenth birthday, Ahmad Rimawi was arrested near Atara checkpoint on 17 November 2012. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) issued an opinion at the seventy-first session regarding Rimawi's detention stating: "The deprivation of the liberty of Mr. Rimawi is arbitrary... taking into account all the circumstances of the case, the adequate remedy would be to immediately release Mr. Rimawi." (Opinion No.43/2014, 16 December 2014). The WGAD further stated that Rimawi's detention is in contravention of articles 9 and 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The detention of Ahmad Rimawi indicated the unfair practice of administrative detention policy, in which Palestinians can be held without formal charges against them, even for extended periods of time.

In this Issue

- Jerusalem Child Detention
- Stop Administrative Detention!
- Female Prisoners
- Palestinian Legislative Council members
- Addameer participates in 28th Session of the Human Rights Council
- Child Prisoners
- Human Rights and Awareness Raising Activities
- Military Court Hearing Updates

Quarterly Newsletter—January to March 2015

Jerusalem Child Detention

The quarter has witnessed persisting violations against children, particularly in Jerusalem. The Research and Documentation Unit at Addameer met with several children and they indicated that they experienced violations ill treatment and abuses while in detention, in the absence of their parents. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Israel on 3 October 1991, states in article 37 that "No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." The article also states that "No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily" and that detention, imprisonment or arrest should be used only as a last resort.*

Mohammad A., a 16 year old student, from Ras Al 'Amood neighborhood in Jerusalem, was arrested on 16 March 2015, at approximately 4.00 am. Israeli forces raided the home and heavily banged on the door. Approximately five soldiers and five intelligence agents entered the home, some entering his room and telling him they wanted to arrest him. He was blindfolded and his hands were tied/cuffed. One of the soldiers hit his head after they entered in the military jeep.

He was hit five times on the head before they reached Al Moskobyeh (Russian Compound). He was blindfolded for approximately 6 hours, sitting in a room. At approximately 10 am, an interrogator entered and he was able to speak to a lawyer. In the absence of lawyer or parents, he was interrogated 10–7 pm. He was accused of throwing stones, which he denied. Three interrogators interrogated him, and he was hit by interrogators on his head and slaps to his face. One of the interrogators put his finger in the boy's hand, causing him not to be able to see for moments. The pain in his eye lasted for two days. The same day, his detention was extended 3 days. He was taken to court Al Solh court room and his detention. At approximately 9 pm, he was placed in isolation after the court, after visiting a doctor, he was strip searched. The following day he was kept from 12 pm until 12 am in interrogation, with 4 interrogators, during which he was subjected to kicking and slaps. He was given water to drink during this time but no food. The following day, a Wednesday, he was interrogated from 2 pm until around 8 pm. He was released on Thursday without any charges. He was ordered to house arrest for 5 days and fee of 500 NIS.

Ibrahim G., a 14 year old from Jerusalem, was arrested at approximately 6 am on 23 February 2015 when soldiers and intelligence agents entered his home. They pulled his arm causing his pain, took him to a Toyota vehicle, he was taken to Al Moskobyeh (Russian Compound), where he was strip searched. They accused him of throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails which he denied. They took him to Al Solh court and his hands and legs were shackled. He found his mother in Moskobyeh where he found out that his father was also being interrogated. The interrogators told him that his father is under interrogation, and he persistently denied the allegations. He was released the following day, under house arrest for 5 days, with no charges, and a suspended bail of 5000 NIS paid by a third party if terms of release are not fulfilled.

* UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1989, United Nations

The following table shows the numbers of child prisoners at the beginning of each month of the quarter.

Month	No. Child Prisoners	Special age categories
January 2015	152	10 under 16
February 2015	163	13 under 16
March 2015	182	25 between 14-16

The table indicates the alarming increase of child detention from January to March 2015.

Child Prisoner: Malak Khatib

This quarter, Malak Khatib was released on 13 February 2015, after being sentenced to two months imprisonment and a 6000 NIS fine. Malak's arrest sparked international outcry when the 14-year old Palestinian school girl from the village of Betein near Ramallah, was arrested on 31 December 2014. Malak was charged with throwing stones at Israeli soldiers and being in possession of a knife, which she and her family denied.



Stop Administrative Detention!



Administrative detention is a procedure that allows the Israeli military to hold prisoners indefinitely on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. Administrative detention is used almost exclusively to detain Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), which includes the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

This quarter, administrative detention continues to be a practice. For instance, Ofer Military Court issued 33 administrative detention orders in one day (27/1/2015), 13 of which were new orders while the others were renewals of older orders. 12 detainees boycotted the court for issuing administrative detention orders against them more than once.

Administrative Detention this quarter in numbers (from beginning of month)

Month	No. held under administrative detention
January 2015	450 (11 PLC members)
February 2015	454 (9 PLC members)
March 2015	426 (8 PLC members)



Yasin Abu Lafah, an activist in the field of prisoners issues and a graphic designer, received a 6-month administrative detention order, after being arrested on January 12, 2015.

Quarterly Newsletter—January to March 2015

Female Prisoners

Throughout the quarter, Palestinian women have continued to be detained in Israeli prisons. On International Women's day, March 8th, 2015, approximately 20 Palestinian females were in prison. Here are some highlights on the female prisoners who are in prison this quarter:



Shireen Issawi: Ms. Issawi is a high profile female human rights lawyer and advocate for Palestinian prisoner rights from occupied East Jerusalem who has participated in monitoring and documenting human rights violations committed by Israeli authorities against Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. On 6 March 2014, Ms. Issawi was arrested from her family home in East Jerusalem.

Bushra Tawil: Ms. Bushra al-Taweel is a female student and journalist who has performed voluntary work for the Aneen Al-Qaid news organization which publishes information about Palestinian prisoner issues. She also performs voluntary work for the Prisoners Club and is a participant in a European Union sponsored project on documenting human rights violations specifically relating to human rights defenders. Ms al-Taweel was arrested by Israeli military authorities on 2 July 2014 and has since been held continuously in Israeli military detention. She is being detained under Article 186 of Israeli Military Order 1651, which enables a special Israeli military committee to cancel a reduced sentence that was previously awarded to a prisoner and to require them to serve the remainder of that sentence. A decision made under Article 186 of Military Order 1651 is made on the basis of secret evidence which is not disclosed to the prisoner or his/her lawyer.



Over the last 5 decades, an estimated 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested or detained under Israeli military orders. Palestinian women are held mainly in Hasharon prison, located outside the 1967 occupied territory, in direct contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that an Occupying Power must detain residents of occupied territory in prisons inside the occupied territory.

Month	No. Females held
January 2015	22
February 2015	22
March 2015	22

There have consistently been 22 Palestinian females held in detention from the onset of each month in the quarter.

Testimonies from Home Raids

"On 31/1/2015 at 3:45am, I was still awake and sitting with my daughter and her husband. Suddenly my daughter started screaming telling us that there are soldiers outside. They exploded the gate and the house door while my daughter's husband was on his way to open the door. My daughter was screaming because they had a dog and they let him inside my bedroom while I was changing my clothes. The dog entered the bedroom without any soldiers and started attacking me. I tried to defend myself by hiding under the bed but the dog kept attacking me. This resulted in many bruises in my right hand. I started screaming. My son and husband entered the living room and the soldiers were yelling at them. My husband told them that the dog is attacking me. The dog was huge and black in color. The IOF kept asking about Ahmad but Ahmad didn't know that the soldiers were in the house. When Ahmad got out of his room the soldiers attacked him immediately. One of the soldiers said something to the dog in Hebrew and the dog backed off. I went out to the living room and found out that they want to arrest Ahmad. I saw Ahmad shackled (both hands and legs). My husband was changing Ahmad's clothes. The IOF stayed until 4:30am, there were huge numbers of soldiers inside and outside the house. Some of them were wearing masks and an officer was present as well."

- Sumaya A., Qalandia refugee camp

"On 30/3/2015 at 1:00am, the IOF raided our house. They were about 20 soldiers and they had a dog. In the beginning they asked me about my older brother Ayham, and then immediately started searching the house and every room in it. Then they took Ayham and tied him outside the house, they blindfolded him and put him in a jeep. The jeep drove off immediately and the soldiers stayed in the house until 4:00am. While they were searching the house, they took me to a room with two soldiers and closed the door. They started interrogating me. They asked me how I go to school, if I help with the house chores, who my friends are, where I go other than school."

- Adam R., Obwein village

Palestinian Legislative Council Members

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 2, states that states parties are to ensure "to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966). However, Palestinian political leaders, including Palestinian Legislative Council members, are routinely arrested.

7 of these were held under administrative detention. The following indicate the numbers of Palestinian Legislative Council members detained at the onset of each month:

Month	No. Palestinian Legislative Council Members held
January 2015	20
February 2015	17
March 2015	16

At the end of the quarter, there were approximately 13 Palestinian Legislative Council members held in Israeli detention/imprisonment.

Quarterly Newsletter—January to March 2015

Human Rights and Awareness Raising Activities

This quarter, Awareness Raising Lectures and activities were carried out by the Training and Awareness Unit at Addameer. These included:

- A lecture on Military orders in Al Quds University (Legal Clinic) took place on 6 January, 2015.
- A lecture took place at Birzeit University for law students in the course, Israeli Laws on 3 January 2015.
- A lecture on Torture at Al Quds University took place on 3 March 2015.
- Legal Clinic Lectures at Al Quds University about Documentation of Human Rights violations took place on 5 March 2015 and on 10 March 2015.
- "Know your Rights" lectures took place on 16 March and 26 March 2015.

Within the Training and Awareness Raising Activities, Addameer is a project that carries out awareness raising and capacity building workshops among youth on Human Rights and prisoner's rights, and encourages volunteerism in society. This year, Addameer is focusing on district of Ramallah. Five locations were chosen from villages and refugee camps.

Addameer has carried out human rights and volunteerism projects in Ramallah city, Birzeit, Beit Reema, Saffa and Jalazone Refugee Camp. The participating 17 youth are aged between 19 and 24.



Volunteers cleaned wells of Durra Al Qari'. The area was chosen due to its neglect and risk of land appropriation. After trainings, each volunteers develop their own volunteer groups. Each group then is developed within each area.



Awareness-raising activity, 16 March 2015.



Awareness-raising activity, 26 March 2015.

In March, between the 13th and the 27th, three training workshops were carried out, addressing leadership skills, bringing ideas to actualization, media training, human rights, and prisoner's rights.



Awareness-raising activity, 14 March 2015.

Quarterly Newsletter—January to March 2015

Addameer participates in 28th Session of the Human Rights Council

Addameer participated in the 28th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, which is being held between 02 and 27 March 2015. The organization participated alongside a delegation of various Palestinian human rights organizations, in preparation for submission of a report to the International Commission of Inquiry on the attack on Gaza Strip this past year, which has been scheduled to be presented in the upcoming June session.

Addameer participated in a side event conducted by Cairo Institute for Human Rights and Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, addressing violations committed against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and in 1948 territories.

Representatives of diplomatic missions, regional organizations, and human rights organizations participated in the session. Addameer presented the issue of Palestinian political prisoners in particular. Participating organizations also addressed the issue of the exploitation of natural resources by occupation forces, the status of Jerusalem, the issue of refugees, the devastating impact of the war on Gaza and the ongoing siege, and discrimination faced by Palestinians living in 1948 territory. Organizations also addressed the lack of accountability at the international level and the failures of the Israeli judiciary in providing justice.

Organizations including Al-Haq, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights, Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Adalah, and the Coalition for Jerusalem participated in the session.

Addameer attended various meetings with special rapporteurs and working groups of the United Nations, including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, and the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. The lack of independence of the Israeli military courts and the trial of civilians, the use of administrative detention, the targeting of human rights defenders, and medical negligence against Palestinian prisoners and detainees were addressed.

Addameer also participated in the 7th item, which specifically addressed issues surrounding the Palestinian occupied territory.

Military Court Hearing Updates

Ayman Nasser detention extended



Human rights defender and Addameer employee Ayman Nasser remains in custody.

An administrative detention order renewal was issued on 08 December 2014, and this order was set to end on 16 March 2015. It was then renewed again and his current order is set to end on 15 June 2016.

Ayman Nasser has been detained since 18 September 2015.

Administrative detention may be renewed indefinitely.

Addameer continues to condemn the detention of Ayman Nasser without trial, and the

targeting of human rights organizations in the defense of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Nasser is a human rights defender and actively works on human rights issues and prisoners affairs. Nasser's arrest is a marked violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Murad Shtewi released

Human Rights Defender Murad Shtewi was released on 23 January 2015. He had been imprisoned since 29 April 2014.

Before his arrest, Shtewi organized weekly demonstrations against the closure of the main road in Kufur Qaddum, his village.*

The United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders expressly states that: "everyone has the right, individually or in association with others to... meet or assemble peacefully"; and, at paragraph 12: "everyone has the right, individually or in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms" (paragraph 5).



Addameer considers Mr. Shtewi a human rights defender who is accordingly entitled to the human rights protections outlined in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, in addition to legal protections afforded to all individuals under international human rights law.

*In his speeches, as can be seen here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjtlrJROAg0&feature=youtu.be>, as he is seen calling for the protests to maintain peaceful.

Addameer participates in World Social Forum



Addameer participated in the World Social Forum in 24 March - 28 March, in collaboration with National Lawyers Guild and the Franz Fanon Foundation.