

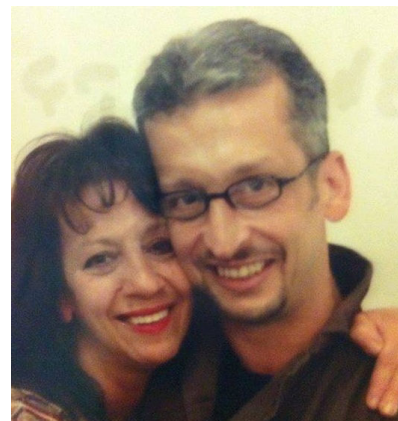
Monthly Newsletter—July 2013

Detention Trends + Statistics

| Type of Prisoner | Number of Prisoners |
|---|---------------------|
| Total Number | 5071 |
| Administrative Detainees | 136 (9 PLC members) |
| Female prisoners | 12 |
| Child prisoners | 193 (41 under 16) |
| Palestinian Legislative Council members | 14 |
| East Jerusalem prisoners | 185 |
| 1948 Territories prisoners | 210 |
| Gaza prisoners | 421 |
| Prisoners serving life sentences | 531 |
| Prisoners serving a sentence above 20 years | 459 |

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Prisoner Nader Sadaqa is allowed to hug his mother for the first time in 7 years. Nader was sentenced to 6 life sentences in 2004. He is from the Samarian village of Jerzeim near Nablus.

During the month of July, the IOF arrested 623 Palestinians. This represents a 22% increase from July 2012. The majority of arrests took place in the districts of Jerusalem (66); Ramallah (58); Jenin (18); Tubas (3) Tulkarem (14); Qalqiliya (17); Nablus (51); Salfit (7); Jericho (7); Bethlehem (27); Hebron (71), Gaza (11). The remainder were arrested from checkpoints across the West Bank. Among those arrested by the Israeli military were: 37 children; 1 journalist, 1 Palestinian Legislative Council member, 1 mayor, 1 professor, 2 women, 5 university students and 7 security officers.

*Statistics obtained from the Negotiations Support Unit Monthly Reports

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Addameer expresses its condolences to the family of Ahmad Abu-Sukkar, an ex-prisoner who passed away on 16 July 2013. Abu Sukkar, who languished in Israeli prisons for 28 years before his release in 2003 was fondly referred to as the "Dean of Prisoners" by fellow detainees.



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Hunger Strikes Escalate

This month has seen an escalation in the individual hunger strikes among the prisoners fighting for freedom.

Two new prisoners started open hunger strikes in July in protest of their prolonged interrogation periods. Omar (23 years) and Mahmoud (19 years) Talahmeh are brothers from Kharsa Village, near Hebron. Omar engaged in a 16-day hunger strike in protest of his prolonged and difficult interrogation period and denial of lawyers visits. He was arrested from his home in the early hours of 30 June 2013, when the IOF raided and ransacked his home while purposefully breaking the family's possessions and confining the family into a single room. Mahmoud, who was arrested on 10 July 2013, endured a 22-day hunger strike also in protest of his extensive interrogation. Mahmoud is a student at Al-Najah University, and was arrested from his room in the student housing facilities. The brothers are still being detained but were promised to be moved to a regular prison cell.

Twelve prisoners remained on hunger strike in July, including five Jordanians who have been on hunger strike since 2 May 2013 to demand they be transferred to Jordan and secure their rights to family visits. While the health situation of the prisoners becomes more grave, the prisoners have reported to Addameer that they are facing immense pressure by the IPS to end their hunger strikes, including being detained in isolation cells, transferred from prison to prison, physically attacked and denied sufficient medical care. The treatment of the hunger strikers as they continue to fight their ill-treatment with their last weapon sets an alarming precedent for prisoners to be able to gain their basic rights.

As of publication, the Jordanian hunger strikers suspended their strikes, but seven Palestinian prisoners remain. The International Committee of the Red Cross published a statement stating that the ICRC is **"extremely concerned about the worsening health of seven Palestinian detainees who are on long-term hunger strike."** For more information on the ongoing individual hunger strikes, please read Addameer's hunger strikes updates.

Spotlight: Mohammad Al-Azzeh



Mohammad Al-Azzeh is a photojournalist who works as the Director of the Media Unit at Lajee Center. There, he teaches children in Aida refugee camp both still and film photography. In recent years, Mohammad has documented the Israeli army's frequent incursions into the refugee camp. On 8 April 2013, Mohammad was targeted by Israeli forces and shot in the face with a rubber-coated steel bullet while photographing one such incursion from the balcony of his office. After undergoing surgical procedures to remove the bullet from his cheek and reconstruct his jaw, Mohammad was released from the hospital. On his first day home from the hospital (July 1st), Israeli Occupation Forces violently raided his family home, assaulted his family members, and arrested Mohammad for suspected "involvement in violent terror activities." He was then taken to Asyoun detention center for two days before he was transferred to Ofer Prison, where he spent nine days before being released on 11 July. During his time in prison, Mohammad was given no medical attention for his wounded cheek despite his repeated requests.

The arrest of Mohammad Al-Azzeh is part of a growing campaign to harass, intimidate, and oftentimes arrest those who seek to document and/or broadcast Israeli war crimes. There are currently 13 journalists being detained in Israeli prisons, most of whom have been arrested this year. Addameer has documented an alarming spike in the arrest of journalists this year-- seven journalists have been arrested in the last three months alone, compared to a total of three journalist arrests in the year 2012.

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“Praver Won’t Pass” Day of Rage

Several large demonstrations took part across historic Palestine during the month of July in protest of the the Israeli government’s “Praver Plan,” which will confiscate 800,000 dunums of Palestinian land in the Naqab desert, forcibly displace 50,000 Palestinians and demolish 35 villages. On 15 of July, in a “day of rage” organized by youth activists, hundreds demonstrated in Sakhnin, Naqab, Jerusalem and Ramallah. At least 12 were arrested in the Naqab and 10 in Sakhnin. In Ramallah, demonstrations headed in the direction of illegal settlement Beit El were thwarted by Palestinian Authority police, and demonstrations in Gaza were banned entirely.

These demonstrations served as a reminder of the unity of Palestinians in all of historic Palestine – despite holding Israeli citizenship, Palestinian citizens of Israel face immense discrimination. There are currently 210 Palestinians from the 1948 territories imprisoned, including 15 prisoners who have served since before Oslo and are expected to be released in during the upcoming negotiations.

Freedom of Speech Suppressed by PA

On 28 July 2013, demonstrations against the renewal of the negotiations process were organized in Ramallah and Gaza City. In Ramallah, officers with the Palestinian Authority violently assaulted dozens of peaceful demonstrators and arrested two protesters. Among the injured was Khalida Jarrar, a member of the Legislative Council. In the hours following the protest, Palestinian Authority officials detained an additional three injured protesters who were receiving treatment at Ramallah Hospital as a result of injuries sustained at the demonstration.

This is a violation of the political and civil rights upheld by Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1976 and Articles (18) (19) which affirm the right to freedom of expression and the right to political participation. In addition, this act of repression also demonstrates a violation of Article 26 of the Basic Law of Palestine which guarantees the right to participate in political expression.

Raids and Violations

Addameer documented three raids inside the prisoners during the month of July: two night raids in Askalan and Aysheh prisoners, and one raid at Ramleh Prison Clinic.

A cell of 16 ill prisoners held in Ramleh Prison Clinic was raided by the Metseda Special Forces on 6 July 2013. The prisoners were corralled together for 6 hours as the Metseda brutally searched the cells, and threatened them the prisoners if they tried to take their medicines.

In the early hours of the morning on 17 July 2013, Special Forces raided Aysheh Prison and attacked the prisoners. Ultimately, they put four prisoners in isolation and injured dozens. Similarly on 29 July 2013, cell 11 in Askalan Prison was raided in the middle of the night, and the prisoners were corralled into the prison yard as the special forces raided and ransacked their cells. The prisoners reported that the special forces were armed and carried gas canisters.



Israeli police arrest demonstrator at the Praver Plan protests on 15 July 2013.

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Legal News

Force-feeding bill

In response to the growing number of Palestinian prisoners who've entered hunger strikes in protest of their imprisonment, the Israeli Justice Ministry is working to draft a bill that would permit the use of force-feeding techniques for hunger striking prisoners, subject to court approval. Prisoners would have the right to be represented by an attorney during the legal proceedings. The passing of such legislation would mean the reintroduction of force-feeding which was suspended in the early 1990's after several Palestinian political prisoners died.

According to the World Medical Association's Declaration on Malta, "forcible feeding is never ethically acceptable. Even if intended to benefit, feeding accompanied by threats, coercion, force or use of physical restraints is a form of inhuman and degrading treatment." If approved, this bill will serve only to further institutionalize the degradation and torture of Palestinian prisoners.

Emergency Laws to become Permanent Legislation

A proposed "counter-terrorism bill" making its rounds in the Israeli Knesset could potentially strike a devastating blow to the civil rights of both Palestinian civilians and detainees. If passed, the bill would all but eliminate detained persons' right to due process by, among other things, institutionalizing a previously "temporary" order which allowed for the detainment of 'terror suspects' without trial based on "classified" evidence. According to a position paper released by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel in June, **"this bill creates a broad and sweeping framework that unreasonably expands the scope of criminal law and threatens to transform innocent people and organizations into "terrorists" according to the law."** What's most troubling about this proposed legislation is that it is intended to enshrine and normalize previous anti-terror legislation (much of which had been passed in 1948 as temporary, emergency-time procedure) into permanent legislation.

Addameer News

- The Palestinian Human Rights Organization's Council submitted a letter to urge the European Parliament (EP) Committee on Foreign Affairs to immediately dispatch a parliamentary fact-finding mission "to assess the current situation with regard to the detention conditions of Palestinian prisoners, including women and children, and the use of administrative detention", in line with an EP resolution of 13 March 2013. At time of publication, a fact-finding mission has not been confirmed.



- On Wednesday 17 July 2013, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association's lawyer (Jeanne-Aouda Zbeidat) succeeded in granting the release of Alaa Ju'beh (19 years old) from prison.



Photo of a home raid on 2 July 2013 in Jalazone Refugee Camp near Ramallah.