

Monthly Newsletter — June 2020



In June 2020, Addameer has documented systematic **human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including torture and ill-treatment.**

Detention in Numbers

Since January 2020, **2330** Palestinians from the occupied territory were arrested including **304** children and **70** women. For the month of June, the number of new arrests was **469**.

As of the end of June 2020, there were:

4700 Palestinian political prisoners

365 of them administrative detainees

160 child detainees

41 female prisoners

7 Palestinian Legislative Council members.

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The International Day to Support Victims of Torture

As the United Nations and the world commemorates the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June 2020, Palestinian Civil Society Coalitions stand in solidarity with Palestinians prisoners, who have suffered the devastating effects of torture and ill-treatment, and unequivocally condemn all forms of such treatment occurring in Israeli prisons, interrogation facilities, and detention centers.

The absolute and non-derogable prohibition against torture, enshrined under article (2) of the International Convention against Torture and ratified by the Israeli occupying state on 3 October 1991. Nevertheless, since its creation, the occupying state enforced and developed laws and practices that led to both the systematic use of torture and to absolute impunity for the perpetrator of this crime. Historically speaking, several torture methods were used against Palestinians, that included but were not limited to shaking, the baby chair, covering the head with a bag, forced listening to loud music, the closet, ripping of nails, and many other methods that were used to extract confessions from Palestinian detainees. In fact, since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, 73 Palestinian detainees were killed in Israeli interrogations.

The Israeli occupation authorities never stopped resorting to torture as the standard operating procedure in extracting confessions from Palestinian detainees. In point of fact, the crime of torture is committed with the complicity of the Israeli judicial system. At the end of 2019, the intelligence agency "Shabak" subjected a number of detainees at al-Mascobiyya interrogation center to severe physical and psychological torture, without any form of monitoring and protection. Those detainees included university students, human rights defenders, and political leader. One of them is Samer al-Arbed who was transferred to the hospital only after three days of his arrest, Samer arrived to the hospital unconscious and with life threatening injuries including 11 broken ribs and a renal failure due to the severe torture methods he was subjected to. Samer along with the rest of the mentioned detainees are still suffering from injuries obtained during their interrogation period, not only for the severity of the injuries, but also because of the occupation's systematic policy of medical negligence in Israeli prisons.

During interrogations, Palestinian detainees suffer from different forms of both physical and psychological torture. The methods used against them include, but are not limited to harsh beating, sleep deprivation, solitary confinement, stress positions, the denial of hygiene needs, sexual harassment, threatening and intensive psychological torture including the use of family members and/or other detainees.

Addameer's Lawyer Salah Hamouri Again Arrested

On 1 July 2020, lawyer Salah Hamouri has a court session at the Israeli Court of First Instance in Jerusalem which extended the detention period for the purposes of interrogations at al-Mascobiyya interrogation center for another seven days. Addameer's lawyers filed an appeal against the extension of detention against Salah.

Salah was arrested yesterday, 30 June 2020, from Shaikh Jarrah in occupied Jerusalem. Salah is a lawyer and he is part of Addameer's lawyers team, this is his fourth arrest as he already spent several years in detention, some were based on sentences and others were based on the arbitrary administrative detention.



LPHR and Addameer's Statement on the Release of University Student Shatha Hassan

London and Ramallah, 04 June 2020 - Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR) and Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association (Addameer) can report that Shatha Hasan, a 22 year old Palestinian female undergraduate student at Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank, was released from Israeli military administrative detention on Thursday 21 May 2020 after being arrested from her home in the middle of the night on 12 December 2019.

LPHR and Addameer submitted a joint complaint to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention because of our concern at Ms Hasan's young age, and therefore, particular vulnerability, at being detained on secret evidence for nearly six months without charge or trial. Her family, particularly her parents and sister, were extremely concerned about Ms Hasan's well-being owing to the likely effect a harsh prison setting will have on a young female who has never lived away from home.

Ms Hasan is in the fourth year of her undergraduate studies and lives with her parents at her family home along with her siblings. She is the head of Birzeit University's Student Union's Council and is therefore a visible individual at the educational institute. She had not had any previous engagement with the law and this was her first experience with the Israeli military forces, courts and prisons.

Military arrest and unlawful arbitrary detention of Ms Hasan without charge or trial

Ms Hasan's home was raided by Israeli military forces on 12 December 2019 at approximately 2am. [She was arrested and transported](#) to Ofer Prison, then to Hasharon Prison and finally to Damon Prison – the latter two facilities being inside the state of Israel. The transfer of a protected person outside of occupied territory for the purpose of detention constitutes a clearly apparent breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

On 15 December 2019, Ms Hasan attended a military court hearing where the assigned judge stated that her university activities, extending to and including her membership with Birzeit University's Islamic Society, had financial ties with Hamas. The judge emphasised an Israeli High Court decision (6404/08) which determines "there is no difference, or division between military and organizational activities." On this basis, the military judge extended Ms Hasan's detention period for 72 days for the express purpose of issuing an administrative detention order against her, without Ms Hasan's lawyer having sight of and the opportunity to test the secret evidence being used as a basis for her administrative detention.

Ms Hasan's military detention order was renewed on 4 March 2020 by the Israeli military commander of the West Bank for a further three months, to end on 10 June 2020. The military judge upheld renewal of the administrative detention order without Ms Hasan's lawyer being able to address the secret information nor defend Ms Hasan fully. The military judge did however state that Ms Hasan's detention may end on 21 May 2020 to coincide with Eid, in the absence of further secret information.

LPHR and Addameer has requested that the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention calls for the ending of the use of administrative detention without charge or trial against Palestinians by Israeli authorities; and for the ending of Israeli military courts jurisdiction over Palestinian civilians. We urge for these calls to be reiterated by the international community.

LPHR and Addameer will continue to monitor and work on protecting Palestinians university students from ongoing illegitimate targeting, harassment, humiliation and punishment which appears to be widespread, systematic and in clear violation of basic international human rights law protections.

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Palestinian, Regional, and International Human Rights Organizations Submit a Report to UN Special Rapporteur

Al-Haq, Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, and Habitat International Coalition – Housing and Land Rights Network, have submitted a joint report to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Mr Michael Lynk, detailing the continued failure to ensure justice and accountability, and an end to Israeli impunity, for widespread and systematic human rights violations and international crimes committed against the Palestinian people, including the crime of apartheid, ahead of the Rapporteur's presentation of a report on accountability to the United Nations General Assembly in October 2020.

The comprehensive 62-page report addresses issues of third State responsibility, the failure of States to cooperate, through the United Nations and other international and regional organizations to bring an end to Israeli impunity, the failures thus far of international justice and corporate accountability in Palestine, and the dangers of the continuation and further entrenchment of Israel's pervasive impunity. In doing so, the report suggests various methods by which the impunity gap may be addressed, such as the activation of universal jurisdiction mechanisms by third States, support for a full, thorough, and comprehensive criminal investigation by the International Criminal Court into the Situation in the State of Palestine and the *Mavi Marmara* flotilla attacks, continued support, including annual updates, for the UN Database on companies operating with illegal Israeli settlements, and the prohibition of trade with illegal Israeli colonial settlements through domestic legislation, amongst other measures of accountability.

The full joint report is available to read [here](#).

Addameer's actions in numbers

12 international groups (210 people) were briefed by the Advocacy office since January.

5 visits to military courts were coordinated and organized since January.

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