

## Quarterly Newsletter — May to September 2019

From **May to September 2019**, Addameer has documented ongoing human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, as well as Human Rights organizations.

**Administrative detention** continues as a policy which deprives detainees of the right to a fair trial, and the chance to defend themselves against any formal charges. Key issues persistently include the use of **torture and ill-treatment** of prisoners, and the ongoing **detention of journalists and human right defenders**.



### Detention in Numbers

From May to September 2019, arrests and detention were perpetrated on a large scale by Israeli occupation forces. **Since May 2019, 2384 Palestinians from the occupied territories were arrested.**

**As of September 2019, there were:**

**5 000** Palestinian political prisoners

**425** of them administrative detainees

**190** child detainees

**43** female prisoners


**7** Palestinian Legislative Council members.


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### The ongoing attacks on Human Rights organizations and their staff in the OPT

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2019, at around 2:00am, the office of Addameer Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association was raided by the Israeli occupation forces. They stole five laptops, memory cards, three laptop memories, one laptop card and several books.

Addameer sees this raid as a part of ongoing and systematic attacks against the Palestinian civil society organizations which play a direct role in facing the occupation's violations and demanding accountability. This is part of the occupation's campaign to shrink space, delegitimize and de-fund those human rights and civil society organizations. These attacks come in different forms: arbitrary administrative detention of the staff, travel bans for some of the staff, defamation, de-funding attempts, raids, and ongoing harassment of the organization's lawyers.

On Wednesday, 25 September 2019, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHRC) met with a number of embassy/consult representatives, international and local organizations to discuss the ongoing Israeli targeting to Palestinian civil society organizations. The meeting focused in particular on the raid that happened in Addameer's office.



Moreover, the Israeli Military Court is trying to silence Addameer's advocacy work. The Israeli Court of First Instances in Jerusalem issued an order on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 according to which Addameer is banned from providing information to the public on the names and cases of multiple detainees, many of who remain under interrogation and all of who are yet to be charged. This gag order was renewed until the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. Addameer expresses serious concern for the well-being and health of these detainees, some of whom have been detained since late August, as many have also been banned from counsel with their lawyers. Many of these detainees have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment throughout their detention.

**GAG ORDER**

Addameer reassures that those constant raids and limitations will not stand in the face of any duties the organization has for Palestinian political prisoners. The organization will continue to support Palestinian prisoners to fight all human rights violations they suffer from including torture, arbitrary detention and unfair trials.

### The alarming use of torture during interrogation sessions in the hand of the Israeli occupation forces



On Wednesday, 25 September 2019, a special unit of the Israeli occupation forces arrested Samer al-A'rbeed, a 44 years old father of 3 in his house on security grounds. During the arrest Samer was harshly beaten by the Israeli forces using their guns. He was then taken to al-Mascobiyya interrogation center in Jerusalem and was issued an order that bans him from meeting his lawyer. The day after, Samer had a court session without his lawyer, during which he told the judge he was suffering from severe pain in his chest and could not eat anything. However, he was not immediately transferred to the hospital. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2019, the Israeli intelligence department, in a statement released to the press, stated that they have used extreme and exceptional techniques in interrogations which amount to torture. On the same day, Addameer's lawyer was informed that Samer was transferred to Hadassah Hospital – El-Esawya. He was also updated on Samer's critical health situation: he was unconscious and kept on artificial respiration. Samer was in fact transferred to the hospital on Friday morning, 27 September 2019, though his family and lawyer were not informed of this fact. According to the lawyer, Samer was unconscious, had several broken ribs, mark were all over his body, and he suffers a severe kidney failure.

Israeli intelligence department issued a statement claiming that Samer and some other prisoners are allegedly involved in an attack on Ein Boben on 23 August 2019. It is worth noting that Addameer's lawyer was not allowed to visit any of the other detainees as they were issued an order than bans them from meeting their lawyer since the first day of their arrest. However, according to the court session's protocols all of those prisoners stated to the judge that they suffer from grave physical torture and also psychological torture mainly through arresting their family members continuously.



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### Shining the light on individual hunger strikers fighting against administrative detentions

8 Palestinian prisoners and detainees are currently doing individual hunger strikes to protest their administrative detentions.

**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. In most cases, detainees are not informed of the suspicions against them and both the detainee and his/her attorney are not allowed to see the evidence, on security grounds. The duration of an administrative detention is 6 months and can be renewed indefinitely. Currently there are **425** administrative detainees in Israeli occupation jails.

#### • The case of Hiba Al-Labady

Hiba is a Palestinian with a Jordanian citizenship. She was arrested on King Hussein's Bridge her way to the West Bank on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2019, on security grounds. She was taken into an interrogation center and was subjected to continuous interrogations which lasted up to seventeen hours during the first 16 days of her arrest. The interrogations spanned from 9 AM in the morning until 2AM the following day. For the first 25 days of her arrest, she was denied the right to a lawyer as well as visits or consultation. Hiba spent nearly one month in the Petah Tikva interrogation center, where she was physically and psychologically tortured by the Occupation's authorities.



After 32 days of interrogation, Hiba was transferred to Damon Prison. Nine days after her transfer to Damon, the Occupation's authorities issued a six-month administrative detention order against her, prompting her to announce a hunger strike in the same day. After Hiba announced her hunger strike, she was transferred to isolation in Jalameh Prison, where she reports being abused and harassed by the prison guards. Hiba is being searched every two hours, including throughout the night. Hiba's isolation cell has surveillance cameras. The designated area for bathing is completely exposed and therefore, she has not been able to shower since arriving to the prison. She is not allowed any yard time.

Hiba confirmed that she refused any medical examination until the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2019 and had only one examination since. She is not taking any vitamins, nutritional supplements or salt. She only drinks water. She has lost 8kg since the beginning of her hunger strike. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, Hiba Al-Labady was in her 18<sup>th</sup> day of hunger strike.

### The case of Huthayfa Halibia

Huthayfa Haliba was arrested on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, a few months after he got married. His wife gave birth to his daughter Majdal while he was in administrative detention and his first and only child is now 8 months old. She has never seen her father. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2019, he started a hunger strike to demand the end of his administrative detention. He had to put an end to his hunger strike after a serious deterioration of his health but refused the proposal given by the Israeli intelligence department to extend his detention for another two months. During the entire duration of his hunger strike, he only took water and refused to undertake any medical tests. He was denied family visits, or any contact with his family whatsoever during his hunger strike.



In the last weeks of his hunger strike, Huthaifa's health deteriorated and he started having several spasm attacks and seizures. His sight and hearing got weakened and he was transferred to a civil hospital in the middle of August where he was given some supplements. During the entire time he spent at the hospital, he was handcuffed. He then was taken back to al-Ramlah prison clinic where he continued his hunger strike. He was transferred again to a civil hospital on 3 September 2019 after he stopped drinking water and his medical condition required immediate intervention. Huthaifa reported to Addameer's lawyer that during his second month of hunger strike, the "Yamaz" Unit, an Israeli special forces unit, broke into his cell, searched and vandalized his contents, cursed and yelled at him and dumped the water and salt he was supposed to take on the ground.

### Prisoner Hiba al-Labady

**Date of Arrest:** 20 Aug 2019

**Date of Birth:** 21 May 1987

**Date of Hunger Strike:** 24 Sep 2019

**Marital Status:** Single

**Legal Status:** Administrative Detention

**Prison:** al-Jalameh - Solitary Confinement

*The Prison guards are harassing Hiba in order to pressure her to stop her hunger strike. She is kept in a dirty cell with cameras, the bathroom is exposed and they search her cell every two hours even in the late night hours.*

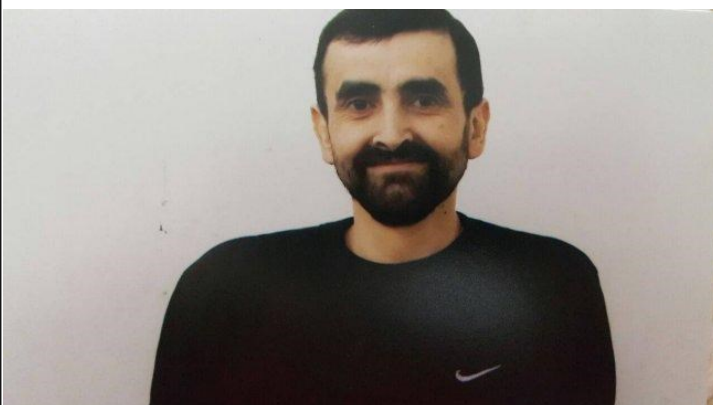
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### Two Palestinian prisoners died in Israeli custody: how torture and medical neglect are used as a systematic policy in Israeli prisons

**Between May and September 2019, two Palestinian prisoners died in Israeli occupation jails : Nasser Taqtaqa and Bassem al-Sayeh.** Since 1967, 221 Palestinian prisoners died while under the custody of the occupation.

On June 19, 2019, Nasser Taqtaqa was arrested from his home. After being arrested, he was taken to Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center in Jerusalem, where he spent the majority of his detention. He was subjected to very strong interrogation sessions, difficult detention conditions as well as to continuous transfers between interrogation centers. While under interrogation, he was subjected to severe torture and ill treatment, which worsened his health situation. He died on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July less than a month after he was arrested in Nitzan prison.

According to the medical report, the main reason for his death was a severe lung infection. His death is a direct result of both torture and medical neglect from both the interrogators and jailors.



On September 8, 2019, Palestinian prisoner and journalist Bassam al-Sayeh died in prison.

Bassam was arrested on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 while attending his wife's court session. Bassam was suffering from bones and blood cancer, a weakness in his heart muscles and medical complications in his liver. Despite his medical situation, the Israeli occupation forces transferred him to Petah Tikva interrogation center. At the time, Bassam informed Addameer's lawyer that he was interrogated daily for long hours, and he fainted and lost consciousness several times during the interrogation sessions and in his cell. He was left for around 20 days without any medical care or treatment which led to a serious deterioration in his health.

Due to torture, medical negligence, and the failure in providing him with the medical care he needed, his health deteriorated, 80% of his heart failed and he became unable to move or speak. He is the third Palestinian prisoner to die in 2019.



Sami Abu Deyak's case is very similar and his life is today threatened because of medical neglect from the Israeli Prison System. In 2015, Sami began suffering from abdominal pain. The occupation authorities did not allow Sami to be diagnosed for two weeks; only giving him painkillers despite his suffering, until he lost consciousness and was transferred to the hospital. Then, an error during his operation worsened his health condition. Two days after the operation, Sami was transferred to the Ramlah prison clinic, where the doctor reported that his condition was abnormal and his pains were continuing. He was transferred back to Soroka Hospital. Within 48 hours, Sami was transferred five times between Ramlah prison clinic and Soroka hospital without being diagnosed while suffering from constant pain. He stayed in the prison for several months and underwent 4 operations. His critical medical condition was exacerbated by the wrong diagnosis and appendectomy he was given at Soroka Hospital, and he entered a coma for 34 days. Afterwards, he did not stay in a civilian hospital long enough to treat his severe health condition. The occupation forces transferred him many times between the civilian hospitals and Ramlah Prison Clinic, which does not have hospital facilities, nor any specialized staff or appropriate treatment services. To this day, Sami still takes drugs and painkillers to ease his pain, and he is unable to sleep or eat normally.

The prisoner Sami Abu Deyak is yet another example of the violations of the basic rights of prisoners on behalf of the occupation forces: the failure to respond in a timely manner to cases of severe illness, delay in the diagnosis of diseases, denial of access to adequate medical care, and continuous transfer and medical neglect.

**Medical negligence have become a systematic Israeli policy used against Palestinian prisoners which should force international bodies including the ICRC and WHO to pressure towards holding the Israeli authorities accountable to their crimes.**

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### Addameer's legal unit coordinator is still behind held under administrative detention

Ayman Nasser, the coordinator of Addameer's legal unit, was arrested by Israeli Occupation Forces from his home in the West Bank on the 9th of September 2018. In the beginning of September 2019, his administrative detention was renewed for another 4 months. This is the third time his administrative detention has been renewed. He is currently being held without charge or trial in Ofer prison.

Addameer condemns the Israeli occupation forces for arresting its legal coordinator multiple times over the past few years, and putting him under administrative detention. The last time he was arrested was in 2014, when he spent over a year under administrative detention. The renewal of Ayman's administrative detention is a clear example of the occupation's policy of systematically targeting human rights defenders. His arrest is a violation of international human rights laws and the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. Addameer calls on the international community to seriously work towards holding the Israeli occupation accountable for its crimes and to release all Palestinian detainees.

**[ACT NOW !](#)**

### Salah Hammouri's tours in France

Salah Hammouri made two tours in France, respectively in July and in September 2019.

He participated to several public events including meetings with parliamentarians, interviews with several French journalists and was a speaker at the Fête de l'Humanité, one of the biggest political festival in France.



### New publications

**Between May and September 2019, Addameer published two fact sheets:**

- **[Education within the Israeli Prisons: A Deliberate Policy to De-educate](#)**

*This fact sheet focuses on the Palestinian child detainees from East Jerusalem and their access to education, both when they are put under house arrest, or in prison. The cases documented present significant grounds which show that the right to education for children in Israeli prisons is undermined, and to some extent denied.*

- **[US legislation in opposition to Palestinian rights](#)**

*This fact-sheet is an attempt to further explain how Palestinian rights, and those who defend those rights are affected internationally. It provides an analysis of the politicization of American legislation which growingly opposes Palestinian basic rights as well as the rights of American activists, especially freedom of expression and the First Amendment's right to participate in political boycotts.*

### Upcoming events in the U.S. and Europe

- Addameer's director Sahar Francis will be conducting a lobby tour in Brussels and Berlin starting mid-October 2019.
- Addameer's international advocacy officer Lana Ramadan will be conducting a speaking tour in the US during the same period. She will be traveling in New York, San Francisco and Chicago.

### Addameer's advocacy actions in numbers

**64** international groups (1 164 people) were briefed by the Advocacy office since January 2019 on the situation of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli occupation jails.

**14** visits to military courts were coordinated and organized since January.

**10** Know your rights sessions were conducted by Addameer's training and awareness unit since January 2019. 3 were conducted in Jerusalem and 7 in different villages and cities in the West Bank.

### Keep in touch!



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