

Monthly Newsletter — November 2019



In November 2019, Addameer has documented systematic **human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, as well as Human Rights defenders.**

Detention in Numbers

Since January 2019, **5 190** Palestinians from the occupied territories were arrested. For the month of October, the number of new arrests was **374**.

As of the end of November 2019, there were:

- 5 000** Palestinian political prisoners
- 460** of them administrative detainees
- 185** child detainees
- 38** female prisoners
- 8** Palestinian Legislative Council members.

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The use of administrative detention orders against human rights defender continues

The administrative detention order of Addameer's legal unit coordinator was renewed for the fourth time on 6 November 2019.

Ayman was arrested in his house on 6 September 2018. At 2:00am, the Israeli occupation forces entered the village of Saffa with dozens of troops, raided Ayman's house and took him with them. A week after the arrest, the military commander of the West Bank issued an administrative detention order of six months against him. In 6 November 2019, his administrative detention order was renewed for the fourth time. This renewal was confirmed on 12 November 2019, Ayman should be released on 5 January 2020.



Moreover, during the month of November, **two human rights defenders were arrested on given administrative detention orders.** Ubaid Aboudi, the executive director of the Bisan center for research and development was arrested on 13 November 2019. Ashraf Abu Iram, the national advocacy officer of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network (PNGO), was arrested on 7 November. Both of them were not charged, nor inform on the reason for their detention. **Their arrest is part of a policy to target human right defenders and criminalize them.**

New renewal of the gag order

On 7 November, the gag order which has prevented the public, including Addameer, the legal representative of the cases under the gag order, from publishing any information on a number of detainees currently under interrogation, **was renewed for another month.** This gag order concerns approximately 40 cases. It was initially issued on 10 September 2019, and has been renewed twice. The hearing was a one-sided court session, held with attendance of one party, while the detainees and their legal representatives were not present.

Ironically, despite the gag order, Israeli sources including press and organizations have continuously published information to the public about the cases. This inconsistent enforcement of the gag order can only be understood as a way to influence public opinion. Addameer expresses serious concern for the well-being and health of the detainees mentioned in the gag order, some of whom have been detained since late August, and most of whom have been banned from meeting their lawyers. **Addameer is certain that these detainees were tortured and ill-treated, and that torture might still be happening today.**

GAG ORDER

How medical negligence in Israeli occupation prisons killed Sami Abu Deyak:

On 26 November 2019, **Palestinian prisoner Sami Abu Diyak died in al-Ramleh Prison Clinic.** He was arrested on 17 July 2002 and was sentenced to three life sentences and 30 years in prison. He has served 17 years, many of them being transferred in and between prisons, clinics, and hospitals.

In 2015, Sami Abu Diyak was in Rimon Prison when he began suffering from abdominal pain. The prison clinic gave him painkillers without properly diagnosing him, and two weeks later Sami lost consciousness and was transferred to Soroka hospital. In the hospital, he had a surgery to remove his appendix. Two days after the operation, and within 48 hours, Sami was transferred five times between Ramleh prison clinic and Soroka hospital without being diagnosed, while suffering from constant pain. When he was transferred to Assaf Harofeh Hospital for the sixth time, they removed 30 cm of his intestines and diagnosed him with cancer. He stayed for four months in Assaf Harofeh Hospital, and underwent four operations. His critical medical condition was exacerbated by the wrong diagnosis and appendectomy he was given at Soroka Hospital. He was in a coma for 34 days. Afterwards, he was transferred many times between the civilian hospitals and Ramleh Prison Clinic, which does not have hospital facilities, nor any specialized staff or appropriate treatment services, and is not equipped to respond to Sami's medical needs.

Before his death, Sami used to take drugs and painkillers to ease his pain, and was unable to sleep or eat normally. He lost a lot of weight and was transferred to the hospital during the month of November 2019.



New fact sheet on solitary confinement and isolation

In 2017, a massive hunger strike was organized by Palestinian prisoners to protest the cruel policies imposed on them by the Israeli Prison System (IPS). The hunger striking prisoners' demands, included ending isolation and solitary confinement, notably long-term isolation for "security" reasons. However, the IPS continues to use isolation towards Palestinian prisoners. Each year, tens of prisoners are held in solitary confinement and isolation. As of October 2019, 4 prisoners are still held in isolation, including Mr. "A.", who has been under isolation for 4 years.

Our fact sheet analyses the practice of isolation and solitary confinement in Israeli occupation prisons and interrogation centers: the conditions of imprisonment, visits and access to education, the consequences on mental health, and the ultimate goal of destroying prisoners' spirit.

It also calls on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law.

[The fact sheet is available here](#)

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2018 Annual Violations Report

Our 2018 Annual Violations Report was published on our website. This report documents the violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces and the Israeli Prison Services (IPS) against Palestinian prisoners and detainees throughout the different stages of their arrest and detention for the year of 2018. It also documents cases of collective punishments, extrajudicial killings and it highlights the violations against women, children, and administrative detainees.



[The report is available here](#)

Addameer's speaking tour in Spain

Addameer's director Sahar Francis conducted a 14 day speaking tour in Spain from 17 November to 30 November to raise awareness on the situation of Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons.

Sahar participated in several conferences, meetings, discussions, and work groups on the matter of Palestinian prisoners. She had a meeting at the Barcelona City Council. Thank you to all the people who attended these events.



Addameer's advocacy actions in numbers

81 international groups (1 357 people) were briefed by the Advocacy office since January.

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

11 Know your rights sessions were conducted by Addameer's training and awareness unit since January 2019. 3 were conducted in Jerusalem and 8 in the West Bank.

2 international speaking tours were done by Addameer during the month of November. One in France and one in Spain.

Day of action against Administrative Detention

On Wednesday 13 November, **Addameer organised an action in the center of Ramallah for its campaign "STOP administrative detention"**. Administrative detention is a procedure under which people are deprived of their freedom without being charged or allowed to stand trial.

In Israeli laws, administrative detention can be indefinite. There are currently 460 administrative detainees in Israeli occupation prisons. Administrative detention has been used as a substitute for criminal prosecution and as a tool against human rights workers.

During the action day, people were asked to write letters of support to administrative detainees. We would like to thank again all the people who showed up to demand the end of administrative detention.



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