

Special Edition Monthly Newsletter: Events of October 2015

During October 2015, a popular uprising started in the occupied Palestinian territory in response to the Israeli occupation's widespread human rights violations and escalation at Al-Aqsa Mosque as well as the ever-growing settlement activity and complete impunity to crimes by settlers, the latest of which was the arson and murder of the Dawabsheh family in Duma, Nablus. In response to the recent events, Israeli occupation forces (IOF) intensified human rights violations against Palestinians including mass arrests, increased use of administrative detention, excessive use of force and extrajudicial executions and collective punishment. Over the month, Israeli officials raised mass hysteria and incited violence against Palestinians and called on Israelis to bear arms. Every Palestinian became a suspect susceptible to being killed by the IOF and settlers resulting in the death of dozens of Palestinians. Families of murdered Palestinians are facing collective punishment including punitive house demolitions and holding the bodies of the dead thus denying the families to mourn the death of their loved ones.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

Ramallah—Al Masyoun,
Rafiden Square,
Edward Said Street
Sebat Building, 1st Floor,
Suite 2

P.O. Box Jerusalem 17338
info@addameer.ps

Find us on:

- /addameerassociation
- @addameer
- addameer21

Arrests of October 2015 in Numbers

The month of October has witnessed a large spike in arrests of Palestinians. In October, Israeli occupation forces arrested 1,195 Palestinians including 177 children, 16 females and 23 Palestinians arrested after being injured by IOF. Among those arrested, 128 were placed under administrative detention, 31 of whom were arrested for alleged "incitement" including through social media, including 3 children from Jerusalem. The majority of the arrests were from occupied Jerusalem where 314 were arrested, followed by 245 arrests in Hebron, 156 arrests from 1948 occupied territory. By the end of October, the number of Palestinian political prisoners increased to 6,700 as compared to 5,621 last month.

Israeli occupation authorities have publicly declared that these mass arrests as well as other measures taken against Palestinians in the occupied territory are aimed at suppressing the recent uprising, clearly indicating that the mass arrests are a form of collective punishment and political oppression aimed at forcing Palestinians to submission.

The continued arrest campaign has resulted in an overcrowding in the occupation's prisons and detention centers which resulted in further deterioration of the poor conditions under which Palestinian political prisoners are placed. This is also accompanied by the continuous and increased use of ill-treatment and torture.



Info graphic designed by: Palestine Info Graphic

Violations of October 2015

Executions and Collective Punishment

Extrajudicial Executions

72 Palestinians were killed by IOF during October 2015 including 15 underage children.¹ Among the 72 were 38 who were mostly Palestinian youth and children whom the IOF claims were shot during or after alleged attacks.² The evidence put forth in the cases of such attacks is either absent or lacking, and in many of these incidents footage has emerged which casts doubt at the circumstances of these killings. In some cases, footage has clearly shown that many of these Palestinians did not pose a threat at the time they were shot and thus were extra-judicially executed and shot without any justification and based on the discriminatory criteria that the use of lethal force against Palestinians is permissible.

The willful killing and unjustified use of lethal force against protected persons in occupied territory constitutes a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions and a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. International Human Rights Law standards limit the use of lethal force to cases where individuals pose serious and immediate threat to others and renders any unnecessary use of lethal force a form of extrajudicial execution and a violation of the right to life.

House Demolitions & Collective Punishment

Israeli occupation has further targeted the families of these alleged attackers with several policies including threats of residency revocation and punitive house demolitions. During October, IOF demolished 5 houses as a punitive measure against alleged Palestinian attackers and as punishment for their family members. By the end of October, Israeli occupation have handed demolition orders for 10 houses and have surveyed 16 other houses without issuing demolition orders.³

Israeli occupation authorities previously resorted to punitive house demolitions claiming it deters further attacks by Palestinians. However, the policy was later declared to be ineffective and its use was halted. Reinstating the use of punitive wanton house demolitions is a dangerous escalation and a violation of Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, a war crime under Article 8 of the Rome Statute and collective punishment.

Addameer further noted the immoral policy of holding the bodies of Palestinians killed by IOF as well as several punitive arrests and harassment of family members of Palestinian youth suspected of allegedly attacks all being part of a systematic policy of collective punishment. During October, at least seven family members of suspects were arrested including two who were placed under 6 months administrative detention; the father of Thaer Abu Ghazaleh and the brother of Shuruq Dwaiat both allegedly suspected of stabbing attacks.

¹Statistics by the Palestinian Ministry of Health

²Statistics by Al-Haq

³Statistics by Hamoked

Case Study: Fadi Alloun



The case of 19-year-old Fadi Alloun who was extrajudicially executed by Israeli police in Jerusalem on 04 October 2015 highlights the excessive use of lethal force by IOF against Palestinians, even in the absence of posing any threat. After the attack, video footage emerged, showing Fadi to be unarmed and **running away from a group of Israeli settlers**. The Hebrew-language shouts in the video told the police to shoot 19 year old Fadi, and he was then extrajudicially executed on the spot.

For days following his killing, Israeli forces refused to release the body of Alloun, and on 08 October 2015 Addameer's Attorney, Adv. Mohammad Mahmoud, submitted a request for the immediate release of the body. The continued withholding of the body of the deceased, even in the absence of any actual evidence that he had posed any threat, constituted a clear form of collective punishment against the family of Alloun. Additionally, the Israeli occupation's security agency placed conditions upon the release of Alloun's body, including limiting the number of people who can attend the funeral and imposing a burial location. The family had to pay money as guarantee that they will comply with the occupation's conditions.

On 12 October 2015, attorneys from Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights and Addameer filed a complaint on behalf of the family of Fadi Alloun to demand an investigation in his killing on 04 October 2015. The complaint noted that Israeli police officers violated rules of engagement and contravened fatal shooting only as a last resort and only if the suspect poses an immediate danger and all other measures have been exhausted.

In the complaint, the attorneys wrote: "The police in this case chose to use deadly weapons as the only option, as a first course of action instead of as a last resort." Addameer and Adalah also noted that Alloun's body was released 11 October 2015, about one week following his execution. The Israeli court had also rejected a request for autopsy by the family citing that the Israeli police had acted lawfully

The unlawful killing of Fadi Alloun is a clear and grave violation of international human rights and humanitarian law standards to which the perpetrators must be held accountable.

Violations of October 2015

Grave Violations and Trends

Arresting the Injured

Aside from the regular violations that Palestinians face at the hands of IOF during arrests, October has witnessed an escalation with grave violations including arresting dozens of injured Palestinians shot by the IOF. Many of the injured who were arrested testified that they did not receive medical attention, were left to bleed and in pain for hours and went through interrogations and physical assault regardless of their medical condition including field interrogations.

The IOF has further kidnapped several wounded Palestinians from ambulances as well as from hospitals. The IOF has broken into the Specialized Arab Hospital in Nablus and kidnapped one of the patients there, Karam Al-Masri (23 years old) and have also broken into several hospitals in Jerusalem, searched ambulances and obstructed their work. The IOF has further placed roadblocks in front of several hospitals in occupied Jerusalem and placed checkpoints at which ambulances were stopped and searched.

Facebook Arrests

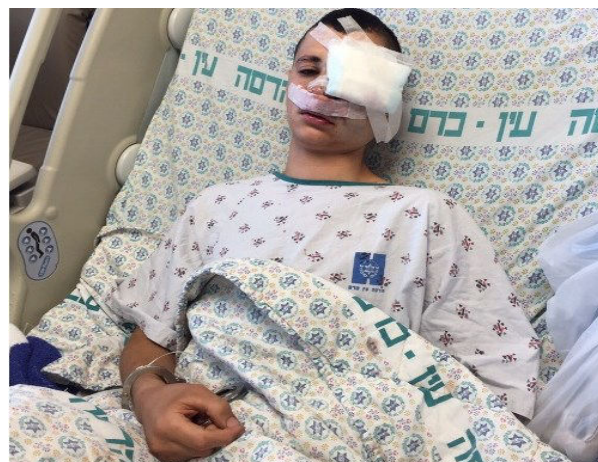
Addameer also documented an escalation with arrests of Palestinians under the claim of inciting violence and racism through social media outlets including Facebook. So far, Addameer has documented the arrest of 30 Palestinians under the claim of incitement 25 of whom were placed under administrative detention without charge or trial while the others are facing trial and charged of incitement. Israeli occupation has resorted to similar arrests last year where several Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem were arrested and sentenced to several months in prison under the claim of inciting violence through social media.

Such arrests are a major blow to the freedom of expression and a violation of international human rights norms. It is noteworthy that Israeli occupation authorities have not arrested any Israelis under such allegations.

Discriminatory Legislations

Israeli occupation authorities have also resorted to imposing emergency regulations and legislations discriminately aimed at Palestinians. Among those was the recent amendment by the Knesset imposing a mandatory minimum sentence of three years as punishment to stone throwing in addition to imposing high fines of up to 3000 USD on the families. The legislation is clearly discriminatory and aimed at Palestinians who are almost always charged with stone throwing while Israeli settlers who often throw stones at Palestinians are not arrested and not charged at all. Such discriminatory legislations complement a wider policy of collective punishment and oppression against Palestinians.

Case Study: Mohammad Burqan



On 4 October 2015, 18-year-old Mohammad Burqan was shot with a rubber bullet in his left eye by Israeli occupation forces in Al-Turi Neighborhood in occupied Jerusalem. Following his injury, Israeli special forces dragged Burqan and physically assaulted him. He was repeatedly kicked in the stomach and on his head even though he was bleeding. Mohammad started throwing up heavily as a result of the assault. Burqan was later transferred to Hadasa Ein Karem hospital where he learnt he permanently lost eyesight in his left eye and that his eye had to be surgically removed. Burqan also needed titanium implants in his jaw and the bones surrounding his left eye due to several fractures that resulted from the brutal assault he faced during his arrest. Following the operation, Mohammad remained in the hospital under custody for four days during which he was handcuffed to the hospital bed.

Four days after his surgery, Burqan was transferred to interrogation in Mascobiyya detention center. Burqan was also subjected to an interrogation in the hospital prior to his release. A charge sheet was later presented against Burqan despite his critical medical condition. Burqan informed Adv. Farah Bayadsi from Addameer during a visit in Mascobiyya detention center that he suffers from severe headaches and dizziness. He was not able to eat for days as he could not open his mouth due to the pain in his jaw and because of stitches in his mouth and the fact that several of his teeth were broken as a result of the beating he was subjected to. Burqan was also bleeding from his nose at night which has prevented him from sleeping.

Adv. Bayadsi confirmed that Burqan was not receiving medication or medical treatment since he was transferred to Mascobiyya detention center despite his critical medical condition. He was only given painkillers and has not received any treatment or follow up after the operation. In addition to the physical pain, Burqan is suffering from severe psychological trauma due to the loss of his eye. Until today he was not offered any psychosocial support or care. He is expected to have surgery in November to implant a prosthetic eye.

Arrests of October 2015

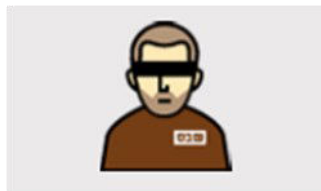
Children



177 Palestinian children have been arrested by IOF during October 2015. This brings the total of Palestinian children in Israeli occupation prisons to 320 children. The Israeli Prison Service reopened the Givon children Section in Al-Ramleh prison to cope with

large number of children arrested in October. Addameer's lawyer adv. Muna Naddaf visited Givon and reported that the section currently has 56 Palestinian children. The conditions are very poor in Givon including moisture, unhygienic conditions and inadequate and very poor food quality. The children were strip searched and humiliated on 1 November and many of them have reported being physically assaulted, ill-treated and humiliated during arrest and interrogations.

Administrative Detention



During October 2015, Israeli occupation placed 128 Palestinians under administrative detention and renewed the detention orders of 43 other detainees. The number of Palestinian administrative detainees thus

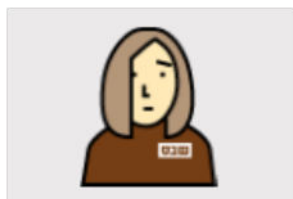
has risen to 450 detainees from 343 last month. The notable escalation in the use of administrative detention included reinstating its use against Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem and 1948 territory as well as its use against 3 underage children and to detain Palestinians under the claim of incitement.

Palestinian Legislative Council Members



Another Palestinian Legislative Council member was arrested in the month of October 2015. Hasan Yusuf was arrested on 20 October 2015, and subsequently issued a 6-month administrative detention order. There are now 5 Palestinian Legislative Council Members in Israeli detention in total.

Female Prisoners

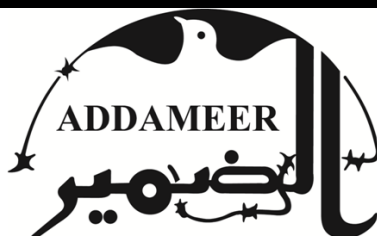


Since the onset of October 2015, 30 females were arrested 16 of whom are still detained, leading to a significant rise in the number of Palestinians women and girls held in Israeli

detention which ended up being 42 females by the end of October. Among those arrested were 3 underage girls and 5 females who wounded at the time of their arrest. Furthermore, 2 Palestinian females were placed under administrative detention; 19-year-old Israa Hamdan from Nazareth who was placed under administrative detention under the claim of "incitement" through Facebook and 19-year-old Joreen Qadeh from Shuqba, Ramallah.

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 and targeted by Israeli occupation forces which resulted in paralyzing the Palestinian Legislative Council and restricting political participation and the political process in the occupied territory.

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