

Monthly Newsletter

February 2021



Free all the Palestinian Child Prisoners in the Israeli Prisons

Top February Topics

- [Public Statement Issued by the Palestinian Bar Association and Civil Society Organizations.](#)
- [Ofer Military Court Confirms Six Month Administrative Detention Order Against Palestinian Child with Rare Disease](#)
- [UN Experts Urge Israel to Ensure Accountability for Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.](#)
- [United States Policy on Palestine: 2021 and Beyond](#)
- [Three Palestinian Civil Society Organizations Send Submission on Israel's Smear Campaigns and Disinformation](#)

As the 46th session of the Human Rights Council began on 22 February and will last until 23 March 2021, it is an opportunity for member state representatives and civil society organizations to discuss various human rights issues through written and oral interventions. The session includes several general debates, interactive dialogues, and side events. Under agenda item 7, a permanent feature in the HRC's agenda, participants cover human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territory and other Arab territories. To ensure accountability and justice for Palestinians, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association is co-sponsoring oral interventions relating to the UN database of illegal settlement enterprises, Israel's apartheid policies, and Palestinian political prisoners. Addameer is also co-sponsoring a side event on Israeli Health Apartheid on 16 March 2021.

News

General Update on Palestinian Prisoners

According to the Palestinian Prisoners' Associations, in February 2021, the Israeli Occupation Forces arrested 415 Palestinians; among them are 68 children and 12 women. The Israeli military commander issues 70 administrative detention orders, including 21 new orders and 49 renewed administrative detention orders.

The prolonged Israeli occupation and apartheid regime continue to implement unjust and suppressive policies against Palestinian political prisoners in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law principles. Such policies include deliberate medical negligence, placing Palestinian women prisoners in solitary confinement under harsh conditions as punitive measures, the overall inadequate living standards in Ofer Israeli prison, and the systematic arbitrary arrests of young Palestinian boys in Jerusalem.

UN Experts Urge Israel to Ensure Accountability for Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

On 8 January 2021, United Nations Human Rights experts: Mr. Nils Melzer, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; Mr. S. Michael Lynk, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967; and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, issued a public statement urging Israel to ensure accountability for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment universally prohibited under international law.

The statement followed Addameer's urgent appeal to the United Nations Special Procedures on 27 January 2021 to uphold Palestinian prisoner Samer Arbeed's Freedom from torture and to guarantee accountability and effective remedies as a victim of torture after the Israeli Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit closed the investigations against the Shabak (Israeli Security Agency) for the circumstances leading to prisoner Samer Arbeed's hospitalization and the use of extreme torture techniques during Samer's interrogation that almost led to his death.

The UN experts criticized Israel's failure to hold those who committed the crime of torture and ill-treatment against Samer Arbeed accountable. Further, the UN Experts called on Israel to end its use of the "necessity defense" exception to practice "enhanced interrogation techniques" against persons suspected of possessing information on possible military operations.

PNGO, PNIN & PHROC Joint Statement: Racism - Three Palestinian Civil Society Organizations Send Submission on Israel's Smear Campaigns and Disinformation

On 15 February 2021, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights sent a joint submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression. The joint submission highlighted Israeli-conducted recent attacks on Palestinian human rights defenders, which included arbitrary arrests, travel bans, and residency revocations, as well as attacks on Palestinian human rights organizations.

Given Israel's prevailing culture of impunity, the submission reasserted the need to finally address Israel's apartheid regime as the root cause of Israel's systematic human rights violations, including those regarding human rights defenders and civil society organizations. The submission emphasized the need for the international community to hold Israel responsible for their crimes against Palestinians and their culture of impunity to end.

Numbers of Palestinian prisoners at Israeli occupation prisons by the end of February 2021.



Individual Case

The Case of Amal Nakhleh

Amal Nakleh is a -17year-old Palestinian child. He suffers from a threatening medical condition called Myasthenia gravis, a neuromuscular disorder that causes weakness in the skeletal muscles. This condition requires special medical care, including regular medication and constant monitoring of the symptoms to avoid possible health risks and complications. Nonetheless, this did not protect him from being arbitrarily detained and harassed by the Israeli Occupation.

On 2 November 2020, Amal was arrested from a random Israeli check-point north of Ramallah. During the arrest, Israeli Occupation Forces assaulted, tied, and severely beat Amal. He was arrested for "throwing stones," which is a common arbitrary charge against Palestinian children. On 10 December 2020, the Israeli military court of appeal released Amal after 40 days of incarceration because of his young age and deteriorating physical and psychological health. The military court issued his release despite the

military prosecutor's request to extend his detention.

Unfortunately, Amal was re-arrested on 21 January 2021 from his home in Al-Jalazon Palestinian refugee camp, and an administrative detention order was later issued against him. Military Judge Shamon Ashuel confirmed the administrative detention order for the entire six months, claiming that there was "secret information" against Amal that indicated a threat to the region's security.

Amal's detention and ill-treatment are a clear violation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, ratified by Israel in 1991. As of February 2021, there are 140 Palestinian child prisoners, including two under administrative detention. The majority of children in prison report being subjected to ill-treatment and having forced confessions extracted from them during interrogations. Forms of ill-treatment used by Israeli soldiers during a child's arrest and interrogation usually include slapping, beating, kicking, and violent pushing. Palestinian children are also routinely verbally abused.

Publication

The Right of Child Prisoners to Education

The aim behind the Occupying Power's systematic targeting of Palestinian children, especially those aged 16-18 who constitute the pillar of community development, is to suppress, control, and un-educated a Palestinian generation. This research paper addresses the right to education for Palestinian child prisoners inside Israeli prisons through a comprehensive review of international laws and conventions pertaining to the right to education. The analysis confirms that the child's right to education, including child prisoners, is an integral part of international human rights law under Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international humanitarian law, notably under Article 94 of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention. These instruments affirm the right to compulsory and free education for children deprived of their liberty.

The research paper offers a comparative lens with the right to education of child prisoners in the Swedish and Canadian context. It shows that these countries provide care and perceive children's deprivation of liberty only as a last resort. The research also examines the impact of the occupation on child prisoners' mental health, paying particular attention to the impact on their educational skills. It also monitors the role of Palestinian institutions working with child prisoners and assesses their role in reversing the effects of the occupying power's detention of children in degrading conditions and their torture and abuse.

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EVENTS

Civil Society Public Meeting Rejecting the New Decrees by Law Relating to the Judicial System/ Palestinian Civil Society Organizations

2 February 2021: Joint civil society organizations meeting in light of the repercussions of recent developments on the judiciary system, which discussed the continued interference in the judicial affairs by the executive branch and the negative impact of such new decisions on the protection of civil and political rights.

The Right to an Independent Judicial System/ Palestinian Civil Society Organizations

9 February 2021: Addameer lawyers participated in a public assembly against the new Decrees by Law issued by President Mahmoud Abbas relating to the judicial system. The assembly was called for an independent Palestinian judicial system to ensure the protection of Palestinian judicial rights. It took place before the Palestinian Legislative Council headquarter.

Highlighting Palestinian Women Prisoners' Human Rights Violations in Israeli Prisons and Detention Centers/ The Independent Commission for Human Rights

9 February 2021: Adv. Sahar Francis, Addameer's Director, discussed the situation of Palestinian female prisoners held in Damon prison under harsh living conditions that do not align with the bare minimum of adequate living standards.

The ICC Pre-Trial Chamber Decision Affirming Territorial Jurisdiction over the occupied Palestinian territory/ Al-Haq

15 February 2021: Joint discussion by Palestinian civil society organizations and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the ICC Pre-Trial Chamber's significant step towards ending Israeli impunity for various grave breaches of international law.