

# Monthly Newsletter

May 2021



## Top May Topics

[-Action Alert: International Community Must Take Immediate and Concrete Measures to Halt Israel's Aggression Against Palestinian Jerusalemites](#)

[-Palestinian Civil Society Organizations Call for a Special Session on the Escalating Israeli Attacks against Palestinians on Both Sides of the Green Line](#)

[-Joint Written Submission on Israel's Escalation of Systematic Arbitrary Arrests and Detention Campaigns against Palestinians on Both Sides of the Green Line](#)

[-HRC 30th Special Session: Call on the UN Human Rights Council to Adopt a Resolution on the Grave Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem and In Israel](#)

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The past month have been marked by extreme violence by the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime over the entirety of the occupied Palestinian territory, whether it be against Palestinians in Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza, or the 1948 occupied territories. The events span restrictions of movement near Damascus Gate, the storming of Al-Aqsa mosque and assault of worshippers, and the imminent threat of forced expulsion of eight Palestinian families from Sheikh Jarrah, which in turn led to the Israeli occupation's mass repression of Palestinian solidarity movements across the oPt. To compound upon this, Israeli bombardment of Gaza targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure by carrying out indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force.

# News

## [General Update on Palestinian Prisoners](#)

In May 2021, at least 3100 Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and 1948 occupied territories were arrested and/or detained during random and organized arrest campaigns. The largest proportion of these arrests were in the 1948 occupied territories, where almost 2000 arrests took place, among them 291 children. The number of arrests of Palestinian women have yet to be ascertained. Similarly, in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem a campaign of arbitrary arrests led to over 1,100 arrests, including 180 children, and 42 women and girls. The highest of these arrests took place in Jerusalem, with 677 arrests.

Moreover, between 4 and 12 May, arrest campaigns targeted freed prisoners, activists, and politicians. On 12 May, nearly 60 Palestinians were arrested, and at least 25 of them were transferred to administrative detention. Among those in administration are four Palestinian women from the West Bank, and a number of children, including a -16year-old from Hebron. In total, the number of administrative detention orders reached 200, including 116 new orders.

## [HRC 30th Special Session: Call on the UN Human Rights Council to Adopt a Resolution on the Grave Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Including East Jerusalem and In Israel](#)

On 27 May 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) held a Special Session in relation to the escalating human rights violations against the Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line. Palestinian civil society, supported by a coalition of 120 regional and international organizations, campaigned member states to support a resolution establishing an independent commission of inquiry. The adoption of the historic resolution, with 24 in favor, against, and 14 abstention establishes the first ongoing Commission of Inquiry to address Israel's violations against the Palestinian people on both sides of the Green Line.

Such a commission would be mandated to study all underlying root causes, including Israel's systemic discrimination and repression, thereby encompassing the crimes of apartheid and persecution. Furthermore, this resolution is the first resolution, adopted by the HRC on Palestine, calling on Third States to refrain from transferring arms when determined that those arms would be used to commit serious violations of international law.

## [Joint Written Submission on Israel's Escalation of Systematic Arbitrary Arrests and Detention Campaigns against Palestinians on Both Sides of the Green Line](#)

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al-Haq, Al Mezan, PCHR, and CIHRS submitted a joint written submission, ahead of the upcoming 47th regular session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council, which will be held between 21 June and 15 July 2021.

The submission, under Item 7, focused on Israel's latest large-scale campaign of systematic arbitrary arrest and detention of Palestinians on both sides of the Green Line. Affirming that these arrests are a continuation of a long-established policy used to intimidate and silence Palestinians, the submission further highlighted that these campaigns, carried out on both sides of the Green Line, are upheld by Israel's apartheid judicial system, which systematically grants impunity to Israeli occupying forces, police, and settlers, while upholding indictments submitted against Palestinian detainees and ignoring evidence of their physical assault.

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



Total Number of Political Prisoners

5300



Administrative Detainees

520



Child prisoners

250



Female prisoners

40

# Individual Case

## The Case of Mariam Afifi

Mariam Afifi is a 26-year-old Palestinian Jerusalemite, and member of the Palestine Youth Orchestra. On 8 May 2021, Israeli occupation forces brutally arrested her from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood at around 10:30pm. Mariam had rushed to assist a Palestinian girl who was pushed and assaulted by the IOF, falling to the ground. IOF began yelling at Mariam, pushing her back. Yet, when Mariam tried to approach the girl to check up on her, a soldier violently attacked Mariam, aggressively dragging her by her headscarf while other soldiers started kicking and hitting Mariam all over her body, where they cuffed her hands and legs to the back.

Mariam was later transferred to

the Salah Al-Deen station, where she was detained until the morning with other detainees. She was transferred again to Al-Mascobiya detention center, where she continued to suffer from ill-treatment. The prosecution requested to extend her detention, and while Mariam awaited the judge, the cuffs on Mariam's hands and feet were tightened, causing severe pain. Afterwards, upon reviewing the recording of Mariam's brutal arrest, the judge rejected the prosecution's request to extend her detention and ordered her release without any conditions. The assault and detention of Mariam Afifi clearly point to the increased systematic practices of arbitrary detention and violence against Palestinians across the occupied territory.

## Publication

### [Mass Arrests and Detention Amidst the Escalation of Israeli Aggression Against the Palestinian People](#)

Arbitrary arrests have been a key feature of the Israeli occupation's attempts to repress the Palestinian people's struggle for liberty all across the occupied Palestinian territory. The increased systematic practice of arbitrary detention undertaken by the Israeli occupation—IOF soldiers, police, special units, border police, secret service, and the undercover mista'arivim—is upheld by the Israeli apartheid judicial system.

The practices of the Israeli judicial system, at the onset of arrest, then upon detention and release, demonstrate systematic practices of racism and the existence of dual legal systems that characterize the Israeli apartheid regime. Palestinians, including those who hold Israeli nationality, are subjected to racism, false charges, arbitrary house arrests and deportation bans, along with physical assault and ill treatment. Israeli settlers, on the other hand, are afforded impunity and light sentences even as they commit crimes of assault, destruction of property, and murder of Palestinian civilians.

The methods of arbitrary arrest and detention are central to the practices of the Israeli occupation, yet they are differentially applied geographically across the occupied Palestinian territory.

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## EVENTS

### [Cafe Palestine 23 / UK Palestine Mental Health Network](#)

1 May 2021: Alongside Dr. Samah Jabri, Adv. and Addameer Director Sahar Francis spoke on the policies of administrative detention as part of Israel's apartheid apparatus, and the psychological impact of this practice on Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

### [Listening to and from Palestine—Panel Discussion / Edinburgh Law School](#)

17 May 2021: In a panel hosted by the University of Edinburgh Law School, Addameer Director Sahar Francis spoke alongside other Palestinian panelists on contextualizing the recent events across Palestine within broader historical, legal, and political processes.

### [The Balfour Project May Conference: Israel/Palestine: in search of the rule of law](#)

26 May 2021: Adv. Sahar Francis, Addameer's Director, participated in a panel moderated by Mr. S. Michael Lynk, current Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territory, wherein she presented the case study of Palestinian children in Israeli