

*Addameer Prisoners' Support & Human Rights Association*

*Annual Narrative Report 2006*

*January 01 - December 31, 2006*

**\*\* *Members of the General Assembly –Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association***

Abdullatif Ghaith  
Adv. Bashir Al-Khairi  
Sami Ayed  
Hanan Al-Masou  
Siham Rashid  
Mahmoud Jaddah  
Adam Haneya  
Iman Abu Al-Saadi  
Dr. Jumana Oudeh  
Khanum Al-Khairi  
Rebhi Qatamesh  
Issam Aqel  
Ata Al-Khateeb  
Ala Jaradat  
Dr. Fadia Al-Salfiti  
Dr. Majed Nassar  
Dr. Mohammed Al-Haj Yahia  
Hala Khourshid  
Adv. Waleed Al-Asali  
Wafia Al-Bargouthi  
Yaqoub Oudeh

**\*\* *Members of the Board of Directors –Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association***

Hala Khourshid, Honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors.  
Abdullatif Ghaith, Chairman of the Board of Directors.  
Adv. Bashir Al-Khairi, Vice Chairman  
Suha Al-Bargouthi, Treasury  
Siham Rashid, Member of the Board  
Mahmoud Jaddah, Member of the Board  
Sami ‘Ayed, Board Rapporteur (

Sahar Francis, **Acting Director**

## **Acknowledgment**

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- 2) Christian Aid, UK;
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- 4) Fund For Palestinian Legal Aid.
- 5) Health Work Committees.

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- 10) Palestinian Women Union. Kwiet.

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## **Introduction**

During 2006, the Palestinian people continued to suffer as a result of Israeli human rights violations that affected every aspect of Palestinian life. Israel's construction of the Apartheid Wall resulted in a forced transfer of the Palestinian population, confiscation and demolition of Palestinian property, break up of the social fabric of the Palestinian family, and deterioration of health services, cultural, and social life. It also restricted the free movement of the Palestinian people, and freedom of work and education, thus depriving them of leading a normal and dignified life.

As the Palestinian people were preoccupied with the preparations for the second Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections, Israeli occupation authorities launched a mass arrest campaign against political activists, especially in late September 2005. Hundreds of Palestinian activists have been arrested, especially those who were directly involved in the preparations for the PLC elections, as well as those who were running for the PLC or the local authorities. Arrest campaigns also continued after the January 2006 Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections.

In practice, arrests mounted after announcing the final results of the second PLC elections and the victory of Hamas in the elections. The international community, especially the United States and Israel, imposed sanctions on the Palestinian newly-formed Hamas government and on the Palestinian people. Not only did the Israeli occupation forces break off their political relations or stopped paying their financial dues in accordance with previous agreements signed with the PLO, but they also intensified their repressive policy, on various fronts, to pressure and punish the Palestinian people for their democratic political choice, as witnessed by the international community observers.

Israeli military forces launched daily attacks on Palestinian cities, villages and camps, and committed war crimes by deliberately killing Palestinians, and destroying their properties without military justification. Around 10 to 20 Palestinians from various parts of the West Bank were arrested by the Israeli occupation forces on a daily basis. All segments of the Palestinian society have been affected by the wide-scale arrest campaign launched by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people.

The campaigns targeted political activists who participated in the PLC elections, university students, teachers, doctors, university lecturers, children, women and citizens who resisted the Israeli occupation in various forms.

On 14 March 2006, Israeli occupation forces attacked Jericho Central Prison a few minutes after the withdrawal of the British and American observers. The Prison was bombarded with artillery and destroyed with bulldozers. Detainees who were held in the prison were kidnapped with a number of military Palestinians and citizens who were in the premises of Al-Muqata's next to the Prison during this period.

Israel's brutality against Palestinians increased after the Israeli soldier Gil'ad Shalit was captured in military clashes between Palestinian militants and Israeli military forces on 25 June 2006. Once again, Israeli occupation forces attacked Gaza Strip on 27 June 2006 and carried out massive destruction operations. Israeli occupation forces caused severe human loss and extensive destruction of public and private properties. Over 400 citizens were killed (326 civilians, including 89 children & 48 women) and over 112 Palestinians were arrested.

Israeli occupation forces also arrested Palestinian ministers and PLC members. They arrested ten Palestinian ministers, four of whom remained under arrest. Twenty-four PLC members were arrested, in addition to 10 elected PLC members. A number of municipal and village council members were also arrested.

The work of the organization has been affected, in a way or another, by two external factors as a result of the suffocating economic siege imposed by the international community on the Palestinian people. The Palestinian public sector employees held an open strike for not being paid their salaries. The Palestinian Prisoners' Club (Nadi Al-Asir), an independent humanitarian, social & popular organization, which provides legal aid to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, participated in the strike. A natural and expected result of the open strike held by the public sector employees was that the number of cases that come to us seeking legal assistance increased.

Furthermore, Israeli occupation forces shut down the Prisoners' Support Organization and its branches in Israel & the West Bank. Offices were attacked, documents and

private properties confiscated. This also contributed to increasing the number of cases approaching us seeking legal aid.

Due to the above-mentioned factors, **Addameer Association** was not able to commit itself to the number of cases it determined for itself early this year and in compliance with the annual plan. It was forced to receive these cases and determine its activities, which were supposed to be implemented. It is important for the organization to maintain a high level of communication with the detainees' families and to provide them with necessary basic services. This would significantly contribute to enhancing citizens' confidence in the organization, distinguishing its services, and spreading it locally.

**Addameer Prisoners' Support & Human Rights Association** continued its work in the midst of these harsh and difficult circumstances in spite of the external and internal pressures. Pressures include the resignation of the Director of the Association to participate in the PLC elections, and the appointment of the most senior lawyer in the Association as an Acting Director. Due to shortage of funds, no lawyer was appointed, which resulted in increasing the workload on the legal team. In return, the Association received a greater number of volunteers who much contributed to the achievement of the work.

**Addameer Prisoners' Support & Human Rights Association** maintained a strong presence in the work of civil society through playing a role in the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) and receiving dozens of delegations concerned with the Palestinian cause. It significantly contributed to the dissemination of knowledge and information about the prisoners' issue, especially through meeting these delegations and meetings with parliamentary members, journalists, and international human rights organizations.

**Addameer Prisoners' Support & Human Rights Association** continued to maintain contacts with all parties concerned with the prisoners' issues on the local level, such as the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), the Ministry of Prisoners, and other human rights organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by presenting information. It presented a report on the situation of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails before the PLC in its special session on the Palestinian Prisoners' Day. It also submitted a report on the administrative detention to

the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in preparation for Mrs. Louis Arbor's visit, the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We submit to you our annual narrative report outlining the achievements made by the Association during the reporting period, with thorough analysis of the problems faced by us, and our future recommendations. We hope to have your confidence in us.

## **Addameer's Activities During 2006**

### **Legal Support Unit & Public Service Unit**

Since its establishment, Addameer Association's Legal Support Unit has formed a strong foundation for the work of the organization and for the achievement of its goals and objectives in defending Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli jails. The unit was developed to include a full-time coordinator. He is a lawyer and a member of the Israeli Bar Association (IBA). He follows up on the legal issues before the Israeli civil courts, including the Supreme Court. The unit has two more lawyers: one on a full-time basis and the second on an annual contract basis. Both are residents of Jerusalem with Jerusalem ID cards, which facilitate their freedom of movement. The Acting Director supported the Legal Unit in achieving some duties, especially in legal cases before the Israeli Supreme Court for being a member of the Israeli Bar Association,

The Public Service Unit helps the Legal Support Unit in carrying out its basic duties. The Unit is responsible for the following:

- Receiving all cases received by the Association;
- Documenting the necessary data and information about the cases;
- Providing human rights counseling for the detainees and their families.

These duties are performed by the Unit's Coordinator and her Assistant.

The Legal Support Unit & the Public Service Unit follow up on cases of Palestinian detainees held in Israeli jails, as well as Palestinian political detainees held in the PNA's jails. In addition to the legal follow-up, the lawyers help in gathering the necessary information for other units with the aim of documenting human rights violations against Palestinian detainees and following up on these violations.

In 2004, Addameer Association conducted a strategic planning and the evaluation and revision process continued during the year 2006. Based on the strategic plan, the Association identified its basic four goals. In this report, we will present the activities according to these goals, to determine the achievements and failures during the reporting period.

### **Main Goals:**

- 1) To confront Israeli human rights violations against Palestinian detainees and their families during detention or imprisonment;
- 2) To improve the PNA's abidance by the laws and regulations pertaining to detention and imprisonment in compliance with the international human rights law (IHRL).

To achieve these goals, the Legal Support Unit & the Public Service Unit should do the following:

- To provide specialized and professional legal representation services at the right time in compliance with the international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL);
- To provide legal and human rights counseling to cases not followed up by the Association;
- To continuously and systematically supervise Palestinian prisons and detention centers;
- To provide regulations and rules pertaining to the implementation of the Palestinian Reform & Rehabilitation Law.

## **Achievements**

### **I. Work on the Israeli Human Rights Violations**

Usually, Addameer's lawyers try to confront legal procedures in accordance with the military orders, either by confirming international standards pertaining to prisoners' rights during detention and arrest, or by objecting to these procedures within the legal framework through military courts and the Israeli Supreme Court.

Therefore, the lawyers try to appear with the detainees in the largest possible number of sessions related to the (extension of detention and trial procedures) and those related to the (administrative detention) to make sure that procedures are legally used and international standards are not surpassed. It is known that most military orders related to detention procedures, in terms of periods specified in the orders, disregard international laws and standards. Originally, they [military orders] surpass Israeli civil criminal law in

terms of the length of period on which a person can be held for interrogation and before submitting a bill of indictment against the detainee.

In addition, trial procedures before military courts do not apply all standards pertaining to a fair trial. The same is true for administrative detention, which is originally an arbitrary detention, in our opinion, as long as it is based on secret information and not specified in a period of time. For that reason, it is important for the lawyer to attend these sessions with the detainees.

Although most files are usually closed by reaching a settlement (bargain) with the military prosecution, the lawyers adopt a strict policy. Only in cases where we see that there is no hope from using the legal procedures because evidences only depend on confessions made by detainees - using procedures might be harmful to detainee than beneficial - the court is sometimes strict in its ruling. It is a waste of time for the court, especially if the detainee is eventually convicted. This contracts the acquittance principle. In cases where we see that, according to the evidences submitted in the file, it is possible to help the detainee by changing the terms of the bill of indictment, or amending it, or completely abolishing it, we totally use the legal procedures.

In cases of administrative detention, we use all legal procedures. We approach the Israeli Supreme Court. Addameer's policy is based on complete objection to this form of arbitrary detention.

**Following are the activities implemented during the reporting period:**

There were 121 legal cases in **2005** that were not finalized. They were referred to **2006** for legal processing and follow-up.

The following table shows the number of cases that were legally followed up by the Association during 2006, distributed according to type:

**Table (1)**  
**Distribution of Cases According to Type**

Type of Case	No. of Cases
Trial Procedures	59
Detainee Visit Application	12
Medical Cases	6
Appeal Against Ruling	7
Administrative Detention	19
Interrogation	7
Travel Ban	1
Visit Permit	1
Detention Follow-up Cases	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>

During 2006, Addameer Association received 539 new cases seeking various legal services provided by the Association. The following table shows the distribution of cases by type of service:

**Table (2)**  
**Distribution of Cases by Service Type**

Type of Follow-up	No. of Cases
Legal Follow-up	325
Human Rights Counseling	149
Legal Counseling (legal advice)	23
Medical Cases	11
Complaints	19
Deportation	2

Prison Visit Applications	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>

Case distribution by age group: **492** adults & **47** minors.

Case distribution by sex: **9** women & **530** men.

Cases are basically received via families. Sometimes, the detainees themselves approach us through other detainees or via court, or the case is referred by other organizations. The following table shows the distribution of cases by the informing party:

**Table (3)**  
**Distribution of Cases by the Informing Party**

<b>Informing Party</b>	<b>No. of Cases</b>
Family	490
Prison	15
International Organizations	2
Local Organizations	13
Former Detainees	5
Human Rights Organizations	8
Court	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>

Addameer Association registers every legal case individually. In other words, if the case is followed up during detention and a legal complaint is submitted against a certain violation, two legal cases are documented for this case. Therefore, the case may have more than one legal case. It is also possible that the case is from 2005 and is legally followed up on a certain subject in 2006. It is registered as a new legal case in 2006, not a new case.

The following table shows the distribution of Legal Cases that have been documented during 2006 by type of case:

**Table (4)**  
**Distribution of Legal Cases Documented during 2006 by Case Type**

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>No. of Cases Documented</b>
Detention	149
Interrogation	119
Trial Procedures	185
Administrative Detention	199
Deportation	3
Appeal against Ruling	11
Supreme Court	12
Complaints	25
Prison Visit	10
Medical Cases	12
Legal Counseling	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>748</b>

Addameer's lawyers provide legal counseling services to some families with regard to the cases of their sons. In fact, the case is not followed up by the association. Most of the legal counseling is focused on the bill of indictment, the accusations made against the detainee, and the expected court ruling.

Human rights counseling is provided by the Public Service Unit and is focused on providing the families with information about the detention place of the detainee, detention procedures, prison visits, courts, and other rights related to the detainee.

The following table shows the distribution of human rights counseling cases by the nature of counseling:

**Table (5)**  
**Distribution of Cases by the Nature of Counseling**

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>No. of Cases</b>
Detention Place	20
Detention Procedures	63
Legal Status	18
Rights	18
Approaching other Parties	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>

Among the most important legal procedures undertaken by the lawyers to confront violations committed during detention, include:

- Appeals against court decisions related to the extension of detention;
- Appeals against court decisions related to the extension of detention till the completion of the legal procedures;
- Appeals against court rulings issued against the detainee;
- Appeals against court decisions to confirm administrative detention orders, including appeals submitted to the Israeli Supreme Court in this regard.

The possibility of submitting appeals are not only limited to the detainee, but also the military prosecution can submit. The results of the appeals, which were submitted against the court rulings, were negative. This does not necessarily mean a failure by the lawyer to do what ought to be done. It indicates a difficulty in the work of the military apparatus where security standards, not legal standards, are dominant. The problem clearly appears in administrative detention cases, where achievements in the appeals may not be mentioned. Judges depend on information mentioned in the secret files, and rarely accept the detainee's claims.

Security trends force military judges, who are originally soldiers, to be strict in their decision. In other words, security reasons and military necessity are placed on top of other standards with regard to trial procedures, detention, interrogation and

administrative detention. This clarifies the outcomes of appeals mentioned below. With regard to cases which ended by issuing a court ruling, to approach the Israeli Supreme Court because it has no authority to appeal against the appellate military court, only in special cases, such as a clear legal error in the procedures.

The following table shows the number of appeals submitted by Addameer's lawyers, its results, as well as appeals submitted by the Israeli military prosecution in cases followed up by the Association:

**Table (6)**  
**Appeals Submitted & Results**

<b>Type of Appeal</b>	<b>No. of Appeals</b>	<b>Result / Outcome</b>
Appeal against court ruling	13	<p><b>12</b> were rejected</p> <p><b>1</b> the punishment was lifted to life imprisonment (because the prosecution also submitted an appeal)</p>
Appeals against detainees' extension of detention	9	<p>In <b>4</b> cases, the appeal was submitted during the submission of the bill of indictment:</p> <p>In <b>3</b> cases, the appeal was accepted and the bill of indictment was submitted on the same day;</p> <p>In <b>1</b> case, the appeal was rejected;</p> <p>In <b>5</b> cases, the appeal was submitted against the extension of detention during investigation:</p> <p>In <b>3</b> cases, the appeal was accepted and the detention</p>

		<p>period was reduced;</p> <p>In <b>2</b> cases, the appeal was rejected.</p>
<p>Appeals against the extension of detention till the completion of legal procedures</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>In <b>6</b> cases, the appeal was rejected;</p> <p>In <b>6</b> cases, the appeal was accepted and detainees were released on bail.</p>
<p>Appeals against the confirmation of the administrative detention order</p>	<p>135</p>	<p><b>11</b> appeals were accepted and the detention order was reduced, but not substantially (it is possible to renew the detention order a second time);</p> <p><b>2</b> appeals were accepted and the detention order was substantially reduced (it is not possible to renew the detention order);</p> <p><b>2</b> appeals were accepted and detainees were released;</p> <p><b>2</b> appeals were rejected before the court session;</p> <p><b>4</b> appeals were accepted and the detention order was reduced to refer the detainee to the interrogation;</p> <p>The rest were rejected.</p>
<p>Appeals submitted to Israeli Supreme Court</p>	<p>12</p>	<p><b>1</b> appeal was accepted and the detainee was released;</p> <p>In <b>2</b> appeals, it was agreed</p>

		<p>that the administrative detention order will not be renewed;</p> <p><b>1</b> appeal was cancelled because the Israeli Intelligence Services stated its intention of renewing the detention order;</p> <p><b>8</b> appeals were rejected.</p>
<p>Appeals submitted by the Israeli military prosecution</p>	<p>25</p>	<p><b>4</b> appeals against the extension of detention were rejected and detainees were released;</p> <p><b>2</b> appeals against the extension of detention were rejected, but one detainee was placed under administrative detention and a bill of indictment was submitted against a second detainee;</p> <p><b>2</b> appeals against the court ruling; appeals were rejected and the ruling remained unchanged;</p> <p><b>1</b> appeal against acquittance; the appeal was rejected and the detainee was released;</p> <p><b>16</b> appeals submitted by the prosecution were accepted (appeals against the extension of detention</p>

		<p>or administrative detention);</p> <p>In <b>1</b> case, the appeal against the court ruling was accepted and was lifted to life imprisonment.</p>
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As for the legal follow-up before first-degree military courts, Addameer's lawyers followed up an average of **1,537** court sessions. This high number indicates that the lawyers have been under high pressure during 2006. Part of the voluntary work was done by lawyers who assisted the Association in covering part of the extension of detention's sessions (the assistance is estimated at 10%).

This huge number of court sessions indicates that the lawyers spend most of their time in Israeli military courts or civil courts. This directly affected the implementation of the prison visit program (prisons & detention centers), as well as the implementation of the part related to the confrontation of violations taking place in the PNA's detention centers.

As previously mentioned, the large number of citizens approaching Addameer Association seeking legal advice has imposed on us to pursue this approach. Our first and foremost goal is confronting the Israeli occupation. The process of following-up detainees' cases before Israeli military courts is also a priority to both detainees and their families at this stage.

During legal follow-ups, the lawyers tried to confront military procedures in regard to interrogation, detention and trial. However, reality proves that this kind of work is extremely difficult, due to the fact that the Israeli judicial system, including the military apparatus, deals with the international law. The Israeli judicial system does not acknowledge the implementation of the 1949 Third & Fourth Geneva Convention, and what is mentioned about detainees, detention and trial procedures. If, e.g. we want to confront the detention procedure during the interrogation period, which may last for 90 days before submitting the bill of indictment, it will not be useful to approach the Israeli Supreme Court in such cases. This is because the court previously accepted and continues to accept this discrimination between the military orders applied in the

Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Israeli criminal law applied to its citizens. For example, following Israel's withdrawal from Gaza Strip, the detention law inside Israel was amended and such amendment is only applied to foreign detainees (non-citizens) who are arrested for security reasons. According to the law, it is possible to hold the detainee in the beginning of the detention for four days before bringing the detainee before a judge. Originally, the law specified a period of 24 hours.

With regard to orders preventing detainees from meeting their lawyers, experience has proved that the Israeli Supreme Court rejects most appeals submitted against these prevention orders. The Anti-Terrorism Committee follows up on these cases on a daily basis. Of the dozens of cases submitted to the Israeli Supreme Court against prevention orders, only a small part is achieved. Usually, the prevention order is not renewed.

The Israeli Supreme Court gives significant attention to security reasons in cases related to Palestinian detainees. Usually, claims by the general prosecution or the military prosecution are accepted with regard to security necessity to prevent detainees to meet their lawyers, or to extend detainees' detention for long periods before submitting a bill of indictment, or in cases of administrative detention.

It is important to confirm that the Association tries to take advantage of every available opportunity in an effort to influence the public policy to use these orders and procedures by proposing them in every place to instigate the public opinion.

Therefore, the Association's main concern, in such sessions, is focused on the implementation of relevant military orders and laws legally and without violations through trial procedures. It is also important that detainees are provided with a legal and professional representation, and the severity of these procedures is reduced as much as possible.

The Association approaches the Israeli Supreme Court when there is a clear legal horizon for the possibility of intervening in procedures in accordance with the military orders. During Israel's reoccupation of the Palestinian cities in March 2002, and when the military commander amended the military order pertaining to the detention period before presenting the detainee to a judge - the period was extended from 8 to 18 days,

the Association with a group of Palestinian and Israeli human rights organizations submitted a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court. Principally, the petition was rejected with regard to the commander's authority to do such procedure. However, the Court requested the commander to bring the situation back on track within a six-month period.

The following table shows the number of sessions (court hearings) conducted by the lawyers during 2006, distributed according to type of procedure, and the achievements made in these sessions:

**Table (7)**  
**No. of Sessions by Type of Procedures & Achievements**

<b>Type of Procedure</b>	<b>No. of Sessions</b>	<b>Result / Outcome</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Extension of Detention</u></b></p> <p>*In accordance with the military orders, the judge has the right to extend the detention for 30 days every time. At this stage, a bill of indictment is usually submitted if the detainee is not referred to the interrogation within a short period of time.</p>	386	<p>10 detainees were released.</p> <p>The police requested the extension of one detainee for 11 days. Following the lawyer's intervention, the extension period was reduced from 11 to 8 days.</p> <p>The police requested the extension of one detainee for 15 days. Following the lawyer's intervention, the extension period was reduced from 15 to 3 days.</p> <p>The detention of two detainees was extended to 22 days. Following our intervention, the extension period was reduced from 22 to 13 days.</p> <p>The remaining sessions were extension of detention to refer detainees to interrogation or to</p>

		<p>submit a bill of indictment. Usually, the lawyer and the military prosecution agree on a certain period of time.</p>
<p><b><u>Extension of Detention during Interrogation</u></b></p> <p>*The judge has the right to extend the detention period for 30 days every time, and even 90 days before a bill of indictment is submitted. The period can be extended to 90 additional days with the approval of the legal advisor and a decision by the head of the military appellate court.</p>	<p>152</p>	<p>4 detainees were released following our intervention.</p> <p>The Intelligence Services requested the extension of one detainee for 15 days. Following our intervention, the extension period was reduced from 15 to 12 days.</p> <p>The Intelligence Services requested the extension of one detainee for 11 days. Following our intervention, the extension period was reduced from 11 to 8 days.</p> <p>The Intelligence Services requested the extension of one detainee for 26 days. Following our intervention, the extension period was reduced from 26 to 11 days.</p> <p>The Intelligence Services requested the extension of one detainee for 18 days. Following our intervention, the extension period was reduced from 18 to</p>

		<p>15 days.</p> <p>The remaining extensions were either to end the interrogation or to submit the files to the prosecution to submit bills of indictments.</p>
<p><b><u>Trial Procedures</u></b></p>	<p>860</p>	<p>65 detainees were sentenced by bargains. Usually in these bargains, the lawyers try to amend the bills of indictment and to reach the least possible ruling.</p> <p>13 detainees were sentenced through an open defense. In some cases, there were concrete achievements in which the court issued rulings less than the military prosecution had requested.</p> <p>5 detainees whom the court was satisfied with their detention period until the issuing date of a decision, and with imprisonment (without execution).</p> <p>2 detainees were released on bail.</p> <p>5 detainees whom the court was satisfied with their detention period and a bail.</p>

<p><b><u>Confirmation of Administrative Detention Orders</u></b></p> <p>*The military commander has the right to issue an administrative detention order for a maximum period of 6 months. He can renew the order several times, without specification.</p>	<p>139</p>	<p>The detention order for 33 administrative detainees was unsubstantially reduced.</p> <p>The detention order for 14 administrative detainees was substantially reduced.</p> <p>The judge decided to cancel the detention order for 9 administrative detainees and to release 5 detainees. The remaining 4 detainees, the prosecution appealed against the decision and were placed back under administrative detention.</p> <p>The detention order for 7 administrative detainees was reduced to refer detainees to interrogation. The detention order for 2 detainees was confirmed, but the judge decided that it is not possible to renew the detention order with the completion of the period. The detention order for 5 detainees was confirmed as issued by the military commander.</p>
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\*\*It should be noted that among the administrative detention cases legally followed up by Addameer this year were two cases for human rights defenders: Ziad Hmeidan, a staff member at Al-Haq, and Ahmad Abu Haniya, a staff member at the Alternative Information Center (AIC).

One of the most important file cases followed by Addameer during 2006 was Manal Ghanem. We began working on the file in 2005. Lawyer Mahmoud Hassan attended four sessions at the Israeli Supreme Court with regard to the custody of her child Nour inside the prison after reaching two years of age. Under Israeli law, a detained mother is not allowed to keep her child who is born inside prison after reaching two years of age. Unfortunately, we lost the case and Nour was taken out from the prison after reaching two years and seven months.

### **Medical Cases:**

With regard to medical cases received by **Addameer Association**, the lawyers visited the detainees and obtained details on their health conditions and the medical treatment provided to them by the Israeli prison authorities. Usually, the lawyer obtains a release of information from the detainee, which would give him access to the detainee's medical record from the prison authorities. In eight cases, the medical files were referred to Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) to obtain the medical records and to examine whether the detainee receives an appropriate medical treatment. Indeed, PHR received some replies from the health section at the prison authorities. Afterwards, we conducted extra visits to verify the information submitted by the prison authorities about the medical treatment provided to detainees.

### **Legal Complaints:**

Most of the legal complaints followed up by the lawyers are focused on violations against detainees during detention or interrogation or while taking detainees from and to the court. Sometimes, the complaints are related to violations against the detainees' families. Families are denied prison visits and have their personal properties destroyed during interrogation. During 2006, we worked on cases of violations against human rights defenders in the arena of freedom of movement: Sha'wan Jabarin from Al-Haq, who was banned from traveling, and Majed Nassar from the Health Work Committees (HWC). The Association is following up some cases of former detainees who were prevented from traveling, especially for medical reasons.

The following table shows the number of complaints submitted and the replies to these complaints:

**Table (8)**  
**No. of Complaints & Replies**

<b>Type of Complaint</b>	<b>No. of Complaints</b>	<b>Result / Reply</b>
Limiting freedom of movement	6	<p>4 were allowed to travel:  <b>3</b> for medical treatment, 1 (Sha'wan Jabarin from Al-Haq) was allowed to travel in Feb. 2006 and was denied later.  <b>2</b> were denied for security reasons</p>
Preventing families from visiting detainees	8	<p>4 obtained a permit for one time.</p> <p>In <b>1</b> case, the ban travel was lifted.</p> <p>In <b>1</b> case, the information about the relationship should be updated.</p> <p>In <b>1</b> case, the husband should apply for a visit.</p> <p>In <b>1</b> case, the reply was given by the legal advisor of the prison authorities. The prevention was not from the legal advisor. We approached the legal advisor of the military commander's office.</p>
Theft of property during arrest	3	<p>In <b>2</b> cases, confiscated or stolen properties were returned.</p> <p>In <b>1</b> case, confiscated properties are being examined and will later decide if it is possible to return it or will be</p>

		used in a submission case against its owner.  We followed up a complaint submitted by Khaled Dalayshe. In 2004, a sum of money and gold were stolen from his house during his arrest. The complaint is still being followed up.
Beating during interrogation	5	Received replies only. The police or army interrogation section received complaints, but there are no replies.
Torture during interrogation	2	There were no replies expect that the complaint was documented and is being investigated

\* Addameer Association did not implement the required number of local complaints in accordance with the annual plan, due to the lawyers' preoccupation with the legal cases. In some cases, families were referred to other organizations in the same field.

\*\* On the international level, Addameer Association did not submit complaints to any international party during 2006, due to lack of the team's necessary experience in international procedures and mechanisms

The legal cases (**149**) that were not closed at the end of 2006 were referred to 2007 for legal processing & follow-up. The following table shows the number of cases, distributed according to type:

**Table (9)**  
**Distribution of Legal Cases**

Type of Case	No. of Cases
Trial Procedures	125
Interrogation	5
Detention	2
Administrative Detention	14
Appeals against Court Rulings	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>149</b>

## **II. Work on the Violations by the Palestinian National Authority (DNA)**

The Legal Support Unit was required to perform periodical visits to detention and rehabilitation centers in the PNA areas with the aim of:

- Observing detention conditions;
- Documenting violations committed by the Palestinian prison authorities;
- Gathering information about other organizations working in this field;
- Publishing a report on Palestinian violations against Palestinian prisoners;
- Submitting dozens of complaints in this regard.

With regard to the Reform & Rehabilitation Law, the Legal Unit was required to provide a study about the abidance of the bylaws by the international human rights law, and to launch a lobbying and advocacy campaign on the issue.

During 2005, the working team tried to conduct visits to the detention and rehabilitation centers. However, the officials rejected all visit applications. With the beginning of 2006, following the PLC elections and the political situation that followed, a state of anticipation imposed itself on the work of the non-governmental organizations.

Principally, **Addameer Association** concentrates in its work on political prisoners. During the reporting period, there were no political prisoners except those held at Jericho Central Prison. No political prisoners were left in the PNA prisons after they were

kidnapped in March 2006. With the lack of human and financial resources, we decided not to conduct visits to the detention and rehabilitation centers, only to examine the circumstances of criminal detainees.

In previous years, **Addameer Association** prepared a report on the law reform project and submitted its remarks on the project to the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). This year, it was supposed to follow up whether bylaws have been laid down to implement the reform law, and whether these international standards and bylaws are applicable. However, the new political situation has imposed itself, and indeed, the bylaws have not been laid down to implement the law, especially in the second half of the year, since the PLC work on the enactment of laws was almost not functioning. This part has been postponed until 2007.

What has been achieved so far was laying down a preliminary structure for the study that should be conducted to examine the current situation of the detention and rehabilitation centers, to determine the available opportunities and potential for the Association to intervene for lobbying, and the possibilities of cooperation with other organizations working in this field.

### **Obstacles & Recommendations**

The most important obstacles and problems faced by the Legal Support Unit & the Public Service Unit was the large number of legal cases received and followed-up during the reporting period. As a result, the Legal Support Unit Staff was placed under huge pressure. The overload in legal cases affected the legal team's ability to achieve other duties. It also affected the Unit's ability to provide legal aid to detainees in the geographically remote areas. Most of the detainees from the northern area are interrogated at the Jalameh Interrogation Center. The number of visits conducted to the Interrogation Center indicates that the organization did not follow up on detainees from the northern area inasmuch as those followed up from Ramallah area. There has also been a clear negligence in regard to following-up on detainees in the Salem Military Court during the reporting period, thus forcing the organization to rely on friends who carried out the duties voluntarily. For the same reason, visits were not conducted to the

detention centers, and no complaints were submitted on violations on the international level.

There are obstacles that impede the work of the Legal Support Unit & the Public Service Unit associated with procedures and work mechanisms adopted in military courts and prisons. Obstacles include:

- Delay in bringing detainees to military courts, which means that the lawyer may spend the whole day waiting for the client;
- Appoint dozens of files on the same day for the same judge, and at the same time, thus forcing the lawyer to wait for long hours;
- Exert pressure on the lawyer by the military attorney general and the court - if he wants to hear witnesses in his case - to postpone the file till the end of the day;
- Appoint files in various courts on the same day;
- Transfer of detainees from interrogation center to another or from prison to another impedes the visitation process, especially that the lawyer has not previously been informed about the transfer;
- Issue orders preventing lawyers from meeting detainees during interrogation on a regular and subsequent basis, thus making communication between lawyers and clients difficult.

To avoid these obstacles, the number of legal cases must be controlled as much as possible, taking into consideration the previously mentioned external circumstances, and the number of qualified lawyers to follow up on the legal cases in the best manner must be increased.

The organization should also focus on providing lawyers with constant training in the relevant international laws and international mechanisms used in confronting violations associated with the detainees' issue, with the aim of facilitating their duty in regard to the complaint lodging process on the international level.

## **Media & Studies Unit**

**Addameer Association** believes that the issue of prisoners requires support and pressure on the local and international levels, to confront daily violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and to solve their cause permanently - the release of prisoners. It is known that the State of Israel exploits the prisoners' issue to exert pressure on the Palestinian side in the peace negotiations. A strong indication is the failure of Israel to release all Palestinian prisoners who have been detained before signing the Oslo Accord. Dividing the prisoners' issue into various groups, each group is released on a certain time, clearly indicates Israel's intention of using the prisoners' issue to form a pressure on the Palestinians.

The issue of Palestinian prisoners is completely connected to the core of the Palestinian-Israel conflict. Since indicators indicate that, the Israeli occupation does not intend to release all detainees with the completion of the conflict, Addameer Association strongly believes that work on gaining local and international support for prisoners' issue is an essential priority in the Palestinian reality. For that reason, there is a significant importance of monitoring and documenting the situation of Palestinian prisoners and gathering information about Israel's violations against detainees, with the aim of raising awareness and instigating support and lobbying efforts to release Palestinian prisoners.

### **Main Goals:**

The responsibility of the Media & Studies Unit is focused on the central strategic goal by:

- Confronting Israeli human rights violations of the Palestinian prisoners and their families during detention and imprisonment;
- Improving the abundance of the PNA apparatuses by the laws and regulations pertaining to detention in compliance with the international human rights law (IHRL).

### **To implement these goals, the Media & Studies Unit should:**

- Improve the documentation & monitoring process and disseminate human rights violations against Palestinian detainees;
- Raise community awareness concerning detainees and families' rights;

- Implement constant and systematic supervision over Palestinian prisons and detention centers.

**This can be achieved by:**

- Issuing an annual report in Arabic & English on the Israeli violations and instigating the local and international public opinion on these violations;
- Issuing an annual report in Arabic & English on the situation of Palestinian prisons and detention centers.

**To achieve these duties, the Media & Studies Unit should:**

- Conduct periodical visits **(120)** to prisons, detention and interrogation centers of both sides;
- Gather information from other sources and document the information;
- Hold three workshops on the annual reports;
- Participate in conferences to divulge and disseminate violations against Palestinian detainees;
- Produce a film on the arbitrary detention;
- Hold a series of meetings, workshops & media campaign to raise citizens' awareness concerning the issue of prisoners and their rights.

The Media & Studies Unit, with the help of the Association's lawyers, conducted **(111)** visits to Israeli prisons and interrogation centers. Most of the visits focused on the interrogation centers, due to the large number of legal interrogation cases followed up by the organization during the reporting period. As a result, visits conducted to the military detention centers in the Occupied Territories have been affected. Due to lack of lawyers and the overload in legal cases, we failed to conduct visits to these detention centers during the reporting period. As for the central prisons, we were able to visit all prisons at least one time during 2006. Of course, this is not enough for the organization and for the Documentation & Monitoring Program. Due to other pressures and circumstances previously mentioned on the number of legal cases and priorities, we tried to communicate with the detainees through meetings in the military courts and following up on prison conditions through detainees' families who visit their sons and gather information from other organizations concerned with the detainees' issue.

Seven visits were not conducted, due to obstacles related to practices and procedures by the prison authorities, distributed as follows:

- **A visit to the Children's Section at Hasharon Prison in February 2006:**

The visit was not conducted despite previous coordination between the prison authority and the organization. As he arrived the prison, the lawyer was told that the detainees whom he asked to see were outside the prison.

- **A visit to Shatta and Jablou' Prisons in April 2006:**

Until that date, it was not necessary to coordinate ahead of time for the visit with the prisons administration. We did not know ahead of time about the changes in the procedures. Despite explaining this to the prison administration, the lawyer was not allowed to conduct the visit.

- **A visit to the Russian Compound (Mascobia) Interrogation Center in May 2006:**

One detainee was in the interrogation session and the prison authority refused to bring him to the lawyer and three other detainees against whom prevention visit orders have been issued.

- **A visit to the Al-Jalameh Interrogation Center in September 2006:**

The Red Cross representative was visiting on the same day. Since there was no other place designed for lawyers, the lawyer was not allowed to conduct the visit.

- **A visit to Hadarim Prison in October 2006:**

Due to the presence of other lawyers at the same time, the lawyer was not allowed to conduct the visit.

- **A visit to the Negev Desert in December 2006:**

The prison administration denied prison visit despite prior coordination under the pretext that it did not receive in writing the lawyer's reply to the approval with her signature.

**The Periodical Visitation Program basically aims to:**

- Monitor the conditions of detention;
- Follow up on violations against Palestinian detainees during the various detention stages.



It should be noted that in one visit, we visit for a number of purposes, which explains the difference between the number of visits **(130)** in the above table and the actual number of visits **(111)**.

The following table shows a comparison between the number of visits conducted to prisons and detention centers during 2006 and those during 2005:

**Table (10)**  
**Comparison between No. of Visits Conducted during 2006 & 2005**

<b>Detention Facility</b>	<b>No. of Visits During 2006</b>	<b>No. of Visits During 2005</b>
Russian Compound (Mascobia)	43	18
Petah Tegva	6	7
Asqalan	3	3
Al-Jalameh	8	6
Erez - Closed	0	0
'Asyoun	0	7
Benyamin	0	1
Huwara	0	1
Qadomim	0	2
Salem	0	0
Negev Desert	2	5
Rimon	1	0
Nafha	3	1
Dekel / Beer Sheba	0	0
Eishel / Beer Sheba	3	2
Ohali Kidar /Beer Sheba	3	3
Shikma / Asqalan	5	1
Marash / Ar-Ramleh Hospital	4	1

Nevi Tertsá / Ar-Ramleh (women's section)	1	1
Ayalon / Ar-Ramleh	1	0
Nitsan / Ar-Ramleh	2	1
Hadarim	6	2
Hasharon / Men's Section	3	0
Hasharon / Women's Section	4	10
Hasharon / Children's Section	2	4
Hasharon / Rimonim	0 (security section closed)	1
Ashmoret / Kfar Youna	0	1
Ad-Damoun	1	2
Megiddo	2	2
Jablbou'	4	3
Shatta	2	2
Ofer	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>89</b>

The above table shows the distribution of effort made by the lawyers among the various prisons and detention centers. This, definitely, shows the distribution of legal cases followed up by the organization during the reporting period. It can be noticed that the interrogation cases were mostly in the Russian Compound (Mascobia). In the future, the organization should take the geographical distribution into consideration in regard to following up on cases. Extra effort should be made in regard to following up detention centers located inside the Occupied Territories.

From the visits conducted during 2006, the organization was able to gather information about the following:

- Torture and the abusive treatment of Palestinian prisoners & detainees;
- Lack of necessary healthcare services in prisons;
- Beating detainees during detention or transfer of detainees from and to prisons;
- Maltreatment of the detainees' families during visits and trial sessions;

**Addameer Association** will publish a separate report clarifying the conditions and violations committed against Palestinian detainees.

It was supposed to hold two workshops with regard to publishing the reports on the violations and conditions of detention. Due to lack of human resources, the Media & Studies Unit was not able to hold the workshops.

**As for the instigation of the local & international public opinion, Addameer Association prepared a number of reports on various issues:**

▪ **Palestinian Female Prisoners in Israeli Jails:**

The report provides comprehensive information about the number of female prisoners, their conditions of detention, and the most important violations related to the life of prisoners, including the right to family visits, education, health, entertainment and correspondence. The report also includes interviews with the families of female detainees, and an interview with the former administrative detainee, Ikram At-Taweel, who speaks about her experience in prison in detail. It also includes pictures of some female detainees and their families.

▪ **Children Prisoners in Israeli Prisons:**

The report covers violations of the rights of Palestinian children, in terms of discrimination between Palestinian children and Israeli children, and the legal procedures taken against them. It also presents a number of cases received by the organization, in which children have been exposed to torture and abusive treatment by the prison authority.

▪ **Use of Police Dogs in Arrest Campaigns:**

During 2006, Addameer Association documented a new method of torture accompanied by the arrest. The Israeli army release dogs inside the house, thus creating a state of panic and intimidation among the family members. During 2006, the organization received cases in which citizens were hurt by the dogs during the search process. Twelve-year-old child from Jenin Refugee Camp, 12-

year-old child from Nablus, and a 70-year-old woman were attacked by the dogs accompanying the Israeli army units. They were injured and taken to hospital for medical treatment, and suffered psychological damage.

▪ **Work in Israeli Courts & Difficulties Faced by Lawyers Defending Palestinian Prisoners:**

The report reflects the difficulties & obstacles faced by lawyers in the military judicial system. To achieve this report, a number of Palestinian lawyers who are members of the Palestinian Bar Association (PBA), members of the Israeli Bar Association (IBA), and other Israeli lawyers, were interviewed, with the aim of showing the suffering of lawyers while representing their clients in the Israeli military courts that lack the basis for a fair trial.

▪ **Violations Against Families:**

This report deals with the difficulties faced by the families of Palestinian detainees, from the moment of their sons' arrest and the rights being denied. A large number of families are denied their natural right to visit their sons. The detainees' families are beaten during arrest. A family member may be arrested as a means to pressure on the wanted family members and to extradite himself or herself. The report also deals with the difficulties and problems faced by the detainees' families concerning the visit arrangement and during the visit.

▪ **Ahed Abu Ghalameh & Majdi Al-Rimawi's Families:**

Lengthy meetings were conducted with Ahed Abu Ghalameh and Majdi Al-Rimawi's wives, since both are prevented from visiting their husbands after they were arrested from Jericho Prison. Both detainees have two children. They suffered a lot while being chased by the Israeli army forces. Their children have been denied their natural right to have their fathers around them. This required extra effort by the detainees' wives to raise their children and to provide them with care and attention during their husbands' detention in Jericho Prison and their kidnapping by the Israeli army.

▪ **Work paper on the Isolation Policy (Solitary Confinement Policy) in Israeli Prisons:**

Addameer Association, in cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), prepared a work paper on the isolation policy (solitary confinement policy) in Israeli prisons, the legal status, the use of the isolation policy by the Israeli prison authorities, and the living conditions of detainees in the isolation. The work was distributed by conducting visits to detainees in the isolation, gathering information from organizations and other parties, and conducting a comparative study with the reality in other countries. The paper was supposed to be presented in a conference on the Palestinian prisoners in Tel Aviv University in January 2007.

### **Media & Awareness Activities on the Detainees' Issue**

**Addameer Association** maintained cooperation and established networking with organizations concerned with the prisoners' sector and detainees' rights to activate the supporting role of prisoners through:

- Organizing and participating in various media and public activities in the local & international media;
- Translating, circulating and disseminating the political detainees' issues in the local media, and delivering them to the international organizations, especially human rights organizations in Arabic & English.

During the reporting period, **Addameer Association** published (13) press releases and news items dealing with various issues. It also published a joint statement with other organizations covering various events on prisoners' daily events, interrogation conditions, attacks on prisoners, and the special campaign launched to release Ahmad Sa'dat and other detainees who were kidnapped from Jericho Central Prison. Media publications focused on the legal aspects of Jericho Prison kidnappers' campaign, currently being followed up by the organization.

On 14 March 2006, **Addameer Association** organized an immediate press conference in the wake of kidnapping Jericho Prisons' detainees by Israeli occupation forces. Held at Baladna Cultural Center in Ramallah, the press conference was attended by a number of local, Arab & foreign media representatives.

Lawyers Sahar Francis & Mahmoud Hassan spoke in the conference. PLC Chairman Aziz Dweik, who is currently being detained, and detainee Majdi Al-Rimawi's wife participated in the conference.

**Addameer Association** received a number of journalists to provide them the latest developments on the situation of prisoners, violations committed against Palestinian detainees and their families, which are intensified with a state of emergency in prisons (such as attacks on detainees, states of emergency outside). The organization also facilitates the journalists' access to information and arranges meetings for them with the detainees' families.

During 2006, **Addameer Association** held a number of media activities in Arabic & English. Activities include interviews in the mass media, and visits by journalists and media persons to its offices. They were provided with information about the Palestinian detainees. It was interviewed in a number of local, Arab and foreign media interviews to talk about Palestinian detainees in the local, Arab and foreign mass media. It conducted dozens of interviews with foreign newspapers and magazines, and a number of radio & televised interviews with the BBC, Monte Carlo, Al-Jazeera, Al-Arabiya, An-Nile, Al-Manar, Al-Alam, Kuwait & LBC.

## **Campaigns**

### **Writing Letters to Female Prisoners Campaign**

During the reporting period, the number of persons committed to writing letters to female prisoners was over 300 persons. The idea of the campaign lies in adopting female prisoners by French activists who are committed to writing personal letters to them, in order to help them maintain communication with the outside world, and to raise activists' awareness concerning the situation of the Palestinian female prisoners, their rights, and their sufferings. These are personal, social letters aiming at breaking the isolation imposed on female prisoners, especially that some are denied family visits. Female prisoners try to write letters to the French activists if the necessary stamps are available in the cafeteria. The organization updated the lists of female prisoners on a periodical basis and provided the activists with the latest developments on the female prisoners.

The campaign started by writing to only four female prisoners. By the end of 2006, over 100 out of 118 female prisoners held in Telmond Prison received letters on a regular basis.

### **Campaign in Solidarity with Manal & Nour (Free Manal & Nour)**

During 2006, **Addameer Association** issued a number of awareness pamphlets, especially those dedicated to the campaign launched in solidarity with Manal & Nour. The pamphlets include information about the situation of Palestinian female & male prisoners, and the campaign.

### **Addameer Association & Public Work**

Within the framework of developing its foreign relations, **Addameer Association** continued to play an active role in the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) and in a number of committees emerging from the PNGO or committees in which the PNGO contributes. Addameer Association is an elected member of the PNGO Coordination Committee for the fourth consecutive term, a founding member of the Jerusalem Committee, and later a founding member of the Central Elections Commission (CEC).

### **PNGO Coordination Committee**

**Addameer Association** continued to perform its role in the membership of the PNGO Coordination Committee, by actively attending most of its weekly meetings in the West Bank & Gaza Strip via video conference, around 52 ordinary meetings, in addition to the emergency meetings. PNGO, with its Coordination Committee, was active in various fields, on the level of coordinating the work among the organizations and performing a role in all issues related to citizen's life. It [Coordination Committee] played a coordinating role with the civil society organizations, as well as with the private and official sectors. It also played a clear role in the political and public national issues. On the international level, PNGO played a major role in defending and supporting the political and development process. Represented by its Coordination Committee, PNGO's relations have been strengthened with a number of NGO networks worldwide, such as the Arab Organization Network.

## **International Popular Protection Campaign**

The Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO) continued to embrace the international popular protection campaign for the Palestinian people. It is a higher national committee to coordinate the work to provide international popular protection for the Palestinian people. In addition to the Palestinian NGO Network, its membership includes the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Peace & Justice Council, the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW), the Union of the Palestinian Charitable Societies (UPCS), and Sabeel - The Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem.

**Addameer Association** represented the Palestinian NGO Network through its membership in the campaign's coordination committee and participated in its activities. Through its role in the national committee, Addameer participated in a number of activities. These include the coordination for solidarity visitation programs for international groups and delegations, with the aim of examining the political situation and the situation of the Palestinian human rights, especially the situation of prisoners, by receiving the delegations and presenting the various aspects of the prisoners' issue. Such visits have significantly contributed to raising international awareness concerning human rights violations against Palestinians, and the situation of the Palestinian people, thus enhancing the international solidarity movement.

## **The Upper National Committee for Prisoners' Affairs**

Following Israel's military reoccupation of the West Bank and other Palestinian territories in March 2002, there was an initiative to form the Upper National Committee for Prisoners' Affairs. The Committee includes non-governmental organizations concerned with prisoners' affairs, Palestinian human rights organizations, representatives from various Palestinian political factions and parties, in addition to representatives from detainees families' committees. The Committee holds periodical meetings that are intensified or reduced according to the prevailing situation. Through the Upper National Committee, it is sought to coordinate efforts, exchange ideas, and distribute roles with the aim of creating a state of role integration. Addameer Association attends the Committee's meetings and makes active participation in its activities. It always seeks to

develop the Committee's performance and coordination, especially during critical times that require clear coordination among the concerned parties.

### **Local & International Committees**

**Addameer Association** participates in a number of various committees and networks in varying proportions within the available abilities. It participated in the Civil Society Organizations' Committee, which includes the Palestinian NGO Network, the Union of Charitable Societies, the National Committee of the NGO, the national and Islamic powers, and representatives from the private sector. It also participated in the meetings held by the Private Labor Forum, which includes the Palestinian NGO Network, the Union of Charitable Societies, and the National Committee of the NGO.

**Addameer Association** maintains strong coordination and communication with the UN organizations and commissions through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) by participating in its activities and initiatives. It participated in various activities with the United Nations through the Office of the High Commissioner. It meets with UN representatives who visit the region, such as special reporters. It also maintains direct contacts with UN commissions and organizations, such as the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) and the UN Special Investigation Committee on Israeli Human Rights Violations against the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It also meets with its reporters, such as the UN Special Reporter in the Occupied Territories, by presenting its international testimony on the situation of Palestinian prisoners. It participates in the joint efforts in writing reports, lodging complaints and submitting testimonies - whether these efforts are being coordinated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, or jointly, or individually, or by various institutions. Addameer Association is a member of the Anti-Torture Committee for Political Arrest.

### **Meetings with Delegations**

**Addameer Association** meets with dozens of delegations and missions from different parts of the world annually. It receives e.g. groups coming through the Holy Land Trust and the Alternative Tourism Group; both are local institutions with which we have strong

relations. It also receives delegations coming through the US International Institute (The Global Exchange), or the International Women Peace Service (IWPC), which has permanent volunteers. The relationship with these institutions has become strategic.

**Addameer Association** received over 22 international delegations from different countries of the world, (Belgium, France, Italy, the United States, Spain, Barcelona & Denmark). Most of the delegations were lawyers or human rights activities. It also received a number of delegates from various international institutions, such Amnesty International & the International Solidarity Organization. It also received dozens of delegations and representatives from popular committees, political parties, ministers, consuls, parliament members, students, unions, artists, doctors ... etc.

### **Oversees Tours**

**Addameer Association** participates in international tours and conferences to talk about the issue of Palestinian prisoners, with the aim of disseminating knowledge, raising awareness, and gaining international support in favor of the prisoners' issue. Through tours, it organizes a number of lectures, public meetings, and media activities to present all issues and concerns related to the Palestinian prisoners and Israeli human rights violations against the Palestinian people in general, and the detainees' issue and its dimensions within the framework of the general Palestinian political situation.

During 2006, **Addameer Association** conducted two overseas tours. It participated in the European Social Forum and presented the prisoners' issue through activities prepared for Jericho Prison's kidnappers. It participated in a 20-day tour in Spain, during which it organized a number of lectures, public meetings and media activities with the help of local activists, to present issues, concerns and dimensions related to the Palestinian detainees, and Israeli human rights violations against the Palestinian people.

The tours included various activities held in universities, social, and cultural centers in cooperation with local institutions and groups, a wide sector of Arab and Palestinian communities, and a number of people from other nationalities. The activities aimed at:

- Increasing awareness among the various groups and institutions concerned with the issue of Palestinian prisoners;

- Opening horizons of cooperation with active institutions, groups & movements to clarify and explain Israel's human rights violations against the Palestinian people, Palestinian detainees and their families, with the intention of exerting pressure on decision-makers to abide by the principles of international law in regard to their relations with the Israeli occupying power.

### **Addameer Association & the Public**

**Addameer Association** participated in popular and community activities held in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners. Members of the Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees, the Executive Director, and the staff participated in activities related to Palestinian prisoners and their families. It participated in national occasions related to prisoners, such as the Palestinian Prisoners' Day, the International Women's Day, the International Children's Day, the International Human Rights Day, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As part of the Palestinian NGO Network, it participated in public activities organized by the Network.

### **Constant & Systematic Supervision Over Palestinian Prisons & Detention Centers**

During 2006, the Media & Studies Unit was supposed to:

- Document information about the conditions of detention in the Palestinian prisons & detention centers;
- Publish an annual report on violations against Palestinian detainees according to visits conducted by lawyers to these detention centers.

As previously mentioned in the section related to the Legal Support Unit, there were no political prisoners in the Palestinian prisons and detention centers after March 2006. Visits were not conducted and information was not documented.

### **Obstacles & Recommendations**

The Media & Studies Unit has been greatly affected by the large number of legal cases followed up by the legal staff during the reporting period. It affected the performance of lawyers concerning the implementation of periodical visits to the Israeli and Palestinian

detention & interrogation centers. It also affected the volume and content of information documented by the Legal Support Unit.

The effort of lawyers must be redistributed. Extra time must be given to the visitation program with the aim of documenting and monitoring human rights violations. The Legal Support Unit should develop better mechanisms to publish the information by taking the initiative to hold workshops, and distribute reports and publications to a greater possible number of activists and people concerned with the detainees' issue.

During the reporting period, the Legal Support Unit relied on a number of volunteers (three law university students from the United States) who made substantial contribution with regard to gathering information and writing reports.

The presence of volunteers is of great importance to the Association. On the one hand, it contributes to enhancing citizens' confidence in the organization and spreading its information, on the other hand, it provides the organization with human resources, enhances its belief in the importance of voluntary role in building the civil society, and develops relations with international organizations and exchange of experiences.

Therefore, **Addameer Association** should maintain this approach by instituting the volunteer program in order to ensure a sufficient number of volunteers every year to help support the work of the organization on a systematic and constant basis.

On the other hand, the lack of a clear, serious mechanism for the coordination among organizations, especially those that provide legal services, impedes the information gathering process with regard to violations and detention conditions. Therefore, **Addameer Association** always seeks to strengthen its relations with the concerned organizations to facilitate the documentation process and to disseminate information about prisoners.

## **Administrative & Financial Unit**

### **The Fourth Strategic Goal: Capacity building to be able to achieve its goals**

During the reporting period, **Addameer Association** continued its capacity building approach to ensure sustainability over the long-term and maintain higher levels of professionalism. It also made concerted efforts concerning the issue of prisoners and human rights in the Palestinian society.

To achieve these duties, the Administrative & Financial Unit followed up the process of:

- Developing the organization's internal regulations & procedures;
- Developing the organization's financial resources;
- Providing staff members with proper training and improving their motivation.

During 2006, the Board of Directors held four periodical meetings to monitor the work progress of the organization. The Board examined the annual report and the proposed budget and approved them. It also reviewed the grant application, which was submitted to **Mu'assasat** (Multi-Donor Secretariat for the Support of Human Rights & Good Governance NGOs) and approved the contract with the mentioned institution.

The Board of Directors emphasized the following:

- The importance of expanding the general assembly and opening the membership once again;
- The importance of electing a new Board of Directors. A decision was taken to elect a new Board of Directors during the first half of 2007.

### **Development of the Internal Regulations & Procedures**

The organization's various units completed the construction of tables designed for the documentation of information related to legal follow-up, visits, and violations against Palestinian prisoners & detainees.

During 2006, the administration held three meetings related to the evaluation of the annual plan, its revision, and making the necessary adjustments in line with the developments that took place during the year.

On 30 October 2006, the administration held an evaluation session related to the strategic plan, which was laid down in 2004, with the external evaluator, who accompanied the strategic planning process, Mr. Shawkat Sarsour. The staff, with the help of the external evaluator, reviewed the strategic and interim goals, which were laid down in the strategic plan, and the measurement indicators accompanying the strategic goals. The evaluator concluded that there is a need to complete the strategic process in the future in the presence of board members. The work will be completed during 2007.

### **Development of the Financial Resources**

Developing the financial resources is done through the organization's foreign relations and the preparation of media materials about the work of the organization.

As for the preparation of media materials, they were carried out by the Media & Studies Unit. The details were mentioned in the Unit's special report.

With regard to foreign affairs, **Addameer Association** tried to strengthen its existing relations and to maintain a constant contact with its partner institutions through joint work. It participated in workshops with the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) & Christian Aid (CA) concerning the work structure of both institutions with their partners.

**Addameer Association** also met with a number of delegations either in its offices or within the framework of other meetings and occasions held in other institutions, in which international institutions participated, such as the European-Mediterranean Commission for Human Rights (EMCHR), and the Business Technology Management Institute (BTM), a Spanish Institution.

**Addameer Association** also participated in the European Social Forum (ESF). It delivered a lecture on Palestinian detainees and the kidnapping process at the Jericho

Central Prison, and a lecture on Palestinians' right to self-determination and the right to return.

From 03 - 25 November 2006, **Addameer Association**, in cooperation with S.I. Spanish Institute, conducted a tour in Spain. The tour included a number of cities during which it met mayors and municipal council members, such as Belbow and Torilaviga. It met with S.I. Institute in Madrid during which the relationship between the two organizations was evaluated and ideas were proposed to develop the relationship in a manner that contributes to expanding the network of municipalities that support Addameer through S.I. Institute.

With the aim of strengthening relationships on the regional level, **Addameer Association**, participated in a vocational training on mechanisms of networking and relationship building between institutions. The training was given to a number of Iraqi institutions in the fields of human rights and detainees. The training was given in Jordan in two stages in April and July 2006.

### **Staff Training**

Among the most important achievements in this regard was the agreement with the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) to provide personal support by employing a legal research consultant for 14 months. In May 2006, Ms. Muna Sha'ban was received by ICCO, and was introduced to the work and needs of the organization. She started with training the legal team and part of the staff members on using legal terms & terminology in English. She also designed a training program on the mechanisms of advocacy and lobbying, with the aim of training the staff on how to build a lobbying & advocacy campaign. A workshop was held in this regard.

Unfortunately, she was deported by Israeli occupation forces before the completion of the training period. Her deportation had an enormous impact on achieving the goal of the training.

It should be noted that she helped in building the structure of two campaigns, which the organization decided to work on during 2006. She started working on a legal study on

the 'Illegal Fighters'. She also assisted in preparing a paper on 'Isolation', which the organization was supposed to present in a conference held on Palestinian detainees in Tel Aviv University in January 2007. She participated in a number of meetings in the name of the organization, with the aim of developing the lobbying & advocacy process.

On the other hand, the Coordinator of the Public Service Unit, participated in a three-day workshop in the 'International Humanitarian Law' (IHL), held by Al-Haq.

The Coordinator of the Administrative & Financial Unit participated in a two-day training course in 'Enhancing Transparency & Accountability in the Palestinian NGOs', held by the Coalition for Accountability & Integrity - Aman.