



Addameer Prisoners' Support &  
Human Rights Association



Annual Report

2008



*Addameer Prisoners' Support & Human Rights Association*

# *Annual Report*

**2008**

*Report on the Association's Activities during the Reporting Period*

*Between 01/01/2008 and 31/12/2008*





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## **Preface**

In this report, Addameer presents its activities during 2008. Goals and outcomes set forward for the year are analysed and evaluated when presenting the activities. In order to present the information in a clear manner, these analyses and evaluations are broken down by unit, in accordance with the operative work structure at Addameer. These units include: Legal Unit, Research and Documentation Unit, Advocacy and Lobbying Unit, Training and Awareness Unit, and the Administration. However, although there are activities and outputs that concern each unit on its own, the work of the various units at Addameer is most often intertwined, with each providing a valuable contribution to the goals Addameer set for itself during the year.

This report will also present many of the difficulties and obstacles Addameer faced during 2008, while discussing measures taken or to be taken to remedy issues and to avoid similar obstacles in the future.

Overall, 2008 was characterized by a continued focus on working towards strategic goals set forth in Addameer's strategic plan. These goals focus on measurable achievements regarding advocacy on behalf of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees held in Israeli and Palestinian Authority detention, and on the issue of civil and political rights within the Palestinian community.

Addameer's achievements in accomplishing strategic goals in 2008 are also presented in this report, and reveal the organization's central position, both locally and internationally, in the Palestinian human rights sector. This position is particularly established in regards to issues surrounding Palestinian political prisoners.

This standing is a clear result of the true belief of Addameer's board, staff and other stakeholders in the importance of the organization's vision and mission, which reflect positively on the performance of all bodies of the organization. Addameer appreciates the significant role of its board of directors and the high commitment of the staff in making the achievements of the last year possible.

*Sahar Francis*

Legal  
Unit



## Legal Unit:

*The Legal Unit was and still continues to be the cornerstone at the Association through providing professional legal services in conformity with international laws pertaining to detentions and trials. It is done within the Association's policy to confront violations committed by the Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian prisoners and their families through detention. In addition, the Association targets Palestinian political detainees arrested by the Palestinian Authority (PA) in connection with their political affiliations.*

*The Legal Unit aims to limit violations, torture, punishments, and degrading treatment to which Palestinian detainees and their families are exposed from the first moments of detention and during all other procedures. This includes transfer between detention centers and prisons, or interrogation, or trials before the military judge. One of the most important work strategies is the use of legal procedures to confront these violations. Examples include the use of all legal procedures during extension of detention, especially during interrogation and detention until the end of the legal procedures, with focusing on:*

- *Submission of petitions against these extensions when necessary;*
- *Submission of petitions against trials and punishments imposed on detainees;*
- *Submission of complaints on torture, ill-treatment and other violations;*
- *Documentation of legal precedents in the relevant Israeli military or civil courts that may affect the level of rulings for the cases followed up by the Association;*
- *And provision of legal counseling for detainees and their families with the aim of supporting their abilities to face violations committed against them.*

*During the reporting period, the Association decided to follow up on 350 new cases. It should be noted that, in previous years, the Association used to exceed this figure twice as much, due to the continued detention campaigns carried out by the Israeli occupation forces and the closure of prisoners' organizations. This year, however, and despite the ongoing detention campaigns, the Association tried to control the number of new cases, given the fact that the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs developed a legal unit to provide legal services to detainees. The Palestinian Prisoners' Club (Nadi Al-Asir) also developed its legal unit. As a result, the Association was forced*



to reduce the number of cases that require legal follow-up in courts and it was given the opportunity to focus more on complaints, monitoring and documentation through prison visits.

During the reporting period, the Association received 308 new cases, 255 of which sought legal assistance, 32 sought submission of complaints on certain violations, and 21 sought prison visits. Out of 308 cases, the Association followed up on 69 cases for children under the age of 18 and 17 female prisoners.

During 2008, the Association followed up on 551 new and old cases. This figure does not include cases opened in previous years and continued to be followed up during 2008, amounting to 172 cases.

The following table shows the distribution of legal cases followed up by the Association during 2008 by type of case:

**Table (1)**

<b>Type of Case</b>	<b>Number of Cases</b>
Detention	120
Interrogation	84
Trial Procedures	126
Administrative Detention	118
Appeals against Court Rulings	7
Petitions to the Israeli Supreme Court	10
Complaints	35
Prison Visits	21
Medical Cases	6
One-third of the Sentence Term	1
Petitions to the Central Court	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>529</b>



### **Provision of Legal Counseling:**

*The Legal Unit received 175 legal counseling cases only. The cases were not legally followed up. The needs of families focused on finding out the detention place, procedures taken by specialized authorities, the legal status of detainees, and the rights available to the family and the detainee during the trial period and imprisonment. In its action plan, the Association decided to provide legal counseling to 140 families. This constant increase in the number of clients approaching the Association seeking information reflects the beneficiaries' confidence in the Association and their need for such services.*

*Additionally, the Association's lawyers provided legal counseling to 11 families on the charges made against their children in the bills of indictments, and the expected level of punishments in similar cases. The Association decided to provide legal counseling to 20 cases. This figure reflects the number of cases approached by the Association. There are cases in which the lawyers provide legal counseling in the military courts but are not monitored by them due to lack of time.*

### **Local Complaints:**

During 2008, the Legal Unit achieved a qualitative and quantitative accomplishment on the level of complaints. The Unit lodged 35 local complaints (32 new complaints and 3 old complaints), given the fact that the Unit was planning to lodge 20 local complaints.

The following table shows the number of complaints, distributed according to topic and outcome:

**Table (2)**

<b>Complaint</b>	<b>No. of Complaints</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Visit Ban - preventing families from visiting detainees in prisons	17	14 obtained visit permits - some of them were banned for six years. No response was given for the rest during the year
Preventing former detainees from travelling outside the occupied Palestinian territory	3	Refused to deal with the complaints under the pretext that the procedures related to following up on this type of complaints has been changed by the legal advisor to the occupied Palestinian Territory
Torture & other violations	4	One case was investigated and no reply was received for the rest during the year
Confiscation of property during detention	3	All cases are being followed up
General complaints on violations against lawyers in prisons and detention centers	8	2 positive reply, 2 refused, no reply for the rest until the end of the year

The outcome of the above complaints reflects the arbitrary procedures taken against detainees and their families during detention. The high success rate in the visit ban cases - preventing families from visiting detainees in prison - is an indicative of the outcome. Usually, the cases end before resorting to the court, which means that the Israeli Occupying Forces do not have enough legal evidence to prevent families from visiting detainees in jail. On the level of torture, although the number of cases being lodged was small, the failure to obtain any result in favor of detainees during the year indicates Israel's failure to conduct serious investigations of this type of complaints

and its unwillingness to follow up on torture crimes. It should be noted that statistics published by other organizations, such as the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI) indicate that investigations and follow-up by the Israeli Occupying Forces in torture-related cases are almost non-existent (quoted from the Civic Coalition's report).

The above outcomes highlight the importance of monitoring and documenting these violations, as well as documenting the failure of the Israeli Occupying Forces. This means the importance of lodging complaints internationally and exerting pressure by the 'International Committee against Torture' to put an end to Israel's practices and violations.

### **Trial Procedures:**

As for the legal follow-up before the Israeli civil and military courts, it continues to take the largest part of the Association's legal staff effort. It is obvious that lawyers are forced to work under huge pressure and make every effort to provide beneficiaries with professional legal services.

During last year, the Association tried, in many occasions, to raise the issue of defense before Israeli military courts, its related legal problems and their impact on detainees, such as:

- The level of punishments compared to the violations and accusations made against detainees;
- The nature of accusations made against detainees and Israel's authority to incriminate these actions under international law;
- The legal procedures adopted in courts and their abidance by the international standards related to fair trials.

These issues were proposed for discussion with other organizations concerned with Palestinian detainees, as well as other organizations, such as the Higher Committee for Prisoners' Affairs and the Palestinian Ministry of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs. This came as a result of the changes in policies and trends of the Israeli military prosecution in terms of raising the level of punishments. Sometimes, some procedures were taken, such as the suspension of defense before military courts or not getting involved in plea bargains to close the files. No significant decision was made to lay down an integral strategy and clear mechanisms to confront these problems faced in military court; nor a collective strategy by which all organizations and lawyers in the military courts abide.

*Therefore, the Association will continue to make efforts in this field next year, due to the importance of uniting the vision and work strategies in order to confront all violations and breaches committed in the Israeli military courts system. The Association believes that the Israeli military courts will not provide justice to Palestinian detainees even if they adopt all international standards related to fair trials. The main problem lies in the nature and the role of these courts, which are an integral part of the occupation and serve its goals. These courts are another tool of the Israeli occupation used with the aim of repressing and destroying the Palestinian society and breaking the spirit of resistance against the occupation.*

*On the practical level, the Association's legal staff followed up on 1,437 court sessions, including extension of detention, trial procedures, confirmation of administrative detention orders, appeals against administrative detention orders, appeals against extension of detention or court rulings, petitions to the Israeli Supreme Court, and petitions submitted by the Israeli military prosecution.*

### **Achievements Accomplished by the Legal Staff:**

*Following is a list of successes achieved by the Legal Unit during 2008:*

- *Twenty-eight detainees were released on condition;*
- *Four detainees were released before submitting bills of indictment;*
- *In 61 extension sessions, the judges decided to extend detainees' detention for periods less than the period requested by the Israeli military prosecution or the police;*
- *There has been an increase in the success rate due to our legal intervention, compared with 2007. We succeeded in releasing 15 Palestinian detainees and in reducing the extension period in 44 sessions;*
- *In 2008, the judges cancelled the administrative detention orders of six detainees, compared with four detention orders during 2007;*
- *Six administrative detention orders were reduced on condition that they will not be renewed compared with six orders during 2007;*
- *Fifteen administrative detention orders were reduced without condition, compared with 16 orders during 2007;*



- *Six administrative detention orders were confirmed provided that they are not renewed unless new secret materials are available;*
- *One administrative detention order was cancelled and a bill of indictment was submitted against the detainee.*

*Petitions submitted to the Israeli Supreme Court were all related to administrative detention. Out of 10 petitions, we succeeded in six cases (60%). It was agreed to extend the administrative detention order for one time after which the detainee would be released. In two cases, it was agreed not to renew the administrative detention order. We can notice a development from last year. In 2007, we submitted 12 petitions to the Israeli Supreme Court and succeeded in six petitions (50%).*

*A total of 86 trial procedure cases were completed during 2008. Out of the 86 cases, 53 files were finalized through plea bargains and other 33 files were finalized after resorting to all legal procedures and detainees were sentenced after defense. Out of the 33 cases, 31 detainees were sentenced to periods less than requested by the Israeli military prosecution, constituting a 36%-success rate. In 2007, we succeeded in reducing sentence for 11 detainees after resorting to all legal procedures. Eighty-nine files were finalized and four detainees were released, constituting a 16%-success rate.*

*The Israeli military prosecution submitted 15 petitions. Out of the 15 petitions, nine were referred to administrative detention. Six petitions were accepted by the court, the reduction of the administrative detention revoke, and three were rejected. Three petitions were about the release on bail. Two were accepted, while one was rejected. Two petitions on the extension of detention were accepted by the court and one petition on punishment was accepted. The punishment was raised from six years to 13 years.*

*As for medical cases, the Association conducted frequent visits to prison during 2008. Usually, after visiting a sick detainee and obtaining his or her medical file from the prison authorities, a doctor is consulted to determine if the prison authority is not providing the patient with the necessary treatment to determine the possibility of legal intervention. Addameer followed up on six medical cases. It became clear during prison visits that they require medical follow-up and that there has been negligence by the prison authority with regard to providing medical treatment. Applications*

were submitted in some cases to allow specialized doctors to enter the prison. It should be noted that there is a constant cooperation between Addameer and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) in this regard.

With regard to conducting periodical visits for medical cases, we conducted 175 visits out of 308 cases. This negligence is mainly attributed to the overall caseload and due to preventing visits by the prison authority or the general intelligence services in the interrogation centers. Sixteen visits were not conducted due to obstacles placed by the Israeli Occupying Forces.

By the end of 2008, open cases (172) were referred to be completed in 2009, and are distributed as follows:

106 trial procedure cases;	24 administrative detention cases;
7 court appeal cases;	8 interrogation cases;
6 detention cases;	6 medical cases;
6 complaints;	8 prison visit cases;
1 one-third of the Sentence Term.	

There are eight trial procedure cases in which families of prisoners referred the files to other lawyers to work on during the year.

For the past two years, the Association has been measuring the beneficiaries' satisfaction with its work by asking them to fill out a questionnaire specially designed for this purpose. A total of 117 questionnaires were collected and followed up during 2008. The results of the survey were as follows:

- 76.3% were satisfied with the services provided by the Association's employees;
- 65.8% were satisfied with the services provided by the Association's lawyers;
- 77% were satisfied with the services provided by the Association in general..

## **Legal Follow-up of Political Detainees Held in PA Prisons**

*The Association follows up on political detainees held in PA prisons and detention centers. However, there are many obstacles that limit the possibility of providing the necessary professional legal intervention at the right time - obstacles outside the Association's control most of the time. Therefore, the legal follow-up was limited this year to conducting visits to various detention centers and prisons, monitoring and documenting violations, especially torture to which Palestinian detainees are being exposed.*

*During 2008, political arrest campaigns continued unfortunately throughout the PA areas. In Gaza, the dismissed Hamas-led government continued to arrest Fateh political activists. (The report should include some details on the detention conditions and the number of detainees of both sides).*

*Due to Israel's total closure policy of the Gaza Strip and its separation from the West Bank, the Association cannot conduct visits to prisons and detention centers in Gaza and provide detainees with direct legal services. Therefore, the Association coordinated in some cases with other human rights organizations in the Gaza Strip, such as Ad-Dameer Association for Human Rights, to obtain the necessary information. At times, the Association contacted detainees who have been released from prison via telephone to obtain information on their detention conditions and methods of interrogation to which they have been exposed.*

*In the West Bank, the main obstacle that prevented us from providing legal representation is that most of the political detainees were held by different security apparatuses according to the procedures of the military law. Such procedures allow for the person to be held for a seven-month period without being referred to any judicial authority. All Palestinian human rights organizations have a clear position on the illegality of using such procedures against civilians, and therefore, they refuse to participate in such procedures in violation of the Palestinian Basic Law.*

*As for submission of complaints on torture, the Association did not lodge any complaint to the Attorney General. On the one hand, detainees are afraid of lodging complaints for fear of the consequences of their treatment inside detention centers or of being arrested another time. On the other hand, even in cases of severe torture which lead to the death of detainees and when a*

*separate investigation committee was formed by the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), there was no serious follow-up by the responsible authorities to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes. This highlights the importance of continuing efforts to confront such practices by the various security apparatuses, and the importance of uniting efforts by all local human rights organizations in order to change this bitter, harsh reality.*

*During 2008, the Association received 22 cases of political arrests. It conducted 12 prison visits to various detention and interrogation centers in the West Bank. It documented 15 affidavits on torture and other violations to which Palestinian detainees have been exposed during their detention period. This, in itself, is regarded as a good achievement compared with 2007 during which only three affidavits were collected. The Association also participated with other local human rights organizations in sending letters to responsible parties for the torture and the importance of following and holding perpetrators accountable for their actions.*

*Three cases were referred to 2009 for legal follow-up by the Association.*

*One of the goals set by the Association was to submit proposals with regard to introducing amendments to the Reform and Rehabilitation Law and providing regulations to implement the Law. In 2007, the Association contributed through workshops initiated by the Palestinian Commission for Human Rights. It submitted suggestions on the regulations and the by-laws that should be adopted. But the internal political conditions and developments that took place during 2008 prevented us from dedicating enough time to this issue. Despite this, the Palestinian Commission for Human Rights held another workshop to discuss the mechanisms for implementing the article related to reducing the punishment period in accordance with the Reform and Rehabilitation Law. A special committee was formed to continue working on this issue. The Association is a member of the committee.*

### **Obstacles:**

*It is obvious that the Legal Unit tried to determine the number of cases being follow up to reduce the amount of pressure on lawyers. Despite this attempt, there has been some negligence on our part with regard to following up on detainees during interrogation. For example, we were not able to visit all detainees. We visited 50 detainees, and as for the rest, the legal follow-up was limited to legal procedures. The number of cases that we followed up at the Ashkelon Interrogation Center*

was very low this year, due to the low number of families from Hebron going to Ashkelon where detainees have been transferred for interrogation. Therefore, we intend to monitor the geographical distribution in the coming year.

With regard to following up on political detainees held in PA prisons, there was negligence on our part due to the following reasons:

- *Lack of a full-time lawyer responsible for covering this area throughout the year;*
- *Difficulties in conducting visits and legal follow-ups due to problems faced by the various security apparatuses and intelligence services;*
- *No respect for the rule of law by the security apparatuses, especially with regard to decisions issued by Palestinian courts regarding the release of detainees.*

### **Recommendations:**

- *There should be more follow-up and monitoring over the distribution of cases among all detention and interrogation centers;*
- *Periodical visits should be conducted to detention and interrogation centers;*
- *The Association should take the initiative to contact areas where arrest campaigns are being launched with the aim of raising awareness and providing legal services and counseling;*
- *A full-time lawyer should be appointed to follow up on PA detainees and legal work on these cases intensified through lodging cases to the Palestinian High Court on arrests in accordance with military laws;*
- *Complaints on torture should be submitted;*
- *Pressure should be exerted on the various official parties with the aim of ending political arrests and torture against detainees.*



Documentation & Research  
Unit



## **Documentation & Research Unit:**

*The Association focuses through documentation on monitoring all violations committed against detainees and their families by the Israeli occupation authorities or the Palestinian security apparatuses. Through conducting periodical visits to the various detention and interrogation centers, conducting individual interviews with detainees who have been released or with family members, and conducting interviews with other local organizations, the Unit collects and documents all information on violations - torture and demeaning treatment of detainees. It analyses this information and provides necessary reports to be used by other units, such as the Lobbying & Advocacy Unit with the aim of divulging violations, and raising awareness to support the prisoner's issue locally, regionally and internationally.*

### **Visits to Israeli Detention and Interrogation Centers:**

*During 2008, the Association conducted 111 visits out of 120 visits in accordance with the annual plan: 28 visits to interrogation centers, 8 visits to detention centers, and 75 visits to central prisons. Visits were distributed according to the purpose of the visit and according to every prison. Please refer to table (1) & table (2) in the annex. Table (3) is a comparison of visits to the Israeli prisons and detention centers during the years 2006, 2007 & 2008.*

*Sixteen visits were not conducted for reasons related to the parties responsible for the visits.*

*The monitoring and documentation process has improved somewhat during 2008 due to the appointment of a full-time lawyer responsible for the visits, who has the necessary legal background. A number of violations committed against Palestinian detainees and prisoners in the interrogation and detention centers have been documented. The Association monitored around 24 methods of torture committed in these centers, in addition to the violations related to daily living conditions, cells and rooms.*

*As for the central prisons, the Association monitored throughout the year detention conditions in terms of health conditions inside the rooms and sections, including ventilation, lighting, sunlight, break and food, etc. It documented violations on the right of detainees to obtain proper treatment,*

quality of medical services, as well as violations related to the right of detainees to education and worship. It also documented disciplinary punishments, conditions of detainees' transfer, isolation, suppression, violence, and night search conducted by the prison administration.

The Association documented some 80 medical cases inside Israeli prisons. Most of the cases are not provided with proper medical treatment. It also documented statistics collected from prisons on the number of prisoners in every prison and their distribution among sections and rooms.

Additionally, the Association documented approximately 20 violations against detainees' families either during arrest or prison visits.

During 2008, the Association documented 41 affidavits, compared with 13 affidavits during 2007. There has been a qualitative leap in terms of the content of the affidavits.

The following table shows the number of affidavits and their contents (See attached annex).

### **Difficulties & Challenges Faced by Lawyers during Prison Visits:**

- The Israeli Prison Service stipulates that prior arrangements shall be made for the visit, attaching a signed document from the detainees' families;
- Delay in replying to the visit application. It took the Israeli Prison Service around two months to reply to the Ayalon Prison visit;
- Lawyers are intentionally kept for long hours in the visit room waiting for the detainees to be visited;
- Detainees are hided, especially during interrogation and not allowing the lawyer to visit them for long periods, reaching up to 60 days;
- Detainees are transferred during short periods of time, thus creating obstacles.
- Lawyers and their belongings are searched before the visit in a humiliating and degrading manner. During a prison visit to Beersheba Prison on 02/12/2008, Addameer's lawyer was searched by passing through the electric door, taking off the belt and the watch. His bag was thoroughly searched. He was asked by the jailer to take off his shoes although there were no loud warning signals while passing through the electric door;

- Sixteen visits to the interrogation and detention centers and central prisons were not conducted for reasons related to the prison administration; the last of which was in Ofer Prison in December 2008. The lawyer was denied access to the prison due to a state of emergency declared inside the prison.

### **Visits to PA Prisons & Detentions Centers:**

During 2008, the Association conducted 12 visits to PA detention centers - table (4) in the annex. Numerous difficulties have been faced during the visits. Despite its small number, the Association was able to document and monitor a number of violations committed against political detainees, such as torture, inhumane treatment, and difficult living and health conditions.

A total of 15 affidavits were documented, mostly from released detainees, compared with three affidavits during 2007. The affidavits shed light on the methods of torture and the inhumane treatment to which detainees have been exposed in the PA detention centers. One of the most important obstacles we faced was that many detainees who have been released refused to give statements for fear of their fate and of being arrested once again by the Palestinian security apparatuses.

Three affidavits were documented from detainees who have been released by the Hamas-led government in Gaza. There was a problem faced due to difficulty in taking an affidavit via telephone and the refusal of many detainees to talk about their detention experience.

The Association contacted other organizations, including the Palestinian Commission for Human Rights, Ad-Dameer Association for Human Rights and the Palestinian Center for Human Rights, to obtain information on detention conditions, torture and other violations in PA prisons in Gaza.

### **Difficulties & Challenges Faced by Lawyers during Prison Visits:**

The Association faced a number of difficulties in coordination for visits and in obtaining visit permits, including:

- Numerous obstacles and procedures have been placed to prevent the visit, especially during the first period of detention and interrogation;

- *Failure of some security apparatuses to reply to the frequent visit applications;*
- *Lawyers have been prevented from taking personal information from detainees. The Association's lawyers have been threatened with arrest in the Juneid Military Prison if he takes personal information from detainees who have been interviewed. Indeed, he was held and the papers were searched;*
- *Detainees threatened not to give affidavits on torture;*
- *An escort from the security apparatuses was present during the visit.*

### **Statistics & Lists:**

*The Documentation & Research Unit developed the Association's relations with other organizations concerned with detainees with the aim of developing mechanisms of documentation and information gathering to obtain accurate information on the number of Palestinian detainees and their situation. Organizations include:*

- *Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs;*
- *Palestinian Prisoners' Club (Nadi Al-Asir, with its various branches);*
- *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);*
- *Ad-Dameer Association for Human Rights in Gaza;*
- *Women's Center in Gaza;*
- *Defence for Children International - Palestine Section (DCI/PS);*
- *Palestinian Commission for Human Rights;*
- *B'Tselem - The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.*

*The Unit succeeded, through periodical visits to the PA prisons, detention and interrogation centers, in documenting statistics and information on various groups of detainees. Statistics included a comprehensive list of Palestinian female prisoners held in Israeli prisons, PLC members, number of children prisoners, Jerusalem detainees, 1948 Territories detainees, detainees of the Occupied Golan Heights, sick detainees, and a list of 350 administrative detainees. The information is updated regularly.*



*With the aim of disseminating and divulging violations committed by the various parties against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, the Unit issued a number of reports and papers:*

- *Semiannual report reflecting the reality of prisoners and the prominent violations committed against them inside Israeli prisons and detention centers;*
- *Paper work on the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);*
- *Paper work on the conditions of detainees held in PA prisons, methods of torture and the maltreatment committed by the Palestinian security apparatuses.*

*The Unit provided the necessary information to prepare fact sheets on a number of topics connected to detention, including:*

- *Palestinian detainees' right to education;*
- *Palestinian female prisoners' right to health;*
- *Prison visits conducted by detainees' families and the obstacles faced by them;*
- *Conditions of Israeli detention and interrogation centers;*
- *The reality of administrative detention and preparing case studies reflecting the administrative detention as an arbitrary detention. Cases will be used in the anti-administrative detention campaign.*

*During 2008, the Association conducted, in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Mandela Institute for Human Rights and the Palestinian Counseling Center, a special project aimed at protecting Palestinian female prisoners in Israeli jails. The project has three goals:*

- 1) *Conducting periodical visits and providing legal support when violations against female prisoners occur. This was carried out by the Mandela Institute;*
- 2) *Documenting and disseminating information related to these violations and using them in order to exert pressure on decision-makers with the aim of protecting female prisoners' rights. This was carried out by Addameer Association;*
- 3) *Providing psychosocial support to female prisoners and their families. This was carried out by the Palestinian Counseling Center.*

The Association established, through the “Protection of Palestinian Female Prisoners & Detainees in Israeli Jails Project”, a database on Palestinian female prisoners. It designed a special questionnaire aimed to document all statistics and data on the number of female prisoners, their detention conditions, and the violations committed against them. During 2008, the Association prepared a number of fact sheets and a study reflecting these circumstances:<sup>1</sup>

- The first paper dealt with the health conditions and medical negligence to which Palestinian female prisoners are exposed inside Israeli prisons and detention centers, especially birth conditions;
- The second paper dealt with detention conditions, rooms, living conditions, cleanliness, food, clothing, canteen, recreation and punishments. The situation was analyzed in accordance with international standards of prisoners’ treatment;
- The third paper dealt with Palestinian female prisoners’ right to education. The paper reflected the mechanisms and possibilities of pursuing their education inside prison, as well as culture in general in terms of obtaining books, magazines, and newspapers;
- The fourth paper dealt with family relationships between female prisoners and their family members. The paper also focused on family visits, complicated visiting procedures, and the impact of the detention experience on the prisoner’s family;
- A detailed comprehensive study on Palestinian female prisoners, based on information that has been documented through interviews with 88 female prisoners and 83 prisoners’ families. The study was discussed in a workshop with local and international institutions and official parties, during which they made their notes and contributions. The study was published on the Aseerat website.

The Unit provided the information, reports and statistics to local and international human rights organizations, representative offices to the PA, such as the Representative Office of Ireland and the Representative Office of Denmark, the Swiss Cooperation Office, the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Al-Mezan Center

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<sup>1</sup> To review all work papers, look at Aseerat’s website [www.aseerat.ps](http://www.aseerat.ps)

for Human Rights, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel (Adalah), the Women Studies Center, and others. It also provided information to local and international mass media, such as Al-Jazeera, the Russian News Agency, Al-Qabas Newspaper, the Associated Press (AP), as well as many students and researchers who approached the Association to obtain information and various reports. During the year, there has been a noticeable increase in the demand on information related to the issue of detainees by various parties within the Association.

### **Recommendations:**

Despite the noticeable development in the monitoring and documentation process and the production of information in reports and studies, the burden was huge on the Unit's staff. In light of the Association's intent to develop the documentation and analysis process, there is an urgent need for following up on the issue of PA political detention by a full-time lawyer responsible for:

- 1) Conducting periodical visits;
- 2) Monitoring violations committed against detainees inside detention centers;
- 3) Following up on detainees' cases;
- 4) Lodging local and international complaints on methods of torture committed against detainees.

Additionally, there is a need to develop the content of studies through appointing a legal researcher so that the Association remains a pioneer with regard to providing accurate information and professional studies that reflect:

- The reality of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails or PA prisons;
- Violations committed against detainees in violation of international laws and standards, with the aim of protecting them and putting an end to these violations.

## Lobbying & Advocacy

# Unit



## **Lobbying & Advocacy Unit:**

*During 2008, the Association succeeded in rebuilding and activating the Lobbying & Advocacy Unit in a manner that serves the Association's goals and vision in defending, protecting and enhancing human rights, especially with regard to Palestinian prisoners. The Unit developed its role and performance through direct contributions in providing information, raising awareness, and activating the role of concerned influential parties. Its media activities included issuing press releases, urgent calls, press interviews and providing the press with information. In addition to its media activities, the Association provided, in coordination with other local human rights organizations, international official parties with information on prisoners' issue and urged them to support prisoners' issue and to take immediate actions to bring violations committed against them to an end. It held meetings with UN delegations through constant coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, members of the European Parliament, parliament members of different European countries, international human rights organizations, and international activist groups.*

## **Networking:**

*The Association continued to develop its performance in networking and joint action with the aim of supporting the issue of Palestinian prisoners through providing information to international institutions, including:*

- Amnesty International (AI);*
- International Federation of Human Rights;*
- Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN);*
- Human Rights Watch - Middle East Branch;*
- The International Network against Torture.*

*Additionally, the Association was interested in local joint action with organizations concerned with the issue of detainees, such as the Defense for Children International - Palestine Section (DCI/PS). Both organizations addressed press releases and urgent calls. The Association also worked with other human rights organizations, such as Al-Haq, Adalah, Badil - Resource Center for Palestinian Residency & Refugee rights, and others through forming joint lobbying in human rights issues in general and detainees' issue in particular on the European Union (EU) level and joint cooperation with Israel.*



### **Coordination through the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO):**

*The Association played a significant role in this arena. In November 2008, it participated, as a member of the Palestinian NGO Network's Coordinating Committee, in a lobbying campaign in the EU with regard to the upgrading of EU – Israel relations in coordination with the European Organizations Network. During a three-day period, more than 20 meetings were held with the presidency, the council, and parliament members with the aim of persuading them not to sign the partnership agreement without imposing restrictions on Israel obliging it to respect and abide by human rights principles.*

*In addition, the Association participated, through PNGO, in the first international conference on boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel, which was held in the Basque Country in October 2008. The Association is part of the Coordinating Committee to follow up work on this level.*

### **Coordination with the Defense for Children International - Palestine Section (DCI/PS):**

*The Association submitted, in coordination with Defense for Children International - Palestine Section and B'Tselem, and upon the initiative of Mrs. Louisa Morgantini, Vice-President of the European Parliament, a resolution proposal to the European Parliament on the issue of Palestinian detainees, before the issue was discussed before the Parliament in July 2008. A resolution on Palestinian prisoners was adopted by the EU Parliament in September 2008. In light of this, an official delegation of MEP's was formed to visit the occupied territory on a fact-finding mission. The delegation paid special attention to imprisoned PLC members. The Association hosted the members and arranged a meeting for them with the families of detainees and former detainees. The members were provided with comprehensive information on the situation of Palestinian prisoners and the violations committed against them. The delegation was accompanied to Hadarim Prison to visit the Head of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) Aziz Dweik, but was denied access.*

### **Coordination through the Higher Commission for Palestinian Prisoners' Affairs:**

*Through its role in the Higher Commission for Palestinian Prisoners' Affairs, the Association participated in a sit-in held before the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the issue of detainee Said Al-Atabeh, who served more than 30 years in prison. The sit-in aimed to raise the*

*detainee's issue and the importance of his release. The Association distributed a statement clarifying the details of the issue, the situation of the detainee, and calling for his immediate release. This request was also sent to the PLC committees. It was coordinated with Ibrahim Khreisheh to hold a meeting in the future with all PLC head committees, with the aim of discussing the detainees' issue, its political dimension, and an attempt to lay down a national plan to deal with the prisoners' issue. Also, a preliminary meeting was held with representatives of the national powers with the aim of discussing the prisoners' issue. This work should be completed in the coming year.*

### **Coordination with the Anti-Apartheid Wall Popular Campaign:**

*The Association coordinated with the Anti-Apartheid Wall Popular Campaign to develop the relationship with the aim of raising awareness on the procedures related to the detention of persons who are subject to be detained for participating in the Anti-Apartheid Wall related activities on the one hand, and the detainees' issue among all supporters especially international supporters who visit the occupied territories with the aim of working and supporting the Palestinian issue on the other hand. In this context, the Association participated in the international conference held by the Popular Campaign in Bil'in in June 2008. During the conference, a statement was distributed summarizing the situation of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and the violations against them. The statement called on participants to take action to divulge Israel's violations and to bring an end to these violations.*

### **Coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross:**

*Coordination continued with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), especially with regard to detainees' health situation, particularly the circumstances of the martyrdom of detainee Fadel Shahin, family visits to prisons, and the problems faced. In this regard, the Association coordinated with local organizations concerned with prisoners' affairs and the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, especially with regard to family visits of detainees from Gaza, which have been suspended since July 2007.*

### Local Coalitions:

During 2007, two local coalitions of Palestinian human rights organizations were formed: the Public Freedoms & Rights Coalition, which was formed following the declaration of the state of emergency in the Palestinian self-rule areas; and the Palestinian Coalition against Death Penalty. The practical experience during 2008 for these two coalitions reflected a real problem with regard



to the constant coordination, with the aim of joint action. It should be noted that the problem was serious more in the issue of rights and freedoms. A large-scale arrest campaign continued against Hamas political activists from the West Bank and Fateh activists from Gaza. Israel's closure policy against the Palestinian people continued. The Coalition did not held serious activities that really reflect the experience of joint action, despite the fact that a by-law was developed, mechanisms of work were laid down, a coordinating committee was elected, and an annual plan set out for the Coalition. However, there was no commitment by the organizations to the idea of joint action. Sometimes, the organizations held individual activities related to political arrests, torture, and the closure without referring back to the Coalition, thus impeding joint action. Also, the absence of a full-time coordinator to lead the work of the Coalition hampered immediate action when necessary and the coordination of required activities. However, activities included addressing statements on torture, holding a sit-in against Israel's arrest and closure policies, and holding another sit-in in protest against Israel's continued siege on Gaza. A letter was sent to the international community via the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In light of this experience, there was an urgent need to reconsider the body that was previously known as the "Human Rights Organizations Council" and reactive it to confront violations committed by the PA in the West Bank and the Hamas-led government in Gaza.

*As for the Palestinian Coalition against Death Penalty, the political conditions did not improve. On the contrary, the situation was exacerbated and there was no hope that the PLC may return to work during 2008. Therefore, the Coalition insisted on the importance of keeping a loud voice against the death penalty through incriminating it and demanding its annulment through letters sent to the Palestinian President regarding cases against which death penalty were issued during 2008. The Coalition also participated in the regional conference against death penalty, which was held in Alexandria. The conference discussed the national covenant for human rights and death penalty. The Palestinian Coalition against Death Penalty held a national conference in Ramallah in December 2008. A number of clergymen from different congregations participated in the conference to shed light on religions' perspective on this issue. Academics, PLC members, and representatives of the civil society participated in the conference as well to reflect various positions towards death penalty. The conference recommended the importance of community work, especially with youths with the aim of changing opinions and to abolish death penalty in the future.*

### ***International Delegations:***

*During 2008, the Association received dozens of international activists who approached the Association with the aim of obtaining information on Palestinian prisoners. Usually, the Association makes a presentation on the circumstances of Palestinian prisoners and the criminal procedures taken against them, torture, administrative detention, children detainees, and female detainees. During 2008, the Association hosted 22 delegations from different countries, such as Britain, Finland, Norway, Spain, the United States, and others. Some of the delegates are specialized in human rights issues, such as lawyers, judges, doctors, law students, influential figures, and decision-makers as parliament members. It should be noted that most of the delegations reach the Association through coordination with other local organizations, such as the Alternative Tourism Center, the Anti-Apartheid Wall Popular Committee, the Palestinian NGF Network, Sabeel and the Holy Land Trust. The continued hosting of such delegations and the increase in the annual visits highlights the Association's success in expanding its network of relationships and the high level of information it provided on prisoners' issue in particular, and the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) in general.*

## Lobbying & Advocacy:

The year 2008 has been quite effective and influential in the field of lobbying and advocacy. The Association succeeded, through its local and international relationships, in holding several lobbying and advocacy activities related to the issue of Palestinian detainees. The Association strengthened its relations with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for



Human Rights (OHCHR). It was an active member in the “Protection Cluster Working Group”, which includes local and international institutions. Through continued meetings, the Association was keen to provide the Group with necessary information on the issue of prisoners to be presented in their various meetings with decision-makers. The Association was also eager to provide the “Humanitarian Monitor”, an electronic magazine, issued by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid (OCHA), with periodical statistics and information on Palestinian detainees. The Association also provided information to the “Child Protection Cluster Working Group” known as the “1612 Working Group” for having been established in accordance with a UN Security Council Resolution pertaining to children in armed conflicts. The Group submits its reports to the UN Security Council once every two months. The Association also provided several institutions and parties concerned with women’s issues with materials on Palestinian female prisoners through the “Protection of Palestinian Female Prisoners & Detainees in Israeli prisons Project”.

Additionally, the Association sent several reports and letters to the Human Rights Council and some UN and EU rapporteurs<sup>2</sup>:

- Submitted a report on “Israeli military courts and administrative detention” to the Human Rights Council as part of the periodical revision for the countries. Its revision was held in December 2008. The report was submitted in July 2008;
- Submitted a report on “the right of Palestinian detainees to health and the violations committed against them” to the Special Rapporteur in July 2008;

<sup>2</sup> Part of these papers and reports are available at Addameer’s website [www.addameer.info](http://www.addameer.info)

- Submitted a report on “the right of Palestinian detainees to education” to the Special Rapporteur. The paper reflected the conditions of education in Israeli jails;
- Submitted a special report on “administrative detention and torture”, in coordination with the Palestinian-Israeli Coalition against Torture, to the Committee Against Torture (CAT). The Committee will review Israel’s report in May 2009. The shadow report was submitted in the name of the Coalition, Addameer Association, and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR). With the aim of exerting pressure on Israel by different European countries with regard to torture, the Association participated, as part of the Coalition, in a meeting held with embassy representatives of some European countries in Tel Aviv. During the meeting, the outcomes of the report were presented. Participants were asked to force Israel to implement its obligations under international laws, especially the Convention Against Torture<sup>3</sup>;
- Submitted a special report on “Palestinian female prisoners in Israeli jails” to the Head of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. We asked the Preparatory Committee to include the issue of Palestinian female prisoners in the agenda for discussion while reviewing Israel’s report in October 2008. In the same context, we provided Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counseling (WCLAC) with information on female prisoners. The Center submitted the shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
- Submitted a testimony before the “UN Special Investigation Committee on Israeli Human Rights Violations Against the Palestinian People in the Occupied Palestinian Territories” in Jordan in July 2008;
- Sent a letter to Mr. Dmitri Robel, Head of the EU Cooperation & Foreign Relations Committee, on the background of the European-Israeli Partnership Agreement, which was announced for its renewal in June 2008. In the letter, we clarified Israel’s failure, as an occupying power, to comply with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International human rights laws, and its grave violations committed against Palestinian detainees, especially children. Following the Human Rights Council’s decision, we sent another letter expressing our disappointment for not taking a serious position towards Israel’s failure to abide by its obligations in accordance with the Partnership Agreement with the EU in human rights issues;
- Sent another letter to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in November 2008 on Israel’s failure to abide by its obligations in accordance with International Human Rights Law;

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<sup>3</sup> The report is available at the Anti-Torture Coalition’s website.



- Submitted a fact sheet on “Palestinian female prisoners” to the European Parliament during its discussion of the issue of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. In its decision issued on 04 September 2008, the EU referred to the bad health conditions and ill-treatment of Palestinian female prisoners<sup>4</sup>;
- During detainee Nora Al-Hashlamon’s hunger strike, we sent several letters to various parties, urging them to intervene to release the detainee. She was placed under administrative detention at the time her husband was under administrative detention and her six children were left alone. The letters were sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners’ Affairs, the Irish Embassy, the Palestinian Minister of Women’s Affairs, Arab Knesset member, and other local organizations;
- Sent a letter to various Palestinian ministries, stating the recommendations of the workshop, which was held with former female prisoners held in Israeli detention. The workshop discussed the needs of female prisoners. It was coordinated by the Palestinian Counseling Center through the “Protection of Palestinian Female Prisoners & Detainees in Israeli Jails Project”, which was carried out in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);
- On the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a march was organized by a group of local human rights organizations. Participants approached the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and submitted a memo in the name of the organization, demanding the United Nations (UN) and the international community to take responsibility towards the Palestinian people and Israel’s human rights violations against them, especially Israel’s siege on Gaza;
- Submitted a paper on “political detention and torture in PNA prisons and detention centers” to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ special newsletter, issued by the local Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Coordinated for a popular sit-in before the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), demanding an immediate



<sup>4</sup> A full text of the decision is available at <http://www.unitedagainststorture.org>

release of detainee Sitan Al-Wali from the Occupied Golan Height, due to his bad health conditions. The sit-in was marked by a very good presence of all local mass media and satellite channels;

- Participated, in coordination with the local Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other local organizations, in holding a workshop on the occasion of the Dignity and Justice for Detainees Week.

## **Media:**

During the reporting period, the Association continued to develop its network of relationships with local and international media through:

- Publishing statements on the issue of prisoners;
- Conducting interviews with the various mass media, with the aim disseminating information and urging different parties to support the issue of prisoners;
- Holding press conferences, TV and radio shows on the issue of prisoners.

The Association published eight press releases on various occasions, dealing with the issue of Palestinian prisoners, their conditions of detention, and the political aspects of their release. The press releases were distributed to the Association's network of relationships and published in local newspapers, including Al-Quds daily, Al-Ayyam daily, and some news agencies' websites (Ma'an, Wafa & Al-Jazeera Net). Some networks also published press releases or urgent calls issued by the Association during its campaign to release detainees Salwa Salah and Sara Siureh on their websites. Networks include the Coalition of Women for Peace, the Anti-Torture Coalition, Somoud, and Oficina de Informacion Chileno-Palestina.

Additionally, the Association conducted several local and international press interviews, including an interview with the Jerusalem Post, Haaretz, Epoch Times, and the Irish Times.

During 2008, the Association conducted dozens of TV and radio interviews with local and international mass media, dealing with issues related to Palestinian prisoners, administrative detention, torture, children and women. It conducted 10 radio interviews with local radio stations (Ajyal, Nagham,



*Ash-Sharq & Shabab FM), and with international stations (RTE1 in Dublin) on issues related to administrative detention and detainees Salwa and Sara, as well as with (Near FM, Belgium radio station, Catalunya radio station, German and American radio stations). It also conducted more than eight TV interviews with local stations (Watan, Palestine, Al-Quds), as well as with satellite channels (Al-Jazeera - Arabic & English, Saudi channel 4, Al-Nile channel & LBC).*

*During the reporting period, the Association held, in cooperation with human rights organizations, three press conferences:*

- *The first conference was held on the occasion of the Palestinian Prisoner's Day on 14 April 2008 with Health Work Committees and Defence for Children International - Palestine Section (DCI/PS). The Association's annual report on torture and violations against Palestinian prisoners was published on this occasion;*
- *The second conference was held in coordination with Physicians for Human Rights (PHR). It discussed a report on isolation – "The Sounds of Silence. Isolation and Solitary Confinement of Palestinians on isolation". Prepared by both institutions, the study reflected the legal dimensions and the psychological impact of isolation;*
- *The third conference was held in Jerusalem, in coordination with the Civic Coalition for Defending the Palestinians' Rights in Jerusalem. It dealt with a report on Jerusalemite detainees and their local, social and political status.*
- *The three conferences were covered live by various local mass media and satellite channels (Al-Jazeera).*

### **Campaigns:**

*During the reporting period, the Association continued to provide two French activist groups, who carry out letter writing campaigns in support of Palestinian female prisoners and children under administrative detention, with information, statistics and details on every female prisoner and child. The group that supports female prisoners contacts them directly by sending them supportive letters. The second group that supports children placed under administrative detention sends protesting letters to the relevant Israeli parties demanding their release from prison. Such activities aim to raise awareness on the issue of Palestinian detainees and provide detainees and their families with moral support.*

### **Campaign to Release Salwa & Sara from Prison:**

*Both girls were arrested and placed under administrative detention at the age of 16 and a half. The Association launched a campaign against Israel's policy of administration detention. The campaign was largely supported by official parties, such as European consulates and embassies that raised the issue with Israeli authorities individually and collectively through political dialogue. In addition, a number of international institutions and networks concerned with human rights issues adopted the case and supported the release of both detainees, including:*

- *Amnesty International (AI);*
- *Welfare Association (WA);*
- *Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights in London;*
- *Human Rights Committee - British Bar Association in London & Wales;*
- *International Coalition Against Torture;*
- *Palestinian-Israeli Coalition Against Torture;*
- *Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN);*
- *Women's Institute for Female Political Detainees;*
- *Coalition of Women for Peace;*
- *Sumoud;*
- *Australian for Peace;*
- *Palestine Monitor.*

*Several press releases and urgent calls were issued during the campaign demanding their immediate release. Letters were sent to the Israeli military commander in the occupied territory and other parties in the Israeli government, as well as international parties with the aim of exerting pressure on Israel, such as:*

- *State members of the European Union;*
- *Envoy to the Foreign Cooperation and European Neighborhood Policy;*
- *Special representative on human rights - EU General Secretariat;*
- *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).*

*A number of media and radio interviews were held on the topic of administrative detention against Salwa and Sara. Their issue was controversial since they are the youngest girls placed under administrative detention. The Association issued fact sheets dealing with administrative detention, detainees' conditions, and the relationship with detainees' families and the outside world. The Coalition of Women for Peace organized a demonstration before the prison in which both detainees were held, demanding their release.*

*They were released early January 2009 after serving a seven-month period administrative detention. We believe that they were released following the pressure exerted by several international official parties on the Israeli authorities.*

*The campaign launched for Salwa and Sara was the starting point for the Association towards the public campaign, which was planned to launch against Israel's policy of administrative detention. In practice, Salwa and Sara's issue contributed to raising the issue of administrative detention once again. The Association collected and prepared a number of other issues to be used in the public campaign in the future. It also prepared a short documentary film on administrative detention, and prepared a legal study on administrative detention and the reality of administrative detainees in accordance with Israeli military orders. The Association will continue working on the public campaign next year.*

### **Overseas Tours:**

*During 2008, the Association participated, in coordination with international institutions, in conducting two overseas tours. The first was in southern Spain with another institution concerned with women's issues (ASPA). The tour was mainly about Palestinian female prisoners and the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian Territory in general. During the tour, meetings were held with local institutions and community activists, and local radio interviews were conducted. The second tour was coordinated with Amnesty International (AI) - Ireland Branch and focused on administrative detention. During the tour, lectures were held in three different cities and meetings were held with official parties, such as the person in charge of the Political Branch at the Foreign Ministry. This meeting was coordinated with Amnesty International - Ireland Branch and Christian Aid. The meeting focused on the role of countries, such as Ireland, in supporting the issue of*

*Palestinian human rights through different procedures taken at the United Nations (UN), such as the periodical revision conducted by the Human Rights Council. The Council reviewed Israel's report on 08 December 2008. During this revision, the countries have the right to address questions to the countries under revision on certain issues.*

*In addition, the Association met with the Director of Irish Aid. During the meeting, it provided a presentation on its work, the issue of Palestinian detainees, and the violations committed against them in Israeli jails and detention centers. The Association arranged a field tour for the Deputy Representative of the Irish Representative Office to the PA to meet some families of Palestinian detainees with the aim of becoming acquainted with their situation closely.*

# Awareness & Training Unit



## **Awareness & Training Unit:**

The Association aims, through its Awareness and Training Program, to strengthen its relations with the detainees' families and with individuals who may be exposed to the experience of detention, such as university students and community activists. Therefore, the Association works on disseminating information, clarifying detention procedures, rights that should be respected by the Israeli occupation authorities, and the mechanisms available to the families or those exposed to detention to confront the various violations to which they are exposed. The Association is carrying out this aim by holding public meetings throughout the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

The second part of the Training Program is targeted towards lawyers working in Israeli military courts. It aims to improve lawyers' efficiency in providing professional legal services necessary for defending Palestinian detainees before military courts, given the fact that military laws and procedures adopted in these courts differ from those applied in the Palestinian judicial system.

The third part is targeting to community activists and those who have the desire to work on human rights issues in their own communities. The Program aims to:

- Provide community activists with knowledge and information on human rights issues, especially civil and political rights;
- Provide them with the necessary training in order to be able to confront violations committed by the various authorities through training them on the mechanisms of community work to confront violations and the changes in the official polices.

## **Know Your Rights:**

During 2007, the Association prepared a booklet containing necessary information on detention and interrogation by the Israeli occupation authorities, and a detailed explanation of all relevant military orders that every detained person who experiences detention should expect. This booklet was distributed at public meetings held by the Association during 2008. It was also distributed to some local institutions, universities and schools with the aim of raising awareness on detention.

### **Public Meetings:**

During 2008, the Association held six public meetings throughout the West Bank. The meetings were coordinated with local institutions, municipalities, youth clubs and student bodies:

- A meeting was held in the Bethlehem area in coordination with the Progressive Youth Union and Ibda'a Cultural Center. Both – the Palestinian Minister of Detainees' Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoners' Club (Nadi Al-Asir) were hosted. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 persons, including community activists, former detainees, representatives of national parties and authorities. It was filmed by Shepherds TV (Ar-Rou'ah) and was broadcast afterwards;
- A meeting was held in Tulkarem in coordination with ISM and the Social Work Committees. It was attended by 35 persons, mostly activists in the Anti-Apartheid Wall Campaign and some former detainees. The meeting primarily aimed to direct participating activists on how to deal during arrest, especially group arrests during the anti-Apartheid Wall related activities;
- A meeting was held in Beit Rima Village in coordination with Beni Zeid Al-Ghargiyeh Municipality and the Palestinian Prisoners' Club (Nadi Al-Asir). The meeting was attended by over 60 persons, mostly families of former detainees. It focused on the rights and procedures that accompany detention and trial. A number of questions were addressed by the participants;
- A meeting was held in Nablus in coordination with the Illumination Culture Center and students from the "Faculty of Law" at An-Najah University. The meeting was attended by some 35 persons, including students, community activists and former detainees. It focused on detainees' rights, various detention stages, and trial procedures;
- Two meetings were held at Birzeit University in coordination with the "Right to Education Campaign" and the Student Council. Each meeting was attended by some 15 student activists (members of the student council). It focused on the rights of detainees and trial procedures.

### **Awareness Activities:**

In addition to public meetings, the Unit provided, in coordination with the Italian Cooperation Agency, a two-day special training to social workers and school teachers. The first training day was conducted in Ramallah, whereas the second was held in Hebron. The two-day training aimed at providing participants with information and knowledge on the detention experience from its legal aspect. The training focused on the procedures taken by Israeli occupation forces, and the most important stages every detainee, especially child, goes through, torture and other violations they are exposed to during interrogation and trial, as well as prison conditions. The meetings were very fruitful during which participants expressed their great appreciation of the effort and the valuable information provided.

*For the third consecutive year, the Association continues its cooperation with the Human Rights Clinic at Al-Quds University - Abu Dis. During the year, the Association hosts two students from the “Faculty of Law” with the aim of training them on the work in a human rights organization, especially with regard to the legal work on the issue of prisoners. It also gives the Association an opportunity to benefit from voluntary work provided by students during the year. In addition, the Association delivers a lecture to students at university on military orders, courts and detention issues. It conducts a field visit to Ofer Military Court for legal clinic students with the aim of learning more about trial procedures closely.*

*During 2008, the Association conducted, in partnership with the Palestinian TV, two awareness shows through the TV Program entitled, “For You”. The show is targeting Palestinian detainees and their families and has a high audience. Families can participate in the program via phone calls. One show focused on Palestinian female prisoners through the “Protection of Palestinian Female Prisoners Project”. This experience reflected the importance of communicating with prisoners through various media, especially TV and radio, with the aim of acquainting them with their rights and the mechanisms that enable them to use these mechanisms, demanding from Israeli authorities to implement their obligations in accordance with international standards related to the treatment of prisoners. Therefore, the Association will develop this relationship through holding more series to communicate with prisoners. It participated, in coordination with the Palestinian Counseling Center through the “Protection of Female Prisoners Project”, in a TV show on Palestinian prisoners and their rights on the occasion of the International Women’s Day.*

*During the annual revision, the Association planned to launch an awareness program targeting prisoners inside jails, focusing on their rights inside prison. For this purpose, the Association will prepare a special booklet on prisoners’ rights and will be distributed inside prisons, in addition to holding an awareness series broadcast on local stations so that prisoners will be able to listen.*

### **Lawyers’ Training Program:**

*The Association decided, according to its experience in 2007, to continue with its Training Program - training Palestinian lawyers working in Israeli military courts on laws, military orders, trial procedures and relevant international standards, with the aim of raising their level of efficiency in order to provide prisoners with professional legal support.*

*The Association developed the second level of the Training Program. It conducted the first level in 2007, during which participants emphasized the importance of continuing such training and*



*providing a more in-depth level in Israeli criminal law. Indeed, the Association prepared all requirements to hold the training in April 2008.*

*Nine lawyers from Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin working in Israeli courts joined the Training Program. The Association conducted six meetings, an average of three training hours each.*

**The training dealt with the following topics:**

- *Procedures related to detention, especially after submitting the bill of indictment;*
- *Detention until the completion of procedures;*
- *Initial contestations after submitting the bill of indictment;*
- *Listening to witnesses during trial;*
- *Interrogation and anti-interrogation with witnesses.*

**Only six meetings out of 10 were conducted for two reasons:**

- 1) *Some organizations held similar trainings at the same time. The Association knew about this Training Program and was among those that have been consulted by these organizations before preparing its Training Program. It notified them of the time of the training. But unfortunately, these institutions held their training earlier than planned;*
- 2) *Failure of all participants to attend all the meetings.*

**This forced the Association to:**

- *Review and re-design an integral training program of three levels;*
- *Lay down standards that help ensure participants' full commitment to attend;*
- *Coordinate with local organizations working in the field of defending prisoners in order to propose the program and to attract their lawyers to participate in these trainings.*

*These mechanisms will be adopted next year to avoid any obstacle that may impede the overall progress of the program.*

**Addama'er Program:**

*The Program is targeting community activists and individuals concerned with human rights issues voluntarily and individually. The Association aims, through this Program, to revive public voluntary work in defending political and civil rights and freedoms in Palestinian society.*

*The Program consists of two parts:*

- *The first part presents theoretical public concepts on the political and civil rights from the International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law perspective;*
- *The second part is concerned with provision of training on the concepts of field work, such as documentation, campaign building, targeting decision-makers, and recruiting public opinion for defending the right or the target issue. It includes practical activities. Participants will carry out activities targeting certain political and civil rights they believe that they have been violated and desire to confront.*

*During 2008, a paper was prepared defining the idea and the activities of the Program with the aim of distributing it to youth centers, universities and institutions that will targeted.*

*Various youth centers and clubs, institutions and universities to which the idea of the Program will be presented have been identified. They included centers throughout the governorates of the West Bank. The Program Coordinator conducted field visits in Bethlehem, Hebron, Ramallah, Tulkarem, Qalqilia and Jenin to introduce the Program. A previously-prepared affiliation questionnaire was distributed with the aim of identifying the capacities and knowledge of those wishing to join the Program, their background, and their previous experience in voluntary community work. Some 220 questionnaires were distributed among different locations. Some 86 questionnaires were sent by persons who expressed their desire to join the Program. The questionnaires were sorted out according to a set of selection criteria. Individual interviews were conducted and 50 affiliates were selected to participate in the Program.*

*The group held the first meeting during which the Program was discussed in depth and the concept of political and civil rights were discussed. The group was divided into small groups to discuss the topics that they desire to work on during the Program. Three major topics were chosen. The actual work on the Program will start early next year.*

*There are some obstacles that affected the overall progress of the Program, including:*

- *The number of affiliation questionnaires obtained in the beginning was insufficient to allow for the selection of the required number of participants in the Program. This resulted in extending the offering period of the Program, attracting of activists, and conducting additional field visits, thus prolonging the selection phase. In our opinion, this can be attributed to the hesitation of some participants to commit themselves to one year or more.*

Administrative & Financial  
Unit



## **Administrative & Financial Unit:**

*Moving to a new office in early 2008 was the most important achievement in terms of providing a better working environment to the staff. It was clearly reflected in the employees' performance. During the year, the Unit continued to follow up on the evaluation process which was conducted in 2007 and its recommendations with regard to human and financial resources, and the organization of the administrative affairs.*

*Through its periodical meetings held during 2008, the Board of Directors amended the Association's by-laws, its staff system, its procedures and policies, its administrative structure, and its job descriptions. [Six board meetings were held as mentioned in the by-laws]. The amendments were submitted to the General Assembly in its annual meeting held in July 2008, during which all amendments were approved.*

*Additionally, the Board of Directors prepared an integral salary scale for the Association which was approved by the General Assembly and came into force in March 2008. It reviewed the employment needs in accordance with the new organizational structure and the actual need to implement the action plan successfully. It approved the appointment of a Program Manager for the Association and the employment was made in April 2008. It also approved the employment of a part-time Lobbying and Advocacy Coordinator for the "Protection of Palestinian Female Prisoners' Project". The appointment was made in June 2008. It approved the appointment of a Field Researcher for the "Protection of Female Prisoners' Project" who was appointed early 2008. A full-time lawyer was hired for the "Israeli Prison Visits Project" and a new coordinator for the Awareness & Training Unit was hired during 2008. The development of human resources significantly contributed to the development of the overall performance of the Association and was reflected in the volume and quality of production.*

*During 2008, all administrative forms for monitoring and administering human resources were completed, such as attendance and leaves table, provision for leaving indemnity, provident fund, health insurance, and salaries. All details are followed-up and documented periodically.*

## **Monitoring & Evaluation:**

*In 2005, the Association conducted its strategic planning. It laid down a five-year strategic plan and set a number of measurement indicators in accordance with its strategic goals, and its activities. But it was not possible to conduct the evaluation according to these indicators unless in 2006. In 2007, the Association committed itself to conducting the evaluation in accordance with the indicators that have been set. The practical experience has proved that some indicators are not easily-measured, while others need to be developed. Therefore, the Association continued during 2008 its discussion about the indicators with the aim of developing them. Within the evaluation process, the Association's various units submitted monthly reports on the progress of work, and implementation of activities in accordance with the operational plan. The reports were presented during the Units' periodical meetings. A semiannual internal evaluation was conducted for the plan and the amendments to the various activities were approved in accordance with this evaluation. By the end of 2008, every Unit prepared a final evaluation report on the activities and outputs. It should be noted that mechanisms for gathering information on the indicators were developed, such as designing special evaluation questionnaires, including:*

- *Beneficiaries' satisfaction with the legal services provided by the Association;*
- *Lawyers' training.*

*With regard to the evaluation of the employees' performance, it was conducted by the end of 2008 and was submitted and approved by the Board of Directors early 2009. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the administrative structure. Every Unit Head evaluated its staff within the Unit and the Director of the Association evaluated the Heads of Units and the staff within the Administrative and Financial Unit.*

*The evaluation was conducted according to an evaluation form divided into three sections:*

- *The first relates to the general administrative skills;*
- *The second relates to employees' skills according to the job description for each employee;*
- *The third relates to the employees' sense of belonging to the Association, its goals, and the relationship with the employees.*

*After the evaluation was conducted, every employee was given the opportunity to take a look at the evaluation and to give his/her notes. The evaluation included recommendations on the training needs to develop the employees' skills and capacities. According to these recommendations and the previously-prepared needs assessment, a plan was laid down to develop employees' capacity in 2009.*

### **Capacity Development:**

*During the reporting period, three staff members from the Legal Unit and the Documentation & Studies Unit participated in a specialized training course on "Documentation" held by Al-Haq. Another legal staff member participated in a training course on "Training of Trainers" held by the Civic Coalition. The Association's Director also participated in a workshop on the "Mechanisms of Lobbying & Advocacy in the EU", held by Christian Aid in Brussels.*

*The Association's nature of work with detainees and their families, dealing with their cases, the daily violations committed against detainees, ongoing arrest campaigns and its intensification in some locations highlighted the importance of holding activities for supporting the staff members. It was agreed to insert such need in the 2009 work plan to discuss the horizon of cooperation with local organizations that could possibly provide such support to the staff.*



# Annexes

**Table (1): Lawyers visits by Objective**

	Interrogation Conditions	Prison Conditions	Detention Conditions	Female Detainees	Child Detainees	Administrative Detainees	Health Conditions	Torture and Ill-treatment	Legal Follow-up	Complaints	Jerusalemite Detainees	Isolation	Total
January	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	9
February	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
March	2	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	12
April	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	9
May	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
June	0	5	1	1	1	3	2	0	1	0	1	0	15
July	4	7	1	5	0	0	4	2	2	1	0	1	27
August	4	4	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	16
September	1	8	0	0	2	4	3	3	3	0	0	1	25
October	5	5	1	0	2	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	20
November	2	6	2	0	14	0	1	2	5	2	0	1	35
December	4	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>192</b>



**Table 2 : Number of Visits by type of facility (prison, detention centre and interrogation centre)**

Central Prisons															
	Ofer	Shate'	Gilbo'a	Megiddo	Al Damon	Ashmorit – Kfar Yona	HaSharon-Rimonim	HaSharon – Telmond Juveniles	HaSharon – Telmond Women	HaSharon (Male)	Hadarim	Netsar–Al Ramleh	Ayalon–Al Ramleh	Neve Tertza (Al Ramleh-Women)	Al Ramleh Prison Hospital – Marash
Jan	1	1		1											
Feb			1												
Mar				1			1	1	1	1					
Apr	1	1	1	1											
May		1	1	1											1
Jun								1	1	1	1				
Jul				1	4		1			1					1
Aug				1	2				1						1
Sept	1	1	1					1		1	1				
Oct	1		1	2											
Nov	1	1	1	1	2			1			1		1		
Dec	1	1									1				1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75</b>														

							Military Detention Centers						Interrogation Centers			TOTAL	
Shikma–'Asqalan- Al Majdal	Ohali Kedar–Bir al Sabe'	Eshal–Bir al Sabe'	Diykal–Bir al Sabe'	Nafha	Rimon	Al Naqab / Ketziot	Salem	Kedummim	Huwarra	Binyamin - Ofer	Etzion	Erez	Al Jalami - Kishon	Petakh Tikva	Al Muscobbiyeh	'Asqalan	
				1			1								2		7
1					1	1	1								1		6
							1						1	1			8
													1		2		7
																	4
		1				1	1										7
1									1					2	1	1	14
	1												1	2	1		10
	1	1		1	1	1								1			12
1						1	1						1	2	3		13
				1	1				1		1				1		14
						1							3	1			9
3	2	2	0	3	3	5	5	0	2	0	1	0	7	9	11	1	
							8						28				111

**Table 3: Annual comparison of number of visits to prisons, interrogation centres and detention centres**

<b>INTERROGATION CENTERS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Petakh Tikva	6	5	9
Al Jalami - Kishon	8	2	7
'Asqalan Interrogation	3	4	1
Al Muscobbiyeh	43	32	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>DETENTION CENTERS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Etzion	0	2	1
Kedummim	0	0	0 closed
Binyamin - Ofer	0	0	0 closed
Huwarra	0	1	2
Salem	0	4	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CENTRAL PRISONS</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Ofer	2	4	6
Shate'	2	3	6
Gilbo'a	4	4	6
Megiddo	2	3	9
Al Damon	1	2	8
HaSharon - Telmond Juveniles	2	3	4
HaSharon – Telmond Women	4	3	3
HaSharon (Male)	3	4	4
Hadarim	6	7	4
Netsan–Al Ramleh	2	2	0 closed
Ayalon–Al Ramleh	1	0	1
Neve Tertza (Al Ramleh-Women)	1	0	0
Al Ramleh Prison Hospital - Marash	4	2	4
Shikma–'Asqalan- Al Majdal	5	2	3
Ohali Kedar–Bir al Sabe'	3	1	2
Eshal–Bir al Sabe'	3	4	2
Nafha	3	1	3
Rimon	1	2	3
Al Naqab / Ketziot	2	4	5
Rimonim	0	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>75</b>

**Table (4)****No. of Affidavits & their Contents**

<i>Type of Affidavit</i>	<i>Beating</i>	<i>Isolation &amp; Suppression</i>	<i>House Searching &amp; Rummaging</i>	<i>Committing Violence against the Detainee's Family</i>	<i>Violations against Detainees' families during Prison Visit</i>
<b>No.</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

  

<i>Human Shields</i>	<i>Pressure during Interrogation to Obtain Information from Detainees</i>	<i>Health Conditions</i>	<i>Violations during Interrogation</i>	<i>Pressure on Injury</i>	<i>Detention Conditions</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Table (5): Lawyers Visits to PA by Detention Facility

	Military Intelligence				General Intelligence				Preventative Security				Police						Total						
	Jenin	Nablus	Ramallah	Jericho	Ramallah	Jenin	Hebron	Nablus	Jericho	Nablus	Jericho	Ramallah	Betounia	Um esh Sharayet	Jenin	Hebron	Beit Lehem	Tul Karm		Salfit	Qalqilia	Jericho	Ramallah		
January																								0	
February																									0
March																									0
April									1																1
May																									0
June																									0
July	1	1	1	1																					4
August																									0
September		1	1				1	1					1												5
October																									0
November																1							1		2
December																									0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	
	<b>6</b>				<b>3</b>				<b>1</b>				<b>2</b>												

# Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

**Addameer** is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil, human rights organization. Established in 1992 by a group of activists interested in human rights, the center's activities focus on offering support for Palestinian prisoners, advocating the rights of political prisoners and their families. Addameer works to end torture, oppose arbitrary detention and guarantee fair trials, through monitoring, free legal aid, and advocacy campaigns.

Addameer is surrounded by a group of grassroots supporters and volunteers, **Addama'er**, who share with Addameer believes and goals, and actively participate in its activities and endeavor to support Addameer both financially and morally.

**Addameer** is a member of the Palestinian NGO Network, the Palestinian Coalition for the Defense of Civil Rights and Liberties, and the regional and International Coalition to Abolish Death Penalty. Addameer is also a member of the International Network Against Torture.

**Addameer believes in the internationality of human rights based on the respect of human dignity as a priority, the totality of which is constructed upon international laws and conviction.**

**Addameer also believes in the importance of building a free and democratic Palestinian society based on justice, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights within the larger framework of the right to self-determination**

## **Addameer strives to:**

- End torture and other forms of cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment and punishment.
- Abolish death penalty.
- End arbitrary detention and arrest.
- Guarantee fair, impartial, public, and just trials.
- Support and endorse prisoners of conscience and all political prisoners by providing them with social and moral care, legal aid, and maximum media exposure of their plight.
- Contribute to pushing for legislating laws that guarantee human rights principles and basic freedoms, as well as ensuring their implementation on the ground.
- Contribute to raising community awareness of human rights issues, democracy, and the rule of law.
- Ensure the respect of democratic values in Palestinian community, based on political diversity and freedom of opinion and expression.
- Participate in lobbying for International support and solidarity around Palestinian legitimate rights.

## **Addameer Programs:**

1. Legal Aid Program: to provide free legal services to prisoners and their families, including legal follow up on cases of torture, legal representation at tribunal and trials, working on cases of precedent in the issue of torture and fair trials, legal and rights counseling, and regular visitation by lawyers.
2. Documentation and Research Program: to collect and collate all information and statistics on conditions of detention and violations against prisoners and their families, and to prepare and publish reports and studies on these violations by conducting regular visits to prisons and through field work to families, x-detainees, and other institutions.
3. Lobbying and Solidarity Program: to disseminate information, reports, and studies and to build local, Arab and international solidarity campaigns to end torture, arbitrary detention, or other violations of prisoners rights; and to lobby on their behalf using international human rights protection mechanisms or by lobbying various policy makers.
4. Awareness and Training Program: this program is three-fold; awareness raising of Palestinian local public on their rights and the rights of prisoners and their families, training of lawyers working on the issue of Palestinian prisoners to be better equipped and to integrate international law in their work, and through Addama'er program to train and build capacity of local grassroots activists, especially youth, in addressing and human rights issues and to mobilize the community to defend their rights.

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