

Monthly Newsletter — July 2020



In July 2020, Addameer has documented systematic **human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including torture and ill-treatment.**

Detention in Numbers

Since January 2020, **2759** Palestinians from the occupied territory were arrested including **336 children and 80 women**. For the month of July, the number of new arrests was **429**.

As of the end of July 2020, there were:

4500 Palestinian political prisoners

360 of them administrative detainees

160 child detainees

41 female prisoners

5 Palestinian Legislative Council members.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

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Two Female Prisoners in Isolation

Addameer's lawyer Muna Nadaf, on 20 July 2020 visited the two female prisoners, Fadwa Hamadeh and Jihan Hashimeh who are placed in isolation since early June and have been there since around 42 days without any legal justification. The two female prisoners informed the lawyer of their difficult detention conditions, the cell they are kept at does not have the minimum needs for a human being, it also has no TV, radio, cooking area and even the shower is broken.

Furthermore, the female prisoners were not informed of the reasons behind their isolation until now. In fact, four days ago an office came to them and informed them that they will remain in isolation for another 14 days without informing them the reasons behind their isolation.

The two female prisoners were initially sent to isolation for 21 days; however, they are still in isolation despite the lack of any legal justification. They are also banned any visits and communications with their families since several months now, this ban started due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and now because of their isolation.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association pursued a legal justification behind their isolation and demanded to end their illegal isolation, however, no responses have been given.

Addameer's Lawyer Salah Hamouri Released on Bail

On 7 July 2020, Addameer's lawyer Salah Hamouri received a conditional release at the Israeli Court of First Instance. The conditional release Salah received included a 2000 NIS bail, a personal financial guarantee of 1000 NIS, and a third-party financial guarantee of 1000 NIS. The conditional release also included prohibiting Salah of any communications with a number of individuals for a total period of 90 days ending on 7 October 2020. Additionally, Salah has to attend any court session, and interrogation sessions when needed or called upon.

Salah Hamouri was arrested on 30 June 2020, from Shaikh Jarah in occupied Jerusalem at a medical center, where he was taking the mandatory COVID-19 test before traveling to France to his wife and son. Salah is a lawyer and he is part of Addameer's lawyers' team, this is his fifth arrest as he already spent several years in detention, some where based on sentences and others were based on the arbitrary administrative detention.



Palestinian Civil Society Organizations Welcome the Report by the Special Rapporteur Addressing Israel's Collective Punishment Policy

On 16 July 2020, Professor Michael Lynk, the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, introduced his annual [report](#) to the [44th Regular Session](#) of the UN Human Rights Council, addressing Israel's illegal policies and practices of collective punishment targeting the Palestinian people. Emphasizing Israel's failure to uphold its legal obligations under international law, the Special Rapporteur considered Israel's reliance on collective punishment as a "prominent instrument in its coercive toolbox of population control." Professor Lynk further called on Israel, the Occupying Power, to "end all measures amounting to collective punishment, including an end to the closure of Gaza, all restrictions on freedom of movement across the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the punitive demolitions of homes, the punitive residency revocations, the cutting of benefits, the punitive closures of towns and all delays in returning bodies for burial."

Our organisations welcome the Special Rapporteur's recent report to the Human Rights Council, as it examines one of Israel's well-worn policies of imposing unlawful collective punishment measures as a tool of repression, control, and domination over the Palestinian people to maintain its settler-colonial and apartheid regime. The report, which provided extensive legal analysis on Israel's policy, provides further recognition of the illegality of collective punishment targeting Palestinians. The report shows how Israel continues to legitimize the illegitimate, with unlawful collective punishment measures, such as punitive house demolitions and the withholding of Palestinians' bodies having been greenlighted by Israeli courts.

In concluding his report to the Council, Professor Lynk stresses that collective punishment is prohibited under international law in all circumstances. He maintains that: "like torture, there are no permissible exceptions to the use of collective punishment in law. And, like torture, the use of collective punishment flouts law and morality, dignity and justice, and stains all those who practice it." Accordingly, the Special Rapporteur presented a list of recommendations to the Human Rights Council, calling on Israel, the Occupying Power, to end its 53-year-old occupation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, in compliance with international law. He further urged the international community to "take all measures, including countermeasures and sanctions, necessary to ensure the respect by Israel of its duty under international law to end the occupation."

The international community has repeatedly condemned Israel's illegal policy of collective punishment against Palestinians. Yet, the international response has rarely risen above the level of verbal condemnation. The Special Rapporteur, former UN Secretary Generals, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, UN treaty bodies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have all called on Israel, as Occupying Power, to put an end to all measures amounting to unlawful collective punishment. During the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Israel in 2018, several UN Member States, including Germany, Namibia, and Malaysia, called on Israel, the Occupying Power, to put an end to illegal collective punishment.

As Palestinians continue to endure widespread and systematic human rights violations committed with total impunity, our organisations urge international justice and accountability for suspected crimes committed against the Palestinian people, including at the International Criminal Court. Our organisations further call on Third States to adopt effective measures to put an end to Israel's illegal and inhumane policies of collective punishment, including sanctions and countermeasures, to bring the illegal situation to an end.

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Human Rights Defender Ahmad Qatamesh Sentenced and yet Detained under Administrative Detention

On 20 July 2020, the Military Court at Ofer sentenced the Palestinian Author and Academic, Ahmad Qatamesh, according to a listed of charges presented against him.

Ahmad Qatamesh was charged with the presence at an illegal gathering for an illegal organization, more specifically, he was charged for giving a lecture in one of the student activities organized by the Democratic, Progressive Student Pole at Birzeit University.



He was sentenced for only a suspended sentence for four months in prison in the coming three years if he gives a lecture again in the mentioned period. However, Qatamesh was not released because he is detained under administrative detention in addition to the list of charges presented against him.

Qatamesh was in fact, arrested on 24 December 2019, he was presented with the list of charges against him shortly after the arrest. However, the military prosecution decided later on to give him a conditional release on bail. Instead of getting released, on 2 January 2020 the Military Commander of the West Bank issued a four-month administrative detention order against Qatamesh, which were later renewed for another four months. Thus, Qatamesh is charged and on trail and at the same time is facing administrative detention.

The case of detainee Ahmad Qatamesh is a clear example for the arbitrariness of the occupation authorities in using administrative detention against Palestinians. The occupation authorities continued the trail procedures against Qatamesh according to the list of charges presented against him in spite of the administrative detention order against him. The military prosecution took advantage of the possibility of issuing him an administrative detention order because the charges brought against him are not enough for imprisoning him.

Furthermore, issuing an administrative detention order against Qatamesh was through alleging that the secret file against contains information that is different than what is presented in the list of charges. The Israeli occupation forces used administrative detention as an alternative to providing an actual trail then they failed to proof any suspicions against Qatamesh. This is a policy used by the occupation authorities constantly when targeting Palestinian activities, human rights defenders, and academics.

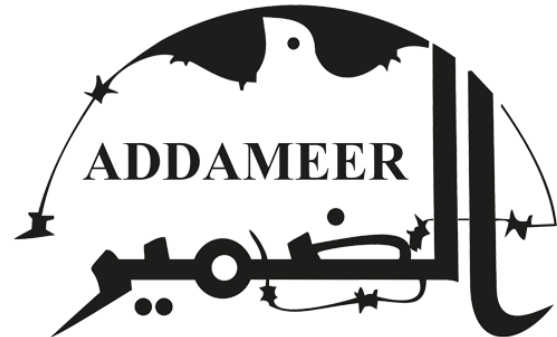
Ahmad Qatamesh is expected to be released on 31 July 2020, since the renewal of his administrative detention order is supposed to be the last in case no new "secret information" appeared against him.

Addameer's actions in numbers

12 international groups (210 people) were briefed by the Advocacy office since January.

5 visits to military courts were coordinated and organized since January.

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