

## Quarterly Newsletter — June to August 2017

Throughout this quarter, from June to August 2017, Addameer has documented ongoing human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees amidst the current escalation, which began in the beginning of October 2015. Administrative detention continues as a policy which deprives detainees of trials, access to evidence, and the chance to defend themselves against any formal charges. Key issues persistently include the detention and ill treatment of women, child prisoners and ongoing detention of journalists, Jerusalemites and human rights defenders. Addameer holds that the fulfillment of human rights and humanitarian law standards is crucial, and that ill treatment, torture, and arbitrary detention are grave violations of those standards.

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### Detention in Numbers

This quarter, from June to August 2017, arrests and detention continue on a large scale by Israeli occupation forces. At the end of August 2017, there were approximately 6279 Palestinian political prisoners, including approximately 465 administrative detainees, 300 child detainees, 65 female prisoners and 6 Palestinian Legislative Council member. There has been a significance increase in the number of Palestinian political prisoners as a result of a mass arrest campaign during and following Al-Aqsa uprising in July 2017.

#### Addameer's field researcher Salah Hamouri arrested by Israeli occupation forces



Addameer's field researcher and human rights defender Salah Hamouri was arrested by Israeli occupation forces in a pre-dawn raid on 23 August 2017. Hammouri was arrested from his home in the

neighborhood of Kufr Aqab. Hamouri received a six-month administrative detention order on 29 August 2017. However, on 5 September 2017, The Jerusalem District Court has reinstated a previously issued sentence from 2005 for Hamouri (the remainder of his former sentence when he was released in the 2011 Wafa al-Ahrrar prisoner exchange). The Israeli prosecution appealed the judge's decision, and a court hearing for the appeal will be held at the Israeli High Court on 12 September 2017.

Take action and sign this [petition](#) directed to French president Emanuel Macron and European officials demanding them to act.

#### Administrative Detention of Addameer Media Coordinator Hasan Safadi Renewed



The Administrative detention of Palestinian journalist and human rights defender Hasan Safadi, the Media Coordinator for Addameer, has been renewed for an additional 6 months, from 9 June to 8 December 2017.

Safadi was initially ordered to six months imprisonment without charge or trial on 10 June 2016, and the order was set to end on 8 December 2016.

Safadi, 25, who has been imprisoned since 1 May while crossing the Karameh bridge between Jordan and Palestine's West Bank, was subjected to 40 days interrogation at Al-Moskobiya interrogation center, before being placed under administrative detention. The detention of Safadi is part of the continued attack on Palestinian journalists and media workers, some are held under administrative detention without charge or trial.

The detention of Safadi is part of the continued attack on Palestinian journalists and media workers, with many held under administrative detention without charge or trial. Administrative detention orders are indefinitely renewable and issued for one to six month periods at a time; some Palestinians have spent years in administrative detention, on the basis of secret evidence submitted by the Shin Bet.

#### Prominent Palestinian activists arrested by Israeli occupation forces



Israeli occupation forces arrested Palestinian Legislative Council member Khalida Jarrar and Khitam Saafin, chairwoman of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees on 2 July 2017. On 9 July, Saafin was issued a three-

month administrative detention order, and on 12 July, Jarrar was issued a six-month administrative detention order. Addameer has repeatedly called for the immediate release of Jarrar and Saafin as their detention constitutes an attack against Palestinian civil society leaders. Take action now and sign this [petition](#) to demand the release of Jarrar and Saafin.

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### Facts on Al-Aqsa Uprising

Addameer published a [factsheet](#) covering the events of Al-Aqsa uprising, which started on 14 July 2017, after three Palestinians, Muhammad Jabarin (30 years old), Ahmad Jabarin (20 years) and Muhammad Jabarin (19 years), from the village of Umm al-Fahm in the occupied territories, carried out an operation that resulted in the death of two Israeli policemen at the entrances to Al-Aqsa Mosque. As a result, Israeli occupation forces imposed collective punitive measures on all Palestinians by prohibiting them from attending prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque, unless they pass through the electronic gates set up before the mosque which is an unacceptable practice for all Palestinians. To protest such escalatory measures, Palestinians have been praying outside Al Aqsa mosque, near the electric gates. Furthermore, the IOF continued to impose closures on the Old City of Jerusalem and around Al-Aqsa Mosque by installing barriers at their entrances, and prevented citizens from entering the Old City. The policy of collective punishment practiced by the Israeli occupation is a violation of most basic and internationally recognized rights, including the right to freedom of religion, the right to freedom of movement, the right to privacy and self-determination.



In the month of July, 425 Palestinians from Jerusalem were arrested, 160 of them were arrested between 14/7/2017 and 25/7/2017. The 160 includes about 30 children under the age of 18. Most of the arrests were from the Old City, Lion's Gate, Al-Tur and Al-Issawiya areas. Since the outbreak of the clashes on 14 July 2017, the Red Crescent has recorded about 400 cases of suffocation and injuries by live ammunition or rubber-coated bullet.

### Factsheet on the PA 'Electronic Crimes Law'

Addameer published a [factsheet](#) that focuses on the Palestinian Authority's Electronic Crimes Law, which was issued on 24 June 2017 by the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas issued a presidential decree entitled the 'Electronic Crimes Law'. The decree itself is extensive and covers all possible crimes that can be committed using any type of information technology.



The factsheet highlight that since the issuance of the law, there have been two known incidences of the decree being utilized to curb press freedom, and freedom of expression. In addition, over the same time period, there has been an additional incident of the PA curtailing freedom of the press.

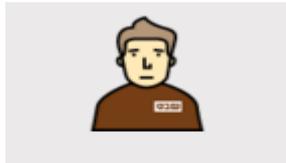
The initial incidence was the arrest of Jihad Barakat, a journalist with Palestine Today TV, which occurred on 6/07/2017. Hours after filming Israeli soldiers searching the convoy of PA Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, in contrary to agreed protocol between the Israelis and PA, he was arrested by PA security forces. He was not charged under the law but for a range of offenses, including panhandling, for which he will stand trial in the PA court system in September. The second involves the blocking of websites. Since 15/07/2017 to the middle of August, 30 websites have been blocked from being accessed by West Bank IP addresses. Despite the fact that pages associated with ISIL have been part of the blocked sites, the majority of them have been news sites associated with Hamas, and the exiled Fatah Member Mahmoud Dahlan.

In the factsheet, Addameer confirms that the PA is therefore legally bound to respect and fulfill the right to freedom of expression as stated in Article 19 of the ICCPR. The PA must also guarantee that any of its laws attempting to criminalize or otherwise regulate using any type of information technology complies with its international obligations. Furthermore, Addameer urges that the Palestinian Authority must abide by the conventions to which it is a party, especially considering the ongoing deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

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### Child Detention

In 2015, the number of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons reached 929 children from various parts of the Palestinian territories. This number was particularly effected by the events in the last quarter of the year. Addameer's documentation showed that each year around 500–700 Palestinian children get arrested. However, these statistics does not reflect the whole truth of the comprehensive framework of the excessive arrests carried out around the occupied Palestinian territories. Many arrests were not documented when Palestinians were arrested and interrogated for a few hours before their conditional or unconditional release.



Month	Number of Palestinian Children held
June 2017	Not available
July 2017	320
August 2017	300

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Israel on 3 October 1991, states in article 37 that "No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." The article also states that "No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily" and that detention, imprisonment or arrest should be used only as a last resort.

\*UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1989, United Nations

### Jerusalemite Prisoners



Israel's unlawful policies and practices in Jerusalem, including the arbitrary arrest of Palestinians, have had a devastating impact on the daily living conditions of all Palestinian Jerusalemites. Immediately following the end of the 1967 war and Israel's illegal annexation of East Jerusalem, the Israeli government proceeded to register

Palestinians living there, providing them with the status of "permanent residents" rather than granting them full legal citizenship, as part of its unofficial "collective transfer" or "more land and less Arabs" policy. The rationale behind this policy was to slowly erase the Arab population of Jerusalem and replace the land with Jewish Israeli citizens. Furthermore, Israel's ideological and material motives were reaffirmed in 1980 when the Israeli Knesset passed the Basic Law declaring Jerusalem as the "whole and united [...] capital of Israel".

This quarter, Palestinians from Jerusalem continue to be subjected to arrest and detention by Israeli forces and police, including children who are subjected to night raids on their homes, torture, ill-treatment, in detention, as well as house arrests and penalties as terms of release.

Month	Number of East Jerusalem Prisoners
June 2017	Not available
July 2017	480
August 2017	480

A bill which applies to Palestinian children living in East Jerusalem approved by the Israeli Knesset proposes custodial sentences for children, as young as 12, who are convicted of "nationalistic-motivated" offences.

### Stop Administrative Detention!

This quarter, October through December 2016, administrative detention continues as a policy practiced by Israeli occupation forces.



**Administrative detention** is a procedure that allows the Israeli military to hold prisoners indefinitely on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. Administrative detention is used almost exclusively to detain Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), which includes the West Bank including East Jerusalem. Additionally, the Internment of Unlawful Combatants Law (Unlawful Combatants Law), has been used against residents of the Gaza Strip since 2005, holding individuals without charge or trial for unlimited periods.

#### Administrative Detention this quarter in numbers

The following numbers are documented administrative detainees at the onset of each month:

Month	No. held under administrative detention
June 2017	Not available
July 2017	450
August 2017	465

#### Case Study: Nour Issa



On 3/April/2017, [Nour Issa's](#) mother woke up to the sound of banging on their door in Anata village near Jerusalem. She opened it to find the house surrounded by more than 40 soldiers and military vehicles. 15 soldiers and an officer insisted on entering their home, telling her that they came to arrest her 16 year-old son Nour.

Following his arrest, Nour was subjected to 11 days of interrogation at Ofer prison. A list of charges were issued against him, including incitement on Facebook. In his first hearing the judge decided to release him on 4000 NIS bail, but the prosecution insisted on detaining him. As a result, a four-month administrative detention order was issued against him. The initial period was to be from 13/04/2017 to 2/08/2017. It is claimed that Nour is a security threat. Even though the judge agreed with the defense that the charges leveled against him don't result in his being a 'security threat', the order was issued nonetheless. The judge decided to reduce the order's period to two months, taking into consideration that the detainee is a child. This decision was successfully appealed, meaning no special consideration was given to Nour's status as a child and he will serve out the full four months.

On 2/8/2017, when the order ended, the prosecution renewed it for additional three months (which will end on 1/11/2017). According to them, Nour still constitutes a security threat. His defense lawyer demanded his release on 1/9/2017, so that he could be with his family for the Eid holidays. However, the judge stated that after reviewing the material he believes that Nour should continue to be held under administrative detention. The judge added that he was reluctant before issuing his decision because the detainee is a child but, despite his concern, the order was renewed.

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### Joint report estimates that 880 Palestinian arrested in July 2017

Palestinian prisoners' affairs institutions – the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Committee of Prisoners' Affairs and Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights – [issued the following report](#) on 8 July 2017, which indicates that, during the month of July 2017, Israeli authorities arrested (880) individuals from the occupied Palestinian territories, including (144) children, and (18) women.



According to the monitoring and documentation conducted by the four organizations, Israeli occupation forces arrested 425 Palestinians from Jerusalem, 120 from Hebron and 85 from Nablus. In addition, 49 Palestinians were arrested from Jenin governorate, 47 from Qalqiliya, 45 from Bethlehem, 37 from Ramallah, 36 from Tulkarem, 10 from Tubas, 10 from Jericho, and two from the Gaza Strip. The report indicates that the number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails reached 6400 prisoners, including 62 female prisoners, 10 minor girls, approximately 300 children, 450 administrative detainees, one "illegal combatant" and 12 Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members.

In the month of July, the occupation authorities issued 97 administrative orders, of which 20 were new orders and 77 were issued for prisoners for the second and third time.

### Palestinian writer and intellectual Ahmad Qatamish released from prison

Prominent Palestinian writer and political scientist Ahmad Qatamish was released on 13 August 2017 from Israeli prisons, after spending three months under administrative detention, without charge or trial. Qatamish was arrested by Israeli occupation forces in a pre-dawn raid on 14 May 2017, and received a three months administrative detention order on 17 May 2017.



Qatamish was first arrested by the Israeli authorities in 1969 and held for a few months. He was then rearrested in 1972, this time spending 4 years in prison. After his release, Mr. Qatamish spent 17 years in hiding from 1976 to 1992 to avoid re-arrest. On 2 September 1992, however, he was arrested once more, in the presence of his then 3-year-old daughter, and was subjected to torture and ill-treatment during 100 days of interrogation, an experience which he vividly exposed in his prison notes entitled I Shall not Wear Your Tarboush (fez). He was placed in administrative detention, a form of detention without charge or trial that is based on secret information made available to the Military Judge, and which can be renewed indefinitely. For the next five and a half years, Mr. Qatamish's detention order was renewed every six months, making him one of the longest-held administrative detainees. He was finally released on 15 April 1998 after an extensive international campaign on his behalf, but has been prohibited from traveling outside the occupied Palestinian territory by the Israeli authorities ever since.

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### Israeli forces arrest former prisoner Yousef Abu Al Kheir after 34 years of exile



Israeli occupation forces arrested exiled former Palestinian political prisoner Yousef Abu Al Kheir, who was deported back in 1985. Abu Al Kheir was arrested at Al Lod Airport a few days ago, after 34 years of living outside the country. Abu Al Kheir was arrested in 1969 for being a member of a Palestinian militant group, and received two life sentences by an Israeli court for allegedly carrying out attacks. He was later released in an exchange deal in 1985 under the condition of leaving Palestine. He first went to Libya and then moved to Greece, where he was living before his arrest.

Abu Kheir has been taken to an unidentified location. Addameer strongly condemns Yousef Abu Al Kheir's arrest and suggests that this is part of a larger pattern of targeting former Palestinian political prisoners.

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