

Quarterly Newsletter — October to December 2017

Throughout the quarter, October to December 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 the right to a fair trial, and the chance to defend themselves against any formal charges. Key issues persistently include the detention and ill treatment of women, child prisoners and the ongoing detention of journalists, Jerusalemites and human rights defenders. Addameer maintains that the meeting of human rights and humanitarian law standards is crucial, and that ill treatment, torture, and arbitrary detention represent grave violations.

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Detention in Numbers

This quarter, from October to December 2017, arrests and detention were perpetrated on a large scale by Israeli occupation forces. At the end of October 2017, there were approximately 6198 Palestinian political prisoners, including approximately 463 administrative detainees, 280 child detainees, 58 female prisoners and 12 Palestinian Legislative Council member. At the end of November 2017, there were 6154 prisoners, including 453 administrative detainees, 311 child detainees, 59 female prisoners and 11 PLC member. Finally, at the end of December 2017, there were 6171 prisoners, including 434 administrative detainees, 350 child detainees, 58 female prisoners and 10 PLC members.

PLC Member Khalida Jarar Administrative Detention Renewed



Khalida Jarar is a Palestinian civil society leader who lives and works in the occupied West Bank in the Palestinian city of Ramallah. She was the director of Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association from 1994 to 2006. In 2006, she was elected as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and has been the head of the Prisoners Commission of the PLC since then. Jarar was also appointed to the Palestinian National Committee for the follow-up of the International Criminal Court.

Khalida was arrested from her home in al-Bireh at 4:00 am on 2 July 2017 and received six months administrative detention order. Following the initial order, which commenced on 2 July 2017, Jarar was to be released on 1 January 2018. Her order was renewed on 27 December 2017 for an additional six month period.

Israeli authorities routinely target PLC members, using the process of 'administrative detention' as a means to imprison them without charge for an period of up to 6 months, which can be renewed indefinitely. Currently, there are 10 PLC members held by occupation forces, with 9 of them being held under administrative detention.

Administrative Detainee Salah Hammouri, Addameer's Field Researcher Transferred from al-Naqab to Megiddo Prison



Salah Hammouri (33 years old) is a French-Palestinian researcher at Addameer, and human rights defender. His French nationality did not stop the occupation forces from repeatedly arresting and targeting him. In fact, dozens of Israeli soldiers raided Salah's house in Kufr Aqab on August 23 2017. Salah was alone during the raid as he has been living by himself since his pregnant wife was not allowed reentry from France three years ago. Salah's arrest came in response to an administrative detention order, that had been issued against him. This is the third time Salah has been arrested in the past 15 years.

Recently, on 28 December 2017, the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) moved Salah from al Naqab prison to Megiddo prison under the pretext that he has engaged in incitement. This came as a punishment for Salah's participation in an interview with a French journalist, where he discussed visits from his lawyer, the process of administrative detention, and the techniques used by the IPS against administrative detainees.

As a committed human rights defender, imprisonment and monitoring limits Salah's ability to engage in his life's work. As this is the reason he remains apart from his family, the prisons of the occupation take away more than just his freedom.

A'hed Tamimi a Child Facing Violent Israeli Campaign Demanding her Prosecution



Ahed Tamimi, the young girl who was filmed in an encounter with soldiers in her home village of Nabi Saleh near Ramallah, was arrested on 19 December 2017, and charged with a total of 12 charges.

The 17-year-old is facing an intense campaign against her and her family. Beyond the arrest of her mother and her cousin, there is also a concerted

Israeli media campaign calling for maximum sentences.

The arrest and charging of A'hed Tamimi represents a grave violation of Israel's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Child. Under this treaty, detention of children shall only be used as a measure of last resort. These charges represent a continuation of the Israeli policy of discriminating against Palestinian children.

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Trump's Declaration on Jerusalem

Since President Trump's statement on 6 December 2017, Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been protesting both the American decision to move the US embassy and Trump's assertion regarding the status of Jerusalem. Even though there is yet to be any genuine changes resulting from this statement, Trump's proclamation that Jerusalem is the capital of 'Israel' disregards the resounding international consensus regarding East Jerusalem's status as an occupied territory. As a result, December 2017 witnessed ongoing protests in Palestine and all over the world.

The response to these protests by the Israeli occupation forces has been characterized by the utilization of excessive force and focused arrest campaigns, especially in East Jerusalem. Since the protests began, the Israeli occupation forces have extrajudicially killed 15 Palestinians, injured thousands and detained around 600. These arrests, which mostly came in the form of night time raids, resulted in 184 new children detainees and 11 female detainees. The number of arrests is considerably higher than the increase in prison numbers due to the fact that the majority of people detained are conditionally released shortly after.

Throughout December 2017, Israeli occupation forces have utilized a policy of collective punishment against Palestinians in response to their exercising of their right to peaceful assembly and protest. Israeli occupation forces are targeting all Palestinians in the resulting crackdown, including vulnerable groups such as children, women, elders and disabled people. Additionally, the use of force is systematic during protests and arrests. Documentation shows that most of those who have participated in protests received injuries, with a large proportion of them being arrested. The majority of those who were arrested experienced mistreatment, beatings, and abuse at the hands of occupation forces.



A'hd Tamimi

The young girl who was filmed in an encounter with soldiers in her home village of Nabi Saleh, near Ramallah, has been charged with five counts of assaulting a soldier, one count of throwing stones and several other charges ranging from threatening a soldier to incitement. The list totals 12 specific charges. Nour, Ahd's cousin who was also featured in the video, was charged with aggravated assault and for interfering with a soldier while carrying out their duty.

Additionally, Ahd's mother, Nariman Tamimi, has been charged with incitement as a result of her live streaming the incident. It is alleged that the soldier in the video was the same soldier who had shot Ahd's 15-year-old cousin, Muhammad Tamimi, in the head with a rubber bullet only hours prior. If convicted, it is likely that Ahd will serve years behind bars.

The Tamimis, as a particularly engaged family, are already well plugged into international activists circle, which is the reason that the video of the incident went viral in the first place.

As such, this particular case has gained global attention and is particularly threatening to the Israeli authorities. When an individual gains a voice internationally, and is able to become the face of the quest for Palestinian self-determination, then that individual becomes something of a threat.

The arrest and charging of Ahd Tamimi represents a grave violation of Israel's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Child. According to article 37, imprisonment of a child shall only be used as a measure of last resort. For anyone who has seen the video, the crime here is not egregious or threatening to the soldier's life or being. These charges represent a continuation of the Israeli policy of discriminating against Palestinian children, and charging them for offences which their Israeli counterparts would never be detained for.

A campaign of support has already started to gain momentum, and we call on all supporters to assist in whatever way they are able. If that means signing a petition, please find one [here](#). If that means writing a letter to your relevant representative, we encourage you to do so. Only through concerted, international pressure can we ensure that these human rights defenders do not end up serving jail time for the crime of seeking the right of self-determination.

Letters to Children under House Arrest in Jerusalem

Around one year ago, a workshop aiming to build solidarity with Palestinians was organized in Germany as part of a Palestinian festival. The workshop intended to raise awareness regarding Palestinian detainees and the human rights violations they encounter. As part of this workshop, participants wrote letters to Palestinian children under house arrest in East Jerusalem. However, those letters were never sent. The reason was that the German group was confronted with a defamatory newspaper article, which accused the workshop and the festival of anti-Semitism.

The group went to court to defend the festival against those accusations. As part of this, they provided all kinds of material used in the workshop including the letters. Those letters were eventually not opened and returned. The group has won the case, the article had to be withdrawn, and the newspaper had to issue an apology. A year after their writing, the letters stand as a testament to the barriers that stand in the way of showing solidarity with Palestinians.

The letters included but not limited to the following statements:

"We hear you good and bad news. Good news because we are proud of how strong you are, and bad news because you are forced to live a hard life in detention. Freedom will be achieved one day through you." 8 October 2016

"I'm a mother, I feel your mothers' pain, I feel your longing to your mothers' touch and love. I wish you'll be released soon and go back to your families. No matter how far we are from you, you should know that your dreams are our dreams, your future is our future and your concerns are also ours." 8 October 2016

"I salute your steadfastness, despite your young age, you have proven to the whole world that you are strong. I want to tell you that we love you and you are always in our hearts. They [Israeli occupation] stole your childhood but know that you are the ones who give us hope." 8 October 2016

"I'm 20 years old, and I don't know you but I know all about your situation and this is why I'm writing to you. Look, even if your life at the moment is ugly but I need you know that it's precious. Stay strong and always remember to smile." 8 October 2016

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Child Detention

In 2017, the number of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons reached 1467 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 do not reflect the whole situation of the comprehensive framework of the excessive arrests carried out around the occupied Palestinian territories. Many arrests were not officially documented, as Palestinians were arrested and interrogated for a few hours before their conditional or unconditional release.



Month	Number of Palestinian Children held
October 2017	280
November 2017	311
December 2017	350

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

Case Study:

Testimony from 16-year-old E. A. from al-Duha/ Bethlehem

"At around 8:00 am on 9 December 2017, I was on my way to my grandfather's house in A'yda camp when I saw a jeep filled with soldiers, parked near the cemetery. One of the soldiers yelled at me, asked what I was doing, and if I had been throwing stones. I answered by saying that I wasn't throwing stones but the soldiers told me that this is a closed military area and that I am not allowed to be there. I was surprised and said that I always use this road, but the soldier started yelling and swearing at me. He then pushed me towards the ground, sat on me and started beating me. At the same time, there was another two soldiers beating me using their machine guns and legs. The beating went on for 15 minutes and it caused several cuts and bruises on my hands and legs.

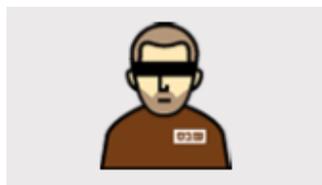
They moved me in the jeep from that road to a military base nearby called Rachael's Tomb. There an officer in his uniform started interrogating me. He told me that he is the main officer of the whole area. He kept asking me whether I was throwing stones at the soldiers and, whenever I said no, he would shout, humiliate me, and hit me on my face. The interrogation in the military base continued for around 15 minutes.

They blindfolded me and then put me in another vehicle, which drove to an interrogation center in a place I didn't know. I later figured out that I was somewhere close to Ofer because it took a short time to get to Ofer prison after interrogations ended. When I was in the vehicle, the soldiers kept taunting me and talking about my family especially my mother and sisters.

During interrogations the officer threatened me, he told he will detain my brother and father if I don't confess and say that I was throwing stones at the soldiers. Only because of that, I signed the confession paper which says that I was throwing stones, even though I wasn't. I was too scared that they would detain my brother and father if I don't sign."

Stop Administrative Detention!

This quarter, October through December 2017, administrative detention continued to be used as a core policy of the occupation.



Administrative detention is a procedure that allows the Israeli authorities 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 and 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	Number of administrative detainees
October 2017	463 (3 PLC members)
November 2017	453 (9 PLC members, 4 females, 1 child)
December 2017	434 (8 PLC members, 3 females)

Jerusalemite Prisoners



Israel's unlawful policies and practices in Jerusalem, including the arbitrary arrest of Palestinians, have had a devastating impact on the daily lives of 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. The rationale behind this policy was to slowly erase the Arab population of Jerusalem and replace them 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 continued to be subjected to arrest and detention by Israeli forces and police. This includes children who were 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
October 2017	400
November 2017	492 (63 children)
December 2017	500 (70 children)

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Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Condemn Israel's Death Penalty Bill



Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al Hurryyat Center, and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainee Affairs condemn the 'death penalty' bill, which passed its first reading in the Knesset by a vote of 52 to 49.

Currently, the death penalty is legal under Israeli law but only as a response to crimes laid out in two laws. The first is a law regarding the treatment and detainment of Nazis and their associates (1950), and the second is for punishing and preventing the crime of genocide (1950). In regards to the military law, capital punishment is currently allowed when an individual is convicted of killing an Israeli though this requires a unanimous ruling from a court with three judges. Additionally, it also requires that the military prosecutor requests the death penalty. As state policy, the death penalty has not been previously requested.

The bill itself will lower the threshold to a simple majority amongst the three judges, and will prohibit the commutation of a death sentence. It does not require the persecutor to seek the death penalty, but will result in an increase in cases where it is sought. In addition, the bill will include an article that allows Israeli criminal courts to hand down death sentences.

If passed through its required readings in the Knesset, the bill will represent contravention of Israel's obligations under international law and will go against accepted international norms.

This bill represents the continuation of a policy of systematic discrimination against the Palestinian people. In a situation where the occupying power has final say over their rights, the move towards mainstreaming the death penalty represents a grave infraction on the humanity of the Palestinian people.

MK Oren Hazan Assaults Palestinian Families on their way to Visit Relatives at Nafha Prison



On Monday, 25 December 2017, Israeli right-wing Likud Member of Knesset (MK) Oren Hazan verbally abused a number of people on a bus transporting families of Palestinian political prisoners from Gaza to Nafha Prison, beyond the Green Line, to visit their detained relatives. Together with a group of right-wing Israelis, MK Hazan blocked the entrance to Nafha Prison, boarded the bus and verbally assaulted and harassed the Palestinian families, most of whom were women and elderly men.

MK Hazan hurled abusive and degrading statements at the families and their detained relatives, vowing to do everything in his power to deny them further family visits to Israeli prisons. MK Hazan was joined by the right-wing Task Force for the Release of Prisoners and Missing Persons, a group of Israel activists who have taken it upon themselves to deny prison visits to Palestinian families by blocking buses on their way to prisons and by confronting and harassing Palestinians visiting their detained relatives.

The Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) reaffirms the importance of family visits to Palestinian detainees and calls upon the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure Israel's respect for international humanitarian law and to exert real pressure on Israel to bring to an end all restrictions imposed on Palestinian prison visits, to halt the unlawful deportation of Palestinian prisoners out of the oPt, and to transfer all Palestinian detainees back to the oPt in line with its obligations as Occupying Power. PHROC further calls upon the ICRC to fulfil its role as a facilitator of family visits by urging the IOF to investigate the acts of Hazan and the Israeli right-wing group against the Palestinian detainees' families during Monday's assault.

Addameer's Director Sahar Francis was on a Speaking Tour in the United States



From 15 November 2017 until on 5 December 2017, director of Addameer was conducting a speaking tour throughout the United States.

The overall aim was to inform people of the situation facing the Palestinian prisoners, and the systematic nature of the occupation's utilisation of incarceration. Underlying this objective was the aim of drawing

parallels between the system of mass incarceration in the US and the system of mass incarceration here.

Around a million Palestinians have been imprisoned since 1948. This represents around a fifth of the population, or 1 in 5. Between the plight of the prisoners in the US and the plight of the indigenous population, we see more that unites our struggles than differentiates them.

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