

ADDAMEER

Quarterly
January - April 2019

PRISONERS' STRUGGLE

- The 8-days hunger strike
- Prisoners in the face of administrative detention

A PRISONER'S PORTRAIT

- Ayman Nasser: The Price of Defending Human Rights

PRISONERS FOR FREEDOM

- Arrest for 'incitement'

ADDAMEER NEWS

- Addameer participates in the 40th HRC session
- 'Know Your Rights' workshops

STUDY CASES

- A targetted childhood in Jerusalem

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**BETWEEN JANUARY AND APRIL 2019
THE OCCUPATION ARRESTED 1983 PALESTINIANS**

AS OF APRIL 2019, THERE ARE

- **5700 PALESTINIAN PRISONERS**
- **49 OF THEM WOMEN**
- **205 CHILDREN**
- **500 UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION**

PRISONERS' STRUGGLE

THE 8-DAYS HUNGER STRIKE: THE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS' BATTLE FOR DIGNITY AGAINST RESTRICTIONS

On 8 April 2019, five Palestinian prisoners in the occupations prisons returned their meals. Within 48 hours, there were 400 meals returned. The number was to reach 2000 by April 17, marking the Palestinian prisoners' day.

Months prior to the hunger strike, the occupation government began a series of repressive measures against Palestinian prisoners. They included restrictions to female prisoners, visit bans, poor food quality and violent raids in prisoners injuring hundreds. This led to the hunger strike which ended on 15 April with the signature of an agreement between the prisoners and the occupation authorities.

That was the fourth hunger strike in 8 years. Since 2012 at least, there has been a rate of one major hunger strike every two years. Demands are the same each time: The end of the isolation policy, the end of visit bans, to allow communication with the outside world and to allow prisoners access education in prison. Agreements have been signed, but then broken again by the occupation authorities. Thus, Palestinian prisoners have go back to hunger strike time and again.

The question of Palestinian prisoners is a national issue in Palestine. Virtually every single Palestinian home has known at least one case of arrest and probably still has one of its members behind the occupation's bars. So when prisoners are on hunger strike, it is thousands of families that suffer with them. At each hunger strike, prisoners' family members have no other tool to deal with their anguish, but to gather, march, sit-in and protest. It has become a usual sight to see tens of mothers with their sons' portraits in front of the Red cross offices, in support of the demands of prisoners.

These demands are resumed in the right to human dignity, to not to be exposed to degrading, inhumane or humiliating treatment and to protection from all kinds of torture. In short, the provisions of international humanitarian law, especially the fourth Geneva convention. In other words, Palestinian prisoners go regularly on hunger strike for the implementation of the international law provisions concerning prisoners under occupation. Those provisions which if were made respected, would avoid Palestinian prisoners from risking their lives and from putting their families through anguish, for days and weeks, every two years.



PRISONERS' STRUGGLE

PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

HUNGER STRIKES

2012 LASTED **28** DAYS **2000** PRISONERS PARTICIPATED

The hunger strike succeeded in achieving an end to solitary confinement and family visit bans, limiting administrative detention and improvement of life conditions

2014 LASTED **63** DAYS **130** PRISONERS PARTICIPATED

Prisoners demanded the end of the administrative detention policy. The strike stopped as the Israeli attack against Gaza began.

2017 LASTED **41** DAYS **1500** PRISONERS PARTICIPATED

Demands were to end solitary confinement, administrative detention and medical neglect, humane transportation means and access to education and books.

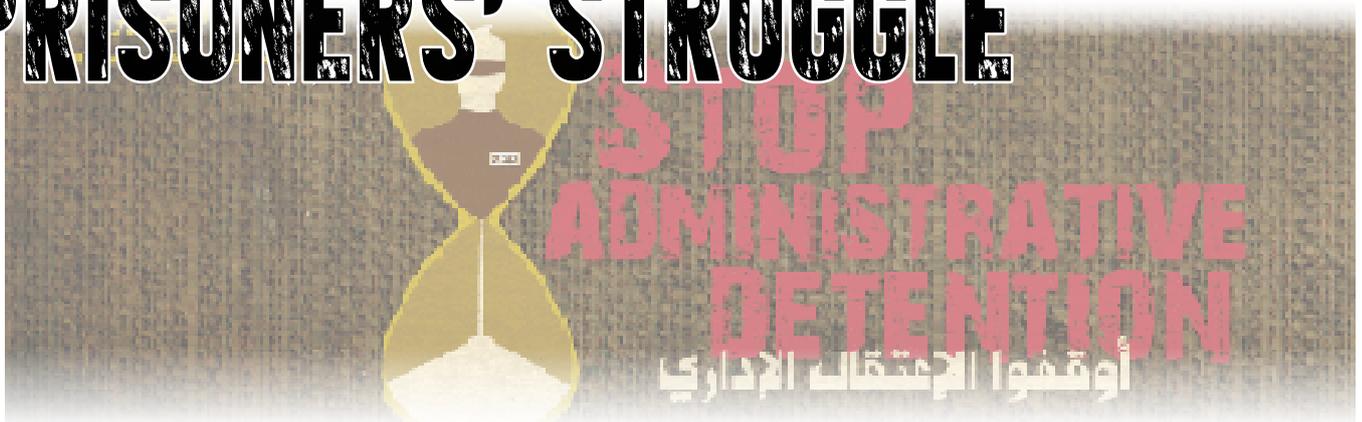
2019 STARTED ON **8 APRIL** HUNDREDS OF PRISONERS IN THE FIRST 48 HOURS

Prisoners demand the removal of cell-jammers, installation of public phones, end family visit bans and transfer female prisoners to a facility with humane conditions.

#Hunger_Strike_for_Dignity



PRISONERS' STRUGGLE



PRISONERS IN THE FACE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

The occupation state continues to use administrative detention as a tool of revenge and torture against Palestinians. In violation of all provisions of international law. Many prisoners receive renewals of their detention orders and the very day of their release, expected by them and their families. However, Palestinian administrative detainees have never accepted their condition. They have repeatedly protested and fought against this policy which continues to be part of the occupation's daily practice.

In the first quarter of this year, six Palestinian prisoners have engaged in individual hunger strikes protesting their administrative detention. Hussam Ruzza started his hunger strike on March 19, after his detention order was renewed for an additional 6 months. Ruzza is 61 years old and has diabete problems. His health deteriorated during his hunger strike to the point of losing 25 kilograms. He ended his hunger strike on May the 1st after reaching an agreement with the occupation authorities to release him in July.

He was followed by Khaled Farraj, 31 years old, who started his hunger strike on March 26th, the same day that Mohammad Tabanga, 40 years old, started his. Farraj ended his hunger strike on April 25th and Tabanga on May the 1st, after reaching each an agreement with the occupation prosecution, defining a date for their release. Daoud Edwan, 34 years old, had been on hunger strike since March the 1st, protesting his administrative detention

and he reached an agreement with the occupation authorities, beginning of April.

Two administrative detainees are still on hunger strike. Odeh Hroub, 32 years old and Hassan Awawi, 35 years old, who started both on April the 2nd. Nevertheless, there are still 497 Palestinians under administrative detention, including one woman, Fida' Da'mas, 24 years old.



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#StopAD

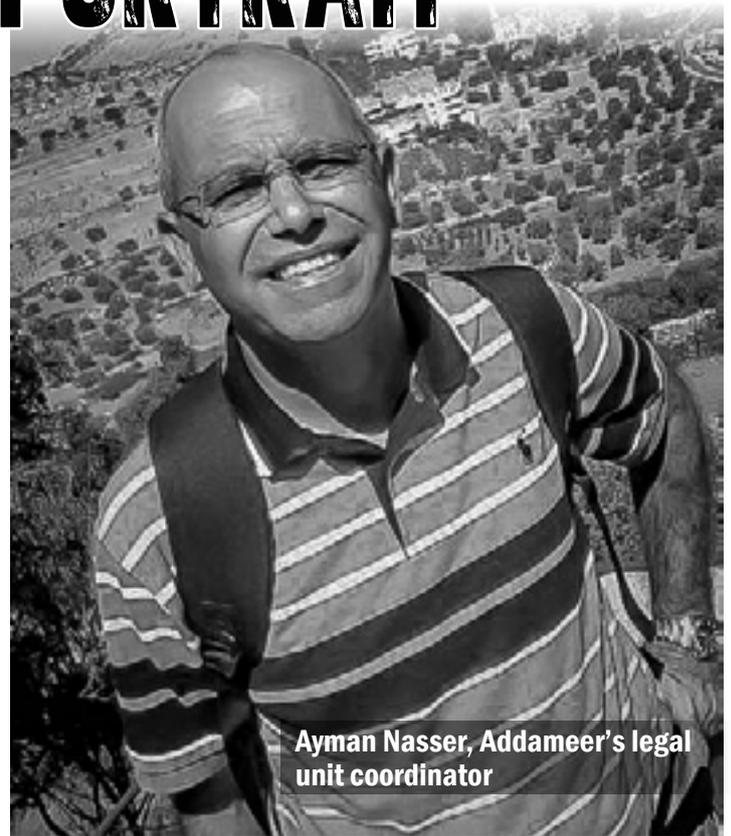
A PRISONERS' PORTRAIT

AYMAN NASSER: THE PRICE OF DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

Lights turn on. It's 2 o'clock in the morning and the night isn't over yet, but the sleep of Ayman Nasser's family is interrupted. Israeli occupation soldiers pour into the house and go on searching each room, every closet, while military vehicles and dozens of troops take over the streets of the village of Saffa, West of Ramallah. Ayman's wife, Haleema, along with their four children' Ameen, 20, Naji, 18, Nadeem, 15 and Mohammad, 10, are all pushed into the living room. The Israeli commander requests everyone's IDs and cellphones. He'd give them back later, except for Ayman's. Ayman Nasser was born in 1970. He is a human rights defender and Addameer's legal unit coordinator. He was arrested on 7 September 2018.

But Ayman's personal story with arbitrary detention goes back to his early youth. He was arrested by the occupation forces for the first time in 1992, when he was 22 years old. He was imprisoned for 6 years and was released in 1997. Upon his release, he resumed his higher studies, until he was graduated as social worker. Then in 2010, he obtained his Masters degree in social educational psychology from Al-Quds University. Ayman joined Addameer in 2008 as researcher in it's documentation unit and represented Addameer in the coalition against torture and the coalition against death penalty. During this period, Ayman also co-founded the Handala social and cultural center, of which he became chairman. The center offers educational, artistic and sports activities to the residents of Saffa, based on voluntary work.

But the occupation's repression against Ayman continued. In 2012, he was subjected to brutal interrogation, shackled to a chair with his hands behind his back, for 39 days. Ayman was then sentenced to 13 months in prison and fined 4000 shekels (1020 USD). He was finally released on October 21, 2013. Ayman was arrested again on 18 September 2014 upon a three months administrative detention order, which was renewed three times. He was released on 13 September 2015. Upon his last release, Ayman resumed his work at Addameer. The same year of 2015, he became addameer's legal unit coordinator.



Ayman Nasser, Addameer's legal unit coordinator

On 6 September 2018 at 2:00am, the Israeli occupation forces entered Saffa with dozens of troops, raided Ayman's house and took Ayman with them. The military commander of the West Bank issued an administrative detention order of six months against Ayman, a week after his arrest. Addameer's lawyer appealed the order on 7 January, 2019 and the Israeli military court rejected the appeal. Ayman Nasser's administrative detention order ended on 8 March 2019. Ayman's family and Addameer colleagues expected his release on that date. However, on 6 March 2019, two days before his expected release, the occupation authorities renewed his detention for an additional 6 months.

Ayman's case is not only an example of the Israeli occupation policy of administrative detention, but also an example of its systematic targeting of human rights defenders, which Addameer condemns. Human rights defenders are formally defined as persons who work peacefully for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Ayman falls into that category. His strong commitment led him to stand firmly for human rights, on every occasion. "I am a human rights defender who supports the Palestinian prisoners" Ayman Nasser said, standing before the Israeli military court, on October 18, 2012, stating his unapologetic commitment to the rights of his people; "my thoughts are not secret" he

PRISONERS FOR FREEDOM ARREST FOR 'INCITEMENT' THE OCCUPATION'S WAR AGAINST PALESTINIANS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

“Resist, my people” was the title of the poem that Darine Tatour published on her facebook account in 2015. She was arrested in October of that year, for charges of “incitement. She was sentenced to 9 months of home-arrest, banned from visits and from using the internet. Being a citizen from Nazareth, in the 1948 territories, Darine was judged based on article 144 of the Israeli penal code of 1977. But Palestinians in the occupied territory are judged for their expression on social media based on the military order 1651 of 2009. On both sides of the green line, the occupation arrested no less than 300 Palestinians for charges of “incitement”, in 2017 alone, according to the factsheet published by Addameer in March 2018, accessible [here](#).

In January 2017, the Knesset passed, in the first reading, what became known as the “facebook law”. It allows the government to remove any Palestinian content from social media, judged as ‘inciting’. The law project was approved in first reading, but then Benjamin Netanyahu personally stopped the process. He considered the law project’s vocabulary not precise enough and can affect the freedom of expression of Israelis. The law project was put back to modification to exclusively suppress Palestinian content.

However, the suppression continues. On March 12th, the occupation forces arrested Palestinian graphic artist Hafez Omar from his home in Ramallah. Hafez was banned from meeting his lawyer for 20 days, after which, Addameer lawyer was able to visit him. According to Addameer lawyer, Hafez was interrogated mainly about his art and its publication on social media. Particularly, Hafez’s graphic work in support of Palestinian prisoners. Hafez was later presented with charges of incitement. He is still detained, waiting his hearing on May 26th.

“Incitement” is the codename that the occupation has given the Palestinians’ right of expression of their reject towards it. A right guaranteed by international law particularly the Third and fourth Geneva Conventions, as well as the international covenant on civil and political rights. A right that Palestinians continue to exercise against all odds and, for which they continue to pay the price, on a daily basis



Hafez Omar



Daren Tatour



Hafez Omar painting a mural

CASE STUDIES

THE OCCUPATION'S ARREST OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN A TARGETTED CHILDHOOD IN JERUSALEM

CHILD ARREST AND SCHOOL DROP-OUT

I am 14 and I live in Bier Ayoub, Silwan, Jerusalem. The Israeli Military Forces, on July the 10th 2018 at 2:00 pm, invaded my home. I was not present because I had gone to visit my grandmother. My mother called to inform me that the occupation forces came looking for me, took my clothes and detained my father until I was to turn myself in. They released him later, but I had no choice. I handed myself in next

morning, July 11th. There were 3 soldiers on the door. They handcuffed and blindfolded me. I was pushed and shoved continuously. The soldiers would pull my long hair and hit my forehead on the wall. They kicked my chest, head and back while laughing and cursing at me.

An interrogator asked me multiple times who had thrown the Molotov cocktail and I would constantly reply that it was not me. After a while, he left and 3 soldiers came back into the room to beat me up again. On July 12th, I was taken to the court. I showed the judge the bruises on my body, but he did nothing about it, yet he ordered for the extension of my detention for another 4 days.

I received an indictment of throwing a Molotov cocktails. I was released on August 27th. The judge had ruled that I stay away from my grandmother's home and to pay a fee of 3,000 NIS for bail. As a result, I rarely attended classes during 9th grade.

"THEY THREATENED MY PARENTS"

I am 17 years-old and I live in al-Asaweya, Jerusalem. On 3 March 2018, a large number of the occupation forces came to my house at 3 am. I was asleep, but the noise of the army woke me up. They forcefully entered our house, throwing everything out of the closets. I got dressed and when I came out, I found

out that the soldiers were also arresting my parents. My mother and I were transferred to Abu Ghnaim police station and put outside in the cold waiting for my dad. We were not allowed to use the bathroom, drink, or eat anything. My dad was later brought over to us, but we were not allowed to talk to each other.

I was interrogated from 3 to 8 of March at Abu Ghnaim police station. Two interrogators threatened my parents to pressure me into confessing that I threw Molotov cocktails at the settlement of Harzerstoff, but I did not confess. They took me twice to the court. First, I received a detention extension for 4 days, then an indictment that was delayed until I was ruled with a sentence of 12 months. The interrogation ended on 8 March 2018.

I had platinum in my right thigh due to the bullet injury that I sustained during protests against Trump's transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. The injury hurt me very much, but I was not given any pain killers. I was transferred to Majiddo prison on 23 March 2018, where conditions were better and I was given pain killers. I was finally released on the 1st of February 2019.



ADDAMEER NEWS

'KNOW YOUR RIGHTS' WORKSHOPS

Addameer organized 8 awareness raising workshops on detainees rights, as part of its awareness action titled 'Know Your Rights, between January and April 2019. Two of these workshops were held in Jerusalem, one in Toulkarem, two in the villages of Al Mghayer and Kufr Naameh in Ramallah district, one in Beit Hanina East of Jerusalem and two in the region of Salfit and

Organized by Addameer's Training Unit, the workshops were given by Addameer lawyers and the Training Unit staff. Target groups were mainly young people and the community in general and an average of 30 to 40 people attended each workshop in the various areas. Addameer aims, through these activities, at raising the knowledge of Palestinians to their rights in case of arrest. The program, which is organized through Addameer Training Unit, targets specifically areas that are most subjected to the occupation's arrest policy.



Addameer's 'Know Your Rights' workshop in Toulkarem, , 16 March 2019 (Addameer)

BRIEFINGS TO INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS AT ADDAMEER

Addameer received, between January and April, 30 delegations from different nationalities and backgrounds. University Students, academics, NGOs, European police, human rights organizations and international partners, were briefed by Addameer's advocacy unit on the situation and reality of Palestinian prisoners, in Addameer's premises in Ramallah. These delegations were from the US, The European Union countries, Switzerland, the UK and Latin America.

In addition, Addameer held 8 meetings with diplomatic representatives of European and Latin American countries, in the same period. Addameer met representatives from France, Sweden, Germany the UK and Argentina. On the agenda of these meetings were the occupation's Erdan committee, formed explicitly to restrict life conditions of Palestinian prisoners, the illegal annexation of Jerusalem, Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike, the occupation's policy of collective punishment and child arrest.



During the third popular conference in support of prisoners, organized by Palestinian civil society organizations, with participation of Addameer. 11 April 2019 / Addameer

ADDAMEER NEWS



Addameer's international advocacy officer delivering an oral statement before the HRC (UNTV)

ADDAMEER PARTICIPATES IN THE HRC'S 40TH SESSION

Between 17 February and 21 March 2019, Addameer's International Advocacy Officer attended the Human Rights Council's (HRC) 40th session in Geneva, Switzerland.

The officer held a number of lobbying meetings with the HRC's special procedures to which it regularly submits individual complaints—such as the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) in order to follow up on these cases and emphasize the need for these experts to continue paying attention to the issue of the Palestinian political prisoners in their work.

In addition to these meetings, Addameer's advocacy officer also made an oral statement before the Council during the consideration of the special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Addameer's officer also held a number of lobbying and briefing meetings with European representatives.

ADDAMEER PARTICIPATES IN THREE INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

As part of its international advocacy efforts, Addameer took its presence across borders on several occasions, during the months of March and April 2019.

In 17 March, Addameer General Director participated in a speaking event in Amman, Jordan, organized by the BDS movement. Addameer's GD spoke about the reality of Palestinian prisoners, sharing panel with Palestinian ex-prisoner, Lina Khattab.

In the same month, Addameer GD participated, in Spain, in the court monitoring of the process of 12 persons involved in the 2017 Catalonia referendum.

Finally, Addameer lawyer Salah Hamouri conducted a speaking tour in the North of France, between 3 and 9 April, where he exposed the spoke of Palestinian prisoners and Israeli violations against them.



Addameer lawyer salah Hamouri during his speaking tour in Northern France, April 2019

A PRISONER'S MOMENT

بد لليل ان ينجلي ولا بد للقييد ان

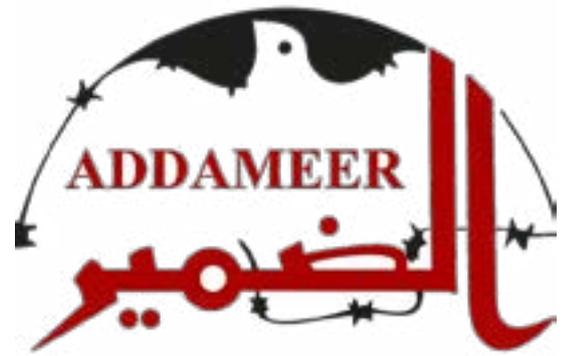
A prisoner's mother holding her son's portrait during prisoners day commemoration activities. Ramallah, 17 April 2019 / Addameer

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