

Monthly Newsletter

September 2020



Top September Topics

- Ofer Israeli Military Court Releases Tasneem Qadi after 44 Days in Petah Tikva Interrogation Center.
- Global Response to Israeli Apartheid: a Call to the UNGA from Palestinian and International Civil Society Organizations.
- PHROC and PNGO Call for Effective Measures by all States to Stop the Israeli Minister of Interior from Punitively Revoking the Jerusalem Residency of Human Rights Defender Salah Hammouri.
- “The Psychology Expert”: A Recent Israeli Method of Interrogation
- PHROC Condemns Attacks on Citizens in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Calls for Ending the State of Emergency.

Over 72 years, the Israeli authorities have established an apartheid and discriminatory system to suppress the Palestinian people. Despite an ongoing and rapid growing health pandemic, the Israeli occupation authorities continue to aggressively harass, oppress and detain Palestinians. As of the end of September ,2020 4,400 Palestinians are being detained inside Israeli prisons, of whom are targeted university students, human rights defenders, females and elderly. Most recently, the Israeli occupation developed an intimidating method of interrogation which includes a “psychology expert”, targeting the mental state of Palestinian detainees. The Israeli occupation seizes every opportunity to strike it is attacks to hinder Palestinian lives.

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News

Ofer Israeli Military Court Releases Tasneem Qadi:

On Thursday 17 September 2020, Master's student Tasneem Qadi was released by Ofer Israeli military court after 44 days in Petah Tikva interrogation center. The military prosecutor's list of charges against Tasneem included her aiding or supporting a political group deemed unlawful under Israeli law. The court ruled that the detention period should suffice and further imposed a fine of 1,000 NIS. According to the military prosecutor, Tasneem sent greetings from her Jerusalemite female friend to another male friend in Lebanon, which formed a link between the two females and a Lebanese political group unlawful under Israeli law. Furthermore, The Israeli Security Service in a public statement noted that such actions are in violation of the law and considered a "threat to Israeli security". Notably, on Tuesday 4 August 2020, Tasneem Qadi, 29 years old, was arrested from her home in Al-Bireh during an Israeli Occupation Forces dawn raid. For thirty days Tasneem was denied access to her lawyer and endured tough conditions during the interrogation process.

"The Psychology Expert" Factsheet:

As of April, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association has been monitoring a new method conducted by the Israeli occupation authorities in their quest to chase down targeted Palestinians.

The new method includes presenting a self-identifying "psychology expert" to the detainees who would raise several questions in regard to their alleged participation in possible attacks. Prior to the psychologist's interview, the Israeli Occupation Forces would conduct random midnight raids to the detainees' houses, in addition to unwarranted searches that result in sabotaging the property. Such barbaric raiding of houses and terrorizing of the families intimidates the targeted person and creates concern and confusion. Afterwards, the Israeli Occupation Forces detain the targeted person from dawn and force him to meet the "psychology expert" at the detention center for an average of two hours. The targeted person is threatened with arrest in case they refuse to meet the psychologist. This is purposefully carried out to terrify the detainees as they undergo extensive rapid questioning. The detainee usually gets released on the evening of the detention day. The consistent targeting of ex-detainees by the Israeli occupation on the basis of their previous backgrounds aims to terrorize the released detainees and instills fear and anxiety in their minds. Importantly, it functions as a consistent reminder that released prisoners with a background considered threatening to Israeli security will always be chased and at risk of being detained again.

Global Response to the Israeli Apartheid:

Apartheid is a crime against humanity, giving rise to individual criminal responsibility and State responsibility to bring the illegal situation to an end. In June 2020 independent human rights experts within the United Nations (UN) stated that the Israeli government plan to illegally annex large parts of the occupied West Bank would constitute "a vision of 21st-century apartheid." In light of the mounting recognition of Israel's maintenance of an apartheid regime over the Palestinian people, the regional and international civil society organisations urge the UN General Assembly to take effective actions to address the root causes of Palestinian oppression and to end Israel's occupation, illegal blockade of Gaza, unlawful acquisition of Palestinian territory by force, its regime of apartheid over the Palestinian people as a whole, and the prolonged denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and the right of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes, lands, and property.

On Salah Hammouri:

Earlier this month, Salah Hammouri, a -35year-old Palestinian-French human rights defender who works as a lawyer with Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, was officially notified of the Israeli Minister of Interior's intention to revoke his permanent Jerusalem residency for so-called 'breach of allegiance' to the State of Israel. Giving him 30 days to challenge this imminent threat, Salah's written submission should be later examined in order to issue a final decision on his residency status. Critically, this attack on Salah is not a single incident but rather a continuation of an array of attacks on Salah and his family, including banning

him from accessing the West Bank for almost 16 months, and deporting his wife, Elsa Lefort, a French national, and separating Salah from his wife and son.

Numbers of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons by the end of September 2020.



Individual Case

Targeting Freedom of Expression of Palestinians: detainee Khairy Hanoun
On 21 September 2020, Khairy Hanoun, a 61 year old Palestinian, was detained by the Israeli Occupation Forces during a night raid, where shots were fired causing chaos and clashes in the small town of Anabta, east of Tulkarem. A large number of soldiers broke into Mr. Hanoun's house at 2:30 a.m. Once they identified him, he was immediately taken to the interrogation center without allowing him time to change. Mr. Hanoun's whereabouts were unknown for three days until he contacted his lawyer informing him that he is detained in Ofer prison. Prior to this detention, Mr. Hanoun participated in a peaceful protest against the annexation of Palestinian lands in the southern and eastern parts of Tulkarem that would be used for industrial settlement building. During the protest, Israeli occupation soldiers viciously attacked Mr. Hanoun, pinned him down on the ground while one soldier placed his knee on Mr. Hanoun's neck, suffocating him and causing physical injuries.

On 24 September 2020, the court extended his detention for an additional six days giving time for the military prosecutor to release the list of charges. On 29 September 2020, Mr. Hanoun was accused of incitement against Israeli authorities, noting Mr. Hanoun's past written posts on Facebook from 2019, which expressed support for Palestinian resistance and quest for freedom. The court sentenced Mr. Hanoun with one - month imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 NIS. It is important to note that this is not the first time Mr. Hanoun was detained, as he is an ex-prisoner who spent 8 years of his life in and out of prison for his activism against the building of the appathied wall and illegal settlements. The Israeli authorities continuously subject Palestinians to harassment for seeking justice and advocating against the occupation. Moreover, Palestinians who express their opinions on the ground through peaceful protest or posts on social media platforms are threatened with arbitrary arrests and detention as a means to intimidate and silence them.

Publication

Over 53 years, an apartheid and discriminatory judicial apparatus has been built to preserve and act in the best interest and security of the occupying power at the expense of the Palestinian people. This de facto reality persists in the face of the obligations and responsibilities of the occupying power according to International Humanitarian Law (IHL) with regards to the legislative and judicial systems.

Order No. 1827 introduces new articles pertaining to the penalties that shall be enforced against any person or association that uses the property to commit a violation or provide a reward for the commission of a violation. As the new articles stand, such persons and associations shall be liable to ten-year imprisonment and a fine. This shall apply to the cases even if the receipt of the reward was not the person who committed the terrorist offence or the person who intended to execute it. The order also imposes a prison sentence of seven years for anyone who did not intend to use the property for the purpose of carrying out an offence but was aware that there was a possibility that the offence might be carried out. The punishment shall be seven years imprisonment if the person undertakes any transaction in a property of an unlawful association or transfers property to an unlawful association.

EVENTS

07/09/2020: Remarks on Administrative Detention in Palestine/ Institute for Palestine Studies

During the book launch event for the "Administrative Detention in Palestine as Part of Colonial System: the Judicial Apparatus in Service of General Security" written by Abed Al-Raziq Faraj and published by the Institute of Palestine Studies, Adv. Sahar tackled the issue of administrative detention from international law and human rights standpoint.

21/09/2020: Diplomatic Briefing on Salah Hammouri/ PHROC

PHROC held a diplomatic briefing highlighting the main issues concerning the Israeli Minister of Interior's intentions to revoke the Jerusalem residency of Salah Hammouri for "breach of allegiance" to the occupying state. Adv. Salah Hammouri gave an overview to the continuous Israeli occupation harassments and violations against him and his family, while Adv. Sahar Francis gave an update on the legal action to be taken by Salah's legal representative and future international advocacy actions.

24/09/2020: From the U.S to Palestine: The Struggle for Freedom/ Students for Justice in Palestine

On the second day of the event titled "the Prison Industrial Complex: From the U.S to Palestine", Adv. Sahar Francis, Director of Addameer had an intervention on how the incarceration systems in both the U.S and Palestine are oppressive and passed on racial profiling and apartheid law.

27 September 2020: Workshop on Israeli Military Courts and Administrative Detention/ Birzeit University and Addameer

During a workshop with the Faculty of Law at Birzeit University, Adv. Sahar Francis, Director of Addameer gave a lecture on Israeli military courts highlighting the violations of fair trial standards. Moreover, Adv. Sahar spoke about the excessive use of torture in Israeli prisons and detention centers.

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LOCATION:

Ramallah- AlMasyoun, Rafiden Square, Mousa Tawasheh Street, Sebat building, 1st floor

P.O. Box Jerusalem 17338

info@addameer.ps