

Quarterly Newsletter—April to June 2015

Throughout this quarter, April through June 2015, Addameer has documented ongoing human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees amidst the push for new legislations including the force-feeding bill as well as the stone-throwing legislation pushed forward by the occupation's new right-wing government. 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 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.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

Ramallah—Al Masyoun,
Rafiden Square, Edward Said
St. Sebat Building., 1st Floor,
Suite 2

P.O. Box Jerusalem 17338
info@addameer.ps

Find us on:

/addameerassociation

@addameer

addameer21

Detention in Numbers

This quarter, from April to June 2015, arrests and detention continue on a large scale by Israeli occupation forces. At the beginning of April 2015, there were approximately 5800 Palestinian political prisoners, including approximately 414 administrative detainees. At the beginning of May 2015, there were approximately 5750 Palestinian political prisoners, including approximately 401 administrative detainees, signifying a slight decrease in both the total numbers of Palestinian political prisoners and in administrative detainees. However, at the beginning of June 2015, there were approximately 5850 Palestinian political prisoners, including approximately 480 administrative detainees, signifying a rise from the beginning of the quarter in both total numbers of prisoners and in administrative detainees.

Palestinian Legislative Council Member arrested, placed under administrative detention, and then charged



Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) member Khalida Jarrar was arrested at the wake of the quarter, on 2 April 2015, following an overnight raid on her home. Israeli forces surrounded her building and destroyed the entrance door to her home.

Israeli forces searched her house and confiscated two laptops and a mobile phone. Khalida Jarrar was arrested at approximately 3:00 am. Jarrar was initially taken to Beit El settlement, and was later transferred to a military camp near Jaba' village east of Jerusalem. At 7:30am she was transferred to Ofer military base near Ramallah, where the interrogation started

an hour after her arrival. The interrogation lasted for more than four continuous hours. Jarrar refused to interact with the intelligence. She remained silent and refused water and food. She was later shackled and transferred to HaSharon prison. Khalida Jarrar is considered a major Palestinian political and civil society public figure. She was the director of Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association from 1994 to 2006, until she was elected as a Palestinian Legislative Council member. Khalida Jarrar is also head of prisoners' issues in the Palestinian Legislative Council and a member of the National Palestinian Committee for follow-up with the International Criminal Court.

On 8 April 2015, a hearing to review Jarrar's administrative detention order was held. However, the session was postponed to 15 April 2015 to allow some of the material to be provided to the defense. The military prosecution stated at the hearing that it did not intend to issue a list of charges against Mrs. Jarrar because it was not convinced that the information is enough to detain Jarrar until the end of the legal procedures. The second hearing was held on 15 April 2015, during which the military prosecution demanded the issuance of a list of charges in addition to the administrative detention order. The court postponed reviewing the confirmation of the administrative detention order to 6 May 2015. Jarrar was taken out of the room until the judge reviewed the prosecution's request, and ruled for her detention until the next hearing. The military judge limited Jarrar's administrative detention military order to end on 04 May 2015.

On 21 May 2015 the judge of Ofer Military Court decided to release Palestinian Legislative Council member Khalida Jarrar until the end of trial proceedings, on bail of 20,000 NIS and third party guarantees and gave the prosecution 72 hours to appeal the decision. The judge indicated he was convinced that the prosecution is basing the allegations on data that dates back to several years ago and that there is no justification for the prosecution's failure to take any legal action against Mrs. Jarrar previously. The judge also indicated that he was convinced that even in the secret file there was no adequate evidence to suggest that her release poses a security threat. However, the military prosecution appealed the judge's decision and an appeal hearing was held on 28 May 2015, where an appeals court judge decided to keep PLC member Khalida Jarrar detained until the end of trial based on secret information that neither Jarrar nor her lawyer were able to review.

Death of 22 year old ill prisoner Jaafar Awad less than three months following his release

Media reports have announced the death of 22 year old Jaafar Awad, on 10 April 2015, only three months following his release from prison. Awad had suffered from heart problems, pneumonia, pancreas issues, and thyroid issues.

According to media reports, the health of Awad, an engineering student, deteriorated while he was in Eshel prison. Following an insulin shot, his diabetes condition worsened and he developed hyperthyroidism, pancreas problems, and glaucoma.

Following his release on January 21, 2015, he was unable to travel to Germany due to refusal by Israeli authorities for his international travel, and was thereafter denied admission to Hadassah hospital.

In this Issue

- Child Detention
- Stop Administrative Detention!
- Female Prisoners
- Palestinian Legislative Council members
- Human Rights and Awareness Raising Activities
- Military Court Hearing Updates

Quarterly Newsletter—April to June 2015

Child Detention

The quarter has witnessed persisting violations against children, particularly in Jerusalem. The Research and Documentation Unit at Addameer met with several children and they indicated that they experienced human rights violations, ill treatment and abuses while in detention, often in the absence of their parents. 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.*

The following table shows the numbers of child prisoners at the beginning of each month of the quarter.

Month	No. Child Prisoners	Special Age Categories
April 2015	182	(26 under 16)
May 2015	164	(17 under 16)
June 2015	162	(21 from 14- 16)

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

A testimony from 14 year old Mohammad A. from Silwan in Jerusalem:

"On Thursday at around 6:30pm, I was going to a supermarket in the neighborhood and I saw a boy with a broken bicycle. We tried to fix it and I took a rock and started hitting the bicycle's seat in order to keep it in place. Suddenly, about 20 soldiers from the occupation's special units wearing black outfits attacked me. They told the boy to leave, then one of them took the rock from me and put it in a plastic bag in his pocket. He then shackled me and they took me towards a white jeep (Toyota). Two of them got in the jeep with me and removed the shackles. I was very scared because they were all armed and masked.

...

As soon as the vehicle moved, one of them (special forces) started cursing at me and beating me on the hands, legs and stomach. I was very scared and in so much pain. He was hitting me randomly. I would like to mention that he hit me a number of times on the head with his weapon. It was very painful.

...

The interrogator was wearing the uniform of the Israeli police. My parents weren't present with me during the interrogation. I was alone. The interrogation lasted for four hours. The main accusations were throwing rocks in Al Bustan neighborhood and hitting a soldier. I told the interrogator that I was fixing a bike. The interrogator tried to scare me by saying that there are witnesses that saw me throwing rocks and that my file is ready. I denied everything, but he kept telling me that I am lying and was continuously yelling at me saying, "tell the truth". I was in so much pain because of all of the beating. When the interrogation ended, the interrogator told me to sign my statement, it was all written in Hebrew. I signed about seven papers, I was afraid that he would beat me up if I don't sign the papers.

...

I spent a night at Moskobiyyeh interrogation center. I fell asleep immediately after arrival. I didn't even meet the other prisoners because I was very tired. The second day, at around 6:00 pm I was released from Moskobiyyeh after a hearing at the magistrate court which issued a 5-day house arrest order against me. I was not allowed to go to school during that time. I stayed at home for five days. It should be mentioned that I go to a developmental school because I suffer from learning disabilities and it was very hard for me to go back to studying after the period ended.

...

... I was strip-searched at Moskobiyyeh and I didn't eat anything there. I was in so much pain. My parents paid a 1000 NIS fine."

Testimony from 16 year old Alaa O. from Issawiya in Jerusalem:

"On 21/12/2014 at around 12:30pm, there were clashes between young men in the village and the IOF. I was going to the supermarket. I stood in the street to watch the clashes. The Israeli Occupation Forces started running towards the young men and I kept standing in the same place. Fifteen soldiers attacked me, threw me to the ground, and started beating me up all over my body. They were kicking me with their feet. I was in so much pain, but I didn't say anything. I was very scared and I started wondering about what will happen to me and about why they would arrest me especially since I've never been arrested before. They were kicking my stomach continuously. Then they shackled my hands behind my back with iron shackles and covered my face with my shirt. I couldn't see anything. They put me in a Mazda car which started moving immediately. I was beaten heavily on the legs by the soldiers while we were on the way and I was also cursed at the whole way."



Testimony of 17 year old Baker O. from Issawiya in Jerusalem:

"I was taken back to interrogation on the next day at 7:00 am (after the court). My hands and legs were shackled. The interrogation session was revolving around the same accusations of the first session. However, during this session, one of the interrogators took me to the hallway near a water kettle and threatened to pour hot water on my head. I didn't react to his threat. At that moment another interrogator came and pulled me by my hand into the interrogation room. He attempted to put my hand inside the paper cutting machine but I pulled my hand away. He immediately forced me to sit in a "Shabah" stress position with my back against the wall and legs bended as I was sitting. He started kicking my stomach while I was sitting in that position. He also slapped my face a number of times which was very painful. He kept beating me for ten minutes. Then he made me sit back on the chair. The interrogation lasted until 7:00pm."

Child Prisoner Testimonies

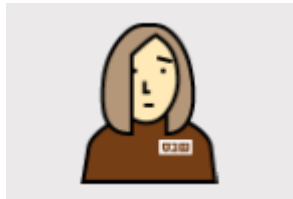
"I was taken to interrogation at 5:30. I was only allowed to call a lawyer and they didn't allow either of my parents to attend the session with me. My hands and legs were shackled. In the first interrogation session I was interrogated by two interrogators (one came after the other)... They threatened to arrest my mother, father and sister if I don't confess." - Baker O.

"When the interrogation was over I was taken to the rooms where I stayed for a month. Being held at Moskobiyyeh was very uncomfortable. Nothing was ok. I wasn't eating or sleeping well. I had four court hearings while I was there. They were all delayed. I wasn't visited by my family while I was at Moskobiyyeh. They were only allowed to bring me clothes and I was only able to see them during the court hearings. There were five other prisoners held with me in the same room, they were all under the age of 18. We were sometimes allowed to go out for the Fora [recreation time] and other times we weren't. During my detention period all I could think of was my family, friends, school and how life outside the prison is going. The guards searched the rooms twice while I was at Moskobiyyeh. The searched were very bad where they took us outside the rooms and ransacked them." - Alaa O.

Quarterly Newsletter—April to June 2015

Female Prisoners

Over the last five decades, an estimated 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested or detained under Israeli military orders. Palestinian women are held mainly in Hasharon prison, located outside the 1967 occupied territory, in direct contravention of Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that an Occupying Power must detain residents of occupied territory in prisons inside the occupied territory. Throughout the quarter, Palestinian women have continued to be detained in Israeli prisons.



Month	No. Females held
April 2015	25
May 2015	25
June 2015	26

There have been approximately 25-26 female prisoners imprisoned and detained at the onset of each month this quarter.

Palestinian Legislative Council Members



The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 2, states that states parties are to ensure "to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966). However, Palestinian political leaders, including Palestinian Legislative Council members, are routinely arrested. The following chart indicates the numbers of Palestinian Legislative Council members detained at the onset of each month:

Month	No. Palestinian Legislative Council Members held
April 2015	13
May 2015	12
June 2015	12

There have been approximately one dozen Palestinian Legislative Council members held at the onset of each month this quarter.

Stop Administrative Detention!

This quarter, April through June 2015, 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, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

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
April 2015	414 (7 PLC members)
May 2015	401 (6 PLC members)
June 2015	480 (5 PLC members)

There has been an alarming increase in administrative detention from April to June 2015.



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, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Although international human rights law permits some limited use of administrative detention in emergency situations, the authorities are required to follow basic rules for detention, including a fair hearing at which the detainee can challenge the reasons for his or her detention. Moreover, to use such detention, there must be a public emergency that threatens the life of the nation, and detention can only be ordered on an individual, case-by-case basis without discrimination of any kind. (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9). Administrative detention is the most extreme measure that international humanitarian law allows an occupying power to use against residents of occupied territory. As such, states are not allowed to use it in a sweeping manner. To the contrary, administrative detention may be used against protected persons in occupied territory only for "imperative reasons of security" (Fourth Geneva Convention, Art.78).

In practice, systemic use of administrative detention by Israeli occupation forces violates numerous other international standards as well. For example, administrative detainees from the West Bank are deported from the occupied territory and interned within 1948, in direct violation of Fourth Geneva Convention prohibitions (Articles 49 and 76). Further, administrative detainees are often denied regular family visits in accordance with international law standards, and Israeli occupation forces regularly fail to separate administrative detainees from the regular prison population as required by law. Moreover, in the case of child detainees, Israeli forces regularly fail to take into account the best interests of the child as required under international law.

Quarterly Newsletter—April to June 2015

Human Rights and Awareness Raising Activities

This quarter, Addameer's training and awareness unit carried out several activities.

In the event of Prisoner's Day (14 April), an evening was held in Safa village in which traditional Palestinian music was played, a play on interrogation was performed, and the families of prisoners were honored. Over 100 participants attended.



On 01 May 2015, about 30 Dama'ir Beit Reema and other youth volunteers carried out activity in the event of prisoner's day 2015.



Signs near the entrance of the village with the names of Palestinian political prisoners from the village of Safa.



Film Playing by Training and Awareness Unit on 22 April 2015.



Addameer attorney gives "Know your Rights" lecture on 7 May 2015.

Dama'ir in Jalazon carried out a silent exhibition and prisoner's day event on 22 April 2015.



Art pieces from silent exhibition on 22 April 2015.



Addameer Training and Awareness Unit carries out "Know your Rights" session in Birzeit on 7 May 2015.

Quarterly Newsletter—April to June 2015

News

Prisoners' rights activist and journalist Bushra Al-Taweel released on 17 May 2015



Prisoners' rights activist and journalist Bushra Al-Taweel was released on 17 May 2015 after completing the end of her original sentence. Ms. Al-Taweel had been re-arrested on 2 July 2014 under Article 186 of Military Order 1651 during the Gaza War, a time in which hundreds of Palestinians were arrested and several re-arrested under Article 186. Her re-arrest took place on the basis of secret information. That is, the evidence on which she was being detained was not made

available to Al-Taweel or to her attorney. Addameer and Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR) have expressed condemnation in the case of Ms. Al-Taweel, and the lack of fair trial proceedings in the case. Ms. Al-Taweel, having previously served 5 months of a 16-month sentence and then released in the 2011 prisoner exchange deal, was then effectively being held without knowledge of the secret evidence put forth against her.

Military Court Hearing Updates

Ayman Nasser detention extended yet again

As of the second quarter, human rights defender and Addameer employee Ayman Nasser remains in custody. Ayman Nasser has been detained since 18 September 2014. An administrative detention order renewal was issued on 08 December 2014, and this order was set to end on 16 March 2015. It was then renewed again and set to end on 15 June 2015. **On 7 June, 2015, the order was renewed an additional 3 months, set to end on 14 September 2015.**



Administrative detention may be renewed indefinitely, and the case of Mr. Nasser attests to its repeated renewal—in the absence of formal charges and in the absence of trial.

Addameer continues to condemn the detention of Ayman Nasser without trial, and the targeting of human rights organizations in the defense of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Nasser is a human rights defender and actively works on human rights issues and prisoners affairs. Nasser's arrest is also a marked violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

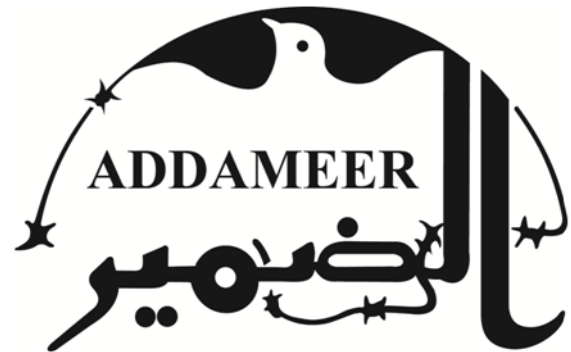
News

Addameer Attorney arrested by Palestinian Authority



On 18 May 2015, Addameer attorney Mazen Abu Oun was arrested by Palestinian Authority Preventative Security Forces following interrogation at 10 AM. Mr. Abu Oun, who was released hours later, has been a human rights lawyer with Addameer since 2010, defending Palestinian political prisoners in both Israeli and Palestinian Authority Prisons.

Keep in touch!



www.addameer.org

Follow us on:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)