

# Monthly Newsletter

April 2021



## Top April Topics

[-Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in the Face of Apartheid](#)

[-Sheikh Jarrah Families Send Letter to the International Criminal Court Calling for Urgent Investigation of their Imminent Forced Displacement, Endorsed by 190 Organisations](#)

[-16 Palestinian and Regional Organizations Send Joint Submission to the UN Secretary-General on Intimidation and Reprisals for Cooperation with the UN](#)

[-#FreeThemAll: In Sumoud and Solidarity From the U.S. to Palestine Webinar](#)

[-UN Experts Express Grave Concern on the Arbitrary Detention of Palestinian Child](#)

April 17 marks Palestinian Prisoners' Day, bringing to the forefront the condition of Palestinian prisoners under the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime. This past year commemorates the day with a greater urgency in light of the global pandemic. The grave violations of Israeli military courts of the rights of detainees is not a new phenomenon; since their establishment, Israeli military courts have proven to be an inseparable part of the Israeli apartheid apparatus, exercising unjust and illegal practices against Palestinians. The change in procedures following the declaration of the COVID-19 induced state of emergency further elucidates these violations' systemic nature. To commemorate Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Addameer published its annual statement on Prisoners' Day and organized a media campaign with local and international civil society actors against the trial of Palestinian civilians in Israeli military courts.



# News

## [General Update on Palestinian Prisoners](#)

In April 2021, the Israeli Occupation Forces arrested 402 Palestinians, including 61 children and seven women. In addition, the Israeli military commander issued over 100 administrative orders, including 52 new orders and 48 renewals. Throughout April, especially with the advent of the month of Ramadan, Israeli Occupation Forces and police escalated their attacks on Jerusalemites, turning the Damascus gate of the Old City of Jerusalem into a confrontation point that extended to the neighboring streets and neighborhoods.

After putting up metal barricades to prevent gatherings at the Damascus gate for 13 days, Israeli occupation forces took them down. Despite this, the oppression and persecution of Palestinian youths continued, with beating, shoving, tasing, and water hosing, in an attempt to prevent them from protesting at Damascus gate. The number of arrests in Jerusalem reached 198 in April, including 168 arrests as of 13 April, of which are 106 cases of arrest in the areas of Damascus gate, Herod's gate, and the streets of Sultan Suleiman, Nablus, Salah Al-Deen and Al-Musara. Among the detained are three women and 42 minors, 19 of whom are between the ages of 12 and 15.

## [UN Experts Express Grave Concern of Arbitrary Detention of Palestinian Child Detainee](#)

On 25 February 2021, United Nations (UN) Human Rights experts issued a communication to Israel regarding the arbitrary arrest and administrative detention of Palestinian child Amal Nakhleh. In the communication, UN experts recount Amal's arrests, assault, and poor health condition, expressing "grave concern at the allegations of arbitrary detention of [Amal Nakhleh] and the current conditions of his detentions." His case is contextualized amid past UN reports of the ill-treatment and detention of Palestinian children, including the over 540 Palestinian children arrested by Israeli occupation forces in 2020. Noting international guarantees against arbitrary detention and subjecting children to violence, along with guarantees of the right to health and healthcare, the UN experts urged that "all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence... [and] to ensure the accountability of any person responsible."

## [Sheikh Jarrah Families Send Letter to the International Criminal Court Calling for Urgent Investigation of their Imminent Forced Displacement, Endorsed by 190 Organizations](#)

On 22 April 2021, representatives of 28 Palestinian families constituting approximately 500 Palestinians from Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem, and 191 endorsing organizations, sent a letter to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), calling to urgently include the imminent forced displacement of Palestinians from Sheikh Jarrah as part of the open investigation within the Situation in the State of Palestine. Specifically, the families called on her Office to include as part of the investigation the related war crimes and crimes against humanity, including forcible transfer, appropriation of property, persecution, apartheid, and other inhumane acts causing great suffering or serious injury to inter alia mental health arising from their forced evictions.

The letter outlines that following the ruling of Israeli courts in favor of eviction lawsuits undertaken by a settler organization, 87 Palestinians in the neighborhood are at imminent risk of forced eviction including four families by 2 May 2021 and three other families by 1 August 2021.

## Numbers of Palestinian prisoners at Israeli occupation prisons by the end of April 2021.



Total Number of Political Prisoners  
4400



Administrative Detainees  
430



Child prisoners  
160



Female prisoners  
39

# Individual Case

## The Case of Ata Khattab

Ata Khattab is a Palestinian dancer, and the head of training, choreography and dance of El-Funoun Palestinian Popular Dance Troupe. On 2 February 2021, the Israeli Occupation Forces arrested Ata from his home in the West Bank city of Ramallah, in the occupied Palestinian territory. At the time of his arrest, the dancer was not provided with any legal basis for his arrest and detention and was subsequently denied access to meet with his legal counsel, which is permissible under Israeli military orders. The first and second bans from meeting with a lawyer were a total of 13 days.

During Ata's interrogation at Al-Mascoubiya detention center, he was infected with COVID-19. He was transferred to Al-Ramleh prison clinic and placed in solitary confinement, following which he was transferred

to HaSharon, then Ofer prison. Throughout his isolation and infection with COVID-19, he was detained in deleterious living conditions and was not given any medication (including painkillers and fever reducers), or hygienic and/or sanitary products, despite repeated requests for medicine and proper care.

On 21 March 2021, a list of charges was submitted against Ata referencing his political expressions and cultural activities alleging that the dancer is affiliated with an organization deemed unlawful under Israeli military orders. The inclusion of references to Khattab's cultural activities notably alludes to the criminalizing of cultural and artistic expression; violating key protections and guarantees under international law, and point to a dangerous trend of increasing repression of all aspects of political and cultural expression by the Israeli apartheid regime.

## Publication

### [On Palestinian Prisoners' Day: Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in the Face of Apartheid](#)

On 17 April 2021, in honor of Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association published a statement summarizing the state of Palestinian prisoners and detainees under the Israeli occupation apartheid regime. Despite the rise and spread of COVID-19, Israeli Occupying Forces in 2020 arrested 4,634 Palestinians, among them 543 children and 128 women, in addition to issuing 1,114 administrative detention orders.

Moreover, the occupation authorities introduced a set of measures that exacerbate Palestinian prisoners' conditions under the pretext of preventing the spread of COVID-19: most notably, the isolation of Palestinian prisoners from the outside world by banning visits by their lawyers and families. Conversely, and paradoxically, prison special forces continue to forcibly break into prisoners' sections, posing a danger to prisoners by increasing their likelihood of exposure to COVID-19 during these incursions. Since the spread of COVID-19, nearly 368 prisoners have been infected across various detention and interrogation centers.

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## EVENTS

### [#FreeThemAll: In Sumoud and Solidarity From the U.S. to Palestine Webinar](#)

17 April 2021: Addameer assisted in organizing and participated in this open classroom webinar on Palestinian Prisoner's Day, which also marked the fifth anniversary of the U.S. Prisoner, Academic & Labor Delegation to Palestine, convened by Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi and the AMED program at San Francisco State University.

### [Palestinian Women Behind Israeli Bars](#)

29 April 2021: Addameer assisted in organizing and participated in this international webinar following the arbitrary arrest and detention of activist, feminist, and human rights defender Khitam Sa'afin, director of the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees. The webinar highlighted the conditions of Palestinian women in Israeli prisons and detention centers.

### [Situation of Palestinian Child Prisoners in Israel Prisons/ Forum Palestine Citoyennete and Association de Palestiniens en Ile de France](#)

18 April 2021: Adv. Sahar Francis, Addameer's Director, participated in an oral intervention regarding grace violations of Palestinian child detainees and prisoners' rights, highlighting the case of child administrative detainee Amal Nakhleh.