

Special Edition Monthly Newsletter: Events of December 2015

Addameer issues a special edition monthly newsletter covering the events of December 2015 in light of the continued detention of Palestinians and the significant arrest campaign which began in the onset of October 2015. Palestinians continue to be subjected to collective punishment, extra-judicial killings, withholding of bodies of extra-judicially killed individuals, mass arrests taking place in cities and villages, as well as ill treatment at the hands of prison guards and within the prisons. The practice of administrative detention of Palestinians without charge or trial continues to escalate.

December 2015 in Numbers

In December 2015, there were approximately **6800 total Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli detention and prison centers**, compared to about **5900 at the end of September 2015**, before the recent escalation. This is in the context of the ongoing arrest campaign of recent months. Between 1 October and 31 December 2015, Israeli occupation forces arrested **more than 2663 Palestinians including 480 children**.

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Prison Conditions

Medical Negligence

In December 2015 Addameer attorney visited 24 year-old ill prisoner B.A. from Nablus, who was arrested on 08 October 2015 from Salem Military Court when attending a hearing for his wife. He suffers from Cancer and weakness in the heart muscle. Immediately following his arrest from Salem military court his hands and legs were handcuffed. He was kept in Afula hospital for three days and then on third day he was taken to Peta Tikva interrogation center, where he was subjected to a days long interrogation. He was greeted with "Welcome Zaheer Labadah", the name of a Palestinian prisoner who died only days following his release in 2012 and who suffered from kidney disease. B. indicated that he understood this to be a suggestion that his destiny would be the same as Zaheer's. He indicated to Adv. Samaan that due to a drop in his blood pressure he fell unconscious during the interrogation. The interrogation took place on a daily basis until towards the end of the week.

B.A. reported:

"I was interrogated daily for more than 10 hours a day. One of the times I was hit by the interrogator on my chest and my pelvis causing me strong pain. I fainted and lost consciousness numerous times in the cells where I was detained. For 20 days I did not receive the necessary treatment for my medical condition. After I lost consciousness I was transferred to Beilinson hospital and there, only after the tests showed that there was a drop in my blood platelets count did the occupation give me chemical therapy capsules."

B.A. continues to be held in detention in Ramleh prison hospital.

Givon Prison

Children being held in Givon prison reported that they were not being given proper treatment within an appropriate time and the majority of them suffer from anxiety, nightmares, sleep disturbances, loss of appetite, sadness, feelings of isolation. All of those who were interviewed reported that they were subjected to at least one form of ill treatment or torture since their arrest, including the following: hitting, intimidation, threats, sleep deprivation, deprivation from food, being prevented from using the bathroom, isolation from the outside world, being faced with ammunition, detention of relatives, use of police dogs, and strip searches. Givon's section holding Palestinian children was closed on 22 December 2015, with children from the West Bank being transferred to Ofer prison and Naqab prison. This is with the general exception of those holding Jerusalem IDs who were transferred to HaSharon prison. The use of Givon prison for child detention was generally a new trend. Prior to the escalation and mass arrests in recent months, Givon was not normally used for detention of children or for long-term prisoners, but a section had been opened in October 2015 to accommodate these child prisoners.

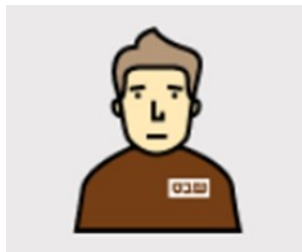
Isolation

Visits by Addameer attorneys to prisons indicate that there are approximately 20 Palestinians being held in isolation in the following prisons: Megiddo, Eshel, Ramon, Ashkelon, Nisan in Ramleh. These include prisoner Shukri Al-Khawaja, who, as of December 2015 has been held in isolation for more than a year. Addameer attorney Adv. Sama'an reported that Al-Khawaja was placed in isolation in December 2014 and is held in Ramon prison.

The conditions of his isolation were reported as follows: He was recently moved from isolation in Megiddo prison and he reported delays in receiving medical treatment. His mattress is about 2 cm thick and he has asked for a thicker one, but his request has been refused. He has also requested a test measuring his cholesterol levels, as he had previously been told by a physician that he should get his cholesterol levels checked every three months, but this has not been provided. The room he is being held in is about 4 x 3 meters and it has a toilet and shower in it, and only one window.

Statistics of December 2015

Children



Children continue to be subjected to persisting violations, arrested particularly in the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem. 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. **In December 2015, there were about 470 Palestinian child prisoners in Israeli detention centers and prisons.**

As of December 2015, there were about 106-108 children being held in Megiddo prison, divided between 12 rooms, including administrative detainees. Education is not consistent on a regular basis and recreational outdoors time is limited to two hours daily.

In December 2015, Addameer's attorney Sam'aan visited 16-year-old N.A., an eleventh grader held in Ha-Sharon prison, who was arrested in Jaffa Street in Jerusalem on 23 November 2015, after being shot in the leg. After her transfer to a hospital, she was subjected to interrogation for three hours, during which she was shouted at and psychological pressure was used against her. At the hospital, she was kept in handcuffs, which were only removed for bathroom use. In Ha-sharon prison, she has trouble walking and is receiving painkillers as medication.

Female Prisoners

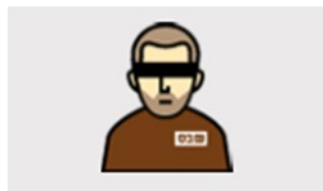


Over the last five decades, an estimated 10,000 Palestinian women have been arrested or detained under Israeli military orders. Palestinian women are held mainly in Hasharon and Damon prisons, located

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. In December 2015, there were about **60 Palestinian female prisoners**, signifying a rapid increase from recent months.

These include 26 year old Tamara Shareetah from Yatta, Hebron, who was arrested on 22 November 2015 under suspicion of having a knife. She reported to Addameer attorney Adv. Naddaf that she was yelled at throughout the interrogation, and that she was forced to sign papers in Hebrew. As of December 2015, Tamara was being held in Damon prison.

Administrative Detention



Administrative detention is a procedure that allows the Israeli military to hold prisoners indefinitely based 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. **In December 2015 there were about 660 Palestinians being held in Administrative Detention without charge or trial**, compared to 343 Administrative Detainees in September 2015, before the recent escalation.

Samer Arbid, Addameer's accountant, was arrested on 14 December 2015. An administrative detention order was issued on 20 December 2015, set to end on 13 March 2016. This order may be renewed indefinitely. Arbid remains in detention without charge or trial.

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, colour, 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.

	Name	Date of Arrest	Legal Status as of November 2015
1	Marwan Al-Barghouthi	15/4/2002	5 life sentences
2	Ahmad Sa'adat	13/6/2006	30 years
3	Mohammad Al-Natsheh	27/3/2013	Administrative Detention
4	Khalida Jarrar	2/4/2015	Sentenced to 15 months
5	Hassan Yousef	20/10/2015	Administrative Detention

In December 2015, there were five Palestinian Legislative Council members held in Israeli detention, including two held under administrative detention without charge or trial.

Field Research Highlights of December 2015

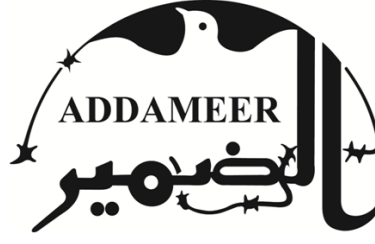


On 9 December 2015, Addameer's Documentation and Research Unit carried out a field visit in Husan Village west of Bethlehem. During the field visit, IOF forces fired teargas canisters towards the elementary school in the village, causing suffocation and injuries to 15 children, four of whom had to be hospitalized.





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