

Monthly Newsletter — March 2020



In March 2020, Addameer has documented systematic **human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including torture and ill-treatment.**

Detention in Numbers

Since January 2020, **1324** Palestinians from the occupied territory were arrested including **210** children and **31** women. For the month of March, the number of new arrests was **357**.

As of the end of March 2020, there were:

- 5 000** Palestinian political prisoners
- 432** of them administrative detainees
- 183** child detainees
- 43** female prisoners
- 6** Palestinian Legislative Council members.

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Urgent Action: Free Our Prisoners

Addameer launches a call for action, a call on our allies, partners, friends and comrades to join us in an urgent campaign to free all Palestinian prisoners in order to protect them from COVID-19, particularly in light of the increased restrictions on their rights by the Israeli Prison Service.

In light of the recent events detailed below and a long-term precedence of torture, physical violence, medical negligence and inhumane prison conditions, we are alarmed and concerned about the safety and well-being of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

Call to Action:

- Take a short of video of yourself, less than one minute, express one or more of the listed demands for the campaign, and post it on your social media accounts. Use the hashtag #FreeOurPrisoners #COVID_19 and tag Addameer in your post on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

- Write and/or call the offices of the ICRC and ask them to fulfill their obligation in making sure Palestinian prisoners are protected, and to pressure allow Palestinian prisoners phone/video calls with their families.

We demand the release of all Palestinian political prisoners to ensure their safety from the rapidly spreading pandemic, particularly those who are more vulnerable and more susceptible to the disease, such as children, female prisoners, elderly, the sick, and the injured;

We demand the release of all Palestinian political prisoners under administrative detention who are detained indefinitely without charge or trial;

We demand the release of all Palestinian political prisoners who are nearing the end of their sentences and/or should be released on probation, due to the over-crowded cells and sections of the prisoners;

We demand the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) ensure the protection of prisoners through applying the necessary preventive measures against COVID-19. Also, we demand the IPS maintain the connection of the prisoners to their families through unmonitored phone or video calls between the prisoners and their families. [Link to Action](#)

Urgent petition filed with Israeli Supreme Court calls for cancellation of coronavirus emergency regulations banning prisoners from meeting with lawyers, family

On 26 March 2020 Attorney Abeer Baker, Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, and the prisoner Kafri Mansour together were slated to file an urgent petition to the Israeli Supreme Court this morning, Thursday, 26 March 2020, against emergency regulations enacted in the shadow of the coronavirus crisis preventing lawyers and family members from meeting with prisoners being held in Israeli detention.

The petition describes, for example, a telephone conversation between co-petitioner attorney Abeer Baker and a prisoner Israel's Ofer prison, which was broadcast via loudspeakers in front of prison guards and other inmates.

The petitioners also stressed that the Israel government has imposed the ban without any legal authority and it must therefore be rescinded for that reason as well.

The petitioners call on the Israeli Supreme Court to cancel the regulations or, alternatively, enable prisoners to conduct telephone conversations with family members and attorneys while preserving their confidentiality and privacy.

PHROC Calls the International Community & ICRC for an Urgent Intervention to Protect Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees Amid COVID-19 Exposure Concerns

On 23 March 2020, the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) sent two letters, one to the International Committee of the Red Cross and another to the diplomatic community in Palestine. The letters were urgent appeals address to them with regard to the rapidly deteriorating conditions of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli jails in light of the continuing spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Palestinian human rights organizations urgently requested their intervention in pursuing the needed communication to ensure the health and safety of Palestinian prisoners held captive, particularly as many are minors, chronically ill, vulnerable populations, or held under administrative detention, in contravention of international law.

Addameer association was informed last week that a Palestinian detainee under interrogation may have been exposed to COVID-19 transmitted by contact with an Israeli Security Agency interrogator who tested positive for the coronavirus. The detainee and several others have now been placed in quarantine; yet their conditions are unknown to us.

Our growing concern for Palestinian prisoners and detainees during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic grows out of the systematic and routine medical negligence inside Israeli detention and interrogation centers. In 2019, a total of five Palestinian prisoners died, three of them as a result of deliberate medical negligence, while hundreds suffer from chronic diseases that go untreated. Furthermore, the dismal conditions, including overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and poor nutrition, make the prisons dangerous breeding grounds for COVID-19.



The letters' main demand was to ensure the safety of Palestinian detainees and prisoners, the letters also included a call to demand their release to ensure their safety from the rapidly spreading pandemic, particularly those who are more susceptible to the disease, such as children, elderly, the sick, and injured.

International Women's Day ... 43 Palestinian Women in Detention

On this International Women's Day, there are 43 Palestinian females held in Israeli prisons and detention centers, including 16 mothers, 8 injured prisoners, 12 sick prisoners and 4 administrative detainees held without charge or trial. Those female prisoners also suffer from long sentences with a maximum of 16 years. All of the Palestinian female prisoners are held in Damon Prison since November 2018.

[Check out Addameer's Statement about Female Detainees on 8 March 2020](#)

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Ongoing Action

Part of Addameer's recent call for action to free our prisoners, Addameer received short videos from all-over the world for people expressing their solidarity with Palestinian prisoners at Israeli occupation prisons. People from Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Iraq, Sudan, Mauritania, Spain, Catalonia, Basque, Peru, Salvador, Costa Rica, Brazil, Colombia, United States, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Ireland, Netherlands, Italy, and many other countries, and comrades.

[To see some of those veos check our page.](#)



Let us protect Palestinian Prisoners held in the Israeli occupation prisoners from COVID-19 pandemic

Take a short video of yourself, it can be less than one minute, express your solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Share it on your social media using **#FreeOurPrisoners #COVID_19** and tag **Addameer**.

- Demand **releasing all prisoners** especially the vulnerable ones, the elders, sick, injured, children and women.
- Demand releasing will Palestinian detainees held arbitrarily without official charges of trial under **administrative detention**.
- Demand the release of those whose **sentences are about to end** and/or can be release on probation.
- Demand the **protecting prisoners**, enforcing all necessary preventive measures against COVID-19 and allow them **communications with their families** via landlines.



Addameer's actions in numbers

11 international groups (190 people) were briefed by the Advocacy office since January.

5 visits to military courts were coordinated and organized since January.

Keep in touch!



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