



**Date: 20 January 2021**

**Subject: Administrative Detainees in Israeli Occupation Prisons**

Your Excellency,

We, the Palestinian administrative detainees, send you greetings from the prisons of the Israeli occupation regime.

The Israeli occupation regime uses the policy of administrative detention, without charge or trial, against our Palestinian people in an arbitrary manner and violation of international standards, human rights conventions, and the Fourth Geneva Convention. This policy, which targets our families and people who are suffering and trying to live freely and with dignity, like other free peoples of the world, is enforced by the Israeli Intelligence *Shin Bet* as an arbitrary and oppressive medium to humiliate and torture Palestinian detainees and their families, undermine their morale, break their will, and disrupt legitimate Palestinian social and political activities under international law. The policy of administrative detention targets human rights defenders and notable political and social figures, including academics, activists, and elected representatives of the Palestinian Legislative Council. They are joined by university students, educators, women, children, ill patients in need of health treatment, and more.

Over the past five years, we have noticed a broad expansion of the policy of administrative detention, using new, fictitious, and unsubstantiated pretexts.

These circumstances can be summarized as follows:

- I. A sudden arrest takes place with no warrant, which is predicated on the mood of the Shin Bet officer or the agent who writes a malicious report against the targeted Palestinian individuals. Often, the arrest is because of a political or social opinion or simply for exercising fundamental human rights, such as participating in local or university elections or even attending a gym. Others are targeted for visiting a patient or helping someone in need.
- II. Administrative detention's uncertainty and arbitrary nature cause moral and psychological harm to detainees and their families. The detainees do not know the reason for their detention, nor are their lawyers provided with any meaningful information. Further, the detainees do not know the duration of their detention and their release date, as detention orders may be renewed indefinitely.
- III. The policy of administrative detention is not used for security reasons or even for an apparent political reason. Instead, it targets those who speak out against human rights violations.



- IV. Palestinian administrative detainees are presented before an Israeli military court "show trial" with no real credibility or decision-making authority. Judgments are produced by military courts that do not abide by international conventions and standards, most notably fair trial standards. Instead, these courts operate under special military law; military judges are officers in the Israeli Occupation Forces, implementing the policy of the Shin Bet.
- V. There is no clear or defined sentence imposed upon Palestinian administrative detainees, as all administrative detention orders are renewable indefinitely. The court decision is based solely on a "secret file." The military judge refuses to reveal the details of the file and does not verify the accuracy of the information that it contains.
- VI. The Israeli military commander of the region has the right to issue an arrest warrant and extend it for the period they want. Further, the Israeli military commander has the right to release you, then return you to administrative detention within hours of your release without any justification.
- VII. This policy manipulates the emotions of the detainees and their families until the last minute. Detainees do not know if their detention will be extended until the moment of its extension. The extremity of this policy is such that detainees are informed of their release. Yet, when the detainees arrive at the last checkpoint, another order renewing the period of detention is issued by a Shin Bet officer just moments before their release, leading them to be sent back to administrative detention. Such arbitrary processes serve as a form of psychological torture against both the detainee and their family.
- VIII. These policies have led some detainees to spend more than ten years in detention without any horizon or end in sight. It has disrupted hundreds of lives and deprived Palestinian detainees and their families of the right to liberty and dignified life.
- IX. This policy has begun to expand in recent years to include more Palestinian women and children under 18, not to mention targeting patients and elderly Palestinians who are physically unable to pose any "security" risk.
- X. Administrative detention policies are accompanied by a set of unjust and unjustified instructions that have absolutely nothing to do with security. This includes confiscating detainees' belongings upon arrest, preventing families from attending court and hearing court sessions, preventing contact with families, and forbidding detainees' from participating in necessary events and life milestones such as funerals, births, and weddings even by phone.

Moreover, administrative detention may only be used in extreme security threats under international law, not as an arbitrary and unjustified collective, political, and social punishment.



Encountering this arbitrary and repressive policy, we carried out several initiatives and steps and conducted dialogues to change our brutal reality. We met with many officers in the Shin Bet and the Shabbas (Israeli Prison Service) seeking to stop the administrative detention policy and reveal the secret files in the courts of the occupied authorities.

**Therefore, our only option now is to begin our mass united resistance movement against the administrative detention policy after reaching a dead-end.** Starting on 1 January 2022, our movement includes an extensive boycott of all the levels of the Israeli courts. Moreover, if the occupation does not respond to our just demands, our movement will escalate to an open collective hunger strike within months.

This letter presents you with all of the main points of our case. Furthermore, we believe that there is a moral responsibility on every human being who is free and stands for the truth, justice, and human rights. We hope you refuse to stand by and watch this inhumane atrocity committed against us. In turn, we hope you advocate for the truth and justice in all ways and means possible to you.

We hope that international and local human rights institutions will lobby and pressure the Israeli occupation regime to release all Palestinian administrative detainees and end their unjustified administrative detention policy, which is being carried out for illogical and illegal reasons.

To inquire and follow up with the administrative detainees in the occupation prisons directly and to listen to their demands, the conditions they experience, as well as their goals, you can apply for a visit to the Israeli Prisons Authority through your lawyer to visit the prisoner "Fadi Hamad Ahmad Ghanem."

**Signed,**

**Palestinian Administrative Detainees in Israeli Occupation Prisons**

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