

ADDAMEER

PRISONERS' SUPPORT AND

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD

1 JANUARY 2007 – 31 DECEMBER 2007

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1. Executive Summary

During 2007, Addameer Prisoners' Support & Human Rights Association continued to provide support to Palestinian political prisoners and to focus its work on keeping alive the prisoner's issue in an increasingly difficult environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). Throughout the year, Addameer has offered legal defence to hundreds of Palestinian detainees before Israeli military and civil courts, conducted regular visits to Israeli prisons, detention centres and interrogation centres, and implemented a variety of activities to achieve the mission and goals of the Association. Addameer has continued to support the issue of Palestinian political prisoners through continued observation and documentation of Israeli violations of prisoners' rights and the rights of their families; raising local and international awareness of the prisoner's issue; coordination, networking and lobbying locally and internationally to advocate on the prisoner's issue in connection with the current Palestinian reality; and lobbying towards the release of all Palestinian political prisoners.

A revision of Addameer's strategic planning document was undertaken during the latter half of 2007, including identification of activities for another 3 year period from 2008 to 2010. The process required a great deal of reflection and assessment of activities to date, and review of the structure and capabilities of the organisation. As a result of the constant fluctuations in the political situation in the OPT, Addameer experienced difficulties realising a number of the goals it had set itself for the year 2007. Obstacles were primarily encountered as a result of delays in funding at the beginning of the year, hampering the ability of the association to carry out planned activities, in addition to the internal instability in the OPT. This forced Addameer to adapt its activities to the ever-changing security situation on the ground. However, despite these setbacks, the association has been able to continue to provide its basic services to the Palestinian community, in addition to carrying out recommendations to improve the functioning of the association.

Some of the most important developments in 2007 include:

- Expansion of the General Assembly of the association to 24 members;
- Election of a new Board of Directors with nine members;
- Commencement of a serious revision of the internal laws, regulations and polices (bylaws) of the association;
- Development of work guidebooks for the various units and restructuring of units;
- Completion of a comprehensive external evaluation of the association;
- Revision and development of the previous strategic planning.
- Hiring of an Advocacy Coordinator, a Legal Aid Assistant, 2 additional part-time lawyers, and a new Administration and Finance Officer.

On the staff level, the project coordinator and the fundraiser resigned, and the organisation was unable to fill the position throughout 2007. However, the hiring of two part-time lawyers in 2007 to conduct regular prison visits helped to fill a long-term gap in the Legal Aid Unit. A part-time accountant was also employed.

Throughout the year, Addameer attempted to realise the strategic goals of the organisation, as articulated in its strategic and annual plan. However, the political instability, beginning in 2006 after the Hamas-win of the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, the subsequent boycott by the majority of the international community of the newly-elected Palestinian government, and an escalation in violence in mid-2007 as a result of internal Hamas-Fateh clashes, has made the realisation of some goals difficult. This was particularly the case for Addameer's second strategic objective in relation to monitoring activities of the Palestinian Authority. As such, priority was given to the development of networks to abolish the use of the death penalty by the Palestinian Authority. However, following the declaration of a state of emergency by the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in mid-2007 and the subsequent wide-scale arrest campaigns conducted by Palestinian security forces, Addameer focused its activities on attempting to visit PA detention centres through a coalition of local institutions created to address the growing lack of freedoms in PA areas.

As in most years, Addameer continued to experience problems with implementation of activities due to the increasing number of cases received by the organisation, despite attempts to limit the number of cases taken on in its annual plan. The closure of several agencies which provide legal defence to Palestinian prisoners and detainees in 2007 placed a particular burden on Addameer to take on more cases. This has affected the ability of the organisation in following up prison visits, complaints, and certain violations of detainees' rights. With the contracting of an additional part-time lawyer during the second half of the year, this has alleviated some of the difficulties experienced in implementing projects. The political changes in the Palestinian reality, particularly the breakdown of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), has affected the implementation of certain outputs, primarily those related to influencing legislation such as the Reform and Rehabilitation Law and the amendment of legislation related to the death penalty.

Outputs that are related to the association's capacity development have remarkably been carried out since the beginning of 2007, in particular the preparation of work guidebooks related to administrative and financial procedures; preparation of work guidebooks for all units; preparation of staff evaluation forms; and building new financial relationships for the association. At the beginning of the year, Addameer experienced a financial crisis, uncertain of whether funding would be secured to carry out the work of the organisation. This in turn affected the ability of the organisation to implement a number of its strategic outputs, as discussed below, and delayed the ability of the association to employ new staff. However, the funding crisis was resolved through the generous support of Addameer's partners, including ICCO, Mu'assasat, Ireland Aid, Christian Aid, Solidaridad Internacional, UNIFEM, the Welfare Association, and the Union of Health Work Committees. Without their support, the assistance given to the hundreds of beneficiaries Addameer provides essential services to would not have been possible.

2. Addameer Organisational Needs Assessment and Recommendations

In 2004, in response to a pressing need to develop the institution to meet the needs of the Palestinian community, Addameer began a strategic planning process which would enable the organisation to develop its institutional performance. A five-year strategic plan was developed for the period 2005-2009, which included four strategic objectives and a series of outputs and indicators to enable the organisation to monitor and evaluate its performance based on the analysis of its external and internal environment. However, three years after the formulation of this plan and within the context of political upheavals and instability, the Board of Directors of Addameer decided in consultation with its main donors to conduct an assessment of the organisation's work and measure its impact on beneficiaries. The evaluation took place in mid-2007, with a full needs assessment completed in September 2007.¹

The assessment evaluated the work and composition of Addameer according to a number of indicators and outputs, including revision and evaluation of the role of the governing bodies of the institution within the framework of its by-laws; revision of the regulations, administrative and financial systems, and monitoring and evaluation framework; revision and evaluation of Addameer's 2004-2006 strategy in terms of efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, relevance and impact; revision and assessment of the human and financial management systems; revision and evaluation of Addameer's external relations and networking; and developing and preparing recommendations and proposals for a vision and an action plan for the strategy for 2008-2010.

2.1 Governance and Aspirations

An integral part of the needs assessment was to review the vision, mission, objectives, registration status and the governance structure of Addameer. The assessment found

¹ The evaluation was conducted by Al Sahel Company for Institutional Development and Communication.

that Addameer's by-laws were consistent with Palestinian NGO law, but that some of the articles were not consistent with the effective performance of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, in particular the required quorum of two-thirds members in meetings, and the role of the Board of Directors in preparing reports and budgets. Additionally, some of the articles were not being implemented, such as the election of the Board's chairman by the General Assembly, and the number of meetings held by the Board of Directors (6 meetings annually). The by-laws were also not signed by members of the establishing committee or officially certified by the Ministry of Interior, nor were membership issues consigned to the General Assembly, but rather the Board of Directors.

During the period covered (2004-2006), the General Assembly, although possessing the necessary range of expertise, did not play a role in guiding the institution or perform any of the tasks assigned it in the by-laws. However, after expanding the General Assembly in 2007, its functions were re-activated and mechanisms to increase the role of the GA were discussed by the Board. It was also found that there was general agreement amongst Board members on the mission of Addameer, with many members actively involved in the organisation and networking on its behalf in addition to attending regular meetings. The assessment also found that the vision and mission of the organisation were reflective of what the Board of Directors aspires and believes, primarily focused on Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, and the objectives of the organisation were clearly linked to its mission.

Based on the assessment of the governance and aspiration, the evaluation team made the following recommendations:

- a) the Board of Directors should review and amend the establishment by-laws and adopt a formal copy to be presented and approved by the General Assembly, with a copy sent to the Ministry of Interior for official certification (the role of the Board of Directors, the election of the Chairman, attendance rate at meetings, and the role of the Director General require revision);
- b) the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Director of the organisation should work on organising and investing the exceptional 'tendency' and capacity demonstrated by Board members for volunteering in various areas related to the scope of the work and activities of Addameer; and

- c) a revision of the organisational direction and tasks contained in the mission, especially topics related to civil and political rights and the ideological bases of Addameer's work (i.e. international human rights and humanitarian law) should be conducted within a comprehensive strategic assessment including the objectives, strategies and performance indicators.

2.2 Programs and Strategy

The evaluation team conducted a comprehensive review of the programs and strategies of Addameer, identifying both positive and negative aspects of their efficiency, effectiveness and impact on the Palestinian community and its institutional sustainability.

Efficiency

The team found that the most important factor affecting efficiency was the fact that the number of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons was too large in relation to the number of available, skilled and qualified lawyers able to access Israeli military courts and conduct visits to prisons and detention centres. The focus of Addameer has been to ensure legal aid, counselling, documentation of violations, the development of regulations and internal procedures and media coverage to address this issue, but it has come at the cost of a lower level of achievement in the realm of lobby and advocacy, submission of complaints, and monitoring violations and conditions of detainees in Palestinian prisons and detention centres. However, the external environment has played a large role in reducing efficiency in this sphere, primarily the fact that daily Israeli arrest campaigns have increased during the period covered while at the same time the ability of a number of official and non-governmental agencies able to confront arrests has diminished.

As a result of the external situation, Addameer was forced to shift its priorities in order to meet what it believes is the fundamental work of the organisation, namely offering professional legal services to Palestinian detainees and prisoners. Additionally, during the evaluation period, there were few political prisoners being held by the Palestinian Authority (apart from those held in Jericho Prison who were

subsequently abducted by Israeli forces), and requests for visits during later periods were consistently denied. Added to this, the Palestinian Legislative Council was not functioning due to the political strife witnessed in the OPT following the election of Hamas, making it impossible to influence legislative policies related to Palestinian prisoners.

The evaluation team also noted the difficulty in objectively evaluating the organisation's achievements as the identified outputs in the strategic and operational plans were not clearly articulated, with some quantified while others were measured qualitatively. The team also found that, despite a tangible improvement in the preparation of its annual reports, the needs of performance monitoring and evaluation had not been met, contributing to the loss of important information. It was found that the annual reports did not highlight the virtues of Addameer's work or reasons forcing it to change its priorities or its inability to realise some of its planned outputs.

Despite the above noted efficiency issues, the team found that the efficiency performance of Addameer in the area of legal aid was highlighted very strongly, with the annual rate of cases followed-up by its lawyers twice those handled by full-time lawyers in other institutions. Lawyers at the institution are also keen to pursue procedures that are considered as international best practice in comparison to those implemented by other organisations providing the same service. However, the team did find that as regards interrogation cases, most cases focused on one or two interrogation centres, leading to the conclusion that the organisation did not take into account geographic distribution when handling these cases.

Recommendations for Enhancing Efficiency

Based on the above findings, the evaluation team made the following recommendations regarding efficiency:

- a) visits to central prisons and detention centres should be intensified and arranged regularly in order to enable the collection of adequate information about detention conditions and violations against prisoners and detainees. The team agreed with the conclusion highlighted by Addameer in its annual report

for the years 2004-2005 that a specialized lawyer should be dedicated to conduct such visits;

- b) focusing visits on a few prisons and detention centres should motivate Addameer to take into account the geographic distribution of prisons and detention centres when planning and conducting its visits. It was recommended to activate cooperation with civil society institutions working in the same area to distribute visits amongst each other and hence increase work efficiency;
- c) Addameer must seriously control the number and quality of handled cases in order to improve efficiency and reduce the burden on lawyers that prevents them from completing other tasks. There should be a focus on attracting and working on issues of quality, which can lead to cases of legal precedence and attain tangible achievements to improve the situation of prisoners in the long-run. Tasks must also be distributed to work on cases in parallel and within the framework of the main objectives stated in the strategic plan;
- d) Addameer must consider how lawyers distribute their work so as to allocate more time and effort to document violations and develop better mechanisms for the publication and dissemination of information.
- e) Addameer should review the articulation of its outputs as contained in the strategic plan in order to ensure that planned outputs are measurable through the development of performance indicators.
- f) Addameer should continue to build on its achievements in developing its annual reports and facilitating the process of evaluating the results of its work through these reports. Specifically, the evaluation team recommended highlighting outputs in a summarized manner, enabling the reader to identify achievements at the level of executed outputs versus what was planned.

Effectiveness and Impact

The evaluation team found that Addameer had a weak effectiveness and impact monitoring mechanism, despite the existence of a plan to monitor strategic and immediate objectives. This was largely as a result of the lack of an institutionalised monitoring and evaluation system in the work of the various units, the difficulty of measuring some of the indicators, and the lack of clarity of roles regarding the

collection of information about the indicators. This has made it difficult to assess the degree of achievement accomplished by the organisation. There was also difficulty in measuring certain non-objective indicators as they were not achievable in the context of the current situation, in spite of consistency with formulated objectives. Additionally, the lack of human resources, weak performance capacities, and program structural flaws contributed to weaker effectiveness.

Recommendations to Enhance Effectiveness and Impact

The evaluation team identified the following areas that could enhance effectiveness and impact:

- a) Addameer must set priorities at the level of its objectives in order to be able to achieve greater effectiveness and impact in case the organization has to distribute its efforts on more than one target;
- b) Addameer needs to review its strategic plan and set goals and performance indicators that are relevant to the current situation, the future direction of the institution, as well as its available and projected financial and human resources.
- c) Addameer should rethink its lobbying and advocacy program because of its importance to the work of the organization and to determine what is required for its activation in a way that guarantees attaining the desired goals. This should also include the identification of key issues that will be tackled by this program, staff required for its activation, required training for staff currently working on the program, program mechanisms, and its relationship with other programs implemented within the institution.

2.3 Human and Financial Resource Management

The evaluation team found that the institution's work mechanisms were focused on the role of the Legal Aid Unit, with the remainder of the units seemingly playing a supportive role to this unit. This can be attributed to the nature of the institution's work and the urgency of the needs of the target group. The team found that the role of the Legal Aid Unit is coherent with the organization's vision and mission, and must continue its role as such, in addition to promoting and harnessing resources, taking

into consideration the importance of services provided by the other units. However, several areas that required development were identified:

- a) the organisational structure does not reflect all the current strategic themes of work. In particular, the issue of lobbying and advocacy as well as networking were not evident in the current structure, despite the fact that the institution does play this role. Given the significance of these issues and their relevance to the goals and objectives of the institution, they must be given a place in the organisational structure with the aim of elaborating a framework for a program and pursuing it systematically;
- b) the Research and Documentation Unit could be expanded to include key issues, in addition to its present role in order to enhance and intensify the impact of the institution's activities. The current unit cannot meet the increasing needs of provision of information in a meaningful way, and current financial and human resources do not allow for this development. However, the importance of the potential role of this unit is one of the strategic axes that could result in a qualitative shift in the role of the institution in general;
- c) the current role of the Public Service Unit is almost restricted to secretarial functions, rather than what its title suggests. However, the idea of this unit is extremely important and its role could evolve closely with other units, serving as a liaison providing information to organisations, researchers, and the media;
- d) the training and capacity-building aims of the institution to train and develop the professionalism of lawyers as well as other areas of resource development is important but will require a separate unit to carry out such specialised activities.

Recommendations

The proposed developmental recommendations require the recruitment of additional human resources and restructuring the work in coherence with all the main objectives of the institution. This requires capacities and resources that are not currently available. These issues can affect the direction of the institution in terms of its work mechanisms and executive staff. They (or part of them) can be placed on the agenda

of projects and programs for fundraising. As such, the evaluation team made the following recommendations:

- a) linked to the previous recommendation to review of the strategic plan, the current organizational structure must be revised with the aim of developing and upgrading it so that each administrative unit operates within the framework of the objectives linked to the strategy associated with the institution's work. For each unit, a set of performance indicators should be identified to measure the performance and its necessary functional requirements;
- b) review and update the administrative system in coherence with the establishment by-laws and the work requirements of the organization;
- c) develop a salary scale and incentive systems that would ensure the greatest motivation, as permitted by the potential resources and values of the organization. These systems should constitute a reference for the management of organization and other units;
- d) conduct staff training needs assessments and develop programs that can be implemented gradually; and
- e) adding an item "internal structural building and strengthening the institutional capacity" on the agenda for project proposals that are submitted to various parties.

Institutional Sustainability

Over the past fifteen years, Addameer has maintained the sustainability and the pace of its activities to support the issues of prisoners in the areas of legal aid, visits to prisons, documentation and media. This has been accomplished through its ability to attract the necessary funding to carry out activities since it has become difficult to rely on the voluntary work of its founding members, as has been the case in the past. To ensure its sustainability, Addameer currently depends heavily on external funding. This renders its survival and ability to implement programs and activities subject to constant threat, especially since it has no emergency funds on which it can depend on in case of an interruption in funding, as is the case in many Palestinian civil institutions that have been established during the same period when Addameer was created.

There are a number of factors that limit to a great extent the seriousness of the threat posed by the total dependence of Addameer on external funding, namely:

- a) The organization should depend on funding for its core programs rather than funding for certain projects. This will increase the ability to regionalize programs and activities as available without deviating from the organization's core values and mission.
- b) The unique relationship with donors and their participation with Addameer's core values, its directions and their respect for its professionalism.
- c) Modest annual budget of the organization and its undeclared policy to maintain a certain level of activity without expansion until conditions are deemed more appropriate.
- d) The strategic direction of the institution to diversify sources of funding and building relationships with new donors, in addition to its direction towards obtaining funding from non-traditional funding institutions.
- e) High institutional affiliation and commitment of employees and Board members, along with a high degree of functional stability (low turn-over rate).

2.4 Networking and Coordination

The evaluation team concluded that Addameer has been successful in building an extensive and well established network of relationships with many institutions, as well as with local and international coordinating structures. This has enabled the organisation to achieve its goals. The primary conclusions of the assessment, both positive and negative, included:

- a) inefficient allocation of time to coalitions, committees, and local organisations and inability to highlight the value of the membership of the organisation in certain structures;

- b) lack of development of systematised lobby and advocacy program through membership and active participation in various committees, organisations and coalitions;
- c) participation in committees and coalitions has contributed to enhancing the legitimacy of the organisation's work at the community level, as well as garnering respect and appreciation for its efforts in defending prisoners' rights;
- d) the organisation has not given equal weight to developing its relationships on the official Palestinian level as it has to the grassroots level; and
- e) not enough time has been invested in its media relations and activities to highlight its role and ensure adequate coverage for activities and events.

Based on the above conclusions, the evaluation team proposed the following recommendations to improve its institutional performance:

1. Conduct an analytical review of its various memberships in networks, organisations, and coalitions and determine its relevance to achieving the organisations strategic and immediate goals. The importance of the relationship with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and various other UN institutions was highlighted by the team;
2. Develop its relationship with the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners and Ex-Detainees Affairs and journalists by conducting periodic visits to the Ministry, inviting it to participate in various events, and submitting reports and various publications issued by Addameer;
3. Develop a media plan that would correspond with the lobby and advocacy plan and that also highlights the most significant achievements of the organisation.

3. Strategic Objective 1: Confront Israeli violations of rights of prisoners and detainees and their families

Confronting Israeli violations of the rights of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and their families forms the backbone of the work of Addameer. The year 2007 saw a continuation of Israeli policies against Palestinian political prisoners and detainees and their families in the form of arbitrary arrest, torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and unfair trials, Addameer has since its establishment worked diligently to confront these violations and ensure that the basic rights of Palestinians are secured during the process of arrest and incarceration. However, it is extremely difficult to measure the level of success of what forms the organisation's primary strategic objective, given the fact that the Israeli military court system is inextricably linked to the occupation and used as a punitive system based on arbitrary punishment for acts carried out against the occupation, rather than on legal standards.

Simply winning cases before Israeli military court cannot be a standard indicator, as the majority of cases result in the conviction of detainees and the imposition of harsh penalties for activities conducted against the occupation. The success rate for actually releasing a detainee is extremely low. However, the very fact that a detainee has legal defence within the military court system can make a difference in the length of sentencing and in ensuring protection of the rights of detainees. As such, the indicators used to measure success in attaining this strategic objective are primarily the number of cases in which there has been success in reducing periods of detention or imprisonment, or the release of detainees and prisoners. Changing procedures within the Israeli military system is extremely difficult, particularly as the justification for the majority of cases is based on security and not legal standards. As such, Addameer focuses on the provision of professional legal defence in compliance with international legal standards, in particular those for fair trials, to confront existing military regulations and to ensure that sentences are reduced as much as possible by challenging the military prosecution or military judicial apparatus. However, whenever possible, it also challenges the Israeli military system as part of the defence of clients, as well as take up cases of precedent when the opportunity arises.

Output 1.1: Provision of specialised and professional legal representation and rights services in a timely manner and in compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law

Indicators for measuring the success of this goal were identified as the increase in the beneficiaries' satisfaction with the quality of services provided by the association, the number of complaints lodged on the local and international levels, and the success rate in reducing periods of detention and sentences.

Towards the end of 2007, Addameer designed a beneficiary evaluation form to determine the satisfaction with the quality of services provided by the association. A sample of 51 individuals was surveyed, 7 of whom had pulled their cases from Addameer during the year. Of those surveyed, 57 percent stated they were received very well by Addameer, 39 percent were received well, and 4 percent stated they were not received well. Overall satisfaction with follow up was rated at 55 percent very good, 33 percent good, 8 percent not good, and 4 percent very bad. Additionally, 92 percent of beneficiaries stated that the organisation provided them with the information they needed, and 78 percent felt that staff informed them regularly of what was happening with their case. Of those surveyed, 7 pulled their cases from Addameer; however, only two of those cases stated that they did so because of the quality of services.²

As in most years, Addameer has exceeded its expected number of cases received during the year, taking on a total of **573 new cases** and surpassing its expected 350 cases. The increased demand in legal services has forced Addameer to focus much of its resources on achieving this output. The increase in the number of cases is largely attributed to the ongoing large scale arrest campaigns carried out by Israeli forces – on average, more than ten Palestinians were detained daily throughout 2007 in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). However, the rise in the number of cases was also influenced by the increasingly unstable political situation in the OPT. The Palestinian public sector strike that took place mid-2006 to mid-2007, following the cessation of external funding after the Hamas win of the Palestinian Legislative Council and subsequent inability of the PA to pay public sector salaries, included two

² For the full table of results of the survey, please see Annex 1.

agencies providing legal services to Palestinian detainees and prisoners – the Palestinian Ministry of Prisoners and Ex-Detainees Affairs and the Prisoners' Club. The club represents on average 2000 detainees a year. Additionally, Israeli authorities forced the closure of *Ansar as Sajeen* Institution (Prisoners' Friends Association) in Israel and the West Bank.

The gap in services left by these agencies placed a substantial burden on Addameer to provide more intensified legal aid. In order to address this increased need, Addameer had to shift its priorities to provide additional legal assistance to new cases received by the organisation. Existing resources were used to hire 2 additional part-time lawyers, including one lawyer to conduct visits to Salem Detention Centre beginning in August 2007, and another lawyer to conduct visits to other prisons in March 2007. This has however come at the cost of other areas in which the organisation had hoped to develop during the year: lawyers have less time to see families because of the higher case-load; it is becoming increasingly difficult to visit prisons and detention centres/interrogation centres which are not centrally located; and the submission of complaints internationally has not been developed because of the lack of resources.

The overall success rate of Addameer's lawyers in reducing periods of detention or securing the release of detainees/prisoners has been relatively good. During extension of detention hearings, Addameer succeeded in 18 percent of its cases in reducing requested periods of detention or securing the release of detainees on bail. In 52 percent of interrogation cases, Addameer succeeded in reducing periods of detention or securing the release of detainees. In cases of administrative detention, Addameer succeeded in 28 percent of its cases to reduce the requested periods of administrative detention, and in some cases cancelling the administrative detention order. There was also a 50 percent success rate in the 12 cases taken by Addameer to the Israeli Supreme Court.

During 2007, Addameer received 573 new cases seeking various legal services provided by the Association. The following table shows the distribution of cases by type of service:

Table (1)
Distribution of Cases by Service Type

Type of Follow-up	No. of Cases
Legal Follow-up	254
Human Rights Counselling	258
Legal Counselling (legal advice)	11
Medical Cases	8
Complaints	20
Prison Visit Applications	22
Total	573

**Of the clients represented by Addameer in 2007, 67 were minors and 10 were female.

Addameer registers every legal case individually: if the case is followed up during detention and a legal complaint is submitted against a separate violation, two legal cases are documented for this case. Therefore, the client may have more than one legal case. It is also possible that the case is from 2006 and is legally followed up on a certain issue in 2007. It is registered as a new legal case in 2007, not a new case.

The following table shows the distribution of Legal Cases that have been documented during 2007 by type of case:

Table (2)
Distribution of Legal Cases Documented during 2007 by Case Type

Type of Case	No. of Cases Documented
Detention	120
Interrogation	71
Trial Procedures	140
Administrative Detention	114
Shleesh*	2
Appeal against Ruling	5
Supreme Court	12
Complaints	20
Prison/Detention Centre Visit	22
Medical Cases**	16
Legal Counselling	11

Rights Counselling	258
Total	791

*Shleesh is early release after serving two-thirds of a sentence.

**Medical cases include ongoing cases from previous years or cases of prisoners/detainees who have become ill during the course of the case.

Among the most important legal procedures undertaken by the lawyers to confront violations committed during detention include:

- Appeals against court decisions related to the extension of detention;
- Appeals against court decisions related to the extension of detention until the completion of legal procedures;
- Appeals against court rulings issued against the detainee;
- Appeals against court decisions to confirm administrative detention orders, including appeals submitted to the Israeli Supreme Court in this regard.

Appeals may also be submitted by the military prosecution. Appeals submitted against court rulings usually fail. However, this is not an indication of failure by the lawyer, but highlights the difficulty in working within military jurisdictions which base their decisions on security rather than legal standards. This is most apparent in cases of administrative detention, in which military judges depend on information contained in secret files unavailable to either the detainee or the lawyers, and where a detainee's claims are very rarely admitted. In Israeli military courts, security justifications and military necessity are given priority over any other standards with regards to trial procedures, detention, interrogation and administrative detention.

The following table details the 134 appeals submitted by Addameer's lawyers in 2007, results of the appeals, as well as appeals submitted by the Israeli military prosecution in cases followed up by the Association:

Table (3)
Appeals Submitted & Results

Type of Appeal	No. of Appeals	Result / Outcome
Appeal against court ruling	5	4 were rejected 1 appeal was rescinded because both the prosecution and defence submitted an appeal increasing the risk of a higher sentence (sentence remained the same)
Appeals against detainees' extension of	15	In 1 case, the appeal was accepted and the detention period was reduced from 30 days to 15

detention		<p>days;</p> <p>In 2 cases, the appeal was accepted and the detention period was reduced from 15 days to 8 days;</p> <p>In 12 cases, the appeal was rejected.</p>
Appeals against the extension of detention until the completion of legal procedures	8	<p>In 6 cases, the appeal was rejected;</p> <p>In 1 case, the appeal was accepted and the conditions of release were changed to a bail amount of 5000 NIS instead of 7500 NIS, required to sign in at a Police centre once a week instead of daily, and cancellation of the stipulation that 2 people must guarantee that the detainee would come to court;</p> <p>In 1 case, a plea bargain was struck whereby the prosecution removed its appeal and agreed to a sentence of 75 days imprisonment and a fine of 1000 NIS.</p>
Appeals against the confirmation of the administrative detention order	80	<p>2 appeals were accepted and the detention order reduced by 1 month;</p> <p>1 appeal was accepted and the detention order was substantially reduced (it is not possible to renew the detention order);</p> <p>5 appeals were accepted and detainees were released;</p> <p>1 appeal was delayed for another hearing;</p> <p>71 appeals were rejected.</p>
Appeals submitted to Israeli Supreme Court (all administrative detention cases)	12	<p>3 appeals were removed as administrative detention order would not be renewed;</p> <p>In 3 appeals, it was agreed that the administrative detention order would be extended only 1 time (in 2 cases for 2 months and in 1 case for 4 months);</p> <p>3 appeals were cancelled because the Israeli Intelligence Services stated its intention of renewing the detention order;</p> <p>3 appeals were rejected.</p>
Appeals submitted by the Israeli military prosecution	14	<p>2 appeals against the court ruling were rejected and the ruling remained the same;</p> <p>3 appeals to release detainees on bail were</p>

		rejected and the detainees were released; 9 appeals were submitted regarding administrative detention orders (3 appeals were accepted, 3 were switched from substantial reductions to unsubstantial reductions, 2 were rejected and the detainees were released, and 1 was pulled by the prosecution)
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During 2007, Addameer’s lawyers followed up an average of 1,261 court sessions before Israeli military courts. Given the high rate of court sessions, lawyers spend the majority of their time in, and travelling to, Israeli military courts or civil courts. This has directly affected the implementation of the prison visit program (prisons and detention centres), as well as the implementation of monitoring violations in Palestinian Authority prisons and detention centres.

The following table shows the number of sessions (court hearings) attended by Addameer lawyers during 2007, distributed according to type of procedure, and the achievements made in these sessions:

Table (4)
No. of Sessions by Type of Procedures & Achievements

Type of Procedure	No. of Sessions	Result / Outcome
<p><u>Extension of Detention</u></p> <p>*In accordance with the military orders, the judge has the right to extend the detention for 30 days every time. At this stage, a bill of indictment is usually submitted if the detainee is not referred to interrogation within a short period of time.</p>	324	<p>12 detainees were released on bail pending their court cases.</p> <p>1 detainee was released after the lawyer requested a psychiatric evaluation to confirm that the detainee was not responsible for his actions.</p> <p>The detention of 9 detainees was reduced from that originally requested by the Police following legal intervention. Periods of detention were decreased by 2 to 14 days.</p>

		<p>The remaining sessions were extension of detention to refer detainees to interrogation or to submit a bill of indictment. Usually, the lawyer and the military prosecution agree on a certain period of time.</p>
<p><u>Extension of Detention during Interrogation</u></p> <p>*The judge has the right to extend the detention period for 30 days each time, up to 90 days before a bill of indictment is submitted. The period can be extended to 90 additional days with the approval of the legal advisor and a decision by the head of the military appellate court.</p>	<p>106</p>	<p>2 detainees were released following our intervention.</p> <p>The Intelligence Services requested the extension of one detainee for 15 days. Following our intervention, the extension period was reduced from 15 to 12 days.</p> <p>In 34 cases, the military judge extended the period of interrogation for a shorter time than that requested by the Israeli Intelligence Services following legal intervention. Interrogation was reduced by 3 days to 2 weeks.</p> <p>The remaining extensions were either to end the interrogation or to submit the files to the prosecution to submit bills of indictments.</p>
<p><u>Trial Procedures</u> (not including extension hearings)</p>	<p>743</p>	<p>74 detainees were sentenced by plea bargain. Usually in these bargains, the lawyers try to amend the bills of indictment and to reach the least possible sentence.</p> <p>4 detainees were released after the prosecution accepted that the sentence would cover the detention period already served prior to sentencing.</p>

		<p>11 detainees were sentenced after arguing the cases, all of them ended with sentences less than what the prosecution asked for.</p>
<p><u>Confirmation of Administrative Detention Orders</u></p> <p>*The military commander has the right to issue an administrative detention order for a maximum period of 6 months. He can renew the order several times, without specification.</p>	<p>88</p>	<p>The administrative detention order of 56 detainees was confirmed as issued by the military commander.</p> <p>The detention order for 16 administrative detainees was unsubstantially reduced.</p> <p>The detention order for 6 administrative detainees was substantially reduced (cannot be renewed unless there is new evidence).</p> <p>The judge decided to cancel the detention order for 4.</p> <p>The detention order for 3 administrative detainees was reduced in order to bring charges against the detainee.</p> <p>The detention hearing for 3 detainees was postponed.</p>

Specific Human Rights Cases

As part of the activities determined in this strategic goal, Addameer set as its objective the follow-up of 50 specific human rights cases during 2008, primarily cases related to the conditions of detention/imprisonment. Addameer was able to follow up on 16 cases, all regarding medical care, including cases that have been carried over from previous years or which have been referred to the organisation. Of the 16

cases taken by Addameer, all but one³ were visited by lawyers to collect information on prisoners and detainees health conditions and ensure the provision of medical treatment by the Israeli prison authorities. 12 of the cases were referred to health organisations to follow up on, primarily Physicians for Human Rights, to obtain medical records and determine whether clients were receiving appropriate medical treatment. In 3 of the cases, the lawyer discovered during the visit that there was no need for medical intervention because the detainee was already receiving the required care. In 4 instances, Addameer visited detainees who were subject to torture in order to obtain medical releases for follow up by another organisation.

Local and International Complaints

During 2007, Addameer submitted a total of 20 complaints to the Israeli authorities regarding various issues regarding the arrest process or on behalf of past prisoners. In its operational plan, it was hoped to submit 30 local complaints and 10 international complaints – however, due to the huge workload facing lawyers and the lack of financial and human resources experienced during 2007, Addameer was not able to meet this target completely. The majority of the complaints that were received by Addameer were for legal representation.

On the international level, Addameer participated in a one-day training course for staff involved in documenting human rights violations. The training focused on raising efficiency in documentation through the collection of affidavits that comply with international legal standards and procedures. Staff were trained on taking and writing affidavits and preparing complaints and a special work guidebook was developed. Additionally, a consultant on international law was contracted by the organisation to specifically design forms and assist staff on the preparation of complaints to UN agencies, including the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and has prepared a format for the preparation of shadow reports to the Human Rights Council and the Committee Against Torture. While complaints were not submitted by the end of 2007, collection of information was begun in preparation for submissions during 2008.

³ Upon attempting to visit his client, Addameer's lawyer found that he had been transferred to another prison.

On the local level, the majority of legal complaints filed by Addameer lawyers were focused on violations against detainees during arrest, detention or interrogation, or while transporting detainees to court, including destruction, theft or confiscation of property. In other cases, complaints are related to violations against the families of Palestinian detainees or prisoners, primarily the denial of family visits. Addameer also continued to take on complaints on behalf of former detainees who have been denied the right to travel, in particular for medical treatment.

The following table details the complaints submitted by Addameer during 2007 to the Israeli authorities:

Table (5)
Complaints Submitted by Addameer during 2007 and Results

Nature of Complaint	Number submitted	Details and Results of Complaint
Destruction of Property	1	House demolition – no response to complaint yet.
Theft or confiscation of property	6	5 – details were requested by the Israeli authorities, details provided regarding items stolen or confiscated; no response to complaint yet. 1 – Investigation of confiscated items is ongoing.
Prevention of family visits	3	1 – for father prevented from visiting; were informed that the ICRC must follow up. 1 – no response; another request was sent. 1 – no response.
Travel Ban against Previous Prisoners	2	1 – permitted to travel one time for medical treatment 1 – no response
Beating and torture	2	1 – international agency witnessed a boy being beaten during arrest; details of incident, including identification number of the soldier provided; complaint closed due to “lack of public interest”. 1 – no response to complaint.
General violations (including against lawyers)	3	1 – complaint against Kishon Detention Centre for giving false information regarding a detainee – lawyer was told that there was a ban on legal visits when there was not. 1 – complaint to appeal court against a judge of first instance for administrative detention case; lawyer waited 3 hours for judge to appear, judge did not appear and lawyer had to leave to attend another court session; judge later claimed that the lawyer was not at court.

		1 – Palestinian detainee Ayman Mabrouk was arrested illegally – he had been injured during confrontations and lawyers were informed that he was being held at the prison hospital, but with no order to extend his detention or an administrative detention order. Detainee was released after the complaint was filed.
Complaints to ensure rights	3	1 – request for medical files of a prisoner not previously represented by Addameer in order to appeal for release based on medical conditions after serving two-thirds of his sentence. 1- prisoner from the Golan Heights was being held in Bir al Sabe, a considerable distance away from his family. A request was filed for him to be moved to a facility closer to his family. He was transferred to a closer facility before the case went to court. 1 – request for medical file as detainee was provided with wrong medicine whilst in detention; awaiting file.

Open Cases

The total number of legal cases remaining open at the end of 2007 and transferred for legal follow up in 2008 are 172, distributed as follows:

Table (6)
Distribution of Open Legal Cases

Type of Case	No. of Cases
Trial Procedures	134
Interrogation	10
Detention	6
Administrative Detention	21
Appeals against Court Rulings	1
Total	172

Output 1.2: Provision of Legal and Rights Counselling Services

The Legal Aid Unit and the Public Service Unit both provide detainees and their families with rights counselling services. Lawyers provide legal counselling on bills of indictment, trial procedures, and penalties, counselling which often takes place in

court. The association cannot monitor these cases, but rather documents the cases received by it directly. In accordance with the annual report, the association should provide legal counselling to 20 cases. In 2007, legal counselling was provided to 11 families of detainees, including advice on bills of indictment following legal review and offering an approximation of possible conviction, and explanation of a detainee's legal situation.

Rights Counselling offered by the organisation includes the advising on the following areas:

- Determining the place of detention;
- Detention procedures;
- Prison visits;
- Rights of the detainee or the family;
- Nature of the organizations that provide services to detainees.

During 2007, Addameer provided rights counselling to **258** cases, exceeding its expected target for the year of 160 cases. Provision of counselling was provided as follows:

Table (7)
Distribution of Rights Counselling by Type

Nature of Counselling	Number
Place of Detention	21
Detention Procedures (including periods of detention, when extension hearings take place, etc.)	136
Legal situation (i.e. how long the detainee can be held)	38
Referral to other agencies (e.g. referring families to the ICRC to apply for visit permits, etc.)	29
Rights of the detainee or family members (e.g. when can families visit, how to visit, what can be brought to a prison visit, etc.)	34
TOTAL	258

Output 1.3: Improve the observation, documentation, and publication of violations of human rights against Palestinian detainees

Addameer continued to provide documentation and reports monitoring human rights violations against Palestinian detainees and prisoners throughout 2007. The Public Service Unit, which was responsible for this aspect of activities at the organisation prior to the creation of the Research and Documentation and Advocacy Unit in mid-2007, followed-up regularly with lawyers to collect information. Special questionnaires were developed to facilitate the collection of information by lawyers regarding interrogation, torture, periods of detention, and conditions of detention. Visits to prisons, interrogation and detention centres were conducted 105 times during the year, slightly below the identified annual target of 120 visits, with approximately 220 prisoners and detainees visited by Addameer lawyers. In March 2007, realising that it would be unable to meet its target of 120 visits, Addameer hired a lawyer specifically to implement visits to prisons, filling a crucial gap in which Addameer previously did not have the resources to fill.⁴

The Public Service Unit and the Media and Studies Unit prepared the first bi-annual report on violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees, released on 15 April 2007, on the occasion of Palestinian Prisoner's Day. The report was launched during a press conference, a format which Addameer has previously not used in the past for report launches. It proved to be extremely effective and garnered coverage from various media centers, satellite channels, and local newspaper and television stations. The second annual report was completed at the end of 2007, but is currently being revised and prepared for publication. Throughout the course of the year, a number of smaller reports were prepared by the Public Service Unit, including a small paper on the conditions at Damon Prison, health conditions in Israeli prisons, in particular Ramleh Prison, and a brief analysis of the situation of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees. Additional reports completed in coordination with the Advocacy Unit included a report on Palestinian female prisoners, child detainees, and a report on the treatment of families of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

⁴ For a full breakdown of prison visits, please refer to Annex 2 and Annex 3.

As part of the strategic review process during the second part of the year, two new units were developed in order to address the advocacy and documentation needs of the organisation more adequately. The Media and Studies Unit was replaced by the Research and Documentation Unit, a new Training and Awareness Unit was developed, in addition to an Advocacy Unit. An advocacy coordinator was hired in late August 2007 to begin work on identified campaigns at Addameer, including the Campaign Against Administrative Detention. Additionally, several reports were completed during the year highlighting various aspects of violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

A comprehensive paper regarding the role of the ICRC was prepared in 2007 and is currently under review for publication in 2008. The paper highlights some of the difficulties encountered by families while receiving services from the ICRC and makes recommendations on how the situation can be improved. In the course of preparing the paper, Addameer met with ICRC representatives 3 times to discuss its findings, including with the protection coordinator and the family visits coordinator. These visits proved extremely productive in building stronger relationships with the ICRC and addressing the concerns of families and prisoners. During visits, Addameer provided information to delegates regarding 90 cases of prisoners and detainees requiring medical attention, in addition to facilitating meetings with families and the ICRC doctor to collect information on cases of medical negligence.

The Media & Studies Unit prepared, in cooperation with Physicians for Human Rights, a study on the Palestinian detainees held in **solitary confinement** in Israeli prisons. The study was presented for a conference organized by the Palestinian Detainees Support Committee and Adalah - the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel - at Tel Aviv University on 08 January 2007. The study underwent a comprehensive review by all agencies involved, in particular regarding the psychological impact of solitary confinement on detainees. The report was completed by the end of 2007 and is currently being prepared for publication. Additionally, a comprehensive report was prepared regarding the situation of lawyers defending Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including a description of the obstacles faced by lawyers and the arbitrary military legal system within which they work.

A report on the use of administrative detention was completed in 2007 to support the campaign against administrative detention that is planned to be launched in 2008. It was hoped that the campaign would be launched by mid-2007, but as a result of the internal emergency situation that prevailed in the OPT during this period, it was decided to postpone the campaign until next year in order to deal with the emergency more effectively. The campaign has been designed and the production of a documentary film to support the campaign is being organised.

In cooperation with the Palestinian Counselling Center and the Mandela Institute, Addameer began work on a project funded by UNIFEM regarding female political prisoners. The project aims to draw attention to the special circumstances of female prisoners, highlighting their cases and raising public awareness regarding the issue. In line with this, Addameer developed a database specifically for female prisoners and is cooperating with its partner organisations to document information regarding their conditions of imprisonment, sentences, and particular aspects of their social situation. A questionnaire was developed for visits to female prisoners and their families which is currently being used to collate information and analysed by Addameer. As more information is received, Addameer will publish it on a special campaign website, which was also developed in 2007, which will build on additional campaign activities.

As part of its regular awareness raising activities, Addameer provides regular information to visiting groups and local and international agencies regarding the situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. It received a number of delegations of international activists who visit the Occupied Palestinian Territory with the aim of supporting the Palestinian people through the civil society movement. These delegations usually consist of academics, human rights activists, and sometimes parliament members. Addameer provides delegations with its reports and publications and discusses the importance of their role in exerting pressure on their governments to take a serious position to bring the Israeli occupation and the prisoners' file to an end. During 2007, Addameer hosted 13 delegations, consisting of 8-15 people, including delegations from France, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, the US, Spain, Basque Country, and the UK. Additionally, Addameer hosted

a group of US lawyers who travelled to the OPT to observe the military trial of Ahmad Sa'adat, abducted by Israeli forces from the PA Jericho Prison in March 2006.

Addameer provided regular information throughout the year to various organisations and agencies regarding statistics of prisoners and detainees, lists of prisoners, medical cases, affidavits, administrative detention cases, and other information. They held lectures and activities on the Palestinian prisoners and detainees' issue to support local initiatives. More than 120 persons from France are currently taking part in letter-writing campaigns to female prisoners and have been provided with a new file prepared on female prisoners and their families. The file includes televised interviews with some families. The association also submitted a report to the British Parliament on the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members, former ministers, and Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. The parliament has undertaken a campaign for gathering signatures demanding their release. Additionally, Addameer's director conducted a tour of Spain and the Basque Country in cooperation with its partner, Solidaridad Internacional, to give lectures and support campaigns regarding the situation of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Additionally, met with the Special Rapporteur on the OPT, Professor John Dugard, to provide information on Palestinian political prisoners, in addition to the Special Rapporteur on Terror.

The association provided the Representatives of Ireland, Switzerland, Holland, South Africa, Canada, the European Commission, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNIFEM, and the Carter Center for Human Rights, with information and reports about Palestinian prisoners and detainees, especially women prisoners, administrative detainees, and children prisoners. It also provided regular information to human rights agencies, including updates to Amnesty International, HaMoked, Btselem, the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counselling, Women in Black, and the Union of Health Work Committees. Additionally, Addameer facilitated meetings with ex-detainees and families of prisoners for various groups, including students from the University of Washington producing a film on Palestinian prisoners. It also supported 11 student groups from local universities requesting information on political prisoners, particularly female prisoners, juveniles, and administrative detainees.

The association participated with several of its funding partners, such as ICCO & Christian Aid in their advocacy and lobbying campaigns pertaining to human rights violations against the Palestinian people. It participated in a workshop organized by Christian Aid (CA) to develop a joint principles paper focused on the concept of human rights in presenting solutions to the conflict. It also participated in a workshop organized by the ICCO to lay down strategies pertaining to protecting human rights defenders whose rights are violated in accordance with the mechanisms of the European Union (EU), in coordination with the Irish Representative.

During the reporting period, the association published four press releases and held two press conferences related to the prisoners' issue. The association also held a workshop on the legality of kidnapping Palestinian detainees from Jericho Central Prison last year. The workshop was broadcast live on Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel & Watan, a local TV station.

Output 1.4: Increase public awareness of the rights of prisoners and detainees and their families

Addameer's past experience in raising public awareness of the rights of prisoners and their families has been extremely successful. However, in order to assess the impact of its programming, it was necessary to evaluate past activities, in particular in the field of its Know Your Rights program. An evaluation took place during the second half of 2007, and recommendations for improving activities were taken into consideration. However, Addameer suffered a delay in forming the Awareness and Training Unit, responsible for conducting these activities, as a result of the funding crisis it experienced during the first part of the year and the resignation of one of its employees. The Unit was formed in August 2007, and began undertaking activities in this field. However, as a result the expected target of 500 people raising their awareness on the rights of prisoners and detainees and their families was not met.

Despite these setbacks, a series of 3 Know Your Rights public forums were held in late 2007 in Jerusalem (70 participants), Ramallah (27 participants), and Hebron (18 participants). The forums were organised in coordination with local committees and

groups of families of detainees and prisoners, and the response to activities was high. The Ramallah forum was the first to be held in over 3 years; in Jerusalem, the majority of attendees were law students who had not had previous experience in the area of prisoners and detainees; and in Hebron, turnout was higher than expected given that the Israeli military imposed a curfew on the city the day of the event. An evaluation of the forums took place, and the program was redesigned based on input from participants to be implemented in 2008.

Addameer undertook a review of its “Know Your Rights” guide and revised it according to new military regulations, in particular relating to residents of the Gaza Strip, and printed 3000 copies of the new guide. The guide is distributed to visitors to the organisation as well as during public forums and all public events. A new guide on administrative detention was also developed, reflecting new Israeli military regulations, and will be published to coincide with the administrative detention campaign in 2008.

The Media and Studies Unit carried out various other activities related to raising awareness of prisoners' rights. The association participated, in cooperation with the Human Rights Committee at the Bar Association in Wales & Britain, in a workshop for lawyers on the use of UN mechanisms. Addameer held a specialized workshop on the mechanisms of coordination for prison visits, the role of lawyers in documenting violations against Palestinian prisoners, how and what information should be documented, and what prisoners' rights include according to international standards. Eighteen lawyers participated in this training workshop and the association received a thank you letter from the Human Rights Committee, confirming that the evaluation of trainees was very positive and that the workshop was the best amongst others held as an introduction to training participants on the use of UN mechanisms.

Addameer conducted a number of activities to support the families of Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including a campaign to provide school-bags for the children of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. A 4-day summer camp was also organised in July 2007 for prisoners' children aged 11-15 years old in Jenin. The purpose of the camp was to provide a social and educational space for children to express themselves and to deal with psycho-social issues related to the imprisonment of their

loved ones. Activities included writing sessions with a psychologist that taught children how to write about their experiences during the arrest of their parent or during prison visits in order to deal with traumas the children suffered and to build a connection between them and their parent. An ICRC delegate also participated in the camp during the last day, offering information to children and their parents about their rights during prison visits. A total number of 19 children participated in the summer camp.

Later in the year, during the 'Eid al Adha holiday, Addameer held a series of two children's play workshops for the children of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees. The activities were conducted in coordination with the Progressive Youth Union in Jeruslaem, where 50 children participated in the event, including a play performed by Al Sanabel al Quds, and in Ramallah with the Palestinian Prisoners' Committee, where approximately 250 people participated. The workshops offered an opportunity for children to express themselves through play and performance, and develop links with other children in similar circumstances.

4. Strategic Objective 2: Increase the commitment of Palestinian security apparatuses to abiding by laws and regulations pertaining to arrest, detention, and imprisonment in accordance with international human rights law

The realisation of this strategic objective has been severely hampered given the continued political crisis existing in the OPT. Following the storming of Jericho Prison in March 2006 and until mid-2007, there were no political prisoners being held by the Palestinian Authority. However, with the internal strife that took place between Hamas and Fatah and the declaration of the state of emergency, this situation has changed. Addameer took on 24 cases of political arrest by the Palestinian Authority during 2007, but in each case was denied access to detainees, despite repeated requests to the various security agencies and the Palestinian Ministry of Justice. The Palestinian Preventive Security held a day for organisations to inform them on procedures for visits, but despite following the stated regulations, the organisation was still denied access to visit detainees. Addameer was limited to collecting affidavits regarding the use of torture from those detainees who have been released, and passing on this information to ICRC delegates.

Output 2.1: Continuous and systematic monitoring of Palestinian prisons and detention centres

Since the declaration of the state of emergency in July 2007, Addameer has had to shift its priorities regarding monitoring of Palestinian prisons and detention centres, given its continued denial of access to prisoners and detainees. To address the prevailing situation, Addameer and several other civil society organisations, in particular human rights organisations formed a special coalition to follow up on the situation of human rights in light of the state of emergency. One aspect of Addameer's role in the coalition is to receive complaints regarding torture and arrest by the Palestinian Authority and through the coalition take up these cases.

The coalition has had limited successes to date regarding access to detention centres, but continues to coordinate with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice

to allow institutions in the coalition to conduct inspection visits to prisons and detention centres and facilities. Several letters have been written to the ministries and a meeting was held with the Minister of Interior to discuss arrests and restrictions on rights. The Minister promised delegates that they would be allowed to visit upon a submission of a request to his office. However, to date, there has been no reply to the request and no visits have been permitted. The coalition also addressed the issue of the closure of Palestinian non-governmental agencies during the state of emergency, and Addameer participated in bringing 2 cases to the Palestinian Court of Justice regarding the closure of organisations. The response received from the Ministry of Interior stated that the organisations were closed due to problems of registration, and not for political reasons.

In August 2007, Addameer participated in a regional conference with 13 participating countries coordinated by APT to develop mechanisms to monitor the use of torture in detention and interrogation centres following the coming into force of the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture. As a result of the ongoing emergency in the OPT, Palestinian organisations agreed that a coalition would be created to monitor Palestinian detention centres. The coalition includes the Palestinian Independent Commission on Citizen's Rights, the only institution with an official mandate to visit detention centres, as well as experts in the field of psychology, lawyers and other professionals qualified to monitor and document the use of torture. Two meetings have been held to discuss the development of the coalition in 2008.

Due to the fact that there were no political prisoners in Palestinian Authority prisons from March 2006 until the beginning of the year, Addameer shifted its priority to focus on abolishing the death penalty. The association, in cooperation with Al-Haq and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR), formed a nucleus for a local coalition against the death penalty. A research paper was prepared on the death penalty in the Palestinian legislation. It was submitted in a regional conference held in Amman, with the participation of eight Arab countries, under the auspices of the International Commission for Criminal Reform. It was announced that a regional coalition against death penalty would be formed. The Palestinian coalition worked in 2007 to develop a local work plan in compliance with the regional plan, which was ratified in Amman. The coalition held 4 meetings to

develop the draft plan of action, and invited 17 organisations to approve the plan in 2008 to begin implementation of activities. On 10 October, the international day to abolish the death penalty, the coalition held a TV symposium with 4 debaters from different aspects of Palestinian society to discuss the issue of the death penalty. Additional activities regarding abolishing the death penalty will be postponed until the local coalition program is approved.

Output 2.2: Contribute to the formulation of regulations and codes to govern the implementation of the Reform and Rehabilitation Law

The outputs of this strategic goal have been limited given the continued suspension of the Palestinian Legislative Council since 2006. However, Addameer has conducted activities in this realm, primarily in the form of conducting preliminary research on the Reform and Rehabilitation Law, whether it is in compliance with international legal standards, and providing legal review. Addameer found that the law is in fact compliant with international standards, but lacks internal regulations for the implementation of the law. Additionally, the Palestinian Authority is limited in its resources to implement the law, as the majority of its prisons have been destroyed as a result of Israeli military attacks (including its 3 central prisons in Ramallah, Nablus and Jericho) with no financial resources to rebuild them.

Addameer coordinated with the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR), who have also been working on the Reform and Rehabilitation Law, to develop work on this issue. Addameer participated in a specialized workshop organised by PICCR in April 2007 with the directorate of the reform and rehabilitation centres. Following the workshop, in May 2007, Addameer and PICCR agreed to coordinate to develop recommendations for the international regulations to implement the Reform and Rehabilitation Law, with PICCR preparing a preliminary draft and Addameer reviewing the draft and working on advocacy and lobbying within the Palestinian Legislative Council and the community at large. However, due to the political upheavals in June 2007 resulting in a state of emergency and the breakdown of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), implementation was postponed. Work on the law will be re-evaluated during 2008.

5. Strategic Objective 3: Raise public and institutional awareness of civil and political rights

The newly formed Training and Awareness Unit is directly responsible for achieving this strategic goal. As previously mentioned, due to the financial and administrative situation, the unit was not formed until July 2007, limiting the scope of its activities for the year. The program will provide training to 50 youth leaders whose rights are being violated.

Output 3.1: Provide individuals and groups with information and knowledge of their rights as stipulated by existing laws

It was envisioned that work in this area, specifically implementation of the ADDAMA'ER project would be well underway during 2007. However, due to the lack of funding for the project and insufficient human resources, implementation has been limited. After the creation of the Training and Awareness Unit, work began on setting up the program and developing a questionnaire for applicants. Introductory meetings were held with local groups and universities throughout the West Bank to present the project and gauge interest. The response was very positive. An implementation plan was developed towards the end of the year in order to begin selecting 50 participants at the beginning of 2008 and launching the program.

Output 3.2: Build the capacity of Palestinian lawyers to integrate international human rights standards in their work

One of the strengths of Addameer is its long standing experience in working within Israeli military courts and its reputation for challenging the military system to ensure fair trials to detainees. This has placed Addameer in an ideal position to develop the capacities of Palestinian lawyers to improve their performance and efficiency in the military courts. Building on its past training experience, Addameer offered a 30-hour training program beginning in May 2007 on the laws and procedures used in Israeli military courts. Eight lawyers participated in the training program.

A comprehensive evaluation of the training program showed that participants were highly satisfied with both the content and the form of the training. Several of the lawyers highlighted the fact that they have used the information gained through the training in their defence before the military court, which was confirmed by regular follow-up of trainees. The primary criticism of the training course was that there was not enough time to cover all of the areas involved in the military court system, with trainees feeling that they would have benefited from additional training. Additionally, participants suggested that training being provided in other part of the West Bank and that a training manual be developed.

It was hoped that an additional training program would be provided during 2007, but as a result of lack of financial and human resources, this was not possible. However, based on the evaluations conducted, Addameer developed its training program to provide an intermediate level training course, in addition to the beginner's training already developed. Additionally, a training manual was developed for both levels of the course. Training for both levels will commence in 2008.

6. Strategic Objective 4: Build the capacities of Addameer towards achieving its objectives

The realisation of this strategic objective posed a serious challenge to Addameer, as it was subject to a funding crisis carried over from 2006 similar to that of many agencies in the OPT resulting from continued political instability. However, despite this crisis, Addameer has been able to sustain its activities and develop its funding base throughout the year. Crucially, the organisation undertook a review of its strategic planning process in light of its difficulties in implementing certain aspects of its programming. The process has assisted in identifying new priorities in light of the changing circumstances on the ground, and developed the possibility for further growth of Addameer.

Output 4.1: Develop the internal policies and procedures of the organisation

In 2007, an organisational performance review was conducted, with the results of the assessment provided to Addameer in September 2007, as summarised above. Based on recommendations made in the evaluation, Addameer held a workshop to review its annual plan and to develop measurement indicators in compliance with its goals and activities in preparation for a review of its strategic plan for 2008-2010. Meetings to discuss the strategic planning review began in October 2007, with 7 of Addameer's 9-member Board of Directors participating in the process. A consultant was hired in order to guide Addameer through the strategic review process, and assist the organisation in assessing its programs and develop its projects for the next planning cycle. This required that she work closely with Addameer staff and lawyers to assess areas of improvement, identify short-term and long-term goals with the organisation, and develop activities accordingly. She also worked with staff to develop their capacity in documentation and international advocacy. The strategic planning process was completed at the end of December 2007, and revisions to the strategic planning document were completed in 2008, during which the Board of Directors and General Assembly will meet to discuss and approve the revisions.

As part of its review, the association determined that the units of the organisation should be restructured to reflect the nature of the work being conducted by the organisation. As a result, the Media and Studies Unit and the Public Service Unit were replaced by the Research and Documentation Unit and the Advocacy and Media Unit. The remaining units, including Training and Awareness, Legal Aid, and Administration and Finance Units, remained the same.

Significantly, on 27 April 2007, Addameer held its first General Assembly meeting in several years to re-elect new members and to elect a new Board of Directors. The number of General Assembly members was expanded to 24, from which a 9-member Board of Directors was also elected. The current Board of Directors includes 3 women. Prior to April 2007, the old Board of Directors met twice, after which the new Board of Directors met 7 times.

The Administrative and Finance Unit prepared work guidebooks for the financial and administrative procedures, in accordance with NGO guidelines developed by the Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO). Based on recommendations made during the General Assembly meeting in April 2007, a financial and administrative system was developed and was found to be compliant with PNGO guidelines. All of the remaining work guidebooks have now been revised for each of the units in order to reflect the work of each unit, and are pending approval by Addameer's Board of Directors, which will meet in April 2008.

A review of job descriptions and the development of new positions were undertaken during the strategic planning process, with the assistance of a consultant, as was the establishment of a new salary scale. Additionally, the establishment bylaws of Addameer were reviewed. All documents are pending approval by the General Assembly in April 2008, after which they will become operational.

Output 4.2: Improve the financial base and resources of the organization

Throughout the year, Addameer held a number of meetings with international agencies to develop networks of new funding possibilities, including five meetings

with potential funders who have expressed interest in supporting the work of the organisation. One of the largest new funders was Mu'assassat, which provided substantial core funding to Addameer. Additionally, new core funding was received from Ireland Aid and support for a project on female political prisoners was received from UNIFEM. However, Addameer has also focused on developing existing relationships with funders, and to that end has succeeded in ensuring continued, and on some levels, increased support from existing partners. This has come as a result of partnership with ICCO, Christian Aid, Solidaridad Internacional, The Welfare Association, and the Union of Health Work Committees. Without the continued support of its partners, Addameer would not have been able to continue its work, allowing it to move out of its financial crisis and double its budget from 2006. Two of our existing donors have also signed new contracts to support the organisation for an additional three years.

In order to develop the portfolio of Addameer, a new brochure was developed to update the activities of the organisation, in addition to a media packet regarding the work of the organisation. The information will be printed once the strategic planning process has been approved by the General Assembly in 2008.

Addameer's director participated in a speaking tour in late 2007 sponsored by our partner Solidaridad Internacional (SI). The tour included numerous speaking engagements throughout Spain and the Basque Country, attendance of a conference on female political prisoners, and offering a lecture as part of a summer university course on the history of the issue of Palestinian political prisoners in relation to the struggle for national liberation. The trip helped support campaigns conducted by SI branches to support political prisoners and detainees, as well as offer an opportunity for Addameer to develop funding possibilities, including meeting with the Spanish Cooperation. SI will also expand its support of Addameer's projects to cover a four year period of increased activities. Shortly after the speaking tour, Addameer's director was the keynote speaker at the World Council of Churches annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.

Output 4.3: Improve the professional capacities of staff

Addameer believes that its strongest asset is its staff. Supporting and developing staff is one of the fundamental means to developing the organisation and ensuring that they are carrying out their work to the highest possible degree. Staff development is highly encouraged, and training opportunities are given wherever possible. Staff assessment of training needs was ongoing during 2007. This year, staff members participated in a number of training activities to develop their capacity. The director and another staff member began a diploma program in NGO Administration given by the Center for Continuing Education (CCE). The senior lawyer of the organisation, also responsible for giving training to Palestinian lawyers on the military court system, undertook an intensive training course on International Humanitarian Law and participated in a training of trainers program. He also participated, along with the coordinator of the Training and Awareness Unit, in a training course sponsored by the Office for the High Commissioner on Human Rights on UN mechanisms protecting human rights, held both in the OPT and Geneva, Switzerland. The coordinator of the Research and Documentation Unit participated in a workshop on torture and documentation of violations. Staff evaluation forms were developed in late 2007 to assess the performance of team members; evaluations will be conducted at the beginning of 2008.

Attempts were made throughout 2007 to identify a larger office space that would meet the growing needs of the organisation. Surveys of new locations were conducted and by the end of 2007, new facilities were finally identified in December. However, the move did not take place until February 2008. Additional equipment was purchased in 2007 to also meet the needs of staff, including 2 new laptop computers, an LCD projector to facilitate training of lawyers and to conduct audio-visual presentations, and a new telephone system and telephone line was installed to alleviate the burden on existing lines.

7. Appendices

Annex 1: Rapid Survey of Addameer Beneficiaries

In late 2007, Addameer conducted a survey of a sample of 51 beneficiaries to determine satisfaction with services provided by the organisation. The survey sample was asked a series of questions, indicated below:

Question	Very Good	Good	Not Good	Very Bad
How were you received by the team?	29	20	2	
Were you satisfied overall with the follow up by the team?	28	17	4	2
Were you satisfied with your lawyer?	20	17	10	4
Question	YES	NO		
Did the organisation provide you with the information you needed?	47	4		
Did staff inform you regularly about what was happening with your case?	40	11		
Could you meet and speak with your lawyer?	31	20		
Did your lawyer give you details about what was happening with the case?	31	20		

Of those surveyed, 7 beneficiaries pulled their cases from the organisation, giving the following reasons:

1 had been provided with a different lawyer, 1 had found an organisation closer to their home, 1 because Addameer did not have offices in their city, 1 because the detainee had requested a new lawyer, 1 because the service received was inadequate, 1 because they felt the lawyer was not good, and 1 because they had not contact with the lawyer.

Annex 2: Number of Visits by type of facility (prison, detention centre and interrogation centre)

	Central Prisons																			Military Detention Centers						Interrogation Centers				T O T A L			
	Ofer	Shate'	Gilbo'a	Megiddo	Al Damon	Ashmorit – Kfar Yona	HaSharon-Rimonim	HaSharon – Telmond Juveniles	HaSharon – Telmond Women	HaSharon (Male)	Hadarim	Netsan–Al Ramleh	Ayalon–Al Ramleh	Neve Tertzza (Al Ramleh-Women)	Al Ramleh Prison Hospital - Marash	Shikma–'Asqalan- Al Majdal	Ohali Kedar–Bir al Sabe'	Eshal–Bir al Sabe'	Diykal–Bir al Sabe'	Nafha	Rimon	Al Naqab / Keztziot	Salem	Kedummim	Huwarra	Binyamin - Ofer	Etzion	Erez	Al Jalami - Kishon		Petakh Tikva	Al Muscobbijeh	'Asqalan
Jan										1																				4		5	
Feb																													1	3		4	
Mar			1				1	1	1	1	1						1									2				3		12	
Apr	1			1						1											1	1								4	1	10	
May			1		1					1	1					1												1	1	1	1	9	
Jun		1		1						1							1	1											1	1	1	8	
Jul	1		1				1	1		1												1								3	1	10	
Aug		1						1	1	2					1						1		1						1	1		10	
Sept				1	1							1						1		1										1		6	
Oct	1	1								1		1				1	1				1	1						1		2		11	
Nov							1	1							1							1	2		1					5		12	
Dec	1		1	1						1	1		1																2			8	
TOTAL	4	3	4	4	2	0	0	3	4	5	9	1	3	0	2	2	1	4	0	1	2	4	4	0	1	0	2	0	2	6	28	4	105
TOTAL	58																					7						40				105	

Annex 3: Number of Prisoners and Detainees visited in each facility

	Central Prisons																		Military Detention Centers						Interrogation Centers				T O T A L				
	Ofer	Shate'	Gilbo'a	Megiddo	Al Damon	Ashmorit - Kfar Yona	HaSharon-Rimonim	HaSharon - Telmond Juveniles	HaSharon - Telmond Women	HaSharon (Male)	Hadarim	Netsan-Al Ramleh	Ayalon-Al Ramleh	Neve Tertzza (Al Ramleh-Women)	Al Ramleh Prison Hospital - Marash	Shikma-'Asqalan- Al Majdal	Ohali Kedar-Bir al Sabe'	Eshal-Bir al Sabe'	Diykal-Bir al Sabe'	Nafha	Rimon	Al Naqab / Ketziot	Salem	Kedummim	Huwarra	Binyamin - Ofer	Etzion	Erez		Al Jalami - Kishon	Petakh Tikva	Al Muscobbijeh	'Asqalan
Jan										2																				6		8	
Feb																													1	4		5	
Mar			4				3	5	4		3						3										4			3		29	
Apr	3			4						1											3	5								7	2	25	
May			4		3				3	1					2													1	1	1	2	18	
Jun		3		4					3							1	3												1		1	16	
Jul	3		4				2	1		3												3								4	1	21	
Aug		4							8	1				3							5		2						1	2		26	
Sept				4	3							5					3		4											3		22	
Oct	4	2								3					1		4					3	1					2		3		23	
Nov							5	4						2								2	3							1		17	
Dec	4		3							2																			1			10	
TOTAL	14	9	15	12	6	0	0	10	10	18	13	3	5	0	5	3	1	13	0	4	8	13	6	0	0	0	4	0	3	5	34	6	220
TOTAL	162																					10						48				220	

Annex 4: Annual comparison of number of visits to prisons, interrogation centres and detention centres

INTERROGATION CENTERS	2006	2007
Petakh Tikva	6	6
Al Jalami - Kishon	8	2
'Asqalan Interrogation	3	4
Al Muscobbiyeh	43	28
TOTAL	60	40
DETENTION CENTERS	2006	2007
Etzion	0	2
Kedummim	0	0
Binyamin - Ofer	0	0
Huwarra	0	1
Salem	0	4
TOTAL	0	7
CENTRAL PRISONS	2006	2007
Ofer	2	4
Shate'	2	3
Gilbo'a	4	4
Megiddo	2	4
Al Damon	1	2
HaSharon - Telmond Juveniles	2	3
HaSharon – Telmond Women	4	4
HaSharon (Male)	3	5
Hadarim	6	9
Netsan–Al Ramleh	2	1
Ayalon–Al Ramleh	1	3
Neve Tertza (Al Ramleh-Women)	1	0
Al Ramleh Prison Hospital - Marash	4	2
Shikma–'Asqelan- Al Majdal	5	2
Ohali Kedar–Bir al Sabe'	3	1
Eshal–Bir al Sabe'	3	4
Nafha	3	1
Rimon	1	2
Al Naqab / Ketziot	2	4
TOTAL	51	58

