

## Quarterly Newsletter — April to June 2016

Throughout this quarter, April through June 2016, Addameer has documented ongoing human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners and detainees amidst the current escalation, which began in the beginning of October 2015. Administrative detention continues as a policy which deprives detainees of trials, access to evidence, and the chance to defend themselves against any formal charges. Key issues persistently include the detention and ill treatment of women, child prisoners and ongoing detention of journalists, Jerusalemites and human rights defenders. Addameer holds that the fulfillment of human rights and humanitarian law standards is crucial, and that ill treatment, torture, and arbitrary detention are grave violations of those standards.


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### Detention in Numbers

This quarter, from January to March 2016, arrests and detention continue on a large scale by Israeli occupation forces. At the beginning of April 2016, there were approximately 7000 Palestinian political prisoners, including approximately 750 administrative detainees (the highest since Oct 2015). At the end of May 2016, there were approximately 7000 Palestinian political prisoners, including approximately 715 administrative detainees, signifying a slight decrease in the total number of administrative detainees.

### Detainee Bilal Kayed on Hunger Strike



Bilal Kayed, a 35-year-old Palestinian from Nablus was arrested in 2002 and sentenced to 14 and a half years. He had been placed in isolation in Rimon prison since September 2015 until his scheduled release. Bilal was set to be released on 13 June 2016 after completing his sentence. However, a 6-month administrative detention order was issued against him on the same day, immediately after which he was placed back in isolation. Mr. Kayed has been on hunger strike since 15 June 2016 in protest of his detention without charge or trial.

The reason behind Mr. Kayed's hunger strike is primarily administrative detention but also his continued isolation. Mr. Kayed reported to Addameer attorney Farah Bayadsi that he has exhausted all judicial remedies with regards to his isolation and administrative detention and that he will continue his hunger strike without any negotiations. Mr. Kayed's main demand is to be immediately released. Mr. Kayed's health condition is deteriorating. He is losing weight, feeling dizziness, physical exhaustion and drowsiness, and suffers from redness in the eyes. He is only consuming water, without even salt supplements.

The administrative detention of Bilal Kayed exemplifies the arbitrary nature of the policy as practiced by Israeli occupation forces. Administrative detention is based on a "secret file" and is often used to detain Palestinians in the absence of adequate evidence or charges against them. In the case of Bilal Kayed, who has served 14 and a half years in prison, the last several months of which have been under isolation, it is unlikely that Bilal Kayed's release would pose a threat to the security of the occupying state. Mr. Kayed has had little contact with the outside world so the "secret file" on the grounds of which he is being detained is unlikely to contain information about any legitimate security concerns.

### Administrative Detention Order Issued Against Addameer's Media Coordinator Hasan Safadi



A 6-month administrative detention order (starting from 10/06 — 09/12/2016) has been issued against Addameer Media Coordinator Hasan Safadi, who has been under interrogation for forty days. Safadi was set to be released on 10 June 2016 based on a decision from the Magistrate Court in Jerusalem, on a bail of 2500 NIS and third-party guarantees, which have already been paid. Later on the same day, Israeli Minister Avigdor Lieberman signed an administrative detention order against Safadi, which effectively overrode the court's decision for his release.

Safadi was arrested while crossing Al Karameh Bridge to go home on (01/05/2016) where he was detained at around 4.00 PM and then was transferred to Al Moskobiyyeh Interrogation Center. The public prosecution claimed that Safadi is affiliated with an illegal organization and has visited an enemy state more than one time. It also claimed that he has illegal activities without specifying the details of these activities. His detention exemplifies the practice of issuing administrative detention order in the absence of adequate evidence and charges against the detainee to keep him or her in detention.

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### Arrest and Detention of Palestinian Journalists

The *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders* defines human rights defenders as individuals who play an important role in furthering the cause of human rights through activities such as the documentation of violations, providing support and assistance to victims seeking remedies, combating cultures of impunity and mainstreaming human rights culture and information on an international and domestic level. Human Rights Defenders in the occupied Palestinian territory face various types of harassment and rights violations by the occupation forces, irrespective of the protection afforded to them in international conventions, and particularly the *Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*.



Since October 2015, the occupation forces intensified prosecution of human rights defenders in the occupied Palestinian territory, aiming to silence and persecute them for their role in exposing violations and crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people. The occupation forces continue to violate the rights of Palestinian journalists. The Israeli occupation forces arrested 8 Palestinian journalists since the beginning of 2016, bringing the number of journalists detained in Israeli jails to 21 journalists.

These arrests and prosecutions reached dozens of correspondents, local cameramen, photographers, as well as members of the press, many of whom were detained under administrative detention orders; this includes Addameer colleague and Media Coordinator [Hasan Safadi](#), who was arrested on 01/05/2016 while crossing Al-Karameh bridge and was placed under administrative detention, after 40 days of interrogation. Additionally, [Omar Nazzal](#) was also arrested while en route to participation in the European Federation of Journalists General Meeting on 23/04/2016. Mr. Nazzal was placed under administrative detention set to end on 22 August 2016.

Journalists are being targeted due to their efforts to document Israeli violations, including its practices of land confiscation, house demolitions and movement restrictions on the Palestinian population. The occupation authorities carry out these practices in criminalizing the work of journalists in exposing the daily crimes of the occupation against Palestinians, despite international standards that guarantee the freedom of expression and the rights to free speech, as well as the internationally codified freedom to carry out their professions – in violation of article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees each individual's right to work in the freedom to choose their profession.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association condemns the continued and systematic targeting and arrests of journalists. Addameer considers journalists to be human rights defenders in accordance with the *UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders*, which characterizes the following as activities of human rights defenders: (a) *Collecting and disseminating information on violations*; (b) *investigating, gathering information regarding and report on human rights violations*; (c) *investigating and reporting on violations to help end ongoing violations*. Thus, the persecution of journalists hinders dissemination of information on human rights violations currently taking place in occupied Palestine, and constitutes repression of press freedom as well as freedom of speech.

### This Year's Palestinian Prisoners' Day

On this year's Palestinian Prisoners' Day, Addameer along with the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC) called for an end to ongoing collective punishment by Israeli occupation forces in the form of mass arrest campaigns, rapidly increasing use of administrative detention, continued denial of fair trial, and illegal transfer and deportation of detainees. Addameer highlighted Israeli torture of Palestinian political prisoners that historically been endemic and various forms of physical and psychological torture and ill-treatment, including beatings, kicking, insults, being forced into stress positions, sleep deprivation, isolation and solitary confinement, threats of sexual violence, and threats of arrest of family members.

Addameer's message this year aimed at highlighting the recent mass arrest campaigns that began in October 2015, following the renewal of large-scale demonstrations across the Occupied Territories. The latest escalation in violence unfolds against the backdrop of unrelenting Israeli land confiscation and settlement construction, accompanied by ongoing violence and intimidation by Israeli soldiers and armed settlers. Addameer also highlighted the increase in extrajudicial executions of Palestinians, many of whom, video recordings and eye witness accounts indicate, posed no threat to the lives of others. The frequency of such incidents suggests a shoot-to-kill policy as well as excessive lethal force in contravention with international law, and with continued impunity. Furthermore, the bodies of extrajudicially executed Palestinians continue to be withheld by Israeli authorities as a tool of collective punishment. This practice is gravely humiliating and degrading to the families of the deceased, who are then denied their rights to practice burial in accordance with their own religious and traditional norms.

Addameer called on people to stand united regarding the issue of Palestinian political prisoners and called for an end to Israeli violations of Palestinian rights. As Israel acts with ever growing contempt for international law and the will of the international community, action was now needed more than ever. We demanded that the Israeli government refrain from abuses against Palestinians, including sweeping arrest campaigns and violations of prisoners' rights.



Sahar speaking to diplomats at event held on 21/04/2016.

Adv. Francis Mats and a joint with Al-Haq and DCI held April 21.

Addameer, along with other partners, organized several activities and events locally and internationally, including stands of solidarity with political prisoners in Palestine and different countries. Additionally, Addameer along with Al-Haq Organization and Defense For Children International (DCI) organized an event on 21 April 2016, aimed at discussing the conditions of Palestinian political prisoners and to highlight the alarming situation that has developed since October 2015 with diplomats, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other international organizations.



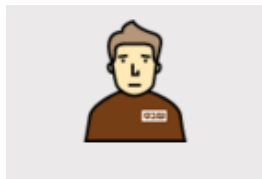
group in protesting Palestine-Prisoners

A solidarity London on an Day.

# Quarterly Newsletter — April to June 2016

## Child Detention

The quarter has witnessed persisting violations against children. Approximately 700 Palestinian children under the age of 18 from the occupied territories are prosecuted every year. The most common charge levied against children is throwing stones, a crime that is punishable under military law by up to 20 years in prison. From April to June, the occupation forces have arrested Palestinian children systematically, and within arrest campaigns of collective punishment. These children were subjected to different forms of psychological and physical torture, systematically being interrogated in the absence of their parents and/or attorneys.



Month	Number of Palestinian Children held
April 2016	438
May 2016	414
June 2016	330

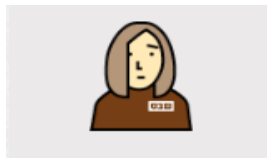
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Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Israel on 3 October 1991, states in article 37 that "No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." The article also states that "No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily" and that detention, imprisonment or arrest should be used only as a last resort.

\*UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1989, United Nations

## Imprisonment of Women and Girls

This quarter has witnessed persisting violations against women and girls inside Israeli prisons and detention centers. The Research and Documentation Unit at Addameer met with several women and girls and they indicated that they experienced human rights violations, ill treatment and abuses during interrogation and while in detention. The treatment of Palestinian women and girls during their arrest and detention contravenes the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, ratified by Israel on 3 October 1991, which emphasizes "that the eradication of apartheid, all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States is essential to the full enjoyment of the rights of men and women."



The following table shows the numbers of Palestinian female prisoners at the beginning of each month of the quarter.

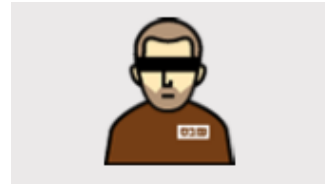
\* UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of*

Month	Number of Female Prisoners
April 2016	70
May 2016	70
June 2016	64

*Discrimination Against Women*, 1979, United Nations

## Stop Administrative Detention!

This quarter, January through March 2016, administrative detention continues as a policy practiced by Israeli occupation forces.



**Administrative detention** is a procedure that allows the Israeli military to hold prisoners indefinitely on secret information without charging them or allowing them to stand trial. Administrative detention is used almost exclusively to detain Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT), which includes the West Bank including East Jerusalem. Additionally, the Internment of Unlawful Combatants Law (Unlawful Combatants Law), has been used against residents of the Gaza Strip since 2005, holding individuals without charge or trial for unlimited periods.

### Administrative Detention this quarter in numbers

The following numbers are documented administrative detainees at the onset of each month:

*There has been an alarming increase in administrative detention since October 2015, which has persisted from January to March 2016. The systematic use of*

Month	No. held under administrative detention
April 2016	750
May 2016	715
June 2016	750

*administrative detention has resulted in hunger strikes by administrative detainees being held without charge or trial for extended periods. One recent case was that of Palestinian hunger striker Bilal Kayed (see page 1).*

On the occasion of International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Addameer published a factsheet titled "[Induced Desperation: The Psychological Torture of Administrative Detention](#)," which addresses the ways in which administrative detention constitutes an act of mental suffering inflicted by Israeli occupation authorities as a form of punishment, intimidation, or coercion, as defined by the Convention Against Torture. As there has been an escalation in the use of administrative detention by the occupation authorities, Addameer also called on activists and people of conscience to stand in solidarity with all political prisoners and to join Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association's global campaign to [#StopAdministrativeDetention](#).

Addameer holds that the government of Israel should end the policy of administrative detention and to release all administrative detainees, and in the meantime, all administrative detainees must be granted their rights in accordance with international law. The United Nations Committee Against Torture (CAT), in its concluding observations on 13 May 2016, called on the Israeli government to "[t]ake the measures necessary to end the practice of administrative detention and ensure that all persons who are currently held in administrative detention are afforded all basic legal safeguards."

### Case Study: Mohammad Abu Sakha

The Administrative detention of Palestinian circus trainer and performer Mohammad Abu Sakha has been renewed for an additional 6 months, from 13 June 2016 to 12 December 2016. Administrative detention orders may be renewed indefinitely. Mohammad Abu Sakha was arrested on 14/12/2015 at around 4:00 pm while he was crossing Zaatarah military checkpoint near Nablus to go to his work in Birzeit village, near Ramallah. Abu Sakha has been with the Palestinian Circus School since 2007. The initial six-month administrative detention order was issued against Abu Sakha starting from 25/12/2015 was set to end on 13/06/2016.



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### Human Rights and Awareness Raising Activities

*This quarter, Addameer's Training and Awareness Unit carried out several activities to bring about increased knowledge on issues related to prisoner's rights and international human rights law.*

Addameer's attorney Farah Bayadsi giving a "Know your Rights"



session on 18 April 2016 in Al-Fawwar refugee camp in Hebron.

Addameer Training and Awareness Unit carries out "Know your Rights" session on 17 April 2016 in Silwad village near Ramallah.



Addameer Training and Awareness Unit's Addamaer group in Al-Aroub refugee camp distributed water and dates to local people in order to raise awareness about prisoners, especially the case of



hunger striking detainee Bilal Kayed.



On 5 May 2016, Addameer group in Hebron organized the "First Prisoners' Marathon" to raise awareness about political prisoners. The event was attended by more than 400 people.

In May 2016, Addameer (with the support of SODEPAZ) hosted a group of solidarity from



different Latin American countries as well as the Basque country, to share their experiences and to create bonds of solidarity between them and the Palestinian people.

Addameer's legal researcher Rasha Abbas speaking about the conditions of political prisoners at an event in Birzeit, near Ramallah.



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### Palestinian Legislative Council Member Khalida Jarrar Released



The release of Palestinian Legislative Council Member Khalida Jarrar took place on Friday, 3 June 2016. The Palestinian Legislative Council member had been detained since 2 April 2015 when Israeli occupation forces surrounded her house in Al-Ersal neighborhood in Ramallah. After destroying the main entrance, they raided Jarrar's home, where she was residing with her husband.

She was initially placed under administrative detention and received a 6-month administrative detention order on Sunday, 5 April 2015. Arguably following international outcry and public pressure, her administrative detention order was subsequently limited to end on 04 May 2015. A list of charges was issued against her on 15 April 2015. The twelve charges against her revolved around her role as a Palestinian Legislative Council member and political leader and for her campaigning for prisoners. Like the trials of many Palestinians in Israeli military court, which has cited a 99.74% conviction rate as its latest published figure, the trial of Mrs. Jarrar was marked by fair trial violations, including [prolonging trial by failure to bring forth witnesses](#), prosecution's seeking use of secret evidence, violations of the right to prompt notice of charges, and [illegal transfer](#) from the occupied territory. Following a lack of trust in justice of the military court system, Mrs. Jarrar plead guilty to two of the 12 counts, and she was sentenced to 15 months in prison.

### Effective Travel Ban Imposed on Human Rights Defender Omar Barghouti



Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR), the Palestinian Human Rights Organisations Council (PHROC) and the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) have submitted a joint complaint to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights Defenders concerning the Israeli authorities travel ban imposed on Mr. Omar Barghouti and other adverse repercussions he has faced apparently due to his prominent involvement in the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Mr. Barghouti is a permanent resident of Israel and accordingly is required to renew his travel documents every two years. On 19 April 2016, Mr. Barghouti was informed by the Israeli Ministry of Interior that his request to renew his travel document had been rejected and that there had also been the rejection of a re-entry permit. The decision not to renew Mr Barghouti's travel documents appears to be a preliminary step to revoke his permanent residency. It has recently been confirmed by the Israeli government that revocation of his residency is currently under review by the attorney general. A central reason given for this review is because of his international travel to advocate for the BDS movement.

### UN Committee Against Torture Calls for an End to Administrative Detention



The UN Committee Against Torture reviewed the Israeli government on 2 - 4 May 2016, at the United Nations in Geneva. The committee had received several shadow reports on Israeli violations of the Convention Against Torture from at least ten NGOs, including Addameer - which highlighted policies including the systematic practice of torture and ill-treatment during arrest, interrogation, and detention by Israeli occupation forces, as well as the increasing use of administrative detention.

At the review session, Addameer raised concerns against the use of administrative detention - detention without charge or trial for indefinite periods based on secret information - which has been significantly escalating since October 2015. Addameer also argued that the use of administrative detention may constitute a form of psychological torture which may cause long-term depression and anxiety, due to the absence of trial or charge deemed the reason for the detention, the ability of Israeli authorities to renew the detention indefinitely, and the fact that an individual is unable to plan for future life prospects.

The Committee issued its concluding observations on Israel on 13 May 2016. The Committee calls on the Israeli government to: "Take the measures necessary to end the practice of administrative detention and ensure that all persons who are currently held in administrative detention are afforded all basic legal safeguards," and to "[t]ake the measures necessary to repeal the Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Law." The Committee also included in its observation numerous issues that were highlighted by human rights organizations including excessive use of force and punitive home demolitions. The Committee also called for the return of the bodies of deceased Palestinians, which have been withheld by Israeli authorities. The Committee addressed the escalating use of administrative detention against Palestinians, including children. The Committee also called for an end to the claim of necessity defense as a justification for the widespread and systematic use of torture. In the report, the Committee underlined that **torture is prohibited under the convention with no exceptions.**

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