

Monthly Newsletter — April 2020



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

Detention in Numbers

Since January 2020, **1521** Palestinians from the occupied territory were arrested including **228** children and **32** women. For the month of April, the number of new arrests was **197**.

As of the end of April 2020, there were:

4700 Palestinian political prisoners

400 of them administrative detainees

185 child detainees

39 female prisoners

7 Palestinian Legislative Council members.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

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U.S. PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY NETWORK PRESENTS

#PalestinianPrisonersDay

Live Talk From Palestine:
updates on Palestinian political prisoners

With Sahar Francis
Director of Addameer

Hear about the current demands and actions of Palestinian political prisoners, the threat of COVID-19, and the urgency to #FreeOurPrisoners now

Friday, April 17th, 2020 | 1:00 PM Central Time / 9:00 PM in Palestine
To be streamed live on USPCN Facebook: facebook.com/uspcn
Join our #PalestinianPrisonersDay twitter storm 2-4 PM (CT): twitter.com/uspcn

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Urgent Action: Free Our Prisoners

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

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

Call to Action:

- Take a short of video of yourself, less than one minute, express one or more of the listed demands for the campaign, and post it on your social media accounts. Use the hashtag #FreeOurPrisoners #COVID_19 and tag @Addameer in your post on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)
- Write to your local representatives, to members of the Parliament, members of the Congress, and even to your Forging Ministries. Inform them of the Palestinian prisoners' situation amid Covid-19 and ask them to act! Ask them to make the necessary communications, and make public statements to ensure the protection of prisoners.
- Write to the UNSPs/WGAD ask them to publicly urge the release of Palestinian prisoners and call for their protection during COVID-19.

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

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

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

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

Addameer and al-Haq sends an Urgent Appeal of UN Special Procedures

On 1 April 2020, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association and Al-Haq sent a joint urgent appeal to the United Nations (UN) Special Procedures regarding the rapidly deteriorating condition of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons in light of the continued spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Palestine and around the world. Addressed to five Special Procedures mandates, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, the organisations urgently requested intervention to uphold the right to health, safety, and well-being of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention, particularly as many are minors, chronically ill, vulnerable groups, or held under administrative detention in contravention of international law.

Addameer and Al-Haq urged the UN Special Procedures to intervene to guarantee the health and safety of Palestinian prisoners during the pandemic, and to:

- Call on Israel, the occupying power, to release all Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli prisons to ensure their safety from an uncontrolled COVID-19 spread, particularly those who are more vulnerable and more susceptible to the disease, including children, women, older persons, prisoners with underlying health conditions, and injured prisoners;
 - Further demand the release of all Palestinian political prisoners under administrative detention, who are detained indefinitely without charge or trial, in contravention of international law, and urge the release of all Palestinian political prisoners who are nearing the end of their sentences and/or should be released on probation, to reduce overcrowding in Israeli prisons;
 - Call on IPS to ensure the protection of all prisoners and uphold their right to the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination, by adopting the latest WHO guidance on preventing COVID-19 outbreak in prisons, and taking the necessary measures to prevent the spread of the pandemic in Israeli prisons; and
 - Urge IPS to install landlines in Israeli prisons and ensure the maintenance of family contacts for Palestinian prisoners through unmonitored phone or video calls between the prisoners and their families, especially while family visits continue to be suspended.
- To read the urgent appeal sent by Addameer and Al-Haq to the UN Special Procedures on 1 April 2020, see [here](#).

Civil Society on Palestinian Prisoners Day

On Palestinian Prisoners' Day, our organizations issue this urgent call for the immediate release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees from Israeli prisons, particularly those who are more susceptible to the pandemic, such as those who are chronically ill, in order to uphold their rights and to ensure their safety from a COVID-19 outbreak in Israeli prisons. Until such time as Palestinian prisoners and detainees are released, our organizations call on:

1. The IPS to:

- Install landlines in all Israeli prisons and detention centers and to ensure the maintenance of contact with family and legal representatives for Palestinian prisoners and detainees through unmonitored phone or video calls;
- Ensure adequate and independent access to medical care, hygiene facilities, and sanitary products for all prisoners and detainees;
- Publicly guarantee that it will eliminate the use of solitary confinement, an internationally recognized form of torture, as a means of managing the spread of COVID-19 in prisons and detention facilities; and
- Publicize all plans and policies to ensure the protection of all prisoners during the COVID-19 pandemic.



I. **The International Committee of the Red Cross** to continue to carry out visits to Israeli prisons and detention centers, to provide updates to families of Palestinian prisoners and detainees on detention conditions, to oversee and ensure the provision of the necessary healthcare for prisoners and detainees during the pandemic, and to call on IPS to adopt the relevant international guidelines for prevention of COVID-19 outbreak in Israeli prisons;

II. **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** to call on Israel, the occupying power, to release Palestinian prisoners and detainees in line with the guidelines issued by WHO, OHCHR, and relevant UN human rights experts on preventing COVID-19 outbreak in prisons and in light of additional calls made to specific States in this regard;

III. **Member States of the UN Human Rights Council** to call on Israel, the occupying power, to take urgent action in line with the above-mentioned guidelines, in particular to release Palestinian prisoners and detainees and to uphold their rights, in particular to the highest attainable standard of health, during the public health emergency; and

IV. **Third States, including the diplomatic community**, to call on Israel, the occupying power, to fulfil its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law with regard to its treatment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and to ensure their protection, particularly during COVID-19.

[Link to statement in six languages](#)

Addameer's Chairman of the Board of Directors—Abed al-Latief Ghaith

The Israeli Occupation Authorities renewed ban orders on travel and access to the West Bank from Jerusalem issued against Addameer's Chairman of the Board of Directors, Abed al-Lateif Ghaith. The order against his access to the West Bank is valid from 14 April 2020 until 13 October 2020, as for the travel ban it was also renewed for a six-month period ending on 18 October 2020.

It is worth mentioning that the ban order against Ghaith's access to the West Bank was first issued on 9 October 2011 and has been continually renewed since then. In fact, both orders against his travel and movement were constantly renewed since 2011.



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Ongoing Action

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

On Palestinian Prisoners' Day, 17 April 2020, we call on our allies, partners, friends and comrades to join us in an urgent campaign to free all Palestinian prisoners in order to protect them from COVID-19, particularly in light of the increased restrictions on their rights by the Israeli Prison Service.

Take Action:

URGENT

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

ACTION

- Write to your local representatives, to members of the Parliament, members of the Congress, and even to your Forging Ministries. Inform them of the Palestinian prisoners' situation amid Covid-19 and ask them to act! Ask them to make the necessary communications, and make public statements to ensure the protection of prisoners.

#FreeOurPrisoners@Addameer

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

Addameer's actions in numbers

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

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

Palestinian Prisoners Day

Addameer participated in a number of webinars & online events On 2020 Palestinian Prisoners Day:



- US Palestinian Community Network (USPCN) - Palestinian Prisoners Day livestream with Addameer.
- Jewish Voice for Peace Zoom Rally.
- Paz con Dignidad online seminar—Prisoners: the Pandemic does not understand walls or bars.
- Palestinian Solidarity Campaign online webinar on Palestinian prisoners and Child detainees.



Palestinian Prisoners' Day

17 April 2020

5000 Palestinian Prisoners Held in Israeli Occupation Prisons

95% of Palestinian Prisoners are Subjected to Torture and other Ill-treatment

432 Administrative Detainees Held in Israeli Occupation Prisons

183 Palestinian Children Held in Israeli Occupation Prisons

41 Palestinian Women Held in Israeli Occupation Prisons

Keep in touch!



www.addameer.org

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