

Quarterly Newsletter—July to September 2014

This quarter witnessed an unprecedented level of violence against Palestinians all over historic Palestine. On 2 July, a Palestinian child named Mohammad Abu Khdeir was burned alive by Israeli settlers. Shortly after, police repressed public demonstrations in Jerusalem by beating and arresting over 700 Palestinians in that month alone.

Israel also launched its latest war on Gaza, killing over 2,200 Palestinians and injuring thousands. The damage to the strip will take years to re-build.

Demonstrations in the 1948 territories erupted in July and August against the violence inflicted against the Palestinian people in Gaza and Jerusalem. They were met with brutal police force, including being trampled by horses and arrests en masse.

In the West Bank, Palestinians continue to be targeted in the largest arrest campaigns in years, with many being held under administrative detention.

This issue will delineate some of the key issues that the prisoners faced during these aggressions as well as provide videos and ways to support the prisoners.

Detention By Numbers

Approximately 3,000-3,500 Palestinians were arrested during this period. As of publication, there were 6,200 Palestinians being detained by Israel, of them 500 administrative detainees. This figure represents the highest number of Palestinians in detention since 2009.

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Re-Arrest of Addameer Legal Researcher, Ayman Nasser

Addameer's Legal Unit Coordinator Ayman Nasser was re-arrested from his home in the early hours of 18 September 2014 by the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF). Nasser, a human rights defender, has been repeatedly subject to deliberate attacks by the IOF especially in the last few years. In October 2012, Nasser was arrested from his home in the middle of the night and sentenced to 13 months for charges that revolved around his work as a legal researcher at Addameer and his support for Palestinian prisoners during their hunger strikes. He was out of detention for less than a year before his current arrest.

The confirmation of Nasser's order was delayed for about one month. His administrative detention was confirmed on 20 October 2014. He is detained without charge or trial based, based on secret information compiled from the Shabak.

Nasser is not only the Legal Coordinator for Addameer, but he also holds prominent community positions as the chairperson of an athletic club and an elected member of the local municipality. Nasser is also a founding member of the Handala Center, a cultural center located in his hometown Saffa.

During his last arrest, he addressed the military court saying:

"I believe that every human being has opinions and positions and if it's not violating the law he can freely think and speak these opinions. I am a human rights defender who supports the Palestinian prisoners and I represent my opinions in the public media. My thoughts are not secret, they are public, and everyone knows them."



Show your solidarity with Ayman Nasser by writing him a letter!

Ayman Naser

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Spike in Administrative Detention Orders

This quarter Addameer documented a doubling in both new administrative detention orders issued and the number of administrative detainees currently being detained. At the time of publication, 500 Palestinians were being held under administrative detention.

Administrative detention is a policy used by the Israeli authorities to allow Palestinians to be held without charge or trial indefinitely based on secret information. Due to the arbitrary nature of the policy, thousands of Palestinians have been detained under administrative detention since 1967. The majority of them being political leaders, university students and activists. Administrative detentions is a central issue for the prisoners movement, and the detainees have endured dozens of hunger strikes and other forms of protest over the years in an effort to curb the policy. Most recently, over 300 administrative detainees and other prisoners in solidarity underwent a 63-day hunger strike through this quarter demanding a change to the arbitrary arrest policy. This was the longest mass hunger strike in Palestinian history. They were met with brutal punishments including threats of force-feeding, beatings and shackling to their hospital beds for 24 hours a day.

The increased use of arrests of Palestinians under the administrative detention policy occurred shortly after the hunger strike ended. The increase in administrative detention after the hunger strikes can be seen as a retribution for the hunger strike, but also a statement by the IOF on their power and control in the West Bank. This is the highest number of administrative detainees held in over five years. The surge in administrative detention orders is a signal of more repressive attacks on the Palestinian community, especially activists and human rights defenders.

Of special concern is the use of secret information against administrative detainees that prohibits them and their lawyers from obtaining any information about the reason of arrest. The increased use of administrative detention points to the use of this policy to arbitrarily arrest Palestinians without reason. Considering the myriad of military orders that control every aspect of Palestinian life, an administrative detention order is a way to also curb any resistance or civil disobedience against the Israeli state.

Spotlight: Eteraf Rimawi

Eteraf Rimawi, the executive director of Bisan Center of Research was re-arrested on 15 September 2014. Bisan Cetner is a leading research organization on topics such as social development and economics. Rimawi was issued a 6-month administrative detention order upon his arrest. Rimawi is a 38-year old father of three who has been constantly targeted by the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) for the past twenty years. He was first arrested twice as a teenager in 1995 and 1996. His first administrative detention was at the height of the second Intifada in 2000, during which there were wide sweeping arbitrary arrests of Palestinians held without charge. Rimawi was put under administrative detention again in 2003 and 2008.

Rimawi's case is exemplary of the recurring arrests of Palestinian civil society leaders without any reason. Despite recurring administrative detention since 2000, the Israeli Occupying Forces have failed to charge him with any kind of offense. This alone illustrates the arbitrary and politically motivated nature of his arrests.



Administrative detention also has huge implications on the family of the detainee. In an interview with Addameer, Eteraf's wife Renad reflected on how the policy has affected her family and children:

"I don't really understand the idea of a secret file. What is in this file that I don't know about? It is even stated in the judge's decision that they didn't notice any involvement in activities recently; nor the existence of anything incriminating against him. But at the same time they say, "We think it's appropriate that he remains here". They are telling you that they have nothing, but at the same time he has to be in prison – I'm not able to comprehend that. This is what our children continue to ask about. "What has dad done?" they ask. So we read them the judge's decision and even they say that there is nothing in there. "Ok, how is it", they say, "that there's nothing against him but yet they say he has to remain with them?" "That is the life of any Palestinian person, they could place you into detention and it would be administrative", I reply."

Stop Administrative Detention Campaign!

Addameer has an ongoing international campaign against administrative detention. Find out more information, prisoner profiles, videos and resources at: www.stopadcampaign.com

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Arrests during the assault on Gaza

On 8 July, the IOF instigated another war on the Gaza Strip. Over 2,200 Palestinians were killed and 11,000 wounded in the attack, the majority of them women and children. During the ground invasion, approximately 150 Palestinians were arrested from Gaza arbitrarily and taken to unknown locations for several days before being released or transferred to other prisons. According to the affidavit of one detainee, IOF soldiers were rounding up Palestinians without even asking for their identification, thereby confirming the arbitrariness of their detention. They also confirmed that they were tortured and ill-treated during their detention, including stripped of their clothing and forced to stand in the sun for long periods.

During the assault, Addameer raised concerns that the detainees would be subject to Israel's "Unlawful Combatants Law," which allows for Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to be detained for an unlimited amount of time without being charged or brought to trial. The law is similar to administrative detention orders in the West Bank, but with even fewer protections granted to detainees.

At the time of this publication, one detainee was held under the Unlawful Combatants Law. Saleem Ibrahim

Suleiman Al-Najjar was arrested on 23 July from Khuza'a region in Gaza.

Twenty-four Palestinians who were arrested during the IOF ground invasion are still in detention at the time of this publication.

Demonstration across Palestine in protest of the brutal assault in Gaza resulted in mass arrests of Palestinians, especially youth. Overall, between 3,300–3,500 Palestinians were arrested from the 1948 territories, the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem. Approximately 850 of the arrests occurred in Jerusalem, the majority of them of youth under the age of 18 years old. Approximately 400 demonstrators were arrested in the 1948 territories. The remainder of the arrests were in the West Bank.



Activestills.org

Mass arrests in Jerusalem following murder of child Mohammad Abu Khdeir

On 2 July Mohammad Abu Khdeir, a 16-year old Palestinian child from Jerusalem, was kidnapped by Israeli settlers and brutally murdered as a retaliatory crime after the discovery of the bodies of three settler teenagers in Hebron. Mohammad's charred body was found in Deir Yassin forest in Jerusalem and autopsy reports indicated that he was beaten and burned alive.

Mass demonstrations and clashes broke out between the Palestinian community and the Israeli police after the murder. Hundreds of Palestinian children were arbitrary arrested, most for allegedly throwing stones and Molotov cocktails, and placed under house arrest. Addameer estimates that about 700 Palestinians, the majority of them children, were arrested during the month of July. While many of the children were released within the month on high bails, a majority of them were put under house arrest.

The Abu Khdeir family, who was in deep mourning, was also collectively punished by the Israeli authorities. The Israeli police raided their homes and arrested the majority of the male Abu Khdeir family members for at least interrogation.

A cousin of Mohammad, 16-year old Tareq Abu Khdeir (pictured right), was watching the clashes from a distance when he was arrested outside of his uncle's home by undercover Israeli police and brutally beaten while handcuffed. Tareq's case gained wide media coverage when a video of his arrest and beating was made public, as well as the fact that he holds US citizenship. Tareq was eventually released on bail and put under house arrest until his family returned to their home in Florida.

Addameer's lawyer Mohammad Ramsey represented Tareq Abu Khdeir and a majority of the children who were arrested in July. According to Adv. Ramsey, the surge in youth arrests in Jerusalem this summer was unprecedented.

Watch Tareq Abu Khdeir speak about his attack moments after his release [here](#).



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Palestinian Authority target students and journalists

Alongside the alarming increase in Israeli aggressions towards Palestinians during this quarter, Addameer also finds it important to highlight the increase in arrests and repression by the Palestinian Authority.

Particularly of concern is the targeting of students.

Although Addameer has had difficulty determining the number of political arrests for a number of reasons, including lack of official data as well as the PA considering political detainees as criminals, this quarter did see an increase in both interrogation summons and arrests. During the assault on Gaza, we documented 200 cases of individuals being summoned for interrogation by the PA security forces in the West Bank alone. Protests in solidarity with Gaza were also attacked by PA security forces.

Students at universities across the West Bank have specifically been targeted by the PA, mainly those who are associated with the Islamic bloc. Students can spend up to 15 days in interrogation and varying lengths of time in prison. They are often arrested and re-arrested just prior to examinations, hindering their ability to carry out their studies. Usually the students are charged with violations such as insulting the President or the PA itself, but their interrogation actually related to their political activities at the university.

In one case, Birzeit University journalism student Baraa Al-Qadi, was arrested on 14 September 2014 from his home and brought for interrogation by the PA security forces. He spent a total of ten days in detention with daily interrogation. During his interrogation he was questioned about some of the articles he had published as well as his posts on Facebook, which his interrogators produced. He was eventually released on bail on 24 September 2014 after paying 5,000 Jordanian dinars (JOD).

It is also common for students to be arrested by Israeli Occupation Forces once released by the PA and vice-versa.

Journalists have also been targeted, with at least 27 beaten, 11 interrogated, 7 banned from covering events and 2 arrested since the beginning of 2014.



Palestinian Authority police in riot gear suppress a demonstration to Beit El illegal settlement during the assault on Gaza 20 July 2014.

Addameer's Board of Directors continue to be targeted by the Occupation

Addameer's Board of Directors continues to be targeted by the Occupation with the renewal of chairperson Abdullatif Ghaith's travel ban as well as an expulsion order for Khalida Jarrar, who is also an elected Palestinian Legislative Council member. The harassment and restrictions placed on Addameer's Board is indicative of the occupation's attempt to curtail human rights work and advocacy about the Palestinian prisoners.

Abdullatif Ghaith's latest travel bans deny him from travelling to the West Bank for a period of six months, as well as internationally for five months. The travel bans which has been in place for over three years have severely restricted Ghaith's ability to carry out his work. Ghaith's travel bans never specify or justify their reasons, only citing that they continue to be renewed for the safety and security of the area. Ghaith is 72 years old and has been arrested multiple times by the occupation as well as

suffered from severe physical torture at their hands during interrogation.

Khalida Jarrar, was issued a military order for forcible transfer from Ramallah to Jericho for a period of six months when the IOF raided her home at 1:30 AM on 20 August 2014. The order did not state specific reasons for Jarrar's expulsion, and only vaguely eluded to the necessity of the order for "security reasons." Jarrar held a sit-in at the PLC offices in protest of the arbitrary military order. On 15 September, the order was commuted to one month and her sit-in at the PLC was considered to be an "exile" out of Ramallah, The decision to commute Jarrar's order was a direct result of the pressure mounted on her case but also shows the arbitrariness of the order, and how it was given as a punishment for Jarrar's continued work in defending the prisoners.

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Addameer News

Complaints filed to the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders

This quarter, Addameer filed three complaints on behalf of three human rights defenders, Mourad Shtwey, Bushra Al-Taweel and Shireen Issawi. The submissions were made jointly with our UK-based partner Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR).

Mourad Shtwey has been held in pre-trial detention since 29 April 2014, under the accusation of organizing demonstrations, causing public disturbance and stone-throwing. Shtewy is one of the coordinators of the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee in Kufr Qaddoum, and this is not the first time he has been targeted for his work as a human rights defender. In a past arrest in February 2014, he was arrested from his home in the middle of the night, abused and taken into interrogation where he was threatened by the IOF soldiers to stop the demonstrations immediately.

Shireen Issawi is a human rights lawyer and a prominent advocate for Palestinian prisoners rights. She was re-arrested on 6 March 2014 under accusations relating to cooperation with actors working against the state of Israel. Adv. Shireen is from East Jerusalem and has been highly involved in monitoring, documenting and advocating human rights violations committed by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian prisoners. She is also the sister of long-term hunger striker Samer Issawi, who was also re-arrested during intensified military incursions in Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem this summer.

Bushra Al-Taweel is a 21 year old female student and journalist who is also active in solidarity work on Palestinian prisoners issues. She volunteers for Aneen Al-Qaid news organization, the Prisoners Club and is a participant in a European Union sponsored project to document human rights violations. Al-Taweel was arrested on 2 July and is being detained under Military Order 1651, Article 186 under secret evidence which is not disclosed to her or her lawyer.

UN Advocacy

On 1-2 September, Adv. Mahmoud Hassan, head of the Legal Unit, attended a Consultation held by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on remedies and procedures to challenge the lawfulness of detention before the court.

On 8–12 September, Advocacy office Randa Wahbe attended the Human Rights Council session for the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. She met with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights defenders, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Middle East and North Africa office as well as spoke on a panel during a side event regarding Palestinian children.

Basque Country Speaking Tour

Director of Addameer, Sahar Francis, conducted a speaking tour in the Basque country which included meeting with the Bizkaria Bar Association, solidarity group Komite Internazionalistak, meeting with the Mayor of San Sebastian and the cooperation counselor, meeting with the Basque Political Prisoner Association, lectures, and participation in a summer course in Pampaloma.



Meeting in Kufr Qaddoum for a forthcoming Addameer film about the village.



Field researcher takes an affidavit from a former detainee.