

## Quarterly Newsletter—January to March 2014

On 29 March, the last phase of the prisoners release was slated to take place, in which thirty pre-Oslo prisoners were to be released. As part of the ongoing releases, which were to occur over the nine months of negotiations, 78 pre-Oslo prisoners have already been released since August 2014. However, none of the Palestinian citizens of Israel have been released, which comprise more than half of the last group of prisoners.

This issue of the quarterly newsletter will focus on the violations that have occurred since the beginning of 2014, despite the negotiations process, and despite the promised prisoner releases. In fact, the situation for Palestinian political prisoners has not changed. Since the beginning of the negotiations, 3,300 Palestinians have been arrested, 1,444 of them in this quarter between January and March. This quarter, there has been an influx of hunger strikes, mass administrative detention campaigns, and killings or injuries during arrest.

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### Detention By the Numbers

	January	February	March
Total No. of Prisoners	5023	5142	5224
Administrative Detainees	155	175	183
Children (under 16)	154 (14)	183 (20)	210 (28)

Statistics compiled from the Negotiations Support Unit and the Israeli Prison Service

### The Prisoners Releases

Preceding the initial prisoner's release, Addameer published a position paper on the implications and historical aspects of prisoner's releases. This paper can be viewed [here](#).

The first group of prisoners released on 13 August 2013 included fifteen prisoners from the Gaza Strip and eleven from the West Bank, excluding any from the Jerusalem or Palestinian citizens of Israel. Seventeen of them were serving one or more life sentences. Five prisoners were under the age of eighteen at the time of their arrest, and eleven spent more than half of their life in prison.

The second group of prisoners were released on 29 October 2013. Five prisoners from the Gaza Strip and twenty-one prisoners from the West Bank were released, again excluding Jerusalemites and 1948 prisoners.

The third group of prisoners were released on 30 December 2013 and included 26 prisoners; three from the Gaza Strip and 17 from the West Bank. Again prisoners from Jerusalem and the 1948 territories were excluded. This exchange included several prisoners who had been arrested after Oslo, meaning that Israel could indeed manipulate the fourth and final installment to continue to exclude some of the pre-Oslo prisoners; reneging on the deal that all the pre-Oslo prisoners will be released.

The fourth and final group of the prisoner's release, slated for 29 March 2014, was cancelled by the Israeli authorities.

There remain thirty Palestinian prisoners who were detained before Oslo, 21 of them who have life sentences and 15 of them who have already served more than 25 years. The remaining 30 pre-Oslo prisoners include 14 1948 Palestinians, such as Maher and Karim Younis, who were arrested in 1983, two from the Gaza Strip, one from Jerusalem and four from Jerusalem but with West Bank ID cards, and nine from the West Bank.



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### Death, Destruction and Detention: The Case of Mo'taz Washaha

This quarter has witnessed an alarming trend of deadly violence during the process of arrest, indicating the use of arrest as an opportunity to murder or injure Palestinians.

A prime example is the case of Mo'taz Washaha, 24 years old, who was murdered by the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) on 27 February in a deadly raid of his home in the Ramallah suburb of Birzeit.

In the early hours of 27 February, the IOF surrounded Washaha's home, accompanied by bulldozers and other heavy machinery, and demanded that Washaha surrender. For several hours, the IOF surrounded the home, firebombing it and ultimately bulldozing it with Washaha inside. Washaha was found with two bullet wounds in his heart, indicating that he had been shot to death during the raid and attack.



The Washaha home after the raid

During the siege on the Washaha home, the IOF arrested two others, Fadi Washaha, his cousin, and Samer Qaisi, a friend. Both were interrogated in the Moscobiyyeh interrogation center in Jerusalem and are still detained.

Fadi and Samer's families testified that the IOF raided the homes swiftly and arrested them, but did not threaten to destroy or demolish their homes. The stark contrast of the process of arrests of Fadi and Samer, which although still violent, were not accompanied by demolition equipment, indicates that there was intent to damage Mo'taz's family home and harm the family.

Washaha, an ex-prisoner, was first arrested in 2006 for one year, and initially given an administrative detention order before being charged and sentenced. He was arrested again in 1 January 2013 and sentenced to 5 and a half months for allegedly throwing stones in 2008 and 2012 during solidarity demonstrations for prisoners. He was released from prison seven months before he was murdered.

Mo'taz's family are still suffering from the traumatic effects of the arrest, and have been forced to relocate their home and cope with the tragedy of the brutal and cold-blooded murder of their son.

Mo'taz Washaha was murdered on the same day that Amnesty International released a report titled "[Trigger Happy](#)" which found that the IOF uses force that is

"unnecessary, arbitrary and abusive" against Palestinians. According to Amnesty International in 2013, at least 22 Palestinians have been killed, four of which were children. In the first three months of 2014 alone, at least 30 Palestinians have already been killed by IOF violence.

Addameer has gathered data that indicates a growing trend of violence against those like Mo'taz during their arrests, including against children.

On 31 January, 17 year-old Adam Halabiyeh and his cousin Johar (19 years old) were walking home in their neighborhood in Abu Dis after visiting a friend. As the boys passed a military base, only 400 meters away from the road, they were shot almost a dozen times, causing them to fall to the ground. As the boys started screaming, the soldiers exited the base accompanied by dogs, and started beating the boys, concentrating on their heads, as well as allowing the dogs to bite them.

The boys were badly injured and bleeding heavily, but the soldiers forced them to walk back to the army base. They were blindfolded and tied to chairs, but due to the injuries, the soldiers could not interrogate them, and they were rushed to the hospital. Johar sustained 11 gunshot wounds in both of his feet and left hand, an infected right hand from a dog bite, and wounds in the face, including stitches on the lip and head from being beaten. Adam has seven bullet holes in his foot, a broken foot and bruises on his face, abdomen and feet from the beatings.

Mahmoud Daraghmeh, a 30-year old student, was shot twice during his arrest in a raid of his home at 3:30 AM. His father and two brothers were also physically attacked during the raid. Daraghmeh was still detained despite his injury but released a month afterwards.



Mo'taz Washaha by cartoonist Nidal Al-Khairy. The cartoon depicts the continuation of "peace talks" despite the continued aggression towards Palestinians.

## Quarterly Newsletter—January to June 2013

### Individual Hunger Strikes Continue

Between January and March 2014, twenty Palestinian prisoners engaged in individual hunger strikes. Of them, 13 were protesting administrative detention policies. The profiles of the administrative detainees are detailed below.

**Akram Fasisi** engaged in a 70-day hunger strike from 9 January to 19 March in protest of his administrative detention. He suffers from poor health during his imprisonment due to a previous 59-day hunger strike in 2013. His administrative detention orders have been re-issued three times since his arrest in November 2012. According to the latest agreement, his administrative detention order will not be renewed, and he is slated to be released in August 2014.

**Mo'amar Banat** also engaged in a 70-day hunger strike from 9 January to 19 March in protest of administrative detention. The 26-year old from Arroub Refugee Camp has been held under administrative detention since 13 August 2013. According to the agreement with the IPS, he ended his hunger strike with the promise to be released in May 2014.

Both Banat and Fasisi told Addameer about the harsh conditions they faced during their administrative detention. They were put in isolation, had all of their belongings confiscated, denied family visits and recreational hours and were monitored 24-hours a day by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS). Most prisoners who engage in hunger strikes detail the extreme punitive measures taken against them to try to coerce them to end their strike, and ultimately, stop protesting the harsh conditions they suffer.

**Waheed Abu Maria** engaged in an 83-day hunger strike from 9 January to 1 April 2014 in protest of his administrative detention. Abu Maria has been under administrative detention since October 2012. Due to an agreement between his legal defense and the Military prosecution, his administrative detention will be extended until October 2014, but not renewed.

**Ibrahim Hamid** engaged in an 8 day hunger strike from 9 January to 16 January in protest of the policies of solitary confinement. He ended his hunger strike after an agreement with the IPS to guarantee that he will be in isolation for three months maximum.

**Ameer Shammas**, 22 years old, was on hunger strike in January in protest of his administrative detention. He started a hunger strike upon the second renewal of his administrative detention order. He was arbitrarily arrested in September 2013.

**Abdul Majeed Khdeirat** engaged in a 41-day hunger strike (15 January until 18 February) in protest of his re-arrest and the delay in his trial. Khdeirat, who was released in December 2011 as part of a prisoner's exchange, has been on hunger strike several times due to the continued delay in his trial. Khdeirat ended his strike after reaching a deal with the Military prosecution to be sentenced to thirty months with the possibility of reduction to 18 months based on the prison directors discretion.



**Yaser Mansour**, a PLC member from Nablus, engaged in a 7-day hunger strike (17 January – 23 January) in protest of his administrative detention. Mansour has been on administrative detention since 21 November 2012.

**Husam Omar** and **Mousa Sofian** engaged in a 32 day hunger strike (25 January – 26 February) in protest of isolation policies.

**Ahmad Abu Ras** engaged in an 18-day hunger strike (28 February – 18 March) in protest of his administrative detention. He was arrested on 2 January 2014. Abu Ras has had several previous arrests and was held in administrative detention for four months in 2011. He ended his hunger strike after reaching a deal with the IPS.

**Araf Hreibat** went on hunger strike for 19 days from 28 February to 19 March in protest of his administrative detention order. Hreibat, 28 years old, was a student when he was arrested. He has been arrested by the occupation three times previously, and was held in administrative detention from 2003 to 2005. He ended his current hunger strike when he made an agreement with the Israeli authorities to be released in 2014.

**Kifah Hattab** engaged in a 45-day hunger strike from 2 February to 19 March in protest of the IPS' failure to fulfill their duties and responsibilities towards the prisoners. Hattab was arrested in 2003 and has a life sentence for holding a leadership position in a political party. He has engaged in 16 hunger strikes between 2011 and 2014, each time demanding to be considered a prisoner of war. He ended his current strike in the promise that he would be considered a prisoner of war.

**Hatem Sabarneh**, **Ahmad Sabarneh** and **Shaher Al-Heeh** all engaged in one-week hunger strikes in solidarity with the administrative detainees.

**Mohammad Qashou'** engaged in a 6-day hunger strike from 2 to 7 March in protest of the IPS' denial of medical treatment for him. He is serving six life sentences and twenty years. Qashou' suffers from dental issues and ear pains, and is in need of surgery, but the IPS has refused to give him treatment. He ended his hunger strike after the IPS promised to give him treatment.

**Ahmad Khateeb** engaged in a 9-day hunger strike in protest of the Israeli military's interrogation practices, which usually include extensive torture and isolation of the prisoners. Khateeb was arrested on 16 March 2014. He is from Qalandia refugee camp.

**Dawoud Hamdan** and **Saleh Salahat** engaged in hunger strikes in protest of their administrative detention orders. They started their hunger strikes on 31 March 2014.

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### Current Hunger Strikes

**Ayman Tbeisheh** started his hunger strike on 28 February 2014. Tbeisheh has been on hunger strike several times due to his continued administrative detention.



At the time of publication, over 100 Palestinian administrative detainees have started a mass hunger strike in protest of the policy of administrative detention. This most recent mass hunger strike is in response to the 2012 hunger strikes that thousands of prisoners participated in, demanding the end of administrative detention, isolation policies, reinstatement of family visits and improvement in conditions. The IPS reneged on its agreement to these demands.

### Administrative Detention Arrest Campaigns

On the night of 4 March, IOF forces stormed Nablus and arrested five people: Ismat Shouli, Nabih Awwad, 'Assem Ahmad, Nidal Miflih and Muhannad Shahin. All five detainees were issued six-month administrative detention orders. Nabih Awwad, an ex-prisoner, has already been on administrative detention from 9 December 2009 to 9 December 2010.

Salem Badi was arrested from El-Bireh on 28 February and issued a 6-month administrative order. Badi has been on administrative detention several times and in total has been held under administrative detention for four years and three months. He first was held in administrative detention in 1988 at the age of 17.

Abdelrazzeq Farraj, an employee of the local NGO Health Workers Committee was arrested on 25 February and also given an administrative detention order.

At the end of March, there were 186 administrative detainees. Since the beginning of 2014, 142 prisoners have either had their administrative detention orders renewed, had been charged but then issued an administrative detention order based on secret evidence or issued a new administrative detention order. In the month of March alone, 38 administrative detention orders were issued, 11 of them for 6-month orders, the longest length of a single administrative detention order.



Join Addameer's Stop Administrative Detention Campaign! More information can be found [here](#).

### Attacks on Prisoners Organizations and Lawyers

This quarter witnessed the continuation of the Israeli policy of targeting of Palestinian civil society organizations in an attempt to suppress their important work in exposing the brutalities of the occupation and defending Palestinian rights.

On 25 February, the entire staff of Tadamon organization (the Solidarity Foundation for Human Rights) were arrested from their homes in a midnight raid in the Nablus area. Tadamon, based in Nablus, provides legal services to Palestinian political prisoners. Fares Abu Hasan, lawyer and director of the organization and , was arrested and interrogated in Pitah Tikvah interrogation center. Osama Maqboul , Ahmad Bitawi and the organization's secretary, Nirmeen Salem were also held in interrogation at Pitah Tikvah. Mohammad Abed, one of the organization's lawyers and a Palestinian citizen of Israel, was interrogated and detained in Jalameh Detention Center. All of the detainees were denied their right to a lawyer for twenty-five days. Since the arrests, only one staff member, Nirmeen, has been released as of publication. She was released on a 10,000 NIS bail and deported to Bethlehem area.

Tadamon organization has been permanently closed due to the Israeli authorities claiming that it is "illegal."

In addition, several lawyers who work on prisoner's issues have been arrested in the same time period. Shirien Issawi, the sister of former hunger striker Samer Issawi, was arrested on 6 March with her brother. They are still currently detained in the Moscobiyyeh Interrogation Center. Two weeks later, their brother Midhat Issawi was also arrested. The Issawi family has been subjected to heavy surveillance and violence since Samer Issawi's hunger strike.



Shireen Issawi holds the photo of her brother, Samer, an ex-detainee who was on a prolonged hunger strike in 2013.

Advocate Amjad Safadi was arrested on the same day from the prison where he was visiting a client. Safadi was detained for 45 days in interrogation until he was released to house arrest under a bail of 20,000 NIS. Moscobiyyeh, where he was interrogated, is known for its harsh and severe interrogation practices. Safadi was tortured in the prison, which was considered the primary reason why he took his own life five days after his release.

Three other lawyers from Jerusalem, Amro Skaifi, Nadeem Ghareeb and Mahmoud Abu Sneineh were also arrested days after Shireen Issawi's arrest. The Jerusalemite lawyers have all been accused of supporting terrorism through their professions.

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### Palestinian Legislative Council

At the end of this quarter, eleven Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) members continue to be detained. Mohammad Jamal Natsheh, Mahmoud Ramahi, Nizar Ramadan and Mohammad Bader all had their administrative detention orders renewed this quarter.

Three PLC members were released this quarter. Hassan Yousef was released on 14 January after serving a sentence of 28 months. Mohammad Totah was released on 15 January after serving a 24 month sentence. Totah holds a Jerusalem ID but has been deported to the West Bank and is not allowed to enter Jerusalem. Mohammad Al-Til was released on 3 February after serving a six-month administrative detention order.

Yasser Mansour went on a 12-day hunger strike from 17 – 23 January in protest of his administrative detention. He ended his hunger strike in promise that his administrative detention file would should be re-evaluated.

### Medical Negligence

Palestinian prisoners continue to suffer from medical negligence in the prisons. This quarter, Addameer took an affidavit from Kayed Salameh, a 23-year old prisoner from Askar Refugee Camp who is detained in Megiddo Prison. On 27 February 2014, Salameh accidentally slammed his fingers in the prison cell's bathroom door, causing heaving bleeding. Despite the heavy bleeding and severe pain, he was not taken to a hospital for an hour. He was transferred to Afoula Prison with shackles on his legs, and when he reached the hospital, the nurses and staff refused to treat him, saying that he would have to wait until the next day. He was not given any treatment, painkillers or antiseptics until the following day.

Kayed's incident illustrates the unsafe prison conditions that the prisoners live under. Kayed's hand was stuck in the door due to the protective rubber on the door being missing. Although he was ultimately transferred to a prison, he was shackled and accompanied by three guards and a security officer, continuously reminding him that he is a prisoner, and not a patient.

Delay in treatment or negligence is commonplace for the prisoners, oftentimes motivating them to self-treat or suffer in the prison instead of seek help from the prison authorities.

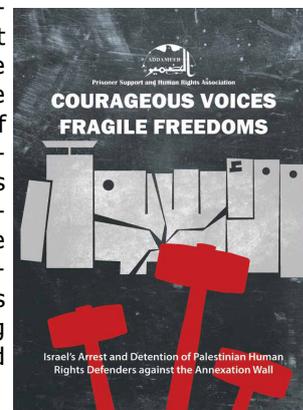
### Addameer News

This quarter was a busy one for Addameer. Our legal researcher continued his training on prison surveillance; attending the annual training and conferences held by Dignity: The Danish Institute against Torture.

Addameer's Advocacy Officer conducted a one month tour as part of Israel Apartheid Week in February/March, speaking in 19 cities across the UK, Scotland, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark and Italy. The speaking tour focused on giving first-hand accounts of Palestinian prisoners, as well as recruiting solidarity activists to join in the Stop G4S Campaign, which targets the British-Danish security company for providing services to the Israeli prisons.

On 19 and 20 March, a delegation from the European Parliament, headed by Irish MEP Emer Costello visited the West Bank to conduct a fact-finding mission in light of the recent arrest, torture and death of Palestinian detainee Arafat Jaradat. Despite the clear mandate of the mission, the Israeli authorities refused to cooperate and allow the mission to visit any of the prisons. The delegation called on the release of the pre-Oslo prisoners as agreed upon, as well as the release of PLC members.

In January 2014, Addameer released its latest report "Courageous Voices, Fragile Freedoms," which examines the increased arrest and detention of Palestinian human rights activists take part in demonstrations across the West Bank. The report is based on a questionnaire conducted by Addameer with ex-prisoners, community members and activists in 16 villages along the Annexation Wall. Download the report [here](#).



### This Quarter in Photos



Field researcher Muhannad Al-Azzeh takes affidavits from children who were arrested in Bethlehem area.



Director Sahar Francis providing training for students at the Legal Clinic in Al-Quds University