

URGENT ACTION

PALESTINIAN ACTIVIST IN ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

The Israeli district court in Jerusalem renewed Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi's administrative detention for six months on 11 June. The Palestinian human rights defender has been detained since 1 May 2016.

The Israeli district court in Jerusalem renewed **Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi's** administrative detention for six months on 11 June. Addameer Association's attorney Mahmoud Hassan said the court decision states that this is the last time the order will be renewed unless there is new and important evidence against him. Hasan Safadi, a 25-year-old resident of occupied East Jerusalem, is the Media Coordinator for the prisoners' rights group Addameer. He continues to be held in Ketziot prison, in southern Israel.

Hasan Safadi was originally arrested on 1 May 2016 by the Israeli authorities at al-Karameh border crossing between Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). This followed his return from a conference on justice and accountability in Lebanon. After his arrest, Hasan Safadi was interrogated for 40 days. He was denied access to his lawyer for the first 10 days. During a visit, he told his lawyer that he had been subjected to sleep deprivation and tied in stress positions during his interrogation.

On 10 June 2016, the Jerusalem Magistrates Court charged Hasan Safadi with visiting an "enemy" country, in this case Lebanon. On the same day, the court ordered Hasan Safadi's release after his parents paid bail of 2,500NIS (US\$ 650). However, as his parents waited for him, they were informed that he had been placed under a six-month administrative detention order signed by the defence minister Avigdor Lieberman.

On 27 October 2016, whilst being detained under that order, Hasan Safadi pled guilty to the charge of visiting an "enemy" country. He was sentenced the same day to three months and one day in prison. The sentence ran concurrently with his administrative detention order. Under usual circumstances Hasan Safadi would have been released in the first week of December 2016, however, on 7 December 2016 the defence minister issued another six-month administrative detention order against Hasan Safadi. He has been detained without charge since then.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- To release Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi, and all other administrative detainees, unless they are charged with recognizable criminal offences and tried promptly and fairly;
- To end their long-standing attacks on Palestinian human rights defenders and halt the harassment and intimidation of all human rights defenders in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories;
- To ensure a prompt and impartial investigation into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment.

Contact these two officials before 26 July, 2017:

Minister of Defence
Avigdor Liberman
Minister of Defence
37 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel
Fax: +972 73 323 3300
Email: aliberman@knesset.gov.il
Salutation: Dear Minister

Ambassador Ron Dermer
Embassy of Israel
3514 International Dr. NW
Washington DC 20008
T: 202.364.5500
Email: info@washington.mfa.gov.il
Twitter: @AmbDermer
Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On 1 May 2016, following his arrest by the Israeli authorities at the al-Karameh border crossing, Hasan Safadi was transferred to the Moscobiyyah police detention centre in Jerusalem. He was interrogated for 40 days there and at Ketziot prison. He told his lawyer that he was subjected to sleep deprivation and tied in stress positions during his interrogation sessions. This treatment violates the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. He was also denied access to his lawyer from 12 to 22 May. As with all cases of administrative detention, the “evidence” against Hasan Safadi is secret, and neither he nor his lawyer is allowed to review it. This violates a central tenet of fair trial standards. Moreover, although six months is the maximum period of detention for each order, there is no limit on how many times each order can be renewed.

Administrative detention – ostensibly introduced as an exceptional measure to detain people who pose an extreme and imminent danger to security – is used by Israel as an alternative to arresting, charging and prosecuting people suspected of criminal offences, or to detain people who should not have been arrested at all. Orders can be renewed indefinitely and evidence is kept secret, meaning that detainees are not able to effectively challenge their detention and do not know when they will be released. Amnesty International believes that some Palestinians held in administrative detention by Israel are prisoners of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression and association. Since October 2015, violence in Israel and the OPT has increased dramatically. As during other periods of heightened tension in the OPT, the Israeli authorities responded by carrying out mass arrests, and issuing more and more administrative detention orders, including a resumption of its use against children. According to the Israeli human rights organisation Hamoked as of the beginning of June 2017, there were 477 administrative detainees held without charge or trial by Israel.

All but one of the Israeli prisons holding Palestinian administrative detainees is located inside Israel. The detention of Palestinians from the OPT inside Israel violates international law. The Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates that detainees from occupied territories must be held in the occupied territory, not in the territory of the occupying power.

Amnesty International has documented an escalation of acts of intimidation by the Israeli government against human rights defenders (HRDs) in the OPT. Israel has also taken steps to curtail freedom of expression inside Israel with officials using intimidation to target HRDs. Recent legislative initiatives that are apparently aimed at constricting freedom of expression have gone hand in hand with an ever-darkening public mood against those who criticise the Israeli government.

Name: Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 154/16 Index: MDE 15/6487/2017 Issue Date: 14 June 2017