

URGENT ACTION

RELEASE AYMAN BANI OWDA IMMEDIATELY

Ayman Bani Owda, also known as Ayman Ghrayeb, Palestinian human rights defender and social worker from Tammoun (Tubas Governorate) in the occupied West Bank, is held without charges or trial in an Israeli jail outside the occupied territory for his human rights work. A father of four, Bani Owda has been arbitrarily detained by Israeli forces since November 17, 2025. An Israeli military court confirmed a six-month administrative detention order against him on December 14, 2025. Israeli authorities must immediately and unconditionally release him.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 15.26**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Maj. Gen. Avi Bluth

IDF Central Command

Fax: +972 2 530 5741, +972 2 530 5724

Email 1: pniot.tzibur@mail.idf.il

Email 2: yoayosh@idf.il

Brig. Gen. Orly Markman

IDF President of the Military Court of Appeals

Email 1: mazkirut_yvdz@idf.il

Email 2: 0747937910@court.gov.il

Send a copy of your message to the address below

CC: Israeli Embassy in the United States Ambassador Dr. Yechiel (Michael) Leiter

3514 International Drive, NW,
Washington DC 20008

Email: consular@washington.mfa.gov.il

X: @yechielleiter

Dear Maj. Gen. Avi Bluth and Brig. Gen. Orly Markman,

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release **Ayman Bani Owda**, a prominent Palestinian human rights defender and social worker, who is currently held in Gilboa prison in northern Israel.

On November 17, 2025, Ayman Bani Owda, a 43-year-old resident of the town of Tammoun (Tubas Governorate), was detained by the Israeli military when he arrived at the village of Fasayil to document the daily ordeals of a Palestinian community facing the imminent threat of forcible transfer.

For two days, Bani Owda was held incommunicado while Israeli police and the military denied holding him. After sustained pressure, the Israeli army disclosed that he had been held at the Samra military base in the Jordan Valley where he was kept outdoors, handcuffed, and physically assaulted.

On December 14, 2025, an Israeli military court upheld a six-month administrative detention order against him. He is among thousands of Palestinians held without charge or trial. He is being arbitrarily detained solely for his human rights work.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Ayman Bani Owda and in the meantime, ensure he is treated humanely and protected from any form of torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ayman Bani Owda, also known as Ayman Ghrayeb, is a 43-year-old human rights defender and grassroots activist from the city of Tammoun in the northern occupied West Bank. He is the co-founder of “Ikhilia Women Cooperative” and served as its board chair until his arrest. “Ikhilia” is a women-led association providing support to Palestinian agricultural workers and communities in the Jordan Valley. Ayman Bani Owda is a father of four, the youngest not yet two years old.

Since 2007, he has devoted his life to human rights work, documenting human rights violations in the Jordan Valley where Palestinian Bedouin and herding communities face imminent risk of forcible transfer due to Israeli army and state-backed settler violence and access restrictions to grazing land. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory (OCHAoPt), between January 2023 and February 16, 2026, 4,765 Palestinians have been displaced across 97 communities and areas across area C of the West Bank. 35% of them, 1,656, are from the Jordan Valley area.

On November 17, 2025, just as Bani Owda arrived at the community of Fasayil to document human rights abuses against the shepherds, two Israeli settlers blocked his way and called the Israeli army to arrest him. For two days, his whereabouts remained unknown. While in military custody, Bani Owda was subjected to physical assault. Six days after his arrest, Bani Owda was interrogated on vague allegations of “incitement against the State of Israel.” On December 14, a military court confirmed a six-month administrative detention order, under which individuals are detained by state authorities without charges and trial. Each administrative detention order may last for up to six months, but orders can be renewed indefinitely, and evidence is kept secret.

Since October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities have dramatically increased their use of administrative detention against Palestinians, which had already hit a 20-year record high even before October 7. According to the Israeli human rights organization, Hamoked, as of February 2026, Israel holds 3,358 Palestinians in administrative detention, in addition to a further 249 Palestinians from Gaza who are held under the Unlawful Combatants’ Law, also without charges or trial. Israel’s arbitrary, sweeping and discriminatory use of administrative detention constitutes an inhuman act perpetrated to maintain its system of apartheid against Palestinians.

Walaa, Ayman’s wife, told Amnesty International: “Since Ayman’s arrest, our 16-year-old boy, who is extremely attached to his father, has been keeping a diary addressed to his father, writing to him about his problems, how much he has missed him. We all need him back with us.” Walaa told Amnesty that on November 27, 2025, 10 days after Ayman’s arrest, the Israeli military stormed their home during a raid on Tammoun and stationed themselves inside the house for two days, during which the family was kicked out. Later they came back to find that the house had been vandalized.

Ayman Bani Owda is currently held at Gilboa Prison in northern Israel, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention which strictly prohibits the transfer of detainees outside the occupied territory.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Hebrew, Arabic, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: September 30, 2026

NAME AND PRONOUN: Ayman Bani Owda (he/him)