

URGENT ACTION

NGO WORKER'S ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION RENEWED

On 27 June, an Israel court confirmed, for the second time, the renewal of the administrative detention of NGO worker and lawyer Salah Hammouri for a further three months. He has been held by Israel without charge or trial since 23 August 2017.

On 27 June, an Israeli district court in Jerusalem confirmed, for the second time, the administrative detention order issued by Israeli Minister of Defence Avigdor Lieberman against **Salah Hammouri** for a further three months. Salah Hammouri is a French-Palestinian NGO worker and lawyer. His detention is now expected to end on 30 September. Salah Hammouri, who is currently held in Ketziot prison in southern Israel, had been given a six-month administrative detention order on 17 September 2017, which was renewed again on 5 March for another four months.

Salah Hammouri, along with other administrative detainees, is engaged in a collective boycott of Israeli courts, which started on 15 February, to demand an end to the policy of administrative detention, which allows the Israeli authorities to hold detainees indefinitely on secret information without charging or trying them.

Israeli forces detained Salah Hammouri during an overnight raid on 23 August 2017 at his home in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Kafr Aqab. Salah Hammouri is a resident of East Jerusalem. His legal studies were repeatedly disrupted by the Israeli authorities barring him from entering the West Bank from March 2015 until September 2016, where his university is located. He graduated in 2017 and three days before his arrest, he passed the Palestinian bar examination to be certified as a practicing lawyer. Salah Hammouri works as a field researcher in Jerusalem for Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, a Palestinian human rights organization based in Ramallah, Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

Please write immediately in English, Hebrew or your own language calling on the Israeli authorities to:

- Calling on the Israeli authorities to release Salah Hammouri, and all others who have been placed under administrative detention, unless they are promptly charged with an internationally recognizable crime and tried in proceedings that adhere to international fair trial standards;
- Calling on the Israeli authorities to stop the harassment and arbitrary detention of Palestinian human rights workers including Addameer staff and board members;
- Urging the Israeli authorities to take immediate steps to end the practice of administrative detention.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 05 SEPTEMBER 2018 TO:

Minister of Defence

Avigdor Lieberman
Ministry of Defence
37 Kaplan Street, Hakiryat
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel
Email: minister@mod.gov.il
pniot@mod.gov.il
Fax: +972 3 691 6940

Salutation: Dear Minister

Commander of the IDF – West Bank

Major-General Roni Numa
GOC Central Command
Military Post 02367, Battalion 877
Israel Defence Forces, Israel
Fax: +972 2 530 5741, +972 2 530 5724

Salutation: Dear Major-General Roni Numa

And copies to:

Minister of Public Security
Gilad Erdan
Kiryat Hamemshala
PO Box 18182
Jerusalem 91181, Israel
Fax: +972 2 584 7872
Email: gerdan@knesset.gov.il

Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. HIS EXCELLENCY MR MARK REGEV, Embassy of Israel, 2 Palace Green Kensington W8 4QB, 020 7957 9500, info@london.mfa.gov.il

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 226/17. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/7211/2017/en/.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Salah Hammouri was arrested during an overnight raid on 23 August 2017 at his home in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Kafr Aqab. He was then transferred to the Israel Security Agency (ISA) detention centre within the Russian Compound in Jerusalem. On 5 September, the day of a hearing to confirm the six-month administrative detention order issued by Israel's Minister of Defence Avigdor Lieberman on 17 August, an Israeli district court in Jerusalem decided instead to reinstate three of the six months remaining from a prison sentence Salah Hammouri had served following a conviction in 2005. The prosecution appealed against the decision, requesting that the period of imprisonment be extended. However, on 13 September, Israel's High Court overruled the reinstatement of the sentence. On 17 September, the district court in Jerusalem confirmed the initial six-month administrative detention order.

According to Addameer, on 2 January, Salah Hammouri was transferred by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) from Ketziot prison, in southern Israel, to Megiddo prison, in northern Israel, as a punishment for doing an interview while in detention with a French journalist in which he discussed Israel's policy of administrative detention. He was held in Megiddo prison until 29 January and then was transferred back to Ketziot prison.

Israeli authorities had previously imprisoned Salah Hammouri for seven years on charges related to his alleged involvement in the plot to kill Israel's former chief rabbi, he was however released as part of a prisoner exchange deal in 2011. The Israeli authorities banned Salah Hammouri, who is resident of East Jerusalem, from entering other parts of the occupied West Bank from March 2015 until September 2016. The Israeli authorities have also banned his wife Elsa Lefort, also a French national, from entering the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) or Israel since 2016. In February 2016, Elsa Lefort was deported from Israel after being detained for three days at a detention centre near Ben Gurion airport. She and their two-year-old child have not been able to see him since his arrest. Salah Hammouri's family, including his wife, child and father-in-law, have been harassed and threatened by unknown people, after a French website published their contact details. Khalida Jarrar, a board member of Addameer, has also been held in administrative detention since 2 July 2017, and three staff members of the organization are banned by the Israeli authorities from travelling outside Israel and the OPT.

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 who were held in administrative detention by Israel were prisoners of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression, assembly or association. According to Addameer, as of June 2018, there were 442 administrative detainees, including two children and three legislative council members, held without charge or trial by Israel.

All but one of the Israeli prisons holding Palestinian administrative detainees are 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 activists in the OPT. Israel has also taken steps to curtail freedom of expression inside Israel with officials using intimidation and smear campaigns to target human rights organizations and their staff.

Further information on UA: 226/17 Index: MDE 15/8798/2018 Issue Date: 24 July 2018