

# URGENT ACTION

**PALESTINIAN BOY'S ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RENEWED**  
**17-year-old Palestinian Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh was arrested by Israeli forces on 1 August 2016. He was initially placed under a six month administrative detention order, which was renewed by a further two months on 31 January.**

**Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh**, from Dura, Hebron, south of Jerusalem, was given a six month administrative detention order by Ofer Military Court on 10 August 2016. On 31 January his administrative detention was renewed until 31 March. Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh was arrested in his home, in Dura, Hebron by Israeli forces at around 2:00 am on 1 August 2016. He said to his lawyer that soldiers tied his hands behind his back and blindfolded him before putting him in a military truck and transferring him to an unknown location, where he was forced to sit on the ground for two hours. Later that day he was transferred to Gush Etzion detention centre, south of Jerusalem, in the West Bank, where his request to use the bathroom was refused and he was not examined by a doctor or offered food. He was then moved to Ofer prison, in the West Bank, where he was held in a cell with six adults.

Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh was interrogated by a member of the Israeli forces who claimed to have obtained incriminating evidence against him. He was accused of throwing stones and having inciting photos on his Facebook account; the password of which he was asked to hand over. According to Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh's account, he informed the interrogator that in April 2016 he had been arrested and held for 10 days in connection with his Facebook account but that he had subsequently deleted the content in question. When he suggested the interrogator check his account, the interrogator accused him of having asked somebody to delete the photos. Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh was interrogated for a second time on 7 August 2016. Following both interrogations, he signed written statements. On 10 August 2016, he was placed under a six month administrative detention order, which was extended on 31 January until 31 March. His lawyer intends to appeal the decision to renew the administrative order before the Israeli High Court.

Administrative orders allow for indefinite detention without charge or trial. They are used by the Israeli military predominantly against Palestinians and can be renewed indefinitely.

**Please write immediately in Hebrew, English or your own language:**

- Calling on the Israeli authorities to release Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh and all others who have been placed under administrative detention when they were under 18, unless they are charged with a recognisable offence and tried in proceedings that adhere to international standards of juvenile justice;
- Calling on them to ensure all child administrative detainees are allowed regular visits from their family and lawyers and kept separately from adults at all times, unless this is counter to their best interests, in line with international standards of juvenile justice;
- Urging them to take immediate steps to end the practice of administrative detention.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 28 MARCH 2017 TO:**

Minister of Defence  
 Avigdor Liberman  
 Ministry of Defence  
 37 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia  
 Tel Aviv 61909, Israel  
 Email: minister@mod.gov.il  
 pniof@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 Defense Forces, Israel  
 Fax: +972 2 530 5741, +972 2 530 5724  
**Salutation: Dear Major-General Roni Numa**

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 Deputy Ambassador Eitan Na'eh, Embassy of Israel, 2 Palace Green Kensington W8 4QB, 020 7957 9500

**Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.**

**AMNESTY  
 INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh, whose current administrative detention order expires on 31 March 2017, was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade when he was arrested. Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh's father, Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh, suffers from ill health and so relied on his son for support. He spoke to Amnesty International about his son's ongoing detention and called for his immediate release, adding he does not know why his son is being held or when he will be released. "Ahmad is a child", he said, "He shouldn't be held indefinitely in prison. If he did anything wrong he should be sent for rehabilitation. He needs support and help; not to be locked up in prison alone away from us." In tears, he added: "I am going through such a hard time. I used to depend on Ahmad for everything. Now I have no one, I miss him and need him by my side. My health has deteriorated since he was imprisoned and it has devastated me emotionally and physically."

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 the criminal justice system to arrest, charge and prosecute people suspected of criminal offences, or to detain people who should not have been arrested at all. Orders can be renewed indefinitely and 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 Occupied Palestinian Territories, 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 Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, there were 644 administrative detainees by the end of August 2016 compared to 341 in August 2015. While dozens of Palestinian children were administratively detained between 2004 and 2008, numbers declined steadily until December 2011, when there was only one. In October 2015, three 17-year old Jerusalem ID holders, became the first children to be administratively detained in almost four years. At the end of August 2016, there were 10 children held in administrative detention. Ahmad Azmi Abdurrahman Hanatsheh is currently the only child who remains administratively detained.

Another individual arrested in November 2016 at the age of 17 is also currently being held under an administrative detention order. He spent his eighteenth birthday in prison.

According to international human rights law, detention of children must only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate time and appropriate alternatives to detention must be made available. Child administrative detainees in Israel are denied their right to challenge their detention before a court "or other competent, independent and impartial authority" and "the right to a prompt decision on any challenge" in line with Israel's obligation under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Their rights to adequate protection as children have been flouted including by being held alongside adults.

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