

# URGENT ACTION

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER ADMINISTRATIVELY DETAINED

**Israeli authorities arrested Palestinian human rights defender Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi on 1 May. He was due to be released on bail on 10 June but he has been placed under a six-month administrative detention, despite his parents paying the bail to the court. The detention order was confirmed on 28 June.**

**Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi**, 24, is a Palestinian resident of occupied East Jerusalem, and the media coordinator for prisoners' rights group Addameer. He was arrested by the Israeli authorities at the al Karameh border crossing between Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) on 1 May. He was transferred to the al Moscobiyyah Police Detention Centre in Jerusalem and interrogated for 40 days both there and at Ktziot prison in the Negev, southern Israel. Safadi told his lawyer that he had been subjected to sleep deprivation and tied in stress positions during his interrogation, treatment that violates the prohibition, under international law, of torture and other ill-treatment. He was also denied access to his lawyer for 10 days, from 12 to 22 May.

The Jerusalem Magistrates Court charged Safadi with visiting an "enemy" country at a hearing on June 10 and ordered Safadi to be released on bail of 2,500NIS (US\$ 650). He was due to be released the same day after his parents had paid the bail to the court. As his parents waited for him, however, they were informed that he had been placed under a six-month administrative detention order signed by the defence minister Avigdor Lieberman. The detention order was confirmed at a hearing at the Jerusalem Magistrates Court on 28 June. Safadi is being held in Ktziot prison.

The Israeli authorities have long used administrative detention as an alternative to bringing Palestinians to trial, and this case appears to be a prime example. Israel is routinely violating Palestinians' rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association in the OPT and is targeting human rights defenders, including by arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other ill-treatment in custody and arbitrary restrictions on movement.

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

- Calling on the authorities to respect the court's decision and release Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi on bail pending a fair trial that conforms to international standards;
- Calling on the authorities to end their long-standing attacks on Palestinian human rights defenders and halt the harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 15 AUGUST 2016 TO:**

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

Minister of Justice  
Ayelet Shaked  
Ministry of Justice  
29 Salah al-Din Street  
Jerusalem, 91010, Israel  
Fax: +972 2 640 8402  
Email: sar@justice.gov.il  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**And copies to:**  
Attorney General  
Avichai Mendelbilt  
Ministry of Justice  
29 Salah al-Din Street  
Jerusalem 91010, Israel  
Fax: +972 2 530 3367  
Email: ishkat-yoetz@justice.gov.il

**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

Hasan Safadi started working as media coordinator for the prisoners' rights NGO Addameer in 2013. Before he had worked as a journalist. Hasan Safadi's mother told Addameer that the night before he was due to be released on 10 June, "I could not sleep from joy and excitement and could not wait to see my son sitting among us at home again. The next morning, on the day of his expected release, I went with Hasan's father to the court carrying the amount of money required for his release. Hasan's father paid the money and signed a pledge to abide by the conditions given by the court. Then, we began to wait. We waited at the door of the courts for long hours, and later, we got the news that Hasan has been placed under administrative detention. I did not know how I received the shocking news. I started crying loudly for the first time since Hasan's arrest."

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 evidence is kept secret, meaning that detainees are not able to 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 B'tselem there were 692 Palestinians being held under administrative detention orders by Israel at the end of April 2016. This compares to 400 at the end of April 2015.

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.

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