



United Nations Human Rights Council: Session 34
Oral Intervention: Item 7 – GD
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Thank you Mr. President,

The administrative detention order of journalist Hasan Safadi, the media coordinator of the prisoners' rights group Addameer, was renewed for six more months in December 2016. Hasan was arrested 11 months ago while returning to Palestine after attending a meeting in Beirut. Following 40 days of interrogation, he was placed under administrative detention. His detention can be renewed indefinitely, and is based on undisclosed evidence that cannot be challenged in a fair trial.

Journalist Mohammad Al Qeeq, who previously went on a 94-day hunger strike against his administrative detention and torture, was rearrested on 15 January 2017. The Israeli occupation forces are currently holding an estimated 23 Palestinian journalists, 6 of whom are under administrative detention.

In recent months, occupation forces have intensified their persecution of human rights defenders in the occupied Palestinian territory with increasing incidents of arbitrary arrest, harassment at checkpoints, travel bans, and mobility restrictions. Special Rapporteurs Michel Forst and Michael Lynk have underlined the growing harassment of Palestinian HRDs twice in the last two months, in December 2016 and on 3 March 2017.

Israeli Military Order 101 of August 1967 criminalizes most Palestinian civic activities including: organizing and participating in protests, taking part in assemblies, and waving flags and other political symbols. In addition, the order deems any acts influencing public opinion as prohibited "political incitement." As a result, Palestinian HRDs and prominent figures including mayors, journalists, teachers, and members of the Popular Committees are constantly personally targeted and arrested in an attempt to silence them. Recently, Salah Khawaja of the Stop the Wall campaign was arrested on 26 October 2016. Issa Amro of Youth Against Settlements and attorney Farid Al Atrash were arrested on 29 February 2016 for attending a peaceful protest.

Several staff members of Palestinian rights organizations have also been subjected to intimidation, harassment, and threats. Al Haq and Al Mezan were targeted for their work on accountability and access to international justice. Once again, our organizations call on each state individually and collectively to use their influence to ensure the protection of human rights defenders in Palestine.