

URGENT ACTION

HUNGER STRIKERS IN GRAVE DANGER

Hassan Safadi and Samer al-Barq have been on hunger strike since 21 June and 22 May respectively, in protest at their detention without charge. They are held in solitary confinement in a prison clinic in Israel which cannot provide the specialist care they need, and have no access to independent doctors.

Hassan Safadi and Samer al-Barq ended previous hunger strikes after 70 and 50 days respectively, in mid-May. Hassan Safadi was put into solitary confinement when he resumed his hunger strike on 21 June 2012 in response to the six month extension of his detention. He was transferred from Hadarim prison to the Israel Prison Services (IPS) clinic in Ramleh prison at the end of June. He is reportedly taking water with salt and vitamins. Local NGO Physicians for Human Rights-Israel (PHR-I) asked the IPS on 26 June to allow an independent doctor to visit him. They have received no reply. His lawyer said that on 4 July he refused an offer from the authorities to be exiled to Jordan in exchange for his release. Samer al-Barq resumed his hunger strike after his detention order was renewed for three months. Nine days later, he was transferred from Ofer prison to Ramleh prison's clinic. According to PHR-I and another local NGO, Addameer, he is taking only water with glucose and has lost about eight kg; they also say that according to his family he suffers from kidney problems and high blood pressure. PHR-I asked the IPS to allow him to see one of their doctors: on 25 June, the IPS refused, without explanation.

Bilal Diab and Omar Shalal who ended their hunger strikes in May are still in administrative detention, and expected to be released on 10 August and 30 August respectively.

Palestinian footballer **Mahmoud al-Sarsak** was released on 10 July 2012. **Ja'afar Izz al-Din**, who ended his hunger strike in May, was released on 1 July.

Please write immediately in Hebrew or your own language:

- Expressing concern for Samer al-Barq and Hassan Safadi, and urging the Israeli authorities to allow them regular access to adequate medical care including civilian hospitals with specialized facilities, independent doctors of their choice and that they are treated humanely at all times and not punished in any way for their hunger strike;
- Calling on them to release Samer al-Barq, Hassan Safadi and all other administrative detainees immediately, unless they are promptly charged with internationally recognizable criminal offences and brought to trial in proceedings that meet international fair trial standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 AUGUST 2012 TO:

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Defence

Ehud Barak

Ministry of Defence

37 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia

Tel Aviv 61909, Israel

Fax: +972 3 69 16940 / 62757

Salutation: Dear Minister

Israel Prison Service Commissioner

Lieutenant-General Aharon Franco

Israel Prison Service

P.O. Box 81

Ramleh 72100, Israel

Fax: +972 8 919 3800

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General

And copies to:

Military Advocate General

Brigadier General Danny Efroni

6 David Elazar Street

Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel

Fax: +972 3 569 4526

Email: avimn@idf.gov.il

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fifth update of UA 119/12. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/035/2012/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A mass hunger strike involving some 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees protesting poor prison conditions, including solitary confinement, denial of family visits and detention without charge came to an end on 14 May following an Egyptian-brokered deal with the Israeli authorities. The deal included an agreement by the authorities to end the solitary confinement of 19 prisoners and lift a ban on family visits for prisoners from the Gaza Strip. No family visits for Gaza prisoners are known to have taken place yet and detainees are still being placed in solitary confinement. Despite media reports suggesting that Israel had agreed that administrative detention orders of current detainees would not be renewed unless significant new intelligence information was presented, the Israeli authorities appear to have continued issuing such orders. Read more in Amnesty International's June report, *Starved of justice: Palestinians detained without trial by Israel* <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/026/2012/en> .

Samer al-Barq, aged 37, was reportedly detained for four-and-a-half years in Jordan mainly in the General Intelligence Department (GID) detention centre. He was released in January 2008 only to be rearrested in April 2010 and held without charge until July 2010 when he appears to have been transferred without due process to Israel where he was detained in Ofer prison. Since then he has been held in administrative detention.

Hassan Safadi has been held since 29 June 2011. His previous administrative detention order was due to expire on 29 June but just over a week before this, he learned that it would be renewed for a further six months, prompting him to restart his hunger strike after which he was placed into solitary confinement. He is awaiting the outcome of a judicial review of his detention order which could result in his release or a reduction in the length of his detention though such reviews usually confirm the detention order. Hassan Safadi was apparently given the option of exile to Jordan in exchange for his release. Some administrative detainees have been released when they have agreed to leave the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and go into exile abroad. The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power from forcibly transferring or deporting people from an occupied territory. Amnesty International calls for an end to all forced deportations of Palestinians from the OPT into exile, or forcible transfers from the West Bank to Gaza, including in the context of deals to release administrative detainees.

Bilal Diab has been detained since 17 August 2011 and ended his hunger strike after some 76 days on 14 May 2012. Omar Abu Shalal has been held since 15 August 2011 and ended his hunger strike on 14 May after 72 days.

Mahmoud al-Sarsak ended a 92-day hunger strike in protest at his continuing detention without charge or trial after his lawyer reached an agreement with the IPS to secure his release. He returned home to his family in Gaza on 10 July, after spending nearly three years detained without charge. He was held under the Internment of Unlawful Combatants, Law, used to administratively detain Palestinians from the Gaza Strip. Read more at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/israel-s-release-palestinian-footballer-shows-need-end-unjust-detention-wit>.

The High Court of Justice ruled on 20 May that Ja'afar Izz al-Din's administrative detention order should not be renewed.

Names: Hassan Safadi, Samer al-Barq, Bilal Diab, Omar Shalal, Mahmoud al-Sarsak, Ja'afar Izz al-Din
Gender: m

Further information on UA: 119/12 Index: MDE 15/038/2012 Issue Date: 12 July 2012