

# URGENT ACTION

## DEFENDER'S ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION EXTENDED

**On 7 December the Israeli authorities renewed the administrative detention of Palestinian human rights defender Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi for an additional six months. He has already been held without charge or trial for more than six months.**

**Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi**, aged 25, is a Palestinian resident of occupied East Jerusalem, and the Media Coordinator for prisoners' rights group Addameer. He was originally arrested by the Israeli authorities on 1 May 2016 from the al Karameh border crossing between Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), after returning from a conference in Lebanon on justice and accountability issues and prisoners' rights. After his arrest he was interrogated for 40 days; he told his lawyer that he had been subjected to sleep deprivation and tied in stress positions during his interrogation. He was also denied access to his lawyer for 10 days.

He was charged on 10 June with visiting an "enemy" country (Lebanon) at the Jerusalem Magistrates Court. On the same day the court ordered Hasan Safadi's release after his parents paid bail of 2,500NIS (US\$ 650). 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.

On 27 October, whilst being detained under that order, Hasan Safadi pled guilty to the charge of visiting an "enemy" country, and was sentenced to three months and one day in prison. The sentence ran concurrently with his administrative detention order. Given the fact that he had already spent 40 days under interrogation immediately following his arrest in May 2016 and the Israeli Prison Service practice of granting early release, under usual circumstances Hasan Safadi would have been released in the first week of December, which is when his administrative detention was also due to end. However, on 7 December the defence minister issued another six-month administrative detention order against Hasan Safadi. A court hearing to confirm the order was postponed until 23 December at the request of his legal team, in order to allow time to prepare. As with all cases of administrative detention, the "evidence" against Hasan Safadi is secret, and neither he nor his lawyer is allowed to review it. This violates a central tenet of fair trial standards. Moreover, although six months is the maximum period of detention for each order, there is no limit on how many times each order can be renewed. Hassan Safadi is being held in Ketziot prison in the Negev, southern Israel.

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

- Calling on the Israeli authorities to release Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi, and all other administrative detainees, unless they are to be charged with recognizable criminal offences and tried fairly and promptly;
- 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;
- Calling on the authorities to ensure a prompt, impartial investigation into his allegations of torture.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 MARCH 2017 TO:**

Minister of Defence  
Avigdor Liberman  
Minister of Defence  
37 Kaplan Street  
Hakiryia  
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel  
Fax: +972 73 323 3300  
Email: aliberman@knesset.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. 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 first update of UA 154//16. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/4376/2016/en/>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following his arrest by the Israeli authorities at the al Karameh border crossing between Jordan and the OPT on 1 May, Hasan Safadi was transferred to the Moscobiyyah Police Detention Centre in Jerusalem. He was interrogated for 40 days at the Moscobiyyah Police Detention Centre and at Ketziot prison in the Negev, southern Israel. Hasan Safadi told his lawyer that he had been subjected to sleep deprivation and tied in stress positions during his interrogation. This treatment 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. He is still held in Ketziot prison.

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, the last date for which reliable data is available. 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 in the OPT. Israel has also taken steps to curtail freedom of expression inside Israel with officials using intimidation to target human rights defenders. 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.

Name: Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 154/16 Index: MDE 15/5385/2016 Issue Date: 19 December 2016