

# URGENT ACTION

## FEARS FOR PALESTINIAN HUNGER STRIKERS' LIVES

**Samer al-Barq and Hassan Safadi's latest administrative detention orders have been confirmed. They have been on hunger strike since 22 May and 21 June, in protest against their detention without charge and ill-treatment. Their lives are in imminent danger.**

After several delays, a military judge confirmed **Samer al-Barq's** latest three-month detention order on 12 September. His lawyer has filed an appeal but no court date has been set. Samer al-Barq remains at the Israel Prison Service (IPS) medical facility in Ramleh, where he receives fluids intravenously but not the specialized medical treatment he needs. He suffers from abdominal pain, severe dizziness, extremely low blood pressure and a slow pulse, and has fainted on several occasions. A doctor from Physicians for Human Rights - Israel (PHR) who examined him on 10 September said he could suffer cardiac arrest at any time and should be hospitalized.

On 9 September, after several delays, a military judge confirmed **Hassan Safadi's** detention order but reduced it from six to four months. His lawyer appealed the detention order; the case has been postponed until 20 September. After Hassan Safadi's health deteriorated on 11 September, he was transferred from the IPS medical facility to Assaf Harofeh hospital, where he remains. His lawyer, who visited him on 12 September, reported that he was shackled to his hospital bed, which constitutes cruel and inhuman treatment given his prolonged hunger strike. The PHR doctor who examined him on 10 September found that he had lost all sensation in his feet and recommended a full neurological examination; it is not clear whether he has received this, or other specialized treatment, at Assaf Harofeh, a civilian hospital.

An independent doctor's examination of both detainees was permitted more than a month after PHR's original request, and PHR has not received a response to its request for another visit. Permission is usually only granted by the IPS after a court order.

### Please write immediately in Hebrew or your own language:

- Calling for Samer al-Barq, Hassan Safadi, and all other hunger strikers in Israeli custody to be given all necessary specialized medical treatment in a civilian hospital, prompt and regular access to doctors of their choice and visits from family members, and not to be subjected to cruel or inhuman treatment such as shackling;
- Calling for Samer al-Barq, Hassan Safadi, and all other administrative detainees to be released, unless they are promptly charged with recognizable criminal offences and tried according to international standards;
- Calling for a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into their reported ill-treatment.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 26 OCTOBER 2012 TO:

Israel Prison Service Commissioner

Lieutenant-General Aharon Franco

Israel Prison Service, PO Box 81

Ramleh 72100, Israel

Fax: +972 8 919 3800

Salutation: **Dear Lieutenant-General**

Director General, Ministry of Health

Dr. Roni Gamzo

Ministry of Health

2 Ben Tabai Street

Jerusalem 93591, Israel

Fax: +972 2 565 5966

Salutation : **Dear Director General**

**And copies to:**

Minister of Public Security

Yitzhak Aharonovitch

Ministry of Public Security

Kiryat Hamemshala

Jerusalem 91181, Israel

Fax: +972 2 584 7872

Email: [sar@mops.gov.il](mailto:sar@mops.gov.il)

Salutation: **Dear Minister**

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the eighth update of UA 119/12. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/049/2012/en>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Samer al-Barq, 37, was first arrested by the Pakistani authorities on 15 July 2003, detained for two weeks, then handed to the US authorities and kept for three months in a secret prison outside Pakistan, before being transferred to Jordan on 26 October 2003. He was then detained without charge or trial for over four years until his release in January 2008. He alleged that he was tortured and ill-treated in both US and Jordanian custody. In April 2010, he was detained again by the Jordanian authorities, who transferred him to Israeli military custody on 11 July 2010. He has been held without charge or trial by Israel since 11 July 2010; his lawyer told Amnesty International that he has not been interrogated during this time. He ended a previous hunger strike after 30 days on 14 May 2012, but resumed it on 22 May after his detention order was renewed for three months. His detention order was subsequently renewed again on 22 August. The PHR doctor who examined him most recently found that he had lost one third of his body weight. During his hunger strike he has been shackled to a hospital bed at times, and reported to lawyers that he was beaten and verbally abused by prison guards as punishment for his hunger strike. .

Hassan Safadi, aged 33, has been held without charge or trial since 29 June 2011. He ended a previous hunger strike of 70 days in May 2012. His previous administrative detention order expired in June 2012 but was renewed for another six months, prompting him to restart his hunger strike on 21 June. During the judicial review of his administrative detention order, his lawyer requested that Israeli participants in the negotiations leading to the May 2012 deal ending the mass hunger strike provide evidence; the case was postponed several times when these witnesses failed to appear. The PHR doctor who examined him most recently found that he had lost 24 per cent of his body weight and suffers from muscular atrophy, blurred vision, dizziness, extremely low blood pressure, kidney stones, pain in his joints, and impaired sensation and cyanosis in his hands and feet, which could indicate permanent nerve damage. He has also alleged that he was beaten and verbally abused by prison guards.

For more on Samer al-Barq and Hassan Safadi, see: "Israel must hospitalize or release Palestinian hunger striker on verge of death", 6 September 2012 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/israel-must-hospitalize-or-release-palestinian-hunger-striker-verge-death-2012-09-05>), and "Palestinian hunger strikers detained in Israel must be treated humanely", 9 August 2012 (<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/palestinian-hunger-strikers-detained-israel-must-be-treated-humanely-2012-08-09>).

Administrative detention is detention without charge or trial for renewable terms based on evidence withheld from the detainees and their lawyers. A mass hunger strike of around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees protesting poor prison conditions, solitary confinement, denial of family visits and detention without charge ended on 14 May 2012 following an Egyptian-brokered deal with the Israeli authorities. Despite media reports suggesting that Israel had agreed that administrative detention orders would not be renewed unless significant new intelligence information was presented, the Israeli authorities have continued renewing such orders and issuing new ones. See Amnesty International's June 2012 report, *Starved of justice: Palestinians detained without trial by Israel* (Index: MDE 15/026/2012, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/026/2012/en>). At the end of July 2012, Israel held 250 Palestinians in administrative detention.

Another Palestinian, Ayman Sharawna, who was arrested on 31 January 2012, three months after being released as part of a prisoner exchange in October 2011, has been on hunger strike since 1 July 2012 in protest at the refusal of an Israeli military committee to explain to him or his lawyer their allegations that he broke the conditions for his release. The PHR doctor who also examined him recommended that he be hospitalized, reporting that he suffers from very low blood pressure, hypothermia, pain in his kidney area, back and right leg, loss of vision in his right eye, loss of sensation in his left leg, and has been vomiting blood.

Name: Hassan Safadi, Samer al-Barq  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 119/12 Index: MDE 15/051/2012 Issue Date: 14 September 2012