

URGENT ACTION

DETAINEE ENDS HUNGER STRIKE PENDING RELEASE

Palestinian administrative detainee Hassan Safadi, who went on two hunger strikes to protest his detention without trial by Israel, was released on 29 October. Fellow administrative detainee Samer al-Barq suspended his third hunger strike after assurances that he will be released and transferred to Pakistan via Egypt.

Hassan Safadi was released on 29 October from Hadarim prison in central Israel, where he was held after ending a three-month hunger strike on 21 September. He was received by family and taken to his home in Nablus.

Fellow administrative detainee **Samer al-Barq** suspended his third hunger strike on 24 October after lawyers from the Palestinian Prisoners' Club delivered assurances that he will soon be transferred to Pakistan through Egypt. Prisoners' Club Director Qaddoura Fares told Amnesty International that the Palestinian Authority has an official letter from the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating that they are willing to receive Samer al-Barq, who previously studied in Pakistan and is married to a Pakistani national. He said that the process of transferring Samer al-Barq to Egypt as the first step towards sending him to Pakistan will begin on 30 October after the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

Samer al-Barq's parents visited him at the Israel Prison Service (IPS) clinic in Ramleh prison on 25 October. His father, Hilmi al-Barq, told Amnesty International that his son was brought to them in a wheelchair and was unable to stand. Samer al-Barq complained of severe pain in his right leg, which appears to stem from a metal surgical insert which remains inside his leg.

Throughout their hunger strikes, both men were consistently denied access to independent doctors and specialist supervision and treatment in a fully-equipped hospital, and were subjected to ill-treatment by the IPS.

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

- Calling on the Israeli authorities to immediately release Samer al-Barq and other Palestinians held in administrative detention, unless they are promptly charged with internationally recognizable criminal offences and brought to trial in full conformity with international fair trial standards;
- Calling for no transfer of Samer al-Barq to take place without his consent and until an independent doctor certifies that his health condition permits it, and for adequate medical care to be provided during any transfer;
- Urging the Israeli authorities to end the use of administrative detention and permit all detainees family visits.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 27 DECEMBER 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

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 eleventh update of UA 119/12. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/056/2012/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Samer al-Barq, 37, has been held in administrative detention without charge or trial by Israel since 11 July 2010, when he was transferred to Israeli military custody by the Jordanian authorities, who had rearrested him after previously detaining him without charge or trial for over four years. He was first arrested in Pakistan, where he was studying, on 15 July 2003, and was subsequently handed to the US authorities and kept for three months in a secret prison outside Pakistan, before being transferred to detention in Jordan on 26 October 2003. He alleged that he was tortured and ill-treated in both US and Jordanian custody. His lawyer told Amnesty International that the Israeli authorities have not interrogated him during his detention. He ended his first hunger strike this year 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 on 22 August. During his second hunger strike he was shackled to a hospital bed at times, and reported to lawyers that he was beaten and verbally abused by prison guards. He suspended his second hunger strike on 23 September after he was given promises that he would be transferred to Egypt, but when the Israeli authorities did not fulfil their promise he resumed his hunger strike on 14 October. Amnesty International understood from Samer al-Barq's lawyers, who were involved in the negotiations over his release and potential transfer outside of the Occupied Palestinian Territories to Egypt in September 2012, that he freely consented to these negotiations, though the organization has not been able to confirm this with Samer al-Barq himself. After being denied visits for a year, his family were permitted to visit him on 11 October and again on 25 October. They told Amnesty International that he was extremely weak and depressed, that he suffers internal bleeding and has severe stomach pains.

Hassan Safadi, aged 33, was held in administrative detention without charge or trial since 29 June 2011, most recently renewed for six months in June 2012, then reduced to four months at judicial review in September 2012. He ended a previous hunger strike of 70 days in May 2012 but restarted it on 21 June when his administrative detention order was renewed. He ended this hunger strike when the Military Court of Appeals ruled that his administrative detention order expiring on 29 October would not be renewed. This was confirmed by the Israeli Attorney General on 18 October, prompting him to withdraw his petition to the High Court of Justice against his administrative detention. A doctor from Physicians for Human Rights – Israel (PHR-I) who last examined him on 10 September found that he had lost 24 per cent of his body weight and suffered 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. As PHR was refused permission to visit him afterwards, it is unclear whether he has received the necessary medical supervision necessary during the delicate re-feeding process. He has also alleged that he was beaten and verbally abused by prison guards during his hunger strike.

Another Palestinian detainee, Ayman Sharawna, held since 31 January 2012 on unspecified allegations that he broke the conditions for his release as part of a prisoner exchange in October 2011, has been on hunger strike since 1 July 2012 protesting the refusal of an Israeli military committee to explain to him or his lawyer the basis for his current detention. He has spent most of his time on hunger strike at the Ramleh prison clinic, which lacks the facilities or specialist staff to provide appropriate care for long-term hunger strikers. On 14 October 2012 he reportedly stopped taking vitamins, and threatened to stop taking water if the Israeli military committee does not make a decision on his detention.

Administrative detention is detention without charge or trial for renewable terms. Orders are 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. As of 30 September 2012, there were 184 administrative detainees, over 130 less than during March 2012. Some administrative detainees have been released if they have agreed to leave the Occupied Palestinian Territories and go into exile abroad. The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits an occupying power from forcibly transferring or deporting people from an occupied territory. Read more in report *Starved of justice: Palestinians detained without trial by Israel* at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/026/2012/en>.

Name: Samer al-Barq, Hassan Safadi,

Gender: m

Further information on UA: 119/12 Index: MDE 15/060/2012 Issue Date: 30 October 2012