

URGENT ACTION

PALESTINIAN DETAINEES SUSPEND HUNGER STRIKE

Two Palestinian detainees have suspended their hunger strikes. Hassan Safadi ended his hunger strike after a judge ruled that his detention without trial would not be renewed after 29 October. Samer al-Barq ended his hunger strike amid reports that a deal has been reached which will see him transferred to Egypt.

After more than 120 and 90 days on hunger strike, **Samer al-Barq** and **Hassan Safadi's** lives are still in danger and they require close specialist supervision in a fully-equipped hospital during the re-feeding process. No independent doctor has been permitted to see them since 10 September.

Samer al-Barq was transferred to Assaf Harofeh public hospital on 17 September and reportedly stopped taking fluids for three or four days. Following negotiations led by the Palestinian Authority, the Egyptian authorities have reportedly agreed to accept him if Israel releases him, and he suspended his hunger strike on 23 September. He was then returned to the Israel Prison Service (IPS) medical facility at Ramleh prison, which is not equipped to provide the urgent specialist care he needs. His family, who have not seen him for nearly a year, are still waiting to hear what will happen to him. He told his lawyer that he would resume his hunger strike if he is not released soon.

Hassan Safadi was transferred to Assaf Harofeh on 11 September where he was reportedly shackled to his bed at least some of the time. He stopped drinking for four days until his family, who have not seen him since his arrest in June 2011, spoke to him briefly by phone on 20 September. A military judge considered the appeal against his administrative detention order on 20 September, and ruled that his current detention order, which expires on 29 October, should not be renewed. His lawyer told his family that he has lodged an appeal to the High Court of Justice against his detention. Physicians for Human Rights - Israel (PHR) has not been able to confirm whether he is currently detained at the IPS medical facility or Assaf Harofeh hospital.

Please write immediately in Hebrew or your own language:

- Urging the Israeli authorities to ensure that Samer al-Barq, Hassan Safadi, and all detainees who are on hunger strike receive all necessary specialized medical treatment which is only available in a civilian hospital, are given regular access to doctors of their choice, and are not subject to shackling or other cruel or inhuman treatment;
- 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 all feasible medical precautions to be taken in any transfer;
- Calling for all administrative detainees to be released, unless they are promptly charged with recognizable criminal offences and tried according to international fair trial standards and, while held, to have regular family visits.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 NOVEMBER 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 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 ninth update of UA 119/12. Further information:

<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/051/2012/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Samer al-Barq, 37, was arrested in Pakistan 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 arrested again by the Jordanian authorities, who then transferred him to Israeli military custody on 11 July 2010. He has been held in administrative detention 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 on 22 August. A doctor from Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) who examined him on 10 September said that he could suffer a cardiac arrest at any time. 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. Amnesty International understands from Samer al-Barq's lawyers involved in the negotiations over his release and potential transfer that he freely consented to these negotiations, but has not been able to confirm this with Samer al-Barq himself.

Hassan Safadi, aged 33, has been held in administrative detention without charge or trial since 29 June 2011, most recently renewed for six months in June 2012, 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. 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.

Another Palestinian detainee, Ayman Sharawna, held since 31 January 2012, has been on hunger strike since 1 July 2012 protesting the refusal by an Israeli military committee to explain to him or his lawyer their allegations that he broke the conditions for his release as part of a prisoner exchange in October 2011 and the basis for his current detention. A PHR doctor who examined Ayman Sharawna on 10 September 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. He is currently held at the Ramleh prison clinic, where he has been for most of his hunger strike, although he was transferred to Tel Hashomer hospital last week when he refused water for four days. He has promised to recommence a dry hunger strike if there is no change in his situation in the coming days.

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. The total number now held is believed to be around 212, over 100 less than the number held in 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 at: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/026/2012/en..>

Name: Samer al-Barq, Hassan Safadi, Ayman Sharawna
Gender: m

Further information on UA: 119/12 Index: MDE 15/052/2012 Issue Date: 25 September 2012