

FREE IMPRISONED HUNGER STRIKING PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST **MOHAMMED AL-QEEQ**

Mohammed al-Qeeq is a Palestinian journalist who is imprisoned in Israeli jails without charge and without trial, under administrative detention. He has been on hunger strike since 6 February demanding his immediate release and was rushed to the hospital on 22 February as his health suddenly deteriorated.

Al-Qeeq is one of nearly 550 Palestinians imprisoned without charge or trial under administrative detention. Administrative detention orders are issued for one to six month periods, but are indefinitely renewable, which means that Palestinians can be held for years on end without charge or trial at the order of the Israeli occupation military. These orders are issued on the basis of “secret evidence” to which both the detainee and their lawyer is denied access.

This is Mohammed al-Qeeq’s second time on hunger strike. In 2016, he conducted a 94-day hunger strike to win his freedom from administrative detention without charge or trial, winning his release in May 2016.

Al-Qeeq was seized by occupation soldiers on 15 January at a checkpoint near Ramallah as he returned from a demonstration demanding the return of the bodies of Palestinians killed by Israel. Since his release in May

2016, al-Qeeq has been a particularly vocal advocate for imprisoned and oppressed Palestinians, supporting fellow prisoners on hunger strikes and engaged in struggles for justice. He was held under interrogation for 22 days and subjected to harsh interrogation and ill-treatment before once again being ordered imprisoned with no charge or trial.

After his 2016 hunger strike that lasted over three months, Al-Qeeq’s health is particularly fragile. Nevertheless, his body, his health and his life are on the line to resist the imprisonment of Palestinians without charge or trial and demand an end to administrative detention. His strike has been joined by two fellow administrative detainees, Jamal Abu Leil and Raed Mteir, both of Qalandiya refugee camp, who have been refusing food since 14 February to demand their freedom after a year of imprisonment without charge or trial.

Mohammed al-Qeeq is one of 23 Palestinian journalists imprisoned by the Israeli state. His life and health are on the line not only for his freedom, but for

Palestinian freedom overall and an end to administrative detention without charge or trial. International attention is critical to help him secure his release.



TAKE ACTION TO FREE MOHAMMED AL-QEEQ

1. Contact government officials and demand that they break their silence on Al-Qeeq and support for Israeli violations of Palestinian rights. In the United States, use <https://whitehouseinc.org/> to get connected to a Trump official business and register your views on US policy on Palestine. Throughout the European Union, contact the office of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini, at federica.mogherini@ec.europa.eu. Call on the EU to take action to free Mohammed al-Qeeq.

2. Boycott, Divest and Sanction. Palestinians have urged an international boycott of Israeli goods and institutions - and corporations that profit from occupation, like HP, the multinational computer and technology corporation. HP has contracts with the Israeli occupation to provide technology services for the infrastructure of occupation, including checkpoints, settlements and Israeli prisons. Boycott HP products and encourage institutions to choose alternative technology providers. Learn more: <https://bdsmovement.net/boycott-hp/>