

# PALESTINIAN PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

On Wednesday, 8 November, Israeli occupation forces stormed the home of **Bajis Nakhleh** in the Jalazone refugee camp in Ramallah in a pre-dawn raid; he was taken to the Etzion interrogation center, where he immediately launched an open hunger strike. He joined two more Palestinian prisoners already on hunger strike against their imprisonment without charge or trial under administrative detention.

**Hussein Hassanein Shokeh**, 29, has gone over one month - since 11 October - without food.. Shokeh was previously detained by the Israeli occupation and released on 31 August. He was seized once more by Israeli occupation forces on 29 September and once again ordered to administrative detention without charge or trial. **Hamza Marwan Bouzia**, 27, from Kifl Hares in Salfit, has been on hunger strike since 16 October. He has served over seven years in Israeli prison in the past and is now held without charge or trial under administrative detention, and is demanding his freedom.

In particular, Bouzia and Shokeh have been on hunger strike for an extended period of time, in which they not only are suffering from extensive weight loss, fatigue and pain but also cognitive difficulties. The commitment of the hunger strikers to achieve their freedom is so great - and the ability to challenge administrative detention so limited by the occupation - that their bodies and lives are on the line in their bid for freedom.

## What is administrative detention?

Dating from the era of the British colonial mandate over Palestine, it is the mechanism by which the Israeli military imprisons Palestinians without charge or trial for periods of one to six months. These periods are indefinitely renewable; Palestinians routinely spend years at a time jailed under administrative detention orders.

Administrative detainees are imprisoned based on the so-called “secret file,” prepared by Israeli military intelligence. Israel routinely uses administrative detention against hundreds of Palestinians: students, workers, farmers, members of Palestinian Legislative Council, community organizers, and more. Far from a rare, “emergency” practice, administrative detention is standard operating procedure for the Israeli military.

Under international law, administrative detention can be used only for “imperative reasons of security” in an emergency situation, on a case-by-case basis. Israel’s use of administrative detention, on the other hand, is often used en masse, routinely and as an alternative to the military courts, especially when arrested Palestinians refuse to confess in interrogation.

# Why a hunger strike?

The hunger strike is a method of struggle within the prison to demand the rights of detainees. It has a long history within the Palestinian movement, where collective hunger strikes have won significant concessions in the rights of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. The hunger strike also has a long history in the movements of other oppressed and colonized peoples fighting mass impris-

onment and political detention, including the Irish movement, Turkish and Kurdish political prisoners, and, more recently, prisoners held in US jails in Guantanamo Bay and domestically.

Because Palestinian prisoners are denied their rights, cut off from society and have little to no legal recourse, they are left to struggle with their bodies.

## TAKE ACTION: WHAT YOU CAN DO

**1. Contact political officials in your country** – members of Parliament or Congress, or the Ministry/Department of Foreign Affairs or State – and demand that they cut aid and relations with Israel on the basis of its apartheid practices, its practice of colonialism, and its numerous violations of Palestinian rights including the systematic practice of administrative detention.

**Call your country's officials urgently:**

- Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop: + 61 2 6277 7500
- Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland: +1-613-992-5234
- European Union Commissioner Federica Mogherini: +32 (0) 2 29 53516
- New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Murray McCully: +64 4 439 8000
- United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson: +44 20 7008 1500
- United States President Donald Trump: 1-202-456-1111

**2. Organize or join an event in support of the hunger strikers.** Protest outside your local Israeli embassy, consulate or mission, or at a public square or government building. You can also bring signs and flyers like these about the hunger strikers to local events about Palestine and social justice. Send your events and actions to us at [samidoun@samidoun.net](mailto:samidoun@samidoun.net)

**3. Boycott, Divest and Sanction.** Hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law. Don't buy Israeli goods, and campaign to end investments in corporations that profit from the occupation. Join the BDS Movement to highlight the complicity of corporations like Hewlett-Packard and the continuing involvement of G4S in Israeli policing and prisons. Learn more about BDS at [bdsmovement.net](http://bdsmovement.net).