

Freedom for Khader Adnan: Dying to Live



Khader Adnan, an imprisoned Palestinian activist held under administrative detention, has engaged in an open-ended hunger strike since December 17, 2012. Now at fifty-seven days into his hunger strike, he is facing severe health consequences and has been moved to a hospital, continuing to refuse food in protest of torture, isolation, and the use of arbitrary detention against Palestinians.

Adnan is currently held under administrative detention, which is arbitrary detention without charge or trial, based on secret evidence, and renewable indefinitely for repeated periods of up to six months. Khader Adnan was issued a four-month administrative detention order on January 8. This is the eighth time Adnan has been detained, and he has served a total of six years in Israeli prisons – mostly without charge or trial under the administrative detention scheme. Over 300 fellow Palestinians are also held without charge or trial under Israel's administrative detention mechanism.

Khader was arrested on 17 December 2011, when Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) raided his home outside Jenin at 3:30 am. Before entering his house, soldiers used the driver that takes Khader's father to the vegetable market, Mohammad Mustafa, as a human shield by forcing him to knock on the door of the house and call out Khader's name while blindfolded.

A huge force of soldiers then entered the house shouting. Recognizing Khader immediately, they grabbed him violently in front of his two young daughters and ailing mother. The soldiers blindfolded him and tied his hands behind his back using plastic shackles before leading him out of his house and taking him to a military jeep. Khader was then thrown on his back and the soldiers began slapping him in the face and kicking his legs.

Following his arrest, he was taken to interrogation, refused medical care and treatment despite Israeli prison officials' knowledge of his health conditions, subject to physical abuse and mistreatment including being tied to a chair in a stress position, causing extreme back pain, and pulling on his beard so hard that his hair was ripped out. Khader was subjected to abusive language about his family, and refused to speak any further to interrogators, as well as refusing food. In retaliation, he was placed into isolation and solitary confinement, denied family visits, awakened in the middle of the night and strip-searched. He has refused to end his strike, protesting the illegitimacy of his arbitrary detention by an illegal occupation authority as well as cruel and inhumane treatment and abuse.

On Thursday, February 9, an appeals hearing was held in Adnan's hospital room in Zief Hospital in Safad, where six lawyers represented him. Despite the urgency of the situation and the

threat of Adnan's imminent death, the judge postponed ruling on the case until typed documents were presented, expecting a ruling sometime "next week."

In the hospital, he remains shackled to the bed, even as he has lost over 80 pounds. After 50 days without food, a hunger striker has a severe risk of organ failure – which is why action now to demand Khader Adnan's freedom is urgent.

TAKE ACTION! Palestinian prisoners' struggle for freedom is central to the struggle for a free Palestine.

1. Call Canadian government officials and demand that they pressure Israel publicly and privately to release Khader Adnan.

Call the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa at (613) 567-6450 AND

Call the Office of the Foreign Minister, John Baird (Tel: 613-990-7720; Email: bairdj@parl.gc.ca)

Just last week, Baird stated that "There is not a government on the planet today more supportive of Israel than Harper's Canada." Call Baird's office and let him know that this shameful declaration implicates Canada in Israel's crimes and human rights violations. Demand that Baird's office call for Khader Adnan's release.

2. Sign our online letters to Israeli occupation officials and the petition to the Red Cross, linked at www.samidoun.ca.

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PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK

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