

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

Mohammed al-Qeeq is a Palestinian journalist, a correspondent for Al-Majd television channel, who is imprisoned in Israeli jails - without charge and without trial, under administrative detention. Under administrative detention, Israeli military orders - on the basis of secret evidence - are sufficient to imprison Palestinians living under military occupation for up to six months per order; the orders are renewable indefinitely.

Al-Qeeq, one of 19 Palestinian journalists currently imprisoned, has now been on hunger strike for over two months. He is in critical condition and has lost consciousness; he is demanding his release from arbitrary detention. Held in HaEmek Hospital, he has been treated against his will and is threatened with the kind of torturous force-feeding performed by the United States on prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay. He is shackled to his hospital bed, and has been denied access to private doctors or physicians from human rights organizations who have sought to examine him.

He began his hunger strike on 25 November 2015, four days after he was taken from his home in a nighttime raid by armed Israeli occupation soldiers. He began

he was tied to a chair in painful stress positions for up to 15 hours a day. He faced this torture for 25 days before he was ordered imprisoned with no charge against him. He was denied access to lawyer until 24 December, the day his administrative detention order was confirmed by an Israeli military court.

Mohammed Al-Qeeq is one of 660 Palestinians held without charge or trial under administrative detention, and one of 6600 total Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli jails. Those prisoners who are not ordered imprisoned through administrative detention are sentenced by Israeli military courts - which convict 99.74% of the Palestinians who come before them - and which are part and parcel of the same Israeli occupation system that confiscates Palestinian land, builds settlements, destroys Palestinian homes and bombs and besieges Gaza.

Reporters Without Borders, Amnesty International and the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate

have expressed the urgency of Al-Qeeq's situation: he could die at any minute. Meanwhile, the U.S. and other governments are silent on the imprisonment of Al-Qeeq and other Palestinian journalists, while supporting Israel militarily, financially and politically.



## 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, call the **Israel Foreign Service Desk 1-202-647-3672** and the **White House - 202-456-1111**. **Demand action on al-Qeeq's case and an end to aid to Israel.** In the UK, call **UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Philip Hammond, MP, +44 20 7008 1500**. In Canada, call **Foreign Minister Stephane Dion: 613-996-5789**.

**2. Boycott, Divest and Sanction.** Palestinians have urged an international boycott of Israeli goods and institutions - and corporations that profit from occupation, like G4S, the world's largest private security company, that sells security equipment to Israeli prisons, checkpoints and police training centers - directly profiting from the occupation that destroys Palestinian lives. At the same time G4S profits from occupation, institutions like the United Nations continue to do business with it. Go to [addameer.org/UNdropG4S](http://addameer.org/UNdropG4S) and take action.