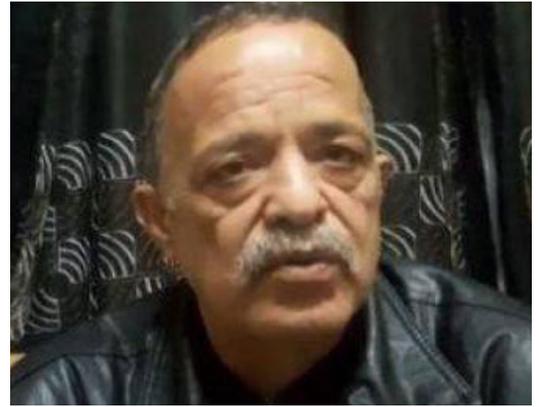


# PALESTINIAN PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

There are currently six Palestinian prisoners engaged in hunger strikes inside Israeli prison. They are striking against administrative detention, imprisonment without charge and without trial, indefinitely renewable for periods of up to six months at a time. These prisoners have been on hunger strike for weeks and are suffering from severe health consequences; their bodies and lives are on the line to demand their freedom.

**Hossam al-Ruzza**, 61, from Nablus, has been on hunger strike since 19 March. He is imprisoned without charge or trial under administrative detention. During his strike, his weight has dropped from 86 kg (189 lbs) to 61 kg (134 lbs) and is continuing to decline. He has been imprisoned without charge or trial for a year. He already suffers from a number of serious health concerns, including high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Over the years, he has spent 18 years in Israeli prisons, 11 of those years in administrative detention.



**HOSSAM AL-RUZZA**

**Mohammed Tabanja**, 38, also from Nablus, has been jailed without charge or trial under administrative detention since 28 June 2018. His strike was launched on 25 March after his detention was renewed once again by the Israeli occupation military courts. He is married with two children.



**MOHAMMED TABANJA**

**Hassan al-Oweiwi**, 35, from al-Khalil, has been on hunger strike since 2 April against his imprisonment without charge or trial. Israeli occupation forces invaded his home on 15 January before ordering him to administrative detention. He is married with three children, and his family have been desperate for information about his condition and whereabouts.

**Odeh al-Hroub**, 32, from Dura, al-Khalil, has also been on hunger strike since 2 April. He has been jailed without charge or trial since December 2018, and the renewal of his imprisonment on the basis of secret evidence led him to launch his hunger strike for freedom.

**Mohammed al-Himouni**, 36, from al-Khalil, has been imprisoned by the Israeli occupation since 25 February, when armed occupation soldiers invaded his home, and on hunger strike since 27 March. He was handcuffed, blindfolded and beaten while being taken to the detention center and, shortly thereafter, he was ordered to four months in administrative detention without charge or trial. He is the father of two children and his wife is currently pregnant.



**MOHAMMED AL-HIMOUNI**

**Mohammed Mteir**, 24, from Qalandiya refugee camp, launched his hunger strike on 20 March. He has been jailed without charge or trial since 12 January, and he was previously detained for over three years before his current stint in administrative detention.

**Lcked away with no charge and no trial for an indefinitely renewable period: this is the reality for thousands of Palestinians over the years, including approximately 500 today (of a total of nearly 5,500 Palestinian prisoners.) This 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. Palestinians routinely spend years at a time jailed under administrative detention orders. Israel routinely uses administrative detention against hundreds of Palestinians: students, workers, farmers, members of Palestinian Legislative Council, community organizers, and more. Under international law, administrative detention can be used only for “imperative reasons of security” in an emergency situation, on a case-by-case basis. **Far from a rare, “emergency” practice, administrative detention is standard operating procedure for the Israeli military against Palestinian civilians.**

# 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 imprisonment 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 and their very lives for freedom and basic human dignity.



## TAKE ACTION: HOW YOU CAN HELP

1) **Contact political officials in your country. Write letters and make phone calls** to protest the violation of Palestinian prisoners' rights. Demand your government take action to stop supporting Israeli occupation or to pressure the Israeli state to end the policies of repression of Palestinian political prisoners. In particular, demand that your political officials put pressure on Israel to end the policy of administrative detention, the imprisonment of Palestinians without charge or trial.

Call during your country's regular office hours:

- Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs Marise Payne: + 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 Winston Peters: +64 4 439 8000
- United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt: +44 20 7008 1500
- United States President Donald Trump: 1-202-456-1111

2) **Organize or join an event or protest for the Palestinian prisoners.** You can organize an info table, rally, solidarity hunger strike, protest or action to support the prisoners. If you are already holding an event about Palestine or social justice, include solidarity with the prisoners as part of your action. Send your events and reports to [samidoun@samidoun.net](mailto:samidoun@samidoun.net).

3) **Boycott, Divest and Sanction.** Join the BDS campaign to highlight the complicity of corporations like Hewlett-Packard and the continuing involvement of G4S in Israeli policing and prisons. Don't buy Israeli goods, and campaign to end investments in corporations that profit from the occupation. Build a campaign to boycott Israeli goods, impose a military embargo on Israel, or organize around the academic and cultural boycott of Israel. There are so many ways you can play an active role in helping to cut off the funds that serve to prop up Israel's colonial regime of imprisonment. Learn more about BDS at [bdsmovement.net](http://bdsmovement.net).