

# THE CASE OF AHMAD SA'ADAT

Ahmad Sa'adat is a Palestinian political leader, the General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Palestinian leftist political party and a part of the Palestinian resistance.. He is currently serving a 30-year life sentence in an Israeli prison, convicted on political charges related to his public advocacy and political activity.

Sa'adat was abducted with four of his comrades in an Israeli military raid on the Palestinian Authority prison in Jericho on March 14, 2006. Born in 1953, Sa'adat is the child of refugees expelled from their home in the village of Deir Tarif, near Ramleh, in 1948. A math teacher by training, he is married to Abla Sa'adat, herself a noted activist, and is the father of four children. Abla Sa'adat has recently been facing attempts by the Israeli occupation to strip her of her Jerusalem residency.

He has been involved in the Palestinian national movement since 1967, when he became active in the student movement. Prior to his abduction from Jericho in 2006, he had been held at various times as a political prisoner in Israeli jails, for a total of ten years. Sa'adat was elected General Secretary of the PFLP in 2001, following the Israeli assassination of then-General Secretary Abu Ali Mustafa in his office in Ramallah on August 27, 2001. (He was re-elected in November 2013.) He was kidnapped by the Palestinian Authority on January 15, 2002. For the entire period of Sa'adat's imprisonment in the PA jails, he had been convicted of no crime; his sentencing- in an illegitimate military court of occupation – came nearly seven years into his detention, after a trial that began after five years of PA/US/British, then Israeli, imprisonment.

Sa'adat has become a national Palestinian symbol of prisoner steadfastness, through his rejection of Israeli military courts and leadership in the prisoners' movement.



Cartoon by Carlos Latuff

## A CALL FROM PRISON

**"It is critical to besiege the racist, settler-colonial Zionist project, and indeed to delegitimize this project, and to support the struggle of our people for liberation, self-determination and return as the pathway to a democratic political solution for Palestine. I call on all forces of progress, freedom and democracy to stand by the struggle of the Palestinian people through all forms of boycott - political economic, academic and cultural - of the occupation state and the creation of a real economic cost for its industries of colonization and settlement and escalating the global campaigns for boycott of all corporations that support and invest in the occupation militarily and economically."** - Ahmad Sa'adat

***"In defense of the justice of our cause and in defense of the legitimate struggle of our people against the occupation, I refuse to recognize the legitimacy of your court or to legitimize your occupation or to stand before either of these. Because what you call a list of accusations and 'security infractions' are in reality my patriotic duties...the general duty of resistance against occupation...I would like to reaffirm my pride in belonging to the Palestinian Revolutionary Movement and to the extensions of this movement in the regional, national and international planes that form the components of the international movement against the imperialist system."***

***- Ahmad Sa'adat***

**Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa'adat Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network**  
**freeahmadsaadat.org samidoun.net**

# PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

## WHO ARE THE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS?

There are today approximately **4750** Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli occupation jails. Palestinians, living under occupation and oppression and in exile for over 74 years, have been targeted relentlessly for imprisonment and detention as a colonial weapon of the Israeli occupation. Nearly every Palestinian family has been touched by political imprisonment. Since the Nakba in 1947-48, **approximately 1 million Palestinians have been imprisoned**, and 800,000 of those since the extension of the occupation to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967. **40% of Palestinian men** in the West Bank have spent time in occupation jails. Palestinians' arrest and detention are governed by arbitrary Israeli military orders. There are over **1500 of these orders**, which can be altered at any time by a regional military commander. Many prisoners have never even faced a completed military trial or are jailed without charge. Those who are tried are brought before a military court with often-untrained judges serving in the occupation army. These unlawful military courts pass judgment on Palestinians' right to live, organize and resist. **The Israeli military courts have a conviction rate of over 99%.**



## ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

The Israeli military routinely imprisons Palestinians **without charge or trial under "administrative detention" orders. Issued for up to six months at a time, these orders can be extended indefinitely.** Administrative detention orders are based on secret evidence concealed from both the detainee and their lawyers. Palestinians have spent years at a time jailed with no charges under administrative detention, including community leaders, writers and organizers. **The 500 currently held administrative detainees are now boycotting the Israeli military courts.**

**ABUSE AND TORTURE** - Palestinian detainees may go through an initial 180-day period of interrogation and denied access to a lawyer for up to 60 days of that period, under the Israeli colonial regime. The regime also legalizes the use of "moderate physical pressure." This legalized torture includes the use of shortshackling, stress positions, beating and squeezing of handcuffs, as well as sleep deprivation, humiliation and threats. Palestinians have died and been severely injured under Israeli interrogators' torture, and up to 90% report physical and psychological torture.

## TAKE ACTION: DEMAND FREEDOM

- 1. Copy and share this leaflet with your colleagues, comrades and friends.** Download more information about Palestinian political prisoners at [samidoun.net](http://samidoun.net)
- 2. Rally or protest outside Israeli consulates/embassies or in a public area in your city.** Call for freedom for Palestine and Palestinian prisoners. Also, take part in online actions and protests! Post on social media about these campaigns, and visit [samidoun.net](http://samidoun.net) for more information.
- 3. Boycott Israel!** Palestinians have called for an international boycott of Israel and its companies and institutions for its violations of Palestinian rights. You can take action by refusing to buy Israeli products or those made by complicit corporations, like computer manufacturer HP.

## SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND ISOLATION

Isolation and solitary confinement are frequently used against Palestinian political prisoners, including hunger strikers, political leaders, and other influential prisoners.

Detainees and prisoners held in solitary confinement are completely cut off from the world 24 hours a day. They are held in an empty cell containing only a mattress and a blanket. Prisoners held in isolation are held in a cell alone or with one other prisoner for 23 hours a day.

Each isolation cell usually has one small window which in most cases does not allow in sufficient light or air from the outside. Solitary confinement and isolation are considered forms of torture by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

# THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM