

## *Christ is risen! He is truly risen! We are witnesses to this*

Easter this year comes under the shadow of the ongoing genocidal war against the Gaza Strip, which has left tens of thousands of Palestinian killed, wounded or buried under the rubble. Since the start of the Israeli genocide war no less than 9,400 Palestinian prisoners had been summarily arrested, tortured and are languishing in Israeli jails and detention centers many of whom deprived of celebrating Easter with their families.

We stand in solidarity with our prisoners and their families as they yearn for their freedom and release from Israeli prisons and as we, Palestinians, yearn for our collective freedom from occupation.

This blessed Easter we pray for our Christian Palestinian prisoners, along with all the Palestinian prisoners, demanding that they be released and reunified with their loved ones.

**Political prisoner Ibrahim Mas'ad Hani** from Ramallah was sentenced to life imprisonment and an additional 25 years. Ibrahim has four sons Mas'ad, Hani, Khalil and Ghadir. Eighteen Easters have passed, and Ibrahim has yet to celebrate this blessed holiday with his family and loved ones.



**Political prisoner Marwan Ibrahim Maadi** from Jifna, was sentenced to 8 years in prison. Two months before the conclusion of his sentence, the Israeli prosecution appealed the court's decision and he was sentenced to 22 years of imprisonment! Marwan has three sons Ibrahim, Peter, and Leith. Twelve Easters have passed, and Marwan has yet to celebrate this blessed holiday with his family and loved ones.



**Political prisoner Khaled Shawqi Halabi** from Jerusalem, was sentenced to 28 years in prison. Celebrating life and love, Khaled married Claire and they were crowned by Palestinian Archbishop Atallah Hanna, with the bride and her family in the church and Khaled joining them over with the phone from his prison cell! Twenty three Easters have passed, and Khaled has yet to celebrate this blessed holiday with his family and loved ones.



**Nael Samir Halabi** hails from Jerusalem and was arrested and imprisoned several times. As a minor he was arrested and sentenced to four and a half years. While in jail Nael obtained his bachelor and Master's degrees from Birzeit University. Four consecutive Easters have passed and Nael has yet to celebrate this blessed holiday with his family and loved ones.



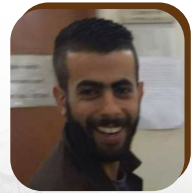
**Samir Mina Al-Arabeid** from Ramallah. He was Detained in 2019 and imprisoned in the infamous Nafha desert prison. Samir was subjected to harsh interrogation and was subjected to long bouts of torture at the hands of his Israeli jailers. Aside from broken ribs and other ailments Samir's hearing had gravely deteriorated. Samir has three children Rita, Mina, and Jolan. Five consecutive Easters have passed, and Samir has yet to celebrate this blessed holiday with his family and loved ones.



**Rami Rizq Fadhil** hails from the Palestinian city of Ramallah and is currently behind bars. The Israeli military can preemptively arrest any Palestinian "administratively" with no charges or trial for up to six months. The military persecutors can repeatedly renew the six month administrative detention period at will. Rami has a daughter named Mais. Several Easters have passed, and Rami has yet to celebrate this blessed holiday with his family and loved ones.



**John William Qaqish** hails from occupied Jerusalem. He was arrested in 2015 and sentenced to 9 years in prison and later raised by the Israeli court system to eleven years. Specifically on Holy Saturday, the streets of the Christian Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, where Williams's family lives, misses him. As a scout, John used to lead the drummers in the traditional Holy Saturday procession and for nine years now he languishes in his cell unable to join.



**Layan Sami Nasser** from the town of Birzeit. She is being currently held in the wretched Damon Prison in inhumane conditions. An administrative detention order was issued against her for four months. The Israeli military can preemptively arrest any Palestinian "administratively" with no charges or trial for up to six months. The military persecutors can repeatedly renew the six month administrative detention period at will. Young Layan, born in the third millennium, was first kidnapped in 2021, while she a university student. She was kidnapped a second time shortly after graduating from Birzeit University.



**Dana Yousef Khouri** hails from the beautiful coastal city of Haifa. She is being currently held in Damon Prison in inhumane conditions. In a testimony she gave, Dana described her incarceration and the harsh prison conditions as "cemeteries for the living." This is Dana's first Easter behind bars.



May all Palestinian prisoners be freed soon and with this blessed Easter dawning on us may the pain and suffering of the Palestinian people end and the Israeli war of genocide stool.

Mahd Al-Mashriq Initiative