

*"And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32).*

The number of Palestinian political prisoners languishing in Israeli military prisons and detention centers has doubled since the start of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza on 7 October, 2023. More than 12,000 Palestinian prisoners are now languishing in detention, including 9 Palestinian Christian prisoners.

Palestinian political prisoners are routinely subjected to various forms of torture and ill-treatment, ranging from starvation, deliberate medical negligence, abuse to rape and other forms. The cancellation of family visits since 7 October 2023 meant that these prisoners were deprived from meeting with their families and with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

At least 23 Palestinian prisoners from the occupied West Bank alone were murdered in these Israeli prisons due to extreme torture or deliberate negligence. It is reported that thousands of additional detained Palestinian political prisoners were forcibly disappeared and until this moment, the Israeli military and prison authorities refuse to disclose their whereabouts, names, and under what conditions they are being held.

Palestinian Christians, as their fellow citizens, are subjected to a brutal Israeli occupation. They constitute an integral part of the Palestinian fabric and the Palestinian people's struggle for their freedom and self-determination.

**Ibrahim Mas'ad Hani** from Ramallah, occupied West Bank. He was sentenced to two life sentences and an additional 25 years. Ibrahim has four children: Mas'ad, Hani, Khalil and Ghadir. Eighteen Easters and Christmases have passed, and Ibrahim has yet to celebrate these blessed holidays with his family and loved ones.



**Marwan Ibrahim Maaddi** from Jifna, occupied West Bank. He was sentenced to 8 years in prison. Two months before the end of his sentence, the Israeli prosecution appealed the court's decision and he was sentenced to 22 years of imprisonment! Marwan has three children: Ibrahim, Peter, and Laith. Twelve Easters and Christmases have passed, and Marwan has yet to celebrate these blessed holidays with his family and loved ones.



**Khaled Shawqi Halabi** from occupied Jerusalem. He 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 and Christmases have passed, and Khaled has yet to celebrate these blessed holidays with his family and loved ones.



**Ramez Samir Awwad** a journalist from the village of Jifna in the occupied West Bank. He was arrested arbitrarily in August 2024 and is still being held in detention at the infamous Ofer prison. Ramez, 31 years old, works as a photojournalist. He was targeted several times while covering the news and was shot twice in the leg with live ammunition by Israeli occupation forces, the last time being in December 2023.



**Samer Mina Al-Arbid** from Ramallah, occupied West Bank. He was detained in 2019 and imprisoned in the infamous Nafha desert prison. Samer was subjected to harsh interrogation and extreme torture. Aside from broken ribs and other ailments, Samer's hearing gravely deteriorated. Currently, he is isolated in Majiddo prison. Samer has three children: Rita, Mina, and Joulan. Five consecutive Easters and Christmases have passed, and Samer has yet to celebrate these blessed holidays with his family and loved ones.



**Rami Rizq Fadhil** from Ramallah, occupied West Bank. He is being held in detention at the infamous Naqab prison. The Israeli military can arbitrarily arrest any Palestinian under "administrative detention" with no charges or trial for an indefinite period of time. Rami's administrative detention was renewed for six months. Rami has a daughter named Mais. Several Easters and Christmases have passed, and Rami has yet to celebrate these blessed holidays with his family and loved ones.



**John William Qaqish** from occupied Jerusalem. He was arrested in 2015 and sentenced to 9 years in prison. His sentence was later raised to 11 years. Specifically on Holy Saturday, the streets of the Christian Quarter in the old city of Jerusalem, where Qaqish's family lives, misses him. As a boy scout, John used to lead the drummers in the traditional Holy Saturday procession and for nine years now he languishes in his prison cell unable to join.



**Layan Sami Nasser** from the town of Birzeit, occupied West Bank. She is currently held in the infamous Damon prison in inhumane conditions. An administrative detention order was issued against her for four months, and has been renewed for four more. Young Layan, born in 2000, was first abducted in 2021, when she was a university student. She was abducted a second time shortly after graduating from Birzeit University.



**Dana Yousef Khouri** from the beautiful coastal city of Haifa, occupied in 1948. She is 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 and Christmases behind bars.



August 2024

