

**“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”
(John 8:32)**

Mahd Al-Mashreq Initiative

It is an Arab-Palestinian Christian initiative that affirms the national identity and struggle of the Christians who are deeply rooted in the Arab world.

The initiative aims to:
Strengthen the resilience of young Palestinian Christians.
Expose the Zionist co-optation of Christianity.

Amplify the voices of Palestinian Christians resisting colonial oppression.
Highlight the historic role of Palestinian Christians in the liberation struggle.



This pamphlet sheds light on the plight of Palestinian Christian detainees held in Israeli military prisons and detention centers.

Palestinian Christians face imprisonment not in isolation but as part of systemic oppression targeting all Palestinians:

- Over 9,500 Palestinian political detainees are currently held under a military occupation system.
- The recent ‘death penalty law’ passed by the Knesset targets Palestinians exclusively, representing a clear form of legalized violence and is widely regarded as a war crime.
- Palestinians continue to suffer under decades of occupation, apartheid, displacement, and relentless, violent settlement expansion.

Despite these hardships, Palestinians hold on to hope, echoing the message of resurrection:

“Just as light emerged from the darkness of the tomb, so too does our hope for freedom shine undimmed”.



Mahd AlMashreq initiative



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Marwan Ibrahim Ma'adi Jifna Village/ West Bank



Sentenced to 8 years, Marwan’s term was subsequently extended to 22 years following an appeal by the occupation prosecution two months before his scheduled release. A father of three, he has missed 14 Easters and 14 Christmases with his family.

Rami Rizk Fadayel Ramallah/ West Bank



Rami has been repeatedly detained over a period of 14 years. Currently, he is being held under administrative detention for six months, renewed for the fourth time, just before Christmas of last year. His daughter Mays writes: “Four holidays, Easter and Christmas, were all I had with my father due to his repeated detention”. Rami continues to be denied access to the Holy Bible in prison.

Nael Sameer Halabi Occupied Jerusalem



Nael was first arrested as a child. Released in June 2024, he was re-arrested under administrative detention (a detention system without charges and without a specific-set sentence subject to arbitrary renewal) less than five months later. For over twenty years, Nael's family has barely spent holidays together, as he or his brothers were often detained at the same time.

**John William Qaqish
Occupied Jerusalem**

Arrested in 2015, John was initially sentenced to 9 years, later arbitrarily increased to 11 years by Israel's Supreme Court. During Holy Saturday, and as a beloved tambourine player with the Boys Scout, the streets of the Christian Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem miss his familiar drumbeat a silence that has persisted for years.



**Samer Mina Al-Arabid
Ramallah/ West Bank**

Held in military prison since 2019, Samer is placed in solitary confinement in the infamous Megiddo prison, having suffered a hearing loss in one of his ears during intense military interrogation. A father of three, he has missed seven consecutive Easters and Christmases with his family. Samer continues to be denied access to the Holy Bible in prison.



**Layan Sami Nasser
Birzeit Town/ West Bank**

Currently held in Damoun prison near Haifa. Layan was first detained in 2021 and she was re-arrested and placed under the arbitrary administrative detention system during the genocide war over Gaza. She is serving a seven-and-a-half-month sentence, having recently graduated with a Bachelors degree in Nutrition from Birzeit University.



**Ramez Samir Awwad
Jifna Village/ West Bank**

Arrested in August 2024 and sentenced to two years, Ramez works as an independent journalist and was injured twice while reporting. This is his second Easter in military prison.



**Jafrey Suleiman Qawwas
Jifna Village/ West Bank**

Arrested in 2025, Jafrey's court hearings are repeatedly delayed as he remains in detention. As a committed scouts leader, this is his second Easter apart from his family, missing his role leading youth activities.



**Cezar Basel Haddad
Bethlehem/ West Bank**

A sociology student at Birzeit University, Cezar was abducted from his university dormitory in January 2026. The Israeli military court had repeatedly delayed his hearings. This marks his first Easter away from his family.



**Raef Abdullah Khoury
Taybeh Village/ West Bank**

Arrested in early February 2026, Raef's court sessions are repeatedly postponed. This will be his first Easter away from his family.



**Qais Elias Aqel
Aboud Village/ West Bank**

Qais, a 14-year-old ninth-grade student active in church service, was taken to Ofer Military Detention Center in February 2026. Repeated delays in his hearings mean he will spend his first Easter alone in prison.



**Shadi Suhail Khoury
Occupied Jerusalem**

A high school student arrested in 2022, Shadi spent 41 days in detention, followed by a year of house arrest with very restricted movement. After 41 court sessions, he was recently sentenced to 32 months in prison. Despite this ordeal, he successfully completed his International Baccalaureate (IB) and continues his university studies. His Supreme Court appeal, before final sentencing, is scheduled for April 16, 2026.

