

4,600 Prisoners

FREE ALL PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

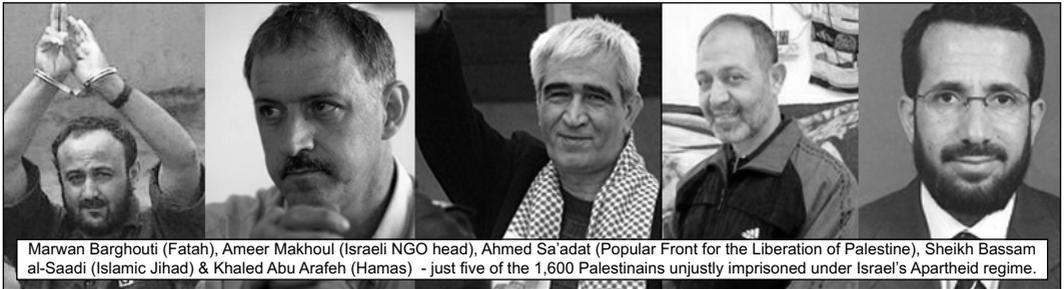
320 Internees

According to Palestinian Prisoners' Rights NGOs, at present over **4,600 Palestinians are now imprisoned** by the Israeli state for resisting Israeli Apartheid and occupation. Of those, **203 are children, 5 are women, 27 are elected representatives and more than 320 are 'Administrative Detainees'** - that is they have been interned without trial not having been charged with any crime or seeing the secret evidence against them.

Those 'convicted' prisoners were jailed by non-jury Israeli Military Courts (Palestinians in the Occupied Territories are subject to Israeli military law. Israel's colonial settlers are ruled by Israeli civil law - another

example Israel's Apartheid system). These military courts, biased from the outset, do not meet international fair trial standards.

Over four decades of illegal Israeli military occupation, Palestinians from all walks of life have been detained by Israel. Since the beginning of the occupation in 1967, over 650,000 Palestinians have been detained by Israel. This forms approximately 20% of the total Palestinian population in the OPT. Considering the fact that the majority of those detained are male, the number of Palestinians detained forms approximately 40% of the total male Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.



Marwan Barghouti (Fatah), Ameer Makhoul (Israeli NGO head), Ahmed Sa'adat (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine), Sheikh Bassam al-Saadi (Islamic Jihad) & Khaled Abu Arafah (Hamas) - just five of the 1,600 Palestinians unjustly imprisoned under Israel's Apartheid regime.

Hunger Strikes: Recently Palestinian prisoners have begun hunger strikes in protest against their detentions. Two prisoners, Khader Adnan and Hana Shalabi have secured their freedom via this method. At present, 8 people are on hunger strike, including 4 who have been hospitalised. A further 1,600 prisoners are due to start an open ended hunger today, April 17th, **Palestinian Prisoners' Day**.

TAKE ACTION!

Israel's brutal prison regime is only one aspect of the occupation of Palestine by Israel and its associated Apartheid regime. Indeed, when one considers the ongoing siege of Gaza and fragmentation of the West Bank, Palestine can be viewed as one large open air prison camp. It is vital that people like you take action to support the Palestinians by pressuring Israel and our own elected representatives. Below are two simple actions you can take:



The EU is Israel's biggest trading partner, and the EC-Israel Agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of Industrial Products (**ACAA**) is currently being debated at the European Parliament and is likely to be adopted, thus increasing this trade.

We are calling on Irish MEPs in the EU Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade committees to vote 'No' to ACAA, and for a no vote in the plenary session of the European Parliament in June. Israeli apartheid must not be rewarded, it must be opposed by concrete actions by governments who declare they support human rights. Appeasing apartheid is simply not an option.

You can take action on this by emailing all Irish MEPs - see www.tinyurl.com/acaa2012 for details and a sample letter.

BOYCOTT ISRAELI GOODS

Israeli fruit, veg, herbs and spices can be found on the shelves of many Irish supermarkets. If you want to show your solidarity with the Palestinian people boycotting these products is a good place to start!

You should also ask your supermarket not to stock them in the first place. Always check the label on fruit (eg peppers, avocados, dates, grapefruit, grapes, figs, passion & sharon fruit), vegetables (eg potatoes, carrots) and herbs and spices (eg basil, dill, tarragon, chives, rosemary, sage, parsley) to see if they originate from Israel (Barcode starts with 729) - and if they do, then don't buy them. It's easy!

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