

# Palestinian Prisoners' Day

# END ISRAELI INTERNMENT AND TORTURE

**Israeli Detention & Imprisonment Practices:** Since the beginning of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories in 1967, over 750,000 Palestinians have been detained by the Israeli military. This figure represents approximately 40% of the total male population in occupied Palestinian territory.

**Administrative Detention:** Administrative detention (internment without trial) is a practice used by Israel to detain Palestinians on detention orders that range from one to six months, renewable indefinitely. Detention orders are based on secret information that neither the detainee nor their lawyer have access to. Administrative detention is often used when there is insufficient evidence to try Palestinians under any of the military orders Israel uses to govern the West Bank.

**Indefinite Administrative Detention:** Indefinite administrative detention is against international law, which stipulates that administrative detention – detention ordered by executive, rather than judicial, authorities – can only take place in emergency cases of real and immediate threats to State security, which can by definition not be indefinite. The longest serving Palestinian administrative detainee, Mazen Natsheh, has cumulatively spent nearly ten and a half years in administratively detention since 1994.

**Administrative Detention in Numbers:** Between 2007 and 2011, 8,157 administrative detention orders were issued by Israel. As of February 2013, there were 178 Palestinian administrative detainees in Israeli custody, including 9 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council.



Samer Issawi has been on hunger strike in an Israeli jail for eight months. He is at imminent risk of death.

**Disrupting the Palestinian Democratic Process:** Administrative detention has also been used by Israel to target democratically elected Palestinian officials. By 2009, nearly a third of PLC members were being detained by the Israelis. Since 2005, 20 PLC members have been placed in administrative detention, six of whom were administratively detained more than once. All Palestinian political parties are considered illegal under Israeli military law, making any politically active Palestinian vulnerable to imprisonment.

**Ill-Treatment:** Administrative detainees face several forms of ill-treatment, including medical neglect, poor conditions, limited access to lawyers, limited family visits, and torture.

**Torture:** Confessions obtained via torture are admissible in Israeli military trials and tribunals. Since 1967, 72 detainees have died while in custody as a result of torture. Under Israeli military law, detainees can be held in interrogation for up to 60 days without access to a lawyer, effectively preventing appropriate checks on interrogation methods. This is a breach of international law.

