

URGENT ACTION

NGO DIRECTOR IN ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

Ubai Aboudi, an NGO worker and education activist has been issued a four-month administrative detention order by the Israeli military commander of the West Bank. Ubai Aboudi has been detained since 13 November 2019, without charge or trial in Ofer prison, near the West Bank city of Ramallah.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

Major-General Nadav Padan
GOC Central Command
Military Post 01149
Battalion 877
Fax: + 972 2 530 5741
Email: 1111@idf.gov.il

Dear Major-General Nadav Padan,

On 13 November at around 3:00am at least 10 Israeli soldiers entered Ubai Aboudi's home in Kufr Aqab and detained him in front of his wife and children. Ubai Aboudi is meant to take part in the Third International Meeting for Science in Palestine, in the USA in January 2020.

On 18 November, Ubai Aboudi was issued a four-month administrative detention order signed by you. On 28 November 2019, his detention order is meant to be confirmed by an Israeli military judge. Ubai Aboudi is the Director of prominent Palestinian NGO, Bisan Center for Research and Development. Administrative detention orders can be renewed indefinitely, and evidence is kept secret, meaning that detainees are not able to effectively challenge their detention and do not know when they will be released.

Amnesty International is gravely concerned that Israel's systematic use of administrative detention against Palestinians violates international human rights law – its use as such result in arbitrary detention, and if prolonged or repeated can amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

I urge you to immediately release Ubai Aboudi, and all others who have been placed under administrative detention, unless they are promptly charged with an internationally recognisable crime and tried in proceedings that adhere to international fair trial standards. I urge you to take immediate steps to end the practice of administrative detention.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ubai Aboudi is a 35-year-old father of three, and the Director of [Bisan Center of Research and Development](#). His work focuses on sustainable development and education in Palestine. Ubai Aboudi is also a vocal advocate and partner for [Scientists for Palestine](#), an organisation that promotes science and supports the integration of the occupied Palestinian territories into the international scientific community. Ubai Aboudi was meant to take part in the [Third International Meeting for Science in Palestine](#), set to be held in the USA at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in January 2020.

During Ubai Aboudi's arrest, Israeli forces separated him from his wife and confiscated his phone and US passport before detaining him. Israeli forces left the home without telling his wife where they were taking him. His wife only learned a day later that he was being held in Ofer prison, near the city of Ramallah in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Ubai Aboudi was issued a four-month administrative detention order, signed by the Israeli military commander of the West Bank on 18 November. On 28 November, the Ofer Military Court near Ramallah in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) is scheduled to confirm the detention order. If confirmed, Ubai Aboudi's detention is meant to end on 12 March 2020, although it could be renewed indefinitely.

Ubai Aboudi was also arrested in 2005 and 2010. He has spent over four years in Israeli prisons on charges including for membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a left-wing political party with an armed wing, banned by Israel.

Amnesty International has collected evidence over many years indicating that the Israeli authorities use administrative detention regularly as a form of political detention – enabling the authorities to arbitrarily detain political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, and that the practice is used to punish them for their views and suspected political affiliations, when they have not committed any crime. Administrative detention was initially introduced as an exceptional emergency measure to detain people who pose an extreme and imminent danger to security. Orders can be renewed indefinitely, and evidence is kept secret. Detainees are not able to effectively challenge their detention and do not know when they will be released.

According to the Palestinian human rights organisation, [Addameer](#), as of October 2019, there were 460 administrative detainees, including two children and five Palestinian Legislative Council members, held without charge or trial by Israel. Amnesty International has documented an escalation of acts of intimidation by the Israeli government against Palestinian civil society organisations and human rights activists in the OPT.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: Hebrew, English or Arabic
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: 2 January 2020
Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN: Ubai Aboudi (he/him)

ADDITIONAL TARGETS: Embassy of Israel, 2 Palace Green, Kensington, London W8 4QB