

12 August 2020

OPT/Israel: Arbitrary detention of woman human rights defender Tasneem Al-Qadi

On 6 August 2020, the detention of woman human rights defender **Tasneem Al-Qadi** was extended by an additional eight days. The defender has been in solitary confinement in the Beth Tikvah detention centre since being arbitrarily detained, without an arrest warrant, on 4 August 2020.

[Tasneem Al-Qadi](#) is a Palestinian woman human rights defender, working with the organisation International Federation for Rights and Development, which monitors human rights violations and development issues. She is also a blogger on social media, with her advocacy focusing on the rights of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, and on the rights of Palestinian women.

On 4 August 2020 at approximately 4:00 am, several Israeli soldiers raided the family home of Tasneem Al-Qadi in Ramallah. The soldiers searched and reportedly vandalised the house, confiscating her laptop and phone, before arresting her. The defender was taken to the Beth Tikvah detention centre where she was interrogated and placed in solitary confinement, where she remains at the time of writing. Her family were only made aware of her whereabouts hours after she was initially arrested, and were deeply concerned when they were informed that she was being held in the Beth Tikvah detention centre, as it is known for its inhumane conditions, and torturing and mistreating prisoners.

On 6 August 2020, the authorities of the detention centre extended the detention of Tasneem Al-Qadi for an additional eight days, citing the need for further investigations. The defender has been denied contact with her family or her lawyer since being detained over a week ago. She has not yet been made aware of any charges against her.

Front Line Defenders is deeply concerned regarding the arbitrary arrest and the well being of woman human rights defender Tasneem Al-Qadi. Front Line Defenders believes that her arrest was in reprisal for her peaceful and legitimate human rights activities in Palestine, defending the rights of women and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons.

Front Line Defenders urge the Israeli authorities to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Tasneem Al-Qadi, as Front Line Defenders believes that she is being held solely as a result of his legitimate and peaceful work in the defence of human rights;
2. Ensure that the treatment of Tasneem Al-Qadi, while in detention, adheres to the conditions set out in the *'Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment'*, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 43/173 of 9 December 1988;
3. Allow Tasneem Al-Qadi immediate and unfettered access to her family and lawyers;
4. Return the confiscated items during the raid, as they are manifestly not linked to any criminal activity;

5. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in OPT/Israel and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.

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