

25 September 2019

Occupied Palestinian Territories: Raid at offices of human rights organisation Addameer

On 19 September at approximately 2 a.m., Israeli Defence Forces raided the office of the human rights organisation **Addameer** in Ramallah. Several digital devices and memory cards were confiscated during the raid.

[Addameer Prisoners Support and Human Rights Association](#) is a Palestinian non-governmental organisation offering free legal aid to Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. The organisation advocates for their rights at the national and international level, and works to end torture and other violations of prisoners' rights through monitoring, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns.

On 19 September 2019, the Israeli Defence Forces raided Addameer's office without previous notice. They searched the office and confiscated five laptops, one camera memory card, three memory cards of laptops, as well as several documents and publications.

Addameer's office was raided by the Israeli forces on several occasions in the past. In 2012, the office was searched and devices and documents were confiscated. Even though the organisation filed a complaint at the Civil Administration of Judea and Samaria, no action was taken. In 2002, several items were confiscated during a raid at the organisation's office.

These raids are being considered part of an intimidation strategy, aimed at discouraging the organisation from carrying out its human rights work. Front Line Defenders is concerned about the repeated harassment of Addameer, as it believes it to be solely motivated by its work defending human rights.

Front Line Defenders urges the Israeli authorities to:

1. Carry out an immediate, thorough and impartial investigation into the raid of Addameer's office with a view to publishing the results and bringing those responsible to justice in accordance with international standards;
2. Return the documents and the devices confiscated during the raid, as they are manifestly not linked to any criminal activity;
3. Guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights defenders and organisations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions.

Front Line Defenders respectfully reminds you that the United Nations Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1998, recognises the legitimacy of the activities of human rights defenders, their right to freedom of association and to carry out their activities without fear of reprisals. We would particularly draw attention to Article 6 (b and c): *“Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others: (b) As provided for in human rights and other applicable international instruments, freely to publish, impart or disseminate to others views, information and knowledge on all human rights and fundamental freedoms; (c) To study, discuss, form and hold opinions on the observance, both in law and in practice, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and, through these and other appropriate means, to draw public attention to those matters”*, and to Article 12 (1 and 2): *“(1) Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.*

Please inform us of any actions that may be taken with regard to the above case.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Anderson

Executive Director

