

# PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS: STARVING for FREEDOM

## **TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN PRISONERS ON HUNGER STRIKE!**

Palestinian prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons began an open-ended hunger strike on September 27, 2011, demanding an end to the isolation of Palestinian prisoner and national leader Ahmad Sa'adat, an end to isolation for all Palestinian political prisoners, and an end to the policies of repression and humiliation against visitors to the prisoners, including denial of family visits and visitors being stopped, searched and impeded at Israeli occupation checkpoints. The prisoners are also demanding an end to abuse and humiliation of prisoners while they are transferred from one prison to another, as well as their right to an education.

There are over 5,500 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli occupation jails, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Palestinian political prisoners are frequently subject to torture and abuse, and placed in solitary confinement in order to silence their demands for dignity and justice. These prisoners are held in jail because they are committed to ending the Israeli occupation of their homeland.

Ahmad Sa'adat, the imprisoned General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Palestinian national leader whose isolation has inspired Palestinian and international protest, has been imprisoned by Israeli occupation forces since his kidnapping in March 13, 2006. He was abducted in a violent Israeli military raid from a Palestinian Authority prison where he had been unjustly held without charge or trial for over four years under U.S. and British guard. He has been in isolation for over two years following his calls for resistance to the Israeli assault on Gaza in winter 2009.

The Israeli Minister of Internal Security, at a meeting in Ramon and Naqab Prisons, has threatened to escalate repression against prisoners, threatening to move all prisoners participating in the hunger strike into isolation and solitary confinement, and to forcibly transfer those prisoners to other prisons in the occupation prison system. Prisoners are frequently transferred by occupation forces in an attempt to break up social bonds and disrupt organizing against prison repression. Twenty-eight prisoners have so far been newly placed in isolation in retaliation for their participation in the hunger strike.

Furthermore, prisoners announced that they will reject all prison orders, refusing to wear uniforms, stand up for daily counts, or accept food. **For decades, Palestinian prisoners have engaged in hunger strikes to demand - and win - their rights, and are now putting their bodies on the line once more to demand the freedom and dignity of themselves, their people, their homeland and their nation.** The Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa'adat calls upon all solidarity, international justice and human rights groups and organizations to join us to demand freedom, dignity and justice for Palestinian prisoners.

### Palestinian hunger strikers' demands:

- "1. End the solitary confinement and isolation of our comrade, General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, member of the Palestinian Legislative Council and the PLO Central Council, Ahmad Sa'adat, Abu Ghassan.
2. End the policy of isolation for all prisoners;
3. End the policy of systematic humiliation by the occupation army against the Palestinian people at checkpoints and crossings, particularly targeting visitors to prisons, and end the arbitrary denial of visits to the prisoners, especially the prisoners from the Gaza Strip. End the humiliation and abuse of prisoners during transfer. Ensure our right to education and visits."

### **TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT STRIKING PRISONERS!**

1. Contact the International Committee of the Red Cross at [jerusalem.jer@icrc.org](mailto:jerusalem.jer@icrc.org) to call upon the ICRC to take action to protect the rights of Palestinian prisoners and end isolation and torture.
2. Organize a local action. Protest or picket your Israeli or US embassy or consulate! **Please contact the Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa'adat at [info@freeahmadsaadat.org](mailto:info@freeahmadsaadat.org) to coordinate.**
3. Redistribute this flyer.

The Campaign to Free Ahmad Sa'adat [info@freeahmadsaadat.org](mailto:info@freeahmadsaadat.org)  
**Learn More & Take Action: [www.freeahmadsaadat.org](http://www.freeahmadsaadat.org)**