

Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha

Timeline for Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha.

14 th Dec 2015:	Detained in Occupied West Bank and taken to Hawara Detention Centre.
?? Dec 2015:	Red Cross tell parents that Mohammad has been taken to Megiddo prison Northern Israel.
25 th Dec 2015:	MILITARY court hands out 6 month detention order.
5 th Jan 2016:	MILITARY court upholds detention order.
?? Mar 2016:	Transferred to Ketziot prison Southern Israel.
31 st Mar 2016:	MILITARY judge dismisses appeal against detention order.
Oct/Nov/Dec 2016:	Mohammad's parents denied visiting on 'Security Grounds'.
17 th Apr 2017:	Palestinian prisoners, including Mohammad, go on hunger strike to protest about administrative detention. Mohammad's mother joins hunger strike in solidarity.
10 th May 2017:	Israeli High Court rules that renewal of Mohammad's administrative detention should be limited to only one additional 3 month period.
27 th May 2017:	Hunger strike suspended as prisoners and prison authority enter into negotiations.
11 th Jun 2017:	Detention order expires.
12 th Jun 2017:	MILITARY court renews detention order for another 3 months.

Israel Human Rights Organisation (HAMOKED) reports that at June 2017, 477 administrative detainees are held without charge or trial by Israel.

Since the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza in 1967, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been subject to administrative detention and Amnesty believe that amongst them are prisoners of conscience who have been peacefully exercising their rights.

Individuals subject to administrative detention can:

- be held without charge
- be denied a trial
- have a detention order renewed repeatedly and indefinitely
- have their lawyers denied access to necessary information due to 'secret evidence'

Amnesty opposes the use of administrative detention because it violates the individual's right to liberty and to a fair trial.

Amnesty is concerned that the widespread use of administrative detention by the military is being used to circumvent the due application of the criminal legal system.

The Israeli courts, including the High Court, have consistently failed to give legal recourse to Palestinians to obtain a fair trial and detentions are increasingly seen as arbitrary.

The 4th Geneva Convention provides that detainees from the population of an occupied territory must be detained within that territory. This has not been the case for Mohammad who very shortly after being detained was moved to a prison in Israel which made it difficult, and for some period impossible, for his family to visit.

Above information has been supplied by Amnesty International and is available on their website. Search for Prisoners of Conscience Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha.

The letters which people are being asked to sign are addressed to the Military Judge dealing with the case and the Military Commander in charge of the Israeli Defence Force in the Occupied West Bank. The content of the two letters is the same and the purpose of the letters is to put pressure on the Military to comply with the Israeli High Court ruling to ensure that Mohammad is released (or a fair trial initiated) no later than the end of the 3 month detention order initiated on 12th June 2017.

On 15th and 16th of July 2017 parishioners and visitors attending the Saturday Vigil mass and the Sunday morning mass were asked to sign the above mentioned letters.

In total 120 letters were signed to the Military Judge and 109 to the Commander of the Israeli Defence Force. These letters were then forwarded to these individuals in Israeli. In addition a letter was sent to the Israeli Defence Minister in Israel and another letter to the Israeli Ambassador in London advising them both of the letters already sent to the Military Judge and to the Commander of the Israeli Defence Force.

We remain hopeful that our letters, together with many thousands more from across the UK and indeed the World, will put pressure on the Israeli Military court to comply with the Israeli High Court and ensure Mohammad Faisal Abu Sakha is released not later than the end of his current 3 months detention.

Further updates will be released as they become available and posted on the J&P pages of St Gabriel's website.