ISRAEL

- **ISR-22:** Ofer Cassif

PALESTINE / ISRAEL

- **PSE-02:** Marwan Barghouti
- **PSE-05:** Ahmad Sa'adat
- **PSE-COLL-01**: Twenty-three parliamentarians

Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Israel

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 218th session (Arusha, 9 October 2026)



©Member of Knesset Ofer Cassif

ISR-22 – Ofer Cassif

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Threats, acts of intimidation
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Violation of freedom of opinion and expression
- ✓ Violation of freedom of assembly and association
- ✓ Undue invalidation, suspension, revocation or other acts obstructing the exercise of the parliamentary mandate

Case ISR-22

Israel: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim(s): Male opposition member of parliament

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(a) and (d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint(s): January 2024

Recent IPU decision: October 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): February 2025

Recent follow-up:
- Communication from the authorities: Letter to the Speaker of the Knesset (April 2025)
- Communication from the complainants: September 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to Speaker of the Knesset (September 2026)
- Communication to the complainants: September 2026

A. Summary of the case

On 10 January 2024, Mr. Ofer Cassif was subjected to an expulsion procedure initiated by a fellow member of the Knesset, who accused him of supporting armed struggle and terrorism against the State of Israel for publicly supporting South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). South Africa had filed a case at the ICJ alleging that Israel was engaging in "genocidal acts" in Gaza following its response to the 7 October 2023 attack by Hamas. Before the expulsion procedure, Mr. Cassif had been suspended by the Knesset Ethics Committee in October 2023, shortly after the beginning of the conflict, for statements he made against the Israeli authorities.

After collecting the signatures of 85 members of the Knesset supporting Mr. Cassif's expulsion, the

issue was referred to the Knesset House Committee for approval. According to the Israeli Basic Law, the Knesset can expel a member if (s)he expresses support for armed struggle against the State of Israel, provided that 90 Knesset members, or 75%, have voted in favour of the motion. On 30 January 2024, after a sitting that lasted two days, the Knesset House Committee endorsed the motion to expel Mr. Cassif, which moved the motion for expulsion to the Knesset plenary. Mr. Cassif has reiterated that his support for South Africa's case against Israel is a plea to end the war in Gaza. He also said in several interviews that he had condemned the 7 October attack against Israel and that he had never shown any support to the terrorist group Hamas. On 19 February 2024, the motion to expel Mr. Cassif failed to gain the needed majority in plenary.

In November 2024, however, the Knesset Ethics Committee decided to suspend Mr. Cassif from participating in plenary debates and committee discussions for six months, while allowing him to vote in plenary, and withheld payment of his parliamentary salary for two weeks. In its decision No. 28/25 of 11 November 2024, the Knesset Ethics Committee concluded that: "There is no doubt that the totality of the statements constitutes a pattern and systematic effort by Mr. Cassif to violate the rules of ethics in an exceptionally blatant and severe manner". According to the complainants, ever since the original attempt to expel Mr. Cassif failed, he has been the victim of an intimidation campaign led by the Knesset Ethics Committee, which relentlessly targets him for his outspoken criticism of the State of Israel and actions by the Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) against Palestinians in Gaza since 7 October 2023. The complainants add that, even though the four members of the Knesset Ethics Committee represent both the ruling coalition and the opposition, they all share the same right-wing political views and have reportedly failed to hold accountable Knesset members of right-wing and far-right political parties in Israel who had incited violence against Palestinians.

According to the complainants, despite the daily threats and acts of intimidation Mr. Cassif faces from the public due to his political views, the Israeli authorities have not granted him personal security, deeming that his situation does not warrant State protection. The complainants also state that opposition Knesset members and critical voices of the Israeli Government are being increasingly repressed and punished.

In April 2025, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians invited the Israeli parliamentary authorities to a hearing during the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to discuss Mr. Cassif's case. However, in a letter received on 4 April 2025, the Head of the IPU Group, member of the Knesset Mr. Dan Illouz, stated that "Mr. Cassif's suspension followed due legal process and was not arbitrary" without providing any information about the process followed by the Knesset Ethics Committee or any copies of the decisions adopted against Mr. Cassif. The authorities added that "Israel respects the rights of its parliamentarians, including freedom of speech. However, freedom of expression does not grant immunity from consequences when that speech crosses into the realm of incitement or undermines national security".

On 9 July 2025, the Knesset Ethics Committee adopted another decision (No. 45/25) suspending Mr. Cassif for the third time from Knesset plenum and committee meetings for two months, starting on 19 October 2025, and withholding his salary for two weeks during this period. The Knesset Ethics Committee considered Mr. Cassif's statements against war crimes and genocide in Gaza "damaging to the dignity of the Knesset and public trust, harmful to Israel's war efforts, and supportive of the enemy".

During an online hearing with one of the complainants at the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025 in Geneva, the Committee learned that, under the suspension order, Mr. Cassif was prevented from submitting bills or proposals for discussion, which hindered the full exercise of his parliamentary mandate. The complainant also stated that 92% of decisions adopted by the Knesset Ethics Committee concern members of his political party, Hadash, the only left-wing, Arab-Jewish political party in the Knesset.

Mr. Cassif appealed the Knesset Ethics Committee's decision in plenary, which rejected the appeal via vote on 21 July 2025, after which he filed a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court. On 15 October 2025, the human rights organization Adalah also submitted a petition on his behalf to the Court. In its decision of 21 October 2025, the Court found that "The petitioner submitted his petition nearly three months after the Plenum's decision and only four days before the start of his suspension without offering any clear reason for the delay. This alone suffices to justify dismissal of the petition".

In September 2026, the majority Likud Party submitted a disqualification request to the Central

Elections Committee (CEC) against Mr. Cassif, the Joint List – along with its leader, Mr. Sami Abu Shehadeh – and Ra'am (the United Arab List), to prevent them from running in the 27 October 2026 elections. Mr. Cassif had already been the subject of a disqualification procedure initiated by the CEC in 2019, which was overturned by the Supreme Court after it concluded that the statutory grounds for disqualification had not been established.

The September 2026 petition seeking Mr. Cassif's disqualification, like that of 2019, was based on two grounds for banning participation in Knesset elections as set out in Article 7a(a) of the Basic Law of the Knesset, namely: "negation of the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state", and "support for armed struggle, by an enemy state or terrorist organization, against the State of Israel". On 23 September 2026, the CEC accepted the disqualification request against Mr. Cassif, the Joint List, Mr. Abu Shehadeh and Ra'am. The CEC's decision was then subject to mandatory review by the Supreme Court.

On 2 October 2026, the Supreme Court, in a majority ruling of seven to two, overturned the CEC's decision regarding Mr. Cassif, the Joint List and Ra'am. Although the justices criticized certain statements and actions by the parties, they found that the evidence did not meet the stringent threshold for disqualification. Mr. Cassif was therefore allowed to stand in the elections. However, a majority of the justices were inclined to uphold the disqualification of the leader of the Joint List, Mr. Abu Shehadeh. He subsequently withdrew his candidacy to avoid establishing a new legal precedent that could be used against Arab citizens standing for election in Israel. The Supreme Court then dismissed the proceedings without issuing a substantive ruling on Mr. Abu Shehadeh's eligibility.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Deplores* the Israeli parliamentary authorities' silence regarding the situation of Mr. Cassif and their continued unwillingness to engage substantively with the Committee regarding this case;

2. *Welcomes* the Israeli Supreme Court's ruling overturning the decision of the CEC and allowing Mr. Cassif to stand in the upcoming Knesset elections; *trusts* that the Supreme Court will continue to uphold the rule of law and ensure that judicial proceedings are not instrumentalized against opposition members of Knesset;

3. *Deeply regrets,* however, that Mr. Cassif, an opposition member of the Knesset, was yet again the target of a disqualification request despite a similar request on the same grounds having been rejected by the Supreme Court in 2019; *regrets* also that all opposition parties in Israel were subject to disqualification requests in an attempt to stifle political debate over the Israeli Government's policies and actions in Gaza and the West Bank;

4. *Is concerned* that these repeated disqualification requests aim to discourage opposition members of the Knesset from expressing views and political positions critical of the State of Israel's policies and actions in Gaza and the West Bank, by forcing them to devote their time and attention to defending their eligibility at the expense of campaigning for election, which could ultimately have a chilling effect on the exercise of their freedom of expression and political rights;

5. *Calls on* the Israeli authorities, as Knesset elections approach and related tensions may lead to new violations against certain members of parliament, to take all necessary steps to guarantee the fundamental rights of all parliamentarians, in particular the right to freedom of expression, in order to ensure that political debate reflects all opinions, including those critical of the Israel Defence Forces, the Israeli Government, its members and its policies regarding Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank;

6. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the Speaker of the Knesset and the complainants;

7. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

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Palestine/Israel

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session (Istanbul, 19 April 2026)



Men walk past a section of Israel's separation barrier painted with a portrait of Palestinian Marwan Barghouti held in an Israeli jail. ©HAZEM BADER / AFP

PSE-02 – Marwan Barghouti

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Torture, ill-treatment and other acts of violence
- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings

A. Summary of the case

Mr. Marwan Barghouti, an elected member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in the constituency of Ramallah on the West Bank since January 1996 and widely known, according to several sources, for advocating a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, was arrested on 15 April 2002 in Ramallah by the Israeli Defence Forces and transferred to a detention facility in Israel. He was charged with murder, attempted murder and involvement in terrorist organizations. His trial before the Tel Aviv District Court started on 14 August 2002 and ended on 6 June 2004, when the court sentenced him to five life sentences and two 20-year prison terms. Despite being in prison, Mr. Barghouti was re-elected as a Member of Parliament for his constituency in the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections.

The complainants have raised a series of legal objections to Mr. Barghouti's arrest and prosecution, alleging that he was ill-treated, especially at the start of his detention, and was denied access to legal counsel. The Committee appointed a legal expert and lawyer, Mr. Simon Foreman, to report on the trial. His 2003 report, on which the Israeli authorities have not

Case PSE-02

Palestine/Israel: The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Israeli Knesset are affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, member of the majority

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.1.(b) of the Committee Procedure (Annex 1)

Submission of complaint: April 2002

Recent IPU decision: October 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing:
Hearing with the Palestinian delegation during the 152nd IPU Assembly (April 2026)

Recent follow-up:
- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (February 2026); letter from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations in Geneva (April 2026)
- Communication from the complainant: February 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Knesset Speaker (December 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: February 2026

provided their observations, stated that, “the numerous breaches of international law … make it impossible to conclude that Mr. Barghouti was given a fair trial” and that guilt had therefore not been established.

Mr. Foreman stated in his report that those breaches started with the illegal arrest and transfer of Mr. Barghouti to Israel in violation of the Oslo Agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention. According to the report, Mr. Barghouti’s claims that he was subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment during the interrogations have never been investigated. The trial observer indicated that none of the prosecution witnesses, all Palestinians, had testified against Mr. Barghouti and provided any evidence of his involvement in the acts of which he is accused. On the contrary, some of them contested their “confessions” as having been obtained under duress, while others stated that they were forced to sign documents in Hebrew that they did not understand, and others took the opportunity to denounce Israeli politics in the occupied territories. Moreover, according to one of the sources, on 6 April 2003 the court reportedly accepted as Mr. Barghouti’s testimony a report written by the Israeli intelligence service that Mr. Barghouti had refused to sign.

According to Mr. Barghouti’s defence counsel, the charges brought against Mr. Barghouti were entirely based on secret reports that he had not seen, and the questions put to him by his interrogators were only about documents taken from Palestinian National Authority (PNA) offices, namely requests for financial or social support addressed to Mr. Barghouti. As a parliamentarian and former Secretary General of Fatah-West Bank, Mr. Barghouti used to receive such requests, which he forwarded to Mr. Arafat’s office.

In 2006, Mr. Barghouti initiated the drafting of the Prisoners’ Document, which was signed by the leaders of the most prominent Palestinian factions imprisoned in Israel. The document was an attempt to create a platform for the different Palestinian factions to unite behind, following Hamas’ electoral victory. Mr. Barghouti’s popularity, his initiatives to unite the different Palestinian factions and his negotiation skills, led several members of the Knesset to call for his release, such as Knesset member Mr. Amir Peretz in March 2008, when he stated that Mr. Barghouti could be a key element in attaining stability and assuming responsibility of the PNA, and Mr. Gideon Ezra, a member of Kadima. Following Mr. Barghouti’s election in August 2009 to Fatah’s Central Committee, the Israeli Minister for Minority Affairs, Mr. Avishaï Braverman, also expressed support for his release.

In their letter of 10 March 2022, the Israeli parliamentary authorities declined the Committee’s invitation for a hearing, considering that Mr. Barghouti had been duly convicted in a fair trial conducted in an Israeli court for murder, attempted murder and membership in a terrorist organization. Since then, the Israeli authorities have reiterated their position, as recently as in their letter of 5 February 2026.

Since the 7 October 2023 terrorist attack carried out by Hamas against Israel, the Israeli authorities have taken serious and deliberate measures to worsen the detention conditions of Palestinian detainees. Mr. Barghouti has reportedly been transferred three to five times to unknown detention facilities in Israel, was reportedly beaten during each transfer and in his cell, and was placed in solitary confinement without any legal justification. Mr. Barghouti’s family stated that the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) officers were torturing him with regular beatings and sleep deprivation. Mr. Barghouti has no access to medical care and has lost significant weight due to the severe limitations imposed by the IPS on the food supply in all prison cells. On 7 September 2025, the Supreme Court of Israel found that the State of Israel had failed to provide Palestinian detainees with a diet adequate for “a basic level of existence,” ruling that thousands of prisoners held since 7 October 2023 had been systematically deprived of sufficient food. The Court ordered the Israeli authorities to guarantee that “security prisoners” are provided with food of a suitable quantity and composition for maintaining health, and that this must be demonstrable by verifiable information.

Mr. Barghouti’s family fears that the continued physical torture and the lack of medical care will have life-threatening consequences. Mr. Barghouti has been denied visits from his family since 2023, and since the 7 October attack, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been denied access to Israeli prisons, with family visits facilitated by the ICRC likewise prohibited. Mr. Barghouti was last seen in a video published on 15 August 2025 by Israel’s National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, who visited him in prison and publicly taunted and threatened him — an incident widely condemned as a provocation.

According to a public report[1] issued by Israeli human rights organizations, including the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, on 16 February 2024, "since Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent Israeli offensive on Gaza, there has been a marked and severe escalation in the abuse of Palestinian detainees and prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons and detention facilities".

During the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held an online meeting with representatives of B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading Israeli human rights organizations, documenting human rights abuses faced by Palestinian detainees. Both organizations confirmed that, for the past two years, every fundamental human right of all Palestinian detainees, who remained disconnected from the outside world, had been violated as part of the systematic Israeli policy of collective punishment, aiming to hold every Palestinian accountable for the 7 October attack.

On 31 March 2026, the Israeli Knesset passed a law called the "Death Penalty for Terrorists Law", introducing capital punishment as a primary or default sentence on Palestinians convicted of certain acts defined as terrorism-related killings. The law is expected to be implemented predominantly in military courts that exercise jurisdiction almost exclusively over Palestinians in the occupied territories. Several European countries, the United Nations and rights groups have underlined the discriminatory nature of the law and called on Israel to repeal it. Several human rights organizations have challenged the decision before the Supreme Court of Israel.

During a hearing with the Palestinian delegation at the 152nd IPU Assembly (April 2026), the Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council and President of the IPU Group, Mr. Musa Hadid, stated that 15 April 2026 marked the 24th anniversary of Mr. Barghouti's detention in Israel and that he was unlikely to be released any time soon. Mr. Hadid also informed the Committee that since 7 October 2023, the number of Palestinian detainees in Israel has increased to 9,600, including up to 3,000 Palestinian detainees held in administrative detention, and that their conditions of detention have seriously deteriorated. Regarding the Death Penalty Law, Mr. Hadid stated that the adoption of such a law by the Knesset illustrated the discriminatory treatment to which Palestinians are subjected, adding that the lack of accountability of Israel for its continued violation of international human rights standards, including the decisions adopted by the international community, have empowered it to adopt such a law and continue committing atrocities against Palestinians.

The Deputy Speaker expressed the hope that the international community will not remain silent about the Death Penalty Law and the violations committed against Palestinian detainees in Israel.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Palestinian delegation, in particular the Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, for the information provided at the 152nd IPU Assembly;

2. *Deplores* the Israeli parliamentary authorities' continued unwillingness to provide updated information about the case of Mr. Marwan Barghouti;

3. *Expresses deep concern* about recent information regarding Mr. Barghouti's conditions of detention in Israeli prisons, including repeated physical abuse, medical neglect, and ill-treatment, which place his life at serious and immediate risk;

4. *Urges,* once again, the Israeli authorities to release Mr. Barghouti immediately, considering the numerous human rights violations he has been subjected to, including his arrest and transfer to Israeli territory in violation of international law, the failure of his trial to meet the fair-trial standards that Israel is bound to respect as a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the compelling legal arguments put forward in Mr. Foreman's report;

1 Systemic torture and inhumane treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prison facilities since October 7, 2023 – Urgent Appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 16 February 2024.

5. *Is shocked* by Israel's continued violations of the rights of Mr. Barghouti and of all Palestinian detainees, despite the existence of several reports published by Israeli entities about the inhumane and degrading treatment the detainees have faced in Israeli prisons since 7 October 2023;

6. *Urges* the Israeli authorities to treat Mr. Barghouti and all Palestinian detainees with respect for their inherent dignity and value as human beings, to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment, to investigate thoroughly the very serious allegations about Mr. Barghouti's current treatment and to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit him in detention immediately;

7. *Is appalled* by the adoption of the "Death Penalty for Terrorists Law" by the Knesset, which in and of itself is discriminatory, as it targets only Palestinians and is very problematic in terms of application, as it is likely to be implemented through military courts exercising jurisdiction over Palestinians in the occupied territories, while not being applied in a comparable manner within the civilian legal system; *is concerned* that this disparity, combined with reduced procedural safeguards, may result in unequal exposure to capital punishment based on national or ethnic origin and legal status; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to ensure full compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and to refrain from any implementation of the law that would undermine the right to life and fair trial guarantees;

8. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the competent authorities, the complainants and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;

9. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

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Palestine/Israel

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session (Istanbul, 19 April 2026)



Palestinian supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) take part in a protest calling for the release of Ahmad Sa'adat, imprisoned in Israel.
© Majdi Fathi/Nur Photo

PSE-05 – Ahmad Sa'adat

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings

A. Summary of the case

On 14 March 2006, Mr. Ahmad Sa'adat was abducted by the Israeli Defence Forces from Jericho prison and transferred to Hadarim prison in Israel, together with four other prisoners, after being accused by the Israeli authorities of involvement in the October 2001 murder of Mr. R. Zeevi, the Israeli Minister of Tourism. The Israeli authorities concluded one month later that Mr. Sa'adat had not been involved in the killing but went on to charge the other four suspects. Subsequently, 19 other charges were brought against Mr. Sa'adat, all arising from his leadership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which Israel considers a terrorist organization. None of the charges allege direct involvement in crimes of violence. On 25 December 2008, Mr. Sa'adat was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment. While detained, he reportedly did not receive the medical care he needed, nor was he allowed to receive visits from his family. In March and June 2009, he was placed in solitary confinement, prompting him to go on a nine-day hunger strike in June 2009. He remained in solitary confinement for three years, until May 2012.

Case PSE-05

Palestine/Israel: The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Israeli Knesset are affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Majority member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.(1)(b) of the Committee Procedure (Annex 1)

Submission of complaint: July 2006

Recent IPU decision: October 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing: Hearing with the Palestinian delegation during the 152nd IPU Assembly (April 2026)

Recent follow-up:
- Communications from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (February 2026); letter from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations in Geneva (April 2026)
- Communication from the complainant: October 2025
- Communications to the authorities: Letters to the Speaker of the Knesset and the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (December 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: February 2026

At a hearing held by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians in October 2020 with the Palestinian complainants, the latter confirmed the dire detention conditions and limited visitation rights of Mr. Sa'adat. In their letter of 18 October 2020, the Israeli parliamentary authorities did not provide any information on Mr. Sa'adat's conditions of detention and suggested that the IPU should consider whether future correspondence relating to the case of Mr. Sa'adat was appropriate, given his involvement in terrorism-related crimes.

In their letter of 10 March 2022, the Israeli authorities declined the Committee's invitation to attend a hearing, considering that Mr. Sa'adat had been sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for heading a terrorist group which, among other things, had assassinated a member of the Israeli Parliament. According to the authorities, Mr. Sa'adat was duly convicted of murder, attempted murder and membership in a terrorist organization, in a fair trial conducted before an Israeli court. Since then, the Israeli authorities have reiterated their position, as recently as in their letter of 5 February 2026.

Since the 7 October 2023 terrorist attack carried out by Hamas against Israel, the Israeli authorities have taken serious and deliberate measures to worsen the conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees. Mr. Sa'adat was reportedly transferred from Rimon prison to an unknown detention facility in Israel. He was also reportedly placed in solitary confinement, with no access to medical care. In this regard, on 7 September 2025, the Supreme Court of Israel found that the State of Israel had failed to provide Palestinian detainees with a diet adequate for "a basic level of existence", ruling that thousands of prisoners held since 7 October 2023 had been systematically deprived of sufficient food. The Court ordered the Israeli authorities to guarantee that "security prisoners" were provided with food of a suitable quantity and composition for maintaining health, and that this must be demonstrable by verifiable information.

Mr. Sa'adat is also being denied access to showers, hygiene essentials and is being held in conditions that fall below minimum sanitary standards. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only organization allowed by the Israeli authorities to visit Palestinian detainees held in Israel, has been denied access to Israeli prisons, while family visits facilitated by the ICRC have been prohibited. Only lawyers have been granted the right to visit their clients.

According to a public report[1] issued on 16 February 2024 by Israeli human rights organizations, including the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, "since Hamas' attack on 7 October 2023, and the subsequent Israeli offensive on Gaza, there has been a marked and severe escalation in the abuse of Palestinian detainees and prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons and detention facilities".

In 2025, Mr. Sa'adat continues to face harsh detention conditions in Israeli prisons. Reports indicate that his health has been deteriorating, with concerns over inadequate medical care.

During the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held an online meeting with representatives of B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading Israeli human rights organizations documenting human rights abuses faced by Palestinian detainees. The representative from Physicians for Human Rights stated that the organization had visited Mr. Sa'adat two years earlier and had noted that all his belongings had been confiscated. The organization had to contact the Israeli Prison Service to ensure that Mr. Sa'adat, whose medical condition had severely deteriorated, received his treatment. Both organizations also confirmed that, for the past two years, the fundamental human rights of all Palestinian detainees, who remained cut off from the outside world, had been violated as part of a systematic Israeli policy of collective punishment, aimed at holding all Palestinians accountable for the 7 October 2023 attack.

On 31 March 2026, the Israeli Knesset passed a law entitled the "Death Penalty for Terrorists Law", introducing capital punishment as a primary or default sentence for Palestinians convicted of certain acts defined as terrorism-related killings. The law is expected to be implemented predominantly in military courts, which exercise jurisdiction almost exclusively over Palestinians in the occupied territories. Several European countries, the United Nations and human rights organizations have

[1] Systemic torture and inhumane treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prison facilities since October 7, 2023 – Urgent Appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 16 February 2024.

underlined the discriminatory nature of the law and called on Israel to repeal it. Several human rights organizations have also challenged the law before the Supreme Court of Israel.
During a hearing with the Palestinian delegation at the 152nd IPU Assembly (April 2026), the Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council and President of the IPU Group, Mr. Musa Hadid, informed the Committee that since 7 October 2023, the number of Palestinian detainees in Israel has increased to 9,600, including up to 3,000 Palestinian detainees held in administrative detention, and that their conditions of detention have seriously deteriorated. Regarding the Death Penalty Law, Mr. Hadid stated that the adoption of such a law by the Knesset illustrated the discriminatory treatment to which Palestinians are subjected, adding that the lack of accountability of Israel for its continued violations of international human rights standards, including decisions adopted by the international community, has empowered it to adopt such a law and continue committing atrocities against Palestinians.

The Deputy Speaker expressed the hope that the international community would not remain silent about the Death Penalty Law and the violations committed against Palestinian detainees in Israel.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Palestinian delegation, in particular the Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, for the information provided at the 152nd IPU Assembly;

2. *Deplores* the Israeli authorities' continued unwillingness to provide updated information about the case of Mr. Ahmad Sa'adat;

3. *Expresses deep concern* about recent information regarding Mr. Ahmad Sa'adat's conditions of detention in Israeli prisons, including repeated physical abuse, medical neglect and ill-treatment, which place his life at serious and immediate risk;

4. *Urges,* once again*,* the Israeli authorities to release Mr. Sa'adat immediately, considering the numerous violations to which he has been subjected, including his abduction and transfer to Israel in breach of the Oslo Agreements and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which were in no way related to the original murder charge but rather to his political activities as General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP);

5. *Is shocked* by Israel's continued violations of the rights of Mr. Sa'adat as well as of all Palestinian detainees, despite the existence of several reports published by Israeli entities on the inhuman and degrading treatment they have faced in Israeli prisons since 7 October 2023;

6. *Urges* the Israeli authorities to treat Mr. Sa'adat and all Palestinian detainees with respect for their inherent dignity and value as human beings, to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment, to investigate thoroughly the very serious allegations about his current treatment and to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit him in detention immediately;

7. *Is appalled* by the adoption by the Knesset of the Death Penalty for Terrorists Law, which is in itself discriminatory as it targets Palestinians only, and is highly problematic in terms of its application, as it is likely to be implemented through military courts exercising jurisdiction over Palestinians in the occupied territories, while not being applied in a comparable manner within the civilian legal system; *is concerned* that this disparity, combined with reduced procedural safeguards, may result in unequal exposure to capital punishment based on national or ethnic origin and legal status; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to ensure full compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and to refrain from any implementation of the law that would undermine the right to life and fair trial guarantees;

8. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the competent authorities, the complainants and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;

9. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Palestine/Israel

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 217th session (Istanbul, 19 April 2026)



Hamas parliamentarians Mr. Ahmed Attoun (right), Mr. Mohammed Totah (second from right) and Mr. Khaled Abu Arafa (left) in front of the International Red Cross offices, where they had been living for the past 162 days fearing expulsion by the Israeli authorities. Picture taken 9 December 2010 © AFP Photo/Marco Longari

Parliamentarians in administrative detention:

PSE-57 – Hasan Yousef
PSE-61 – Mohammad Jamal Natsheh
PSE-90 – Anwar Al Zaboun
PSE-28 – Muhammad Abu-Tair
PSE-103 – Naser Abd Al Jawad

Parliamentarians previously in administrative detention:

PSE-32 – Basim Al-Zarrer
PSE-47 – Hatem Qfeisheh
PSE-62 – Abdul Jaber Fuqaha
PSE-63 – Nizar Ramadan
PSE-64 – Mohammad Maher Bader
PSE-65 – Azam Salhab
PSE-75 – Nayef Rjoub
PSE-84 – Ibrahim Dahbour
PSE-85 – Ahmad Mubarak
PSE-86 – Omar Abdul Razeq Matar
PSE-87 – Mohammad Ismail Al-Tal
PSE-89 – Khaled Tafesh
PSE-82 – Khalida Jarrar (Ms.)
PSE-79 – Riyadgh Radad
PSE-30 – Muhammad Totah
PSE-80 – Abdul Rahman Zaidan
PSE-78 – Husni Al Borini
PSE-29 – Ahmad Attoun

Alleged human rights violations

- ✓ Arbitrary arrest and detention
- ✓ Inhumane conditions of detention
- ✓ Lack of due process at the investigation stage
- ✓ Lack of fair trial proceedings
- ✓ Violation of freedom of movement

PSE-COLL-01

Palestine/Israel: The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Israeli Knesset are affiliated to the IPU

Victims: 23 majority members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, of whom one is a woman

Qualified complainant(s): Section I.1(d) of the Committee Procedure (Annex 1)

Submission of complaint: June 2014

Recent IPU decision: October 2018

Recent IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearings: Hearing with the Palestinian delegation during the 152nd IPU Assembly in Istanbul (April 2026)

Recent follow-up:
- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (February 2026); letter from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations in Geneva (April 2026)
- Communication from the complainant: February 2026
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to Speaker of the Knesset and the Head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (December 2025)
- Communication to the complainant: February 2026

A. Summary of the case

The original case concerned several former members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) who, in mid-2006, were seized by Israeli Defence Forces in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem and transferred to Israeli prisons. All of the former parliamentarians had been elected in January 2006 on the Electoral Platform for Change and Reform (Hamas). On 25 September 2006, an Israeli military appeal court in the West Bank overturned a court decision to release them and ordered that they remain in prison pending trial. Several were charged with being members of a terrorist organization, namely Hamas, carrying out activities on its behalf and providing it with services. Most received prison sentences of about 40 months and were released after serving them.

Over the years, however, several have been rearrested, with most of them subject to administrative detention and some to criminal prosecution. Currently, five former PLC members, namely Mr. Hasan Yousef, Mr. Mohammad Jamal Natsheh, Mr. Anwar Al Zaboun, Mr. Muhammad Abu-Tair, and Mr. Naser Abd Al Jawad, are in administrative detention.

In addition to their repeated detentions in the absence of any charges, several former PLC members, including Mr. Ahmad Attoun, Mr. Muhammad Abu-Tair, and Mr. Muhammad Totah had their Jerusalem residence permits withdrawn and are subject to a deportation order.

Since the 7 October 2023 terrorist attack carried out by Hamas against Israel, the Israeli authorities have taken serious and deliberate measures to worsen the conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees, particularly former PLC members. According to a public report[1] of 16 February 2024 issued by Israeli human rights organizations, including the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, “since Hamas’ attack on October 7, 2023 and the subsequent Israeli offensive on Gaza, there has been a marked and severe escalation in the abuse of Palestinian detainees and prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons and detention facilities”.

During the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2025, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held an online meeting with representatives of B’Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading Israeli human rights organizations documenting human rights abuses faced by Palestinian detainees. The representative from Physicians for Human Rights confirmed that, for the past two years, every fundamental human right of all Palestinian detainees, who remained disconnected from the outside world, had been violated as part of the systematic Israeli policy of collective punishment, aiming to hold every Palestinian accountable for the 7 October attack.

In February 2026, the complainant reported that the five former PLC members who were being held in administrative detention suffer from poor health, neglect and severe detention conditions, particularly after the 7 October attack. The complainant also reported that six former PLC members were released in 2025, including Ms. Khalida Jarrar and Mr. Ahmed Attoun, as part of the prisoner-exchange deal struck between Hamas and the Israeli authorities in 2024. Ms. Jarrar suffers from

1 Systemic torture and inhuman treatment of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prison facilities since October 7, 2023 – Urgent Appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 16 February 2024.

severe physical and psychological consequences as a result of prolonged solitary confinement and humiliating body searches during her detention. The complainant added that four other former PLC members, Mr. Riyadgh Radad, Mr. Muhammad Totah, Mr. Abdul Rahman Zaidan, and Mr. Husni Al Borini were also released. However, they are subject to strict security surveillance and repeated summons by intelligence services, along with travel bans and restrictions on their movement, in order to maintain pressure on them and politically subjugate them.

On 31 March 2026, the Israeli Knesset passed a law called the “Death Penalty for Terrorists Law” introducing capital punishment as a primary or default sentence on Palestinians convicted of certain acts defined as terrorism-related killings. The law is expected to be implemented predominantly in military courts that exercise jurisdiction almost exclusively over Palestinians in the occupied territories. Several European countries, the United Nations and rights groups underlined the discriminatory nature of the law and called on Israel to repeal it. Several human rights organizations have challenged the decision before the Supreme Court of Israel.

During a hearing with the Palestinian delegation at the 152nd IPU Assembly (April 2026), the Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council and President of the IPU Group, Mr. Musa Hadid, informed the Committee that since 7 October 2023, the number of Palestinian detainees in Israel has increased to 9,600, including up to 3,000 Palestinian detainees held in administrative detention, and that their conditions of detention have seriously deteriorated. Mr. Hadid also added that former PLC members who were released suffer from serious mental health issues due to the severe conditions in which they were held, as well as the beatings, torture and medical neglect they faced while in detention.

Regarding the Death Penalty Law, Mr. Hadid stated that the adoption of such a law by the Knesset illustrated the discriminatory treatment to which Palestinians are subjected, adding that the lack of accountability of Israel for its continued violation of international human rights standards, including the decisions adopted by the international community, have empowered it to adopt such a law and continue committing atrocities against Palestinians.

The Deputy Speaker expressed the hope that the international community will not remain silent on the Death Penalty Law and the violations committed against Palestinians detainees in Israel.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the Palestinian delegation, in particular the Deputy Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, for the information provided at the 152nd IPU Assembly; and *welcomes* the Palestinian authorities’ willingness to supply the Committee with updated information about individuals included in this case;

2. *Deplores* the Israeli authorities’ continued unwillingness to provide information about this case, including data about the number of former PLC members currently detained in Israel, their conditions of detention and the legal status of their cases;

3. *Is deeply concerned* that five former PLC members, including Mr. Hasan Yousef, Mr. Mohammad Jamal Natsheh, Mr. Anwar Al Zaboun, Mr. Muhammad Abu-Tair and Mr. Naser Abd Al Jawad, several of whom have been previously held in administrative detention, are currently in administrative detention in Israel, illustrating the repeated use of administrative detention by the Israeli authorities against Palestinians; *is also particularly concerned* with their cases, considering the inhumane and degrading conditions of detention in Israeli prisons since 7 October 2023, which were extensively documented by Israeli human rights groups and echoed by the Palestinian Deputy Speaker;

4. *Is shocked* in this regard by Israel's continued violations of the rights of all Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons; and *urges* the Israeli authorities to treat all Palestinian detainees with respect for their inherent dignity and value as human beings, to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment, to investigate thoroughly the very serious allegations about the current treatment and to enable the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit them in detention immediately;

5. *Remains deeply concerned* about the excessive use of administrative detention, an arbitrary

measure used against Palestinians, as it often relies on classified evidence and prevents Palestinian detainees from the effective possibility to defend themselves; and *calls once again* on the Israeli authorities to abandon the practice of administrative detention and to make use only of the regular criminal procedure to justify detention;

6. *Notes with satisfaction* that six former PLC members, namely Ms. Khalida Jarrar, Mr. Riyadgh Radad, Mr. Muhammad Totah, Mr. Abdul Rahman Zaidan, Mr. Husni Al Borini and Mr. Ahmad Attoun were released in 2024; *expresses* grave concern at credible reports that they continue to suffer from serious mental health consequences as a result of the conditions of their detention in Israel; and *hopes* they will receive the necessary medical assistance;

7. *Is appalled* by the adoption of the Death Penalty for Terrorists Law by the Knesset which in and of itself is discriminatory as it targets Palestinians only and is very problematic in terms of application, as it is likely to be implemented through military courts exercising jurisdiction over Palestinians in the occupied territories, while not being applied in a comparable manner within the civilian legal system; *is concerned* that this disparity, combined with reduced procedural safeguards, may result in unequal exposure to capital punishment based on national or ethnic origin and legal status; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to ensure full compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and to refrain from any implementation of the law that would undermine the right to life and fair trial;

8. *Requests* the Secretary General to convey this decision to the competent authorities, the complainant and any third party likely to be in a position to supply relevant information;

9. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.