

ISRAEL

- **ISR-22:** Ofer Cassif

PALESTINE / ISRAEL

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



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Israel

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)



©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

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 was 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,

Case ISR-22

Israel: Parliament affiliated to the IPU

Victim: An opposition member of parliament

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

Submission of complaint: January 2024

Recent IPU decision: April 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing: Hearing with the complainant during the 151st IPU Assembly (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: April 2025
- Communication from the complainants: October 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Knesset Speaker: September 2025
- Communication to the complainants: October 2025

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. Fourteen Committee members had voted in favour of and two against the motion, 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, as only 85 of the 120 members of the Knesset backed the motion to oust Mr. Cassif.

However, in November 2024, the Knesset Ethics Committee decided to suspend Mr. Cassif from participating in Knesset plenary debates and committee discussions for six months and to stop the 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 the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) actions against Palestinians in Gaza since 7 October 2023. The complainants add that, even though the four members of the Knesset Ethics Committee are members of 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.

During his suspension, Mr. Cassif was allowed to vote in the plenary of the Knesset but was prevented from participating in plenary debates and committee meetings and could not address the plenary to raise his constituents' concerns and exercise his parliamentary mandate effectively inside the Knesset to hold the Israeli Government accountable for its actions. According to the complainants, despite the daily threats and acts of intimidation he faces from the public due to his political views, the Israeli authorities have not granted Mr. Cassif 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 for 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 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 the complainant at the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025 in Geneva, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians learned that, under the suspension order, Mr. Cassif is prevented from submitting bills or proposals for discussion, which hinders 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 Ethics Committee's decision in the Knesset plenum, 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 submitted a petition on his behalf to the Supreme Court. The petition challenges the legality of sanctions imposed against Mr. Cassif, arguing that they violate his right to freedom of expression, disproportionately restrict his parliamentary activity, given

the cumulative effect of these sanctions, and reflect a selective application of ethics rules targeting dissenting voices. According to Adalah, the petition requested the Court “to annul and to establish clear judicial criteria to limit the Committee’s powers, in order to prevent their further use as a tool for political persecution and suppressing dissent”. In its decision of 21 October 2025, the Israeli Supreme 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”.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Deplores* the Israeli parliamentary authorities’ continued unwillingness to meet with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to discuss Mr. Cassif’s case and their continued lack of response; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to designate a permanent focal point within the Knesset to sustain a constructive dialogue with the Committee about relevant human rights cases under review;
2. *Is deeply concerned* with yet another suspension decision of the Knesset Ethics Committee against Mr. Cassif, an opposition member, which severely restricts his participation as an elected member of parliament, including submitting bills and proposals, engaging in debates and addressing parliament for two months after an earlier suspension, which entailed similar restrictions and lasted for six months;
3. *Firmly reiterates* that the Knesset Ethics Committee, a non-judicial body, continues to severely restrict Mr. Cassif’s exercise of his parliamentary mandate as a punishment for the rightful exercise of his freedom of speech by expressing a political position against the State of Israel’s policies and actions in Gaza; *reiterates*, therefore, the arbitrary nature of the Knesset’s decision against Mr. Cassif; and *reaffirms* that freedom of expression goes to the heart of democracy, is essential to members of parliament and includes not only speech, opinions and expressions that are favourably received or regarded as inoffensive, but also those that may offend, shock or disturb others;
4. *Urges* the Israeli authorities to remedy Mr. Cassif’s situation by fully restoring his parliamentary rights while ensuring that his right to freedom of opinion and expression is upheld and that his parliamentary immunity is protected at all times; and *regrets* the decision of the Supreme Court dismissing Mr. Cassif’s petition without examining its substance, considering that it was the last possible resort to challenge his suspension;
5. *Recalls* that, despite several requests, the Israeli authorities have yet to send copies of the Ethics Knesset Committee’s decisions against Mr. Cassif and the rules and practices governing its work; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to provide the requested documents at the earliest opportunity;
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 216th session (Geneva, 23 October 2025)



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 provided their observations, stated

Case PSE-02

Palestine/Israel: The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Parliament of Israel are affiliated to the IPU

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

Qualified complainants: Section I(1)(b) of the Committee Procedure (Annex I)

Submission of complaint: April 2002

Recent IPU decision: February 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearings: Hearing with Israeli civil society organizations, including B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, during the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communications from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (April 2025); letter from the Speaker of the Palestinian National Council (October 2020)
- Communication from the complainants: September 2025
- Communication to the authorities: Letter to the Knesset Speaker (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainants: September 2021

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. Avishai Braverman, also expressed his support for his release.

On 17 April 2017, Mr. Barghouti initiated a mass hunger strike, joined by more than 1,000 Palestinian inmates, to protest against the abusive and inhumane conditions in which Palestinian inmates were allegedly being held by the Israeli authorities. At a hearing which the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians held in October 2020 with the Palestinian complainants, the latter confirmed the dire detention conditions and limited visitation rights of Mr. Barghouti.

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 of a terrorist organization. The Israeli authorities added that, in light of these elements, they saw “no reason to alter their position *vis-à-vis* the Committee on this case or any others pertaining to terrorists convicted in Israeli courts”. Since then, the Israeli parliamentary authorities have repeatedly stated that Mr. Barghouti is a terrorist and that they therefore could not engage with the Committee on this matter.

After the 7 October terrorist attack carried out by Hamas-led gunmen from the Gaza Strip in 2023, the Israeli authorities launched a full-blown military offensive against Gaza, which has caused large-scale loss of human life and has included the deliberate worsening of the conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees. Mr. Barghouti has reportedly been transferred three to five times to unknown detention facilities in Israel since 7 October 2023. His lawyer reported that he had been placed in solitary confinement. The lawyer of another inmate reported that Mr. Barghouti’s face was covered in blood and showed clear signs of beating.

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. According to his family, Mr. Barghouti and other Palestinians detained in Israel are fed two spoons of rice and a tomato per day. 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” are provided with food of a suitable quantity and composition for maintaining health, and that this must be demonstrable by verifiable information.

Mr. Barghouti is also denied access to showers, hygiene essentials and water, which the IPS has reportedly restricted to less than an hour a day. The toilets are not functional, thereby denying Mr. Barghouti minimum sanitary standards. Additionally, Mr. Barghouti’s belongings, including his clothes and books, have been confiscated and he has no contact with the outside world. His 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, while family visits facilitated by the ICRC have also been prohibited.

According to a public report¹ 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”.

Despite several former Israeli Mossad and Shin Bet members calling for Mr. Barghouti’s release, considering that his unifying status within Palestine could bring peace to the Middle East, the Israeli authorities still refuse to release him. In 2025, Mr. Barghouti continues to face harsh detention conditions, including repeated transfers, prolonged solitary confinement and restricted access to his lawyers. He 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.

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. He also confirmed that even the ICRC was not authorized by the Israeli authorities to visit Mr. Barghouti in detention. The lack of access to Palestinian detainees is part of the systematic Israeli policy of collective punishment, aiming to hold every Palestinian accountable for the 7 October attack.

During the 2025 online meeting, the Committee also learned that, up until 2017, members of the Knesset were authorized to visit Mr. Barghouti. However, the former Minister of National Security revoked this procedure, only authorizing one member of the Knesset from each faction to visit certain Palestinian detainees. However, after the 7 October attack, visits by members of the Knesset to Mr. Barghouti were refused.

According to B’Tselem, the treatment of Palestinian detainees mirrors the treatment of ordinary Palestinian citizens, and despite the 2,000 Palestinian inmates released as part of the prisoner-hostage swap of 2025, there are still more than 11,000 Palestinian detainees in Israel. B’Tselem also added that the Israeli Government’s political discourse promotes the view that all Palestinian inmates are terrorists, resulting in the Israeli authorities turning the detention centres into torture facilities. B’Tselem called on the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the international community to hold Israeli policies accountable.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Deplores* the Israeli parliamentary authorities’ continued unwillingness to meet with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to discuss Mr. Barghouti’s case and their continued lack of response; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to designate a permanent focal point within the Knesset to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Committee about relevant

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*, authored by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel; Adalah – the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual; and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, 14 February 2024.

human rights cases under review;

2. *Deeply regrets* that Mr. Marwan Barghouti was not among the Palestinian detainees released in 2025, and that no independent entity has been permitted to visit him since 2017; and *calls on* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and all relevant third parties to support efforts to ascertain his current conditions of detention, given the grave risks to his life, dignity and mental health;
3. *Urges*, once again, the Israeli authorities to grant the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarian's long-standing request to visit Mr. Barghouti as part of a diplomatic and humanitarian parliamentary mission;
4. *Renews its call* on 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;
5. *Is deeply concerned* about the account provided by B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading human rights organizations in Israel, of the overall conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees, including the alleged abusive and illegal measures taken against Mr. Barghouti in the absence of any valid reason; and therefore *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;
6. *Expresses grave concern* regarding the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court of 7 September 2025, which confirms that Palestinian detainees have been systematically deprived of adequate food since 7 October 2023; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to fully comply with this decision and to uphold the human rights of Palestinian detainees by ensuring access to sufficient food, adequate medical care and regular family and legal visits;
7. *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;
8. *Decides* to continue examining this case.



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Palestine/Israel

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Palestinian supporters of the 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 in prison. While detained, he reportedly did not receive the medical care he needed, nor visits from his family. In March and June 2009, he was placed in solitary confinement, prompting him in June 2009 to go on a nine-day hunger strike. He remained in solitary confinement for three years, until May 2012.

Case PSE-05

Palestine/Israel: The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Parliament of Israel are affiliated to the IPU

Victim: Majority member of the Palestinian Legislative Council

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

Submission of complaint: July 2006

Recent IPU decision: February 2025

IPU mission(s): - - -

Recent Committee hearing(s): Hearing with Israeli civil society organizations, including B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, during the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2025)

Recent follow-up:

- Communication from the authorities: Letter from the head of the Knesset delegation to the IPU (April 2025)
- Communication from the complainants: March 2022
- Communications to the authorities: Letters to the Knesset Speaker and the head of the Knesset delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (September 2025)
- Communication to the complainants: December 2022

In April 2017, Mr. Sa'adat took part in a mass hunger strike by Palestinian detainees to protest against their detention conditions in Israeli prisons. He was reportedly moved at that time to solitary confinement in Ohlikdar prison. According to the information gathered during a hearing with the Palestinian complainants in October 2020, the strike had also been triggered by the 2017 decision of the Israeli authorities to reduce the number of monthly visits to one instead of two. The complainants stated that the Israeli authorities had promised to increase the number of monthly visits; however, this has yet to be implemented.

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 for a hearing, considering that Mr. Sa'adat had been convicted for heading a terrorist group which, among other things, had assassinated a member of the Israeli Parliament and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. According to the authorities, Mr. Sa'adat was duly convicted in a fair trial conducted in an Israeli court for murder, attempted murder and membership of a terrorist organization. The Israeli authorities added that, in light of these elements, they see "no reason to alter their position *vis-à-vis* the Committee on this case or any others pertaining to terrorists convicted in Israeli courts". Since then, the Israeli authorities have repeatedly stated that Mr. Saadat is a terrorist and that they therefore could not engage with the Committee on this matter.

After the 7 October terrorist attack carried out by Hamas-led gunmen from the Gaza Strip in 2023, the Israeli authorities launched a full-blown military offensive against Gaza, which has caused large-scale loss of human life and has included the deliberate worsening of 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, water or electricity due to the severe limitations imposed by the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) in all prison cells, which also extends to severe restrictions on food supply since 7 October 2023. 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 water, which the IPS has reportedly restricted to less than an hour a day. The toilets are not functional, thereby denying Mr. Sa'adat minimum sanitary standards. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the only organization allowed by the Israeli authorities to visit Palestinian inmates 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 report¹ 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".

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

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, authored by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel; Adalah – the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel; HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual; and Physicians for Human Rights Israel, 14 February 2024.](#)

Rights, two leading Israeli human rights organizations documenting human rights abuses faced by Palestinian detainees. The representative from Physicians for Human Rights stated that it had visited Mr. Sa'adat two years ago and had noted that all his belongings had been confiscated. The organization had to reach out to the Israeli Prison Service to give Mr. Sa'adat, whose medical state has severely worsened, his treatment. The representative also 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. They also confirmed that even the ICRC was not authorized by the Israeli authorities to visit Mr. Sa'adat in detention. The lack of access to Palestinian detainees is part of the systematic Israeli policy of collective punishment, aiming to hold every Palestinian accountable for the 7 October attack.

During the 2025 online meeting, the Committee also learned that, up until 2017, members of the Knesset were authorized to visit Palestinian detainees. However, the former Minister of National Security revoked this procedure, only authorizing one member of the Knesset from each faction to visit certain detainees. After the 7 October attack, however, visits by members of the Knesset were refused.

According to B'Tselem, the treatment of Palestinian detainees mirrors the treatment of ordinary Palestinian citizens, and despite the 2,000 Palestinian inmates released as part of the prisoner-hostage swap of 2025, there are still more than 11,000 Palestinian detainees in Israel. B'Tselem also added that the Israeli Government's political discourse promotes the view that all Palestinian inmates are terrorists, resulting in the Israeli authorities turning the detention centres into torture facilities. B'Tselem called on the Committee and the international community to hold Israeli policies accountable.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Deplores* the Israeli authorities' continued unwillingness to meet with the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to discuss Mr. Sa'adat's case and their continued lack of response; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to designate a permanent focal point within the Knesset to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Committee about relevant human rights cases under review;
2. *Deeply regrets* that Mr. Sa'adat was not among the Palestinian detainees released in 2025 and that no independent entity has been permitted to visit him since 2023; and *calls on* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and all relevant third parties to support efforts to ascertain his current conditions of detention, given the grave risks to his life, dignity and mental health;
3. *Urges*, once again, the Israeli authorities to grant the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarian's long-standing request to visit Mr. Sa'adat as part of a diplomatic and humanitarian parliamentary mission;
4. *Renews its call* on the Israeli authorities to release Mr. Sa'adat immediately, considering the numerous violations he has been subjected to, 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 Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) General Secretary;
5. *Is deeply concerned* about the account provided by B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights, two leading human rights organizations in Israel, of the overall conditions of detention of Palestinian detainees, including the alleged abuse and illegal measures taken against Mr. Sa'adat in the absence of any valid reason; and therefore *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;
6. *Expresses grave concern* regarding the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court of 7 September 2025, which confirms that Palestinian detainees have been systematically deprived of adequate

food since 7 October 2023; and *calls on* the Israeli authorities to fully comply with this decision and to uphold the human rights of Palestinian detainees by ensuring access to sufficient food, adequate medical care and regular family and legal visits;

7. *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;
8. *Decides* to continue examining this case.



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Palestine/Israel

Decision adopted unanimously by the IPU Governing Council at its 203rd session (Geneva, 18 October 2018)



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

Parliamentarians in administrative detention:

PSE-57 - Hasan Yousef
PSE-82 - Khalida Jarrar (Ms.)

Parliamentarians previously in administrative detention:

PSE-29 - Ahmad Attoun
PSE-32 - Basim Al-Zarrer
PSE-47 - Hatem Qfeisheh
PSE-61 - Mohammad Jamal Natsheh
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-90 - Anwar Al Zaboun

Parliamentarians reportedly currently subject to criminal proceedings:

PSE-103 - Naser Abd Al Jawad

Parliamentarians reportedly subject to criminal proceedings in recent years:

PSE-28 - Muhammad Abu-Tair
PSE-78 - Husni Al Borini
PSE-79 - Riyadhgh Radad
PSE-80 - Abdul Rahman Zaidan

Parliamentarians subject to the withdrawal of their Jerusalem residence permit:

PSE-28 - Muhammad Abu-Tair

PSE-29 - Ahmad Attoun

PSE-30 - Muhammad Totah

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

A. Summary of the case

The original case concerned parliamentarians 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 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. All 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, several have been rearrested, with most of them subject to administrative detention and some to criminal prosecution. Currently, two members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), namely Mr. Hasan Yousef and Ms. Khalida Jarrar, are in administrative detention and one, Mr. Naser Abd Al Jawad, is reportedly facing criminal proceedings.

Mr. Ahmad Attoun, who was released in February 2009, as well as Mr. Muhammad Abu-Tair and Mr. Muhammad Totah, both released in 2010, had their Jerusalem residence permits withdrawn and were ordered to be deported.

B. Decision

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. *Thanks* the head of the Knesset delegation for his most recent letter; *regrets* nevertheless that the letter does not address the concerns raised in these cases directly; *regrets therefore* all the more that he was unable to meet the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at the 139th IPU Assembly;
2. *Notes* that only two PLC members are currently in administrative detention in Israel, down from 10 members when it last commented on this case in October 2017; *considers*, however, that, as the case history shows, even when PLC members are released, they remain subject to renewed arrest and can be placed in administrative detention again at any time and indefinitely, as the repeatedly extended detention of the two PLC members shows;
3. *Remains deeply concerned* in this regard that the practice of administrative detention often relies on classified evidence, as the Israeli authorities acknowledge; *understands* that, at the normative level, and at that of the relevant jurisprudence of the Supreme Court, safeguards are provided for with a view to preventing the abusive use of administrative detention; *underscores* nevertheless that the reality of administrative detention is quite different, mainly owing to the

Case PSE-COLL-01

Palestine/Israel: The Palestinian Legislative Council and the Parliament of Israel are affiliated to the IPU

Victims: 23 majority members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (24 men and one woman)

Qualified complainant(s): Section I (1) (d) of the [Committee Procedure](#) (Annex 1)

Submission of complaint: June 2014

Recent IPU decision: [October 2017](#)

IPU mission: - - -

Recent Committee hearing:

- Hearing with the head of the Fatah parliamentary group at the 139th IPU Assembly (October 2018)

Recent follow-up

- Communication from the authorities: Letters from the head of the Knesset delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (October and January 2018; September 2017)
- Communication from the complainant: October 2018
- Communication from the IPU to the authorities: September 2018
- Communication from the IPU to the complainant: October 2018

lack of any effective possibility for the detainees to defend themselves, with the result that they are open to arbitrary treatment;

4. *Points out* that UN human rights mechanisms and bodies have long voiced their strong concern about the extensive use of administrative detention by the Israeli authorities, such as most recently the UN Human Rights Council in its resolution adopted in March 2018, and that the UN Human Rights Committee called on the Israeli authorities, in its concluding observations adopted in 2014 on the human rights situation in Israel, “to end the practice of administrative detention and the use of secret evidence in administrative proceedings, and ensure that individuals subject to administrative orders are either promptly charged with a criminal offence, or released”;
5. *Calls once again*, therefore, 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* the total absence of information on the reasons for Mr. Naser Abd Al Jawad’s detention under – as it appears – the regular criminal procedure; *wishes* to receive information from the Israeli authorities on the facts and legal basis that led to his arrest, on whether he has been charged, and if so, whether trial proceedings are taking place, as well as information on his conditions of detention;
7. *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;
8. *Requests* the Committee to continue examining this case and to report back to it in due course.