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FREE AHMAD SA'ADAT

Palestinian political leader & political prisoner

Ahmad Sa'adat, General Secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, is one of over 5,200 Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli jails. These political prisoners, men, women and children, are activists, organizers and political leaders of the Palestinian people.

Sa'adat was sentenced to 30 years in the occupation prisons on December 25, 2008 for "incitement," membership and leadership in the PFLP, his political party. All major Palestinian political parties are banned by the Israeli occupation as "illegal organizations."

Sa'adat spent over three years in isolation, from 2009 until 2012. He was apparently isolated in retaliation for his published comments denouncing Israel's military attack on Gaza in 2008-2009, and supporting Palestinian resistance to the bombing. He was finally released from isolation following an agreement to end the mass hunger strike from April-May 2012, in which over 2,500 Palestinian prisoners participated.

- There are over 5,200 Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli prisons.
- These prisoners can be charged with any offenses created by Israeli military command.
- Membership and activity in every major Palestinian political party is criminalized by the Israeli military occupation.
- 40% of Palestinian men in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have spent time in Israeli prisons.
- Palestinians can be held without charge or trial in "administrative detention," and any evidence against them is secret.
- Palestinians are tried in Israeli military courts, not civil courts. They face a 99.74% conviction rate.

Ahmad Sa'adat has been targeted as a Palestinian political leader. He is a symbol of both Israel's eagerness to imprison and silence Palestinian prisoners, and of Palestinian resilience and resistance, even behind bars in occupation prisons. The freedom of Ahmad Sa'adat and his 5,200 fellow prisoners requires international action and awareness.

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