URGENT ACTION

RELEASE AYMAN BANI OWDA IMMEDIATELY

Ayman Bani Owda, also known as Ayman Ghrayeb, Palestinian human rights defender and social worker from Tammoun (Tubas Governorate) in the occupied West Bank, is held without charges or trial in an Israeli jail outside the occupied territory for his human rights work. A father of four, Bani Owda has been arbitrarily detained by Israeli forces since 17 November 2025. On 15 September 2026, the Israeli military commander issued a third administrative detention order against Bani Owda, extending his detention without a charge or trial for four additional months. On 24 September 2026, an Israeli military court upheld the order but reduced the detention period from four months to three. Israeli authorities must immediately and unconditionally release him.

TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER

To: Maj. Gen. Avi Bluth
IDF Central Command
Fax: +972 2 530 5741, +972 2 530 5724
Email 1: pniot.tzibur@mail.idf.il
Email 2: yoayosh@idf.il

To: Brig. Gen. Orly Markman
IDF President of the Military Court of Appeals
Email 1: mazkirut_yvdz@idf.il
Email 2 :0747937910@court.gov.il

Dear Maj. Gen. Avi Bluth and Brig. Gen. Orly Markman,

I am writing to urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Ayman Bani Owda, a prominent Palestinian human rights defender and social worker, who is currently held in Gilboa prison in northern Israel.

On 17 November 2025, Ayman Bani Owda, a 43-year-old resident of the town of Tammoun (Tubas Governorate), was detained by the Israeli military when he arrived at the village of Fasayil, in the central Jordan Valley of the occupied West Bank, to document the daily ordeals of a Palestinian community facing the imminent threat of forcible transfer.

On 14 December 2025, an Israeli military court confirmed a six-month administrative detention order against him. On 24 September 2026, an Israeli military court approved the third consecutive extension of Ayman Bani Owda's administrative detention for three additional months.

Ayman Bani Owda is one of thousands of Palestinians held without charges or trial. Like all Palestinian detainees and prisoners, Ayman Bani Owda is denied family visits. Ayman Bani Owda is being arbitrarily detained solely for his human rights work.

I therefore urge you to act swiftly to immediately and unconditionally release Ayman Bani Owda so that he can return to his family and community. Pending his release, I also urge you to ensure he is treated humanely and protected from any form of torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ayman Bani Owda, also known as Ayman Ghrayeb, is a 43-year-old human rights defender and grassroots activist from the city of Tammoun (Tubas Governorate) in the northern occupied West Bank. He is the co-founder of "Ikhilia Women Cooperative" and served as its board chair until his arrest. "Ikhilia" is a women-led association providing support to Palestinian agricultural workers and communities in the Jordan Valley. Ayman Bani Owda is a father of four, the youngest not yet two years old.

Since 2007, he has devoted his life to human rights work, documenting human rights violations in the Jordan Valley where Palestinian Bedouin and herding communities face imminent risk of forcible transfer due to Israeli army and state-backed settler violence and access restrictions to grazing land. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory (OCHAoPt), between January 2023 and 16 February 2026, 4,765 Palestinians have been displaced across 97 communities and areas across area C of the West Bank, 35% of them, 1,656 are from the Jordan Valley area. In January 2026 alone, over 600 Palestinians were displaced from Ras Ein al-Ouja, a Bedouin community in the central Jordan Valley, marking the highest single-community displacement due to settler attacks and access restrictions over the past three years.

On 17 November 2025, just as Bani Owda arrived at the community of Fasayil to document human rights abuses against the shepherds, two Israeli settlers blocked his way and called the Israeli army to arrest him. Bani Owda was initially detained by a civilian security coordinator of a nearby settlement before being transferred to police custody. For two days, his whereabouts remained unknown, and only after persistent pressure by Human Rights Defenders Fund (HRDF)-funded lawyer, Adv. Riham Nasra, and the threat of filing a habeas corpus petition did the Israeli army disclosed that he had been covertly held at the Samra military base in the Jordan Valley. While in military custody, Bani Owda was subjected to physical assault. Six days after his arrest, Bani Owda was interrogated on vague allegations of "incitement against the State of Isael." On 14 December, a military court confirmed a six-month administrative detention order, under which individuals are detained by state authorities without charges and trial. On 15 September 2026, the Israeli military commander issued a third administrative detention order against Bani Owda, extending his detention without a charge or trial for four additional months. On 24 September 2026, an Israeli military court upheld the order but reduced the detention period from four months to three.

Since 7 October 2023, Israeli authorities have dramatically increased their use of administrative detention against Palestinians, which had already hit a 20-year record high even before 7 October. According to the Israeli human rights organization, Hamoked, as of October 2026, Israel holds 3,101 Palestinians without a charge or a trial under administrative detention.

Israel's systematic use of administrative detention violates international human rights law. Its use as such amounts to arbitrary detention, and if prolonged or repeated can amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. Israel's arbitrary, sweeping and discriminatory use of administrative detention constitutes an inhuman act perpetrated to maintain its system of apartheid against Palestinians.

Walaa, Ayman's wife, told Amnesty International: "Since Ayman's arrest, our 16-year-old boy, who is extremely attached to his father, has been keeping a diary addressed to his father, writing to him about his problems, how much he has missed him. We all need him back with us." Walaa told Amnesty that on 27 November 2025, 10 days after Ayman's arrest, the Israeli military stormed their home during a raid on Tammoun and stationed themselves inside the house for two days, during which the family was kicked out. Later they came back to find that the house had been vandalized.

Ayman Bani Owda is currently held at Gilboa Prison in northern Israel, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention which strictly prohibits the transfer of detainees outside the occupied territory. Join Amnesty International campaign, write to the Israeli authorities and demand the immediate and unconditional release of Ayman Bani Owda and all arbitrarily detained Palestinians.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: [English, Hebrew and Arabic]
You can also write in your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: [21 April 2027]

NAME AND PRONOUN: [Ayman Bani Owda] (he/him)

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/0813/2026/en/