

# URGENT ACTION

## RELEASE PALESTINIAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

**Munther Amira, Palestinian human rights defender and social worker, has been arbitrarily detained by Israeli forces since December 18, 2023. On January 11, 2024, an Israeli military court confirmed a four-month administrative detention order against him. Munther Amira's health and wellbeing are at risk while in detention as he requires daily medication for his chronic illnesses. Israeli forces must immediately and unconditionally release him.**

**Major General Yehuda Fox**  
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Dear Major General Yehuda Fox,

I am writing to urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Palestinian human rights defender and social worker, **Munther Amira**, from administrative detention and provide him with access to health care as he requires daily medication for several chronic illnesses.

On December 18, 2023, Munther Amira, 53, was arrested from his home in the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem. Israeli soldiers broke into his home, separated him from his wife, Sanaa, and children, handcuffed his children, tore off one of his sons' clothing, and severely beat his brother.

Amira was initially arrested on allegations that he had published posts inciting violence on Facebook, but the prosecution failed to offer any credible evidence to charge him. Designated as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty in 2018, Amira was previously sentenced to six months in prison and five years of probation for participating in peaceful protests.

I urge you to act swiftly to immediately and unconditionally release Munther Amira.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Munther Amira**, 53, is a Palestinian refugee from the depopulated Palestinian village of Deir Aban, south of Jerusalem. Amira is a prominent activist and human rights defender, committed to nonviolent popular struggle against Israeli occupation and apartheid. Amira is the director of the Board of the Aida Youth Center, a grassroots community organization that serves the children and youth of the Aida Refugee Camp. He is also a leading activist at the Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC), a community-based resistance movement that believes in the power of popular struggle, through various forms, such as civil disobedience, peaceful protests, and legal campaigns.

Following his arrest on December 18, Munther Amira was held at Etzion detention center where he underwent an interrogation of 45 minutes at most during his first three days of detention, during which he was informed he would be placed under administrative detention. Amira was not given the opportunity to consult with a lawyer before the interrogation, which was focused on Facebook posts and allegations of “incitement to terrorism”. Amira denied any connection to the Facebook account attributed to him, and the Israeli military prosecution found no credible or substantial evidence to file charges even based on the posts allegedly attributed to him. While Amnesty International’s researchers could not verify the authorship of the Facebook posts in question, they reviewed all posts attributed to Amira and found no incitement to violence or hate in any of them, raising concerns that he is being detained solely for his peaceful activism. Having opted against pressing charges, the Israeli military prosecution issued a four-month administrative detention order against Amira on December 31, 2023, which a military judge rubber-stamped on January 11, 2024.

Under administrative detention, individuals are detained by state authorities without intent to prosecute them in a criminal trial. Each administrative detention order may last for up to six months, but orders can be renewed indefinitely, and evidence is kept secret, meaning that detainees are not able to challenge their detention and do not know when they will be released. Since October 7, 2023, Israeli authorities have dramatically increased their use of administrative detention against Palestinians, which had already hit a 20-year record high even before October 7. By the end of 2023, Israel was holding an unprecedented 3,291 Palestinians in administrative detention. Israel’s systematic use of administrative detention violates international human rights law. Israel’s arbitrary, sweeping, and discriminatory use of administrative detention constitutes an inhuman act perpetrated to maintain its system of apartheid against Palestinians.

Munther Amira is currently held at Ofer Military Prison, near Ramallah. During the first 10 days of his detention, he was denied necessary medical care and has not received the required medical attention for his chronic illnesses of high blood pressure and vascular problems. Only following requests submitted by Amira’s lawyer and Physicians for Human Rights Israel was he permitted access to some of his medication.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** English, Hebrew, Arabic, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** March 14, 2024

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Munther Amira (he/him)