

Key facts

- There are currently around 178 Palestinians held without charge in Israel's prisons. Many are held for many months or even years, without charge, without trial, without justice (source: Adameer Human Rights Group, January 2013)
- Israeli commanders use a military order to detain an individual for up to six months if they have "reasonable grounds to presume that the security of the area or public security require the[ir] detention." On or just before the expiry date, the detention order is frequently renewed. This process can be continued indefinitely. There is no explicit limit for a maximum amount of time an individual may be detained. The allegations held against the detained are secret: they are not informed of the reasons of their detention; neither are their lawyers.
- The Israeli Prison Service (IPS) has adopted a systematic policy of medical negligence in prisons and detention centres housing Palestinian detainees. Long delays in providing substandard medical treatment are typical. Although all prisons include a medical clinic, physicians are on duty irregularly and specialized medical healthcare is generally unavailable. Transfers to hospitals for treatment may take place only after weeks or months. Detention conditions have a huge impact on the health of prisoners and detainees.

Israel's use of administrative detention fails to meet international standards in many respects:

- It should only be used as a last resort and cannot be used as a substitute for prosecution.
- Israel routinely violates the main rights of administrative detainees under the Fourth Geneva Convention:
 1. Prohibition against torture (mental and physical) and cruel treatment
 2. Prohibition against reprisals and collective punishments
 3. Prohibition against deportations and transfer of civilians in and out of the occupied territory
 4. Prohibition against outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment
 5. Palestinians have a right to proper medical treatment and this is often denied.

As your constituent, I would welcome your support by:

- Asking the Foreign Secretary a written question to demanding that there is sufficient pressure on Israel to end their practice of administrative detention
- Writing to the Foreign Secretary to ask what action the UK Government has taken
- Calling for prompt and appropriate medical care for Palestinian prisoners
- Signing the EDM calling for action against Administrative detention
- Meeting with Palestinian prisoners groups here or in the occupied Palestinian territory to hear about their concerns