

Advocacy dossier

Ayman Ghraieb

أيمن غريب

Detained (pretrial) **Palestine**

Ayman Ghraieb, also known as Ayman Bani Owda, is a human rights defender and freelance journalist from Tammoun who documents violations against Palestinian communities in the Jordan Valley. He has been held by Israel without charge or trial since 17 November 2025 under successive administrative detention orders, the latest upheld on 24 September 2026.

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The case at a glance

Ayman Ghraieb, also known as Ayman Bani Owda, is a human rights defender and freelance journalist from Tammoun who documents violations against Palestinian communities in the Jordan Valley. He has been held by Israel without charge or trial since 17 November 2025 under successive administrative detention orders, the latest upheld on 24 September 2026.

Status	Arrested	Country
Detained (pretrial)	**1 Dec 2025**	**Palestine**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Ayman Ghraieb immediately and unconditionally.

02 Drop all charges related to the peaceful exercise of fundamental rights.

03 Ensure unrestricted access to legal counsel, family, and adequate medical care while in detention.

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How the case unfolded

November 2025

Interrogation

Interrogated on allegations of incitement

Six days after his arrest, after his transfer to Megiddo Prison, he was interrogated on vague allegations of incitement against the State of Israel. No charge followed.

17 November 2025

Arrest

Arrested while documenting in the Jordan Valley

He was detained on arriving at Fasayil in the central Jordan Valley to document the situation of a shepherd community facing forcible transfer. Two settlers blocked his way and called the army; a civilian security coordinator of a nearby settlement held him before he was handed over to police custody.

20 November 2025

Reappearance in custody

Whereabouts disclosed after enforced disappearance

For two days the police and the army refused to confirm that he was in custody. On 20 November 2025, after pressure by his lawyer Riham Nasra and the threat of a habeas corpus petition, the army disclosed that he was held at the Samra military base in the Jordan Valley, where Amnesty International reported he was kept outdoors, handcuffed and physically assaulted.

25 November 2025

Pretrial detention renewed

Military court extends detention to allow an administrative order

At an online hearing of the Salem Military Court, which neither his family nor his lawyer could attend, his detention was extended by six days to allow an administrative detention order to be issued.

27 November 2025

Home raid

Soldiers occupy the family home for two days

His wife, Walaa, told Amnesty International that during a military raid on Tammoun on 27 November 2025 soldiers stationed themselves inside the family home for two days, forced the family out, and left the house vandalised.

1 December 2025

Administrative detention

Six-month administrative detention order issued

The Israeli military commander issued a six-month administrative detention order against him, on the grounds that he was endangering the safety of the region.

December 2025

Hearing

Military court confirms the administrative detention order

An Israeli military court confirmed the six-month administrative detention order after closed proceedings. His lawyer was denied access to the alleged evidence.

13 March 2026

Other act

Amnesty International issues an urgent action for his release

Amnesty International called for his immediate and unconditional release, describing him as held solely for his human rights work. It reported that he was held at Gilboa Prison in northern Israel, outside the occupied territory, and denied family visits.

16 May 2026

Pretrial detention renewed

Administrative detention renewed

The Committee to Protect Journalists reported that Israeli authorities renewed his administrative detention on 16 May 2026, citing his wife, who said the evidence is held in a secret file.

15 September 2026

Pretrial detention renewed

Third administrative detention order issued

The Israeli military commander issued a third administrative detention order against him, extending his detention without charge or trial by four months.

24 September 2026

Hearing

Military court upholds third order and reduces it to three months

An Israeli military court upheld the third administrative detention order but reduced the period from four months to three. As of Amnesty International's update of 21 October 2026 he remained held without charge or trial at Gilboa Prison in northern Israel.

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The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Ayman Ghraieb, also known as Ayman Bani Owda, has been held by Israel without charge or trial since 17 November 2025. On 24 September 2026 a military court upheld a third administrative detention order, reduced to three months, and Amnesty International reported on 21 October 2026 that he remained in Gilboa Prison.

Background and Work

Ayman Ghraieb, whom Amnesty International names Ayman Bani Owda, is a human rights defender, social worker and grassroots activist from Tammoun in the Tubas Governorate of the northern occupied West Bank. He is in his early forties and a father of four. According to Amnesty International, he has documented violations in the Jordan Valley since 2007, where Bedouin and herding communities face the risk of forcible transfer because of army and settler violence and restrictions on grazing land. He co-founded the Ikhilia Women Cooperative, a women-led association that supports agricultural workers and communities in the Jordan Valley, and chaired its board until his arrest.

Front Line Defenders says he supports farmers whose land is targeted for seizure, coordinates local and international solidarity campaigns, and publishes photographs and videos of violations on social media. The Committee to Protect Journalists lists him as a freelance journalist who posts his documentation on TikTok, Instagram and Facebook. Front Line Defenders reports that he had faced harassment, threats and arrest by the Israeli authorities and smear campaigns by settlers and right-wing organisations before his detention. +972 Magazine reported that less than a month before his arrest he had been held for several hours together with another journalist.

The Arrest

On 17 November 2025 he arrived at Fasayil, in the central Jordan Valley, to document the situation of a shepherd community. Two settlers blocked his way and called the army. A civilian security coordinator of a nearby settlement held him before handing him to the police. For two days the police and the army refused to confirm that he was in custody. After pressure by his lawyer, Riham Nasra, whose work is funded by the Human Rights Defenders Fund, and the threat of a habeas corpus petition, the army disclosed on 20 November that he was held at the Samra military base. Front Line Defenders described this period as an enforced disappearance.

Detention Conditions and Health

Amnesty International reported that at Samra he was kept outdoors, handcuffed and physically assaulted. His wife, Walaa Bani Odeh, told the Committee to Protect Journalists that he was beaten during the arrest and suffered two broken ribs, and that he was still affected by the injuries in August 2026; the Committee could not verify this independently. He was transferred to Megiddo Prison and later to Gilboa Prison in northern Israel. Amnesty International notes that holding him outside the occupied territory breaches the Fourth Geneva Convention and that, like other Palestinian detainees, he is denied family visits. His lawyer

visits about once a month.

Walaa told Amnesty International that on 27 November 2025, ten days after the arrest, soldiers occupied the family home for two days during a raid on Tammoun, forced the family out and left the house vandalised.

Legal Proceedings

Six days after his arrest he was interrogated on vague allegations of incitement against the State of Israel. On 25 November 2025 the Salem Military Court, at an online hearing that neither his family nor his lawyer could attend, extended his detention by six days to allow an administrative order to be issued. On 1 December 2025 the military commander ordered six months of administrative detention, on the grounds that he endangered the safety of the region. A military court confirmed the order in closed proceedings in mid-December 2025 without disclosing the evidence to his lawyer. According to his wife, the detention was renewed on 16 May 2026. On 15 September 2026 the commander issued a third order for four months, and on 24 September 2026 a military court upheld it but reduced it to three months. He has never been charged, and the evidence remains in a secret file.

International Response

Front Line Defenders published his case on 18 December 2025. Amnesty International issued an urgent action on 13 March 2026 and a further urgent action on 21 October 2026, calling for his immediate and unconditional release as a person detained solely for his human rights work. The Committee to Protect Journalists documents his case as that of an imprisoned journalist.

Latest updates on this case Scan the code or visit: https://humena.org/defenders/ayman-ghraieb/

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