

Advocacy dossier

Ghassan Najjar

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Detained (pretrial) **Palestine**

Ghassan Najjar is a farmer and land defender from Burin, south of Nablus, who co-founded a farming cooperative and coordinates support for farmers during the olive harvest. Israeli forces arrested him on 27 October 2026, and Palestinian media reported on 10 November 2026 that he was placed under an administrative detention order of about three and a half months, without charge or trial.

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The case at a glance

Ghassan Najjar is a farmer and land defender from Burin, south of Nablus, who co-founded a farming cooperative and coordinates support for farmers during the olive harvest. Israeli forces arrested him on 27 October 2026, and Palestinian media reported on 10 November 2026 that he was placed under an administrative detention order of about three and a half months, without charge or trial.

Status	Arrested	Country
Detained (pretrial)	**10 Nov 2026**	**Palestine**

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Release Ghassan Najjar 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.

04 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Ghassan Najjar and on any family members affected by the same order.

02

How the case unfolded

2011

Travel ban imposed

Barred from leaving the West Bank

Front Line Defenders reported that since 2011 the Israeli Shin Bet has barred him from leaving the occupied West Bank.

2026

Threats and intimidation

Threatened with arrest over his olive harvest work

Israeli intelligence agents threatened him with arrest if he did not stop his activism. The threats began at the start of the olive harvest season and intensified in the week before his arrest.

27 October 2026

Arrest

Arrested in a pre-dawn raid on his home in Burin

Israeli forces arrested him at his home in Burin, south of Nablus, at about 3:00 a.m. He was taken to the Huwara military detention facility.

27 October 2026

Contact with the outside world cut off

Whereabouts unknown for more than 36 hours

His whereabouts were unknown for more than 36 hours after the arrest. His lawyer was later told he would be taken to the Salem interrogation centre for questioning.

November 2026

Threats and intimidation

Told he is likely to face administrative detention

A military interrogator told his lawyer that he was likely to be placed under administrative detention. Amnesty International reported that he was expected to appear at a hearing on 8 November 2026. No charge has been brought against him.

5 November 2026

Other act

Amnesty International and Front Line Defenders call for his release

Amnesty International and Front Line Defenders called for his immediate and unconditional release, saying he was targeted for his peaceful work supporting farmers' access to their land. Amnesty reported that he was held at the Huwara military detention facility and had not been charged.

10 November 2026

Administrative detention

Administrative detention order of about three and a half months

Palestinian media, citing the Commission of Detainees' Affairs, reported that an administrative detention order was issued against Ghassan Zeidan Saleh Najjar of Burin, running from 10 November 2026 to 26 February 2027. He remains held without charge or trial.

03

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Ghassan Najjar has been held by Israel without charge since his arrest on 27 October 2026. On 10 November 2026 Palestinian media, citing the Commission of Detainees' Affairs, reported an administrative detention order against him running to 26 February 2027; Amnesty International and Front Line Defenders had not yet confirmed the order.

Background and Work

Ghassan Najjar is a 36-year-old Palestinian farmer, grassroots organiser and land defender from Burin, south of Nablus, in the northern occupied West Bank. His work focuses on Palestinian farmers' access to their agricultural land and on helping communities withstand occupation, settler violence and displacement. He co-founded the Burin Land and Farming Cooperative, which promotes agroecology, food sovereignty, environmental justice and mutual aid among farmers. He coordinates the Sumud network, which supports farmers and shepherds, including during the olive harvest, and he created Burin's annual kite festival and leads other cultural initiatives.

He has been detained by Israel before. Amnesty International says he has spent about four years in Israeli jails and was first arrested at the age of 15; Front Line Defenders says he has spent nearly a decade in Israeli prisons, much of it under administrative detention. Since 2011 the Israeli internal security agency, the Shin Bet, has barred him from leaving the occupied West Bank, according to Front Line Defenders, which adds that his family has also faced threats and intimidation linked to his work.

The Arrest

Amnesty International reported that he received repeated threats from the start of the 2026 olive harvest season, which intensified in the week before his arrest, and that Israeli intelligence agents explicitly told him he would be arrested if he did not stop his activism. Front Line Defenders reported that Shin Bet agents threatened to detain him if he continued coordinating the olive harvest in the Nablus area.

At about 3:00 a.m. on 27 October 2026 Israeli forces arrested him at his home in Burin. His whereabouts were unknown for more than 36 hours. His lawyer was then told that he would be taken to the Salem interrogation centre for questioning. He has since been held at the Huwara military detention facility near Nablus. Front Line Defenders placed the arrest in the context of 3,133 attacks by Israeli forces and settlers across the West Bank recorded by the Colonization and Wall Resistance Commission in October 2026, 636 of them in Nablus Governorate.

Detention Conditions and Health

No public report has described his treatment or health in custody. Front Line Defenders has asked the Israeli authorities to guarantee his physical and psychological integrity and his unrestricted access to his lawyer and family.

Legal Proceedings

No charge has been brought against him. A military interrogator told his lawyer that he was likely to be

placed under administrative detention, which allows detention without charge or trial for renewable periods on secret evidence. Amnesty International reported on 6 November 2026 that he was expected to appear at a hearing on 8 November; the outcome of that hearing has not been published. On 10 and 11 November 2026 several Palestinian outlets, An-Najah News, Safa, Al-Hadaf and Shams News, relayed a list from the Commission of Detainees' Affairs that includes an administrative detention order against Ghassan Zeidan Saleh Najjar of Burin for about three and a half months, from 10 November 2026 to 26 February 2027.

International Response

On 5 November 2026 Front Line Defenders and Amnesty International called for his immediate and unconditional release. Erika Guevara Rosas, Amnesty International's Senior Director for Research, Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns, said the Israeli authorities must release him immediately. On 6 November 2026 Amnesty International UK urged that he not be placed in administrative detention.

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