

Advocacy dossier

Khalida Jarrar

خالدة جرار

At liberty **Palestine**

Khalida Jarrar is a Palestinian human rights defender and former director of the prisoners' rights group Addameer whom Israel has detained five times, mostly without charge. Released in January 2025 after more than a year of administrative detention, including about six months in solitary confinement, she is now a researcher at Birzeit University.

01
The case at a glance

Khalida Jarrar is a Palestinian human rights defender and former director of the prisoners' rights group Addameer whom Israel has detained five times, mostly without charge. Released in January 2025 after more than a year of administrative detention, including about six months in solitary confinement, she is now a researcher at Birzeit University.

Status **At liberty**	Arrested **26 Dec 2023**	Country **Palestine**

Sentence Fully served: 15 months (2015, released June 2016); two years (March 2021, released 26 September 2021). No current sentence.

Charges 2015: 12 charges before a military court, including membership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, incitement and visiting released prisoners
2021: "inciting violence" and membership of a "banned organisation"

What we ask

We call on the authorities to:

01 Quash the conviction and drop any charges that remain on record against Khalida Jarrar in connection with peaceful human rights work.

02 Confirm publicly that Khalida Jarrar faces no residual travel, financial, or professional restriction arising from this case.

03 Guarantee that Khalida Jarrar can resume that work without surveillance, summons, or further reprisal.

04 Provide effective remedy for the period of deprivation of liberty already served.

02

How the case unfolded

March 1989

Arrest

First arrest at an International Women's Day demonstration

Khalida Jarrar was first arrested in March 1989 at an International Women's Day demonstration.

August 2014

Other act

Ordered to relocate from Ramallah to Jericho for six months

Israel ordered her to relocate from her home in Ramallah to Jericho for six months. She refused to sign the order and set up a protest tent outside the Palestinian Legislative Council compound in Ramallah.

2015

Conviction

Convicted by a military court and sentenced to 15 months

A military court charged her with 12 offences, including membership of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which Israel considers illegal, incitement and visiting released prisoners. A military judge's order to release her was overturned on appeal by the prosecution. She was convicted and sentenced to 15 months in prison, five years' probation and a fine.

2 April 2015

Arrest

Arrested at home in Ramallah and held without charge

Israeli soldiers arrested her at her home, searched it and confiscated two computers. She was first held in administrative detention on secret evidence before being charged.

June 2016

Release

Released after about 15 months in prison

She was released in June 2016 after serving her sentence.

July 2017

Administrative detention

Six-month administrative detention order, later renewed several times

A military court issued a six-month administrative detention order against her. The order was extended several times, with the army saying she still posed a substantial threat.

2 July 2017

Arrest

Re-arrested in a pre-dawn raid on her home

Israeli forces arrested her again in a pre-dawn raid on her home in Ramallah. The army said the arrest concerned activities with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, not her role in the Legislative Council. Addameer, where she was vice-chair, condemned the arrest.

28 February 2019

Release

Released from HaSharon prison after 20 months without charge or trial

She was freed from HaSharon prison after about 20 months of administrative detention without charge or trial.

31 October 2019

Arrest

Arrested again at home in Ramallah

Israeli forces arrested her at her Ramallah home at about 3:00 am. Her daughter Yara Jarrar said more than 70 soldiers arrived in 12 military vehicles.

March 2021

Conviction

Military court sentences her to two years

An Israeli military court sentenced her to two years in prison for "inciting violence" and belonging to a "banned organisation", in connection with her affiliation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

12 July 2021

Other act

Denied leave to attend her daughter's funeral

Her daughter Suha, 31, was found dead at her home in Ramallah. The Israeli prison service reportedly refused the request that Khalida Jarrar be allowed to attend the funeral.

26 September 2021

Release

Released after completing her sentence

She was released at the Salem checkpoint west of Jenin and went to Ramallah Cemetery, where her daughter is buried. "They denied me her farewell," she said.

26 December 2023

Administrative detention

Arrested and placed in administrative detention

She was arrested and placed in administrative detention, which was renewed several times. In June 2024 an Israeli court renewed the order for a further six months.

August 2024

Solitary confinement imposed

Moved to solitary confinement at Neve Tirza

She was moved to solitary confinement as a form of punishment and held for about six months in a cell at Neve Tirza prison in Ramla.

January 2025

Release

Released in the first prisoner exchange of the Gaza ceasefire

Israel freed her as part of the first wave of prisoner releases agreed in the Gaza ceasefire deal. She had been held for more than a year without charge or trial.

03

The full story

Update, 12 November 2026: Khalida Jarrar has been at liberty since her release in January 2025, after more than a year in administrative detention, about six months of it in solitary confinement. Reporting from October 2026 describes her as a researcher at Birzeit University.

Background and Work

Khalida Jarrar is a Palestinian human rights defender and politician from Nablus who lives in Ramallah. From 1993 to 2005 she directed Addameer, the Ramallah-based prisoners' rights organisation, and she later served as its vice-chair. In 2006 she was elected to the Palestinian Legislative Council for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and chaired its prisoners' committee. Middle East Eye credits her with a leading role in Palestine's accession to the International Criminal Court in 2015.

Israel has imprisoned her five times, for more than six years in total, mostly under administrative detention, which allows detention without charge or trial on secret evidence. She has faced long-term travel bans, and her husband, Ghassan Jarrar, has been detained more than ten times. According to Jacobin in October 2026, she is now a researcher at the Muwatin Institute at Birzeit University, studying the women prisoners' movement since 1967.

Arrests and Detentions, 1989 to 2021

She was first arrested in March 1989 at an International Women's Day demonstration. In August 2014 Israel ordered her to relocate from Ramallah to Jericho for six months; she refused to sign and set up a protest tent outside the Legislative Council. On 2 April 2015 soldiers arrested her at home and confiscated two computers. Held first without charge, she was then charged before a military court with 12 offences, including PFLP membership, incitement and visiting released prisoners. A military judge ordered her release, but the prosecution's appeal succeeded. She was sentenced to 15 months in prison, five years' probation and a fine, and released in June 2016.

On 2 July 2017 she was arrested again in a pre-dawn raid and given a six-month administrative detention order, renewed several times. Amnesty International reports that she was freed from HaSharon prison on 28 February 2019 after about 20 months without charge or trial. On 31 October 2019 she was arrested once more; her daughter Yara Jarrar said more than 70 soldiers came to the house. In March 2021 a military court sentenced her to two years for "inciting violence" and membership of a "banned organisation". Her daughter Suha died in Ramallah in July 2021, and the Israeli prison service reportedly refused to let her attend the funeral. She was released on 26 September 2021 at the Salem checkpoint.

The Arrest

On 26 December 2023, after the start of the war in Gaza, she was arrested and placed in administrative detention. Prensa Latina reported that an Israeli court renewed the order for six more months in June 2024. On 19 October 2021 Israel had designated Addameer, together with Al-Haq, led by Shawan Jabarin, and four other Palestinian groups, as terrorist organisations.

Detention Conditions and Health

In August 2024 she was moved to solitary confinement, which Middle East Eye describes as a form of punishment, and held for about six months in a cell at Neve Tirza prison in Ramla.

Legal Proceedings

Her 2023 to 2025 detention involved no charge or trial; it rested on administrative detention orders. She was freed in January 2025 in the first wave of prisoner releases agreed under the Gaza ceasefire deal.

International Response

Amnesty International followed her administrative detention from 2017 to 2019 and reported her release in March 2019. Palestinian leaders, including Hanan Ashrawi, described that detention as "yet another chapter in a lifetime of persecution and oppression", according to Al Jazeera.

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

HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement is a non-governmental organisation documenting the situation of human rights defenders in the Middle East and North Africa. This file is based on the public record of the case in the defenders archive. To report an error: archive@humena.org