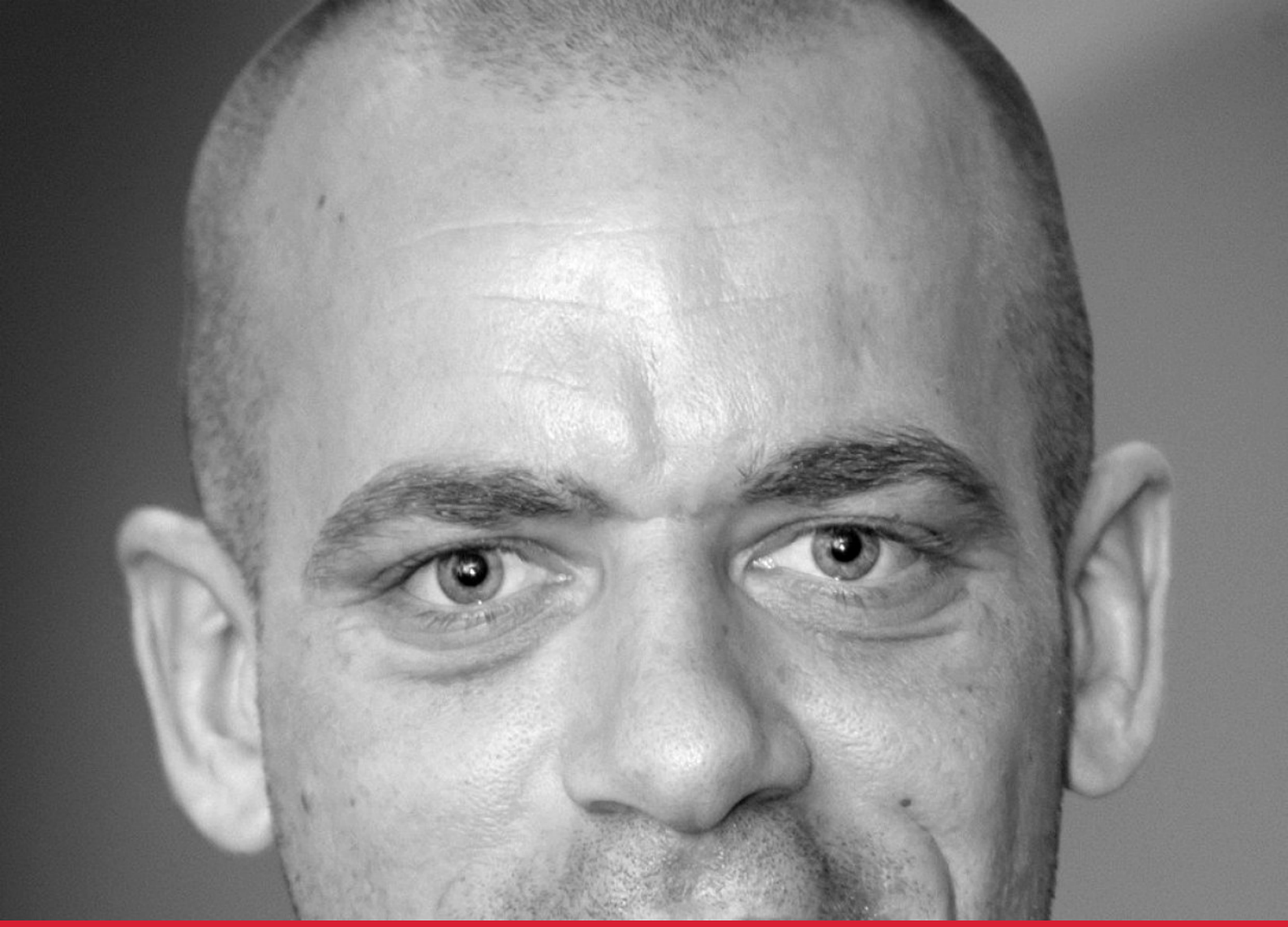


ADVOCACY DOSSIER

SALAH HAMOURI

صلاح حموري

At liberty **Palestine**

Franco-Palestinian human rights lawyer held without charge under administrative detention from March 2022 until Israel deported him to France on 18 December 2022, after revoking his Jerusalem residency. He lives in France.

HuMENA.

Prepared by HuMENA for Human Rights and Civic Engagement · 8 November 2026

Case reference HM-PS-2026-044

01

THE CASE AT A GLANCE

Franco-Palestinian human rights lawyer held without charge under administrative detention from March 2022 until Israel deported him to France on 18 December 2022, after revoking his Jerusalem residency. He lives in France.

STATUS	**At liberty**
ARRESTED	**10 Mar 2022**
COUNTRY	**Palestine**
CHARGES	**No charges filed; held under administrative detention without access to evidence**

WE CALL ON THE AUTHORITIES TO:

WHAT WE ASK

01 Immediately end all harassment, summons, surveillance, and threats against the family of Salah Hamouri in Palestine.

02 Cease the use of family members as leverage to pressure Salah Hamouri into silence.

03 Drop any fabricated charges against family members and unblock their travel, financial, and professional rights.

04 Comply with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which explicitly prohibits reprisals against the families of defenders.

05 Immediately end all transnational targeting of Salah Hamouri, including surveillance, defamation campaigns, Interpol misuse, and consular harassment.

06 Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Salah Hamouri and on any family members affected by the same order.

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

02

DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

	INTERNATIONAL STANDARD
Arbitrary detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9
Denial of family visits	UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), Rule 58
Denial of legal counsel	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 14(3)
Forced exile	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12(4)
Judicial harassment	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Articles 9, 12
Prolonged pretrial detention	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(3)
Reprisal against relatives	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12
Transnational repression	UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Article 12
Travel ban	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 12

03

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

2001

ARREST

First arrest at age 16

He was arrested for the first time at the age of 16.

2001

RELEASE

Released after five months

He was released after five months in detention.

2004

ARREST

Held in administrative detention

He was held in administrative detention without charge.

2004

RELEASE

Released after five months of administrative detention

He was released after five months of administrative detention.

13 March 2005

ARREST

Arrested and later sentenced to seven years

He was arrested and later sentenced to seven years in prison, after refusing a deal under which he would leave for France for ten years.

18 December 2011	RELEASE	**Freed in the 2011 prisoner exchange** He was freed in the 2011 prisoner exchange, about three months before the end of his sentence.
March 2015	CONTEXT	**Banned from entering the West Bank** He was banned from entering the West Bank for six months; the ban was renewed twice, for about a year and a half in all.
2016	FAMILY VISIT DENIED	**Wife and children barred from entry** Israeli authorities denied entry to Hamouri's wife Elsa Lefort, a French national, and their children, banning them from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The ban has remained in force, forcibly separating the family.
23 August 2017	ARREST	**Arrested at home and held without charge** He was arrested at his home in Kufr Aqab and placed in administrative detention without charge.
30 September 2018	RELEASE	**Released after 13 months of administrative detention** He was released after 13 months of administrative detention without charge.
30 June 2020	ARREST	**Arrested near Sheikh Jarrah** He was arrested near Sheikh Jarrah in Jerusalem.
7 July 2020	CONDITIONAL RELEASE	**Released on bail with conditions** He was released on bail with conditions.
3 September 2020	CONTEXT	**Notified of plan to revoke his Jerusalem residency** He was notified of the Interior Minister's intent to revoke his permanent residency in Jerusalem.
29 June 2021	ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC MEASURES	**Minister announces residency revocation** Israeli Minister of the Interior Ayelet Shaked announced the adoption of intelligence service recommendations to revoke Hamouri's permanent residency in Jerusalem on grounds of 'breach of allegiance.'
18 October 2021	ADMINISTRATIVE AND ECONOMIC MEASURES	**Residency revocation becomes official** The revocation of Hamouri's permanent residency in Jerusalem became official. His lawyer challenged the decision before the Israeli Supreme Court. If upheld, Hamouri will be permanently expelled from his birthplace.
7 March 2022	ARREST	**Arrested in pre-dawn raid** Around twenty-five Israeli forces, including Al-Mstaribeen special unit members, broke into Hamouri's apartment in Kufr Aqab at 4:45 am. He was seized from his bed, bound with zip-ties, and taken to Ofer prison, then transferred to Al-Moskobiya detention centre.
9 March 2022	PRETRIAL DETENTION RENEWED	**Detention extended 48 hours** Ofer military court extended Hamouri's detention for forty-eight hours under the Emergency Law of 1945, a British-era statute still applied by Israeli military courts.

10 March 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION

Three-month administrative detention order issued

The Israeli military commander issued a three-month administrative detention order against Hamouri, allowing imprisonment on secret evidence without charge or trial. He was not informed of any allegations. An initial report of a four-month order was later corrected.

9 June 2022

PRETRIAL DETENTION RENEWED

Detention extended by three months

The Israeli military renewed Hamouri's administrative detention until 5 September 2022. The order was sent directly to his lawyer without a hearing or court appearance. The file remained classified.

27 July 2022

TRANSFER BETWEEN PLACES OF DETENTION

Moved to Hadarim prison

He was moved from Ofer to Hadarim prison after being reclassified as a high-security prisoner.

October 2022

CONTEXT

UN experts condemn punitive measures

UN experts condemned the punitive measures taken by Israel against him.

18 December 2022

DEPORTATION

Deported to France

By order of the Israeli government, Hamouri was forcibly deported to France.

18 December 2022

RELEASE

Released from administrative detention by deportation to France

15 November 2025

UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES COMMUNICATION

Filed UN complaint

Hamouri filed a complaint with the UN regarding his deportation, which UN experts said could amount to a war crime.

4 June 2026

FAVOURABLE COURT ORDER

French court lifts ban on his talk in Besancon

The Besancon administrative court suspended a prefect's ban of 2 June 2026 on a public talk by Hamouri, ruling it a serious and manifestly illegal breach of freedom of expression.

04

THE FULL STORY

Update, 13 May 2026: Hamouri was deported by Israeli government order to France on 18 December 2022 and has lived there since. France considered the expulsion contrary to law; UN experts said it could amount to a war crime. In November 2025 he filed a related complaint at the UN.

Background and Work

Salah Hamouri is a Franco-Palestinian human rights lawyer who has worked for years defending Palestinian detainees and documenting abuses in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Born in Jerusalem in 1985, he holds both Palestinian and French nationality and lived in the city until his deportation in December 2022. His legal practice has focused on representing individuals held under administrative detention and other forms of arbitrary confinement by Israeli authorities.

Hamouri's advocacy has drawn sustained harassment from Israeli security services. In October 2020, United Nations human rights experts wrote to the Israeli government expressing concern over what they described as the "misuse of administrative and criminal law proceedings against Mr. Hamouri." His case has become emblematic of the broader Israeli policy of targeting Palestinian lawyers who defend political detainees.

The Arrest

On March 7, 2022, at approximately 4:45 am, around twenty-five Israeli forces broke into Hamouri's apartment in Kufr Aqab, a neighbourhood north of Jerusalem. The raiding unit included members of the Al-Mstaribeen special forces. They entered his bedroom while he was asleep, seized him from his bed, and bound his wrists with plastic zip-ties. Officers confiscated three mobile phones and one laptop before escorting him out. He was first taken to Ofer prison in Ramallah, then transferred to Al-Moskobiya detention centre in Jerusalem.

On March 9, 2022, Ofer military court extended Hamouri's detention for forty-eight hours under the Emergency Law of 1945, a British-era statute still used by Israeli military courts. The following day, March 10, 2022, the Israeli military commander issued a three-month administrative detention order. The order allows Israeli authorities to hold prisoners indefinitely on secret evidence, without charge or trial. Hamouri was not informed of the allegations against him. His lawyer was denied access to the file.

Prolonged Detention Without Charge

On June 9, 2022, the Israeli military extended Hamouri's administrative detention by a further three months. The order was sent directly to his lawyer without a hearing or court appearance. The file remained classified. As of the extension, Hamouri had been held for three months without knowing the substance of any accusation. Administrative detention orders in Israel are renewable indefinitely.

This detention is part of a long pattern. Hamouri has been arrested and detained multiple times over the

past decade, each time in connection with his human rights work. No criminal charges related to violence have been sustained against him. The cycle of arrest, detention, and release without trial has marked his professional life.

Revocation of Residency and Threat of Expulsion

On June 29, 2021, Israeli Minister of the Interior Ayelet Shaked announced that she was adopting recommendations from Israeli intelligence services to revoke Hamouri's permanent residency in Jerusalem. The stated grounds were "breach of allegiance," a vague administrative standard applied almost exclusively to Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem. On October 18, 2021, the revocation became official. Hamouri's lawyer challenged the decision. The case is pending before the Israeli Supreme Court.

If the revocation is upheld, Hamouri will be permanently expelled from Jerusalem, the city where he was born and has lived for thirty-seven years. He will be barred from returning. The residency revocation is part of a broader Israeli policy targeting Palestinian Jerusalemites deemed politically active or disloyal. The policy has been condemned by human rights organisations as a form of forced transfer prohibited under international humanitarian law.

Family Separation

Hamouri's wife, Elsa Lefort, is a French national. In 2016, Israeli authorities denied her entry to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory and have refused to renew her permission to live with her husband. The couple's children, who hold French nationality, are also barred. The family has been forcibly separated for six years. Lefort has appealed the ban repeatedly. All appeals have been rejected. She and her children remain in France.

International Response

In October 2020, United Nations special rapporteurs wrote to the Israeli government expressing alarm at the pattern of administrative and judicial harassment targeting Hamouri. They noted that the measures appeared designed to punish him for his legitimate human rights activities. The letter called for his protection and for an end to reprisals against Palestinian human rights defenders. Israeli authorities did not respond substantively.

The French government has raised Hamouri's case repeatedly, citing his French nationality and requesting consular access. French officials have publicly called for his release and for the residency revocation to be rescinded. As of mid-2022, those calls had not resulted in any change in his status.

05

SAMPLE LETTER

Copy it, adapt it and send it from your own address.

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express grave concern about the campaign of reprisals targeting the family of human rights defender Salah Hamouri, human rights lawyer representing Palestinian clients; advocate for detainee rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Punishing relatives for the peaceful work of a defender is collective punishment and a violation of international law.

Hamouri's French wife and children have been barred from entering Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 2016, constituting family-based transnational repression. The threatened revocation of his Jerusalem residency and permanent expulsion from his birthplace also amounts to forced exile targeting a dual Franco-Palestinian national.

I respectfully urge your authorities to:
1. Immediately end all harassment, summons, surveillance, and threats against the family of Salah Hamouri in Palestine;
2. Cease the use of family members as leverage to pressure Salah Hamouri into silence;
3. Drop any fabricated charges against family members and unblock their travel, financial, and professional rights;
4. Comply with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, which explicitly prohibits reprisals against the families of defenders;
5. Immediately end all transnational targeting of Salah Hamouri, including surveillance, defamation campaigns, Interpol misuse, and consular harassment;
6. Immediately lift the travel ban imposed on Salah Hamouri and on any family members affected by the same order.

I will continue to monitor the welfare of Salah Hamouri's family in Palestine and will publicly raise concerns at every level until the reprisals stop.

Respectfully,

[Your name]
[Your city, country]
8 November 2026