



## An open letter to the High Commissioner for Human Rights calling for the release of Palestinian journalists detained in Israeli prisons

Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights,

### Subject: Humanitarian appeal to release the journalists detained in Israeli prisons

Coinciding with the commemoration of the Palestinian Prisoner's Day, which falls on April 17 of each year, we, the undersigned NGOs, appeal to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to exert pressure on Israel for the immediate release of the detained Palestinian journalists in Israeli prisons.

We express our great concern for the vast and increasing spread of the Coronavirus pandemic in "Israel" and the occupied Palestinian territories, and our fear that it may affect thousands of prisoners, including the 19 detained Palestinian journalists in Israeli prisons.

Palestinian prisoners, including journalists held inside "Israeli" prisons, are encountering a life-threatening virus, as prisons fail to meet minimum living conditions, rather than the medical negligence that has killed dozens of Palestinian prisoners during the past years.

We direct our appeal to the High Commissioner and all member states of the United Nations in order to move towards the release of the detained journalists from the "Israeli" prisons amid the expansion of the Corona pandemic and its ability to reach prison facilities, the failure of the prison administration to comply with the rules of

international law, especially the third and fourth Geneva Conventions of the year 1949 in dealing with Palestinian prisoners and journalists in particular.

### **The signatory organizations:**

- ❖ Journalist Support Committee – JSC
- ❖ Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedom – Mada
- ❖ Syndicat National des Journalistes Tunisiens – SNJT
- ❖ Tunisian Human Rights League – LTDH
- ❖ Tunisian General Labour Union – UGTT
- ❖ Tunis center for Press Freedom
- ❖ Committee for Respect of Freedom and Human Rights in Tunisia – CRLDHT
- ❖ Coalition Nationale Tunisienne contre la Peine de Mort - CTCPM
- ❖ The Iraqi Observatory for Press Freedoms
- ❖ Citizenship, Development, Cultures, and Immigration Association of the two banks - Tunisia
- ❖ Vigilance
- ❖ Lam Eshaml
- ❖ Association Tunisienne de Defense des Valeurs Universitaires – AIDVU
- ❖ Organisation Contre la Torture en Tunisie
- ❖ Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture
- ❖ Filastiniyat
- ❖ Social Media Club – Palestine
- ❖ The Palestinian Journalist Bloc
- ❖ Palestinian Democratic Press Association
- ❖ Organization for Defending Victims of Violence
- ❖ Yemeni Media Union
- ❖ Inminds Human Rights Group
- ❖ Centre for Counter Hegemonic Studies, Australia
- ❖ Palestine Foundation Pakistan (PLF)

