# **Campaign Overview**

**Campaign goals:** This campaign's goal is to free Walid Daqqah. Through a week of action (July 7 - 15th), the goal is to build mass support around a campaign that could lead to his release. The idea is that if we attack Israel's public image and place enough pressure on international actors, it will explode and lead to his release.

**Campaign tactics:** The campaign utilises various tactics: protests at Zionist embassies/consulates; placing pressure on international actors (UN, ICRC, HRW) to release Daqqah through a <u>petition</u> and protests at those institutions' offices; a media campaign;

We have three key demands for this campaign:

- 1. Immediate release of Walid Daqqah
- 2. Providing Walid Daggah with urgent, life-saving medical care
- 3. Granting his family, including his young daughter Milad, visitation rights

# Each organisation is asked to:

- Joining a PYM action or organising some form of action during the week of Friday July 7 – Saturday July 15th. Make sure to fill out this Google form if you're doing an action
- Share the calls to action WIDELY and encourage all members to mobilize, this will include:
  - Sharing and partaking in the mass emailing and calling campaign
  - Sharing the petition for individual and organisational sign-on
  - Sharing social media content widely and with local partners to share on their platforms

#### **Overall Toolkit Outline/Table of Contents:**

- Kev messages
- The following will be presented externally for chapters and members to circulate:
  - Campaign Tactics and Actions Toolkit
  - <u>Petition</u>: will be circulated for sign-ons, directed at international actors to put pressure on the Israeli government
- The following outline working group strategy:
  - Media Engagement Strategy

#### Additional Resources:

https://www.addameer.org/news/5039

- https://www.newarab.com/opinion/palestinian-prisoners-day-free-walid-Daqqah?amp
- <a href="https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/165587">https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/165587</a>

# **Key Messages**

#### **Palestinian Prisoners**

- SLOGAN: Prisoners are the compass of our struggle
  - Prisoners have often been at the forefront of resistance to zionism and imperialism - they are the compass of our struggle.
  - Palestinian political prisoners are on the frontline of the struggle for self-determination and are in daily confrontation with the Zionist entity. It is for this reason that we centre the prisoners' struggle in our national liberation movement.
  - o Incarceration is a Zionist strategy to isolate Palestinian freedom fighters and dissidents from the rest of Palestinian society, as well as to attempt to crush Palestinian resistance. As Palestinian and Arab youth it is our duty to build up popular consciousness around the Palestinian prisoners' struggle and to organise for their freedom. As the Palestinian prisoner is in daily confrontation with the Zionist Entity, every facet of life becomes a battle for dignity: food, water, clothing, healthcare, and more. They thus represent a nation in captivity; all of historic Palestine is a carceral state under occupation and colonisation by the Zionist Entity. The Palestinian prisoners are freedom fighters as much as they are fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters.
  - The palestinian prisoners' centrality to the struggle has a long history that goes back before the colonisation of Palestinian in 1948. In 1930 British police executed 3 resistance fighters in Akka prison, and the story is immortalised in song generation after generation. During the British mandate, which lasted from 1920 till 1948, and especially during the 1936 to 1939 Great Arab revolt, imprisonment was a regular experience. The British regularly incarcerated Palestinians especially those who resisted and in the process built an entire prison infrastructure across the country that was adopted and expanded by the zionist entity.
  - The prison as a site of unity
    - Prisons are schools for liberation, in which unity triumphs over factionalism, always reminding the street in times of division that unity is the only answer to Zionist imposed political and geographic fragmentation. As an example when a cadre is interred, they immediately enter a new socio-political organism. Seniority in the

prisoner's movement is based on experience and revolutionary potential, and a leader in any faction is respected by members. In times of severe divisions on the streets, the prisoners' movement has come out demanding that the unity in prison be reflected on the street

- The prison as a site of knowledge production
  - The prisoners' movement is also a site for the production of knowledge. Prisoners have developed curricula, helping young prisoners compete for high school matriculation, university degrees, and even doctorates. Palestinian prison literature is a genre in its own right.
    - Wisam Rafeedie The Trinity of Fundamentals is part of a vast lineage of literature produced by Palestinian thinkers and fighters from within Zionist prisons such as Kamil Abu Hneish and Walid Daqqah.
    - The Trinity of Fundamentals is the fictionalized account of Rafeedie's real experience of spending nine years in hiding, evading arrest by the Occupation forces in Palestine. His time in hiding ultimately ended in his capture in 1991. The novel is told from the perspective of the main character, Kan'an Subhi, a 22-year old Palestinian man who forgoes the most fundamental aspects of life to serve the revolution. The novel places Kan'an's decision to go into hiding within its historical context: that is, as part of a larger strategy of the Palestinian revolution after its exile from Lebanon in 1982 and moving the revolution to Palestine. This strategy was undertaken to protect organisers in the Occupied West Bank from imprisonment and repression at the hands of the Israeli state. Te novel is an important historical text because it depicts the personal and collective experience of the First Intifada. Wisam wrote the novel during his imprisonment at Nagab Prison in 1993, a few years after he was captured by the Israeli occupation army.
  - Walid Daqqah is an example of this. From behind bars, he succeeded in becoming a novelist and a political analyst with huge renown in the Palestinian community. His famous book, Searing of Consciousness, dissects the Zionist entity's strategies for elimination of the Palestinian people through his experiences in prisons. His thesis is that the Zionist leadership has given up on the dealing with the Palestinian people through its leaders and negotiators, and instead realises that the problem is not one of incitement or religious passion as they like to claim to the rest of the world, but the people they are trying to subjugate. It is the

Palestinian people's undying persistence on freedom that has been identified as the problem, and the solution is to sear the Palestinian consciousness. Searing consciousness means to target the Palestinian psyche, through a total and comprehensive surveillance, and utilising any and all available means in society to extract compliance from the Palestinian people. Their attempts have largely failed as we see today the rising youth joining the ranks of the resistance, and filling Zionist prisons.

- Link to joint struggle (BPP)
  - The prisoner movement teaches us the importance internationalism, with leaders often penning letters of comradery and solidarity with causes elsewhere in the world. But perhaps, little encapsulates these linkages better than the story of Palestinian poet Samih AlQassem's and Goerge Jackson, the leader and martyr of the black panthers. After Jackson's death in Soledad prison, his comrades found a poem penned in his notebook. The poem, Samih AlQassem's enemy of the sun, was mistakenly attributed to Jackson and published under his name. Unknown to the comrades at the time was that this poem was written by a Palestinian resisting Zionist colonisation and brutality. The fact that Black Panthers could not discern if the story in the poem was the story of Goerge Jackson or the Palestinian people goes to show that our struggles are deeply connected. I leave you with the words of Samih AlQassem in that same poem:

I may—if you wish—lose my livelihood
I may sell my shirt and bed.
I may work as a stone cutter,
A street sweeper, a porter.
I may clean your stores
Or rummage your garbage for food.
I may lie down hungry,
O enemy of the sun,
But
I shall not compromise
And to the last pulse in my veins
I shall resist.

- As we march on the path of return, we know that the liberation of our land depends on the freedom of our prisoners.
- SLOGAN: Prisoners are intentionally targeted because of their resistance to zionism

- All prisoners are inherently political because Palestinian prisoners intentionally targeted because of their resistance to zionism
- We look to them for inspiration, they keep the spirit of revolution going
- Palestinian experience as one of imprisonment (Gaza as an open air prison, West Bank as a maximum security prison -- checkpoints, movement restriction, surveillance. Jerusalem).
- One of the major conditions of the Oslo Accords was increasing prisons in the West Bank)
- All of Historic Palestine under zionist occupation is a carceral state. In fact, in Walid Daqqah's 'Searing the Consciousness' he describes the carceral apparatus of the prison as working in tandem with other tools of Zionist settler colonialism eviscerate Palestinian revolutionary national consciousness by targeting the material and moral infrastructure of resistance

#### **Hunger strikes**

#### SLOGAN: Hunger strikes are a manifestation of Sumud

- Political prisoner struggle has long been characterised by the practice of the hunger strike. Since '67, Palestinians have carried out hunger strikes either on an individual, group, or mass level. The demands of the hunger strike have included: access to education, such as completing HS and university exams, proper medical care, an end to solitary confinement, an end to administrative detention, and visitation rights.
- The hunger strike in Palestine carries with it significant revolutionary potential - in that the Entity becomes anxious that the hunger strike will ignite popular rebellion outside the jail walls, on top of exposure to the world of the Entity's unjust prison practices.
- Last year we witnessed hundreds of Palestinian prisoners go on hunger strike to resist in what was named 'the battle of empty stomachs'
- This week, the Palestinian Administrative Detainees Committee announced that Palestinian prisoners will be beginning an open-ended hunger strike on Sunday June 18th
- Link to joint struggle (Irish struggle):
  - As we have learned from the Irish struggle, the prison is imagined by the occupiers to be the end of the political power and influence of the prisoner. And as the struggles of the Irish have taught us, even the austerity of prison can produce the most meaningful and inspiring acts of rebellion. When the weapons of resistance are scarce, the prisoners remind us that the body is a front. The resisters from the so-called "dirty protest" in Long Kesh and

Armagh prisons used their own bodies as the battlefront, choosing their bodily deterioration over humiliation and capitulation. The prisoners show us that resistance is always possible, and that even within the suffering, isolation, and austerity of captivity the tools of resistance always exist.

#### **Administrative Detention**

- SLOGAN: Administrative detention is a flagrant human rights abuse and is used by the zionist entity as a means of collective punishment of Palestinians
  - o In recent years one of the key issues the prisoner movement has mobilised around has been administrative detention. Under administrative detention, Palestinians are not allowed to stand trial and do not know under what charges they are being held. The Israeli Occupation Military have been using this procedure to hold Palestinian prisoners indefinitely based on secret information that neither the detainee nor his lawyer are able to view. Administrative detention is subject to repeated and indefinite renewal. It is renewed often on or very near the day of expiry of the previous detention order. The occupation forces have been routinely filing charges against administrative detainees after the end of their detention order as well as filing administrative detention orders following the end of a prison sentence. In addition, administrative detention is used as a substitute for criminal prosecution when evidence is insufficient or non-existent.
  - The frequency of the use of administrative detention has fluctuated throughout the Zionist entity's colonial project, and has been steadily rising since the outbreak of the Second Intifada in September 2000, following the 2014 war on Gaza, and after October 2015, and has been used as a means of collective punishment for Palestinians who speak critically of and oppose the occupation.
  - Whenever Palestinians rise up to resist or become more politically active, the Israeli authorities use administrative detention to arrest a large number of Palestinians as punishment. Administrative Detention targets all sectors of Palestinian society, but primarily Palestinian politicians, journalists, human rights defenders, and university students. It is used as an extrajudicial form of punishment and means of extracting information.
  - Administrative detention began under British rule in Palestine, transported from the colonial experiences in Ireland and South Africa, and adopted by Zionists into law as soon as they came into power. In 1948, on the eve of the Nakba, the ethnic cleansing of 900,000 Palestinians from their

homeland, the zionist regime held thousands of young men, about 10% of the remaining population, in forced labour camps. Today, close to 1,000 Palestinians are held indefinitely without charge.

#### Walid Daqqah's case

- SLOGAN: We call on international actors (specifically the UN, Amnesty, ICRC and HRW) to publicly condemn the Israeli regime and demand the immediate release of Walid Daqqah from zionist prisons and that he receive urgent, life-saving medical care and that his family be granted visitation rights
  - Walid Daqqah is a Palestinian writer and organiser who has been imprisoned by Israel since 1986 for his resistance
  - He was diagnosed last year with Myelofibrosis a rare form of bone marrow cancer that disrupts the body's normal production of blood cells.
  - Walid Daqqah has been detained for almost 37 years now. He's been denied the right to have a family, to raise his own daughter, and to see his dying parents. Walid's mother until the age of 82 would never miss a single visit to her son, where every two weeks for 45 minutes she would speak to him over the prison grating.
  - Walid Daqa has been imprisoned since before the fall of the Berlin Wall, he speaks of his time in prison as being under constant torture where the prisoner's body is no longer a target for injury, but rather his soul and his mind.
  - Despite this, Walid Daggah's spirit has not been stifled by the occupation
    - He has been a role model for many prisoners coming in and out of prison and is considered a leader of the prisoner's movement
    - In 2020, Daqqah's wife, Sana Salameh gave birth to their daughter, Milad, who was conceived through Daqqah's liberated sperm that was smuggled out of the Zionist prison. Walid Daqqah's persistence in becoming father, reminds us that every facet of life, even the right to conceive, becomes a battle for dignity within Zionist prisons. Daqqah's persistence also exemplifies the steadfastness and persistence of Palestinian prisoners in resisting the Zionist entity, even from behind bars
  - Walid Daqqah is currently suffering from a severe form of cancer and the zionist entity has been refusing to release him or even letting him access medical care. He is dying of medical negligence at the hands of the occupation as we speak.
  - Walid Daqqah is the embodiment of the Palestinian spirit and we stand with all those that have been detained for defending the land and we demand their immediate release.

- We echo his family's demands for his immediate release, for him to receive unrestricted treatment in a hospital where the necessary conditions are met for the success of the medical procedures he needs in the presence of his family, and for the immediate end to the medical blackout about his condition.
- Daqqah's resilience reminds us of the failures of Israeli prisons in deterring Palestinian revolutionary consciousness
- Some words from Walid Daqqah
  - "All stories have a beginning and an end, except for our story. We have not yet written an end for it." Walid Daqqah, who has been fighting cancer inside Israeli prisons, writes about the Palestinian story and struggle against the Occupation.
  - "Dear Milad...Now I have reached the age of fifty, and my years have been split halfway between prison and life...for prison is like a fire that feeds on the fragments of memory...and my memory, oh joy of my heart, has become brittle and its roots have dried up...as for you, you are the most beautiful smuggling of my memory...You are my message to the future" Text: "I write to a yet unborn child"
  - In 2020, after 21 years of Walid's marriage to journalist Sana Salama, they were able to give birth to their daughter, Milad, using liberated sperm. Walid was isolated as a punishment for exercising his right to fatherhood, and Milad did not know her father except as a prisoner in a prison without a door. "Baba does not come to us because he does not have a door"

# **Campaign Tactics & Actions**

We are asking organisations to join PYM actions or organise their own for our Week of Action to Free Walid Daqqah from Friday July 7th – Saturday July 15th. We've put together a list of targets of potential actions your chapter can utilise

#### **Mobilisation Resources**

- 1. How to show up to an action Security workshop
- 2. Action Security/Deescalation Training

#### Petition and Email Campaign:

- The <u>petition</u> will call on international actors to demand the immediate release of Walid. It will specifically name Amnesty, the UN, ICRC, and HRW with specific demands
- Send emails to Amnesty, the UN, ICRC and HRW to further call on them to meet
  the demands outlined in the partition. It's recommended that you personalize the
  subject and body to avoid spam filters from removing emails from the sendees
  inboxes

### **Action Options for Week of Actions:**

Before selecting an action type a local target needs to be identified. The two target types for this campaign are zionist entity embassies and consulates, and international actors and NGOs (in particular the UN, Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Human Rights Watch (HRW)). Each type plays a different role in the campaign and thus each has a set of different tactics. The goal of the campaign is to build mass support around a campaign that could lead to Walid's release. If we attack the zionist entity's public image and place enough pressure on international actors, it will explode and lead to his release.

Keeping in mind these targets, chapters should decide on a strategic location with considerations such as:

- 1) What is the street traffic for this area for the proposed time of the action?/Is there a better time?
- 2) What offices of these different actors are near our locale that may not be accessible to other chapters (ex. UN headquarters in NYC)?
- 3) What are the different security considerations for each location?
- 4) Which location may be more favourable for press coverage?

Zionist entity **embassies and consulates** are the primary targets of the campaign. If such a target is selected, tactics should involve **attacking the Zionist entity's public image** and using framing and language that is more direct, confrontational and antagonistic and lays bare the atrocities committed to prisoners and in particular, Walid. Consider some of the creative actions listed below, think early about your signage and messaging as well as any associated flyers for passersby and what will lead to wide media coverage. If your chapter or organisation has capacity, actions can be sustained outside these buildings everyday or for several days throughout the week of action.

International actors and NGOs, in particular the United Nations, Amnesty International, International Committee of the Red Cross and Human Rights Watch, are secondary targets, meaning we are asking for their support in releasing Walid. If

such a target is selected, tactics should involve pressuring these organisations into calling on Israel for Walid's release, medical treatment and family visitation. If your chapter or organisation has capacity, actions can be sustained outside these buildings everyday or for several days throughout the week of action. For these actions, the messaging and framing will not be as confrontational and chapters should think carefully about the way they are framing asks to these institutions. Consider tactics like attempting to engage and have conversations with employees going into the building, flyering for those going in and walking around, as well as possibly reading out segments of the statement or segments of Walid's work inside of the building. In contrast to the previous target, this type of action would not be antagonistic or confrontational but should serve to energise and agitate the called-upon parties into action.

## **Creative Action Ideas**

	WHAT MAKES THIS ACTION EFFECTIVE?	WHAT DO YOU NEED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN? RISK LEVEL?
CHALKING	<ul> <li>Easy way to get people involved</li> <li>Can be fun/creative</li> <li>Can get a lot of media attention</li> </ul>	Be aware of laws that could target you, especially if not on public property.
BANNER DROPS & PROJECTIONS	<ul> <li>"Guerilla projects" with a really powerful message are effective</li> <li>Can be hard to ignore</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Only require a few people who can take appropriate health precautions</li> <li>Not very risky;</li> </ul>
DIE-INS	<ul> <li>Not done very often; result:</li> <li>Hard for Representatives to ignore</li> <li>More likely to get media attention, resulting in more public awareness</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Need a lot of people who know the risks and are willing to take it</li> <li>Very escalated action only appropriate to target Congress with in certain circumstances</li> </ul>
PICKETS / NOISE-MAKING	<ul> <li>Power in numbers; hard to ignore</li> <li>Indicates that community members care and will continue to push this, encourages them to take it seriously</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>A large number of people who feel safe outside.</li> <li>Instruments, bucket drums, pot and pans</li> </ul>
WHEATPASTING	<ul> <li>Visibility and dissemination of key visuals and messaging</li> <li>Can be hard to ignore in highly visible parts of your city</li> </ul>	
CAR PROTESTS	<ul> <li>Easy to lump this in with another action (phonebanking, petition-signing, social media)</li> <li>Gets a lot of media attention</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Need a lot of people (20+) to join for it to be effective</li> <li>Low risk!</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>Good way of getting people involved</li> <li>Good to target local/district-specific officials</li> <li>Lots of messaging opportunities: car chalk, taped signs, flags, roof is especially good for media helicopters</li> </ul>	
STREET MURAL	See pictures below	
HOUSE VISITS	(Chicago Shackowsky USPCN example)	
LETTER WRITING	<ul> <li>Letters addressed to Sanaa, Milad, and Walid</li> <li>Is agitating emotionally/tugs at people's emotions</li> <li>Gets people thinking</li> <li>If shared with Sanaa/shared on social media, can be encouraging to Sanaa/community</li> <li>If paired with an event or action later, can be a way to mobilize more people</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Low risk</li> <li>Need some sort of opening/video/etc. to effectively describe the urgency of the situation and our demands/main messages</li> <li>Need art supplies: papers, markers, etc.</li> <li>Need to advertise in advance/direct outreach to contacts asking them to join</li> <li>Maybe a playlist of revolution songs to play in the background</li> </ul>
SHORT PLAY	<ul> <li>Can use Walid's words through his letters in the script</li> <li>Draws attention and curiosity</li> <li>Memorable</li> <li>Can/should be paired with a larger event (e.g., letter writing, protest, street mural)</li> <li>Can be in front of notable places (e.g., UN building)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2-3 actors (Walid and Milad and/or Sanaa)</li> <li>Can be short</li> <li>A script (that can be shared across chapters)</li> <li>Background music</li> <li>Microphones</li> <li>A speaker</li> </ul>

# PHONE BANKING OR TEXTING

- Can be more disruptive than mass emailing since embassy/consulate email accounts may have filters
- Embassies/consulates already receive a high volume of calls (e.g. for visas) so adding this this could overwhelm them and stop their operations
- WhatsApp (some consulates what WhatsApp numbers
- Phone banking collective action on zoom calling the embassies at the same time
- Normal phone calls also work
- Risk involved with embassies/consulates recording your phone number and using that to deny you visas in the future

#### **HOSTING ZOOM/IN-PERSON POWER HOURS**

- Use these to gather and mobilize people into taking the prescribed action items like: mass calling, mass emailing, and mass social media share
- Can Also use them to work on creating banners or posters for the upcoming actions

#### **WHEATPASTING**

Los Angeles wheatpasting in central/visible parts of the city, garnered media attention





#### **CAR PROTESTS AND CARAVANS**

- ❖ RICHMOND JAIL PROTEST
  - Organized by Southerners on New Ground, Legal Aid Justice Center, RISE for Youth, New Virginia Majority, and Defenders for Freedom Justice & Equality
  - > Started with the caravan driving around the jail, but that soon turned into a standstill
  - > Some drivers and passengers hopped out of their cars to protest

➤ Started asking for a meeting with Sheriff Irving and Richmond Commonwealth Attorney Colette McEachin, specifically to see what can be done to release many of inmates awaiting hearings or trials.

## **❖** REFUSE FASCISM PROTEST:

- > Protestors protested outside of Cook County Jail, demanding release of inmates and safe conditions for all
- ➤ Also delivered handmade body bags to Trump Tower, representing the danger of Trump to the country
- Mass Peace Action protest: phonebanked at the beginning of the protests to Massachusetts MoCs to call for immediate end to sanctions
- ♦ Never Again Action?: slideshow of Central Falls jail protest

#### CHALKING/STREET MURALS

- Defund the Police Street Art (Black Lives Matter DC & Black Youth Project 100 DC)
- ❖ BLM Mural Seattle Capitol Hill (various Black artists)
- BLM Mural Charlotte (Charlotte's artists, City of Charlotte, Charlotte Is Creative, Brand the Moth, and BLKMRKTCLT.)
- Abolish Police MN
- Mural in front of Jeff Bezos' house for health protections for essential workers



#### **BANNER DROPS & PROJECTION**

Greenpeace protest against the arrival of the British aircraft carrier ARK ROYAL in Hamburg harbour. The Ark Royal carries on board nuclear weapons 80 times the explosive power of Hiroshima. Organized by Never Again Action.







Governor Baker, release everyone in ICE detention before it's too late. "Anne Frank died of an infectious disease in a crowded detention center," read the projection.

## **DIE-INS, & MOCK FUNERALS**

❖ The shape of Africa is formed with ~8,500 candles lit in front of the Parliament in Switzerland on World AIDS Day yesterday to draw attention to the ~6,000 people



who die of AIDS each day across the African continent

- ❖ In-person vigil where everyone keeps a six-foot distance from each other with appropriate costumes (masks) and signs.
- ◆ DC's black activists protest outside Councilmember Vince Gray's home: mock funeral + defund police







#### **LETTER WRITING**

Example:

https://www.instagram.com/p/CluG-R3yJe4/?utm\_source=ig\_web\_copy\_link&igs hid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

Example:

https://www.instagram.com/p/B59ztKXB5Np/?utm\_source=ig\_web\_copy\_link&ig shid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

#### SHORT PLAY/GUERILLA THEATER

Example:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CrsGkqEAwlv/?utm\_source=ig\_web\_copy\_link&igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

Example:



#### **PICKETS & OTHER NOISE-MAKING ACTIONS**

Example: <u>Cancel Rent Demo</u> (Twin Cities Solidarity Network)

CAN'T GO OUT? CONSIDER THESE DIGITAL ALTERNATIVES TO IN-PERSON DIRECT ACTIONS!

#### STORYTELLING ACROSS DIGITAL MEDIUMS

Traditional "hero's journey"

- Order: Personal story > name the villain > unity > show solution big enough to win
- Example: when talking about your vision of justice in a video, can frame it in a story
  - $\rightarrow$  x happened to me because of y; as a result, z is my vision for justice

## **DIGITAL STRIKE**

- Closing down websites with a banner
- ❖ Example: <u>Digital Climate Strike</u> (Sunrise, Change.org, others)

# **Media Outreach Strategy**

#### **DRAFT PRESS RELEASE**

Subject: [Your org name here] the Release of Prisoner Walid Daqqah

#### Contact:

[name name] [email] [number]

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Palestinian Youth demand Israeli Prison Release Walid Daqqah After 37 Years of Imprisonment and 8 Years of Battling Cancer.

LONDON: On sunday/Today/yesterday, the 25th of June, a community demonstration gathered in front of the [Israeli embassy on High street kensington] demanding the immediate release of Walid Daqqah, one of the oldest and longest-held political prisoners in Israeli prisons.

Walid Daqqah is a political revolutionary and an intellectual leader in the Palestinian national liberation movement. Despite being imprisoned for 37 years, he has contributed to the movement from behind bars. His novel, *The Searing of the Consciousness*, which he wrote and published from prison, is widely known as a luminary piece of political literature. Daqqah's "sentence" was scheduled to be complete in March of 2023, but Zionist prison administration extended it, likely as punishment for Dagqah's intellectual leadership in the movement.

In 2015, Daqqah was diagnosed with leukemia. As a result of his leukemia, he was diagnosed last year with myelofibrosis – a rare form of bone marrow cancer that disrupts the body's normal production of blood cells. Throughout his imprisonment, Daqqah has faced severe medical negligence from Israeli prison authorities, including repeated delays in treatment and the denial of an urgent bone marrow transplant, all of which has led to serious deterioration in his condition and overall health. Earlier this year he underwent surgery to remove part of his lung, after which he was placed in intensive care. He was transferred again to intensive care in May of this year due to his further deteriorating health, but authorities quickly transferred Daqqah back to his prison clinic, without allowing him time for proper treatment.

Daqqah's family has three main demands. They are calling for his immediate release, for him to receive unrestricted treatment in a hospital where the necessary conditions are met for the success of the medical procedures he needs in the presence of his family, and for an end to the medical blackout about his condition.

On sunday/today/yesterday, community members rallied in support of Daqqah and his family. They declared that they would not allow Walid Daqqah to meet the same fate as <a href="Khader Adnan">Khader Adnan</a> – an administrative detainee who was martyred while on hunger strike protesting his illegal

detention – and that the grinding away of the health and life of Palestinian prisoners will not be normalised. Speakers included members of the [org name].

[name name], [org name], closed by saying [impactful quote with key messaging]. [end]

# **Media contacts**

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187	NBC New York	Beth	Fouhy	Senior editor, politics, NBC News and beth.fouhy@nbcuni.com			New York	NY
188	NBC New York	Checkey	Beckford	Reporter		checkey.beckford@nbcuni.com	New York	NY
189	NBC News	Paul	Manson	Supervising producer	r	paul.manson@nbcuni.com	New York	NY
190	NBC Today Show	Minah	Kathuria	Coordinating producer		minah.kathuria@nbc.com	New York	NY

# Social Media Posts Caption:

Walid Daqqah is a Palestinian writer and organizer who has been imprisoned in Zionists prisons since 1986, making him the one of the longest-held political prisoners in Zionist detention. Last year, Daqqah was diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, a rare form of bone marrow cancer that disrupts the body's normal production of blood cells. Israel refuses to release Walid Daqqah or provide him access to dire life-saving medicine, which has led to increased deterioration in his health. Earlier this year, Daqaah underwent surgery to remove part of his lung. He was briefly placed in intensive care then quickly transferred back to his prison clinic, again denying him proper treatment. The Zionist occupation is killing Daqqah through deliberate medical negligence.

Despite the Zionist Entity's intentional medical negligence and withholding crucial treatment, Daqqah's spirit has not been weakened and remains a role model for many prisoners and is a guiding light in the Palestinian Prisoner's Movement. To the conceiving of his daughter through a liberated sperm, becoming a novelist and a political analyst, Daqqah's actions exemplify the steadfastness of Palestinian political prisoners in resisting the Zionist Entity as it goes to show that our prisoners are the compass of our struggle.

Israel's attempt to diminish the Palestinian revolutionary consciousness has failed as we see the rising youth joining the ranks of the resistance. Because of this, the Zionist occupation has intentionally increased its use of administrative detention to hold Palestinian political prisoners indefinitely as punishment for our resistance. Though we are enraged by the slow death of one of our dearest incarcerated leaders, we are shining a light on every single Palestinian prisoner. This may be about Walid Daqqah today but it is also about every single Palestinian taken from their family and land, locked in a cage, denied basic medical treatment, tortured, and refused dignity for resisting against the violent Zionist regime. As we march on the path of return, we know that the liberation of our land depends on the freedom of Walid Daqqah, and all of our prisoners.

We demand the immediate release of Walid Daqqah from zionist prisons, that he receive urgent life-saving medical care, and that his family be granted visitation rights. The PYM and other Palestinian organizations will be holding a week of action throughout July 8th-15th, as it is our role and right as Palestinians to resist and fight for Walid Daqqah's and all our political prisoners' immediate releases. The Zionist entity's crimes will not go unnoticed [better word? Thinking of something along the content of not getting called out for their actions, maybe held accountable?] and we will continue to resist and put pressure on all Zionist institutions until our demands are met. Please stay tuned to find an action near you!

We will see the release of our prisoners! Long live our Palestinian Political Prisoners! Free Palestine!