

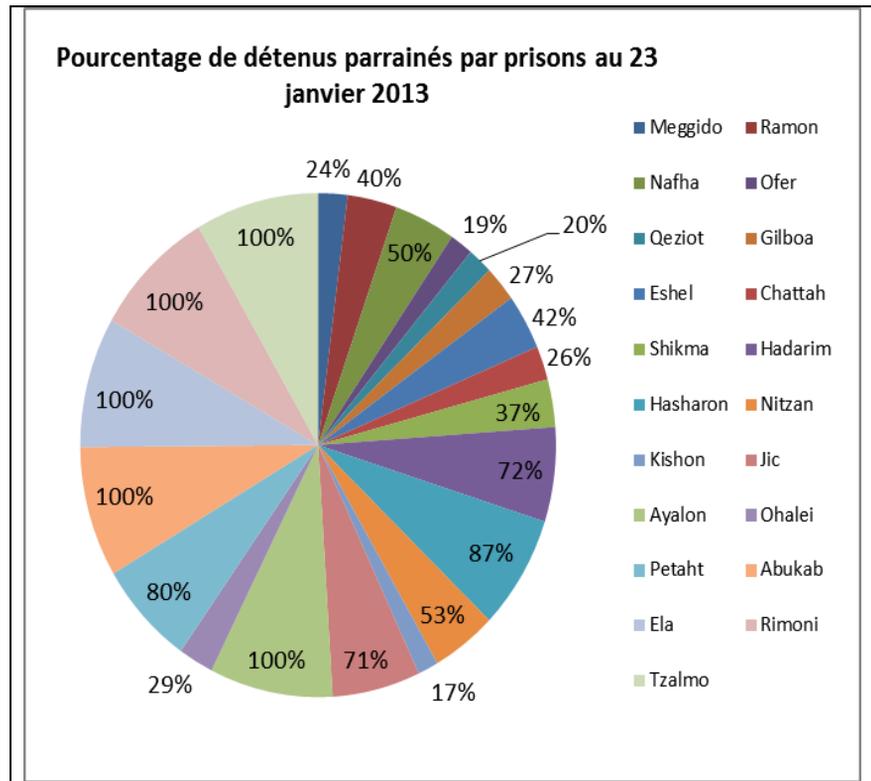
Campaign of Palestinian political prisoners sponsorship

Newsletter to the sponsors – January 2013

Dear friends,

Launched last July, the campaign of sponsorship of the Palestinian political prisoners which you participate in is quite successful. We are today more than 1700 sponsors for more than 1500 sponsored prisoners. This newsletter aims at informing you of the campaign novelties, of the news coming from the prisons, and at providing you with tools and resources to help you.

The campaign is gaining scale but there still remains almost 3000 prisoners without any sponsor. Talk around about it and make this campaign be known.



NEWS FROM THE JAILS

Salah Hamouri, Franco-Palestinian, released in December 2011 after a 7 year denial of justice sends us a message about the campaign of sponsorship of political prisoners and its impact on the spot:

“ Dear friends,

I carefully follow the campaign of Palestinian prisoners which who have launched. I am pleased to see that it takes such a dimension in France. Congratulations to all of you.

I wanted to inform you that the letters indeed enter the jails. The families tell us so and sometimes some prisoners manage, through their families, to smuggle letters to those who support them. I believe this has to be told to all of those who got committed. It can only motivate them more, even if they personally, do not get any direct reply.

The letters arrive, and the prisoners did well understand what you are doing.

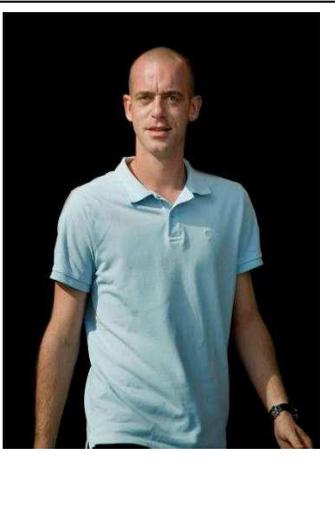
See you soon in France to go on together!

From Jerusalem, I send you my friendly feelings and thanks.

Salah Hamouri ”

SPONSORS'S QUESTIONS

Q. The release date indicated on the note for the prisoner I sponsor is over. What must I do?



R. The release dates indicated are the foretold dates. Unfortunately, they do not guarantee that the prisoner be actually released at that date. We are in permanent touch with the organisations locally and with the prisoner families who inform us about the releases and the new arrests so that our files are always up-to-date. When the prisoner you sponsor will be released, we will let you know and we will propose you a new one.

Q. I know I must not write down my address on the back of the envelope because of the risk of it being returned. But if, by any chance, the prisoner I sponsor managed to reply, how would he(he) get my address?

R. You can write your address on your message inside a closed envelope. But there is then no guaranty that the Israeli security services will not enter you in their files. In order to avoid it, we suggest you contact a local solidarity organisation and we you ask them whether you could give their postal address together with your first name. We remind you that the prisoners do not have access to the internet, so that it is not possible to send them e-mail from your organisation.

Q. Can I send parcels, books, goods .. to the prisoner whom I sponsor?

R. At this point, we cannot guarantee that the parcels would be delivered to the prisoner.

Q. This is my second message and I do not know what more I could tell him(her). The more since you recommend not to talk about the conflict.

R. We strongly recommend to avoid any political message since it could turn back against them and to rather focus on messages of sympathy and moral support. To this end you can find examples of letters on the website that you can adapt. Once again, the idea is not to have a correspondence with the prisoner, but to send him(her) support messages, pictures, postcards, ... The important thing is to keep contact with a suffering prisoner, it is a way to help him resist, to let him know he is not alone, that somebody at the other end of the planet is thinking of him(her), talks about his(her) suffering, and is requesting his(her) release.

It is also a way to protect him(her) against ill treatments and abuses, and beyond the solidarity, your support message is also a very strong political message to Israel, telling it that these prisoners, we know them individually, that we know their names, their first names, and the places where they are detained, and that we are ready to challenge our elected representatives, our politicians, and our government as well as the European and international institutions in order to defend their right to freedom and dignity in accordance with the international law.

TO WRITE IS TO SUPPORT

On the AFPS website you can find a postcard template and a poster realised by the local councillors of two French municipalities who sponsor Palestinian political prisoners. You can also find the example of a mail's example for those among you who might lack inspiration.

See http://france-palestine.org/mettre_la_bonne_page

LAST NEWS

We invite you to consult the pages dedicated to the Palestinian political prisoners on our website at http://france-palestine.org/mettre_la_bonne_page, where you will find information elements (press articles, videos, ...) concerning the detention conditions of the prisoners. Women, children, parliament members, teachers, diseased prisoners, handicapped, writers and journalists are suffering because they are deprived of their freedom on political grounds only. Some of them are in administrative detention without any charges nor trial, others serve short sentences or long ones, ranging from one to 67 lifetimes. They endure humiliations, tortures and ill treatments, they are victims of medical carelessness in violation of the Geneva convention and of the international law.

PORTRAITS OF PRISONERS

See the portrait of **Ahmad Katamesh**, a writer under administrative detention. [http://france-palestine.org/mettre la bonne page](http://france-palestine.org/mettre_la_bonne_page)

**Enough suffering, enough denial of justice
Together, let's demand the respect the right to freedom and dignity**

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