

J'écris ton nom: **LIBERTÉ**
Je parraine un prisonnier



I Write your name, *freedom*

أكتب إسمك *حرية*

Escribo tu nombre, *libertad*

SPONSORING A PALESTINIAN POLITICAL PRISONER

I write your name: FREEDOM

I sponsor a prisoner

TO SPONSOR A POLITICAL PRISONER AS AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY

Resistance fighters, thousands of political prisoners have been detained, for months or years -some of them for more than 20 years- in Israeli jails, away from the sight of the world. By sponsoring a prisoner you express your solidarity through a personal and straightforward gesture. You can play a part in mobilizing French opinion by bringing this issue to light at long last.

In practice, it goes like this:

- Write a monthly letter to the prisoner(s) you are sponsoring. The aim is to give a breath of fresh air to the prisoner by sending him/her a postcard, a picture, maybe a magazine. It is better to write in English or in Arabic. Keep in mind that the prisoners cannot answer (they are allowed to write only two letters a month for a local destination). You must not specify any sender's address on the back of the envelope, otherwise the letters will probably be sent back.
- Write to the elected people and to different authorities to call on them about the case of the prisoner(s) you are sponsoring, as well as about the situation of the political prisoners in general. To do so, AFPS places at your disposal models of letters and a list of addresses: it is very important to make the press aware of your actions.

To subscribe, see the AFPS website: <http://www.france-palestine.org/Parrainer-un-e-prisonnier-e>

The local groups of AFPS also undertake specific sponsoring in favour of the Palestinian MPs and academics detained in Israeli jails.

27 MPs and 2 former ministers as well as some academics are currently imprisoned in Israel. We are working to have them sponsored by French MPs and academics.

If you need more information about the specific sponsoring, please get in touch with us :
afps@france-palestine.org

Nearly 4600 political prisoners are currently detained in Israeli jails, including women, children, elderly and sick people, in complete violation of international law. They need our support and our solidarity.

AFPS prisoners work group

The question of the prisoners is one of the most sensitive subjects. It affects all the classes of the Palestinian society.

Occupation uses imprisonment as a tool to destroy the Palestinian society and not to protect its own security. We must all reflect upon how to stop the killing of the Palestinian human being in Israeli jails.

This humanitarian and political cause, which is a priority in Palestinian society, is unfortunately not sufficiently well-known at the international level and during all the long years of occupation, it has not been possible to let the world know about it.

This human mission of sponsoring the political prisoners is not only the first step which is going to help inform public opinion about the cause of the political prisoners, it also brings hope and a ray of sunshine in cells which are often dark. It also aims at making the governments of the West understand that a large human chain of solidarity with the Palestinian political prisoners is being built in France and in Europe.

This movement will grow until it has enough influence to oblige governments to act.

The Palestinian political prisoners are aware of the efficiency of the popular support used to achieve my release. Following the campaign in France and in Europe, due to media coverage about my situation and the high number of letters I received, a prisoner told me shortly before my release: « It is better for us that you stay in jail. When you are free, who is going to talk about us? ».

To get letters from the whole world is a thing which gives hope to the political prisoners and which proves they are not alone in their fight and helps them convince themselves more and more that the day of freedom is nearer and nearer and that their humanitarian cause is well supported at the international level.

Salah Hamouri

Tuesday the 5th of June 2012.