

21.2.2022 Case number : 54050-05-2197

To the Magistrate's Court in Ashdod,

I hereby announce that I do not intend to appear at the hearing to which I have been summoned regarding an indictment against me. This act is in solidarity with the 500 Palestinian administrative detainees who are detained without a time limit, without an indictment and without their or their lawyer's access to the suspicions against them, who have not attended the hearings about their cases since January 1st. I join the detainees demand that Israel stop its extensive and cynical use of administrative detention against Palestinians. Amal Nahala, for example, is a Palestinian boy who was arrested at the age of 16. He suffers from a serious illness, which impairs muscle function and his ability to breathe. At the time of his arrest, he was accused of throwing stones at soldiers. After a military judge ordered his release pending clarification of the charges in the trial, the Shabak issued an administrative detention order against him. He has been imprisoned for more than a year in administrative detention. Amal boycotted a military court hearing in January. In his absence, the judge approved the Shabak's request to renew Nahala's arrest warrant by four months.<sup>1</sup>

Unlike Palestinian detainees, I received a summons from the court to appear for the reading of an indictment against me, and I was given the opportunity to come to Ashdod to appear before the court and defend myself against these charges. The right to be allowed access to Ashdod, to know what I am accused of, and to have the opportunity to defend myself before the court and many other rights granted to me because my grandparents were European-born Jews who immigrated to Palestine from Europe. These same rights are denied to Palestinians living in the Territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and moreover, are denied to the indigenous Palestinians who were violently expelled from here in 1948. Israel still prevents them and their descendants from returning to their country, in defiance of both UN resolutions and International Humanitarian Law. When I am arrested and brought before this court, if the judge decides to hold me until the end of the proceedings or if the court imposes a prison sentence against me, during the imprisonment no physical violence will be used against me and at the end of the detention period I will be released. Even these basic rights are not given to Palestinians, for example, the two million people imprisoned for the last fifteen years in the besieged Gaza Strip, including about a million children under the age of fifteen were born and lived all their lives under siege under constant threat of deadly violence. Tragically, unlike me they cannot expect to be released soon.

The court that allows me rights as a Jew by virtue of my ethnic origin, and does not offer the same rights to natives of another origin, is part of a discriminatory system that aims to encourage the preservation of a Jewish majority between the river and the sea. The same system commits criminal acts for the purpose of maintaining a regime of control of one racial group of humans over another racial group through their systematic oppression. This is the definition of the crime of apartheid. And I'm not willing to cooperate with this crime.

Sincerely, Neta Golan

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<sup>1</sup>Source: [Yuval Avraham's article on +972](#)