



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

21 October 2016


Excellency,

I wish to thank you for your letter dated 9 September 2016, regarding the precarious health situation of three Palestinians – Muhammad Balboul, Mahmoud Balboul, and Malik Al-Qadi – on hunger strike, protesting their administrative detention by Israel. I take note of the concerns expressed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation regarding the widespread use of administrative detention by the Israeli authorities.

Please be assured that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights follows such cases closely and raises concerns, as appropriate, with relevant interlocutors. It is welcome news that, on 21 September 2016, the three individuals ended their hunger strikes after the Government of the State of Israel agreed to release them at the conclusion of their current administrative detention orders.

Notwithstanding, the widespread use of administrative detention by Israel continues to be an issue of significant concern to the United Nations. It is our long-standing position that administrative detainees should immediately be charged or released, with all the judicial guarantees required by international human rights law and standards.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN Ki-moon

His Excellency  
Mr. Mansour Ayyad SH A Alotaibi  
Permanent Representative of the State  
of Kuwait to the United Nations  
Chair of the Organization of Islamic  
Cooperation Group  
New York