



Re: An Appeal to Use your Respective Offices and Diplomatic Status to Secure the Release of Khalida Jarrar on Humanitarian Grounds to Attend her Daughter, Suha Jarrar's Funeral

Date: 12 July 2021

Dear Excellency,

It is with the deepest regret and sadness that I inform you of the heart-breaking news of the death of our colleague, Suha Jarrar. On 11 July 2021, **Suha Jarrar, 30** years old, a senior legal researcher and advocacy officer with Al-Haq human rights organization and daughter of Gassan and Khalida Jarrar, was unexpectedly found dead in her apartment near the Palestine Medical Complex, Ramallah, Palestine. She had been serving Al-Haq as a human rights advocate before the United Nations treaty-bodies and the Human Rights Council since February 2017, specializing in gender, environment and climate change.

Suha's mother, Khalida Jarrar, is a Palestinian civil society leader, lawmaker, and human rights activist who calls for women's rights and for the realization of Palestinians' rights. Khalida Jarrar has been constantly and systematically harassed and targeted by the Israeli occupying authorities for her human rights work. Khalida is currently held at Damon prison, serving a two-year sentence and is due to be released this coming September.

From 1994 to 2006, Khalida served as the General Director of Addameer Prisoners' Support and Human Rights Association, a Palestinian non-governmental, civil society organization that works to support Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. Since then, she became a member of the Board of Directors of Addameer, serving on the board until late 2017. In 2006, Khalida was elected as a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and has been the head of the Prisoners Commission of the PLC since then. As a member of the Palestinian National Committee for the follow-up of the ICC, Khalida actively contributed to formulating Palestine's application to the ICC, as she was tasked with bringing cases regarding past and present possible war crimes by Israel, along with other human rights violations against Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory. Khalida is also the Palestinian representative on the Council of Europe, an international organization working towards advancing human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

Khalida was first detained by the Israeli occupying forces in 1989, on the occasion of a Women's Day demonstration, for one month without trial. She was subsequently detained three additional times, for an accumulated period of 57 months: from 2 April 2015 to June 2016, from 2 July 2018 to 28 February 2019, and since 31 October 2019. Furthermore, Khalida was

issued a travel ban since 1998, which was only lifted once in 2010 to enable her to seek medical treatment in Jordan. On 20 August 2014, she was ordered by the Israeli military to forcibly transfer to Jericho for a period of six months, on the basis of so-called security threat, finally reduced to one month.

Most recently, Khalida Jarrar was detained on 31 October 2019, when 12 Israeli military vehicles surrounded her house in Al-Bireh, and around 20-armed Israeli Occupying Forces raided the house at approximately 3:00 am. On 1 March 2021, Ofer military court sentenced Khalida to 24 months in prison and a NIS 4,000 fine. During the hearing session, the military prosecutor amended Khalida's indictment, limiting it to her political role and work with the Palestinian Authority. Further declaring that there are no charges against her relating to affiliation to any military, financial nor organizational activities.

On 19 March 2021, Al-Haq Law in the Service of the Man, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights, and Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies submitted an [urgent appeal](#) to the United Nations Special Procedures notably addressing Israel's arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of Khalida Jarrar, serving her fourth prison term based on her political role and work with the Palestinian Authority. Khalida is currently due to be released within two months.

The Immediate and Unconditional Release of Khalida Jarrar on Humanitarian Grounds

Al-Haq calls on States' representatives to immediately and urgently intervene to exercise the authority and diplomatic status associated with their mandate, to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Khalida Jarrar by the Israeli authorities, on humanitarian grounds so that she can attend the funeral of her daughter, and mourn in human dignity. There is currently an autopsy underway at Abu Dees and there will be a funeral on Tuesday 13th at the latest.

Khalida's work, both domestically and internationally, towards advancing human rights, democracy and the rule of law, poses upon us a moral and professional obligation to urgently intervene using our network to pursue pressure on the Israeli authorities to secure her immediate and unconditional release on humanitarian grounds. We extend our appeal in this regard to your excellencies, as representatives of States that are committed to promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as Suha did, and as Al-Haq and Khalida continue to do.

Al-Haq appreciates your willingness to contribute to these efforts. To this end, Al-Haq is also looking forward to cooperating with you in any way possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Shawan Jabarin

General Director, Al-Haq

