

Mister Emmanuel Macron
President of the republic of France

Paris, Jerusalem, New York, 6 October 2022

Mister President,

We, the undersigned legal representatives of French-Palestinian human rights defender and lawyer Mr. Salah Hammouri, urge you to call upon Israel to immediately release our client, who has been arbitrarily detained under “administrative detention” based on secret evidence since 7 March 2022. As you are aware, Mr. Hammouri has faced decades of harassment and attack by Israel, which has escalated in the last year to include a curtailment of his freedom of movement, separation from his wife and children, the revocation of his Jerusalem residency for a “breach of allegiance” to Israel and the threat of deportation, and detention without charge under punishing conditions.

Ten days ago, to protest the arbitrary policy of administrative detention that is systematically used by Israel, Mr. Hammouri joined twenty-nine other Palestinian administrative detainees in going on a hunger strike.

On 28 September, in retaliation for undertaking the hunger strike, Mr. Hammouri was moved to solitary confinement in the high security Hadarim prison. On 2 October 2022, a lawyer visited Mr. Hammouri and reported on his current detention conditions.

According to the report from the lawyer, the conditions in the cell in which Mr. Hammouri is being held are inhumane and unbearable: the cell is a filthy 3x2 square meter space, includes a primitive toilet, metal bed with a dirty mattress (2 cm), with no windows and only one light bulb, and has a blocked vent that preventing any airflow or ventilation. Mr. Hammouri is punitively deprived of outdoor time and has not seen day-light since 28 September.

Furthermore, prisoners including Mr. Hammouri are denied all personal belongings, including books, notebooks, and family photos, as well as clean underwear. Mr. Hammouri is accompanied to the shower in handcuffs. Prisoners who are punitively placed in isolation including Mr. Hammouri are deprived family visits and are subject to punitive fines for each day of their hunger strike.

Mr. Hammouri’s situation is of utmost urgency at this moment. It requires constant monitoring of his health conditions under the hunger strike, especially considering that he is currently held in isolation under extremely harsh conditions and subject to ongoing punitive harassment by the

Israeli Prison Services.

Mr. Hammouri is currently in a great deal of pain: he suffers sore muscles, dizziness, headache, insomnia and has already lost around 7kg of his weight. It is important to note that Mr. Hammouri lives solely on water, as he is deprived of any salt intake. Mr. Hammouri refused to get a medical examination by the Israeli prison administration as they subject Palestinian detainees to a policy of deliberate medical neglect to add pressure on the hunger-striking detainees. Mr Hammouri, is forced to bear his starvation, alone, in pain and in very inhuman conditions.

It is the State's obligation to protect its citizens, especially those facing persecution. Mr. Hammouri's two-decades of persecution is systematic and arbitrary. Mr. President, once again we call for your immediate action to intervene on behalf of the French state to ensure the protection and safety of Mr. Hammouri as the situation is only escalating in to an extremely worrying and dangerous status.

We understand that you have already raised the matter of Mr. Hammouri's case with the Israeli Prime Minister; however, it is evident that it has had no effect. Mr. Hammouri is now in a precarious and deteriorating condition. We therefore call upon you to make a strong demand on Israel to release Mr. Hammouri without delay, reinstate his residency papers, and stop all harassment against him and his family.

More precisely we urge you Mr. President, to:

- Summon the Israeli ambassador in Paris for the inhumane treatment of Mr. Hammouri;
- Demand an independent doctor examine and monitor the health conditions of Mr. Hammouri;
- Demand Israel stop the punitive measures against Mr. Hammouri, including immediate release from isolation; and provide him with salt immediately; and
- Call upon Israel to grant immediate release of Mr. Hammouri and to further end his systematic persecution and allow him to live in his hometown, Jerusalem, with his family.

We thank you in advance, Mr. President, for acting on the present request.

Sincerely yours,

Attorney Lea Tsemel representing Mr.Hammouri at the Israeli Supreme Court
Attorney Katherine Gallagher from Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) representing Mr. Hammouri at the International Criminal Court
Attorneys Clemence Bectarte, from International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) representing Mr. Hammouri on the ongoing NSO/Pegasus complaint in France.