

# *At Least 120 Palestinians Prisoners on Hunger Strike in Solidarity with Three Fellow Prisoners*

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Ramallah, September 21 (RHC)-- At least 120 Palestinian prisoners have gone on an open-ended hunger strike to express their solidarity with three fellow inmates who are refusing food in protest at their arbitrary detention by the Israeli regime.

The Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs said in a statement released on Tuesday that the Palestinian prisoners began the hunger strike in a show of support for Muhammad and Mahmoud Balboul and Malek al-Qadi.

The 120 inmates demanded the release of the trio and an end to the so-called administrative detention policy, which is a form of imprisonment without trial or charge that allows Israel to incarcerate Palestinians for up to six months.

The committee head, Issa Qaraqe, told Turkey's Anadolu Agency that the health conditions of Balboul

brothers and Qadi were rapidly deteriorating. "They are suffering from chest pains, muscle cramps, increased body temperature and frequent loss of consciousness," Qaraqe said.

Muhammad Balboul, who is 25 years old, began refusing food 78 days ago to protest his detention without charge or trial. Mahmoud Balboul, 22, also went on hunger strike three days after his brother. And Malek al-Qadi, who is 19 years old, is now in the 67th day of his hunger strike.

Earlier this month, an Israeli court decided to "temporarily" suspend the trio's administrative detention. However, the prisoners vowed to continue refusing food until the arbitrary incarceration orders issued against them were permanently overturned.

More than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners are currently held in some 17 Israeli jails, many of them arbitrarily. Palestinian detainees have continuously resorted to open-ended hunger strikes in an attempt to voice their outrage at the illegal and unfair administrative detention.

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