

# WE SUPPORT SOMAYA!



**STOP THE CRIMINALIZATION OF PALESTINIAN COMMUNICATION!  
STOP THE ATTACKS ON PALESTINIAN STUDENTS!**



Palestinian Ph.D. student, researcher and activist Somaya Falah is currently being held under house arrest, banned from accessing electronics or the Internet, and subjected to repeated interrogations -- all because she is accused by Israeli occupation forces of communicating with Palestinians in diaspora about the student movement. Somaya, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, is facing an all too common form of persecution targeting Palestinians in occupied Palestine '48.

On Tuesday, 25 January, the Haifa Magistrate's Court extended her house arrest for seven more days. She was interrogated once more for 10 hours on Monday, 24 January. Her lawyer noted that there is no actual evidence or charges against her. Instead, this is part of the political repression directed against Palestinians in occupied Palestine '48, which has escalated intensively since the Palestinian upsurge of May 2021.

Somaya is specifically being targeted for silencing because she attended the Masar Badil conference in Madrid in October-November 2021, and because she talked with Palestinians about the student movement inside occupied Palestine '48. We can defeat these bogus charges and attempts to intimidate Palestinians by making it clear that, around the world, we stand with Somaya and we will not allow this case to go unnoticed!

Somaya Falah is a Ph.D. student and researcher at the Technion from Arab al-Hib and an activist with Herak Haifa, a Palestinian youth-led movement working to defend Palestinian rights and identity. One day before a protest in solidarity with Palestinian hunger striker Hisham Abu Hawash, Israeli police invaded her home, seizing her mobile phone and computer and taking her to interrogation. On Thursday, 20 January, an Israeli court imposed house arrest on her and banned her from entering the city of Haifa for 1.5 months and from using electronics or digital media until March.

A Ph.D. student whose research focuses on environmental science, Falah's work has exposed the harms caused to the environment in Palestine by Israeli industries, such as the fertilizer industry. Meanwhile, her university, the Technion, has refused to say anything about the targeting of their student.

This attack on Somaya is happening at the same time that the Jewish National Fund (JNF) is ramping up its ongoing colonization policies in occupied Palestine, particularly in al-Naqab. The JNF's "forestation" campaigns have been a mechanism to force Palestinians from their land and to import unsuitable Western trees to replace and uproot indigenous agriculture and village life.

Somaya is not alone in facing these attempts to crim-

inalize Palestinian life and communication at the hands of the Israeli regime. Palestinian citizens of Israel -- those from occupied Palestine '48 -- have been particularly subjected to this campaign of criminalization and harassment.

Global Palestinian outrage led to the launch of the Mutawassiloun -- "we will continue to connect" -- campaign, affirming that despite 100 years of colonialism and 73 years of ongoing Nakba, Palestinians in occupied Palestine '48, in Jerusalem, in the West Bank, in Gaza, and in exile and diaspora around the world, will continue to communicate with one another about society, politics, culture and everything that makes a people, a nation and an identity that has not been crushed through decades of displacement.

The purpose of these arrests, interrogations and charges is to terrorize Palestinians inside occupied Palestine '48 and to attempt to impose the "Israeli Arab" identity that has been widely rejected. Instead, as was seen in April-June 2021, Palestinian unity is stronger than ever before, and Palestinians continue to talk with, share with and communicate with one another.

Israel wants Palestinian citizens to be blocked from connecting and organizing with their people everywhere and to face their colonization alone. We will not allow this to pass!

## TAKE ACTION:

**1. Post on social media!** Post with the hashtag #ISupportSomaya and #WeSupportSomaya. Take a video of yourself or a photo of yourself holding an "I support Somaya" sign and post it on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter. Tag us at @samidounnetwork (Instagram), @SamidounPP (Twitter), @SamidounPrisonerSolidarity (Facebook) to ensure we see it!

**2. Protest the JNF!** The Jewish National Fund's colonization of Palestine and its attacks on the Naqab come hand in hand with the persecution of Somaya. Protest at your local JNF office or headquarters.

**3. Pressure your government** to stop aiding, supporting and defending Israeli occupation, colonization and apartheid. Call your member of Congress or Parliament, organize a call-in day or send letters to call for freedom and justice for Somaya and the Palestinian people.

**4 Boycott Israel!** This includes study abroad programs and Israeli universities, which, like Somaya's university, are complicit in the ongoing repression of Palestinian students -- and the colonization of the entire land of Palestine. From consumer boycotts to academic and cultural boycotts, you can take action to affirm that it is the occupier that will be isolated and not Palestinians!