



International Workers' Day 2026

Palestinian Prisoners' Organizations: The occupation is carrying out systematic crimes against Palestinian workers as part of a broader campaign of genocide

The Commission of Detainees' Affairs, the Palestinian Prisoner's Society, and Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association.

May 1, 2026

Ramallah, occupied Palestine – On the occasion of International Workers' Day, marked annually on May 1, Palestinian prisoner institutions declare that the Israeli occupation system is committing systematic and widespread crimes against Palestinian workers within the framework of a comprehensive war of genocide targeting the Palestinian people in all its components. Workers constitute a direct target of policies of repression, arrest, abuse, and torture in various detention centers, as well as killings through field executions.

What Palestinian workers are subjected to—mass arrest campaigns accompanied by systematic abuse and deliberate humiliation at the moment of arrest—constitutes a grave violation of the fundamental rights guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly the rights to liberty, personal security, and protection from arbitrary detention. It also violates their right to work and earn a livelihood under conditions that preserve human dignity, as guaranteed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

These violations do not stop at the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, but extend to prolonged detention in inhumane and degrading conditions, alongside the physical and psychological abuse and humiliation they endure. This amounts to a clear breach of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions and a direct violation of the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, as set out in the Convention against Torture—a prohibition that cannot be restricted or justified under any circumstances.

Accordingly, the crimes committed against Palestinian workers—given their widespread and systematic nature, and the elements they entail, including mass arbitrary detention, prolonged confinement in inhumane conditions, and abuse and humiliation that violate human dignity—rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity under the legal standards and elements set out in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, particularly with regard to cruel treatment, outrages upon personal dignity, unlawful detention, and persecution directed against a specific civilian group.

Occupation authorities use the pretext of “entry without permits” as a tool to justify the pursuit, arrest, abuse of thousands of Palestinian workers annually, both in the 1948-occupied territories and in occupied Jerusalem. This is accompanied by direct physical assaults, systematic humiliation, and detention in harsh conditions aimed at breaking their will and stripping them of their humanity.



Prisoner institutions believe that these crimes cannot be separated from the broader colonial structure of the occupation, which is based on controlling resources, restricting freedom of movement, isolating Palestinian communities, and depriving the Palestinian people of their most basic economic and social rights, foremost among them the right to work and to a dignified life.

We stress that the continuation of these crimes occurs under international complicity and shameful silence, which provides effective cover for the occupation to continue its violations without accountability and entrenches a state of impunity. Accordingly, Palestinian prisoner institutions call on the international community, and all international human rights and judicial bodies, to take serious action to hold the leaders of the occupation accountable for their crimes and to impose deterrent sanctions that would put an end to these grave violations. They also call for practical and concrete steps to stop the ongoing crime of genocide against our people and the comprehensive aggression, and to ensure protection.

We emphasize that the occupation's impunity is no longer merely a legal failure, but an active partnership in the crime and a dangerous undermining of the entire international justice system.

United Against Execution and Genocide