

Dear Maj. Gen. Avi Bluth and Brig. Gen. Orly Markman,

*I am writing to urge you to immediately and unconditionally release Ayman Bani Owda, a prominent Palestinian human rights defender and social worker, who is currently held in Gilboa prison in northern Israel.*

*On 17 November 2025, Ayman Bani Owda, a 43-year-old resident of the town of Tammoun (Tubas Governorate), was detained by the Israeli military when he arrived at the village of Fasayil, in the central Jordan Valley of the occupied West Bank, to document the daily ordeals of a Palestinian community facing the imminent threat of forcible transfer.*

*For two days, Bani Owda was held incommunicado and both the Israeli police and the military refused to confirm that he was in their custody, despite repeated legal inquiries by his lawyer. Only after persistent pressure, the Israeli army disclosed that he had been held at the Samra military base in the Jordan Valley where he was kept outdoors, handcuffed and physically assaulted. He was then transferred to Megiddo Prison. Six days later, Bani Owda was interrogated on vague allegations of “incitement against the State of Israel.”*

*On 14 December 2025, an Israeli military court confirmed a six-month administrative detention order against him. Bani Owda is one of thousands of Palestinians held without charges or trial. Like all Palestinian detainees and prisoners, Bani Owda is denied family visits. Ayman Bani Owda is being arbitrarily detained solely for his human rights work.*

***I therefore urge you to act swiftly to immediately and unconditionally release Ayman Bani Owda so that he can return to his family and community. Pending his release, I also urge you to ensure he is treated humanely and protected from any form of torture and other ill-treatment.***

Yours sincerely,