Minister of Defence  
Avigdor Liberman   
Ministry of Defence   
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Dear Minister:

I am writing to express my grave concern about the case of **Hasan Safadi**, a 24-year old Palestinian resident of occupied East Jerusalem, and the media coordinator for prisoners’ rights group Addameer. He was arrested at the al Karameh border crossing between Jordan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 1 May. He was interrogated for 40 days, during which he was subjected to sleep deprivation and tied in stress positions. Such treatment violates international law. He was also denied access to his lawyer for 10 days.  
  
He was due for release on bail on 10 June but was placed under a six-month administrative detention, despite paying the bail to the court. The detention order was confirmed on 28 June.  
  
The Israeli authorities have long used administrative detention as an alternative to bringing Palestinians to trial, and this case appears to be a prime example. **Israel is routinely violating Palestinians’ rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association in the OPT and is targeting human rights defenders, including by arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other ill-treatment in custody and arbitrary restrictions on movement.**   
  
In light of the above, I call on you to:

* respect the court’s decision and release Hasan Ghassan Ghaleb Safadi on bail pending a fair trial that conforms to international standards;
* end their long-standing attacks on Palestinian human rights defenders and halt the harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,