



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ACAT-FRANCE**

PARIS, NOVEMBER 28, 2022

## Press release

# 2022 Engel-du Tertre Human Rights Prize Awarded to French Palestinian Lawyer Salah Hamouri

On December 1, French Palestinian lawyer Salah Hamouri will receive the Engel-du Tertre Human Rights Prize, awarded by the ACAT Foundation for Human Dignity. Placed in administrative detention by the Israeli authorities since March 10, our compatriot is paying a high price for his activity as a human rights defender. Israel is forcing him to pay this price in violation of his freedom, his right to live in his native land, and his dignity, as well as that of his family.

Salah Hamouri was arrested in the early hours of March 7, 2022 by the security forces and has been in administrative detention since March 10. This measure was renewed on June 6 and September 4. Since this arbitrary regime has the legal authority to prevent the defense from having access to the casefile, Hamouri's lawyer still does not have access to it and certainly never will. His detention is renewable indefinitely and thus contrary to international law.

Hamouri works as a lawyer within the NGO Addameer, which is committed to the rights of Palestinian political prisoners. The NGO has since been shut down by the Israeli authorities in their most recent act of repression. Hamouri has been suffering unbridled persecution. Detained for the first time at the age of 16 in 2001, then for five months in 2004, Hamouri was imprisoned for six years between 2005 and 2011. He served another thirteen-month administrative detention in 2017.

Hamouri, like all Palestinians born in this annexed region, only holds a residence permit. His fate is now in the hands of the Supreme Court whose verdict could overturn his permit and force him to leave his homeland forever. This succession of direct and cruel attacks has no other goal but to undermine Hamouri's peaceful mobilization, at the expense of his rights.

The 2022 Prize rewards his courage and pays tribute to all human rights defenders who are banned and attacked while carrying out legitimate activities in the occupied Palestinian territories and in Israel. In Hamouri's absence, his wife, Elsa Lefort, also arbitrarily banned from Israel, will receive the 2022 Prize in his name.

ACAT-France stands by Salah Hamouri and calls on the French authorities not to abandon our compatriot in jail. They must continue to dialogue with their counterparts in Israel to ensure the release of Hamouri as well as the suspension of the deportation order that would force him to leave Jerusalem forever. Hamouri's wife and children should be able to join him in Jerusalem.

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