

Global Campaign Demands Release of Palestinian Leader Marwan Barghouti

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RAMALLAH, Palestine / ISTANBUL - An international campaign was relaunched on Monday calling for the release of Marwan Barghouti, the prominent Palestinian leader who has been imprisoned in Israel since 2002.

Barghouti, 66, a senior figure in President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group, is serving five life sentences over charges linked to the Second Intifada. Recognized as a unifying figure across Palestinian political factions, he was excluded from the recent Palestinian prisoner releases under the Gaza ceasefire agreement of October 10, 2023.

Muqbel Barghouti, Marwan's brother, told Anadolu Agency that the campaign featured simultaneous events in London, South Africa, France, Italy, Arab countries, and Barghouti's hometown of Kobar in the occupied West Bank. Activities included demonstrations, art exhibitions, and public murals, including one by artist Jimmy depicting Barghouti with the phrase "Free Marwan" on a football field. France has granted Barghouti honorary citizenship in over 50

municipalities, while British activists visited Kobar to show solidarity. The campaign is organized in cooperation with human rights institutions and includes participation from Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

Muqbel Barghouti emphasized the urgency of releasing Palestinian prisoners, noting that over 90 have died since October 2023 due to poor health and humanitarian conditions, torture, and violence in Israeli detention. Reports indicate Barghouti suffered multiple rib fractures after an assault by Israeli soldiers in prison.

The campaign aims to increase international pressure for the release of Palestinian detainees and highlight the ongoing humanitarian and political challenges faced by prisoners, while drawing attention to Barghouti's pivotal role in potential national reconciliation.

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