



Jerusalem  
6 April 2026

**Statement from Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad on the Israeli Detainment of a Student from  
the Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour**

On Easter Monday, we were profoundly concerned and horrified to learn about the detainment of Amir Jamal Al-Daraawi, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student from the Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour, and his father by the Israeli military.

Initial reports indicate that Israeli settlers were illegally setting up an outpost in a Palestinian village near Beit Sahour, harassing residents and spraying tear gas at them. Amir and his father, Mr. Jamal Al-Daraawi, were among a group of local residents who came to stand up for those being attacked. The settlers called Israeli soldiers, who detained Amir and his father.

As Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, I call for the immediate release of Amir and the other detainees. As a church, we stand in prayerful solidarity with the Al-Daraawi family and the ELS Beit Sahour community and unequivocally support their calls for Amir's freedom. We pray for Amir's safety and for a swift return to his studies alongside his classmates and teachers as they prepare for graduation next month.

This is not an isolated incident. We are increasingly disturbed by the violent actions of Israeli settlers throughout the West Bank, which have escalated exponentially in recent months. We are monitoring with deep distress the development of a new Israeli settlement in Beit Sahour that threatens the safety, livelihood, and presence of Palestinians there, including the community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour and the Evangelical Lutheran School. We call for immediate and decisive action from international governments, faith leaders, and all people of conscience to protect the rights of Palestinians to live in safety on their own land as guaranteed by international law.

Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad  
Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

