

Annual Violations Report

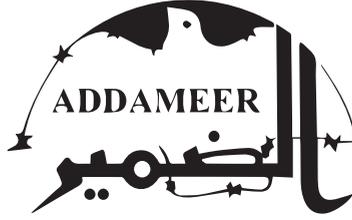
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Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

Annual Violations Report

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association
Ramallah – Occupied Palestine
2021



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Introduction



In line with preceding years ,the year 2020 witnessed widescale human rights violations, as the Israeli occupation advanced its policies of incarcerating Palestinians and subjecting them to various forms of torture and inhuman treatment .These practices fall within a comprehensive frame of operations ,executed and monitored by the various branches of the Israeli occupation regime that cooperate to provide legal cover to the occupation's crimes and the deliberate rights violations of Palestinian prisoners .Moreover ,the outbreak of COVID 19-did little to deter the Israeli occupation from arresting Palestinians and incarcerating them in filthy prison cells that lack the minimum standards of adequate living .Persistent pleas and demands to release Palestinian prisoners ,particularly women ,children ,and those with existing medical conditions ,were dismissed as the Israeli occupation's practices resulted in over a hundred Palestinian prisoners contracting COVID,19-many of whom were at heightened risk due to pre-existing illnesses.

Furthermore, the outbreak of COVID-19 created a new avenue for the Israeli occupation's violations against Palestinians, as Israeli occupation authorities denied Palestinian prisoners any contact with the outside world for months on end, using the pandemic as a pretext to ban all family visitations and forms of communication. Moreover, Palestinian prisoners were brought before the courts via videoconferencing, which repeatedly resulted in the prisoners being unable to follow along with the proceedings of their own hearings. It should be noted that the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) provided disinfectants and cleaning supplies to the prisoners at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, and attempted to reduce the number of times Israeli jailers entered the prison sections. However, over time IPS reinstated its pre-pandemic policies and reduced the amount of sanitizers provided to the prisoners, resulting in a further outbreak of the virus among them due to increased contact with the prison staff.

In 2020, the Israeli occupation arrested more than 4634 Palestinians, including 543 children, 128 women, and four journalists. Additionally, six members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) were arrested and placed under administrative detention, while the administrative detention orders of three other PLC members who had been arrested and detained in 2019 were renewed in 2020. Moreover, 1114 administrative detention orders were issued throughout the year, including three against children, and three against women. The Israeli occupation also continued its practices of arbitrary arrests against the Palestinian people: by the end of 2020, the number of Palestinians incarcerated in Israeli occupation prisons was around 4400, including eight members of the PLC, over 700 ill prisoners, and 26 prisoners who had been incarcerated since before the Oslo Accords in 1993.



Throughout the year ,Israeli occupation authorities carried on its various policies ,including prosecuting Palestinians before military courts that lack the minimum guarantees of a fair trial ,and subjecting prisoners to cruel interrogation techniques and inhuman treatment. Moreover ,Israeli Occupation Forces) IOF (continued to target and arrest Palestinian university students ,and criminalize student union activism in Palestinian universities by outlawing student blocs .In August ,2020 Israeli occupation authorities declared the Democratic Progressive Student Pole) DPSP ,(the leftist bloc at Birzeit University ,an unlawful association .Furthermore ,the Israeli occupation continued to crack down on human rights and civil institutions and workers ,targeting journalists and defenders through the proposal and passing of several legislative amendments ,most notably the proposed bill to amend Article114 C of Israel’s Penal Law ,criminalizing human rights work.

The Israeli occupation’s systematic policy of medical negligence against Palestinian prisoners and detainees persisted in ,2020 resulting in the death of four prisoners .Likewise, the occupation’s collective punishment policies targeting Palestinians continued as IOF demolished the houses of 6 prisoners ,arrested dozens of Palestinians to leverage their family members undergoing interrogation ,and destroyed property during raids targeting the houses of numerous prisoners ‘families .Moreover ,the Israeli occupation imposed hefty fines against Palestinians in 2020 as Addameer alone documented fines amounting to ILS 265,3000 against 90 prisoners.

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association publishes this annual report to document the various human rights violations against Palestinian prisoners, starting from the moment of their arrest, throughout the interrogation stage, as well during transfer to and inside Israeli prisons. This report aims to shed light on prisoners’ lives and their suffering during incarceration as part of Addameer’s comprehensive efforts to document the conditions inside Israeli prisons. Moreover, it highlights the extent of Israeli violations of international conventions and agreements, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984. Furthermore, this report is an integral part of Addameer’s efforts to document and expose the Israeli occupation’s practices, not only pertaining to the rights of Palestinians, but also entailing the entirety of the Israeli parliament’s “Knesset” policies, measures, laws, and bills targeting the prisoners in particular and the Palestinian people in general. Additionally, this report is an integral part of Addameer’s continuous efforts to seek justice and the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons. Until this goal is obtained, Addameer will persevere in its efforts, in cooperation with local and international rights



organizations, to expose the occupation's crimes both at the national and international levels, as well to protect and guarantee the rights of Palestinian prisoners' in accordance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL).

This report follows a fact-based descriptive ,analytical methodology based on the data collected through Addameer's efforts in monitoring ,documentation ,and legal follow-up .This is part of the association's work in monitoring the Israeli occupation regime's compliance—at the legislative ,judicial and executive levels—with IHL and IHRL w .This is particularly in regard to the prisoners and their incarceration conditions as these laws are the theoretical framework regulating the prisoners 'rights and the principles of treatment of prisoners .Throughout ,2020 Addameer conducted 118 prison visits ,during which it met with 154 prisoners in various Israeli prisons and detention centers .Moreover ,Addameer documented 114 cases of the Israeli occupation's violations against Palestinians through field visits ,phone calls or in-office meetings ,during which it collected information and affidavits on violations against the prisoners during arrest ,interrogation ,as well post transfer to prisons and detention centers.

This report presents the most prominent rights violations to prompt the intervention of relevant authorities and organizations to uphold their legal responsibilities to compel the Israeli occupation regime to abide by the international guarantees of prisoners' rights. Finally, the report addresses the condition of all Palestinian political prisoners as one unified entity due to Addameer's firm belief that Palestinian prisoners from Jerusalem, the 1948 occupied territories, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank all share the same cause and carry the same burden-suffering under the same horrendous conditions and fighting a joint battle for dignity and liberty.



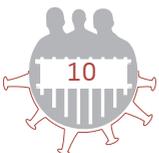
Major Events of 2020



- ☀ **January 6, 2020:** Prisoner Karim Younis, from 'Ara village in the northern1948 occupied territories, entered his 39th consecutive year of incarceration along with his cousin Maher Younis, who was arrested on January 19, 1983. Both prisoners are among 26 Palestinians who had been incarcerated since before the Oslo Accords of 1993. Israeli occupation authorities reneged on its side of a deal with Palestinian authorities, following extensive negotiations, to release the pre-Oslo prisoners. Both Younis prisoners were scheduled for release on March 19, 2014 among the fourth group of prisoners per the agreement which the Israeli occupation refused to uphold. Currently, there are 57 Palestinians who have been held in Israeli prisons for 20 or more consecutive years.
- ☀ **January 13, 2020:** Over 30 child prisoners were arbitrarily transferred from Ofer prison to Damon prison without their adult representatives in a stark violation of their recognized, agreed-upon rights. Furthermore, the conditions of the transfer itself were notably poor as the children were transferred to section 1 of Damon prison without any prior preparations to host them, resulting in a severe shortage of basic necessities to fulfill their needs.
- ☀ **March 5, 2020:** The houses of prisoners Waleed Hanatsheh and Yazan Maghamis were demolished in Ramallah city. Throughout the year, IOF demolished the houses of 6 Palestinian prisoners, rendering 22 people, including 7 children, homeless as a part of a policy of collective punishment targeting the prisoners' families.
- ☀ **March 24, 2020:** A state of emergency was declared by the Israeli occupation due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic was used as a punitive measure against the prisoners: families from the West Bank were banned from visitations for close to three months, after which the visitations were reintroduced at an arbitrary pace and under numerous restrictions. On the other hand, families from the Gaza Strip have been banned from visitations until the writing of this report. The outbreak resulted in grave violations of numerous prisoners' rights, including but not limited to their right to contact their lawyers and the right to have an interpreter present.
- ☀ **April 13, 2020:** Addameer documented a new practice by the Israeli occupation, where Palestinians are arbitrarily detained and brought into interrogation before a "psychology expert" and forced to answer questions under the threat of arrest and torture.



- ☀ **April 22, 2020:** Prisoner Nour Al-Din Barghouti, 25 years old from About village near Ramallah, died in Naqab prison. Barghouti, who was arrested in 2017 and sentenced to 8 years, was found dead after he collapsed in the prison bathroom.
- ☀ **May 12, 2020:** A wide scale campaign of arrests and collective punishment targeted the residents of Ya'bad village near Jenin following the death of an Israeli soldier. The campaign targeted around 55 people, including women, children, and the elderly, most of whom belong to the same family.
- ☀ **June 2020:** Amendment 67 to the Order Regarding Security Directives [Consolidated Version] (Judea and Samaria) (No. 1651) (2009) under No. 1827 added to the original military order trial procedures and crime definitions, as well the provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Law of 2016. The amendment introduced new articles pertaining to the penalties that shall be enforced against any person or association that uses a property to commit an offense or provide a reward for the commission of an offense; the new penalties were set to a 10-year prison sentence and a hefty fine. What is significant is the clear message to the banks operating in the oPT regarding the accounts of detainees, prisoners, and martyrs, as the new amendment poses the threat of confiscation of available funds in these accounts under the clause that such funds constitute a “reward” for committing a crime.
- ☀ **July 8, 2020:** Elderly prisoner Sa'ad Al-Gharabili, 75 years old from the Gaza Strip, died of a multitude of illnesses, including prostate cancer, high-blood pressure and diabetes. Israel continues to withhold the body of Al-Gharabili who had been incarcerated since 1994 and sentenced to life in prison.
- ☀ **July 16, 2020:** IOF arrested Palestinian professor Imad Barghouthi, 53 years old from Beit Rima village, when he was stopped at the military checkpoint outside of Anata northeast of Jerusalem. Barghouthi was placed under administrative detention for four months.
- ☀ **July 23, 2020:** Palestinian child Mahmoud Al-Ghalith, 16 years old from Jalazone refugee camp near Ramallah, was arrested. A few days later, it was announced that he had contracted COVID-19 and was placed in isolation under extremely poor conditions for 45 days before his release.
- ☀ **July 27, 2020:** In a judicial precedent, the Tel Aviv District Court rejected an appeal submitted by prisoner Bakri Zaher Mansour from the 1948 occupied territories against the confiscation of tens of thousands of shekels Mansour received from the Palestinian Authority. The court decision set a precedent legalizing the theft of Palestinian prisoners' funds under the pretext of counter-terrorism.



- ☀ **July 27, 2020:** Prisoner Maher Al-Akhras, 49 years old from Jenin, went on an open hunger strike in protest of his administrative detention. Al-Akhras' 103-day hunger strike is the longest in the history of the Palestinian prisoners' movement.
- ☀ **July 30, 2020:** Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) General Coordinator Mahmoud Nawaja was arrested and interrogated for two weeks under suspicion of involvement with unlawful organizations. He was later released after Israeli occupation authorities failed to file any charges against him.
- ☀ **August 23, 2020:** Israel declared the Democratic Progressive Student Pole (DPSP), the leftist bloc at Birzeit University, an unlawful association based on the Defense (Emergency) Regulations of 1945. The decision constitutes an outright violation of the right of Palestinian youth to freedom of expression, as well the right to political and union activism. In the wake of the decision, a large-scale arrest campaign targeted Birzeit university students.
- ☀ **September 2, 2020:** Prisoner Daoud Al-Khatib, 45 years old from Bethlehem, died from an acute cardiac arrest. Al-Khatib, who had been incarcerated since 2002 and sentenced to 18 years in prison, was scheduled for release in early December of 2020. Israeli continues to withhold his body.
- ☀ **September 3, 2020:** Addameer lawyer Salah Hammouri received a notice revoking his permanent Jerusalem residency status by order of the Israeli Minister of Interior. The notice included claims that Hammouri was actively involved in a banned organization per military orders, and referenced his multiple previous arrests. Hammouri's case sets another precedent by the Israeli occupation of attempting to revoke the residency of a Jerusalemite with no involvement in military activities. Hammouri was previously arrested on June 30, 2020 and released a week later without any charges filed against him.
- ☀ **September 5, 2020:** The most brutal arrest of the year was documented as IOF raided Jenin refugee camp and the Qasem (Gad'oun) family household. The forces blew up the family's front door, gravely injuring the two brothers Ahmad and Mohammad Qasem. Both were arrested and transferred to Affoulah hospital for medical treatment.
- ☀ **October 2, 2020:** Member of the PLC Hassan Yousef was arrested and placed under administrative detention for 6 months. Yousef had been released earlier in July of 2020 following 18 months of administrative detention. In 2020, eleven members of the PLC were incarcerated in Israeli prisons, including eight members under administrative detention.



- ☀ **October 14, 2020:** Knesset members of the Israeli Likud party proposed a bill to broaden the definition of a “foreign agent” and impose a 15-year prison sentence against anyone charged with contacting one. The bill is another attempt at disrupting and criminalizing human rights work.
- ☀ **November 2, 2020:** Palestinian child Amal Nakhleh was arrested despite suffering from myasthenia gravis which causes episodes of severe weakness in the skeletal muscles, particularly affecting his respiratory muscles and causing bouts of shortness of breath. Nakhleh’s arrest came in the wake of a campaign targeting Palestinian children as IOF arrested dozens of children in October and November alone.
- ☀ **November 10, 2020:** Prisoner Kamal Abu Wa’ar, 46 years old from Qabatiya near Jenin, died of throat cancer. Abu Wa’ar, who was arrested in 2003 and received six life prison sentences, had previously contracted COVID-19 in July of 2020. The Israeli occupation continues to withhold his body.
- ☀ **November 2020:** A wide-scale outbreak of COVID-19 among the prisoners in Gilboa prison, amidst IPS’s floundering efforts and subpar preparations to counter the virus, resulted in 100 infections.
- ☀ **November 2020:** Woman prisoner Fadwa Hamadah was placed once again in isolation in Damon prison under extremely poor conditions. She had previously been placed in isolation along with released woman prisoner Jihan Hashmieh in Al-Jalameh prison for 73 consecutive days under inhumane conditions.



Facts and Figures

Table :1 Number of Palestinian prisoners and detainees2010-2020



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	5000	5000	5000	4700	4600	4700	4500	4500	4400	4500	4400	4400
2019	5450	5440	5450	5400	5350	5250	5150	5100	5000	5050	5000	5000
2018	6141	6119	6050	6036	5941	5900	5820	5781	5640	5554	5554	5500
2017	6500		6200	6160	6200	6020	6128	6279	6098	6198	6154	6171
2016	6900	6600	6700	6650	6500	6350	6400	6300	6350	6400	6400	6500
2015	6200	6000	5820	5800	5750	5850	5700	5520	5621	6300	6700	6800
2014	5023	5142	5224	5265	5271			6500	6200	6500	6500	6200
2013	4743	4812	4936	4900	4979	5058	5071	5068	5007	5046	4996	5033
2012	4567	4489	4637	4610	4563	4659	4706	4660	4606	4596	4520	4656
2011	5935	5834	5777	5716	5604	5554		5573	5374	5434	4937	4970
2010	6831	6794	6985	6985	6584	6508	6408	6257		6180	6089	5977

*The 2016 statistics are estimates due to Addameer's inability to obtain more accurate data

Table 2: Detained members of the Palestinian Legislative Council 2010-2020



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	7	7	6	7	7	7	5	7	8	8	8	8
2019	8	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	7
2018	11	11	7	6	6	6	5	5	5	6	6	8
2017	7	7	12	13	12	12	12	13	12	12	11	10
2016	7	6	6	6	7	6	6	6		6	6	6
2015	20	17	16	13	12	12	7	4	4	5	5	5
2014	12	11	11	11	11	23	38	36	29	28	25	22
2013	12	15	12	14	13	13	14	13	13	13	14	14
2012	27	27	27	27	27	26	20	20	13	10	8	13
2011	12	12	13	13	14	19	19	19	22	22	23	23
2010		11	15	14	12	12	12	12	9	9	9	9

Table 3: Prisoners' classifications at the start and end of 2010-2020

Years	Prisoners Palestin- from territories in occupied 1948	Prisoners Jerusa- from lem	Prisoners Gaza the from Strip	Prisoners incarcerated the before Accords Oslo	Members PLC	Pris- Women oners
2020 of Start	70	312	296	26	7	41
2020 of End	70	300	250	26	8	37
2019 of Start	70	353	298	27	8	53
2019 of End	70	308	308	26	7	41
2018 of Start	70	550	320	29	11	59
2018 of End	70	365	310	27	8	54
2017 of Start	70	510	350	30	7	53
2017 of End			320	30	10	58
2016 of Start	90	500	328	30	7	55
2016 of End	70	520	350	30	6	53
2015 of Start	100	380	371	30	20	22
2015 of End	90	520	352	30	5	60
2014 of Start	226	163	389	30	12	17
2014 of End	100	376	376	30	22	23
2013 of Start	191	167	437	111	12	10
2013 of End	216	169	395	53	14	16
2012 of Start	180	161	462	112	27	8
2012 of End	191	165	439	111	13	11
2011 of Start	187	197	684	300	10	37
2011 of End	165	152	443	112	23	5
2010 of Start	200	198	726	300	12	36
2010 of End	191	198	686	300	9	39

Table :4 Number of administrative detainees2010-2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	461	430	432	400	373	365	360	340	350	370	380	440
2019	495	497	497	490	480	480	460	420	425	460	460	458
2018	450	450	427	431	426	442	446	456	456	482	482	480
2017	536		491	500	490	477	540	465	449	463	453	434
2016	650	700	700	750	715		700	700				536
2015	450	454	426	414	401	480	480	350	343	450	545	660
2014	155	175	183	186	192			480	500	500	530	465
2013	178	178	170	168	156	147	136	134	137	135	145	145
2012	309	309	320	322	308	303	285	250	112	184	156	178
2011	207	221	214	217	220	229	243	243	272	286	278	283
2010	264	264	259	237	222	215	200	190	190	212	214	207

Table :5 Child prisoners2010-2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	186	180	183	185	170	160	160	140	155	170	170	160
2019	215	209	205	215	210	205	210	210	190	190	185	185
2018	330	330	356	304	304	291	270	270	270	230	230	230
2017	300		289	300	300	300	320	300	300	280	311	350
2016	450	406	438	438	414		350	340				300
2015	152	163	182	182	164	162	160	153	156	320	420	470
2014	154	183	210	202	196	200	192	200	201	182	163	156
2013	193	219	185	236	236	222	194	195	180	179	159	173
2012	166	166	183	203	218	192	220	210	194	189	164	177
2011	209	221	216	224	217	211		201	176	262	150	159
2010	318	343	342	355	300	286	281	280	269	264	251	225



Palestinian Prisoners Defenseless Against COVID-19



In early 2020, COVID-19 spread like wildfire across the world, infecting millions of people. During the pandemic, over 100 Palestinian prisoners contracted the virus throughout the year due to Israeli occupation's negligence in maintaining health and hygiene standards necessary to combat the outbreak. With prisoners isolated from the outside world, the only means of spreading the virus inside prisons was through Israeli jailers and prison staff. The global pandemic did little to deter the Israeli occupation's repressive practices as IOF continued to detain Palestinians. This is evident in the figure below showing the distribution of prisoners throughout the year. Even though the figure clearly shows a decrease in the

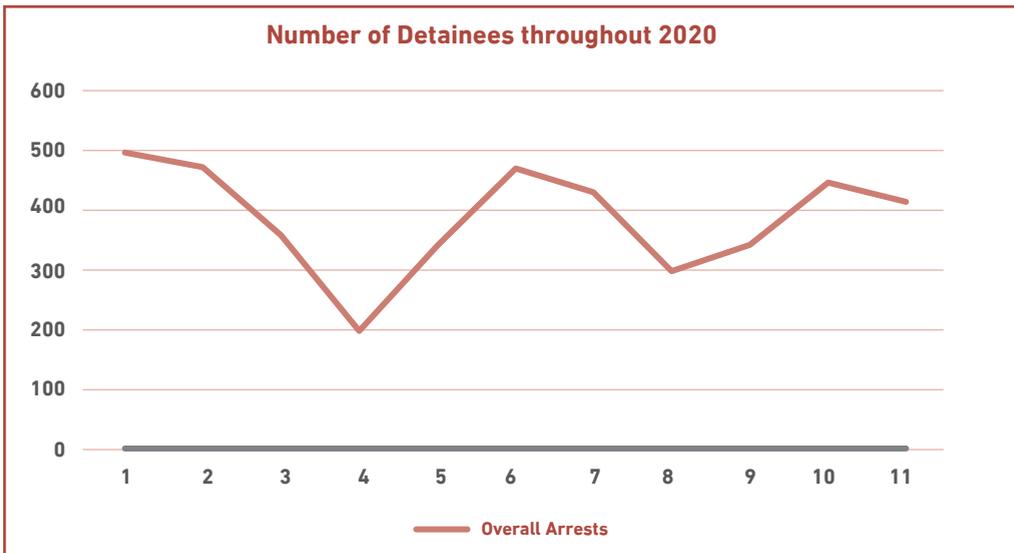


number of detainees in March and April, the first two months of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Israeli occupation soon reverted to its former frequency of arrests. From the start of 2020 and up to April 3, 2020 IOF raided over 100 houses in the West Bank and arrested more than 215 Palestinians, including 16 children¹.

Israeli occupation authorities did not suspend their various violations during the outbreak, demolishing 6 Palestinian houses and leaving entire families homeless in the midst of a global pandemic. Moreover, IOF continued to repeatedly raid prisons, subjecting hundreds of ill and elderly prisoners to a higher risk of contracting the virus.

1. "The Occupation Routine Continues in the Days of Corona: Israel Continues Arrests and Raids in the West Bank," The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories 'B'Tselem'. Available via

https://www.btselem.org/arabic/video/20200416_israel_continues_arrests_and_raids_during_coronavirus_pandemic#full

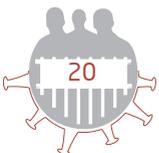


1. Israeli Occupation’s Management of COVID-19 Violates Fair Trial Guarantees

In the wake of the COVID 19-outbreak ,the Israeli military judicial system witnessed numerous problems illustrating violations of fair trial guarantees .During this period, several detainees informed Addameer of the rights violations they faced ,in particular ,the right to understand court proceedings .Since the start of the outbreak ,Israeli occupation authorities stopped transferring the detainees to courts ,resorting to video-conferencing instead .While it can be said that video-conferencing technology has had a positive impact in reducing infection rates among prisoners in many countries around the world, it is imperative that such technology is closely monitored and supervised to guarantee no infringements upon the detainees ‘rights .The use of videoconferencing by Israeli occupation authorities has resulted in more rights violations against Palestinian detainees. Addameer documented instances where Israeli occupation authorities deliberately turned off the microphone in numerous court hearings ,preventing prisoners from understanding the proceedings of the session .Other instances included failing to provide prisoners with an interpreter despite the difficulty for prisoners to demand the presence of an interpreter when they were physically not present in the court .On the other hand ,a number of prisoners noted that their court hearings took place over the phone ,using the courthouse staff’s phones instead of computers .Furthermore ,Israeli occupation’s restrictions also impacted prisoners ‘families as authorities severely limited the number of family members allowed to attend the court hearings to one person only.



Additionally ,throughout ,2020 Addameer documented more than 15 cases where lawyers were not able to determine where a detainee was being held for a multitude of reasons ,including the declaration of a full lockdown in the 1948 occupied territories or the transferring of detainees to various quarantine sites and prisons in the early days of detention .This created a real problem in locating the prisoners ,burdening the lawyer with the task of contacting numerous police stations ,the Israeli army and IPS to find clients .Among these prisoners was Khairi Hanoun whose location only became known to Addameer three days following his arrest because it coincided with an instituted lockdown by the Israeli occupation regime .Overall ,it can be said that such practices expose the charade that is the Israeli military judicial system's treatment of Palestinian prisoners. Judges often disregard numerous prisoners 'rights while the pandemic only created new avenues to increase the violations against them.



2. Legal proceedings and appeals during COVID-19

Since the onset of the COVID 19-outbreak in the occupied Palestinian Territory) oPT (and the 1948 occupied territories ,Israeli occupation authorities introduced numerous legal measures that often violated the rights of Palestinian prisoners .Among the earliest Israeli measures was the banning of family visitations ,followed by the banning of prisoners from meeting with their lawyers and seeking legal counsel in any shape or form except over the phone under the pretext of combating the spread of COVID .19-

These measures prompted Addameer and Adalah - the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel to file an appeal to rescind the measures and reinstate visitations following the necessary medical precautions .Addameer and Adalah stressed in the appeal that such measures violate the prisoners 'right to seek legal counsel ,as well the right to confidential communication with a lawyer as phone calls between the prisoners and lawyers usually take place in the presence of the jailers and officers ,effectively diminishing any semblance of privacy .Moreover ,these measures violate their rights to be present in the courtroom and communicate with their families².

3. Highlights of Prison Conditions during COVID-19



Ofer Prison

Ofer prison is considered a staple stop in the journey of incarceration for a large number of Palestinian prisoners. Every year, Israeli occupation authorities transfer hundreds of Palestinians to Ofer prison that holds prisoners with low jail sentences, administrative detainees, and those awaiting trial, making it a crowded waiting station for much of the year. During the pandemic and noting the large number of new detainees transferred there, Israeli occupation authorities had to open two new sections, 14 and 17, to operate as quarantine sections in Ofer prison.

A number of detainees have informed Addameer of the poor conditions of their quarantine in the new sections. Prisoner Saleem Abed, 53 years old from Ramallah says, “the general condition of quarantine section 14 is poor. Hygiene is almost abysmal due to an infestation of bedbugs that cause insomnia and an inability to rest at night.” Similarly, prisoner Tareq Khader, a 68 year old man from Ramallah who spent his quarantine in section 17, notes

2. For more information, see the link: <https://bit.ly/3bUhKJe>



that the conditions there were extremely poor in regard to sanitation and hygiene. Khader describes that a new detainee is provided with a small plastic cup half-full of shampoo upon arrival in the section. IPS deem the small amount sufficient to last the entirety of the prisoner's quarantine when in reality it is barely enough for two or three showers.

Section 17 houses two floors, the first floor has five rooms with six beds each, holding four to five prisoners usually. These rooms are dubbed "the newcomers' rooms" since newly detained prisoners are held there for the first five days of incarceration, during which they are not allowed any contact with other prisoners. The second floor has seven rooms that each usually hold six prisoners. Detainees who complete their initial five day quarantine on the first floor are transferred to the second. Prisoners held on the second are allowed yard time twice a day for two to two and a half hours in the morning, and two and a half hours in the afternoon, while the prisoners on the first floor are granted one hour of yard time in the morning and another hour in the afternoon, in isolation of the other prisoners.

Released prisoner Ibraheem Msaffar, 45 years old from Mazare' Al-Noubani village, says, "IPS in Ofer prison imposed a lot of restrictions on the prisoners under the pretext of coronavirus concerns. Nevertheless, the majority of these restrictions were not truly necessary, and only aimed at further cracking down on the prisoners. For example, IPS deliberately cut off water from the showers and bathroom facilities inside the prison rooms after 9pm." These practices reveal the Israeli occupation's reckless negligence toward Palestinian prisoners, as there is no sensible reason to cut off the water amid COVID-19 outbreaks considering public health recommendations for frequent hand washing and constant sanitization.





Eshel Prison

Prisoners in Eshel prison suffered from a facade of superficial care during the pandemic. Prisoner Salam Taha, 32 years old from Ramallah, notes that IPS concerns were nothing more than a formality, pointing out that the administration gave the prisoners in each room a one-litre bottle of an alcohol disinfectant which was renewed once it was empty. Similarly, prisoner Na'el Barghouti, 62 years old from Ramallah, recalled during a visit in early October that once a month IPS would give the prisoners one litre of soap that IPS claimed is a disinfectant. Each prisoner was provided with one mask made of brown cloth, which closely resembles the prison clothes, with a single microfiber layer inside; the prisoners wash these masks themselves. Furthermore, Barghouti confirms that 90% of the prisoners' necessary consumption of cleaning supplies is funded by the prisoners themselves—an additional burden that exhausts their finances.



Magiddo Prison

During a visit to Magiddo prison, prisoner Sami Subuh, 46 years old from Tulkarem, informed an Addameer lawyer of current conditions inside the prison. He notes that, “Prison visits are now conducted every two months because of the corona outbreak. Each prisoner is allowed a 45-minute visit while a detainee is allowed 30 minutes only. IPS no longer allows the entry of children near the prisoners during the visit as was previously allowed...IPS allowed us to use the phone once in June. We had to submit individual requests to the prison administration and obtain approval from the Israeli Security Agency (Shabak) to use the phone.”

Subuh adds that the prisoners have to buy cleaning supplies with their own funds as IPS only distributes a 5-litre bottle of bleach to each section once a month, forcing the prisoners to add water to make the bottle last longer. Additionally, IPS only measures the temperature of ill prisoners, and on occasions, the elderly. Aside from that, yard time encompasses all the prisoners—who all step out at the same time without being required to wear a mask. On the other hand, prisoner Omar Housheh, 19 years old from Ramallah, recalls that during the first few weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak, IPS would disinfect the doors and bedframes in the prison rooms as well as provide the prisoners with soap and sanitizers. These supplies were later reduced over time.





Detention Centers: The Other Side of the Torture Coin

During the pandemic, Israeli occupation authorities deliberately transferred Palestinian prisoners between the various detention centers, including Etzion and Huwara, among others. Prisoners who were held there experienced extremely poor incarceration conditions which prompted many to file formal objections before Israeli judges during court sessions to extend their detention. A number of detainees referenced rodent and mice infestations, as well as the low quantity and poor quality of the provided food. Other prisoners noted that they were not provided with personal hygiene supplies like a toothbrush, soap, towel, and so on. Many were not allowed a change of clothes or even a shower for the duration of their quarantine.

Even though prisoners are held in these centers under the guise of quarantine, the Israeli occupation's practices clearly contradict the stated health purpose as not only are the detainees forced into the above mentioned conditions, but IPS also does not disinfect nor even clean the rooms. Moreover, a large number of the detainees are not provided with masks as a detainee can spend the duration of quarantine using the one mask provided during arrest. Prisoner Saif Al-Din Ibraheem, 14 years old from Bethlehem, recalls that, "in Huwara, the room was very small and had one very thin mattress. The cell did not have a lighting source aside from a single window; there was no toilet, sink or shower. The yard time was extremely short and not enough for a prisoner to eat, use the toilet and shower. Whenever we asked to use the toilet, the jailers would start screaming at us."

4. Quarantine during Hospital Visits: A New Stop along the Prisoners' Journey

Israeli occupation authorities do not hesitate to exploit any and every opportunity to aggravate the experience of Palestinian prisoners. In 2020, the Israeli occupation implemented new measures requiring prisoners who are transferred out of the prisons to go into quarantine in the wake of the pandemic. At first glance, this measure could be perceived as a positive step towards stopping the outbreak in prisons. Nevertheless, the implementation of this policy in fact exacerbated the prisoner experience. Many told Addameer lawyers that they were forced to ignore their need for medical testing or treatment to avoid being transferred to hospitals where the quarantine sections are of extremely poor conditions that fail to meet basic needs.



5. Small Spaces Are Breeding Ground for COVID-19 Infections: Gilboa Prison

Early November 2020 witnessed a notable outbreak of COVID-19 among Palestinian prisoners in Gilboa prison. The limited space allocated for the prisoners, along with overcrowding, rendered Gilboa a breeding ground for a viral outbreak. Prisoner Rashid Omar, 36 years old from Tulkarem, describes his own experience of contracting COVID-19 in Gilboa prison:

“On November 2, 2020, IOF ran COVID-19 tests on a number of the prisoners in section 3. Positive test results later showed that 70 out of the 90 prisoners were infected. Eight days after that, the prison administration ran extra tests that showed 10 more prisoners infected. I was one of them.³ At the time, the administration told us that we will be transferred to Ramon prison for quarantine. However, on the way there three other prisoners and myself were instead transferred to Ramleh prison while two other prisoners were taken to Acre prison. I spent a week in Ramleh prison’s isolation section that was allocated for quarantine, with each room holding two prisoners. Upon our arrival in Ramleh, the prison administration there gave us a COVID-19 test and they took our temperature every day. Nevertheless, there was no yard time since this section did not have the allocated space for a ‘yard’.”



The administration just gave each prisoner one mask which prompted them to buy masks at their own personal expense from the prison canteen, where they are sold at a higher price than retail.

Shadi Shurafa

Omar continues, “One week later I was transferred to the quarantine section in Acre prison where each room held four prisoners. This prison was better because we were allowed yard time and had a better quality of food, however the rooms had surveillance

3. For more, see: “69 Prisoners Contracted Coronavirus: Adalah once again demands IPS to implement necessary measures to combat outbreaks among prisoners,” Adalah – the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, published on November 5th, 2020. Available via <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/10178>



cameras inside. It should also be noted that each prisoner was provided with a medical thermometer. I spent around 20 days in this prison before I was transferred back to Gilboa.” Omar’s symptoms ranged from a fever lasting a few days to pains and aches in his muscles and bones.

Omar’s statement, along with affidavits from numerous other prisoners, clearly demonstrate IPS’ negligence toward Palestinian detainees. Prison administrations often refrained from providing an adequate supply of disinfectants while masks were not provided on a regular basis as IPS deemed a single cloth mask given to the prisoners enough, putting the financial burden of buying medical masks from the prison canteens on the prisoners themselves. These factors, along with the generally poor conditions of the prisons that usually suffer from humidity and overcrowding on top of a lack of natural ventilation, mean that prisons have become a breeding ground for COVID-19.

Human rights organizations warned in early 2020 of the dangerous conditions in Israeli prisons, stressing that overcrowding posed a high risk for increased infection rates. Even though the conditions in Gilboa may not be the worst among the Israeli prisons, numerous rights organizations attempted to adopt Gilboa prison as a model case of the extreme incarceration conditions of Palestinian prisoners while filing legal petitions. On March 30, 2020, Adalah - the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel sent a letter to IPS and the Israeli Ministry of Health demanding that they reduce overcrowding in the prison rooms⁴. On July 23, 2020, the Israeli Supreme Court rejected a petition filed by Adalah against IPS and the Israeli ministries of health and interior security to demand the implementation of the Health Ministry’s guidelines on social distancing among Palestinian prisoners in Gilboa prison. In the petition, Adalah noted that Gilboa prison does not meet the minimum standards set by the Ministry of Health to combat the infection rates of COVID-19 as every 6 prisoners share a 22-square meter room that includes shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. This prompted Adalah to request a reduction in the number of prisoners per room to allow for social distancing.⁵

The Supreme Court decision agreed with the military prosecution’s claims that the standards of social distancing do not apply within a single family unit, or those who share a living space like the prisoners ⁶. Thus ,the Supreme Court and IPS both ignored the issue of overcrowding in prisons and the rising need to address it .The court based its decision on the decreasing number of infections among prisoners ,ignoring the fact that contracting

4. To view Adalah’s letter, visit the link: https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/Gilboa_Prison_Corona_Letter_300320.pdf

5. To view Adalah’s petition, visit the link https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/Gilboa_prisoners_conditions_petition_07052020_no_TZ.pdf

6. https://www.adalah.org/uploads/uploads/Gilboa_prisoners_conditions_petitionSCT_decision_23072020.pdf



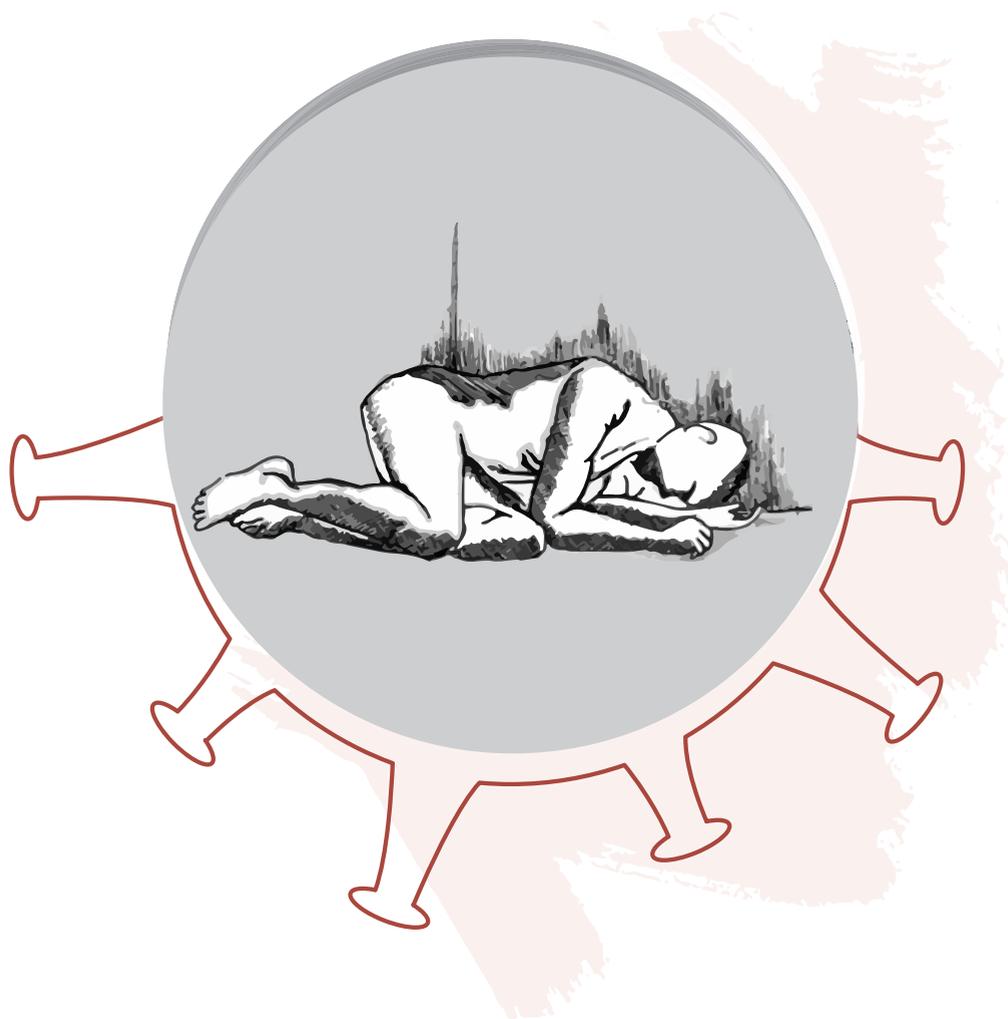
the virus primarily results from interacting with prison staff who come in contact with their own communities before entering the prisons more than three times a day for inspections and headcounts ⁷.Despite attempts by human rights organizations to repeatedly warn of the dangerous conditions in Gilboa prison ,Israeli occupation authorities did not heed any of these warnings as they continued to disregard the rights of Palestinian prisoners.

From the start of the occupation ,the Israeli occupation regime has resorted to inhuman treatment and torture of Palestinians during arrest ,interrogation ,and transfer to prisons or detention centers .These practices include screaming and cursing at detainees ,forced sleep deprivation ,physical beatings ,prolonged positional torture ,as well refusal to

7. "Israel abrogates its responsibility to maintain social distancing between Palestinian prisoners to combat the coronavirus," Adalah – the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, published on July 23rd, 2020. Available via: <https://www.adalah.org/ar/content/view/10070>



Torture and Inhuman Treatment



access the toilet .In addition to the arrest of family members and coerced confrontations with other detainees ,incarcerated Palestinians are also forced to watch or listen to fellow detainees endure torture .Palestinian women and children were not exempt from these same methods during arrest and interrogation⁸.

Such practices violate the absolute prohibition on all forms of torture under any justification as enshrined in International Law .Article 2 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel ,Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment unequivocally prohibits acts of torture with no exceptional circumstances whatsoever that can be invoked as a justification ⁹.Additionally ,the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that” No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel ,inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment¹⁰“ . The 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols further state in various provisions the absolute prohibition on torture ,cruel or inhuman treatment ,and outrages upon individual dignity.

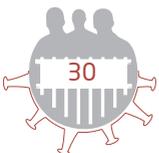
Addameer Documented the Israeli Occupation’s Policies in 2020

Throughout 2020, Addameer worked with 386 cases, including over 159 cases of Palestinians subjected to interrogation in one of the four main Israeli interrogation centers.

8. For more on this subject, see the chapter on child and women prisoners in this report.

9. See the United Nations’ ‘Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment’, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by UN General Assembly resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984, entry into force 26 June 1987. Israel ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment on 3 October 1991.

10. See Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by UN General Assembly Resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948, published in Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations, Volume 1, the UN, New York, 1993, Sales No. A.94.XIV-Vol.1, Part 1, page 1.



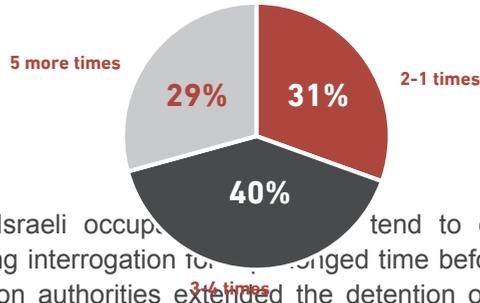
These are distributed as follows: 61 prisoners interrogated at Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center, 31 in Al-Jalameh interrogation center, 36 in Askalan interrogation center, and 31 in Petah Tikva interrogation center. Out of these detainees, 146 were transferred into interrogation immediately upon their arrest while the other 13 were subjected to interrogation a while after.



Throughout 2020, the Israeli occupation halted its long-standing policy of denying Palestinian prisoners the right to meet with a lawyer. Eighty-two detainees (51.6%) of the previously-mentioned 153 were banned from meeting with their lawyers, including 47 detainees who were denied access to legal counsel as soon as they were brought into interrogation. The number of ban orders on meeting with a lawyer issued against the detainees varied; some detainees received one or two ban orders while others received more than five or six. The following chart shows the number of ban orders issued against detainees. It should be noted that more than 60 detainees from the same aforementioned sample were banned from meeting with a lawyer for a duration ranging from 1 to 14 days. On the other hand, 22 detainees were banned from meeting with a lawyer for 15-30 days.

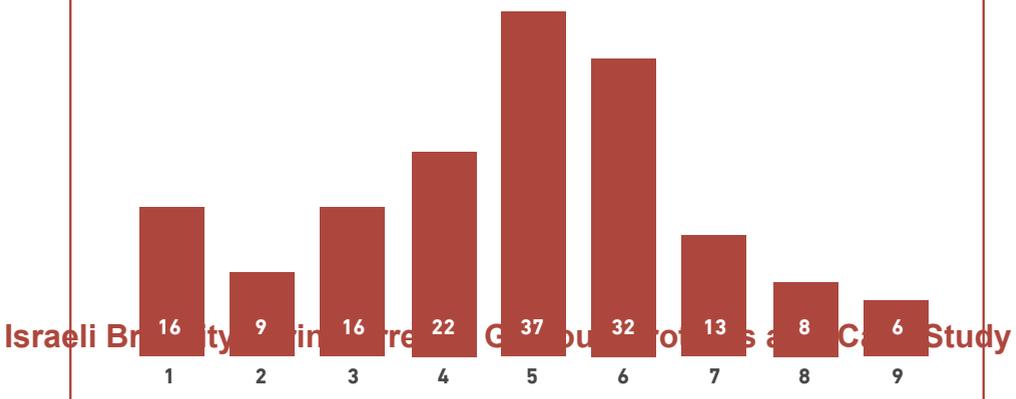


Distribution of the percentages of detainees banned from meeting with a lawyer per the number of bans



Generally speaking, Israeli occupation authorities tend to extend the detention of Palestinians undergoing interrogation for a prolonged time before filing charges against them. Israeli occupation authorities extended the detention of more than 50% of the detainees whose interrogation exceeded 30 days. Addameer documented more than 93 cases of detainees whose detention was extended during interrogation for more than 30 days, versus 66 prisoners whose detention was extended during interrogation for less than 30 days. It can be said that the detention of most detainees is extended 4-6 times during interrogation. Addameer adopts legal appeals as a means of combating the continuous extensions. In 2020 alone, the association filed more than 61 appeals against extensions of detention during interrogation, of which more than 37 were rejected. The high percentage of rejected appeals, amounting to more than half, reveals the Israeli military courts' complicity in masking the occupation's crimes by continuing to provide legal cover for the extension of detention of Palestinian detainees undergoing interrogation.

Number of detainees versus the number of extension of detention during interrogation



On September 5, 2020, IOF raided Jenin refugee camp and targeted the Qasem (Gad'oun) family household. During the raid, IOF blew up the front door, gravely injuring brothers



Ahmad and Mohammad Qasem who were later transferred to Affoulah hospital to receive treatment for shrapnel wounds. The 22 year-old brother Ahmad, who is currently held in Magiddo prison, recounted to an Addameer lawyer: “At six o’clock in the morning, IOF raided our house where my brother and I were sound asleep. When the front door exploded, shrapnel flew around causing injuries to my lower jaw, my neck and my legs – particularly my right leg.” “After that,” he continued, “my brother Mohammad and I were transferred to Affoulah hospital where I was in a coma for 16 days in the ICU. When I woke up, I learned that I was under arrest and that I was being held in the hospital after leaving the ICU.”

The Qasem brothers’ injuries did not stop IOF from arresting them. Numerous photographs depicted IOF carrying the brothers out on stretchers, highlighting the brutality and unnecessary use of excessive force. The arrest left both brothers with severe injuries that will require medical treatment for years to come. Ultimately, one brother was released while the other was placed under administrative detention with no charges filed against him. The case of the Qasem brothers is far from rare as the Israeli occupation employs excessive force during the arrest of Palestinians for decades. On multiple occasions, IOF have killed the detainee or a family member during the arrest.



A photograph from Al-Quds website showing the Qasem brothers during their arrest

Interrogation Centers: An Open Space for Torture

The Israeli occupation resorts to a plethora of torture techniques during the interrogation of Palestinian detainees in order to extract information and confessions under duress. This includes subjecting detainees to extreme physical and psychological pressure through

beatings, prolonged positional torture, sleep deprivation, and verbal humiliation. Some are additionally forced into coerced confrontations with other detainees. Moreover, detainees are threatened with extremely long interrogations, travel bans, military interrogation techniques, house demolitions, as well as the summons and arrests of family members. Jerusalem residents are additionally threatened with the revocation of their permanent residency status.

Throughout 2020, Addameer documented dozens of cases where detainees were subjected to these practices, including 33 year-old prisoner Aqeed Qashmar from Qalqilya, who was arrested on February 10, 2020. Qashmar was interrogated in Al-Jalameh interrogation center for two weeks, during which he was forced into stress positions in the interrogation chair with his hands cuffed behind his back for hours on end. Interrogation sessions continued for up to 12 hours at times. Qashmar was interrogated by multiple interrogators and threatened with the arrest of his wife who had just given birth.

The various torture techniques often resulted in extracting confessions from the detainees under duress. At times detainees gave false confessions, especially when interrogation methods included threatening the arrest of a family member. For example, prisoner E.A. 11 told Addameer that during an interrogation session, an interrogator slapped him when he denied the allegations against him. The interrogator threatened to arrest his father and brother, which prompted E.A. to confess in fear of harm befalling his family. Similarly, prisoner A.H. was interrogated for long consecutive hours, as well as threatened with military interrogation techniques and the arrest of his mother and sisters, which prompted him to confess under duress.

Mujahed Barghouti

11. It should be noted that the names of all who provided testimonies used in this report are documented by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association. However, some names are replaced by initials upon the request of the detainee/prisoner or due to the sensitive nature of the testimonies. All anonymized initials are in bold.



On June 23, 2020, IOF raided the family house of Mujahed Barghouti, 27 years old from Ramallah, with the intent to arrest him. He was not home at the time and during the raid, IOF ransacked the house and caused property destruction. They also led Barghouti's father and brother away in handcuffs, placing them under arrest until Mujahed turned himself in. A few hours later, Barghouti's father and brother were released after it was stressed to them that Mujahed had to turn himself in the following morning.

The following day, on June 24, IOF raided Barghouti's house again and found Mujahed at home. He recalled to Addameer lawyers that:

"IOF raided the house at around three in the morning. I woke to find soldiers inside my room. They tied my hands behind my back using plastic handcuffs which they tightened to be exceedingly painful. I was transferred to Beit El settlement," continued Barghouti, "where I was sat blindfolded on the floor of an office for three hours. I was not given water or allowed to use the toilet. I repeatedly tried to tell the soldiers that the plastic handcuffs were too tight which only prompted them to tighten them more. During this time, one soldier pushed me flat on the ground and beat me with his hands and feet for almost four minutes. My foot swelled up because of the beating."

Barghouti was later transferred to Askalan interrogation center where he was interrogated for hours on end, sometimes up to 19 consecutive hours, during which he was bound to the interrogation chair, cursed at and threatened. He remained in Askalan center for more than 30 days.

Abdel Rahman Biqawi

On May 4, 2020, IOF arrested 20 year-old Abdel Rahman Biqawi from Tulkarem. He recalls:

"I was arrested at 4:30am when IOF arrived at our house and broke down our front door. During the arrest and transfer, the soldiers kept pushing me around and cursing profanities at me. After I arrived at Al-Jalameh interrogation center, I was taken to different cells; one cell was 2.5x3 meters with a red light, an air vent that let in very cold air, and a water fountain that suddenly started working on its own."

Biqawi was interrogated for more than 30 days ,during which he was banned from meeting with a lawyer for several days .During his stay in Al-Jalameh center ,Biqawi was subjected to various interrogation methods ,including insults and verbal humiliation, having multiple—four to eight—interrogators in the room with him at the same time, threats of arresting his parents or demolishing his house ,as well threats of a permit



ban .Moreover ,the interrogators occasionally spat on Biqawi and spoke to him from an incredibly close distance .Spitting at the detainees amidst COVID 19-outbreak shows how little consideration IOF extend to the value of Palestinian detainees ‘lives as this practice could increase the risk of contracting the virus if the interrogator was a carrier.

Hassan Abu Salah

Hassan Abu Salah, 43 years old from Jenin, was arrested on July 13, 2020 from his house. He was transferred to Al-Jalameh interrogation center where he was held in a cell with a very harsh light that was turned on the entire time. The cell did not have any source of natural ventilation, while the walls had a thorn-like texture that made it difficult for the detainee to lean on. IOF interrogated Abu Salah for long hours, during which he was tied to the interrogation chair, insulted, verbally humiliated, and constantly screamed at. He was also threatened with the arrest of family members, the destruction of their property, and repeated raids on his house. “Sometimes,” he recalled, “they would lead me into interrogation at 8 in the morning and would keep me in a stress position in the interrogation chair for two hours without being spoken to.”

During Abu Salah’s interrogation, IOF took him to his house and arrested his brother before his eyes in order to exert more pressure on him. Abu Salah’s father recalls seeing his son in handcuffs, prompting him to believe that his son was placed under arrest. It became apparent the following day that his son was never actually arrested and that his brother was later released. This is a common Israeli occupation practice against dozens, if not hundreds, of Palestinian detainees. Addameer has documented numerous cases in which a family member was summoned or arrested to leverage detainees during interrogation by making them believe that their family members were also being detained.¹²

Osama Hamad

On October 21, 2020, IOF raided the house of Osama Hamad, a 24 year-old from Ramallah, by blowing up his front door. Osama woke to find soldiers in his bedroom. He recalls:

12. For more information on the subject, see the chapter on Collective Punishments in this report.



“I woke up and found soldiers standing over me and asking me where my phone was. When I refused to unlock the device, one soldier held me against the wall and choked me. The soldiers tried to pressure me by throwing other devices like my computer and fan to the ground. The soldier choked me more than once and grabbed me by the face to force me to open my phone.” Hamad continues, “after that, they bound my hands behind my back and tightened the cuffs. I was taken to Al-Ram military camp on foot. As I walked, a soldier struck me on my right calf which caused bleeding and left a bruise that lasted more than 20 days.”

Later on, Hamad was transferred to a medical center for tests before he was taken back to Al-Ram base. There he was left blindfolded with his hands tied behind his back in a wooden chair in the heat for nearly 10 hours. After that, Hamad was transferred to Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center where he was interrogated for long periods of time, sometimes up to 10 hours, during which he was subjected to prolonged positional torture as well as insults and verbal humiliation.

Izz Al-Din Ali

Izz Al-Din Ali, a 21 year old from Sinjil, was arrested on May 21, 2020. During his interrogation in Al-Moscobiyeh, IOF interrogated him for long periods, from the early morning to the late hours of the night. Ali notes,

“I was under a lot of pressure during the interrogation. On top of the long interrogation sessions, they used to keep my hands bound to the interrogation chair and leave me alone in that position. Throughout the whole thing, the jailers would harass and assault me in different ways. When I walked while blindfolded, one of them would put his foot in front of me to trip me. Sometimes they wouldn't alert me to the steps ahead so I would fall down the stairs. At one point, a jailer poured cold water down my back, claiming that I was falling asleep when they didn't want me to.”

The Case of Ba'jawi Family Shows Israeli Occupation Extensive Policies Against Palestinians

Throughout 2020, Addameer documented the arrest of six members of the Ba'jawi family, some of whom were subjected to inhumane practices that at times amounted to torture at



the hands of IOF. Prisoner Amer Ba'jawi, a 20 year-old from Jenin, recounts the details of his arrest to Addameer:

"IOF raided our house at 2 in the morning. I personally woke up in bed to find soldiers over my head. After an hour of the IOF in our house, they handcuffed and arrested me without even allowing me to change my clothes or say goodbye to my family. They blindfolded me the second we stepped outside and walked me to Camp Dotan. The soldiers cursed at me and pushed me to the ground as I was walking before proceeding to beat and kick me."

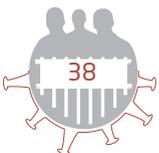
Ba'jawi was interrogated for more than 30 days in Petah Tikva interrogation center, where he was interrogated at times for up to 20 consecutive hours. There were multiple interrogators in the room who beat him on the head, cursed at him, and threatened to arrest his father. Indeed, they later called in his father for questioning.

The Psychology Expert: A New Israeli Tactic of Harassing Palestinian Detainees

There is no shortage of methods aimed at the harassment ,oppression ,and incarceration of Palestinians by the Israeli occupation regime ..Between April and December,2020 Addameer observed a new practice of harassment under the guise of uncovering perpetrators of military operations against the occupation .The new tactic entails arresting a person and calling in a' psychology expert 'or' psychologist 'who then interviews the Palestinian detainee ,asking specific questions in regard to alleged military operations .

The interview with the' psychology expert 'is often preceded by house raids in the middle of the night ,during which IOF ransack homes and destroy property before arresting the Palestinian detainee and transferring him/her to a military checkpoint for said questioning. The violent raid and brutal arrest aim to convince the Palestinian that he/she is indeed under arrest and terrorizing him/her with the possibility of interrogation and incarceration. In reality ,the purpose is to ask the Palestinian detainee specific questions inside a small room at a military checkpoint before releasing them later the same day .

Addameer documented numerous cases where Palestinians were arrested before the break of dawn and questioned by the" psychology expert ".Some of these arrests took place during the lockdown declared by the Palestinian Authority to combat the outbreak of COVID .19-Most Palestinians selected for' questioning 'received the same test ,in terms



of the nature and content of the questions .Additionally ,the majority of these tests took place at the Qalandia military checkpoint.

Accounts of Palestinians Questioned by “Psychology Experts”

Palestinians questioned by a “psychology expert” have stated that said person introduces himself as an expert, claiming to be a doctor of psychology, and then proceeds to ask them questions that they must answer.¹³ Prior to the questioning, Israeli interrogators threaten to transfer the detainee to an interrogation center if his/her answers are proven untruthful. If proven honest, the detainee would be released. The same tactics were used against all the questioned Palestinians who received the same test and the same questions. All of them were released after they completed the test. The majority of the detainees interviewed by Addameer said that the questions included multiple-choice questions, as well as photographs and questions with follow-up inquiries.



Palestinian detainee A.H. recalls that he was arrested on April 13, 2020 after IOF raided his house at around five in the morning. The soldiers confiscated his laptop and mobile phone before leading him in handcuffs to Beit El, where he received a medical examination. After

13. See Annex 1 that includes a number of the questions the detainees were asked as documented by Addameer

that, he was transferred to another location that he later learned was Qalandia military checkpoint. At the checkpoint, he was questioned by the 'psychology expert', who asked him questions regarding particular dates purportedly marking several military operations. A.H. was asked around 30 questions before he was informed by the interrogator present at the time that he was free to go. He was released in the evening of the same day.

On the other hand, detainee T.B. states that he was arrested on July 6, 2020 after some 30 Israeli soldiers raided and searched his home at 4 in the morning. He was led in handcuffs to Beit El, where he remained outside for several hours before being transferred to Qalandia military checkpoint. An interrogator informed him that he would be asked a set of questions and that if he answered truthfully, he would be released, but if he lied, he would be transferred to Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center. After that, the so-called psychology expert entered and began asking questions on alleged shootings. The line of questioning continued for almost 2.5 hours. He was asked the same questions two additional times before the interrogator returned to inform him that he would be released. Following a three hour wait, he was finally let go.

Detainee A.S. tells Addameer that he was arrested in late August after IOF raided his house at 4am. He was transferred to Qalandia military checkpoint where he was asked the same set of questions that he refused to answer. Upon his refusal, the interrogator threatened to transfer him to Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center if he did not acquiesce. Nevertheless, A.S. continued to refuse answering any of the questions and following an hour of waiting he was released.

New Israeli Occupation Tactics to Investigate Military Operations



Devising new interrogation entrapment tactics that aim to link Palestinians to alleged military operations is another longstanding policy by the Israeli occupation to illegally extract information from Palestinian detainees under duress .These tactics range from sham tests and indirect questions to torture and degrading treatment in order to gain false convictions based on coerced confessions .



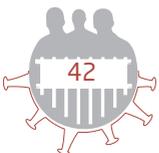
Addressing the nature and purpose of these tests and how this line of questioning serves the Israeli occupation's efforts to uncover alleged military operations ,Dr .Samah Jabr states that this new tactic is nothing more than a security check under the guise of a psychological examination¹⁴.IOF aim to mislead Palestinian detainees into believing that they undertake a psychological exam when in reality they are undergoing a security check .Dr .Jabr noted that psychological testing must comply with specific standards, starting first and foremost with informed consent .In these cases ,the Palestinian detainee is arrested and kidnapped from his/her house and forced into taking the test .The detainee is not informed of the purpose of the test ,which is another violation of the standards of psychological testing ¹⁵.Dr .Jabr stresses that under these circumstances ,it is not sensible for the detainee to undertake psychological testing as long as he/she is deprived of freedom and forced to answer questions .

14. Dr. Samah Jabr is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist and, the Head of the Mental Health Unit in the Palestinian Ministry of Health

15. Interview with Dr. Samah Jabr conducted on September 7, 2020.

In cases where Palestinians were subjected to this so-called psychological testing ,it is apparent that this technique is the latest in a string of tactics of harassing released prisoners .Most of the detainees that spoke of taking such tests in affidavits to Addameer are former prisoners who had been previously detained and interrogated in Israeli interrogation centers once or more .Moreover ,many of these detainees are related to or friends with prisoners that are currently undergoing trial or have been prosecuted on charges relating to military operations.

This new form of classification to determine the supposed' threat level 'a person poses taps into the minds of Palestinian youth and aims to gather information for future use. The practice reveals the Israeli occupation's continued targeting of released prisoners. The detainees 'past is used to terrorize them as Israeli occupationauthorities send a clear message :former prisoners will forever be pursued and are subject to arrest at any moment.



Prison Conditions



The Israeli occupation arrests thousands of Palestinians every year, incarcerating them in prisons that lack the minimum standards of adequate living. Prison rooms retain humidity and lack sources of natural ventilation, while the quality of served food is abysmal. Moreover, the Israeli occupation leverages medical care to blackmail prisoners as part of a systematic policy of medical negligence against Palestinians. This involves IPS stalling necessary medical examinations and vital treatment. In addition, Israeli authorities deliberately make the prisoners' lives harder through repeated raids and never-ending policies that impose further restrictions, including depriving them of the right to education in prison, the confiscation of hundreds of books every year, setting a maximum spending limit in the prison canteens, and much more.



The conditions in Eshel prison are extremely poor. The sun enters the yard only from one angle and during specific hours of the day.

Salam Taha - Eshel prison

These practices gravely violate the various international conventions that guarantee the right to be held in adequate conditions. The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners state that “all accommodation provided for the use of prisoners and in particular all sleeping accommodation shall meet all requirements of health, due regard being paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation.”¹⁶ In addition, the Israeli occupation is in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly the articles stating the prisoners' right to receive “the medical attention required by their state of health.”

16. See the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1955, and approved by the Economic and Social Council by its resolutions 663 C (XXIV), published in Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations, Volume 1, the UN, New York, 1993, Sales No. A.94.XIV-Vol.1, Part 1, page 337.



Shedding Light on Israeli Prison Conditions



Naqab Prison

Palestinian prisoners suffer extreme conditions in Naqab prison ,whose location in a remote desert area leaves it crawling with insects and reptiles due to the extreme hot weather during the summer and the consistently cold desert nights .Part of Addameer's efforts to gather information on the prison's conditions includes the testimony of 40 year-old prisoner Ghassan Zawahra from Bethlehem who notes that the number of prisoners held in section ,23 where he is currently held ,has been reduced from 8 to 5 prisoners per room and that the yard is open to prisoners most of the time .However ,he also points out that the prisoners suffer from a general shortage of necessities like clothing as a result of the ban on family visitations due to the COVID 19-pandemic .Rather than addressing these issues ,IPS continues to circumvent its responsibility towards the prisoners.



Gilboa Prison

Prisoner Nader Sadaqa 44 ,years old from Nablus ,notes that he is currently held in a section housing 95 prisoners in Gilboa prison .Originally ,each room held 8 prisoners ,but this number is expected to be reduced to 6 prisoners per room in the wake of the Israeli Supreme Court ruling on living space standards in prisons .The Supreme Court ruled that Israeli occupation authorities must expand the living space to 4.5 square meters per prisoner by April ,2020 but they have thus far failed to comply with the court ruling, leaving Palestinian prisoners to continue to suffer from overcrowding ¹⁷.



Ramleh Prison Clinic

Until the release date of this report, there are over 10 Palestinian prisoners suffering from broken bones, paralysis, kidney and bowel diseases, as well an assortment of other illnesses in the Ramleh prison clinic that lacks the bare minimum healthcare standards.

17. For more information, see Addameer's violations report of 2019, pages 30-31. Available at: https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/mdl-tqyr_lnthkt_2020.pdf



Despite the fact that a number of these prisoners are wheelchair-bound, the Ramleh clinic is not equipped with the necessary facilities. Prisoner Ahmad Abu Khader describes that: “the clinic yard is extremely small, half of which is roofed while the other half is covered with a metal net. Despite the already limited space, Israeli authorities cram the kitchen equipment, washing machine and refrigerators in there, rendering the yard inaccessible to wheelchairs...The food served in the Ramleh prison clinic is extremely poor, if it weren’t for the food prepared by the prisoners themselves, we would not eat.”

Shatta (Shita) Prison



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Israeli occupation authorities transferred a number of Palestinian prisoners to Shatta prison, including the teenage prisoner Saleh Zahran, a 17 year-old from Ramallah. Zahran described the prison conditions to Addameer. “A group of prisoners and myself were transferred to Shatta prison in September of 2020,” he said. “We were held in a section of 14 rooms that can house 56 prisoners in total. We were 48 prisoners of all political affiliations. Ever since arriving in Shatta prison, we were subjected to repeated raids where IOF stormed the prison unannounced to carry out inspections.” In regards to the living conditions, Zahran added that “the prison rooms don’t have any hot plates.” He continues, “the current living space in the prison is good. Each room is almost 26 square meters and holds four prisoners. Even though the living space is good, the drinking water is of extremely poor quality with high alkalinity.”



When Israeli special forces enter the prisons, their primary goal is a show of force to provoke the prisoners and deliver a message that neither the prisoner nor the prisoners’ movement has the right to an ounce of dignity in the face of the occupation.

Na’el Barghouti - Eshel prison

Over 25 Brutal Attacks in Israeli Prisons in 2020



The Israeli occupation systematically exploits any excuse to deploy its special forces

into prisons to attack and harass Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Addameer alone documented more than 25 attacks in Israeli prisons throughout the year 2020. During these attacks, special forces shackle the prisoners without any regard to their medical conditions, often physically assaulting them and using tear gas and pepper spray, along with a plethora of other tactics, to further abuse them. More often than not, prisoners report sustaining grave injuries due to the brutality of the attacks. Additionally, IOF often confiscate the prisoners' belongings, as well as all electronics and appliances in the prison cells afterwards.

Ofer under Attack: A Brutal Assault almost Cost a Palestinian Life

On July 13, 2020, a large number of the Israeli Yamas, Massada and Dror special force units raided Ofer prison and attacked Palestinian prisoners in three sections. Addameer documented the attack through a field interview with released prisoner Nader Al-Qaisi, 24 years old from Bethlehem who was held there at the time. Al-Qaisi stated that on that day Israeli special forces raided the prison and took prisoner Rami Fadayel from his room without prior notice, resulting in an altercation between the prisoners and the prison administration. Later that day at exactly 8pm, sirens sounded in the prison. The prisoners knew that the administration was preparing to raid the sections and it became apparent that special forces were gathering in preparation to raid sections 16, 21, and 22.

Al-Qaisi recalls: "It was then that we started shouting and banging on the doors to let the other sections know that we were about to face trouble. Mere minutes later, the special forces raided the section. There were more than 50 masked soldiers dressed in tactical gear with protective equipment and accompanied by military dogs. The units closed all the windows in every room, along with the door slot used to bring in food. We immediately knew that they were going to suffocate us with gas, so we pushed the mattresses against the doors and placed wet bed covers along the bathroom door to stop the gas from seeping in. Despite everything we did, the soldiers tried to push through the mattresses using long batons.

When they failed to dislodge the mattresses, they launched a large canister of gas [known among prisoners as "the poisonous powder gas"] into the room from beneath them. Once it was clear that we were worn out, they emptied another canister. Half an hour later, they launched a third one. We started screaming then because we thought 65-year-old



prisoner Ali Jaradat from Ramallah had died, as he had lost consciousness from inhaling all that gas¹⁸. This attack was different. Normally, when the special forces raid the rooms and gas us, they would disperse oxygen minutes later to prevent a prisoner dying from gas inhalation. This time they didn't care and never circulated oxygen.”

“After that,” continued Al-Qaisi, “we went into the bathroom to take cover from the gas. That’s when 4 soldiers entered the room and dragged prisoner Ali Jaradat to the prison clinic. Immediately after that, they pushed us to the ground. A soldier stood next to each prisoner, placing their foot on our backs. The soldier next to me pushed his knee into my back while I was face-down on the floor. When he tried to pull my arms behind my back to put me in handcuffs, I resisted, which prompted other soldiers to help him. They bound my hands in plastic cuffs behind my back and started dragging me. By that time, my clothes were completely wet from all the water that we had sprayed on the floor. The soldiers dragged me towards members of the Massada unit stationed by the door along with the dogs. When I reached them, they immediately made me stand up and three soldiers grabbed me. One of them pushed my head down while the other two held my arms from both sides. They pushed me into the yard, which caused me to fall to the ground.”

“The special forces led everyone out of the rooms and into the yard. The soldiers and the

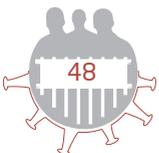


Even though I have been arrested 11 times, this attack by the special forces in Ofer prison was different. It was the most violent and brutal attack I have ever witnessed.

Ibraheem Msaffar - Ofer Prison

military dogs circled the prisoners, deliberately striking with their hands and feet anyone who moved or made a sound. Almost an hour later, we were returned to the rooms. They

18. Prisoner Ali Jaradat suffers from numerous health conditions that require constant medical care. For more information on Jaradat's condition, see Addameer's profile on him. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA>.



locked us in, closing the doors even though the rooms were still full of gas. They had confiscated all the appliances, utensils and tableware. The special forces kept all the prisoners bound until the following morning when we were uncuffed at 6 in the morning.”

“One-handed or not, the cuffs go on”: Zamel Shlouf Recounts the Details of Attack in Eshel Prison

At six in the morning on October 12, 2020, a Massada special forces unit raided Eshel prison. Prisoner Zamel Shlouf, 41 years old from Gaza, recounts the details of the attack to Addameer’s lawyer.

“The prisoners were asleep but I heard other prisoners yelling ‘Massada’! I immediately stood up. That’s when I saw a Massada unit member raising his weapon at me from the window in the cell door. He ordered me to get down on the ground and put my hands on my head. When the cell door opened, a soldier yanked on my clothes, grabbing me by the nape of my neck and asking me why I was there. I told him that he had told me to lay on the ground in that position. That’s when the soldier started to kick me in the right side of my pelvis—it was extremely painful and humiliating.”

“The Massada unit did not take into consideration the conditions of the ill prisoners in the section,” recalls Zamel. “The soldiers handcuffed everyone, even prisoner Jamal Abu Al-Haija’ who is missing an arm. They opted to handcuff him to me instead of exempting him considering his medical condition.”



Israeli prisons are brimming with hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who suffer from health conditions warranting medical treatment. Many prisoners suffer from heart disease, diabetes, broken bones, and dental problems. Among the ill prisoners are also cancer patients and prisoners requiring dialysis. Israeli occupation authorities knowingly disregards their medical conditions, both during arrest and incarceration, deliberately delaying treatment and stalling necessary medical examinations, in addition to a wide range of other practices through which the occupying state circumvents its responsibility to provide adequate medical attention to the prisoners as inscribed in the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly Articles 91 and 92.

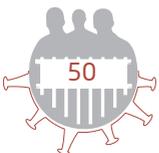
This case is part of a broader policy of deliberate medical negligence in practice against Palestinian prisoners and detainees that has caused the death of hundreds over the last few decades. Prisoner Jihad B'eirat, 19 years old from Ramallah, detailed his arrest to an Addameer lawyer. "I was arrested on September 23, 2020 at 10PM. During the arrest, the Israeli soldiers shot me in my right foot and shoulder. I fell to the ground."



When I was taken to the hospital for radiotherapy, I was transferred in handcuffs. Even as I received the treatment lying in bed, my hands and feet were bound.

Deceased prisoner Kamal Abu Wa'ar

Israeli soldiers strip searched B'eirat while he was on the ground. Half an hour later, he was transferred to Shaare Zedek medical center where he underwent surgery. "I was transferred to the hospital in a GMC vehicle without receiving first aid," said B'eirat. "During my one-week stay in the hospital, my hand and leg were cuffed to the bed and I was almost always monitored by two guards. Despite my medical condition, an interrogator



visited me in the hospital the day after my surgery and interrogated me for half an hour. Upon my arrival in the Ramleh prison clinic, another interrogated me for half an hour on the phone.”

B'eirat is one of hundreds of cases where IOF clearly pursue medical negligence. IOF left the injured detainee on the ground for half an hour without providing any medical attention and disregarded his medical condition in the wake of an emergency surgery by interrogating him the day after the operation. This constitutes a prime example of the systematic brutality and cruelty the Israeli occupation shows towards Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

Prison Transfers Constitute Another Hindrance to the Prisoners' Right to Medical Care

Prison transfers often constitute an obstacle to receiving medical attention. A prisoner's transfer can delay his/her treatment as the new prison clinic requires new medical testing and diagnosis before providing medical care. Prisoner Fadi Yousef, 40 years old from Salfit is a prime example.

“I have a problem in my left eye as I have had glaucoma since mid-2020,” he says. “When I was in Hadarim prison, the doctor told me that I needed surgery. The preparations for the surgery started in October, but I was then transferred to Shatta prison, where the doctor told me that I must re-start the process all over again. I needed to once again go through the medical procedures and be directed to a specialist who would decide on the course of treatment.”

Yousef's experience is the norm among Palestinian detainees who are subjected to grave practices that inflict physical and psychological pain through delays and other forms of negligence.

Year after Year: Prisoners are Victims of Medical Malpractice

In ,2020 Addameer documented the case of prisoner Ahmad Obeid ,a 30 year old from Jerusalem who was arrested in .2013 Obeid has been diagnosed with Bechet's disease ,a rare disorder that causes blood vessel inflammation throughout the body .In ,2020 Obeid underwent laser surgery in his right eye .Consequently ,doctors prescribed him a specific dosage of cortisone and methotrexate medications .Each prescribed pill contains2.5 mg of medication and his doctors recommended gradually increasing the dosage by2.5 mg to reach a dosage of15 mg per week .



Obeid tells Addameer's lawyer:

"After the surgery and medical tests, I was transferred to Askalan prison under the pretext that the prison is closer to the hospital. However, the prison conditions and elevated humidity levels were detrimental to my eye so I asked to be transferred again. Following my transfer request, I was moved to the prison cells for a week in retaliation. After that, I was transferred to Ramon prison where I was placed in quarantine for 14 days. Every time I left to go to the hospital, they would quarantine me for two weeks."

He continues, "I am confident that transferring me to Askalan prison and placing me in quarantine every time I returned was a tactic aimed at pressuring me to abandon the course of my treatment altogether. If that's not the case, then why was I quarantined every time I left the prison while the jailers who accompanied me to the hospital were never quarantined?"

Obeid notes that he was provided three pills of the prescribed medication a day during his stay in Askalan prison. However, upon his return to Ramon prison, the dosage was doubled to 6 pills a day for two consecutive weeks. The higher dosage caused dryness in the mouth and around the lips which prompted doctors to immediately halt the medication. In light of Obeid's medical condition, Addameer consulted with Physicians for Human Rights, concluding that medical malpractice took place as Obeid was given an overdose of a prescribed medication that could have killed him. Obeid is a living example of the dangers of the Israeli occupation's policy of deliberate medical negligence and disregard of Palestinian life.

Ahmad Abdel Kareem: Critical Condition Amidst Continuous Medical Negligence

On March ,2020 ,5 at 2:30 in the morning ,IOF raided the house of-35 year-old Ahmad Abdel Kareem from Ramallah .Abdel Kareem's medical condition ,suffering from constant thrombosis ,did not deter IOF from arresting him and transferring him to Al-Jalameh interrogation center where he underwent brutal interrogation for 13 days .Abdel Kareem was interrogated for long hours on end ,as well as constantly threatened with the arrest and interrogation of his family members ,particularly his wife .



Abdel Kareem's medical condition requires special medical attention and regular check-ups .This was disregarded as Israeli occupation authorities deliberately delayed providing adequate medical care ,including stalling necessary testing and withholding vital medical information .He explained to Addameer lawyers that he was once taken to see the doctor but was not accompanied by an interpreter which left him unable to understand or communicate with the doctor at all.



Four Martyrs, Eight Bodies in Israeli Morgues

Like years prior, 2020 saw the death of many Palestinian prisoners. Throughout the course of the year, prisoners Nour Barghouti, Sa'ad Al-Gharabli, Daoud Al-Khatib, and Kamal Abu Wa'ar passed away. Until now, the Israeli occupation continues to withhold the bodies of 7 prisoners, including: Anees Dawla, who passed away in 1980; Aziz Oweisat, who passed away in 2018; Nassar Taqatqa, Faris Barid and Bassam Al-Sayeh, who passed away in 2019; as well Sa'ad Al-Gharabli and Kamal Abu Wa'ar, who passed away in 2020. The body of Daoud Al-Khatib was released to his family in February 2021, months after his death.

On September 9, 2019, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the Israeli military has the legal right to withhold the bodies of deceased Palestinians for use as leverage in negotiations with Palestinians. This ruling, which reversed a previous ruling on the matter, is a grave violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly Article 130 on the honorable burial of deceased internees, as well as the Additional Protocol 1 to the Geneva Conventions, notably Article 34 on the remains of deceased persons who have died for reasons related to occupation or in detention resulting from occupation¹⁹.

19. For more information on the Supreme Court Ruling, see Addameer's violations report of 2019, pages 44-45. Available at https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/mdl-tqyr_inthkt_2020.pdf

Sa'ad Al-Gharabli

IOF arrested Sa'ad Al-Gharabli, a 75-year-old man from Gaza, in 1994 and sentenced him to life in prison. During his incarceration, Al-Gharabli was placed in solitary confinement from 1994 to 2006 and banned from family visits for years. During his incarceration, he suffered from diabetes, high blood pressure, hearing and vision impairment, as well prostate cancer.

Daoud Al-Khatib

During the wide-scale invasion of the West Bank in 2002, IOF arrested 44-year-old Daoud Al-Khatib from Bethlehem. Al-Khatib, who was an officer in the Palestinian intelligence agency at the time of his arrest, was sentenced to 18 and a half years in prison. During his incarceration, Al-Khatib suffered from a stroke which required surgery thereafter.

Kamal Abu Wa'ar

IOF arrested Kamal Abu Wa'ar, a 46 year-old man from Jenin, in 2003 and sentenced him to 6 life sentences and 50 years in prison. In 2019, Abu Wa'ar suffered from a hoarse voice so he was transferred to Affoula hospital where he was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer. Abu Wa'ar received multiple treatment sessions until he was informed that he was cancer-free in April 2020.

In July 2020, Abu Wa'ar underwent a tracheostomy, contracted COVID-19, and was placed in isolation in the Ramleh prison clinic. Despite Addameer's repeated attempts to contact Abu Wa'ar over the phone during his isolation, Israeli occupation authorities stalled in facilitating the calls for two weeks. Even though Abu Wa'ar recovered from COVID-19, his medical condition continued to deteriorate until he passed away on November 10, 2020 after a new tumour was discovered in his larynx.



Prisoners Suffer Extreme Conditions in Solitary Confinement

The Israeli occupation systematically resorts to solitary confinement and isolation in a complete disregard of the physical and psychological harm caused to prisoners. Every year, Israeli occupation authorities place dozens of prisoners in solitary confinement for exceedingly long periods of time, depriving them of any contact with the outside world and banning family visits. These practices are conducted under the pretext that prisoners pose a supposed threat to state or prison security. In 2020, numerous prisoners were placed in solitary confinement, including women prisoners Fadwa Hamadah and Jihan Hashmieh,²⁰ as well as prisoner Wa'el Al-Jaghoub. Al-Jaghoub detailed his time in solitary confinement in Magiddo prison to an Addameer lawyer. "The isolation section in Magiddo prison has 8 cells, all of which were for solitary confinement except cell 5 which can hold two people. Each cell is 3x2 meters in area. The prisoner is usually given one to two hours of yard time."

"I used to spend 22 hours a day in a 6 square meter cell that has a toilet and a television," he recalled. "My family wasn't allowed to visit me for months. I wasn't even allowed to check in with them over the phone." Prisoners in solitary confinement are not spared the constant inspections. Al-Jaghoub pointed out that IOF entered his cell daily to inspect the windows and performed regular inspections three times a week. In addition to the already extreme conditions of solitary confinement, the quality and quantity of food served to the isolated prisoners is extremely poor.

IOF had placed Al-Jaghoub in isolation in late June for 20 days before he was transferred to Al-Jalameh interrogation center where he was held for 24 days. After that, he was returned to solitary confinement for several weeks.

Erden Committee: A Looming Nightmare to Tighten Restrictions on Prisoners

In 2018, the Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Erden formed a special committee to evaluate and impose further restrictions on the living conditions of Palestinian prisoners.

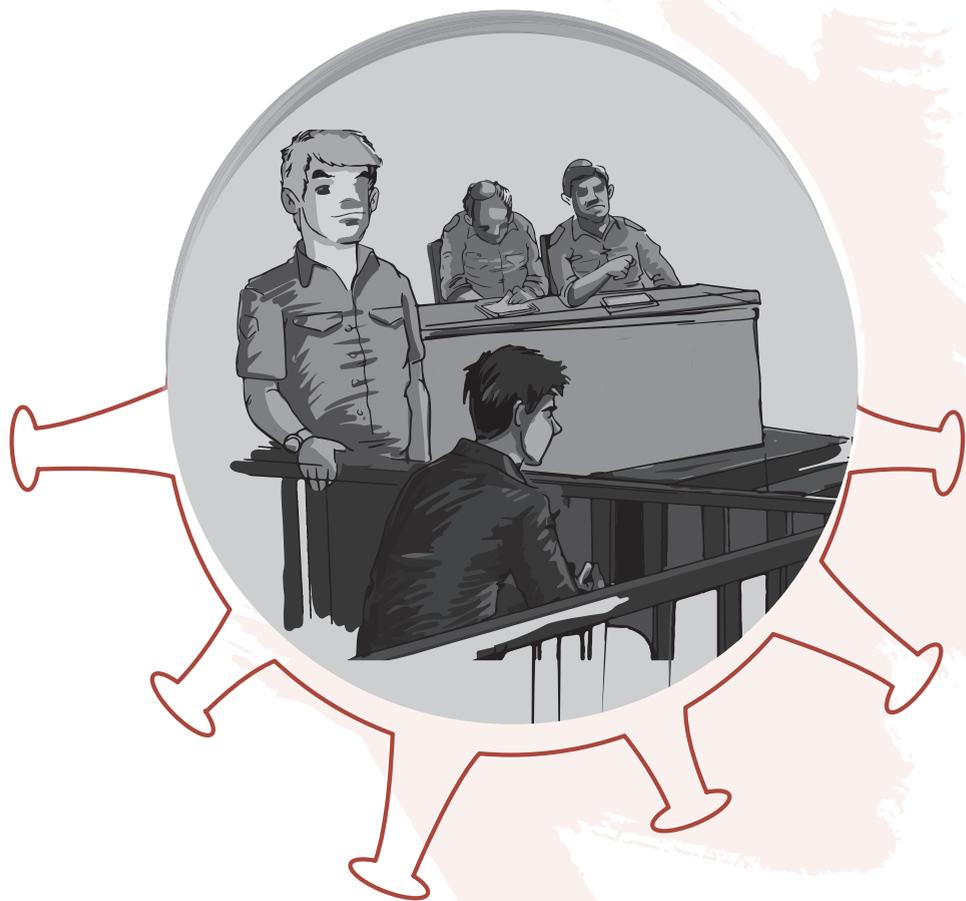
20. For more information on the solitary confinement conditions of women prisoners Hamada and Hashmieh, see the chapter on Women Prisoners in this report.



The committee produced several recommendations, including to limit the number of books in prisons, reduce the prisoners' yard time, confiscate educational books, and other recommendations aimed at further tightening restrictions on all prisoners, including women and child prisoners. Throughout the year 2020, there was an escalation in the Israeli policy of cutting down on necessities in prisons. Nader Sadaqa, 44 years old from Nablus, said during a visit by Addameer that the prison administration plans to launch a campaign to reduce the number of loaves of bread and the amount of vegetables and fruits available to the prisoners, as well as remove more than 130 items from the prison canteens. Moreover, the campaign aims to reduce the available television channels from ten to seven.



Guarantees of a Fair Trial



Various international conventions guarantee every person's right to a fair trial, including: the right to prosecution before properly-constituted, independent and impartial courts; the right to be informed promptly and in detail of the nature and cause of the charge; the right to a public trial; the right to an interpreter; the right to legal assistance; as well as the right to necessary time and facilities to prepare an adequate defence. Despite the array of international guarantees, the Israeli occupation continues to violate these rights as Israeli military courts fail to meet independence and impartiality requirements. Israeli military court judges have served in the Israeli army and interpreters are often not present during court hearings, even in cases where an interpreter is available, not all court proceedings are translated.

The Israeli occupation continues its string of violations by infringing on the prisoners' right to legal assistance and the right to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of a defence. Palestinian detainees are periodically banned from communications with their lawyers and hundreds of administrative detainees have no opportunity to prepare a defence because they are not informed of the reason for arrest or the charges or evidence against them. Every year, Israeli occupation authorities prosecute hundreds of Palestinians based on information and confessions extracted under duress during interrogation, where various forms of torture and inhuman treatment are exercised against them.²¹ In addition, the Israeli occupation routinely violate Palestinians' right to free speech as hundreds of Palestinians are arrested every year and charged with a range of offenses that revolve around their speaking up against the repression they face. These charges are primarily related to activities on social media. Israeli occupation authorities often consider Palestinian social media posts a form of incitement against the state, justifying the incarceration of Palestinians for months on end for the expression of a political opinion or support for a political party.

Every year, the Israeli occupation regime passes new legislations or amends existing laws and military orders to further tighten restrictions on the Palestinian people. The year 2020 saw several attempts of this nature, including the passing of a number of laws and military orders that gravely violate the rights of Palestinian prisoners to communicate with their families, seek legal counsel, as well as communicate with a lawyer in private. These restrictions were put in place in the name of COVID-19 precautions and under

21. For more information, see the chapter on Torture and Inhuman Treatment in this report.

the cover of the state of emergency declared in Israel.²² Moreover, in October 2020, the Israeli occupation officially declared the Democratic Progressive Student Pole (DPSP), the leftist bloc at Birzeit University, an “unlawful association.”²³ The targeting of the DPSP, and student activism more broadly, represents an attack on the right of Palestinian youth to freedom of expression and to form student unions, and comes as part of the Israeli occupation’s broader campaign of attempting to silence dissenting voices.

1. Amendments to Military Order no. 1827 and Consequent Impact on Human Rights Organizations and Prisoners’ Rights

Since the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, occupation authorities have used a military judicial system and military orders as an enforcement tool to extend hegemony and control over the Palestinian people. This oppression has been legitimised through legal language that even appears to abide by the Israeli domestic legal regime. For over 53 years, an apartheid, discriminatory judicial regime has been built to maintain the interests and security of Israel as the Occupying Power at the expense of the Palestinian people. This is a grave breach of the Occupying Power’s obligations according to IHL with regards to legislative and judicial systems.

Article 43 of the Hague Convention of 1907, as well as Articles 64 and 66 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, state that while the Occupying Power may subject the population of the occupied territory to legal provisions, the penal laws of the occupied territory must remain in force. Article 64 stipulates that the “tribunals of the occupied territory shall continue to function in respect of all offences covered by the said laws,” stressing that any new provisions must be “essential to enable the Occupying Power to fulfil its obligations” to the Hague conventions. These articles also state that tribunals shall be conducted in properly constituted, non-political military courts to prosecute only the gravest offenses against the security of the occupying power.

Despite the provisions of these conventions, over the years the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime has issued over 1800 military orders that impact all aspects of daily Palestinian life, criminalizing all forms of political and union activism and any other acts that might be considered in opposition to the Israeli occupation and its policies.

Throughout 2020, Addameer documented Amendment 67 to Military Order No. 1651 (Order Regarding Security Provisions, Consolidated Version–Judea and Samaria,

22. See the chapter on Defenseless Prisoners against COVID-19 in this report.

23. For more information, see the chapter on Students, Teachers, Journalists, and Human Rights Defenders under Arrest in this report.



2009) under No. 1827. This amendment adds to the original military order regarding trial procedures and crime definitions in the provisions of the Counter-Terrorism Law of 2016, particularly, the definitions of ‘harmful substance’, ‘weapon’, ‘chemical, biological or radioactive weapon’, among others. Notably, the amendment provided a general definition of ‘property’, the ‘property connected to an offence’ and ‘terrorist property’, which included moveable and immovable property, the rights thereof, and any other property emerged or derived from that property or the profit generated therefrom. Moreover, ‘property transaction’ was broadly defined to cover the granting and/or receipt of investment, possession, transfer, etc.

With regards to the delineated ‘terrorist property,’ the definition covers a wide range of possible aspects, mainly the properties of any “unlawful association” under the broad definition inscribed by the British Defence (Emergency) Regulations of 1945, particularly Article 84 thereof. Accordingly, ‘terrorist properties’ not only include properties owned and controlled by the association, but also entail all properties that has been transferred to others or is in partnership with others.

The second part of the definition of ‘terrorist property’ applies to each and every aspect of property that was used to enable the commission of any offense under provision 251 of the Military Order no. 1651 pertaining to “incitement and support of a hostile organization” or any offense under the provisions of the first amendment to Military Order no. 1651. This includes a long list of actions criminalised by the Israeli occupation, from political activism and membership to a Palestinian political party to the throwing of stones; all these actions are encompassed under the umbrella term of “terrorism.”

Israeli occupation authorities replaced article 60 of Military Order No. 1651, which pertained to the seizure of any goods, objects, certificates, or even animals that were used in a violation of the order or that were granted to reward or facilitate the execution of an offense. The amendment of article 6 of Military Order No. 1827 added to article 60 all property belonging to an unlawful association. The article allows for the seizure of any goods of equal value in place of the goods intended for seizure. If the property intended for seizure are monetary funds, Israeli occupation authorities have the right to seize any other monetary funds owned, possessed, or controlled by individuals or organizations, including funds deposited in bank accounts.

Furthermore, Order no. 1827 introduced new articles regarding penalties against a person who uses the property to commit an offense or provide a reward for the commission of an offense. Such persons and associations become liable to imprisonment for ten years



alongside a hefty fine, even if the recipient of the reward is not the person who committed or planned the offense. The order also imposes a prison sentence of seven years for anyone who did not intend to use the property for the purpose of carrying out an offense but was aware of the possibility that an offense may take place. Similarly, a person who undertakes any transaction or transfer of property of an unlawful association is liable to imprisonment for seven years.

In a similar vein, the new provisions include a penalty of imprisonment for five years for any person who facilitates the execution of an offense that has a ten-year sentence. If an offense is punishable by life in prison, a person is liable to imprisonment for 15 years if he facilitates the perpetration of said offense by providing a venue to execute the offense, falsifying documents, preparing tools, gathering information, or aiding in the means of escape such as through a tunnel or road.

Close inspection reveals how the new amendments deeply impact the Palestinian reality. The new provisions send a message to banks operating in the oPT regarding the accounts of Palestinian prisoners, detainees and martyrs, warning of the seizure of funds in these accounts under the pretext that they could be considered a ‘reward’ for committing a crime. What is graver is that newly instated provisions allow the seizure and forfeiture of “terrorist property” based on these broad definitions, as well as the nullified British Defence (Emergency) Regulations. Consequently, the Israeli military commander is granted further authority to declare any association, union, political party, student bloc, sports club or other organizations as an “unlawful” association. Notably, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), along with the majority of the Palestinian political parties and student blocs, have already been declared “unlawful associations” under Israeli military orders and the above mentioned emergency regulations.²⁴

Moreover, amendment 67 also increases the penalty for the person chairing or leading an “unlawful association” to imprisonment for 25 years. If the association is guilty of premeditated murder, the penalty is a life sentence, and any person who holds a position in the association is liable to imprisonment for 10 years.²⁵

This amendment cannot be read in isolation from the entirety of the Israeli military orders that regulate the work of military courts and judicial procedures, as well as the powers granted to Israeli soldiers and military commanders. In the case of the latter, military commanders have the authority to declare any organization an “unlawful association” based on undisclosed evidence in “secret files”. Their decision cannot be appealed before

24. List of organizations Declared as unlawful associations, No legal frontiers, last updated in 2010. Available at: <http://nolegalfrontiers.org/military-orders/mil089ed2.html?lang=en>.

25. For more information on the subject, see the chapter on Administrative Detention in this report.



military courts and must be brought before an ad-hoc military committee. The arbitrary use of “secret files” is especially highlighted in the files of administrative detention cases. Various United Nations committees, including the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Committee against Torture have deemed the Israeli practice of administrative detention using “secret files” as a form of arbitrary arrest, even amounting to psychological torture, both of which are considered a war crime and possibly a crime against humanity in accordance with International Law.

In a grave violation of the integral principles of the law, the majority of the recent amendments violate the presumption of innocence where the burden of proof is shifted from the prosecution to the defence.²⁶ The amended provisions state that a suspect must prove that she or he is not a member of an “unlawful association” or that the seized properties do not belong to an unlawful association and were not used in the commission of an offense.

2. New Proposed Bill to Criminalize Human Rights Work against the Occupation

The year 2020 witnessed the rise of new Israeli efforts to curtail human rights work. Knesset members Avi Dichter and Mattan Cohen, among others, proposed a bill to amend Article 114C of the Israeli Penal Law to broaden the definition of “foreign agent”. Article 114A states that “if a person knowingly maintained contact with a foreign agent and had no reasonable explanation therefore, then he is liable to fifteen years imprisonment.” The original definition of a “foreign agent” in Article 114C includes “a person who on reasonable grounds may be suspected to have acted or to have been sent to act on behalf of or for a foreign state or a terrorist organization for the collection of secret information or for any other activity liable to injure the security of the State of Israel, as well as a person who may on reasonable grounds be suspected of being a member of a terrorist organization, of being connected to it or of being active on its behalf.”

The bill proposes a change in the terminology, replacing “foreign agent” with “foreign political entity” as defined in Article 36A of the Israeli Non-Profit Organizations’ Law. The definition includes but is not limited to a foreign country, including an association, organization or group of foreign entities, as well a local or regional authority or a governing authority of a foreign country or of a country that has entered into an agreement with another foreign country. According to the law, “foreign political entity” also includes the

26. For more information on this subject, see <https://bit.ly/3aYWSjy>



Palestinian Authority, or a corporation established by the laws of a foreign entity. The preface to the bill outrightly mentions the Palestinian Authority and the European Union, as the Knesset members argue that the current definition of a foreign agent in the Penal Law is insufficiently archaic and does not meet the parameters of the shifting international landscape that Israel has to navigate. The bill proposer added that, “New actors have joined the international arena, including the Palestinian Authority, which is not a state nor is it defined as a terrorist organization, and the European Union, which is also not a state, as well as other foreign actors and corporations that represent foreign states or serve as their proxies.” The proposed broadening of the definition of a “foreign agent” is a prime example of continued Israeli attempts to crackdown and further restrict human rights organizations.

The proposed bill explicitly targets organizations that cooperate with or receive support from the European Union or the Palestinian Authority. It aims to further curtail the work of human rights organizations by portraying their work as a form of contact with foreign entities. Adopting this new terminology into the Penal Law criminalizes the work of human rights organizations, and subjects them to the constant threat of Israeli censorship, accusations, and legal pursuit. In the context of previous legislation such as the “Law for Prevention of Damage to State of Israel through Boycott” (the Anti-BDS Law) and the “Transparency Requirements for Parties Supported by Foreign State Entities Bill” (the NGO Funding Transparency Law), it is clear that enacting the bill constitutes a dangerous escalation. The proposed legislation would not only further limit the shrinking space of rights organizations, but, most importantly, would reduce human rights work to a criminal offense. The Israeli occupation’s definition of collecting secret intelligence or working on behalf of a foreign state/entity to threaten its security is already too broad and might now include attempts to expose its abuses and violations. The bill is part of comprehensive efforts by pro-Israel parties to exert pressure on the European Union and other international partners to halt support of Palestinian human rights organizations, or impose onerous conditions that would force Palestinian organizations to reject the support.

3. Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council a Constant Target

All individuals across Palestinian society are subject to arrest, including political leaders and members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), who are constantly harassed and arrested as part of Israeli efforts to weaken the Palestinian political body and prevent political figures from exercising their natural roles in Palestinian political and social life²⁷

27. Arresting Democracy: Pursuing Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association. Published on February 20th, 2018. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3rdeJJa>



The Israeli occupation has targeted members of the PLC since its establishment in 1996, through continuous arrests and harassment, most notably in the wake of the Palestinian legislative elections in 2006, when more than a third of the members were arrested, severely obstructing the council's work.²⁸

This stands in stark violation of numerous international conventions that guarantee the right to express political opinions and prohibit detention on political grounds. Article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that "Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."²⁹ Despite such international guarantees, the Israeli occupation systematically arrests Palestinian political leaders as part of a systemic policy aimed at obstructing the Palestinian political process and violating the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

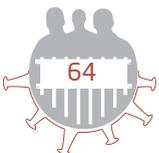
Throughout ,2020 more than ten members of the PLC were incarcerated in Israeli prisons ,including Marwan Barghouti ,Ahmad Sa'adat ,Mohammad Totah ,and Khalida Jarrar ³⁰. Similar to years prior ,the Israeli occupation continued to place PLC members under administrative detention based on accusations unsupported by evidence .The detained members included Hassan Yousef ,Azzam Salhab ,Mohammad Al-Nathsheh, Mohammad Abu Teir ,Mohammad Abu Jahshiyah ,Nizar Ramadan ,Khalid Tafesh ,and Ahmad Atwan .Notably ,PLC member Hassan Yousef was arrested ,twice in ,2020 and placed under administrative detention without charge or trial on both occasions ³¹. During the court sessions to uphold Yousef's detention ,the Israeli military prosecution used his membership in a banned organization and his participation in its political activities to argue that Yousef posed a threat to Israel's security that warranted his administrative detention.

28. Arresting Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association. Published in April of 2020. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3kst1Dr>

29. See the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, published in Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments of the United Nations, Volume 1, the UN, New York, 1993, Sales No. A.94.XIV-Vol.1, Part 1, page 28

30. For more information on member of the Palestinian Legislative Council Khalida Jarrar, see Addameer's profile on her. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AC%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1>.

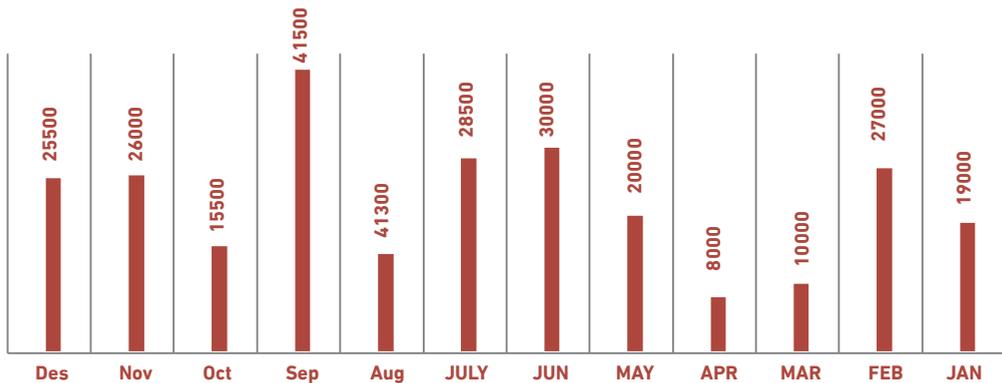
31. For more information on member of the Palestinian Legislative Council Hassan Yousef, see aAddameer's profile on him. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/%D8%AD%D8%B3%D9%86-%D9%8A%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%81>



4. The Israeli Occupation Profits from Exorbitant Fines Imposed on Prisoners

Every year ,the Israeli occupation procures millions from imposing hefty fines on Palestinian prisoners .The Israeli occupation fines a large number of prisoners and sets bail bonds that the prisoners are required to pay if they do not comply with the imposed state conditions .In ,2020 Addameer documented fines imposed on 90 prisoners whose cases it followed closely ,which amounted to 265,300 ILS ,an astronomical figure on its own ,especially if we take into consideration the number of Palestinians arrested every year .This is part of a broader Israeli policy that seeks to profit from the prisoners in particular ,and the Palestinian people in general .Not only are Palestinians sentenced to hefty fines ,but they are also incarcerated in prisons that lack basic necessities ,forcing them to purchase essential supplies from the prison canteen ³².

Total amount of fines, bails, and bonds of cases followed by Addameer in 2020



32. For more information on the Israeli economic exploitation of Palestinian prisoners, see Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association's study on the matter. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3b0YQ30>

Administrative Detention



1. Administrative Detention: A Never-Ending Policy

IOF arrest hundreds of Palestinians every year to hold under administrative detention, which allows for incarceration without filing charges or determining the duration of detention. An administrative detainee is issued a detention order for a duration of 2 to 6 months, which is subject to unlimited renewals³³. Despite the grave injustice of administrative detention, Israel exercises this policy against all Palestinians, including women, children, journalists, and members of the PLC. Administrative detention is a blatant violation of the fundamental principles of human rights that state a person's right to know the particulars of the charges against her or him, as Israel uses secret evidence undisclosed to the detainees or their lawyers to warrant their detention. These principles are guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which state that any detained person "shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him "and shall be provided with necessary time and facilities in order to prepare an adequate defence"³⁴.

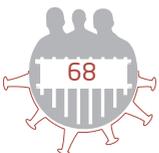
Throughout 2020, Israeli authorities issued 1114 administrative detention orders, including orders against PLC members and journalists, the latter of which included Amer Tawfiq Abu Hulleil, Mujahed Al-Saa'adi, Nidal Abu Aker, Musa'ab Sa'eed, Sami Al-Assi, Izzat Al-Shunnar, as well as the female journalist Bushra Al-Tawil. The chart below shows the distribution of administrative detention orders over the year.

2. Mass Arrest Campaign Targets the Ill and Elderly

Towards the end of 2020, IOF launched a mass arrest campaign that targeted more than fifty Palestinians over the age of 45, placing most of them under administrative detention despite the fact that the majority of them suffered from critical medical conditions and chronic illnesses, including heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and others. One prominent case is prisoner Ishaq Younis, a 75-year-old man from Ramallah, who was arrested on December 27, 2020, during a house raid at the break of dawn. He was transferred to Ofer prison, where he was issued a 4-month administrative detention order. On January 15, 2021, the Israeli military court upheld the administrative detention order.

33. For more information on administrative detention, see "Administrative Detention: A Secret File Haunts Palestinians," published by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association on November 28th, 2019. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2Ohg045>

34. See Article 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as Articles 9 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



against Younis without any regard to his health .He suffers from chronic arterial disease, acute back pains ,as well an intestinal hernia for which he requires a laparoscopy .Israeli authorities dismissed his critical health condition and advanced age ,arresting him in the midst of a global pandemic and paying no regard to his increased risk for severe complications if he were to contract Covid 19-under the extreme conditions of Israeli prisons .It should be noted that Younis has been placed under administrative detention multiple times prior .In ,2006 Israeli occupation authorities sought to impede his travel plans to seek treatment abroad for months before finally allowing it.

3. From Official Charges to Administrative Detention

For years ,the Israeli occupation has engaged in a practice of extending the detention of Palestinians incarcerated on an official list of charges ,by recasting them as administrative detainees ,and vice versa .As a result ,it is impossible for Palestinian detainees to know if they will be released on schedule ,if they will be issued an administrative detention order just hours before their planned release ,or if Israeli authorities will put forward a legal case on new charges .In ,2020 Addameer documented dozens of such cases ,including prisoners Nassar Jaradat ,Ahmad Qatamesh ,Rashad Nasr ,Zahi Al-Shushtari ,Sa'ed Al-Masri ,Ehab Masoud ,and many others .

Rida Zdouq

On December ,2019 ,12 IOF arrested-31 year-old Rida Zdouq from Bethlehem .Days later ,the Israeli military prosecution charged him with an offense dating back to early .2018On May ,2020 ,31 a deal was reached by which the military court ruled that time served was sufficient.

Despite the deal and the court's decision to uphold it ,the prosecution made its intentions clear ;it stressed that it did not approve of Zdouq's release ,and therefore intended to issue an administrative detention order against him .The military prosecution successfully circumvented the deal and issued a-4 month detention order against Zdouq ,ending on September.2020 ,30

Zdouq's case is a prime example of the military prosecution's arbitrary practices against Palestinians .His arrest by its very nature was controversial ,as he was one of many who were arrested for alleged offenses dating back a year or more prior to their detention.



In addition ,the Israeli prosecution refused to uphold the deal it reached with Zdouq's lawyer ,issuing an administrative detention order against him at the last second .The military prosecution continues to demonstrate its arbitrary standards of dealing with Palestinian detainees ,paying little regard to court rulings and deals ,resorting instead to the administrative detention of Palestinians whose release it deems unacceptable.

Wajdi Daraghmeh :Overlapping Charges and Administrative Detention Orders

Name :Wajdi Adel Mohammad Daraghmeh

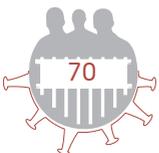
Date of birth :January2000 ,20

Date of arrest :February2020 ,13

Place of residence:Dheisheh refugee camp ,Bethlehem



On February ,2020 ,13 IOF raided Wajdi Daraghmeh's house in the early hours of the day and arrested him .One week later ,the Israeli military prosecution charged him with incitement on Facebook .The charge included six sub-items ,all of which referenced allegations that Daraghmeh shared photographs and posters in support of banned political parties ,as well as photographs of martyrs and national leaders .During the court deliberations ,the prosecution requested holding Daraghmeh until the end of court proceedings .In response ,Addameer's lawyer demanded his immediate release based on multiple judicial precedents in which detainees who received similar charges were released .The military judge agreed to Addameer's request ,stating that while Daraghmeh committed a clear offense ,incitement on social media websites ,the offense itself did not warrant his detention until the end of court proceedings .Subsequently ,the judge ruled for Daraghmeh's release on a bail of 2500 ILS and two second-party bonds of 2500 ILS ,provided that he attended all future court sessions .The prosecution was awarded 72 hours to appeal the ruling .It did not agree with the judge's decision to release Daraghmeh and within 72 hours ,the military commander issued a-6 month administrative detention order against him.



On August ,2020 ,13 days before the administrative detention order against Daraghmeh ended ,IOF transferred him to Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center ,where he was interrogated on new suspicions .Daraghmeh's detention was extended four times for the purpose of interrogation to a total of 27 days ,during which his administrative detention order was renewed .In the court session to uphold the order on August ,31 the judge reduced the duration of Daraghmeh's administrative detention, ending it on August ,2020 ,31 due to a new file submitted against him .On September ,2020 ,6 the military prosecution filed a new indictment of more than ten items against him.

Daraghmeh's case is an evident example of the discriminatory policies that Israeli military courts yield against the Palestinian people ,as well of the arbitrary abuse of administrative detention .The Israeli occupation has systematically hindered the release of prisoners by issuing administrative detention orders against numerous Palestinians who were released by court rulings .Daraghmeh was issued an administrative detention order despite undergoing interrogation .Once a legal case was built against him ,the court reduced his administrative detention order to recast his detention to an official list of charges instead .These practices clearly show that IOF adopt administrative detention as an alternative means to trial when unable to provide evidence to support their claims .Until the time of writing this report ,Daraghmeh is still being prosecuted on two indictments in separate court sessions.



4. Individual Hunger Strike in the Face of Administrative Detention

For years, Palestinian prisoners have resorted to individual or mass hunger strikes to protest the various Israeli policies and practices against them, including prison conditions, solitary confinement, isolation, and many others. Nevertheless, prisoners employ hunger strikes most often in protest of the policy of administrative detention. Addameer alone documented 33 cases of hunger strike in 2020, the majority of which were in protest of administrative detention.

The most prominent cases this year were of prisoners Maher Al-Akhras and Abdel Rahman Sheibat. On July 27, 2020, IOF arrested Maher Al-Akhras, 49 years old from Jenin, and transferred him to Huwara detention center where he declared an open hunger strike in protest of his arrest. Later, the Israeli authorities issued a 4-month administrative detention order against him, and transferred him to Ofer prison. Israeli occupation authorities dismissed Al-Akhras' hunger strike until his health started deteriorating; he was transferred to Ramleh prison clinic until early September before he was transferred to Kaplan medical center.³⁵

On September 23, 2020, an Israeli court suspended Al-Akhras' administrative detention. The court ruling was nothing more than a pretense that aimed to circumvent his hunger strike by misleading Al-Akhras, as well as human rights organizations, to believe that his administrative detention had been suspended, so as to motivate him to end his strike. However, it soon became apparent that there was never any intention of releasing him after an Israeli military court rejected his lawyer's request for his immediate release.³⁶

Al-Akhras' hunger strike lasted around 103 days, during which his health deteriorated significantly. On November 6, 2020, Al-Akhras ended his hunger strike after reaching an agreement with Israeli intelligence to not renew his administrative detention order. On November 26, 2020, Al-Akhras was released after the duration of his original detention order ended. It should be noted that he was previously arrested in 1989, 2004, 2009, and 2018.

Al-Akhras represents one of hundreds of Palestinian detainees who are systematically

35. See "Urgent Intervention to Immediately Release Hunger Striking Administrative Detainee Maher Al-Akhras amid Imminent Threat to Life", published on October 7th, 2020. Date of access: March 2nd, 2021. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/news/urgent-intervention-immediately-release-hunger-striking-administrative-detainee-maher-al-akhras>.

36. See "Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council Condemns International Community's Silence on the Case of Administrative Detainee Maher Al-Akhras whose Hunger Strike Poses an Imminent Threat to his Life," published on November 13th, 2020. Date of access: March 3rd, 2021. Available at <https://bit.ly/3vdr3vH>.



targeted as the Israeli occupation places them under administrative detention for months, even years, without charges. This is a grave violation of their right to be informed of the charges immediately upon their arrest and to be provided with the necessary facilities to prepare an adequate defence.

5. Abdel Rahman Sheibat Protests Administrative Detention with Hunger Strike

On June 4, 2020, IOF arrested Abdel Rahman Sheibat, 30 years old from Bethlehem, and issued a 4-month administrative detention order against him. On August 19, 2020, Sheibat went on a hunger strike in protest of his administrative detention, particularly since this was not his first detention. Sheibat was arrested in 2017, and placed under administrative detention for two years before he was released in 2019.

During his hunger strike, Addameer lawyer visited Sheibat, who recalls the conditions of his strike:

“The start was extremely difficult, especially since they did not transfer me from the section I was in, so I was around other prisoners... On August 23, 2020, I was transferred into a solitary confinement cell in Naqab prison where I was held for almost two weeks. The cell was in an extremely poor condition that was made worse when the IOF would deliberately confiscate my mattress from 6AM to 7PM, which forced me to lie down on the metal bed frame, without a mattress.”

Sheibat further describes the conditions of his solitary confinement in Naqab prison, which included being held in an extremely hot cell without a fan, as well as being subjected to repeated inspections, especially late at night. Two weeks later, Sheibat was transferred to the isolation cells in Eshel prison before he was taken to Ramleh prison clinic until September 22, 2020 when he finally ended his hunger strike after reaching an agreement with the Israeli authorities not to renew his administrative detention order.



Health Complications during Hunger Strike

Prisoners on hunger strike suffer numerous health complications. Prisoner Sheibat informed Addameer's lawyer during one visit that during his hunger strike, he suffered from joint and bone aches, which escalated with time until he was no longer able to stand up or even sit down. Moreover, Sheibat suffered from blurred vision, arrhythmia, occasional shortness of breath, acute headaches, stomach aches, as well as haematuria (blood in urine). Israeli occupation authorities turns a blind eye to the various health complications Palestinian prisoner suffer during hunger strike, often intentionally renewing administrative detention orders during their strike as in the case of Sheibat. This is a stark example of the Israeli occupation's policies' disregarding the life and suffering of the Palestinian prisoners, and undercutting their efforts to combat such policies.



**Students, Teachers, Journalists, and Human Rights
Defenders under Arrest**



The Israeli occupation continued to target Palestinian students in 2020, arresting more than 70 students from the various Palestinian universities, including An-Najah National University, Palestine Technical University-Kadoori, and Al-Quds University-Abu Dis. Still, Birzeit University continues to be most targeted by arbitrary and mass arrests as Addameer documented the arrest of over 35 of its students throughout the year, many of whom were subjected to torture and inhuman treatment.³⁷

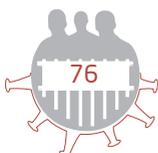
1. University Students are a Constant Target

Basel Barghouti

Throughout 2020, Israel arrested dozens of Birzeit University students, including Basel Barghouti who was arrested on April 21, 2020. At 5am, IOF raided the Barghouti household and broke through the front door. Barghouti was brutally arrested as Israeli soldiers kicked and beat him with rifle butts on his face, shoulders, and back. He recalls, “I was dressed in blue and white clothes with a hoodie, which is the designated Covid-19 clothing. However, my clothes were torn from all the beating I suffered.”

Hours later, Barghouti arrived in Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center where he was interrogated for more than 30 days, during which he was subjected to torture and ill treatment, as well as a ban on meeting with a lawyer for over two weeks. In his affidavit to Addameer, Barghouti notes that he was held in an extremely cold cell, the walls of which were of rough texture that made it difficult for a detainee to lean on. Barghouti was interrogated for prolonged periods of time, sometimes for more than 24 hours. On numerous occasions, he was forced into stress positions in the interrogation chair for long hours, at times up to 20 consecutive hours. Moreover, he was threatened with the use of military interrogation techniques. During his interrogation, Barghouti went on hunger strike for over 10 days in protest of the ban on meeting with a lawyer, which constitutes a violation of his right to seek legal counsel. Additionally, Barghouti refused to drink water for two days during his hunger strike, which caused him to lose consciousness at one point.

37. For more information, see “Statement about the Israeli occupation’s arrest of Birzeit University students, faculty members” by Birzeit University, published on January 23rd, 2020. Available at: <https://www.birzeit.edu/en/news/statement-about-israeli-occupations-arre...>



Birzeit Female Students under Arrest

The years 2019 and 2020 witnessed a notable increase in the arrest of female university students, particularly from Birzeit University; among them are Ruba Assi, Elyaa Abu Hijleh,³⁸ Shatha Al-Tawil, and Layan Kayed.³⁹ The indictments filed against them by the Israeli military prosecutor primarily revolved around their involvement in student union activities, which stands in violation of a number of international legal conventions that guarantee the right to form and join unions, the right to freedom of expression, and the right to political association.⁴⁰

On November 2, 2020, IOF arrested Birzeit University student Shatha Al-Tawil after raiding her house. During the arrest, Israeli soldiers harassed and abused Al-Tawil as female soldiers repeatedly shoved her and dragged her by her hair, pushed her into a wall as she was walking blindfolded, and constantly mocked her. Additionally, during her transfer, she was forced to sit on the floor of the military vehicle. Al-Tawil was transferred to the quarantine section of Hasharon prison, commonly known as Al-Ma'baar, where she was held for more than 10 days in extreme, inhuman conditions. Months prior, IPS began holding Palestinian women prisoners in Al-Ma'baar, which lacks basic living standards, for 10 to 25 days under the guise of quarantine.⁴¹

Israeli Occupation Designates a Palestinian Student Bloc as an “Unlawful Association”

On August 23, 2020, the Israeli occupation regime declared the Democratic Progressive Student Pole (DPSP), the leftist bloc at Birzeit University, an “unlawful association” based on the Defense (Emergency) Regulations of 1945. This is a prime example of the systematic violations by the Israeli occupation of Palestinian youth’s right to freedom of expression, the right to form or join unions, as well the right to political association enshrined in numerous international conventions. It should be noted that the Israeli

38. For more information on student Elyaa Abu Hijleh, visit Addameer’s profile on her. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/ar/node/4349>

39. Layan Kayed had recently finished her studies in Birzeit University; however, the indictment against her revolved around her student union activities in Birzeit University. For more information on Kayed, see Addameer’s profile on her. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%AF>

40. For more information, see “LPHR and Addameer complaint to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on the ongoing Israeli military detention of three female Palestinian students from Birzeit University” by Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights, published on October 2nd, 2020. Available at: <https://lphr.org.uk/latest-news/lphr-and-addameer-complaint-to-the-un-working-group-on-arbitrary-detention-on-the-ongoing-israeli-military-detention-of-three-female-palestinian-students-from-birzeit-university/>

41. For more information on the matter, see the chapter on Women Prisoners in this report.



occupation's decision to declare DPSP an unlawful association was not an isolated event, but rather a part of a broader campaign consisting of various policies, first beginning in 2019 and continuing throughout 2020, that targeted Palestinian universities, along with political and social activists.⁴²

2. High School Student Osama Ali Sat for His Secondary Exam Before Arrest, Learned He Passed in an Israeli Detention Center

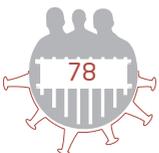
On June 29, 2020, IOF raided Osama Ali's house at 4am and arrested him, leading him away blindfolded and in plastic handcuffs. In his affidavit to Addameer, Ali recalls that he walked bound and blindfolded for a long time, during which Israeli soldiers cursed at him repeatedly, yanked his hair, grabbed him by the neck, and let him walk unguided into thistles and rocks, one soldier hit him on the back causing immense pain. Ali was held in Petah Tikva interrogation center for over two weeks, during which he was subjected to inhuman and degrading treatment, including prolonged interrogation sessions, constant screaming and cursing, threats of arresting and harming family members, as well threats of house demolitions.

It should be noted that Ali sat for his Secondary Education Certificate Exam, commonly known as the Tawjihi exam, before his arrest. However, he was denied the opportunity to celebrate as he was incarcerated in an Israeli prison cell when it was announced that he successfully passed the exam. Ali's case is hardly a rare occurrence. The Israeli occupation arrests dozens of high school and university students every year, violating all international conventions that guarantee the right to education, while also jeopardizing their academic careers, especially since a significant number of the detained students, predominantly at the high school level, never resume their education after their release.

3. Professor Imad Barghouthi under Arrest, Again

On July 16, 2020, IOF arrested Professor Imad Barghouthi, 53 years old from Beit Rima, at a checkpoint near Anata, a town northeast of Jerusalem. Barghouthi's wife tells Addameer

42. See "Israel's Designation of the Democratic progressive student Pole an "unlawful association" is another manifestation of its apartheid regime", Addameer Support and Human Rights Association, published on December 8th, 2020. Date of access: February 10th, 2021. Available at: <http://www.addameer.org/news/israel%E2%80%99s-designation-democratic-progressive-student-pole-%E2%80%9Cunlawful-association%E2%80%9D-another>.



that Israeli occupation authorities extended his detention several times before the military judge ordered his release on an ILS 10,000 bail. The prosecution objected to the ruling and requested an extension of time until the end of the day to respond. By the end of the day, the prosecution had issued Barghouthi a 4-month administrative detention order.

During the court session to uphold the administrative detention order, the Israeli prosecution noted that Barghouthi is a member of a “banned organization” and an active participant in the organization’s meetings, along with suspected “incitement” via social media outlets. Consequently, the prosecution requested the detention order to be upheld in its entirety. The defense countered the prosecution’s claims, stressing that this is the third arrest of Barghouthi, a professor of physics and a lecturer in Al-Quds University-Abu Dis, noting that the administrative detention order came solely in the wake of the prosecution’s failure to prepare an evidence-based legal case against him.

Despite the defense’s efforts, the military judge ruled in favor of the prosecution, noting his adamant belief that Barghouthi poses a significant future risk that warrants his administrative detention in order to protect the region’s security and public safety. It should be noted that IOF previously arrested Barghouthi in 2015 and 2016.

4. Arrests on Charges of Incitement on Social Media Websites: Khairi Hanoun Embodies a Constant Policy

Every year, the Israeli occupation arrests dozens of Palestinians on charges of “incitement” on social media outlets based on Articles 251 and 199 of chapter G of the order regarding Security Provisions [consolidated version] (Judea and Samaria) No. 1651 of 2009.⁴³ These articles set a broad definition of incitement, which provides the occupation regime with a legal cover to arrest over 50 Palestinians every year on charges of incitement against the Israeli occupation and sharing anti-Israel slogans. Khairi Hanoun is one notable case documented by Addameer in 2020.

At 2:30am on September 21, 2020, IOF raided Anabta, a town near Tulkarm. The raid, accompanied by heavy gunfire and the extensive use of tear gas, solely targeted Khairi

⁴³ For more information, see “Arrests on charges of “incitement” on social media platforms and Israeli government policy: a Facebook case study” published by Addameer Support and Human Rights Association. Available at: https://www.addameer.org/sites/default/files/publications/facebook_paper.pdf

Hanoun's house during arrest. Hanoun, 64 years old, was cruelly arrested to the point of not being allowed to change out of his pajamas before forcing him out of his house. He was transferred to a detention center in an Israeli settlement where he was interrogated by an Israeli Border Guard unit. Since the arrest coincided with a full COVID-19 lockdown instituted by the Israeli occupation, Addameer was unable to locate Hanoun for three days until he mentioned that he was being held in Ofer prison during a phone call to seek legal counsel. This case sheds light on the urgent matter of the Israeli occupation's violations against Palestinian detainees during the COVID-19 outbreak.⁴⁴

Malicious Allegations

On September 24, 2020, Hanoun appeared before Salem Military Court where the prosecution requested the extension of his detention in order to file charges against him. The defense countered, noting Hanoun's advanced age and the nature of his interrogation revolving around social media posts which ultimately convey that he does not pose a real threat warranting his detention.



A photograph depicting Israeli occupation forces assaulting Khairi Hanoun during a demonstration

Nevertheless, the court agreed to extend his detention for 6 days until the prosecution filed charges against him. On September 29, 2020, the Israeli military prosecutor filed an indictment against Hanoun which included incitement on social media outlets and support of a “banned organization”.

⁴⁴. For more information on this matter, see the chapter on Defenseless Prisoners against Covid-19 in this report.

The prosecution claimed that Hanoun's posts on social media websites could "sway public opinion" and "pose a threat to the public's safety," citing the number of Hanoun's friends and followers, as well the number of views on his posts in the indictment. The majority of these posts date back to 2019, a year prior to his arrest. These practices raise numerous questions, most notably: What threat can a person pose by posting on social media websites? How can posts dating back to 2019 pose a threat a year later? It should be noted that Hanoun's arrest came primarily in the wake of his participation in a demonstration against the confiscation of lands in the Tulkarm area, and after a photograph depicting one Israeli soldier stepping on his head circulated in the media.⁴⁵

In the same court session, the judge ruled in the case against Khairi Hanoun, sentencing him to one month in prison, three months of suspended jail time, and an ILS 1000 fine. Hanoun's arrest is a blatant violation of the Palestinian people's right to freedom of expression guaranteed in numerous international conventions, including Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Hanoun was arrested again in January of 2021, where he was detained for one month before his release in February.

5. Israeli Occupation Targets Palestinian Journalists

Every year, IOF target Palestinian journalists through arrests and beatings, shooting at them as they cover Israeli attacks against Palestinians, closing down their social media accounts, and suppressing their right to share their content. Some journalists face forcible transfer and deportation from their place of residence. The Palestinian Ministry of Information documented more than 350 violations by Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian journalists in 2020.⁴⁶ Similarly, the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA) documented 11 cases of police summons and interrogations of journalists, 13 cases of brief detention that mostly included interrogation, as well as 16 cases in which Palestinian journalists were arrested, detained, and placed under administrative detention.⁴⁷ In 2020, Israel issued administrative detention orders against journalists Amer Tawfiq Abu Halliel, Mujahed Al-Sa'adi, Nidal Abu Aker, Mus'ab Said, Sami Al-Assi, and Izzat Al-Shunnar. In addition, female journalist Bushra Al-Tawil was arrested and placed under administrative detention.⁴⁸

45. "Israeli officer attacks Palestinian demonstrator, kneels on his neck and prevents his evacuation at gunfire" by the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published on September 24th, 2020. Available at: https://www.btselem.org/video/20200924_officer_attacks_demonstrator_and_kneels_on_his_neck_near_the_a_village_of_shufah#full.

46. The annual report on Israeli violations against Palestinian journalists and media institutes of 2020 by the Palestinian Ministry of Information, published on February 4th, 2021. Available at: <https://www.minfo.ps/home/Details/10990>

47. Media Freedoms Violations in Palestine 2020 by the Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (MADA), page 10.

48. For more information on the case of woman prisoner Bushra Al-Tawil, see Addameer's profile on her. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D9%88%D9%8A%D9%84>



6. Human Rights Defenders Stand Up to the Occupation

Throughout 2020, the Israeli occupation continued to arrest human rights defenders and activists. On July 30, 2020, IOF raided the house of Mahmoud Nawaja, General Coordinator of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).⁴⁹ Nawaja was arrested, and transferred a few hours later to Al-Jalameh interrogation center where he was interrogated for over two weeks. During his interrogation, Nawaja was cursed and screamed at, forced into stress positions in the interrogation chair, as well as banned from meeting with his lawyer. The Israeli military prosecution claimed that Nawaja was a suspected member of an “unlawful association.”⁵⁰ Despite the lengthy interrogation, the prosecution failed to submit any evidence in support of the accusations. Consequently, the military court ordered Nawaja’s release on August 17, 2020.

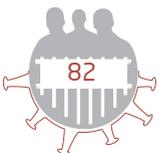
The Israeli occupation regime’s campaign targeting Palestinian human rights defenders continued. On June 30, 2020, Addameer lawyer Salah Hammouri was arrested as he left a medical center in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of Jerusalem. He was transferred to Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center where he was held for almost a week before the court ordered his conditional release on July 7, 2020. The conditions included a 90-day ban on communicating with certain persons, an ILS 2000 bail, as well a third-party bond of ILS 1000.

Two months after his release, Hammouri was summoned to Al-Moscobiyeh Interrogation Center on September 3, 2020 where he was handed a notice revoking his permanent Jerusalem residency status by orders of the Israeli Minister of Interior. The notice included claims that Hammouri was a member of an “unlawful association” according to Israeli military orders, and referenced his multiple previous arrests for “security offenses.”⁵¹ Hammouri’s case sets a dangerous precedent by the Israeli occupation regime for the revocation of the residency status of a Jerusalemite who had no real involvement in military activities.

49. Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality against an Israeli regime of settler colonialism, apartheid and occupation over the Palestinian people. BDS upholds the simple principle that Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. <https://bdsmovement.net/what-is-bds>

50. For more information, see “Salem Military Court Extends the Detention of BDS General Coordinator Mahmoud Nawaja” by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, published on August 2nd, 2020. Available at <https://bit.ly/33WJdoQ>

51. For more information on the case of Salah Hammouri, see <http://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/%D8%B5%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D8%AD%D8%B3%D9%86-%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A..>



• **Khitam Saafin: Social Activist under Administrative Detention**⁵²

Name: Khitam Khatib Saafin

Age: 56 years

Area of residence: Ramallah

Marital status: married

Occupation: President of the Union of Palestinian

Women's Committees



On November 2, 2020, Israeli Occupation Forces raided the house of social activist Khitam Saafin at 2 in the morning. She was arrested and transferred to Ofer detention center where she was thoroughly searched before she was taken for interrogation, where she was interrogated and had accusations laid against her on several issues. Saafin was later transferred to Hasharon Prison where she was tested for COVID-19, and quarantined in severe conditions for almost ten days. Initially, she was held in a room with surveillance cameras before she was transferred to another cell. Saafin and other women prisoners who are held in Hasharon prison are subjected to constant harassment by the criminal prisoners held alongside them.

On November 8, 2020, the Israeli military commander issued Saafin a 6-month administrative detention order ending on May 1st, 2021. The court hearing to uphold the order was held via video conference on November 10, 2020. In the session, the judge claimed that the detention order was based on Saafin's involvement in a "banned organization," noting that she poses a threat to the region's security. Furthermore, the judge stated his conviction that it was imperative not to disclose the Israeli intelligence evidence against her so as to not compromise the region's security, ruling against the release of the secret files against her. Evenso, the judge claimed to have exercised strict judicial oversight over the legal proceedings in her case, and decided to reduce the administrative detention order, with the possibility of future renewal. The judge concluded his ruling by stating that administrative detention is "the only way" to avert the threat Saafin poses. In the end, the administrative detention order was reduced to two months with the possibility of future renewal.

Addameer's lawyer appealed the court's decision to uphold the administrative detention order, while, in parallel, the military prosecution appealed the decision to reduce the order to two months. On December 20, 2020, the court rejected both appeals, upholding the original ruling of reducing the detention order to end on March 1. It should be noted that Israeli occupation authorities issued a new 4-month administrative detention order against Saafin, ending on June 30, 2021. Saafin had been previously arrested and placed under administrative detention in 2017.

52. For more information on the case of social activist Khitam Saafin, see Addameer's profile on her. Available at: <http://www.addameer.org/ar/prisoner/%D8%B5%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D8%AD%D8%B3%D9%86-%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A..>

Collective Punishment



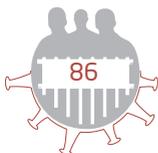
The year 2020 was marked by a pronounced escalation of the Israeli occupation regime's practice of collective punishment against Palestinians. IOF repeatedly raided a number of Palestinian cities and villages, arresting dozens of Palestinians in mass arrest campaigns that targeted all members of the Palestinian society. One notable policy that emerged this year was the arrest of several members of the same family, or the arrest of a family member as leverage to coerce their relatives to turn themselves in. Another prominent policy in 2020 was the escalation of the practice of house demolitions. IOF demolished the houses of 6 prisoners, leaving dozens of Palestinians homeless despite the raging global pandemic amidst local and international calls to implement stay-at-home orders to combat COVID-19. Such practices violate the fundamental international legal conventions, particularly Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War which states that, "No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she has not personally committed."

1. Repeated Raids of Palestinian Cities and Villages

Ya'bad

In April 2020 alone, IOF raided Ya'bad village, southwest of Jenin, dozens of times, launching a mass arrest campaign that targeted the elderly, women, and children. Dozens of houses were demolished, and numerous residents were handed summons while others were subjected to field interrogations and constant harassment. The campaign started after the Israeli occupation regime claimed that one Ya'bad resident was connected to the killing of an Israeli soldier during a prior raid in the village. Over 50 people were arrested, including entire families that were detained or interrogated⁵³. **N.AB**, the head of the Social Affairs committee in Ya'bad town council, recalls, "At the break of dawn on May 12th, 2020, IOF raided the houses of numerous residents in Ya'bad village, leading a number of them to an unknown location. They were interrogated and subjected to ill treatment as they were left in the open under the sun for long hours before many of them were arrested."

53. For more information, see "Israeli Collective Punishment against Ya'bad Residents" by Al-Haq, published on May 20th, 2020. Available at: <https://www.alhaq.org/ar/monitoring-documentation/16882.html>





A photograph depicting some of the arrests against Ya'bad residents

The family of **N.AB.** is explicitly representative of the practice of collective punishment as IOF targeted every single member of the family for over 30 days with daily house raids, summons, threats, and arrests. IOF arrested **N.A.**, his wife, daughter, along with all of his brothers and nephews after Israeli occupation authorities claimed that N. had ties to the killing of an Israeli soldier. For 30 days, N.'s wife and daughter were arrested and summoned on an almost daily basis. Both of them note that during their interrogation sessions, they were cursed and screamed at while interrogators attempted to extract a confession on the identity of the perpetrator. Moreover, the punishment against **N.A.** included an order to close off one room in his house.⁵⁴

Such practices are an inherent part of the Israeli occupation's collective punishment policy against the Palestinian people, in their entirety. The nature of raids, ill treatment, and harassment against Ya'bad residents clearly showcase that the intended target is no longer the detainee himself, but also his entire family and neighbours.

Kobar

Over the last three years, Kobar village represents another example of the Israeli occupation regime's policy of collective punishment. The village's residents were subjected to routine raids, arrests, summons, and other collective penalties. In November of 2020, IOF specifically targeted the **Z.** family, subjecting its members to constant harassment and abuse in order to pressure an individual member to turn himself in.

Naturally ,the Israeli occupation's practice of collective punishment was not limited to the **Z.** family ,but included all the village residents .Over 25 Palestinians from Kobar were

54. Statistics on punitive house demolitions, The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published on December 14th, 2020. Date of access: December 30th, 2020. Available at: https://www.btselem.org/punitive_demolitions/statistics.

arrested, most of whom were interrogated on their relation to **R.Z.** During this collective punishment campaign, the **Z.** family was specifically targeted as a number of family members were arrested while their houses were repeatedly raided late at night or early morning. These raids aimed to terrorize the families by following a pattern of blowing up the front doors, destroying property, and employing military dogs to scare and attack the family. The raids escalated to include Israeli soldiers firing their weapons inside the houses.

Y.Z., who was among the **Z.** family members targeted by IOF, recalls: “At the break of dawn on November 11, 2020, occupation forces raided our four-story family house by blowing up the main door of the building. They raided my brother’s residence—he is ill and immobile due to a recent surgery. During the raid, the soldiers were accompanied by a large dog that immediately headed to my brother and my pregnant sister-in-law’s bedroom. Our mother woke up to the screams of the soldiers and tried to get into my bedridden brother’s room to help him up, but Israeli soldiers pushed her and raised their weapons at her, threatening her if she didn’t move away.”

Y.Z. continues, “Later on, they led the women, children, and my mother out of the house, but kept my ill brother inside. They inspected every room and shot more than 20 bullets inside the house, all of which aimed at the cupboards, walls, and beds.” Moreover, **R.Z.’s** wife and eldest son were arrested, and subjected to ill treatment to coerce R. to turn himself in.

Property destruction is a fundamental part of the Israeli occupation regime’s practices of collective punishment against the Palestinian people. Every year, Addameer documents dozens of cases where IOF destroy property to further harass and abuse Palestinians and coerce detainees. In 2020, Addameer documented dozens of cases in which Israeli soldiers destroyed furniture, tore out kitchen cupboards, poked holes in water tanks, demolished parts of walls, or tore them down entirely, along with a plethora of practices of property destruction that escalated at times to the firing of weapons inside homes.



2. Arresting Multiple Members of the Same Family

A prominent practice by the Israeli occupation regime in targeting Palestinians in 2020 was the arrest of multiple members from the same family. Addameer documented dozens of cases where IOF arrested several members of the same family, or arrested family members to coerce their relatives to turn themselves in. Similar to the aforementioned targeting of the Z. family, the Q. family from Bethlehem constitutes another example of this policy. On August 27, 2020, over 30 soldiers raided the Q. family household at 3:30 in the morning, ransacking, and searching it for half an hour before arresting all four Q. brothers.

Another example is the case of A.L., whose family house in Al-Mazraa Al-Gharbiya was raided at 3:30 in the morning on August 12, 2020. A.L. recalls,

“Immediately upon entering the house, the occupation forces started to ask about my son K. who wasn’t home at the time. The soldiers searched the house in a barbaric manner before the officer asked me and other family members in the house to call my son K. The officer told me that they will detain me until my son turns himself in, and indeed they took me out to the street. My sons S. and M. tried to convince the officer to arrest them instead of me on account of my illness: he arrested all three of us. The soldiers bound our hands with plastic handcuffs and we were led into a military jeep. After another family member intervened to convince the officer to let us go, the soldiers released us on the condition that K. turns himself in the following day which he did.”



A photograph depicting the extent of property destruction by Israeli soldiers in Kobar village

Similarly, the E. family was brutally targeted as IOF raided their family house in Deir Abu Mash’al village at 4 in the morning on September 2, 2020. S.E. notes: “This raid was different. There was a large number of soldiers who treated us rudely and cruelly. The second they entered the house, they tackled me to the ground and spread inside. The soldiers had photographs of my son E. When they reached my sons’ bedroom, they immediately attacked my son J., 17 years old, as one soldier kicked him in the back thinking that he was E. because both of them look extremely alike. When the soldiers realized that J. wasn’t the one they were looking for, they let him go.”

S.E. continues, “During the raid, the Israeli officer threatened to demolish the house and

bring it down on our heads. He told me that they would arrest me and my son **M.**, 19 years old, until my other son turns himself in. Indeed, the Israeli soldiers handcuffed and blindfolded me. I was transferred to Rantis checkpoint where I was left in a caravan for several hours before I was let go.”

It should be noted that in the hours following his release, **S.** and one of his sons received several threatening phone calls from the military officer of the region who demanded they turn themselves in again and pressure **E.** to do the same or else IOF would raid the house once more and destroy their property.

3. Standard Israeli Occupation Policy: Demolishing Houses of Palestinian Prisoners

An old Israeli occupation policy that remains in practice currently is house demolitions, a tactic used to punish entire families if one member committed an offense or posed a threat to the Israeli occupation regime. The policy stems from the regime’s belief that threatening the safety and security of family homes instills fear within the Palestinian community, and acts as a deterrence against committing future offenses against the occupation. However, an internal military investigation into the Israeli army in 2005 concluded that the policy fell short of achieving its desired goal as an active deterrent; as a result, Israeli occupation authorities ordered a halt to the policy, which did not last long.⁵⁵ In the wake of the kidnapping and killing of three Israelis in 2014, the Israeli occupation regime resumed its house demolition policy. At the time, the Israeli Supreme Court stated in a hearing on one demolition order that it never intended to fully abandon the policy, citing the changing circumstances of increased attacks as justification for reinstating house demolitions.⁵⁶

Throughout 2020, IOF demolished the houses of 6 Palestinian prisoners, including Waleed Hanatsheh from Ramallah, Qassam Shalabi from Kobar, and Yazan Maghames from Birzeit. Hanatsheh, Shalabi, and Maghames were arrested in 2019 under allegations of involvement in a military act that left one Israeli settler dead and others wounded. During interrogation, the detainees were subjected to extreme practices that included beatings, positional torture, sleep deprivation, military interrogation techniques, as well the use of

55. Amos Harel, IDF Panel Recommends Ending Punitive House Demolitions for Terrorists’ Families by Haaretz, published on February 17th, 2005. Date of access: September 5th, 2020. Available at: <https://www.haaretz.com/1.4749075>.

56. Home demolition as collective punishment, the Israeli information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published on November 11th, 2017. Date of access: November 18th, 2020. Available at: https://www.btselem.org/punitive_demolitions.



their families as leverage. Israeli occupation authorities issued house demolition orders before their trials ended, going ahead with the demolitions even before the military courts had reached a conviction on their cases.

In addition, IOF demolished the house of prisoner Ahmad Qanba' from Jenin in 2020. This was not the first time Qanba's house was demolished as Israeli occupation authorities claimed his involvement in a military operation carried out by the late Ahmad Jarrar that resulted in the death of one Israeli settler. Similarly, IOF demolished the house of prisoner Khalil Dweikat from Nablus following allegations that he stabbed an Israeli rabbi, killing him. Furthermore, IOF closed off one room in the house of prisoner Nazmi Abu Baker from Jenin after claiming he threw a rock at a soldier during a raid in Ya'bad village, hitting him in the head and killing him.⁵⁷ These practices left 22 Palestinians, including 7 children, homeless as the Israeli occupation regime continues to leverage house demolitions as an integral part of its collective punishment policy that targets entire families.⁵⁸ Moreover, a key issue with this policy is the absence of consistent standards when it comes to issuing demolition orders. At times, Israeli occupation authorities resort to demolishing a family's house entirely, while on other occasions they close off one or more rooms of a house, in retaliation of an alleged offense.



57. Statistics on punitive house demolitions, The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published on December 14th, 2020. Date of access: December 30th, 2020. Available at: https://www.btselem.org/punitive_demolitions/statistics.

58. Since 2016, Israeli forces demolished 63 houses, leaving 287 Palestinians, including 117 minors, homeless as part of the Israeli policy of punishing families. For more information, see "Amidst absence of accountability, Israel escalated collective punishments" by the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center- JLAC, published on June of 2020. Available at: <https://www.jlac.ps/userfiles/Impunity%20Reigns%20-%20%D8%BA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%A8%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A9.pdf>

House demolitions leave dozens of Palestinian families homeless, punishing them for an offense they did not personally commit- their only crime is their relation to the perpetrator of an offense. This practice is a gross violation of the basic standards of IHL, specifically Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits “any destruction by the Occupying Power of real or personal property,” except when “rendered absolutely necessary by military operations.” Furthermore, house demolitions serve to heavily coerce Palestinian detainees, as IOF continually use threats of demolition to pressure them during interrogation. Detainees are repeatedly told that they are to blame for leaving their families homeless, and that their actions against the Israeli occupation are the reason for separating their loved ones, and losing lifelong memories. It is imperative to note the severe psychological impact of such statements on the detainees, especially during interrogation where they are completely isolated from the outside world. Consequently, house demolitions are used to leverage a confession out of them.

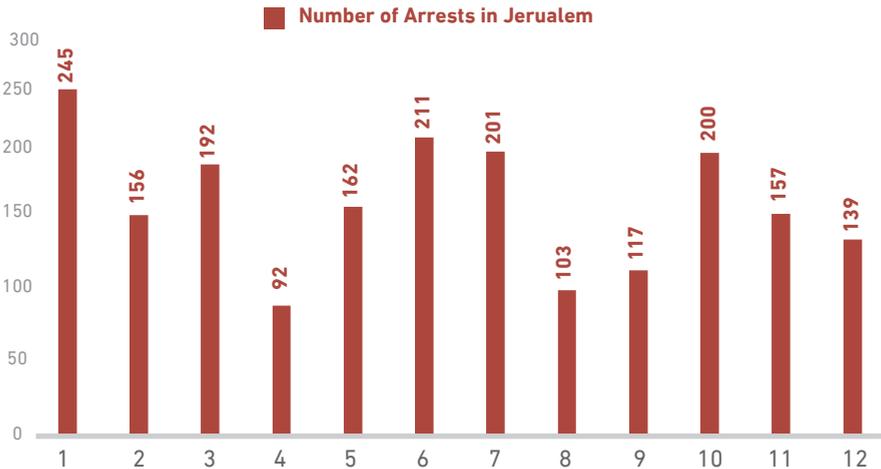
It should be noted that IOF did not halt house demolitions despite the global pandemic. For example, prisoner Qassam Shalabi’s house was demolished at the height of the COVID-19 outbreak in the oPT, in complete disregard of all international pleas to comply with stay-at-home orders. In an act of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, the Israeli occupation left an entire family homeless during a global pandemic. Moreover, the impact of the demolition of Shalabi’s home was not limited to his family. The home is located in the second story of an old Arabian-style house, so the demolition process left considerable damage to his neighbor’s residence on the ground floor, affecting, yet another family in the process.⁵⁹

59. The High Court of Justice approved the punitive demolition of a home during the coronavirus pandemic: HaMoked calls on the military not to implement this judgment at this time, as it could put the lives of the occupants and others in danger, published on March 30th, 2020. Date of access: April 4th, 2020. Available at: <http://www.hamoked.org/Document.aspx?dID=Updates2155>.



4. Jerusalem Residents and Institutions under Constant Attack

The Israeli occupation regime actively endeavors to erase the Palestinian identity of Jerusalem, aggressively tightening restrictions against Palestinian Jerusalemites, from human rights defenders and activists to community-based organizations among others, in an effort to drive Palestinians out of their homes and land. IOF target these organizations' workers, arresting them and repeatedly raiding their houses. Moreover, Israeli occupation authorities often attempt to close down Palestinian institutions under the pretext of violating Israeli laws and regulations. Previously, Israeli occupation authorities ordered a 6-month closure of the offices of the Palestinian Directorate of Education in Jerusalem and Jerusalem TV. In addition, violations against the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem continue, as not a day goes by without a Jerusalem neighborhood raided or a resident arrested. In the first half of 2020, over 700 Jerusalemites were arrested, including over 150 children. Generally speaking, Issawiya and Silwan neighborhoods were the primary targets of the Israeli occupation's violations in Jerusalem.⁶⁰



60. See "This is Jerusalem: Violence and Dispossession in al-'Esawiyah" by B'tselem – The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, published in 2020. Available at: https://www.btselem.org/arabic/publications/summaries/202005_this_is_jerusalem_violence_and_dispossession_in_al_esawiyah



Jerusalem Residents and Institutions Repeatedly Targeted

The Israeli occupation regime escalated its targeting of Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem since 2019. In November 2019, the Israeli Minister of Internal Security ordered the closure of five Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem for 6 months. In 2020, Addameer documented a broad, systematic campaign by the Israeli occupation regime to declare a number of Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem as “unlawful.” IOF often raided the institutions’ offices, and targeted staff members. The offices of Yabous Cultural Center,⁶¹ and the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music⁶² were raided on July 22, 2020. During the raids, IOF confiscated documents and computers, and arrested and interrogated the directors of both institutions for over 14 hours, before they were released on bail. In addition, the Director of the Yabous Cultural Center was issued a two-week ban on entering the perimeter of the Center.

A prime example of the Israeli occupation’s policies targeting Palestinian residents of Jerusalem is the case of **H.H.** who has been pursued for years because of her work on a Jerusalem-based project that was closed down in 2015 after it had been declared in violation of Israeli laws. Since then, **H.** was repeatedly targeted. On January 24, 2020, she was arrested after IOF raided her house in the middle of the night. She was subsequently released the next day on bail and on the condition that she relocate outside of the old city of Jerusalem. Throughout 2020, **H.** was arrested multiple times under varying pretexts, in addition to being summoned for interrogation numerous times, and banned from travel. **H.’s** house was also raided and ransacked. Such practices by the Israeli occupation regime aim to push Palestinian Jerusalemites out of their land.

Another prominent example is the case of Palestinian Jerusalem resident **D.G. D.G.** was arrested six times, the most recent of which took place July 22, 2020 when IOF raided his house, searching it thoroughly, and confiscating laptops, phones, and documents. **G.** was detained for close to 12 hours in an Israeli police vehicle, without interrogation and without being taken before a court. He was later transferred to the Jabal Abu Ghneim

61. Yabous Cultural Center is a non-governmental Palestinian organization based in Jerusalem established in 1955. The Centre offers people a venue to come together to celebrate and share different cultural traditions, to interact with artists and participate in a range of activities that will stimulate and expand the creativity, diversity and artistry of Jerusalem and Palestinian cultural expressions.

62. Edward Said National Conservatory of Music is a non-government Palestinian organization established in 1993 in Ramallah initially under the wing of Birzeit University. The conservatory offers students the opportunity to learn music, organize musical events, produce records and books, as well join international competitions.

police station to be interrogated on his work in the Jerusalem Art Network) Shafaq⁶³(and his voluntary work with other community centers.The next day,G .appeared before the Jerusalem Magistrate’s Court for a hearing to extend his detention for four days pending interrogation;his detention was later extended for three more days.

During the court hearing ,the Israeli police requested to extend G.’s detention ,claiming to have found evidence in his house tying him to the offenses of which he was accused. G .pointed out that the evidence was old and had already been used against him in a previous arrest .However ,the court disregarded that and approved the extension of his detention pending interrogation until July .2020 ,28 The judge stated that the allegations against G .were serious enough to warrant his detention .Nearly a week after his arrest, the Magistrate Court released G .on an ILS 3000 bail and a personal bond ,as well as two third-party personal bonds of ILS 5000 each .Additionally ,the judge placed G .under house arrest for 10 days ,and ordered G .to cease contact with any person with ties to his case for one month.⁶⁴

G.’s multiple arrests, along with the arrest of numerous other workers in cultural and social institutions highlight the extent of the Israeli occupation’s systematic campaigns that serve to impose greater restrictions on Palestinian national and cultural institutions, and target Jerusalemite activists in an attempt to repress and erase Palestinian existence in Jerusalem. The attacks included criminalizing the work of these institutions, arresting staff members, raiding and destroying offices, confiscating documents, and even shutting down institutions. Moreover, Israel targets prominent Palestinian figures from Jerusalem, including Jerusalem governor Adnan Ghaith who was summoned and arrested over 15 times in the past two years.

63.The Jerusalem Art Network (Shafaq) is a network formed by five prominent cultural centres in Jerusalem, including the Palestinian National Theatre (El-Hakawati), Al-Ma’mal Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, the Palestinian Art Court (Al-Housh), and the Yabous Cultural Centre. The network aims to strengthen cooperation between Jerusalem-based cultural centers to facilitate achieving individual and general institutional goals in line with the general Jerusalemite cultural strategy.

64. “The Magistrate Court in Jerusalem Gives Detainee D.G. Conditional Release” by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, published on July 28th, 2020. Available at: <https://www.addameer.org/news/magistrate-court-jerusalem-gives-detainee-daoud-al-ghoul-conditional-release>

Women Prisoners



Israeli occupation authorities arrested 128 Palestinian women in 2020. By the end of the year, there were 37 women prisoners, including 13 mothers, 8 wounded prisoners, and three administrative detainees, all of whom were incarcerated in Damon prison, which lacks minimum basic living standards.⁶⁵ The year 2020 did not differ from previous years, as Palestinian women continued to suffer from late night and early dawn house raids, and transfers to interrogation and detention centers, where they were subjected to various torture techniques and inhuman treatment, including beatings, physical and psychological pressure, as well leveraging their children and families against them. Throughout 2020, IOF arrested numerous female students due to their union activities in Palestinian universities.⁶⁶ The Israeli occupation's practices gravely violate fundamental international human rights conventions, along with the Fourth Geneva Convention that guarantee prisoners' basic rights. Moreover, the Israeli occupation regime is in breach of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT Convention), along with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules).

Brutal Arrests of Palestinian Women

The Israeli occupation does not spare Palestinian women the cruel process of arrest as IOF raid and ransack their houses, whereas others are arrested while crossing military checkpoints. These women are taken from their houses and families, often leaving behind children that witness the brutality of their mothers' arrest. Prisoner **A.K.** recalls her own arrest when an Israeli police unit raided her house around 4am on February 17, 2020, noting that police officers threatened her in front of her children, screaming "take a good look at your kids because the next time you'll see them, they'll be all grown up." She recounted to Addameer's lawyer the details of that morning, recalling how she prepared a to-go bag for her kids so they could stay at a relative's house. In the midst of the traumatic experience, a police officer told her "fill up their bag, you're staying with us for a long time." These comments sought to instill fear in her prior to her arrest, as well as terrorize her entire family.

65. Damon prison, located near Haifa, was founded during the British mandate in Palestine. It was originally designed of multiple buildings that were previously used to store tobacco and as a stable. For more information on Damon prison, see Addameer's violations report of 2019 (Palestine: Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, 2020), pages 86-87.

66. For more information on female students arrested throughout 2020 and the Israeli violations against them, see the chapter on Students, Teachers, Journalists, and Human Rights Defenders under Arrest in this report.



Women Prisoners under Interrogation

A large number of women prisoners undergo interrogation in one of the four interrogation centers: Al-Jalameh, Askalan, Al-Moscobiyeh and Petah Tikva. The interrogation tactics used against them include physical and psychological pressure, along with inhuman and degrading treatment. Among the interrogated women prisoners was E.A., who was arrested on June 17, 2020 when IOF raided her house at 2:30am. During the arrest, the soldiers held the entire family in one room and placed A.'s youngest son, 19 years old at the time, in handcuffs and led him away in front of her to create the illusion that he was under arrest. It became apparent later that he was released, but A. was not informed of his release until after her interrogation.

A. recalls the details of her arrest after the IOF ransacked the house: "When I left the house, they bound my hands in front of me in metal handcuffs and I put on a mask. Once I was in the military vehicle, they blindfolded me and transferred me directly to Al-Moscobiyeh interrogation center where I was strip searched. Immediately after the search, I was taken into the interrogation room where they interrogated me from the moment of my arrival until later in the morning."

Following this interrogation session, A. was taken to a cell where she was given breakfast before being taken back to the interrogation room. During the first two weeks of her interrogation, A. was constantly interrogated without any real breaks, as she was only given a ten-minute break to eat in her cell. On occasion, the interrogators would leave her alone for an hour.



I used to sleep in the prison uniform jacket and put all available blankets on top of me... I used to close the toilet lid because I could hear the sound of rats coming from it. I saw rat droppings as well. I used to leave food away from me so the rats would seek it and not come near me.

Woman Prisoner E.A.



A. describes the conditions of her interrogation, recalling how she would fall asleep in the interrogation chair while being forced into a stress position, with her hands bound to the chair at a backwards angle the entire time. Every time she requested to use the toilet, the interrogators refused. Additionally, **A.** stated that she was screamed at and threatened, as well as deprived of sleep for hours on end. One interrogation session lasted 34 consecutive hours. Moreover, one interrogator used to frequently curse profanities at her during interrogation, often spitting at her in close range. Furthermore, the interrogators brought in her detained husband and verbally assaulted both of them in front of the other to break their will.

Extreme Interrogation of Woman Prisoner H.K.

Prisoner **H.K.** was arrested at an Israeli checkpoint on January 1, 2020. She was taken into the Atara military tower where she was held for close to 45 minutes near the toilet. Despite her repeated requests to use the toilet, the female soldier monitoring her refused. Later, **K.'s** hands were bound in metal handcuffs behind her back prior to her transfer via a military vehicle to Ofer Detention Center, then to Al-Moscobiyeh Interrogation Center where she was treated violently from the first moment of her arrival. She recalls how, after refusing to answer a question, one interrogator dragged her by the arm to an interrogation room, bound her hands to metal rings attached to the wall, and forced her to remain standing in a stress position for two and a half hours. While she was held in a stress position, the interrogator sat in a chair in front of her, drinking coffee and smoking as he stared at her while playing with a cube of some sort. From the moment of her arrest, **K.** was denied access to a toilet, despite repeated requests, which ultimately led her to urinate on herself.

Not only was **K.** left for long hours without being allowed to use the toilet, but one interrogator taunted her for urinating on herself so as to humiliate her. After another interrogator removed her shackles and sent her to a cell to rest, the remaining interrogators refused to supply her with clean clothes so she could shower. Instead, she was taken back to interrogation in her soiled clothes, and forced into a stress position in the interrogation chair with her arms tied behind her back and her feet shackled to the legs of the chair.



Prison Conditions of Women Prisoners

Hasharon (Al-Ma'bar): Inhuman Conditions in the 'Quarantine' Section

Palestinian women's journey of incarceration is arduous and painful from the beginning of their arrest, but the Hasharon quarantine section, commonly known as Al-Ma'bar, is an agonizing stop for all of them. Israeli occupation authorities hold women prisoners in Al-Ma'bar for 12-20 days under the pretext of quarantine. Nevertheless, prisoners' basic needs are not met, as they report filthy cells and poor food quality, in addition to being held in close proximity to male criminal prisoners in the section next to theirs. Numerous women suffer from verbal harassment and profanities aimed at them as they pass by the men's section. The criminal prisoners continue harassing the Palestinian women inside their cells as well.

Woman prisoner **E.AH.** describes the conditions of her detention in the Hasharon quarantine section: "There was an officer who would come in and threaten to handcuff us to the beds or put us in a cell with surveillance cameras. I had one mask that was given to me 8 days before, on the day of my arrest. In the cell there was a woman who didn't have a mask, along with another who took a mask from one of the criminal prisoners... The prison administration would give us a cup of floor cleaner liquid once every 3 to 4 days. We did not receive any daily medical examinations such as a temperature check or others."

Regarding the layout and size of the room, **AH.** reports that the room in which she and two other women prisoners were held in was around 2.5x4 square meters in size, with a bathroom with no door. Whenever one of the detainees needed to shower, the other two would stand in front of the door to block the view and preserve her privacy. Moreover, the room lacked proper ventilation as the only available window was permanently closed. The women prisoners are only allowed out into the yard for one hour a day. If there is only one prisoner in the cell, the yard time might be reduced by half, or occasionally canceled altogether.

Along the same lines, woman prisoner **L.K.** recalls her experience in the Hasharon quarantine section: "In Hasharon, there were criminal prisoners who would sexually harass and curse at the women prisoners while the jailer did nothing to stop them."

She continues, "I was held in a room with surveillance cameras. They did not give me clean clothes so I had to borrow clothes from a criminal prisoner and wash them. They also did not provide me with a toothbrush or toothpaste, nor did they regularly give me



towels. The sheets were dirty, and I asked them to wash them multiple times, but they refused.”

Similarly, prisoner **R.E.** recounts, “I was allowed half an hour or an hour of yard time. There were delays in providing meals and water. I repeatedly asked for shampoo so I can shower but they didn’t bring me any. The room I am held in does not have a fan or any other source of ventilation. We asked to leave the room door open to allow in fresh air, but the jailers refused. I have one mask and despite my repeated requests for another, I hadn’t been given a new one until this moment, two weeks after my arrest.”

Prison Environment

Women prisoners in Damon prison suffer extreme conditions. The dilapidated prison is falling apart with worn-out facilities that date back to the British mandate, when the prison was originally built to store tobacco and operate as a stable. Consequently, it was designed to absorb and retain humidity, which now becomes another source of suffering for the prisoners. Moreover, the yard is full of surveillance cameras, which deprive the women of necessary sun exposure. Additionally, the yard is painted with a slippery material that renders it inadequate for the prisoners’ use.

Prisoner **S.D.** confirms, “The living conditions in Damon prison are generally difficult. The women prisoners suffer from the corroded walls due to humidity. Despite the prisoners’ repeated requests to fix the walls, the administration simply paints them every time without seeking a real solution to the problem. The prisoners suffer from a shortage of mattresses, along with the slippery yard floor that occasionally causes them to fall down. The bathrooms are located outside the rooms, which makes showering a difficult task as the prisoners have to abide by the allocated yard time to access the facilities. However, the yard time is only 7 hours in total, sporadic during the day, which makes it difficult for the prisoners to organize showering time for everyone.”

Food

Women prisoners suffer from the poor quantity and quality of food provided in the prison. Israeli prison administration have reduced the food supply allowed into the prison, while simultaneously eliminating certain types of food available in the prison canteen, following the recommendations of the Erden committee in this regard.⁶⁷ Prisoner M.A. notes that the prison kitchen reduced the amount of fresh vegetables and fruits, as well as frozen vegetables and legumes. Prisoner **S.D.** notes that the decision to reduce the food supply

67. Footnote for Erdan committee



adds a financial burden, as the prisoners now need to purchase more products from the prison canteen at their own expense.

Raids

Constant harassment is the norm for Palestinian women prisoners in Damon prison. Israeli Occupation Forces frequently raid the sections to inspect and ransack their belongings, in an effort to implement further restrictions, confiscating anything arbitrarily deemed “against regulations.” In one instance, the prison administration informed the head of the section of an upcoming inspection. Male and female Israeli jailers arrived to the prison yard and started inspecting the rooms under the guise of counting the prisoners’ clothing items. It later became apparent that the inspection targeted educational books.

During the inspection, the jailers removed all books and notebooks out of the rooms, confiscating a large number of them. Prisoner **N.A.** says, “It became apparent that the inspection actually aimed to search for educational material. During the inspection, they took out all the books and notebooks, confiscating every “banned” book. They confiscated a lot of books including Plato, Neo-Marxism, and Islamic Thought, as well all the secondary certificate exam textbooks, excepting mathematics and Arabic. Personally speaking, they confiscated 12 of my notebooks.”

Similarly, prisoner **S.D.** notes that the inspection delivered a clear message that any educational material, whether a book or a notebook, will not remain inside the prison. Prisoner **A.AH.** stated that nearly 70 books were confiscated from the prisoners’ rooms and the library.

COVID-19

Since the beginning stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, Israeli occupation authorities did not implement any real measures to combat the pandemic. Prisoner S.A. notes that during the early days of the outbreak, Israeli Prison Services (IPS) supplied the women prisoners with a small bucket of bleach every day. However, the cleaning supplies were delivered in smaller quantities as time passed. Moreover, the administration put up a flyer about the virus in Hebrew but made no efforts to provide the prisoners with any information in Arabic. Prisoner **K.G.** stated that during the beginning of the pandemic, IPS reduced the window checks to one time instead of twice a day, and reduced the number of jailers and officers



inside the prison. The prison administration regularly disinfected room and bathroom door handles between March and April, supplied the prisoners with disinfectants like bleach and soap every day, and ran randomized COVID-19 tests for dozens of prisoners. **G.** adds that, later on, IPS reverted back to their usual practices - jailers and officers were brought back into the prison, window checks happened twice a day, door handles were disinfected less frequently, and smaller quantities of cleaning supplies were provided to the prisoners.

In the same vein, prisoner **A.S.** notes that IPS currently disinfect door handles once a week, and refuses to provide the prisoners with hand soap. Other times, the prisoners are not even given bleach. She also describes that the woman prisoners have two cloth masks each that they wash regularly. These masks are made of the same fabric and color of the prison uniforms, with a single layer of polypropylene fabric.

The Israeli occupation's disregard of Palestinian lives is evident by the prison administration's decision to reduce safety and preventative measures, as well as their systematic negligence in dismissing any and all scenarios that could result in the women prisoners contracting the virus from the prison staff. In one instance, four prisoners were quarantined for almost two weeks, after coming in contact with a nurse in the prison clinic that turned out to be infected with COVID-19.⁶⁸ It should be noted that the prisoners were isolated from the outside world for the majority of the pandemic. For months, family visits were banned while the prisoners were only allowed one phone call to their families. Any contact with the outside world was only allowed under strict conditions. Some prisoners were banned from calling their families altogether, prompting Addameer to take legal action until the ban was subsequently lifted.⁶⁹

68. For more information on the issue of prisoners and COVID-19, see the chapter on *** in this report.

69. For more information, see "The Israeli occupation bans women prisoners from contacting their families." Available at: <https://bit.ly/3uEcsJo>



Women Prisoners Suffer from Extreme Health Conditions and Constant Medical Negligence

A number of women prisoners suffer from extreme health conditions, some of which stem from injuries sustained prior to or during the arrest, while others from medical negligence inside Israeli prisons. One example is the case of prisoner N.F.,⁷⁰ who suffers from a medical condition requiring a CT scan every 6 months to monitor her condition. In Addameer's latest visit to F. on September 22, 2020, she stated that her last CT scan was in February of 2019, as the prison administration continues to ignore her medical needs despite her repeated requests. This is one of many examples of IPS' practice of deliberate medical negligence towards Palestinian women prisoners.

Moreover, IPS implement additional policies that exacerbate medical negligence. On multiple occasions, the administration refused entry of necessary medication from outside the prison, while simultaneously refusing to provide the medication itself. Prisoner R.S. notes that she has a health condition that requires certain medication since prior to her incarceration, but IPS refused to provide her with it, while still refusing its entry from outside of the prison. Instead, prison doctors prescribed a different medication that S. found to be useless.

Another prominent example of medical negligence in Israeli occupation prisons is the case of prisoner E.A., who was arrested on June 17, 2020. At the time of her arrest, A. suffered from a health condition that requires physiotherapy treatment for her back. However, since her arrest, until Addameer's last visit on September 2, 2020, A. had not received a single physiotherapy session. Moreover, prior to her arrest, A. had undergone a hysterectomy after the detection of active cancerous cells. Following her surgery, A. was prescribed medication to take for 8 consecutive years. However, she confirmed that up to September 2, 2020, almost three months since her arrest, she was not provided with the necessary medication. More still, she had taken her designated medication with her during the arrest, yet she was not allowed to bring it into prison.⁷¹

70. N.F. was arrested on September 5th, 2016

71. See also "On International Women's Day: 43 Palestinian Women in Israeli Prisons," published on March 5th, 2020. Date of access: January 7th, 2021. Available at <https://bit.ly/39HldZh>



Women Prisoners Fadwa Hamadah and Jihan Hashmieh Face Inhuman Isolation Conditions

In June 2020, prisoners Fadwa Hamadah and Jihan Hashmieh were transferred to the isolation section of Al-Jalameh prison in retaliation for an altercation between the Damon prison administration and a few women prisoners. As punishment, Hamadah and Hamshieh were placed under extreme isolation conditions⁷². Hamadah states that she and Hashmieh were held in the same cell, which was nothing more than a small dingy room with two beds and a broken shower. The prisoners were denied yard time for over two weeks. Additionally, they were unable to shower due to the broken facilities in the room. They were also never provided with a change of clothes, leading them to remain in the same clothes they wore since the first day of isolation.⁷³

Hamadah recalls, “We were held in a room with surveillance cameras that were recording the entire time, which was extremely difficult, especially since the bathroom only had half a door. They brought us extremely poor quality food, sometimes even undercooked.” Moreover, the prison administration did not provide the prisoners with any necessities. Rather, the administration deliberately kept the room extremely cold by blasting the air conditioner all day long, refusing to turn it off, or to provide them with adequate covers, with the exception of a small dirty sheet. Furthermore, the room did not have a radio, television, kettle or hot plate.⁷⁴

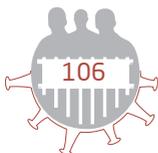
The conditions of Hamada and Hashmieh’s isolation exemplify the lack of regard paid by the Israeli occupation regime to the COVID-19 pandemic with regards to Palestinian prisoners, dismissing worldwide calls to adhere to safety, hygiene, and preventative measures. The prisoners were not provided with masks, nor were their temperatures ever measured. In addition, the prison administration did not provide them with cleaning supplies until almost two weeks into their isolation, whereafter they were given one cup of cleaning products. It should be noted that the prison administration never clarified the cause nor intended duration of their isolation, as they were isolated for over 70 days under such extreme conditions.⁷⁵

72. Prior to their transfer to the isolation section of Jalama prison, both prisoners’ hands were bound behind their backs which caused them immense pain in their hands and fingers, as well isolated in a cell in Damon prison.

73. “Addameer visits prisoner Fadwa Hamadah held in isolation in Al-Jalameh prison,” published on June 23rd, 2020. Date of access: January 4th, 2021. Available at <http://www.addameer.org/news/addameer-visits-prisoner-fadwa-hamadah-held-isolation-al-jalameh-prison>

74. A tool the prisoners use to cook or heat food.

75. The prisoners were transferred back to Damon prison on August 18th, 2020 following multiple transfer requests filed by Addameer on their behalf to be transferred back to Damon prison after the end of their isolation. See <https://bit.ly/3nFtwdp>



Additionally, on November 10, 2020, prisoner Hamadah was placed in isolation again after a prison staff member claimed Hamadah attacked her. Hamadah describes the conditions of her renewed isolation to Addameer's lawyer:

"I was placed in a filthy room that smelled like the sewers. I was left without blankets or any covers for days even though the room was cold... During the first few days of isolation, my hands and feet were handcuffed to the bed. Sometimes they removed my handcuffs so I could eat and use the toilet, other times they left me shackled to urinate on myself in bed."

Administrative Detention: A Vicious, Never-Ending Cycle

Prisoner **S.B.** welcomes and bids farewell to 2020 under administrative detention, with only few weeks of freedom between orders. Every year, Israeli occupation authorities place numerous Palestinian women under administrative detention, without charges, and without determining the duration of their detention. In 2020, one prominent case was that of prisoner **S.B.**, who was arrested in July 2019. **B.** was placed under administrative detention for a full year before she was released in July 2020. Nevertheless, less than 40 days after her release, IOF raided her family house around 2:30am to arrest her. IOF were exceptionally brutal to her and her family during her arrest. She recalls that after IOF stormed her house, one soldier told her father that she had two remaining months of her administrative detention order that she needed to serve. When Israeli female soldiers took **B.** to a room to search her, they hit her on the foot while covering her mouth to muffle her screams. The female soldiers then proceeded to forcibly strip search her. Israeli occupation authorities issued **B.** a four-month administrative detention order that was later renewed in January 2021.⁷⁶

76. For more information on administrative detention in violation of the principles of the International Humanitarian Law and the International Human Rights Law, see the chapter on Administrative Detention in this report.



Administrative Detention Used to Silence Palestinian Voices

Khitam Saafin Prisoner **S.B.** was not the only administrative detainee in 2020. On November 2, IOF raided the house of social activist Khitam Saafin around 2 am. Saafin was issued a 6-month administrative detention order that was later reduced to 4 months.⁷⁷

Israeli occupation authorities alleged that Saafin was actively involved in a “banned” organization, and posed a threat to the region’s security, thus warranting her administrative detention as the only viable means of deterrence.

Saafin denied the prosecution’s allegations which the defense described as inaccurate since all her activities fall under women’s rights and social work, independent of any political parties. Notwithstanding, the judge approved her administrative detention order. Saafin’s arrest was part of a wide-scale arrest campaign that targeted numerous human rights defenders and activists in order to pressure and silence them. The Israeli occupation’s practice of administrative detention amounts to psychological torture, as IOF detain Palestinians indefinitely without charges, in violation of Articles 66, 72, and 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.⁷⁸ Since early 2020, four Palestinian women, **S.B.**, **A.B.**, **B.T.**, and **S.H.**, were held under administrative detention.⁷⁹

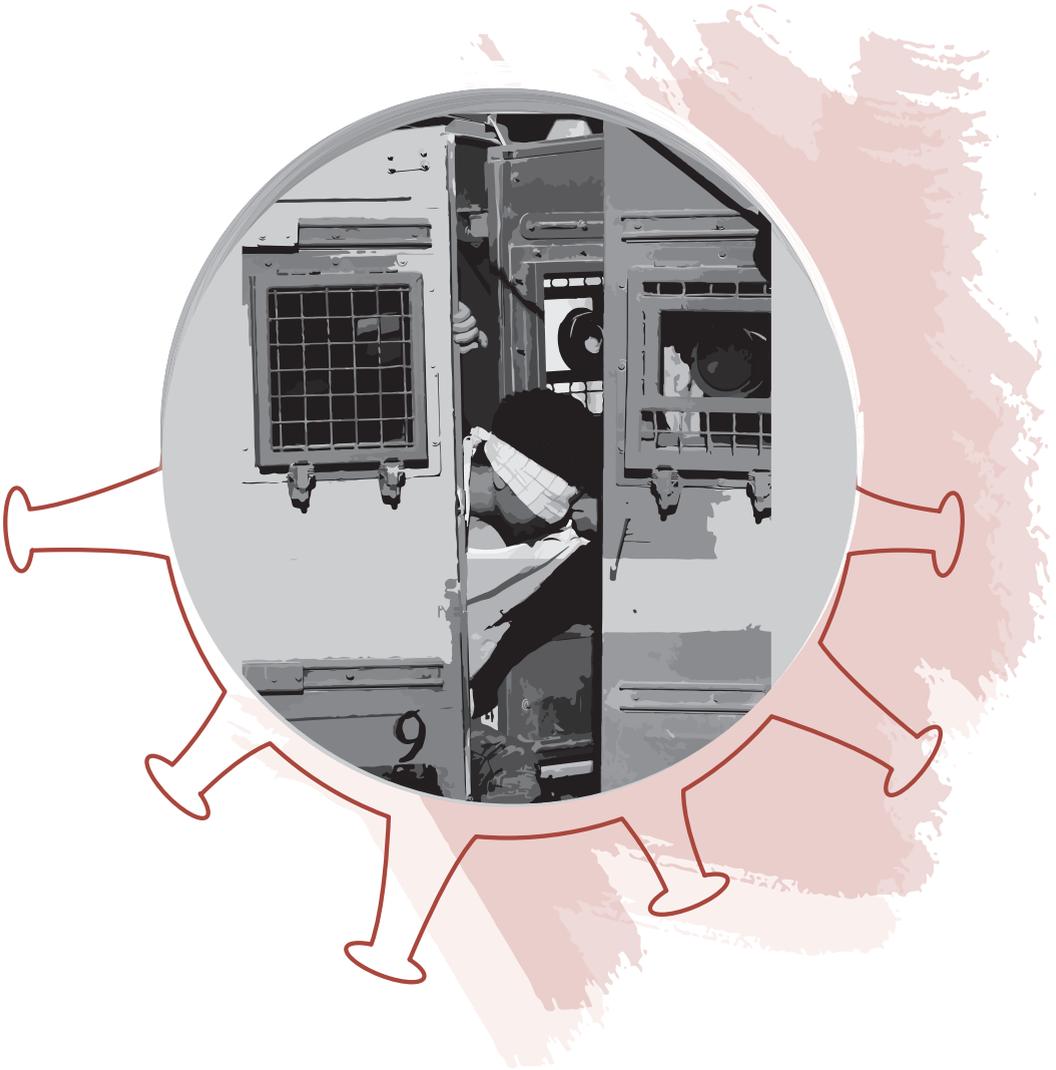
77. Khitam Saafin is the president of the Union of Palestinian Women’s Committees and a member of the General Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Women.

78. “Urgent Call to the EU and Civil society on the Administrative detention of Palestinian human rights defender (K,S), International Institute for Nonviolent Action”. Available at: <https://novact.org/2020/12/eng-campaign-urgent-call-to-civil-society-on-the-administrative-detention-of-palestinian-human-rights-defender-khitam-al-saafin/?lang=en>.

79. For more information on the case of activist Khitam Saafin, see the chapter on Human Rights Defenders in this report.



Child Prisoners



Palestinian child prisoners are subjected to compounding policies by the Israeli occupation regime that gravely violate international standards regarding the protection of children deprived of their freedom. Child prisoners are detained in prisons that lack basic living conditions, suffer from medical negligence, and are deprived of their right to education. Every year, the Israeli occupation targets hundreds of Palestinian children, arresting over 200 students whose academic careers are brought to a halt inside Israeli occupation prisons. Child prisoners are incarcerated in three main prisons: Ofer, Magiddo, and Damon, all of which lack basic necessities and adequate living conditions. Moreover, child prisoners are not spared the brutality of prison attacks targeting Palestinian prisoners. In one instance, at the start of 2020, Israeli special forces launched an attack against child prisoners in Ofer prison, brutally targeting children and forcibly transferring them to Damon prison. There were two additional raids targeting child prisoners in Ofer prison in March and October of 2020.

Child Prisoners Face Inhuman Treatment in Dilapidating Damon Prison

On January 13, 2020, IOF abruptly forcibly transferred more than 30 child prisoners from Ofer prison to Damon prison, unaccompanied by their adult prisoner representatives. The children were not even allowed to take their belongings with them. In Damon prison, the child prisoners are held in an underground section, resembling a dungeon, that lacks basic living conditions such as natural sources of light and ventilation, causing the corroded walls to retain humidity and emit a foul smell. In addition, the child prisoners suffer from a shortage of mattresses and bed covers in the new sections. For the duration of their detention in Damon prison, Israeli special forces entered the section rooms for inspections multiple times a day, constantly terrorizing the children.



Living Condition

Addameer documented the conditions of the child prisoners in Damon prison. The prisoners noted that most of the cells were infested with cockroaches, insects and rats. Furthermore, the child prisoners were denied basic necessities, as IPS refused to provide them with enough mattresses and covers. Several children reported that they often needed to sleep underneath the mattress covers due to extremely cold temperatures at night. The same mattresses were used during the day as makeshift screens, since the bathrooms and showers did not have any doors. Under such extreme conditions, numerous child prisoners suffered from severe colds, coughing, and chest pains. Rather than properly diagnose them and provide them with adequate treatment, IPS neglected their illnesses, deeming fever reducers (antipyretics drugs) to be sufficient. Additionally, numerous child prisoners suffered from skin diseases and infections due to sleeping on the filthy mattresses.

Israeli special forces continue to be a means of terrorizing the child prisoners. Many children report that special forces raided their rooms multiple times a day for inspections. In his affidavit to Addameer, child prisoner **M.H.** notes that special forces regularly inspected the child prisoners' rooms multiple times, sometimes up to six times, a day for several consecutive days. Prisoner **F.K.** described to Addameer the conditions of their incarceration in Damon prison, recalling how Israeli special forces deliberately raided the rooms to terrorize the child prisoners, especially if they sent back meals and/or banged on cell doors in protest of the conditions of their detention. **K.** notes that during one raid, Israeli special forces attacked the prisoners, physically assaulting them and leaving one child with a head injury.



Prisoner M.H. Details Aspects of Child Prisoners' Living Conditions

As part of Addameer's efforts to document the Israeli attack against child prisoners and their transfer to Damon prison, an Addameer lawyer managed to visit prisoner **M.H.** on January 29, 2020. **H.** recalls the details of the attack following their arrival in Damon prison, whereupon the child prisoners went on a hunger strike in protest of the new living conditions, and their sudden transfer without being allowed to take all of their belongings.



However, the IPS dismissed their protest and retaliated by sending in special forces into the prison at all times. The special forces repeatedly raided the prison cells, deliberately beating and harassing the child prisoners, handcuffing them for hours on end. On a few occasions, Israeli special forces also confiscated belongings.

H. continues, “On the third day following the child prisoners’ arrival to Damon prison, Israeli special forces raided the prison, confiscating mattresses, clothes, blankets, television sets, and heaters in the cells which left numerous child prisoners sleeping on metal bed frames without mattresses for days.”⁸⁰ H. told Addameer’s lawyer that he once found all the child prisoners in Section 1 of Damon prison bound in plastic handcuffs inside their cells. These experiences were extremely traumatic and negatively impacted the child prisoners’ psychological well being.

Yard Time

IPS impose all sorts of arbitrary restrictions against child prisoners including the little space given to them for fresh air during yard time. For days, the prison administration deprived the children of yard time. When they were finally allowed outside, they were let out to an extremely small space not exceeding five square meters. Israeli special forces continued to terrorize the child prisoners during yard time, as member of the Yamas unit were present in the yard, preventing the children from carrying out any educational or cultural activities. The special forces were primarily present to exert extra pressure and terrorize the child prisoners around the clock.

Food

Addameer documented the poor quality and quantity of food provided to child prisoners, who report that portions are small and not enough to sustain them. Further the food is extremely undercooked, at one point, they were served raw chicken with feathers still stuck to the meat. The drinking water was yellowish and obviously dirty, but the children had to drink it because it was the only water available. Moreover, as a form of collective punishment against the child prisoners, they were also banned from accessing the prison canteen. Such a ban is another attempt to further crackdown on the child prisoners, as the canteen is the only source of edible food considering the poor quality of food served to them.⁸¹

80. Prisoner M.H. notes that following altercations with the prison administration later on, the prisoners managed to retrieve some of the confiscated necessities.

81. Punishments included bans on family visits for a duration of time, as well hefty fines imposed against few child prisoners.



Israeli Occupation Policies Targeting Palestinian Children: The Case of Ayham Sabbah

On February 18, 2016, IOF arrested Palestinian child Ayham Sabbah, 14 years old from Beitunia, on allegations that he, along with another, committed a stabbing in an Israeli department store (“Rami Levy”). During his arrest, Israeli soldiers shot Sabbah, who sustained multiple injuries that required surgery. Later, the Israeli military court sentenced Sabbah to 35 years in prison, and a 1 million ILS fine.

The Israeli military prosecution did not deem the high sentence sufficient, appealing the military court ruling to demand a life sentence with additional years. On January 16, 2020, the Israeli military court of appeals approved the prosecution’s appeal, raising Sabbah’s sentence. The Israeli military judicial system does not consider a detainee’s age at the time of the offense, enabling courts to issue high prison sentences against minors. This is only one example of the the Israeli occupation and apartheid regime’s dual legal regimes that discriminate against Palestinian children.

Children vs. Covid-19: Child Prisoner Mahmoud Al-Ghalith Isolated for 45 Days

On July 23, 2020, IOF raided Jalazone refugee camp, near Ramallah, at the break of dawn, terrorizing the residents with heavy gunfire, teargas and flash grenades. Israeli soldiers raided 16 year-old Mahmoud Al-Ghalith’s house, storming the front door and terrorizing his unsuspecting and sleeping family. Addameer documented the details of the house raid, noting that

Al-Ghalith was subjected to field interrogation and held under gunpoint almost the entirety of the time. In addition, he was physically assaulted, and his father was struck with a rifle butt in the abdomen.

Upon his arrest, Mahmoud Al-Ghalith was transferred to Askalan detention center. Two days later, he was brought before a military court which approved the extension of his detention multiple times for further interrogation. In the early days of his detention, Al-Ghalith was not properly interrogated due to being quarantined. On August 6, 2020, IPS announced that Al-Ghalith tested positive for COVID-19, consequently transferring him to the isolation section in Ramon prison for the duration of his quarantine. In light of his health condition and the absence of an actual interrogation process, Addameer appealed



the court's decision to extend Al-Ghalith's detention. An Addameer lawyer argued in a court session on August 9, 2020 that the detainee was a minor who had not been properly interrogated on any suspicions from the start of his arrest, thus requesting his immediate release.

The military judge refrained from issuing a ruling in the same session, instead adjourning a ruling until receiving the military prosecution's response to Addameer's request. The prosecution stressed the gravity of the suspicions surrounding Al-Ghalith, citing his quarantine as a result of contracting Covid-19 as the reason for the lack of interrogation, prompting the judge to rule in favor of extending his detention pending interrogation on August 10.



Photographs depicting the destruction in Mahmoud Al-Ghalith's house following an Israeli raid

Al-Ghalith was detained for over 40 days, during which he complained of the conditions of his detention, while also being subjected to psychological torture by being in completely isolation for over 30 days. In addition to his solitary confinement, Al-Ghalith was not provided with any disinfectants, cleaning supplies, or clothes that fit him. He recalls, "In the cell, I had one winter pajama that was too big, which prompted me to stay in my own clothes."

Al-Ghalith confirmed to Addameer's lawyer that IPS deprived him from yard time for over two weeks ,while his cell did not have a television or any other electronic devices .As for the food ,he notes that both the quality and quantity were extremely poor ,as he was served rotten fruit multiple times .Moreover ,jailers would often bang on the cell door in a deliberate attempt to exasperate him .It should be further noted that Al-Ghalith's family stressed that he contracted COVID 19-from contact with Israeli soldiers ,as he did not exhibit any symptoms prior to his arrest.Additionally ,his entire family tested for COVID ,19-and all turned outnegative ,indicating that the only way Al-Ghalith contracted the virus two weeks after his arrest was from contact with IOFs⁸².

82. "Child Prisoner Mahmoud Al-Ghalith suffers through COVID-19 and Psychological Torture," by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, published on August 11th, 2020. Date of access: January 30th, 2021. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3csmYga>.

On September 1st, 2020, the Israeli prosecution filed an indictment of five main charges against Al-Ghalith. The charges revolved around possession of toys that Israel occupation authorities deemed dangerous, as well as sharing photographs with these toys on social media websites. In a court session on September 1, 2020, Addameer's lawyer attempted to refute the prosecution's allegation, noting that Al-Ghalith did not positively identify himself in any of the photographs, many of which featured a masked person, making any claims against him unreasonable. Moreover, Addameer's lawyer said that the photographs themselves do not pose a threat, especially considering that they portray toys.

In his ruling, the judge recognized that possession of, and taking photographs with, toys in of itself does not pose a threat to anyone, nor does it confirm that the child will commit a violent offense. Nevertheless, the judge noted that the simple act of possessing the toys, taking photographs with them, and showing an inclination to them is an indicator of a real possible threat. Consequently, the judge sentenced Al-Ghalith to time served, and released him on an 1000 ILS bail and a third-party bond of 5000 ILS. He was released, but later arrested again in early 2021.

It should be noted here that Israeli occupation authorities systematically neglected Palestinian prisoners during the COVID 19-pandemic, often times ignoring quarantine and preventative measures. Palestinian prisoners in numerous prisons were not regularly provided with masks or sufficient cleaning supplies and disinfectants. Prisoner **R.A.**, incarcerated in Magiddo prison, notes that child prisoners primarily rely on old cloth masks. IPS only allowed child prisoners in Magiddo to communicate with their families roughly once every two weeks by phone, whereas prison visits were arbitrarily conducted once every four or five months.



Shedding Light on Israeli Occupation Practices Against Palestinian Children During Arrest and Interrogation

IOF do not distinguish between children and adults during arrests. Children are equally bound in painful handcuffs and harassed during their arrest, in complete disregard of their age and vulnerable condition. In one example, child prisoner **A.Q.** detailed his arrest on September 1, 2020 to Addameer's lawyer:

“At two in the morning, a unit of masked Israeli soldiers came to our house. I was asleep but my mother woke me up and told me that the army wants me. During the arrest, one soldier pushed me against the wall. I was subjected to a field interrogation for almost two hours before they put me in plastic handcuffs and blindfolded me. The soldiers did not allow me to say goodbye to my family, and I don't know if they told my parents where they were taking me.”

Following his arrest, **Q.** was transferred to a military camp where he was strip searched and subjected to harsh treatment. Israeli soldiers deliberately turned on the air conditioner to blast cold air during his search, and left him outside, handcuffed in a chair for close to two hours. **Q.** was interrogated in Al-Jalameh interrogation center for over two weeks, during which he was forced into stress positions in an interrogation chair, screamed at, and repeatedly threatened with the arrest of family members and friends. Following his interrogation, he was transferred to the child prisoners' section. **Q.** recalls the details of his stay in Al-Jalameh interrogation center, noting that he was moved between four cells varying in size, but all had almost-constant harsh lighting, and air conditioners blasted cold air at all times.



Extreme Conditions in Child Prisoners' Cells

On August 17, 2020, IOFs arrested Palestinian child **A.Q.** During his arrest, Israeli soldiers forcibly removed his mask even though they themselves were not wearing masks. **Q.** was transferred in Huwara detention center for over two weeks, during which he was held in cells with harsh yellow lighting and extreme living conditions, including and exemplified by cockroach and rat infestations. In his affidavit to Addameer, **Q.** describes the cell:

“We always tried to cover the light with some of our clothes because it was extremely bright and annoying... During my stay in that room, I was allowed to shower only three times over more than two weeks. Even though they gave me clothes and a towel whenever I showered, they would deliberately stall in giving me soap. I was not provided a toothbrush; when they gave me a toothbrush one day, it was used.”

Health Conditions Do Not Deter the Israeli Occupation's Practices

IOF often arrest Palestinians with no regard to their health conditions; this policy extends to children as well. Throughout 2020, Addameer documented the arrest of several children who suffered from various health conditions, including Amal Nakhleh, who was arrested on November 2, 2020 at Atara military checkpoint. Nakhleh recounted to Addameer the details of his arrest:

“It was almost 9 PM. When I arrived at Atara checkpoint, the Israeli soldiers pulled me out of the car and immediately started hitting my legs with their rifles. After that, they led me toward a military vehicle while continuously pushing me and hitting me with their weapons. I was transferred to a military camp near Rawabi. Even though I asked one soldier to remove my handcuffs because they were extremely painful, he refused to do so until I signed a paper stating that I was not tortured.”

Two hours later, Nakhleh was transferred to Etzion Detention Center where he had to wait almost four hours, only for the center to refuse to admit him, most likely due to his health condition. This prompted IOF to transfer him again in a military vehicle. During the transfer, Nakhleh experienced shortness of breath due to the face mask and the extremely cold air blasted by the air conditioner. When he told the soldiers that he suffers from a critical health condition, they refused to set the air conditioner to a higher temperature. Over the next few days, Nakhleh was repeatedly transferred between various detention centers and prisons, including Etzion Detention Center, Ramleh, and Magiddo prisons. During



the transfers, Nakhleh was repeatedly harassed and assaulted by Israeli soldiers who neglected to take into consideration his health condition. Nakhleh suffers from myasthenia gravis,⁸³ which causes episodes of weakness in the skeletal muscles, particularly affecting his respiratory muscles responsible for breathing and swallowing.⁸⁴

On November 10, 2020, the Israeli military prosecution filed an indictment against Nakhleh. On November 24, 2020, the military court decided to release him on an 3000 ILS bail, but the prosecution appealed the decision. In the appeal session on November 29, the judge adjourned ruling on the matter and requested the conduct officer report. On December 10, 2020, almost 40 days after his arrest, the military court of appeals rejected the prosecution's appeal, and ruled for Nakhleh's release, noting his age and health condition. During the court session, the prosecution attempted to obstruct Nakhleh's release, requesting a 72-hour extension of detention to explore the possibility of issuing an administrative detention order against him. Nevertheless, the court rejected the prosecution's request and ordered his release.

Amal Nakhleh is not the only Palestinian child subjected to such Israeli practices. Similarly, Mohammad Muqbel, 16 years old from Arroub refugee camp, was severely beaten during his arrest. On November 29, 2020, at around 9am, IOF arrested Muqbel and severely beat him with rifle butts, leaving him with jaw and facial fractures.⁸⁵ Muqbel recalls that on that day, he was headed to buy falafel and hummus for breakfast. While he waited for his order in the shop, IOF launched tear gas, prompting him to run away, along with everyone else in the shop. However, one Israeli soldier caught him and assaulted him with his rifle, beating the left side of his jaw, near his ear.⁸⁶

83. For more information on this condition, see <https://msdmnls.co/3sTleC5>

84. "Palestinian Children are a Constant Target: Israeli occupation re-arrests child prisoners Al-Ghalith and Nakhleh, issuing an administration order against the latter" by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, published on February 1st, 2021. Date of access: February 5th, 2021. Available at <https://bit.ly/2MP7hFd>

See also "The Israeli Military Court of Appeal Confirms the Release of Child Detainee Amal Nakhleh" by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, published on December 10th, 2020. Date of access: February 1st, 2020. Available at <http://www.addameer.org/news/israeli-military-court-appeal-confirms-release-child-detainee-amal-nakhleh>

85. "Israeli forces break Palestinian boy's jaw during arrest" by Defense for Children International, published on December 8th, 2020. Date of access: February 5th, 2020. Available at: https://www.dci-palestine.org/israeli_forces_break_palestinian_boys_jaw_during_arrest

86. For more information on the of child prisoner Muqbel, see: "Occupation routine: Soldiers assault 16-year-old at al-Arroub R.C, break his jaw and arrest him for 26 days" by the Israeli Information Center for human rights in the Occupied Territories – B'Tselem, published in March 21st, 2021. Available at: https://www.btselem.org/routine_founded_on_violence/20210324_soldiers_assault_16_year_old_at_al_arroub_rc_and_arrest_him_for_26_days.



According to Addameer's records, Muqbel's father received a phone call on November 30, 2020 from Hadassah medical center requesting his presence to sign a consent form for a surgery on his son. The father was informed that his son was brought into the hospital suffering from four mandibular fractures and full-body bruising. On December 2, 2020, Muqbel underwent the surgery. He told his father that IOF physically assaulted him from the moment of his arrest, violently beating him with their hands, legs, and rifles.



Child prisoner Muqbel shackled to his hospital bed

In a visit with Addameer, Muqbel notes that during his stay in the hospital, he was heavily guarded and shackled to the hospital bed with metal handcuffs around his arms and legs most of the time. Muqbel woke up to find his jaw fixed in mandibulomaxillary fixation. He was not notified of any medical details of his condition prior to the surgery. Muqbel was later released on a personal bond and a third-party bond.

36 Hours in Hell: Child Prisoner S.J.

On October 19th, 2020, IOF raided Arroub refugee camp and arrested child **S.J.** after violently raiding his house. During his arrest, Israeli soldiers deliberately shoved **J.** around, causing him immense pain even after he told them that he had undergone surgery five days prior. He recalls:

“I was transferred to Etzion Detention Center where they sat, handcuffed, and blindfolded me on a cement block outside for more than an hour and a half... After that, a soldier came up to me and started to interrogate me. He then started kicking me on the site of my surgery as if he did not know that I underwent one. He continued to kick me for close to ten minutes which prompted me to explain the matter again and show him the surgical site, only for him to remove the bandage and press down on my wound. He then resumed the kicking.”



J. was left outside for 36 hours, during which he was not fed and only given water. J. recounts, “For 36 hours, they only allowed me to use the toilet 3 times, despite my repeated requests.” J. states that while he was beaten and kicked, he felt the surgical wound clips shift. His suspicions were confirmed when he was later transferred to the hospital, where it became apparent that the staples were dented during the assault, thus requiring adjustment.

Children under Administrative Detention

Throughout 2020, IOF continued to arrest dozens of Palestinian children, issuing many of them administrative detention orders. Suleiman Qatash, 17 years old from Yabroud, was arrested on December 16, 2019 and issued an administrative detention order that was renewed over three times; Qatash was detained until the end of 2020. Similarly, 16 year-old child Suleiman Abu Ghosh was arrested on September 5, 2019 and issued a 4-month administrative detention order that ended in early 2020.⁸⁷ IOF repeatedly arrest Palestinian children, placing them under administrative detention for indefinite periods of time, in grave violation of numerous international conventions stressing that the arrest and detention of children should be used “only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.”⁸⁸

87. Israeli forces arrested Suleiman again on October 21st, 2020. For more information on the case of Suleiman Abu Ghosh, see <http://www.addameer.org/prisoner/suleiman-abu-ghosh>

88. Convention on the rights of the child (1989) Treaty no. 27531. United Nations Treaty Series, 1577, pp. 3-178. Available at: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1990/09/19900902%2003-14%20AM/Ch_IV_11p.pdf



Faisal Al-Arrouj: From One Administrative Detention Order to Another Between Five Days of Freedom

On April 25, 2020, IOF arrested Palestinian child Faisal Al-Arrouj, a mere 20 days after his previous release. In his affidavit to Addameer, Al-Arrouj notes that due to the pandemic, he was placed in quarantine for 15 days upon his release, leaving him only with five days of genuine freedom before he was arrested again. He recalls the details of his arrest, “An Israeli army unit arrived at my parents’ house and violently broke through the front door even though my father had woken up to their voices and offered to open the door. When the soldiers entered the house, they headed directly to my room and pulled me outside without even giving me the opportunity to change out of my pajamas.”

He continues, “After I exited the house, they put a face mask on me and bound my hands behind my back in plastic handcuffs. I was transferred to a military camp where I was left standing, handcuffed and blindfolded. I was not allowed to eat anything or even drink water. Despite my requests, they refused to allow me to use the toilet.”

Al-Arrouj was transferred to Al-Jalameh Interrogation Center where he was held for more than two weeks for quarantine and interrogation. During his detention in Al-Jalameh, he was held in a small cell that lacked any sources of natural ventilation—the cell had muted yellow lighting and a plastic mattress. Both the quality and quantity of food were poor , and he was not allowed to shower for almost 17 days, nor was he provided a change of clothes.

More broadly, the Israeli occupation’s practices throughout 2020 failed to respond to the changing circumstances in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the global consensus on the importance of maintaining personal hygiene and constant sanitization, Israeli occupation authorities often and arbitrarily ignored prisoners’ need to sanitize and shower, as well as their need for disinfectants and cleaning supplies for their rooms and personal use.

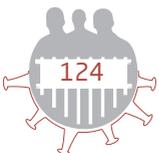


Findings



Findings

- Throughout 2020, the Israel occupation regime continued to practice physical and psychological torture, as well as degrading and inhuman treatment against Palestinian prisoners and detainees. From the moment of their arrest, throughout interrogation stage, and amid their incarceration in Israeli occupation prisons, Palestinian prisoners are subjected to brutal human rights violations aiming to break their spirit and tear them down.
- Israeli occupation authorities continued to violate Palestinian people's right to freedom of expression by arresting dozens of Palestinians in relation for their posts on social media websites, which occupation authorities deem are a form of incitement against the regime.
- In 2020, Israeli Occupation Forces arrested hundreds of Palestinians, placing them under administrative detention which violates fair trial guarantees, including: the right to be informed promptly, and in detail, of the nature and cause of the charge against them, as well as the right to necessary time and facilities for an adequate defence. Moreover, Israeli occupation authorities continue to recast the detention of dozens of Palestinians from administrative detention to detention on an official set of charges, after having already been under administrative detention for months. Conversely, Palestinian prisoners who have served court sentences on charges filed against them were issued administrative detention orders after years in prison.
- School and university students were the target of the Israeli occupation's arrest and harassment campaigns as occupation authorities escalated their policies against university students, even declaring an entire Palestinian university student bloc an "unlawful association," further violating Palestinian students' right to participate in political life and union work. The Israeli occupation further targeted human rights defenders and organizations in a mounting effort to crackdown on human rights efforts in the occupied territory.



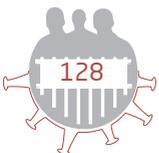
- The Israeli occupation's practices of collective punishment does not differentiate between adults and children. Throughout 2020, IOF arrested dozens of Palestinians with the sole purpose of coercing others to turn themselves in, or to pressure detainees during interrogation. Furthermore, IOF continued to punish entire Palestinian families. The houses of six Palestinian prisoners were demolished, leaving their families homeless amidst a global pandemic.
- In 2020, Israeli public media and officials continued to incite against the Palestinian people in general, and Palestinian prisoners in particular, by mounting incitement campaigns and public protest of any court ruling that did not lead to high prison sentences against Palestinian detainees, or house demolition orders, or well any other similar rulings.



Recommendations

- Addameer urges the need to legally pursue and hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its crimes against the Palestinian people, including crimes of torture, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detention, forcible transfers of prisoners, continuous violations of the guarantees of a fair trial, administrative detention without a charge or trial for indefinite periods of time unbeknown to the detainees, collective punishment policies, and withholding bodies of deceased Palestinians.
- Addameer urgently calls on the international community to pressure Israeli occupation authorities to immediate release all Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli occupation prisons, particularly the elderly, ill, women and child prisoners amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, Addameer calls on the international community to pressure the Israeli occupation regime to abide by the Israeli Supreme Court's ruling requiring the state to expand the minimum living space assigned per prisoner in Israeli prisons, as well as pressure Israeli occupation authorities to improve the conditions of interrogation and detention centers that lack basic standards of decent living.
- Addameer urges the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, along with the relevant international bodies, to pressure Israel to uphold its responsibility to provide adequate medical care of ill prisoners in light of the occupation's medical negligence policy which results in the death of numerous Palestinian prisoners every year.
- Addameer calls on the International Red Cross uphold its role and duties in protecting Palestinian prisoners and detainees, as well as enact its right to conduct unannounced visits to prisons and detention centers in order to observe incarceration conditions, including inside sections and rooms. Furthermore, Addameer recommends that the International Red Cross conduct individual interviews (without the presence of any Israeli official) with prisoners and detainees to receive their complaints, as well as demand the Israeli Prison Service to take immediate and serious action to uphold its responsibilities as the detaining power in accordance with the International Humanitarian Law.

- Addameer highlights the need for the Palestinian Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, along with local human rights organizations, to combine and intensify efforts to expose the crimes of the Israeli occupation and the Israeli Prison Service, as well as to file local and international complaints to hold the Israeli occupation accountable for its actions. Addameer further notes the need to unify the legal and human rights discourse on Palestinian prisoners and detainees, and calls for the boycott of Israeli military courts.
- Addameer urges Palestinian prisoners and detainees to document violations against them and voice their complaints to Palestinian and international human rights institutions to further facilitate holding the Israeli occupation accountable for its crimes, and to expose the Israeli occupation's discriminatory practices against the Palestinian people, broadly, and Palestinian prisoners in particular. Further, such efforts would serve to combat Israeli public incitement campaigns that aim to enact further restrictions on the prisoners, from rallying against the prisoners' right to education to calling for withholding vaccinations from the prisoners.



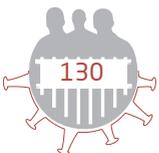
Annex 1

Some of the multiple-choice questions the detainees are often asked:

- I am a psychology expert, and I studied in: (1) Tel Aviv (2) Rahat (3) Hebrew University
- I have been married for a long time and have: (1) Two (2) Three (3) Four Children
- I am: (1) 40 (2) 50 (3) 60 years old
- The attacker who shot fire was standing next to a: (1) One-metre (2) Two-metre (3) Three-metre wall
- The attacker used a:(1) Single shot (2) Automatic (3) Semi-automatic firearm
- If you wanted to attack a point across Beit El, would you run away using street A or street B?
- At the site, the attacker forgot his: (1) Cigarettes (2) Bullet clip (3) Bag
- A shooting took place on _____ in Beit El against a: (1) Car (2) Jeep (3) Bus
- The attacker shot a particular vehicle, and the damage was at:(1) The Front (2) Right Side (3) Left Side
- The attacker opened fire using: (1) Kalashnikov (2) M16 rifle (3) Handgun
- If a car on a street near Beit El was shot at from al-Bireh, where would the bullets hit the car? (1) Right side of the car (2) The side facing al-Bireh (3) The Front glass
- What is the colour of the attacked car? (1) Red (2) White (3) Blue
- A map with three options, which one is the best escape route for the shooter? (1) In the direction of near houses (2) In the direction of the mountain (3) In the direction of the main street



- If a person wanted to shoot from this point an image of the area, which location would be the best? (1) Next to a wall (2) Next to a tree (3) Next to a hill.
- The person who opened fire on a military vehicle in so-and-so area in December 2019. Did he shoot: (1) 10 bullets (2) 20 bullets (3) 30 bullets.
- Did you hear about an operation near Beit El? (1) Yes (2) No
- The operation was carried out by: (1) One person (2) Two people (3) Three people



Annex 2: A List of Palestinian Detainees on Hunger Strike in 2020 as Documented by Addameer

Name	Age	Resi- of Place dence	Date Start Hunger of Strike	Hun- of Cause Strike ger	Date End Hunger of Strike
Janazra Sami	47	Fawwar refugee camp, Hebron	11/5/2020	Administrative detention	2/6/2020
Shihadeh Odai	24	Dheisheh refugee camp, Bethlehem	23/6/2020	Administrative detention	22/7/2020
Ghneimat Ibraheem	40	Hebron ,Surif	24/6/2020	Administrative detention	22/7/2020
Latif Abdel Maher Akhras-Al Hasan	49	Silat ad-Dhahr, Jenin	27/7/2020	arrest His	6/11/2020
Ghneimat Fadi	40	Hebron ,Surif	24/6/2020	Administrative detention	22/7/2020
Qawasmeh Hazem	55	Hebron	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
bari'Ja-Al Ahmad		Hebron	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Atrash-Al Iyad		Hebron	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Rafaya Mohammad		Hebron	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Rjoub Salem		Hebron	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	

Thaher Abu Jihad	33	Gaza	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Muqayyad-Al Ameer	35	Gaza	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Hala--Al Mohammad sah		Jerusalem	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Awad Attiyah	36	Jericho	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Khanafa Ibraheen		Nablus	2/4/2020	In protest of the solitary confinement of Omar Khurwat and Hatem Qawasmeh	
Fashafshah Murad	31	Jaba'	11/5/2020	Administrative Detention	
adi'Sa-Al Mahmoud	40	refugee Jenin camp	20/10/2020	Administrative Detention	31/10/2020
Abu Mohammad Rubb-Al	41	Qabatiya ,Jenin	13/7/2020	In solidarity with prisoner Kamal Abu Wa'ar	23/7/2020
Rubb-Al Abu Murad		Jenin	13/7/2020	In solidarity with prisoner Kamal Abu Wa'ar	23/7/2020
Arram Abu Khalil	54	Yatta ,Hebron	2/8/2020	Requesting to meet his detained son	6/8/2020
Izza-Al Muhannad	44	Azza refugee camp ,Bethlehem	5/8/2020	In solidarity with prisoner Khalil Abu Arram	6/8/2020
Hussein Yaqoub	26	Jalazone refugee camp, Ramallah	5/2/2020	Ending solitary confinement	17/2/2020
Hasan Mousa Zahran	53	Deir Abu Masha'al ,Ramallah	16/8/2020	Administrative detention	30/8/2020
Rahman Abdel Sheibat	31	Sahour Beit	20/8/2020	Administrative detention	22/9/2020
Wahdan Mohammad		Rantis ,Ramallah	5/8/2020	Administrative detention	31/8/2020
Hasanat-Al Mustafa	22	Dheisheh ,Bethlehem	24/8/2020	Administrative detention	

Lahham-Al Ramez	23	Dheisheh, Bethlehem	24/8/2020	Administrative detention	
awi'Bal Yazan	22	Dheisheh, Bethlehem	24/8/2020	Administrative detention	
Samara Mutasim	42	Tulkarm	27/8/2020	Administrative detention	2/9/2020
an'Qar Hamdi	44		22/8/2020	sol- the of protest In of confinement itary Jaghoub-Al el'Wa	24/8/2020
Razza-Al Hussam	62	Nablus	30/8/2020	his of protest In arrest	
Subuh Abdellah	19	Nablus ,Burqin	27/8/2020	transfer Requesting prison Ofer to	31/8/2020
Zubaidi Jebreel	34	Jenin	17/12/2020	Administrative detention	

Annex 3

Name: Layan Nizar Ahmad Kayed

Date of Birth: 26 April 1998

Age: 22 Years Old

Address: Sebastia – Nablus

Marital Status: Single

Profession: Sociology Graduate from Birzeit University

Date of Arrest: 8 June 2020

Prison: Damon Prison

Legal Status: Serving a 16-month sentence



On 3 March 2021, Ofer military court sentenced Layan to 16 months of imprisonment, another 12 months suspended over five years, in addition to a fine of 6,000 shekels. In the ruling, the military judge cited a previous ruling by the military appeals court which stated that student arms of organizations deemed unlawful should not be underestimated, referring to the prosecution of students who belong to student groups in universities, as they constitute a threat to “security.”



Layan Kayed was arrested on Monday morning, 8 June 2020, while crossing Za'tara military checkpoint with her mother. The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) stopped the car of Layan's mother; Layan was asked for her ID. Once she handed it, she was ordered to step out of the vehicle and searched on the spot. Layan was informed that she was under arrest through a phone call with an Israeli Security Agency (Shabak) officer. The Israeli soldiers cuffed her hands in front of her body, shackled her legs with iron leg-cuffs, and seated her on a chair in an open area. After a while, she was transferred into a nearby military compound for a medical examination. Throughout the procedure, Layan was questioned on her health condition without any access to interpretation aid. After having her questioned, she was transferred back to the checkpoint where the soldiers provided her with food and water. Still, she remained handcuffed through it all even when she had to use the toilet. From the checkpoint, Layan was transferred again by Bosta to HaSharon Prison on a three-hour ride without water under the excuse that no water was available.



Whilst at HaSharon, Layan suffered harsh conditions in a section shared with “security prisoners” and civilLayan prisoners. The latter used to keep screaming and breaking things, causing a continuous source of stress. Moreover, she was subject to cursing for four days, the prisoner guards were able to hear the cursing, yet they did not interfere to prevent the ill-treatment.

Layan was moved to another chamber brimming with cameras before she was moved again to another one. The detainee was not provided with a new or clean uniform; thus, she had to borrow clothes from a civilLayan inmate, clean them, and put them on. Layan had low-quality blankets. Although she requested that they be cleaned, yet the prison administration gave a deaf ear to her demand. The food, as well, was poor in terms of quality and quantity. As for the toilet, it had neither a ceiling nor a door.

Interrogation

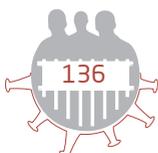
Layan was interrogated twice. For that purpose, she had to be transferred, shackled, from HaShron Prison to Ofer Prison by Bosta,- a process that started in the early morning and lasted up to evening. In both rounds, she was interrogated with her hands and legs cuffed. As for the questions, they were centred on her activism as a student unionist at the university. After one of the rounds, Layan was detained in a cell for long hours. Despite her repeated demand for water and permission to use the toilet, she was denied the former, and when she was allowed to use the bathroom, a female soldier refused to remove the cuffs.

At the end of the interrogation and as Layan was inching her way to climb the Bosta, to be transferred to the HaSharon Prison, she fell due to the cuffs hindering her movement. None of the male and female soldiers offered her help; instead, they mocked and made fun of her.

Legal Status

Layan was brought before Ofer military court two days after her arrest in order to extend her detention for five days, and then again for an additional four days her detention was extended. On Thursday, 18 June 2020, the indictment was submitted against her over, among others, her activism as a student unionist at the university. It also charged her with establishing an unlawful association, holding social and cultural activities, and throwing stones at the IOF.

Layan is still detained at the Damon Prison looking forward to her trial on 31 August 2020.



The Student Union Activism and the Detention of Female Students

In a constant effort to render students' activism as an activity that threatens the regional 'security', the Israeli occupation authorities pursue Palestinian students, summoning some, and arresting others. As the figures stand, five out of the 41 female Palestinian prisoners at the Israeli Damon Prison are students under interrogation – one of whom is a postgraduate student. These five detainees were tried on charges related to their activism as university student unionists. In such a vein, the Israeli occupation authorities often accuse female students over student activities, claiming such acts pose security risks. Three of the detained female students are still marking time at the Damon Prison to be sentenced. Another is serving her 16-month imprisonment; the fourth is still under interrogation at the Petah Tekva Detention Centre, denied her right to consult with her lawyer.

The persecution of female students under the pretext of their activism as student unionists lays the Israeli Occupying Power bare, quashing its attempts to render itself as a democracy. As an Occupying Power, Israel prevents and oppresses any attempt by students to put their basic rights into practice, including their freedom of expression and participation in political life.

Such systematic violations are devised to oppress and intimidate the Palestinian students into refraining from exercising their internationally protected right to participate in union activities and freedom of political association, opinion, and expression.

In fact, the right to association stands to be a basic human right and is construed as the right of individuals to organise associations with persons that share a mutual opinion as well as join an established association. This right, furthermore, entails the collective right to associations to conduct activities and act in the mutual interests of their member or the subjects, individuals, or groups, for whom they work⁸⁹. Of note, the freedom of association and peaceful assembly shall be exercised without any constraints unless international law, particularly IHRL otherwise indicates⁹⁰. Although the international conventions and treaties safeguard this fundamental right, the Israeli occupation authorities go on infringing it by denying many students of their freedom of conducting and participating in student and union activities.

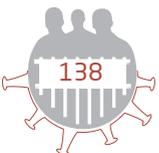
89. "Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly in International Law" by Mervat Rishmawi – Amnesty International E-Magazine, issue no. 17. Available at: <http://www.amnestymena.org/ar/Magazine/Issue17/specialrapourter.aspx?articleID=1055>

90. See previous reference



Layan: An Honour Student Denied the Joy of Graduation!

Layan, a middle daughter of a family consisting of two parents, two brothers, and three sisters, is an honour student. With a 96 average in the General Secondary Education Certificate Examination, she enrolled in the Birzeit University sociology bachelor degree programme. Full of energy and a persistent glimmer of a smile, Layan has never excluded herself from her community and always extends her hand to help. Once completed the graduation requirements, Layan was a stone's throw from sharing the joy of graduation with her beloved ones. She was arrested before receiving her certificate that sums up a hard-won four-year academic journey. This aspiring spirit was thrown into an Israeli occupation prison and is awaiting a sentence under the pretext of participating in student union activities.



Annex 4

Name :Elyaa Abu Hijleh
Date of Birth 12:December1999
Age 22 :years
Residence :Ramallah
Marital Status :Single
Occupation :Law Student at Birzeit University
Date of Arrest 1 :July2020
Prison :Damon Prison
Legal Status :Serving a-11 month sentence



Arrest

On 1 July 2020, the Israeli Occupying Forces raided Elyaa Abu Hijleh's house in Al-Tira, demanding proof of identity, whereafter identifying her, the officer informed her that she would be taken to Ofer Prison. Elyaa was blindfolded with a medical mask, along with another mask placed over her nose and mouth, and transported in a military jeep to Ofer prison, where she was left on the floor of a room for an hour and a half. When she requested a chair to sit on, she was denied. Later, Elyaa was taken to a room near the watchtower where she stayed for four hours in the hot weather.

After being searched, she was transferred to interrogation, with her feet bound so tightly she almost fell on her face. Elyaa was placed in a small room with no windows or bathroom, brightly lit by strong white light, and was refused to have her feet shackles removed. The interrogator then interrogated her about her student and union work at the university. This phase of the interrogation lasted for an hour and a half. She was then interrogated for a second time, when the interrogator claimed that there were new questions. After the interrogation was complete, Elyaa was transferred by the Bosta to a medical center for a medical check-up before being transferred to Hasharon prison, culminating a journey of suffering that lasted seven hours.

At Hasharon prison, Elyaa and other fellow female prisoners were threatened by an Israeli prison officer of being tied to their beds and placing them in a room with surveillance cameras. Elyaa was not allowed any change of clothes while at Hasharon, and she was also insulted and harassed by civilian prisoners who were in the same section.



Legal Status

Elyaa Abu Hijleh was brought before Ofer military court, which extended her detention. She was then presented with a list of charges related to her student and union work in Birzeit university, her responsibilities in the academic committee, belonging to an organization deemed unlawful under Israeli military orders and throwing stones.

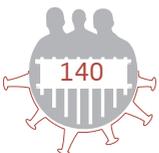
After nearly six months from her arrest, Ofer military court sentenced Elyaa to 11 months in prison and a fine of 1,500 shekels. She was also sentenced to ten months of prison suspended for five years on the charge of belonging to an unlawful organization, along with four months of prison suspended for five years for participating in marches, and 12 months suspended for five years for throwing stones. Therefore, there is a different suspension period for each charge on the indictment.

During the court session, the military prosecutor stated that he accepted the deal for the imprisonment of Elyaa for 11 months on the basis of her short membership period with the organization, her clean past, and due to a “difficulty of evidence.” This “difficulty” refers to the torture of witnesses in Elyaa’s file, despite that the military prosecution does not mention the subject of torture at all, but rather claims “difficulty of evidence.” The occupation authorities are expected to release Elyaa on 1 June 2021.

The Crime of Torture and “Difficulty of Evidence”

A number of Palestinian detainees were subjected to severe physical and psychological torture during an investigation occurring as part of a campaign of arrests that began in August 2019. Among the detainees were university students who were tortured and subsequently indicted with charges relating to their student and union activism within the university. It was through torture, pressure, and coercion that the Israeli interrogators illegally extracted confessions from Palestinian detainees and evidence used to prosecute, arrest, and convict other detainees, including Elyaa Abu Hijleh.

Moreover, the occupation authorities work complementary to each other to cover up crimes of torture committed against detainees in interrogation centers: beginning with prohibiting detainees from meeting with their lawyers, to preventing lawyers from monitoring and documenting torture, to concealing detainees’ statements about their exposure to torture from protocols during trial sessions (as was the case with prisoner Mais Abu Ghosh), to the point of not mentioning anything related to torture that was practiced related to the



decisions of the military court ruling (as was the case with prisoners Khaled Qaad and Elyaa Abu Hijleh). In this vein, the military prosecution insists on the phrase “the existence of difficulty in the evidence” to refer to the fact that the statements of witnesses in the file of Elyaa were extracted illegally, but categorically rejects the explicit reference to torture in an attempt to evade the legal responsibility of Israeli interrogators who committed torture.

The prohibition of extracting confessions from detainees under torture is a legal principle enshrined in various legal systems and in international conventions. Under this principle, no person can be forced to make statements under duress, without their consent, and under torture; if these statements are extracted by unlawful means (ie torture), they are considered invalid and may not be used against the detainee or against another detainee.

The Fourth Geneva Convention affirms the imposition of criminal procedures against anyone who practices or orders torture or inhuman treatment, perpetrators of these crimes must be prosecuted and brought to trial⁹¹. The systematic practice by the Israeli occupation authorities, working complementarily across institutions, to conceal crimes of torture confirm that the military judicial system is part of the Israeli apartheid regime, leading to calls for an international trial on the violations and crimes of this system.

Elyaa’s Trial and the Principle of Non-Retroactivity

According to the principle of non-retroactivity (also known as the prohibition of ex post factolaws), new laws or legislation cannot be passed retroactively to criminalize actions that were legal when committed. Generally, international law prohibits the enactment of ex post facto laws, such provisions are found in Article 11(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 15(1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. [2]Despite this legal principle, the occupation authorities continue to violate international legal principles to further extend their control over the Palestinian people.

The military court tried Elyaa for joining the Progressive Democratic Student Pole at Birzeit University, which was banned by the military commander on 13 August 2020, despite the fact that Elyaa was arrested a month and a half before this decree was issued. Moreover, her alleged activity with the student pole in the indictment was practiced before the announcement of the ban, indicating that Elyaa was tried in accordance with subsequent legislation, striking against the principle of non-retroactivity of laws, as the activities

⁹¹. Articles 146 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949.



practiced by students within the framework of the student pole were not criminalized in and of themselves prior to this announcement. Rather, students were previously tried on charges of working within the framework of the student pole as a “student arm” of the banned Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, meaning the student pole had to be linked with the Popular Front in order for the detainee to be convicted. Now, with the latest decree banning the student pole itself, there is no longer a need to link the student pole with the Popular Front. Instead, belonging to the student pole becomes a crime for which students are tried before military courts, in flagrant violation of students right to student work, union, and political affiliation.

A Law Student Witnessing its Violation

Elyaa Abu Hijleh is the eldest daughter of a family of three. She is a law student in her final year at Birzeit University who excelled academically, maintaining honors since her enrolment in the university. The occupation deprived her and her family of the joy of graduating. Despite repeated attempts by her family to bring her university books to continue her studies, the prison administration continues to prevent this. Elyaa’s family, like those of other female prisoners, is cut off from communicating with her. Her mother has only visited her twice since her arrest, the last of which was over five months ago, due to the arbitrary occupation measures banning family visits under the pretext of the COVID-19 pandemic.



ADDAMEER Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution that works to support Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons. in Human Rights. Established in 1992 by a group of activists interested in human rights, the center offers free legal aid to political prisoners, advocates their rights at the national and international level, and works to end torture and other violations of prisoners' rights through monitoring, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns. Addameer enjoys the support of a volunteer body called "Addama'er", which believes in Addameer's goals and participates in the activities held by the association. They also work in supporting Addameer's message.

Addameer is an executive member of the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organization Network (PNGO), the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council (PHROC), the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), the International Coalition against torture, and many other regional and international coalitions.

Addameer's Vision:

Addameer believes in the importance of building a free and democratic Palestinian society based on justice, equality, rule of law, and respect for human rights within the larger framework of the right to self-determination. Addameer's work is based on a belief in the universality of human rights as enshrined in international law.

Addameer's Goals:

- Put an end to torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment inflicted upon Palestinian prisoners and work on abolishing the death penalty.
- Put an end to arbitrary detentions and arrests and guarantee fair, impartial and public trials.
- Support political prisoners and their families by providing them with legal aid and social and moral assistance and undertaking advocacy on their behalf.
- Push for legislation that guarantee human rights and basic freedoms and ensure their implementation on the ground.
- Raise awareness of human rights and rule of law issues in the local community.
- Ensure respect for democratic values in the local community, based on political diversity and freedom of opinion and expression.
- Lobby for international support and solidarity for Palestinians' legitimate rights.

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