

# Submission to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories Occupied Since 1967 for its Thematic Report to the UN General Assembly on the Rights to Self-Determination

Submitted by Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association

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Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution that works to support Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli occupation and Palestinian prisons. Established in 1991 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 systematic violations of Palestinian prisoners' rights through monitoring, documentation, legal procedures and solidarity campaigns.

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#### Introduction

In the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel, over five million stateless Palestinians live in an acute state of subjugation with no path to self-determination or a viable independent state. In the aftermath of the Nakba—during which 80 percent of the Palestinian population became refugees<sup>1</sup> and dispossessed of their land and property—Zionist leadership installed a discriminatory apartheid regime in the newly established State of Israel in an attempt to legalize and legitimize the crimes committed against the Palestinian popule.

Through its laws, policies, and practices, Israel has established a regime of racial domination and oppression over the Palestinian people. The regime preferences Israeli Jewish nationality— conferring exclusive rights of self-determination to the Jewish people<sup>2</sup>—while legislating for the alienation of Palestinian "absentee" real and personal property for exclusively Jewish use.<sup>3</sup> In recent years, Israeli prime ministers have regularly and openly proclaimed that the country's rule over the Palestinians and their land is permanent and that no Palestinian state will emerge.

The Israeli occupation and apartheid regime utilizes the fullest extent of its legislative, judicial, and executive powers to maintain control and subjugation over the people of Palestine. This report addresses Israel's ongoing obstruction of the Palestinian right to self-determination as exercised through its carceral and military apparatuses—interdependent arms of the Israeli apartheid system working in tandem to establish an "occupation in perpetuity" through the surveillance, detention, imprisonment, torture, and killing of Palestinians as part of the regime's settler-colonial project.

Specifically, this report touches on the role and development of Israeli legal and judicial systems as tools of the Israeli carceral and settler-colonial state; the criminalization of Palestinian daily life as authorized through a network of military orders, allowing Israel to incarcerate, detain, and/or deport people from all swaths of Palestinian society at will; the regime's abuse of administrative detention and its widespread violations of international human rights and humanitarian law; and the grossly inhumane conditions of confinement within Israel's prisons, constituting a public health and human rights crisis.

The report concludes with recommendations urging the international community to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian right to self-determination by calling for the end of over seven decades of Israeli oppression and apartheid rule.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Pappe, Ilan, The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine, Oneworld Publications, 2006, pp. 16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Articles 1 (a)(b)(c), Basic Law: Israel – The Nation State of the Jewish People (Unofficial translation by Dr. Susan Hattis Rolef), at: <u>http://knesset.gov.il/laws/special/eng/basiclawnationstate.pdf</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Article 1(b)(1), Absentees' Property Law, 5710-1950, at: https://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/E0B719E95E3B494885256F9A005AB90A; Adalah, "Absentees' Property Law", at: https://www.adalah.org/en/law/view/538



# I. Israeli Apartheid and the Criminalization of Palestinian Life

As an Occupying Power, Israel has established a complete apartheid apparatus to suppress, control, and delegitimize the Palestinian people. At the heart of Israel's settler-colonial project is a comprehensive dual legal system that provides rights and living conditions for Jewish-Israeli settlers in the West Bank while imposing military rule upon Palestinians without the basic protections of international humanitarian and human rights law. Israel assigns or withholds these rights and conditions based on ethnic and national identity.

The focus of Israel's military legal system on Palestinians in the West Bank, in particular, is the regulation of security, which covers such "offenses" as participating in protests and non-violent civil disobedience, standard criminal acts, traffic violations, membership in over 400 banned organizations, and taking part in political meetings and engaging in civil society activities.

As a result of Israel's carceral and military legal apparatus and the criminalization of daily life, more than 800,000 Palestinians have been detained under Israeli military orders in the oPt since the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory in 1967. This number constitutes approximately 20% of the total Palestinian population in the oPt and as much as 40% of the total male Palestinian population. It includes approximately 10,000 women jailed since 1967 and 8,000 Palestinian children arrested since 2000. As of 16 June 2022, Israel incarcerates approximately 4,700 political prisoners in 17 institutions across Israel and the oPt.<sup>4</sup>

The following subsections provide an overview of Israel's criminalization of various segments of Palestinian society within the context of the obstruction of self-determination. In particular, the report focuses on the Israeli criminalization of youth voices, political leaders, and civil society organizations.

### A. The Criminalization of Palestinian Voices

Palestinian youth and students have been persistently and systematically targeted as part of Israel's protracted campaign to criminalize and infringe upon Palestinians' rights to freedom of association, freedom of expression, and ability to form student unions. Efforts to delegitimize youth voices come in a broader context of continued and increased attacks on various voices that expose and challenge Israel's systematic violations—including those of human rights defenders and voices from academic institutions and Palestinian civil society groups.

In August 2020, the Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) officially declared the Democratic Progressive Student Pole (DPSP)—the leftist bloc at Birzeit University—an "unlawful association."<sup>5</sup> Students at Birzeit University have routinely been subject to systematic attacks,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Addameer, General Briefing: Palestinian Political Prisoners in Israeli Prisons. <u>https://www.addameer.org/advocacy/briefings\_papers/general-briefing-palestinian-political-prisoners-israeli-prisons-0</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Addameer, Israel's Designation of the Democratic Progessive Student Pole an "Unlawful" Organization is Another Manifestation of its Apartheid Regime, 8 December 2020, <u>https://www.addameer.org/news/4259</u>



<u>raids on campus</u>, arbitrary detention, torture, and ill-treatment. During the 2019-2020 academic year at Birzeit University, the IOF detained around 74 students; in 2020, the IOF detained <u>three</u> <u>female students</u>, with one of the charges being participation and affiliation with the DPSP. Many of Birzeit's students have also been subject to torture and ill-treatment.<sup>6</sup>

The IOF's continuous attacks against Palestinian universities and students violate Israel's obligation as an Occupying Power to protect educational institutions. In addition, these attacks directly impede the Palestinians' right to education, as provided in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).<sup>7</sup>

Youth and student unions are essential elements of a democratic society. In Palestine, youth voices have contributed to the mobilization of popular resistance and transnational solidarity against Israel's apartheid regime and toward social change. Their criminalization thus represents another attempt by Israel's apartheid regime to suppress youth self-determination.

### **B.** The Suppression of Palestinian Political Self-Determination

Palestinian political leaders are routinely arrested and detained as part of Israel's ongoing effort to suppress Palestinian political processes—a gross obstruction of Palestinian political sovereignty and self-determination.<sup>8</sup> While the detainment and arrest of individuals based on political opinion remain illegal according to international law and Israeli law, in practice, the Israeli occupation authorities systematically imprison Palestinian candidates, parliamentarians, and elected officials on both national and <u>municipal</u> levels.<sup>9</sup>

The Israeli occupation regime targets members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in particular through <u>continuous arrests</u>, <u>ongoing harassment</u>, and the issuance of travel bans and <u>residency revocations</u>. Such arrests were most prominent in the wake of the Palestinian Legislative elections in 2006, when over a third of PLC members were arrested. In 2020 alone, over ten members of the PLC were incarcerated in Israeli prisons, including prominent political leaders <u>Marwan Barghouti</u>, Ahmad Sa'adat, Mohammad Totah, and <u>Khalida Jarrar</u>. Similar to years prior, the Israeli occupation continued to place PLC members under administrative detention, without charge or trial, under "secret evidence," claiming that members pose a "security threat" to the region.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Addameer, Arrests of Legislative Council Members, November 2018,

https://www.addameer.org/the prisoners/plc member

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Addameer, The Systematic Use of Torture and Ill-treatment in Israeli Interrgoation Centers: Cases of Torture Committed in al-Mascoubiyya Interogation Center, 21 March 2021.

https://www.addameer.org/publications/systematic-use-torture-and-ill-treatment-israeli-interrogation-centerscases-torture

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Art. 26 and ICESCR, Art. 13

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Addameer, Palestinian Administrative Detainees Complete Three Months In Their Collective Boycott of Israeli Military Courts, 31 March 2022, <u>https://www.addameer.org/news/4736</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Addameer, Detaining Democracy: Administrative Detention and PLC Members, 1 February 2018, <u>https://www.addameer.org/publications/detaining-democracy-administrative-detention-and-plc-members</u>



In addition to arbitrary arrests and imprisonment, Israeli occupation forces have prevented several Legislative Council members from traveling outside the occupied Palestinian territory. The occupation state further revoked the residencies of Jerusalemite Legislative Council members and forcibly deported them to the remainder of the West Bank, depriving them of reaching Jerusalem.<sup>11</sup>

Israel's arbitrary detention of PLC members and political leaders stands in stark violation of numerous international conventions that guarantee the right to express political opinions and prohibit detention on political grounds. Despite such international guarantees, the Israeli occupation systematically arrests Palestinian political leaders as part of a broader policy that obstructs the Palestinian political process and violates Palestinians' right to self-determination.

### C. The Criminalization of Palestinian Civil Society Organizations

On 19 October 2021, the Israeli Minister of Defense designated <u>six Palestinian human rights</u> and <u>civil society organizations</u> (CSOs) as "terrorist organizations" under Israel's Counter-Terrorism Law of 2016. The Israeli military commander later issued military orders outlawing these organizations in the West Bank and considering them "unlawful" organizations. On 16 December 2021, the organizations' legal team sent a letter to the military demanding the disclosure of all the evidence that forms the basis for the designations. In response, the Military Attorney replied that the "core of the designations" is based on classified material that would remain secret.<sup>12</sup>

These designations represent a continuation of Israel's subjugation and political persecution of Palestinian CSOs that protect Palestinian human rights—including the documentation and monitoring of human rights violations and accountability work to prosecute Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity and legal and advocacy efforts. Israel's actions against these organizations include the use of counter-terrorism legislation and military orders to restrict and criminalize fundamental human rights and humanitarian services, <u>discrediting</u> and <u>smearing</u> the organizations' work, <u>travel bans</u> on staff with the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations, the use of <u>Pegasus spyware</u> of Israeli NSO group on mobile phones of Palestinian human rights workers, and arbitrary arrests and <u>criminal prosecution</u> of human rights defenders.

Israel's designations of "terrorism" represent an unprecedented attempt by the Israeli occupying authorities to silence and criminalize Palestinian CSOs that challenge Israel's prolonged military occupation, entrenched settler-colonization, and apartheid of Palestine. The potential impact of these designations and subsequent declarations by the Israeli military commander is substantial. The Israeli Counter-Terrorism Law and the 1945 Defense Regulations 1945 foresee

<sup>12</sup> Adalah, Israel Refuses to Reveal the Evidence against the Six Palestinian Organziations Designated as "Terrorist" Organizations, 6 January 2022, <u>https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/10515</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Adalah, Challenging Cancellation of Residency Status of Palestinian Parliament Members from East Jerusalem, <u>https://www.adalah.org/en/content/view/6713</u>

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prison terms for membership or any type of support or cooperation with such organizations, prohibition of activities, confiscation of property, and closure of offices.<sup>13</sup>

## II. Israeli Apartheid and the Judicial System

The Israeli military regime in the oPt exercises judicial power to forcefully implement and maintain Israel's oppressive rule. The Israeli military judicial system comprises military courts that govern the lives of Palestinians and prosecute Palestinian civilians based on Israeli military orders—with over 1800 orders issued since 1967 by the Commander of the Israeli Defense Forces. Given the objectives of the Israeli judicial system to enforce Israeli apartheid, Israeli military courts serve not as an impartial, independent entity enacted to promote justice but as a means of control and subjugation against the people of Palestine.

Israeli military orders—presented as dealing with security-related offenses—have criminalized the exercise of many fundamental rights by Palestinians as guaranteed under international human rights and international humanitarian law. As described in Subsection A below, the orders form the basis for Israel's systematic practice of arbitrary detention of individuals from across Palestinian society, university students, civil society workers, human rights defenders, activists, and political leaders, including PLC members.

The functioning of the Israeli military courts further gives rise to serious violations in international law—including the war crime of intentionally denying Palestinian prisoners their right to a fair and regular trial under Article 8(2)(a)(6) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court ("ICC"), as described in Subsection B, and Israel's practice of torture, as described in Subsection C.<sup>14</sup> Moreover, such courts also expand Israel's territorial, personal, and subject-matter jurisdiction deep into the fabric of Palestinian life. In this way, the powers exercised by Israeli military legislators and military courts assert control over Palestinian territory and deny the Palestinian people the right to self-determination.

### A. Administrative Detention

Israel's widespread use of administrative detention as a part of the Israeli judicial system constitutes a gross violation of Palestinians' right to self-determination. The Israeli military commander orders administrative detention in the oPt; detainees are held without trial and without being told the evidence against them. In most cases, they are informed that there is 'secret evidence' against them and that they are being held for 'security reasons.'

The issuance of an administrative detention order falls within the powers of the Israeli military commander of the area and the Minister of the Israeli security detainees in Jerusalem. Israeli law grants the military commander the power to modify military orders relating to administrative detention for "military necessity" without considering any international standards related to the rights of detainees. Specifically, these procedures constitute a violation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Diakonia, Designation of Palestinian CSOs as "Terrorist" Organizations, 18 November 2021,

https://www.diakonia.se/ihl/news/designation-of-palestinian-csos-as-terrorist-organisations/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> International Criminal Court Rome Statute, Article 8(2)(a)(6).



of Article 9(2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which recognizes the right of arrested individuals to "be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him."<sup>15</sup>

Further, following the issuance of an administrative detention order, a judicial review of the order must take place within eight days. Since administrative detention is without an actual trial, judicial review of administrative detention files is done by a judicial control court before a military judge as opposed to a committee. In most cases, the military judge decides upon the confirmation of the administrative detention order only by familiarizing him or herself with a summary of the evidence, without reading the entire contents of the secret material, and without examining the information's authenticity. This practice flies in violation of Article 78 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Administrative detention is increasingly employed as an arbitrary, coercive, and punitive measure. By the end of 2021, the Israeli military commander issued <u>1,595 administrative detention orders</u>, including renewing previous orders and issuing new ones. Between January and May 2022, 709 administrative detention orders were documented—surpassing 580 orders issued in the same period in 2021. Currently, there are over <u>600 Palestinian administrative detainees</u>, including four children, one woman, and six PLC members.

Israel routinely uses administrative detention in violation of the strict parameters established by international humanitarian law. Tellingly, Israel has claimed to be under a continuous state of emergency sufficient to justify the use of administrative detention since its inception in 1948. In addition, administrative detention is frequently used—in direct contravention of international law—for collective and criminal punishment rather than to prevent future threats. Israel's administrative detention regime violates numerous other international standards as well; for example, administrative detainees from the West Bank are deported from the occupied territory and interned inside Israel, in direct violation of Fourth Geneva Convention prohibitions (Articles 49 and 76). Moreover, in the <u>case of child administrative detainees</u>, Israel regularly fails to consider the child's best interests as required under international law.<sup>16</sup>

### **B.** The Violation of a Right to a Fair Trial

Palestinians are regularly charged in Israeli military courts that do not guarantee them the right to a fair trial and do not comply with the legal and international standards that preserve their right to equality before the law and fair trial guarantees. Israel's violations of fundamental rights are so severe as to give rise to the war crime of willfully denying protected persons their right to a fair trial under Article 8(2)(a)(vi) of the Rome Statute of the ICC.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> DCIP, Israeli Authorities Issue Administrative Detention Orders against Two Palestinian Boys, 20 May 2022, <u>https://www.dci-</u>

palestine.org/israeli authorities issue administrative detention orders against two palestinian boys

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> International Criminal Court Rome Statute, Article 8(2)(a)(vi).



The following provides a brief overview detailing salient ways in which Palestinians' right to a fair trial is breached:

*Right to Know the Nature and Cause of the Charges:* The Israeli occupation and apartheid regime continue to place Palestinians under administrative detention indefinitely without charge based on secret material that can be disclosed to neither the detainees nor their lawyers.

*Right to an Independent and Impartial Tribunal:* Numerous human rights organizations consider prosecuting civilians before military courts an infringement upon the right to a fair trial. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has directly stated that "military courts should not have jurisdiction to try civilians, whatever the charges they face. They canno[t] be considered as independent and impartial tribunals for civilians".<sup>18</sup>

*Right to Public Trial and Proceedings:* Palestinian detainees are tried behind closed doors in Israeli military courts, meaning there is no public presence to observe and oversee the legal proceedings.

*Right to Assistance of an Interpreter:* Israeli military courts consistently fail to provide professional and accurate interpretation services to Palestinian detainees.

The right to a fair trial guaranteeing an independent and impartial prosecution is a nonderogable right; it is not subject to any limitation or exception, even during an armed conflict or an emergency situation. It constitutes a general principle under international customary law, binding upon all States, even if they are not a State Party to any conventions guaranteeing this right. The Israeli occupation authorities continue to try thousands of Palestinians before Israeli military courts for various criminalized political and cultural rights, resulting in grave breaches of basic human rights, detainees' fundamental rights, and the Palestinian right of selfdetermination.

### C. The Israeli Occupied Forces' Practice of Torture

Israel's use of torture, dehumanization and violence toward Palestinian prisoners and detainees constitute a major infringement upon the right of Palestinian self-determination. On arrest and throughout the period of transfer, Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) perpetrate various forms of torture and ill-treatment against Palestinian prisoners and detainees—including physical assault, invasive body searches, sexual and gender-based violence, stress positions, psychological torture, and beatings that escalate throughout the transfer process to Israeli prisons and interrogation centers. The Israeli occupation state branches, including the judicial system, consistently provide legal and judicial cover for all acts of torture.<sup>19</sup>

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ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/HRC/13/30/Add.1&Lang=E
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, "Opinion No. 27/2008 (Egypt)," A/HRC/13/30/Add.1, 4 March 2010. <u>http://daccess-</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Samer Arbeed, age 45, was arrested on the morning of 25 September 2019 by Israeli occupation special forces in front of his workplace. He was transferred to Ofer prison where he was tortured, leaving him unable to walk, swallow, stand, urinate, and eat. In Samer's first court session after his torture, the judge requested that Samer be taken to a doctor. However, Samer was taken back to interrogation at al-Mascobiyya directly following the



International treaty and customary law—prominently Article 7 of the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)—indisputably establish the non-derogability of the prohibition of torture, arising to the level of jus cogens peremptory norms. Despite Israel's ratification of the previous articles, Israeli domestic legislation and high court rulings continue to sanction the use of torture through the 'necessity defense' or 'ticking bomb' argument based on a 1999 Israeli High Court ruling. In 2018, the Israeli High Court <u>expanded the 'ticking bomb' scenario</u> to include cases that do not pose an imminent security threat—excluding the condition of 'immediacy' to be constrained by a specific time frame.

The practice of torture reveals how Israeli military courts are far from being independent or impartial entities. Instead, the courts serve as a key facet of the Israeli occupying forces' apparatus of oppression, prioritizing the requests and needs of Israeli intelligence agencies over detainees' rights. Most importantly, the insistence of the Israeli judges at both military and civil courts to extend the interrogation periods with the knowledge of the committed torture proves the complicity of this legal system in the committed crimes. Israeli judges routinely obstruct the documentation of torture by attempting to delay the delivery of medical reports and pictures of the bodies of those tortured detainees—instead of their legal obligation to monitor and prevent torture themselves.

## **III.** Conditions of Confinement in Israeli Prisons

The Israeli Prison Service (IPS) <u>incarcerates over 4,700 Palestinians</u> across 17 prisons including 170 children, 32 women, and 640 administrative detainees. The majority of said institutions are located outside of the designated occupied territories, with only one institution situated within the West Bank. The illegal forcible transfer of protected persons from occupied territory into Israel constitutes unlawful deportation as per <u>Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva</u> <u>Convention</u>. Moreover, the systematic and illegal transfer of Palestinians from the occupied territory also carries with it a human impact: the overwhelming majority of Palestinian relatives of prisoners and detainees require a permit to enter Israel and are regularly denied family visitation permits.

The conditions that incarcerated individuals face in Israeli prisons are <u>inhumane and lack</u> <u>minimum standards of adequate living</u>. Palestinian prisoners endure extreme conditions in overcrowded, tight prison rooms—many of which retain humidity, and lack natural ventilation sources—leading many prisoners suffering numerous skin diseases and infections. Moreover, IPS deliberately does not provide sufficient nourishment and life necessities, leaving prisoners

court session—where the interrogators continued to use the same torture methods until he fainted. Samer was transferred to a hospital with life threatening injuries, and after around two weeks he woke up to find himself in the hospital on artificial respiration with 11 broken ribs, renal failure, the loss of his nails, and several bruises on his whole body. For more see: <u>https://www.addameer.org/news/addameer-condemns-israeli-attorney-generals-decision-close-investigation-against-shabak</u>



to purchase much of their food and daily life necessities from the prison canteen at double the normal prices.<sup>20</sup>

The inhumane conditions of confinement in Israeli correctional institutions result in the development of serious medical conditions for incarcerated individuals. Compounding such conditions is the deliberate medical neglect exercised by IPS. It is imperative to expose the gravity of the IPS's deliberate medical negligence policy, as it has become an integral part of the Israeli occupying authorities' oppression of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and yet another method to infringe on Palestinian prisoners' rights to health and dignified treatment.

By the end of 2021, there were 600 sick Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisoners, including four cases of cancer patients and 15 cases of chronic illnesses. Further, Israel has failed to ensure the protection of Palestinian prisoners and detainees during the spread of COVID-19, as they continue to be subjected to harsh living conditions that do not align with the bare minimum of adequate living standards, further compounding the vulnerability of Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The overcrowding, insufficient ventilation, and lack of hygiene products make it nearly impossible to restrain the virus's spread inside prisons and leave Palestinian prisoners unprotected and exposed to the rapid spread of COVID-19.

Israel's function as tools of apartheid rule as opposed to institutions of justice. As such, the ongoing dehumanization of Palestinians in IPS custody is intrinsic to Israel's operationalization of the prisons themselves. By bringing to light such inhumane conditions of confinement and the infliction of inflicting severe medical conditions on incarcerated individuals—conditions heightened due to the Covid-19 pandemic—Israel's carceral apparatus serves as another form of obstruction of Palestinian self-determination.

### IV. Recommendations

• Acknowledge the root causes of the situation in Palestine as one settler colonization and apartheid. Through the strategic fragmentation and segregation of the Palestinian people into domains, Israel has ensured that Palestinians cannot meet, group, live together, and exercise their collective rights, particularly their right to self-determination, in violation of common article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> On 12 March 2014, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, the Academic Center for Law and Business, and Physicians for Human Rights in Israel petitioned the Israeli Supreme Court on the living space in prisons. At the time, the living space assigned per prisoner was in stark violation of IPS regulations that set the living space to six square meters per prisoner. On 13 June 2017, the Supreme Court ruled that the state is required to expand the living space per prisoner to provide adequate space. The Court decision required the state to make the necessary changes over two stages: first within nine months, followed by 18 months. Despite the sufficient court-set deadline, the Israeli prosecution requested to extend the deadline to 2027. The prosecution's request shows the continuous Israeli attempts to deny the prisoners their simplest of rights like an adequate living space, as well as stall in implementing any court decisions in this regard.



- Demand that Israel immediately ceases any and all practices of intimidation and silencing of human rights defenders, organizations, and members of civil society in violation of their right to freedom of expression, including through arbitrary detention, torture, and other ill-treatment, institutionalized hate speech, and incitement, residency 77/77 revocation, deportations, and other coercive or punitive measures. In particular, the Israeli Minister of Defence rescind the designations of the six leading Palestinian human rights organizations as "terror organizations" both under Israeli domestic law and under military order
- Call on Israel to release all political prisoners and to end its widespread and systematic use of arbitrary detention and the use of torture and other ill-treatment.
- Call on Israel to end the trial of Palestinian civilians in Israeli military courts and to
- abolish the Israeli occupation itself.

#### END