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Annual Report

2020

**Duplicated suffering
on detainees in
confronting the
policies of jailor and
the epidemic**



Release:

The Commission of Detainees' Affairs

General Directorate of Public Relations and Information

The Palestinian Society Prisoner's Club

Al Dameer Association for Human Rights

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Speech of the Head of the Commission

The year of 2020 is the most difficult year in terms of oppression and restrictions on the rights of detainees which are guaranteed by the International Humanitarian Law, especially in the light of the spread-out of Corona virus in prisons due to the policy of medical negligence. When the world was busy fighting the virus, the administration of prisons finds its way and misused the pandemic to suppress Palestinian detainees.

In spite of the Palestinian official and unofficial calls to release detainees, the instructions of the World Health Organization and the release of thousands of prisoners all over the world, the occupation authorities refuse to release any detainee regardless of his health conditions. Besides, Israel still disregards the lives and health situations of detainee and do not take any preventive measure to protect them.

In light of the tragic and dangerous situations in prisons, not providing the appropriate preventive measures and the continuous systematic arrest cases which included women, minors, elderly and injured persons, the international community deals with the Palestinian detainees cause in the language of denunciation without taking actual steps, and this is what exacerbates their tragedy and suffering.

May God's mercy be upon the souls of the martyrs of the Captive Movement, and we pray that our sick detainees be recovered very soon. We affirm on the continuous support for our detainees and their families till they obtain freedom. We say to the world: it is time to draw red lines to this criminal entity in terms of the treatment of our detainees, and all international agreements which guarantee their rights shall be applied, and to impose international sanctions against Israel. The occupation's violation of detainees' rights is a violation to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a threat to the international organizations and a threat to stability and peace in the region.



In the same context, I respect and appreciate the efforts that were made to write this report, which reflects a great concern and high responsibility for the cause of Palestinian detainees.

We in the Commission of Detainees' Affairs keen to collaborate with partner institutions and reinforce the collective work to produce the annual report in a way that serve the cause of detainees and make it easy for journalists and researchers to obtain facts and statistical data. The experience of collective work with partner institutions enhances us to keep going and encourages us to expand partnership and take other steps forward.

The Head of the
Commission of Detainees' Affairs
Qadri Abu Baker





31/12/2020

The year of 2020: duplicated suffering on detainees in confronting the policies of jailor and the epidemic

Detainees' Institutions: the Israeli occupation authorities arrested more than (4600) Palestinians, including (543) minors and (128) women

During 2020, the Israeli occupation authorities continued in the policy of systematic punishment and violating the rights of detainees, which are guaranteed by international covenants and agreements, as part of torture policy imposed against the Palestinians. A series of violations took the first place in the reality of the cause of detainees in Israeli prisons, especially in light of the spread-out of the coronavirus pandemic, through various measures imposed by the administration of prison, which contributed to worsening detention conditions.

According to reports of human right organizations specialized in detainees' affairs, the Israeli forces arrested (4634) Palestinians in 2020, including (543) minors, (128) women and issued (1114) administrative detention orders.

Detainees' institutions and human rights organizations (the Commission of Detainees and Ex-detainees' Affairs, the Palestinian Society Prisoner's Club, Al Dameer Association for Human Rights and Wadi Hilweh Information Center) pointed out in their report that there are currently (4400) Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, including (40) women, (170) minors and (380) administrative detainees. The report also showed that the number of the martyrs of the Captive Movement is (226), where (4) detainees martyred in 2020 inside the prison, (Nour Aldeen Barghouthi, Saadi Gharabli, Dawood Khateeb and Kamal Abu Waaer).

(543) detainees have been sentenced to life imprisonment, including five in 2020, where the longest term is for the detainee Abdullah Barghouthi



who is sentenced to (67) life imprisonment.

Moreover, there are nearly (700) sick detainees, including (300) with chronic and serious diseases who need appropriate treatment and continuous care, and at least there are tens of detainees who have cancer, such as the detainee Fuad Shobaki, 81 years old.

There are many detainees who are held at Al-Ramlah clinic : (Khalid Shaweesh, Mansour Mowqadi, Motasem Raddad, Nahed Aqraa, Saleh Saleh and Muwafaq Erouq).

(71) Detainees have been killed since 1967 due to deliberate medical negligence, which is a firm and systematic policy.

The occupation authorities still retain the bodies of (8) martyrs who died inside the prison; (Anees Dolah who died in Ashkelon prison in 1980, Azeez Ewaisat who died in 2018, Fares Baroud, Nassar Taqatqa, and Bassam Sayeh who died in 2019, and Saadi Gharabli, Dowood Khateeb, Kamal Abu Waaer who died in 2020.

There are (26) long-term detainees who were arrested before the Oslo Accord, such as; Kareem Younis and Maher Younis who are detained since 1983, and the detainee Nael Barghouthi who served the total of 40 years in prison. (9) Members of the Legislative Council are currently imprisoned.



A preview of the rate of arrests carried out by the occupation authorities in 2020

The highest rate of arrests on December 2020 is (496) arrests, while the lowest rate was recorded on April 2020 with (197) cases. However, the occupation authorities escalated the systematic arrest campaigns since May 2020, despite the spread-out of the corona pandemic.

Detainees' institutions confirmed that the highest rate of arrests was recorded in Jerusalem with (1975) cases, including (642) in Silwan town; (363) minors and (100) women.

The occupation authorities escalated its targeting to villages and refugee camps that witness a continuous confrontation with the occupation forces, especially places that are close from the settlements established on large parts of the Palestinian territories.

They also targeted university students in an attempt to undermine any social contribution that might raise the development of the Palestinian society, where Birzeit University students were on focus of this targeting, with more than (70) arrest cases in 2020.



Detainees confronting the epidemic and the abusive policies of the prisons' administration

The Israeli occupation authorities continued its abusive measures against Palestinians. At the time that the whole world is facing the Corona epidemic, the occupation is misusing this case as a tool to suppress detainees, without taking into consideration the fears surrounding their fate, as prisons form a stimulating environment for the spread of diseases, especially with the lack of necessary preventive measures, in addition to the fact that the prisons are not suitable for human life.

Since March 2020, and with the declaration of the state of emergency, the prisons authority administration announced a set of measures, and imposed restrictions on several levels regarding the lawyers who defend detainees before the military and civil courts of the occupation, in addition to stopping visits of detainees' families and lawyers. These acts made the detainees live in double isolation with difficult detention conditions.

Detainees' institutions monitored a set of facts that accompanied the spread-out of the virus, such as: arresting more than (3600) Palestinians since the beginning of corona virus spread-out, including children, women, elderly, sick and injured persons. By these acts, the epidemic turned into a tool of suppression against detainees, and despite the increased number of infected detainees, especially in November, the occupation authorities continued its systematic daily arrests. However, (140) confirmed cases of corona virus were recorded, as the prisons administration announced.

The detention campaigns increased the possibility of the spread of the epidemic among Palestinian citizens and detainees, by storming houses without taking the necessary health measures to prevent the virus. Testimonies of citizens confirmed that the Israeli soldiers tended to spit on roofs and public places during storming the houses.

The epidemic was used to reinforce the violations against detainees' rights, such as obstructing the families and lawyers visits that was suspended temporarily. These restrictions imposed an additional suffering on detainees' families and placed detainees on additional isolation, which posed a threat to their fate. For example: Jelboa prison



witnessed the infection of (100) detainees in November 2020.

Detainees' institutions monitored flagrant violations against detainees in detention and interrogation centers, where tens of them were held at centers not suitable for human life, such as Huwara and Itzion interrogation centers. The prison administration isolated detainees for more than 20 days in tragic conditions, under the co-called "quarantine", and continued to torture detainees physically and psychologically inside interrogation centers. They also used the epidemic to practice pressure against detainees, in addition to the tragic conditions in the detention centers, as they deliberately held the new detainees inside a narrow "container" and kept them for hours.

Risks on detainees' health increase after the interrogation, where they suffer from difficult detention conditions that increase the possibility of spreading the virus among detainees. Moreover, social distancing could not be done in this case, where there are 6 detainees in each room.

The occupation authorities issued racist decisions that contradict international laws, which are represented in giving the vaccine for detainees depending on a decision of the occupation government, so that giving them the vaccine is not among the priorities.

Detainees' institutions renewed their call for the necessity of the existence of a neutral international committee to examine detainees' conditions and monitor the necessary health measures to prevent the spread of the epidemic, and intervene to release sick detainees, elderly, women and children, and provide the vaccine under the supervision of neutral party.



War against detainees and their families... allowances of detainees' families as an example

The Israeli authorities were not content with chasing detainees' families and torturing them, but also imposed new measures to deprive them of their rights, in an attempt to criminalize the right of the Palestinian people to struggle and decide their fate, and to stigmatize our struggle under "terrorism". In 2019, a campaign of targeting the allowances of detainees' families started at various levels, and the money of the Palestinian people were stolen. During this year, the occupation authorities expanded their policies and stole the money of detainees from Jerusalem and closed their bank accounts, under the pretext of receiving money from the Palestinian Authority.

They also issued the military order No. (1827), forming a new way to control the Palestinian people. According to an analytical paper submitted by the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, it is confirmed that the order No. (1827) adds new articles related to punishments that will be imposed against anyone who would use properties to make a breach, represented in actual imprisonment.

The letter addressed to banks operating in the occupied territories about the accounts of detainees and martyrs imposed many existential questions, and the most dangerous of its contents was the ability of seizing the property of an "illegal" organization based on these broad definitions, in addition to the use of the British emergency regulations, already canceled, to allow the military commander to declare any organization, union, party, student movement, sports club, or any other party as an "illegal organization".

It was agreed on by the Palestinian human rights organization about the set of risks imposed by the military order, especially with the threats received by the Palestinian banks if they continued to open bank account for detainees' families.



Hunger strike... a continuous confrontation against the policies of the occupation

The suppressive measures applied by the occupation authorities forced the detainees to confront the jailor with hunger strike, where more than (25) detainees started individual hunger strike, protesting against the policies of prison administration. The issue of administrative detention was the most prominent issue that affected detainees, in addition to medical negligence, solitary confinement, arbitrary transfer between prisons and torture in interrogation centers. The prison administration practiced various abusive and revengeful measures against detainees on hunger strike to force them end their strike, such as: depriving them of family and lawyers visits, repeated transfer between prisons, isolating them in cells not suitable for human life, in addition to a set of measures taken after transferring them to civil hospitals, represented in handcuffing them to beds which increases their pain.

The military courts of the occupation constituted the main tool in reinforcing the policy of administrative detention, by violating the guarantees of fair courts, including their refusal to inform the detainee and his lawyer of the charges against him under the pretext of “a secret file.”

We find that the majority of the detainees who went through strikes against their administrative detention have suspended the strike after having agreements to determine the period of their administrative detention.

The hunger strike of the detainee Maher Akhras against his administrative detention revealed the conspiracy of all security devices of the occupation in reinforcing this policy, especially the role played by the Israeli Supreme Court of Justice.

During this year, the occupation authorities issued (1114) administrative detention orders, the majority of them were against former detainees who spent many years in prisons. The policy of administrative detention is one of the most prominent policies pursued by the occupation authorities over the past decades, which target all groups that have an important role in the Palestinian society.



Systematic torture in the occupation prisons

Systematic physical and psychological torture is one of the most prominent tools used by the occupation authorities to practice pressure against detainees in order to obtain confessions, and most importantly, it is used to take away their humanity and take revenge on them.

Torture starts from the first moment of arrest, where the vast majority of detainees were subjected to different forms of physical and psychological torture. It included children, women, sick persons and elderly.

Although the occupation authorities used torture over the past decades, after the year of 2000 it is confirmed through detainees' testimonies that torture was focused at the psychological level. They changed their method and used physical torture in 2019, where tens of detainees' testimonies confirmed that they were subjected to physical and psychological torture. There are many forms of torture used during interrogation, such as: depriving detainees of sleep through long session of interrogation that might reach to 20 hours, handcuffing them during interrogation, beating, threatening them of sexual harassment, demolishing their houses or arresting their family members. In addition, detainees are deprived of using toilets or changing their clothes for long weeks.

There are many methods of torture under the so-called "military" interrogation such as: hanging for long hours, where the detainee is forced to lean back over the seat or bending his back opposite to his body, standing for long hours with bending his knees, pressing on different parts of the body and suffocating them.

In addition, detainees are kept for long time in isolation in small cells without windows, and they are deprived of sleep and also deprived of the right to have basic hygiene tools, and clean food and drink.

Al-Maskoubya investigation center represents the most violent place of torture, where detainees have been subjected to physical and psychological torture and mistreatment that led to dangerous injuries such as: bone fractures, fainting and loss of consciousness, vomiting, bleeding in various parts of the body (such as the nose, mouth, hands, legs and genital organs). In addition, detainees suffered from wrong x-ray diagnosis made by the doctors in the interrogation centers, who said that the detainees were physically qualified to complete an investigation, ignoring the clear evidence of torture and their poor health.



The policy of collective punishment... collective arrests, storming houses and destroying properties

The occupation authorities intentionally imposed collective punishment on the Palestinians, as a continuous punishment policy affecting all Palestinians. These policies varied between the continuous incursions into Palestinian cities, villages and camps, some of which take place during day hours and others in the late evening hours, accompanied by harassment of residents of homes, searching homes, and destruction their property. In addition, they control the archeological and historical sites, to provide protection for settlers for controlling these places, just as what happened in October 2020, when the Israeli occupation army carried out an incursion in Al-Baydar yard at Sabastya village, and fired gas bombs and rubber coated bullets causing injuries.

The occupation authorities continued to attack several cities and villages during the past year, and the towns of Ya'bad and Kobar had the largest share of attacks. Last May, the occupation forces launched arrest campaigns against more than 50 citizens of the town of Ya'bad, during which they searched homes, destroyed their properties and confiscated electronic devices. This happened after announcing the murder of an Israeli soldier during an incursion to the town in 122020/5/. As a result, many citizens were arrested and one of them was accused of carrying out the operation.

The occupation forces stormed Kobar village in November, in an attempt to arrest a former detainee, where they arrested more than 26 citizens from the village and 6 from Birziet village, in addition to his wife and son and many of his family members to force him to surrender. It is worthy to mention that his son is still arrested.

Yahya Zebar narrates what happened when his house was stormed, stating “they entered my brother’s house and asked everyone to go out, shareef stayed with the soldiers in the house and then they entered the rooms and opened fire on the furniture and destroyed everything”.

The occupation authorities tend to arrest of a family member or friend to practice pressure on the detainees and their families. A case in point is the arrest of the wife and daughter of the man accused of killing a soldier



in the town of Ya'bad to force them to give information and confessions. Collective punishments are not limited to arresting family members, but extend to the brutal way in which houses are stormed, so that the family members gather in a narrow place in the house or in one room, at the same time the detainee is moved to another room. The occupation forces tend to use pepper spray or tear gas, as what happened with the Tamimi family in the village of Nabi Saleh near Ramallah, where they stormed their house at night in August 2020 to arrest their 21-year-old son Muhammad Bilal Al-Tamimi.

Another case in point is the family of the detainee Saed Hajjeh, where many soldiers stormed their house in December 2020, using sound and gas bombs. They attacked the mother of the detainee, gathered 14 of his family members in a small place of the house and beat his brother. The occupation authorities use the policy of house demolishing, where they demolished 6 houses of detainees in 2020, such as the detainees Ahmad Qunbu', Qassam Barghouthi, Yazan Maghames, Waleed Hanatsheh, Nathmi Abu Baker and Khalil Dwiakat, leaving 22 homeless people including 7 minors.

Israel violates article (53) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the destruction of private property belonging to individuals, groups, a state or public authorities.



Continuous suppression against detainees in prisons

Detainees have been subjected to suppression during the past year, in an attempt to reinforce its suppressive and violent policies to torture detainees. Detainees have witnessed many brutal attacks in 2020 which were the most violent in the history of the captive movement. A case in point, the incursion carried out in section (19) and (20) at Ofer prison after the martyrdom of the detainee Dawood Khateeb in 22020/9/.

The members of the captive movement held in section (19) and (20) at Ofer prison have protested against the martyrdom of their colleague Khateeb, where they kept knocking on the doors of the section. After few minutes, Al-Yamaz Special Forces entered the sections and attacked the detainees using tear gas.

The detainee Abed Soboh said “the officer sprayed the gas on my face and I felt some burns in my face and neck, and some of the gas entered in my mouth and made me unable to breathe”. He also said that he saw the forces beating some detainees with huge batons on the head. In addition, they poured water on the blankets, confiscated the electronic appliances and transferred 7 detainees to solitary confinement. This attack led to the injury of 26 detainees, who continued their protests which made the forced to carry out another incursion to the sections using dogs. They attacked the detainees again, beat them with batons and handcuffed them with plastic ties. 27 detainees have been transferred to different prisons.

About a month later, on 102020/12/, the Special Forces “Metsada” stormed section 10 in Eshel Prison, which is the only section for Palestinian security detainees. They attacked detainees in room 6, 8, and 11, noting that the majority of them suffer from chronic diseases, and treated them in a brutal way and tended to curse and abuse them. The detainee Zamel Shalouf said that he was severely beaten, where 60 soldiers entered their section and attacked them despite their poor health conditions.



The occupation authorities steal the childhood of minor detainees

The occupation forces continued the daily arrests which target Palestinian children, in an attempt to destroy a complete generation. (543) children have been arrested since the beginning of the year, and (170) of them are still held in Israeli prisons, distributed to three prisons; Ofer, Megiddo, Damoun.

During the visits of human rights organizations to prisons, children detainees complained about many violations practiced against them, such as: the policies of suppression, arbitrary transfer between prisons, mistreatment and torture against injured and sick detainees. In addition, they tend to amend the military orders related to children detainees.

In 132020/1/, the administration of Ofer prison transferred 34 minors from Ofer Prison to Damoun Prison, without allowing their supervisors to accompany them. Children protested against this brutal act and entered a hunger strike for 5 days, but the administration of the prison suppressed them and gave orders to Yamaz and Metsada Special Forces to storm section (1) in which they are held. They were subjected to severe beating and they were handcuffed to beds for long hours. Moreover, the forces confiscated all their belongings and forced them to sleep on iron beds without covers or blankets.

Minor detainees described section (1) is a basement which is not suitable for human life, where it is very small without ventilation and its bathroom has no door.

With the spread-out of the Coronavirus epidemic, the suffering of minor detainees increased, where they were deprived of family visits for a long time.

Despite the continuous spread of the virus and the fears of detainees' institutions that the detainees might get infected, the occupation authorities continued to arrest Palestinians and put them in bad conditions that lack preventive measures related to the virus.

The case of the child Mahmoud Al-Ghaliz, 15, showed the extent to which the Prisons Authority's administration used the epidemic to abuse and psychologically torture Palestinian detainees, as Al-Ghaliz was infected with the virus inside the prison and he was isolated for 45 days in solitary



confinement in Rimon Prison, to be released afterwards on a bail.

The solitary confinement cell in which he was held lacked the decent living methods and the basic needs such as cleaning materials. Despite the demands to improve his living conditions, the administration did not care about his health and psychological condition. During his isolation, Al-Ghaliz did not see his lawyer or his family except through trials with video conference, and he did not receive clothes, or cleaning materials and the administration provided him with shampoo and soap after 14 days of isolation.

In 2020, child detainees were subjected to ill-treatment and deliberate torture of the injured persons since the first moments of arrest.

A case in point is the child Muhammad Muqbel. The case of the child Moqbel, 16, embodied the brutality of the occupation forces in arrest and ill-treatment during arrest. Moqbel was arrested on November 29, 2020 while he was bringing breakfast to the family. The soldier grabbed him and beat him with his rifle on the left jaw, and then put him on the military vehicle while being handcuffed and blindfolded. He was seeking help from the soldiers because of a bleeding in the mouth, and then he was transferred to the Etzion detention center without taking his health condition into consideration.

At 3:00 am of the next day, he was transferred to Hadassah Hospital to have a surgery on his jaw, which took place without his family's knowledge and without their permission. Later on, he got released in 27/2020/12/ on a bail. The occupation authorities not only arrested Palestinian children in order to harm them, but also made amendments to the Military Order (1651) to increase the suffering of detained Palestinian children under the age of 14 years.

In accordance with the new amendments, which became valid in 19/2020/5/, the punishment that can be imposed against children has no time limits, just as adult detainees. However, the order before the amendment stipulates that the punishment should not exceed 6 months, regardless of their charges.

Occupation forces continued to attack Palestinian children, which violates the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was signed by the state of occupation in 1991.



Arresting Palestinian women

The occupation authorities continue to carry out brutal arrest campaigns against the Palestinian people, including children, women and sick persons, violating their rights by torture since the first moment of arrest. Women and girls are attacked in many ways where the occupation authorities resort to measures aimed at harassing and suppressing them, or humiliating them and violating their dignity, without taking into account their special needs.

Till the end of 2020, (40) women are held in the Israeli prisons, including (13) mother, (8) wounded, (1) under administrative detention, (24) sentenced to actual imprisonment and (15) under arrest. According to the geographic distribution: (13) detainees from Jerusalem, (6) from the territories occupied in 1948, (2) from Gaza Strip and the rest are from the West Bank.

It is worthy to mention that Palestinian women are arrested in the same brutal way that the occupation authorities pursue against all the Palestinian people, as they are taken brutally from their homes, transferred to interrogation and detention centers, and subjected to various methods of physical and psychological torture, beatings and degrading treatment, with the aim of extracting confessions from them under pressure and threat.

A case in point is the case of the detainee Iman Awar (43 years) from Silwan/ Jerusalem, and Ruba Asi (20 years) from t Beit Liqia/Ramallah district, who were recently subjected to repression and abuse during their arrest.

Women detainees are held in an isolated section called “Al-Maabar” detention center called in “Hasharon” prison. This section lacks the basic necessities of life. The detainees are held there for days or weeks before they are transferred to “Damoun” prison.

Women detainees in this section suffer from difficult conditions, where their room is located beside the section of the criminal prisoners, and they are subjected to harassment by other prisoners. In addition, the rooms of the section are full of surveillance cameras, iron beds with bad covers and dirty blankets and the food served is very bad in terms of quantity and quality.



Moreover, the detention conditions of women in Damoun prison are very harsh, where the surveillance cameras are still installed in the yard of the prison which restricts their movement. The administration of Damoun prison prevents detainees from contacting their families by phone, in light of suspending family visits during the coronavirus pandemic.

Furthermore, the administration of prison neglects the health conditions of women detainees, where there are many sick detainees in the prison, such as the detainee Israa Jaabis, Amal Taqatqa, Iman Awar, Rawan Abu Zyadeh and Nisreen Abu Kmail, who suffer from different chronic diseases.

With the spread-out of coronavirus pandemic in Israel and the infection of many jailors, detainees conditions worsens and risks on their health increases. They are held in sections that lack the essential conditions of healthy life, and they deprived of the preventive measures and public safety, such as cleaning materials and sterilization, forcing them to buy cleaning materials and masks at their own expense to confront the epidemic.



Jerusalem confronting the polices of the occupation

In 2020, there is no day passes without recording arrest cases, where arrests are carried out after incursions to houses, field arrests and arrests from Al-Aqsa Mosque. The current pandemic did not prevent Israel from gaining more control over the city of Jerusalem by declaring the state of emergency and general lockdown.

Many arrest cases have been recorded against young men from Jerusalem, who were making initiatives to prevent the spread of the virus, under the pretext of “breaching the Israeli sovereignty over the city of Jerusalem”. They prevented them from the sterilization of public facilities, confiscated sterilization equipment, and prevented corona tests in Silwan, which is under the supervision of the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

(1975) arrest cases were recorded in 2020, including (363) minors, (8) under the age of 12, and (100) women including (3) minors.

Essawya town recorded the highest rate of arrests with (642) cases, then (296) from Silwan, (289) from the old city of Jerusalem, (362) from Al-Aqsa Mosque and (138) cases from Al-tour.

The occupation forces suppressed the Palestinians during the coronavirus pandemic, where they arrested the governor of Jerusalem Adnan Ghaith and the minister of Jerusalem Fadi Hidmi under the pretext of working to fight the virus, which contradicts the laws of “annexation of Jerusalem,” as it considers it an infringement of the “Israeli sovereignty” over the city.

The Israeli authorities continued to punish detainees from Jerusalem, such as exile, confiscating their money and withdrawing the residency. The occupation authorities began implementing the decision of the then Israeli Defense Minister, “Naftali Bennett,” to stop the salaries of Palestinian prisoners from Jerusalem under the pretext that “they receive monthly salaries from the Palestinian Authority, which encourages them to carry out terrorist operations.”

They issued orders to exile many former detainees and their families, such as the exile of the detainee Anan Najeeb for 6 months, the exile of the wife of the former detainee Ahmad Abu Ghazaleh and the former detainee Waheed Shabaneh.



House custody

The courts of the occupation impose house custody against people from Jerusalem, where they tie electronic handcuffs which restrict the movement and the place of existence. This period may extend to months, in which the detainee is deprived of going out of the house, education or visits. After the release, the lawyer can reduce the conditions and restrictions imposed by the house custody, but in all cases the movement remains restricted. The house is turned into a jail and the family is turned into a jailor, which lead to difficult psychological problems such as anger, nervousness and tension.



Detainees' family visits: a guaranteed right

Family visit to detained persons is one of the basic rights guaranteed by international covenants, and there are many rules in international agreements that guaranteed family visits for prisoners at regular basis. Article (116) of the Fourth Geneva Convention stipulates: “each detained person shall be allowed to receive visitors, especially his relatives, at regular basis, and that prisoners are allowed to visit their families in urgent cases, especially if a relative dies or becomes seriously sick.”

But the state of occupation breached all these agreements, where the international texts related to detainees and their families are no longer the ruling element between the Israeli jailor and the Palestinian detainee. Original rights have turned to a favor given by the occupation authority to the detainee whenever they want and deprive them of their rights whenever they want, without any justification. The Israeli occupation state seized this right to visits, and turned it into a means of suffering for both the detainee and his visitors, where they forbid the detainees under various pretexts, and forbid the families under the pretext of “security ban”.

The number of banned detainees has risen, where the state of occupation enacted texts and practices that contradict the core of international agreements. They tortured detainees physically and psychologically, and deprived them of all rights guaranteed on an international basis under feeble pretexts. Family visits turned into a bargaining element and blackmail to punish the detainee and his family.

Depriving detainees and families from visits is applied in a frame of supreme policy, not exceptionally or individually, against some detainees or a small group of their relatives. This has nothing to do with security, as claimed by the occupation authorities, where approximately two-thirds of detainees' families are prevented from visits, due to Israeli law or under the pretext of “security ban”.

If this is the situation for all detainees and their relatives in all Palestinian cities, the situation of southern provinces “Gaza Strip” is more difficult and complicated. After the unilateral disengagement plan from Gaza was implemented in September 2005, the deprivation process escalated further, as there is no regularity at all to the schedule of visits to the



families of detainees from the Gaza Strip, until it became very rare after June 2006, and irregular, and even if it is completed, it is carried out in accordance with unjust and unfair Israeli conditions and standards.

Since the spread out of the coronavirus pandemic in March last year, the occupation authorities prevented all family visits under the pretext of being concerned on detainees to avoid transmitting the infection. However, they did not take any measures to protect detainees in prisons, but they misused the pandemic as a tool to punish detainees and their families and deprive them of visits. This procedure increased detainees' suffering in the light of the escalated number of infected detainees. Recently, irregular visits were permitted for the detainees of Jerusalem and the West Bank, while the visits of Gaza detainees remained suspended until the writing of this report at the end of 2020, so that about eight months have passed since the last visit to the detainees of Gaza.

We could not apprehend stopping the visits of Gaza detainees and misusing the corona pandemic as a means of punishment for detainees and their relatives, where detainees from Gaza have the right to communicate with their families in all times and at regular basis as the rest of detainees.

We call on the international organizations, especially the International Committee of the Red Cross responsible for the visits schedule, to intervene immediately to force the occupation authorities to resume family visits for all detainees, especially detainees from Gaza, who were deprived of visits since eight months.

The suffering of Gaza detainees is increasing due to the suspended visits and the failure to provide alternative means for social communication between the detainees and their families.



Long-term detainees... expressions with deep connotations

Long-term detainees, senior detainees, generals of patience and detainees icons, are terms that carry deep meanings and connotations. The term “long-term detainees” is used by the Palestinians to indicate detainees imprisoned since before the Oslo Accord, “senior detainees” is used for detainees who are imprisoned for more than 20 years, “generals of patience” is used for detainees whoa are imprisoned since more than 25 years and “detainees icons” is used for detainees who are imprisoned since more than 30 years continuously.

At the end of 2020, statistical reports showed terrible results, where the Israeli authorities still hold nearly (57) “senior detainees”, (26) “long-term detainees”, (32) “generals of patience” and (14) “detainees icons” such as: Kareem Younis and Maher Younis who were imprisoned since 1983, in addition to Muhammad Tous, Ibrahim Abu Mokh, Rusldi Abu Mukh, Walid Daqqa, Ibrahim Bayadseh, Ahmad Abu Jaber, Sameer Abu ne'meh, Muhammad Dawood, Basheer Khateeb, Jom'a Adam, Mahmoud Abu Kharbeesh and Raed Saidy.

Moreover, there are tens of Palestinian detainees who got released by the “Shalit bargain” in 2011 and then rearrested in 2014. They served long years in prison such as the detainee Nael Barghouthi who spent the total of 40 years in prison, being the longest term served in Israeli prisons among Arab and Palestinian detainees.

The suffering of those detainees is increasing day by day, their stories become more painful and cruel, and they have tasted the bitterness of prisons, the pain of restriction, and the cruelty of torture in its physical and psychological forms. Diseases spread in their bodies without receiving medical care or the necessary treatment, where their sickness increased the suffering.

They received thousands of new detainees and bid farewell other thousands, while their bodies still captivated between the prison's walls looking for a tiny hole to see the sun, and waiting for serious actions to set them free.



(543) detainees in Israeli prisons are serving a life imprisonment

The Israeli military courts issued 5 life sentences in 2020, raising the number to (543) detainees;

- The detainees sentenced to life imprisonment in 2020:
- The detainee Issam Omar Barghouthi from Kobar/ Ramallah. He is sentenced to life imprisonment 4 times
- The detainee Sahban Wael Teiti from Thaherya/Hebron. He is sentenced to life imprisonment and a fine of 1.800.000 NIS
- The detainee Khalil Yousef Jabareen from Yatta/ Hebron. He is sentenced to a life imprisonment in addition to fine of 1.250.000 NIS
- The detainee Omar Sameer Rimawi from Beit Rima/Ramallah. He is sentenced to a life imprisonment
- The detainee Ayham Basem Sabbah from Beit Rima/Ramallah. He is sentenced to a life imprisonment
- There are (1496) detainees who are sentenced to more than 10 years, (174) detainees sentenced to 1015- years, (285) detainees sentenced to 1520- years, (494) detainees sentenced to more than 20 years, in addition to (543) detainees who are sentenced to life imprisonment.



Sperm smuggling: an ongoing revolution for life

Wives of eight detainees gave birth to nine children through smuggled sperms in 2020

Tens of detainees had the enough courage to smuggle their sperm to their wives out of prisons. Despite the limited nature of these attempts, it expressed a deep humanitarian concern in challenging the jailor and the arbitrary measures. The Palestinian propagation is the cruelest for Israel, which can change the demographic balance in historical Palestine.

The idea of having children through smuggled sperms has grown in line with modern science in the hospitals of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem. Detainees discussed this idea in secret since the beginning of 90s, especially detainees with high sentences, and some wives accepted the idea.

The idea expanded and succeeded for the first time in 2012, when the wife of the detainee Ammar Zaben gave birth to her first child. The support for this idea increased and it became necessary to find social, national, political and religious solutions to support the idea. This success motivated many detainees and their wives and encouraged others to repeat the experience.

In 2020, wives of eight detainees gave birth to nine children through smuggled sperms, raising the number of detainees who succeeded in this process to (67), where their wives gave birth to (95) child.

Detainees whose wives gave birth through smuggle sperms in 2020:

- The detainee” Walid Daqqa”, who has been detaied 34 years ago, his wife gave birth to a female child called “Milad”
- The detainee “Bahaa Hroub” from Hebron, who has been detained 10 years ago, his wife gave birth to a female child called “Hour Al-Ein”
- The detainee “Wael Abu Jalboush” from Jenin, who is sentenced to a life imprisonment, his wife gave birth to male child called “Omar”

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- The detainee “Rabe’ Abu Allail” from Nablus, who has been detained 13 years ago, his wife gave birth to a female child called “Laila”
 - The detainee, “Imad Yasser Musa”, from Jenin, the occupation forces re-arrested him in 2014. His wife gave birth to a female child called “Haifa”.
 - The detainee, “Muhammad Adel Zaitawi,” from Tulkarm, who has been detained 14 years ago, and has been sentenced to 25 years. His wife gave birth to two male twins, named “Amid and Tim.”
 - The detainee “Ahmed Khaled Al-Jayousi” from Tulkarm, who has been detained 18 years ago, and is sentenced to life imprisonment 35 times. His wife gave birth to a child called “Awais”.
 - The detainee, “Amjad Mustafa Al-Najjar,” from Silwad, north of Ramallah, has been in detention for 5 years and is serving a life sentence. His wife gave birth to a male child called “Akram”.



Health conditions for detainees in 2020

There is no difference between Corona virus and the Israeli jailor, as they both attack the body, hurt and kill the soul. When they both meet, the suffering of detainees will increase.

The health condition of detainees inside prisons is very difficult, and the health care is very poor, where detention condition is very bad, there is harsh treatment, polluted environment, closed places, overcrowded rooms that lack proper ventilation and low level of medical services. The state of occupation allowed itself to violate the Forth and Third Geneva Convention and breached all international and humanitarian laws and agreements regarding the treatment of detained persons.

This situation worsens in 2020 since the spread-out of Coronavirus, and it is clear that the administration of prisons did not take any procedure to protect detainees and did not provide any preventive measures. Besides, they did not stop the incursions and did not change the rules of treatment, the conditions of investigation and torture, or reduce the level of their. They did not take into account the seriousness of contact and the possibility of infection.

(140) detainees got infected in Ofer and Jelboa prisons, according to the ever and always doubtful Israeli narration.

The occupation authorities are still holding about (700) Palestinian detainees in their prisons and detention centers, suffering from various diseases and multiple physical, psychological disabilities including (300) detainees suffering from severe and chronic diseases and in need of urgent treatment.

As a result of the nature of detention places, the ill-treatment, the bad health conditions and the policy of medical negligence, (4) detainees have been martyred in 2020: Nour Al-Deen Barghouthi, Saadi Gharabli, Dawood Khateeb and Kamal Abu Waer.

The bodies of three detainees are still retained by the Israeli authorities, among more than (250) bodies of Palestinian martyrs who are buried in the so-called cemetery of numbers.

In light of this harsh situation and the deterioration of health conditions in Israeli prisons, the moral, humanitarian and legal responsibility of



the international organizations increases, and there should be calls for urgent intervention in order to save sick detainees and provide protection from the risk of death or infection with various diseases and the Corona virus.



Fines... a method to steal the money of detainees and their families

The Israeli authorities continue to impose fines in arbitrary way against Palestinian detainees in its prisons. It comes in the context of taking revenge from detainees' families, especially after the Palestinian Authority stopped paying financial fines for the detainees since 2014. Imposing fines on Palestinian detainees became a firm policy during the past years adopted by the Israeli judiciary, where any sentence against detainees should be accompanied with a fine.

It is worthy to mention that the Israeli authorities and the Israeli judiciary not only impose fines against detainees during issuing the sentence, but also against detainees who are inside the prison as a punitive procedure if they protest anything.

Detainees' institutions confirmed that many families of detainees were forced to sell their lands, cars or gold in order to be able to pay the fines imposed by Israeli courts, which increase the pressure in light of the difficult economic conditions lived by the Palestinian people.



Solitary confinement... systematic policy to purge the Palestinian detainees

The policy of solitary confinement is considered one of the most dangerous violations implemented by Israeli forces against detainees, where they got isolated individually for a long time in a narrow dirty cell.

In 2020, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to use this policy against detainees, such as the detainees; Omar Khurwat, Hatem Qawasmi, Wael Jaghoub and Fadwa Hamadah.

The Israeli authorities aim at humiliating detainees by solitary confinement, in which the detainee is completely isolated from the outside world and cannot communicate his family or lawyer.

In addition, isolated detainees appear before mock trial every 6 months if the isolation was individual, and every year if the isolation was dual. This trial is ruled by the Israeli Intelligence and the Prison Service which lacks the minimum elements of justice.

Isolation rooms are very narrow, where there is no place for walking, and the suffering increase when there are two detainees at the same isolation cell. These cells are not ventilated which causes the spread of diseases, especially problems in the respiratory system.

In these inhumane and dangerous conditions, some detainees lost their health. A case in point is the detainee Abdalnaser Hlaisy from Jerusalem, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment. He spent 26 years in prison, 15 years in solitary confinement.

The policy of solitary confinement is a flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions and the international and humanitarian law, and also breaches the United Nations resolutions, the International Covenant on Political and Civil Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which all stipulated that the prisoners must be treated humanely, respecting their dignity, and that the detained person should not be deprived of contact with the outside world, especially his family or lawyer.



Education in prisons... challenging the dark cells... hope for freedom

(461) detainees passed the Tawjihi exams (high school certificate) and (789) detainees continue their university education

Despite the fact that detainees are subjected to suppression and humiliation, their will and determination still very strong and their dreams came true by obtaining scientific certificates (secondary and university). They challenged the jailors and their fascism methods and insisted to educate themselves in different sciences. Detainees insisted on the importance and necessity of seizing the time by learning and educating and transforming the emptiness and darkness of cells into the light of knowledge and creativity. The Palestinian detainees who benefited from the university education service in prisons have participated actively in all fields of development at the national level. Reports showed that with end of 2020, there are (714) detainees continue their university education in several specializations through Al-Quds Open University, in addition to (75) detainees study through Al-Quds University, including (50) detainees in the Master's program and (25) detainees in the Bachelor program.

With regards to the service of secondary education (Tawjihi) inside the prisons, (461) detainees have applied for the exams in 2020, (400) detainees have passed and enrolled in the undergraduate program, and (61) detainees failed.