



The Sufferance of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Prisons



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Introduction

The sufferance of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons is a small part of the suffering with which the Palestinian people coexist and are trying to get rid of it and gain their freedom and self-determination in their own state without siege, occupation or interference from other countries in their affairs. Palestinian prisoners live in Israeli prisons, a bitter reality and arbitrary provisions that limit their freedoms. The high length of the sentence may cause them to deteriorate their health, due to the torture and cruel treatment they are subjected to, and the services provided to them by the Israeli prison administration, which contravene human rights principles. The Israeli policy of arresting the Palestinians is, in their opinion, a reaction to any transgressions they make to stop rioters and security saboteurs, but it is the usual policy of imposing silence on the Palestinian people and imposing the status-quo.

Even if the occupation authorities released one of the prisoners, he is either dead, or in a deteriorating health condition, or he is on a quick walk and will be arrested again. The escape of the six prisoners from Gilboa Prison, the strongest and most guarded of the Israeli prisons, is only a sign of the prisoners' determination to escape and obtain their freedoms in their own hands, in light of the Israeli intransigence in not meeting their demands.

This report has been prepared on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, a day that is celebrated on November 29 of each year in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 32/40 (B) of December 2, 1977, as well as to the background of resolution 181 (D-2), which provides for the division of Palestine into two states. The focus in the report this year is on the file of prisoners in Israeli prisons, and clarification of the facts and the punitive and arbitrary methods that they are forced to resist, especially in



the time of Corona. The report also aims to monitor statistics and figures in this regard during the current year 2021, especially with the presence of nearly 5000 Palestinian prisoners of different ages and groups, more than 200 of whom suffer from chronic diseases and have low health immunity, in light of the increase in violence being practiced against them, inside prisons, in the streets and suburbs.

First: Evolution of Violations against the Palestinian People in 2021

The failure to settle the Palestinian issue and the lack of international political and diplomatic options have caused many problems and crises that the Palestinian people are still suffering from since 1948. The year 2021 witnessed the return of military entanglements in the Palestinian issue in May, which resulted in many deaths and injuries from Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. In Gaza strip, the infrastructure was destroyed by the aerial bombardment of the Israeli occupation army. This year, the Israeli authorities were intransigent in silencing the Palestinian mouths in the occupied territories, and allowed settlers to vandalize and seize the property of the Palestinians without taking into account any resolutions of the UN Security Council or the General Assembly, in light of the Israeli apartheid policy.

Israel continues to impose status-quo policies on the Palestinian people, who were unable to stop the expansionist and settlement encroachment on Palestinian lands in Area (C), in light of the public allusion from the Israeli Minister of Defense, Benny Gantz, to annex the Jordan Valley to Israeli sovereignty for security considerations, without taking into account the private property rights of their Palestinian owners.



In East Jerusalem, Israel is arranging to Judaize the city and transform its historical features into a Zionist character through the forced displacement of the Palestinian population from their homes and the transfer of ownership to extremist settlers. This caused the return of missile war skirmishes to and from the Gaza Strip, which led to a significant number of civilian deaths and injuries, and the complete deterioration of the infrastructure in the areas that were subjected to Israeli bombardment, which puts Israel in charge of war crimes. This is also a violation of the right development and the right to life

We cannot condone the International Criminal Court's decision this year 2021 to have jurisdiction over Palestine, and to indict Israeli government officials (including Netanyahu, the former prime minister) and the Israeli army for war crimes in the 2014 war on the Gaza Strip

Israel also exploits technological superiority, and shuts down many Palestinian news sites and websites, and not only that. The Palestinians face a challenge from the social networking site "Facebook" by deleting any content related to the Palestinian issue, or historical Palestine, which shows a great bias against the freedom of expression of the opinion.

At the level of human rights organizations, this year witnessed, for the first time, the Israeli Security Ministry's announcement that six human rights organizations were included in the terrorist lists without disclosing any information regarding the case due to its confidentiality. These organizations (Al-Haq Foundation, Addameer Foundation for Human Rights, Union of Palestinian Women's Committees, Defense for Children International/Palestine Branch, Union of Agricultural Work Committees, Bisan Research Center) defend the rights of the Palestinian people against any violations committed by the occupation army in the occupied territories.



In the same context, the decision of the Security and Finance Ministries in Israel to increase the salaries of soldiers by 50% to 2,463 shekels (equivalent to 700 US dollars), can be considered a reward for the violations, encroachments and rapes they commit on the rights of the Palestinians.

Second: Status of Palestinian Prisoners in Israeli Prisoners

Not only does the Israeli occupation violate all the rules of international humanitarian law stipulated in the four Geneva Conventions in the treatment of Palestinian prisoners, but also, uses inhumane methods during their arrest, as they are subjected to beatings, abuse and insults, by attacking their homes at night or when skirmishes occur between Palestinians or the Israeli army in the occupied territories.

In order to track the Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the Israeli Mossad developed an application (the Blue Wolf) that the army and police use to photograph the faces of the Palestinians and create their own digital database to classify them in relation to their actions and security performance, some call it the secret “Palestinians’ Facebook”.

Therefore, the use of this application is an affirmation of the violation of the privacy of the Palestinian human being. During this year, B’Tselem for human rights monitored the occupation soldiers storming a house in the West Bank at the end of the night, waking the children and photographing their faces, as it was reported that the soldiers competed last year in photographing the Palestinians , including children and the elderly, with prizes for the largest number of photos collected by each unit.



Palestinians are deprived of all the rights guaranteed by international laws in the treatment of prisoners, as the prisoners are prevented from meeting lawyers and family and from personal visits, due to the spread of the Covid-19 virus, especially the prisoners of the Gaza Strip, at the same time they do not receive health care that immunizes them from the epidemic. The sexual abuse of children and women in Israeli prisons and the spread of daily torture are not far from brutal practices, as apartheid is implanted inside prisons as well. They do not receive the same treatment that the killer of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin received, Yigal Amir, who has treatment distinct from the treatment of Palestinians.

With regard to the prisoners of Hamas and the Gaza Strip, they are also subjected to discrimination, as 7 TV stations out of 12 stations are broadcast in which all Fatah and faction divisions are allowed, and Hamas prisoners are not allowed to bring money to the canteen, like the rest of the factions, where they are allowed to bring in only 800 shekels instead of 1200 shekels. Cleaning supplies are reduced, and prisoners do not communicate with the outside world, and if they manage to smuggle communications equipment, jamming devices that affect public health and cancel the work of radios and televisions inside their rooms await them.

The demands of the Palestinian Prisoners' Affairs Authority, the Prisoners' Club and human rights organizations to release the prisoners and detainees in the occupation prisons are constantly repeated, as they call on the international community to pressure Israel to release the prisoners and detainees, especially the hunger strikers inside Israeli prisons.



The hunger strike is the weapon that the prisoners resort to in the event of increased abuse and a large period of detention that does not fit the crime, and in most cases they are subjected to administrative detention without any punishment. In Israeli prisons and detention centers and the number of administrative prisoners currently held is about 550, most of whom are former prisoners who had spent years in Israeli prisons and detention centers.

In the event of an open mass strike, the prisoners are subjected to harsh punitive measures, such as: declaring a state of emergency by the Israeli prisons and detention administration, summoning large forces from the military units specialized in suppressing prisoners to the prisons where the strike is taking place, assembling the hunger strikers in one prison or section, and isolating their leadership in solitary confinement, storming prisoners' rooms by special units and police dogs, assaulting them and confiscating their property, subjecting them to strip searches, stripping them of all their clothes and providing them with clothes threatening them with additional penalties, in addition to enacting racist laws against prisoners on hunger strike, such as the Forced Feeding of Prisoners Law hunger strikers.

Palestinian prisoners who are administratively detained are presented to the military courts, which issue high and arbitrary sentences against them without limit, to confirm the extent of their violation of the guarantees of fair trials, as the prisoner does not know the nature of the charges against him, as the detainee is thrown into prisons claiming the existence of a secret file that he and the defense cannot access, and therefore it is a violation of the right of defense, as the lawyer cannot effectively present his defense in the absence of access to the materials presented in the detainee's file. Although Israel signed the



Convention Against Torture more than 30 years ago, the judges of these courts cover up the crimes of torture, by extending the period of detention for those subjected to torture crimes despite the presence of physical signs, or closing the detainee's claim that he was tortured by the security services.

In fact, Israel began to practice torture against Palestinian detainees since its occupation of Palestine. At first, it used traditional methods such as electric shocks, cutting fingernails, wardrobes, and all forms of ghost. Then, methods of torture developed so that they do not leave severe effects on the body, and methods of psychological torture were developed, such as shaking and deprivation of sleep, loud music, and isolation for long periods of time and other horrific physical and psychological methods used by the occupation investigators to extract confessions from Palestinian detainees, leaving 103 victims in the interrogation cells since 1967 as a result of the torture they were subjected to during the investigation period.

As a result of the Corona crisis, prison administrations in the West Bank have developed a method of interrogation through a "psychological expert", who kidnaps a person from his home at night, and the psychological expert presents questions related to certain dates on which he claims that military operations were carried out. about him. The Palestinian detainee is subjected to approximately 30 questions and is released. This new method is nothing but a security examination with a psychological cover, through which the occupation authorities seek to delude the detainee that he is subjected to a psychological examination. Advances about the person to anticipate any future work.

In the same context, security personnel detain children, women and the elderly without any considerations of privacy and human rights agreements. The Israeli



authorities deprive the imprisoned children of their freedom and treat them as a project of saboteurs. They are tortured and treated cruelly and humiliatingly, including beatings, ghosting, deprivation of sleep and food, threats, insults, sexual harassment, deprivation of visits, and the use of the most horrific psychological and physical means; To extract confessions and pressure them to recruit them to work for the Israeli intelligence.

Palestinian female prisoners, since the moment of their arrest at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces, have been subjected to beatings, humiliation, and insults. The harassment of them escalates when they reach the interrogation centers; All methods of pressure are exercised against them, whether psychological or physical, such as beatings, sleep deprivation, ghosting for long hours, intimidation and intimidation, without taking into account their femininity and special needs.

In the case of a pregnant captive, when the time comes for her to give birth, the prison authorities will chain her legs and hands, while she is in labor, to be taken to the hospital; There, her suffering is exacerbated when she is tied to her birth bed, without allowing her husband and family members to come and stand by her side; Not untied, but the moment of her birth. The suffering of the pregnant captive is not limited to the investigation stage, and does not end with the end of the delivery process; It extends beyond that; When she is chained back to her prison, her child is treated as a prisoner, sharing walls, bars and suffering with his mother.

It reflects the conditions of the elderly, the case of the sick elderly prisoner, Muwafaq Uruq (78 years), who is in Ashkelon prison, who suffers from difficult health conditions, and his condition is worsening day after day, as his weight has become 48 kilograms, and he cannot stand and suffers from lung and vision



problems threatening him with losing If the occupation continues, he willfully neglected his health condition.

Third: Prisoner figures and statistics in 2021

Palestinian human rights reports indicate that the past year 2020 was the most violating year for Palestinian prisoners in the occupation's prisons, especially because they were subjected to medical neglect in light of the Corona pandemic in light of prison overcrowding, in addition to administrative arrests without an indictment, and the occupation was intransigent in violating the articles of the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions and the law International humanitarian law regarding the rights of prisoners.

The number of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons and detention centers during 2020 reached approximately 4,400, including 38 female prisoners, 170 children, 500 administrative detainees, 1,300 sick cases, of whom 80 are in urgent need of urgent medical examinations, in addition to 17 prisoners who are permanently in prison clinics. All criminal methods that violate the principles of human rights are practiced against them, and their basic rights guaranteed by the relevant international treaties are taken away.

In the current year 2021, with the successive incidents of violence against the Palestinian people, and their intensification as a result of the successive violations of their various rights with security and political dimensions, especially the military escalation in May on the Gaza Strip. The numbers of prisoners and cases of arrests that Palestinians have been subjected to since the beginning of the year were monitored, and they were as follows:



	Arrests	New arrest warrant	Internment	Women Arrests	Child arrests	Total captives until the end of the month
January	456	30	105	8	93	4500
February	415	21	70	12	68	4400
March	438	28	105	11	69	4450
April	402	52	100	7	61	4400
May	3100	116	200	42	471	5300
June	615	65	100	24	92	4850
July	513	38	98	17	47	
August	345	20	91	8	46	
September	424	30	121	12	67	4600
October	467	49	106	10	135	4650

Table No. (1): The number of arrests against Palestinians during each month since the beginning of 2021

According to the data, until the end of October, 4,650 prisoners were held in the Israeli occupation prisons, including (34) female prisoners, (160) minors, and about (500) administrative detainees, distributed in about 12 prisons, and about 20 interrogation centers. It is worth noting that the intensity of arrests among children is increasing day after day, and Jerusalemites are also subjected to fierce campaigns of arbitrary arrests, especially when standing in front of the incursions of Al-Aqsa Mosque squares by settlers, or when they are forcibly displaced from their homes.



Conclusion

We are still in the year 2021, and violations against the Palestinian people continue, during which the Palestinian people were exposed to many forms of violence and violations of all their rights guaranteed to them by UN resolutions, human rights agreements, and the rules of international humanitarian law. On the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the report highlighted the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, and clarified the number of violations that prisoners have been subjected to since their arrest, and within the occupation prisons, and even after spending long periods of imprisonment without taking into account any health or age conditions, and the use of Multiple methods of psychological and physical torture. By monitoring the numbers of prisoners in Israeli prisons, it was found that until the end of October, 4650 prisoners were held in the Israeli occupation prisons, including (34) female prisoners, (160) minors, and about (500) administrative detainees, distributed over about 12 prisons, and about 20 interrogation centers.

Accordingly, we call for increasing international pressure on the Israeli authorities to stop their aggressive approach against the Palestinian people, to comply with and respect human rights agreements, to stop military trials against civilians, and to release prisoners detained without real charges.