

# ANNUAL VIOLATIONS REPORT

2022

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## Introduction

The Israeli occupation authorities implement racist policies against the entire Palestinian people, particularly the prisoners, whether those who are still incarcerated in Israeli detention facilities or those who have been released. The Israeli occupation authorities continue to violate the rights of Palestinians in various ways, subjecting them to numerous methods of torture and inhumane treatment, with no regard for international laws and norms, while constantly justifying these grave violations by finding a legal cover for them. None of the emergency situations in the occupied Palestinian territory stand as an obstacle to the repressive occupation policies against the prisoners.

Rather, the occupation authorities exploit these circumstances to implement more unfair policies against the prisoners, especially during the popular revolts; the most recent of which was in 2021, during which the occupation forces arrested hundreds of Palestinians from the 1948 occupied territories. Israeli courts arbitrarily issued high prison sentences against some of the arrested, up to tens of years in some cases. With the new extremist Israeli government coming to power, the situation has worsened throughout the Palestinian territory and in Israeli prisons and detention facilities by imposing a set of laws and procedures to further clamp down on the prisoners, failing to improve any of the current conditions inside the prisons, and persistently maintaining the status quo.

During this year, the Israeli occupation forces arrested nearly 7,000 Palestinians from the West Bank, including occupied Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, with April 2022 recording the highest number of arrests reaching 1,228 cases. The number of Palestinians arrested from occupied Jerusalem remained the highest among other Palestinian cities, with more than 3,000 cases of arrests throughout 2022. Notably, an increase in the arrests of Palestinian fishermen was noted in the Gaza Strip, where the number of arrested fishermen reached 64 cases. Palestinian journalists were not spared from the attacks of the occupation forces, as 16 journalists were arrested. Moreover, a significant increase in the number of administrative detention orders was documented, with the issuance of new orders and renewal orders as well, and the total number



of such orders reached 2,409 in 2022 alone , compared to 1,595 orders in 2021 and 1,114 orders in 2020. Such is an indication of the occupation authorities' escalation in the use of the unfair administrative detention policy year after year, to imprison the largest number of Palestinians and to use administrative detention as a tool to intimidate the Palestinian people.

By the end of 2022, the number of prisoners in the Israeli occupation prisons reached 4,700, including 29 women, 150 children, and five members of the Palestinian Legislative Council; two of whom are held in administrative detention.

The number of sick prisoners reached 600, including at least 24 diagnosed with cancerous tumors, whereas the number of prisoners incarcerated before Oslo Accords reached 25. Since 1967, the total number of Palestinian prisoners who have passed away in Israeli occupation prisons has reached 233.

This year, the Palestinian territories witnessed one of the most violent incursions into various areas aimed at arresting young men. The arrests were accompanied by excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, arrests of the wounded, and the use of police dogs in raids and arrests. During the raids, the occupation forces harmed anyone who stood in their way, including the families of the detainees.

Addameer has documented hundreds of cases in which the occupation forces used force against the families of detainees, which included beating and threatening them, breaking and confiscating their property, seizing their money, and even arresting them. Detainees are subjected to harsh interrogation methods, during which Israeli intelligence interrogators; aka the Shin Bet, practice inhumane treatment and torture. The Israeli occupation authorities and its security apparatus continue to use violence constantly and systematically against Palestinian detainees, most of whom have been subjected to some form of psychological and/or physical violence, regardless of reasons for arrest, age, gender, and health conditions.

Under detention orders, the Israeli authorities continue to prosecute prisoners in its illegal military courts which lack the minimum guarantees of a fair trial under the guise of 'secret' reasons, and without clear-cut



charges, exclusively in cases of administrative detention which constitute the most noticeable policy implemented by the Israeli authorities to deprive the Palestinians of freedom for the longest periods possible.

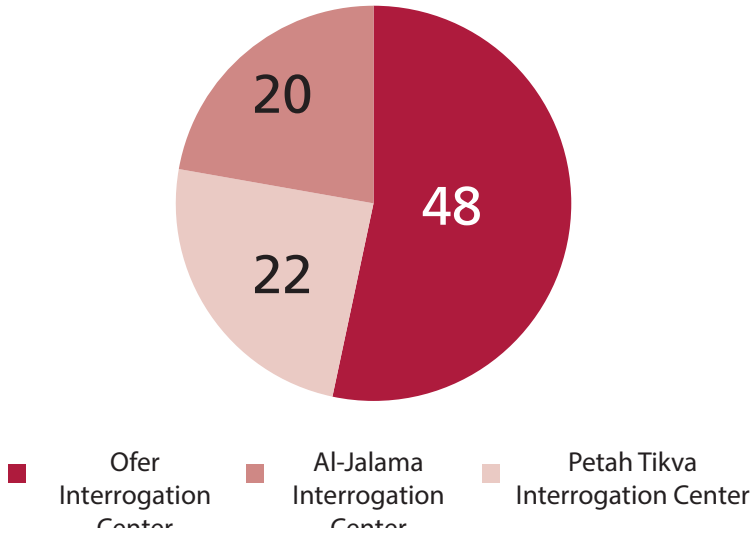
This year, like other years, students have not been excluded from persecution, targeting, and the Israeli occupation's endless criminalization of student union activism in Palestinian universities. In 2020, the Israeli authorities issued a decision declaring the Progressive Democratic Student Pole a «terrorist» organization; a designation that the Student Pole continues to suffer from its consequences to this day, as its members are persecuted and arrested. Palestinian civil society organizations, journalists, and human rights activists were not an exception, as they were directly targeted and arrested on political grounds, and their offices were stormed.

As the occupying power, Israel mobilized all its capabilities to implement collective punishment and forcible displacement of the Palestinian population in general and the families of prisoners in particular. Israeli forces escalated its incursions into Palestinian cities and villages, causing broad destruction of property and harm to the souls and minds of its residents. Additionally, new laws were introduced targeting prisoners and their families, Jerusalemites in particular by revoking their residency or citizenship if they undertake any military action or receive allowances from the Palestinian Authority. These policies are among the collective penalties prohibited under Article (33) of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

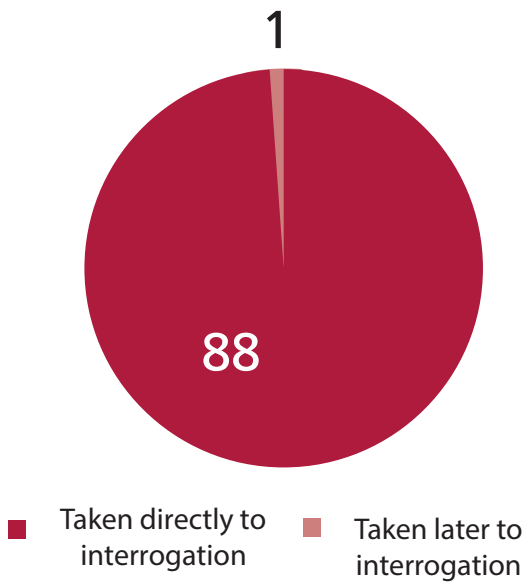
In 2022, Addameer followed up 313 cases of arrest, including more than 89 cases of individuals interrogated at one of the interrogation centers as follows: 48 detainees at Ofer Interrogation and Detention Center; 22 detainees at Al-Jalama Interrogation and Detention Center, and 20 others at Petah Tikva Interrogation and Detention Center. Furthermore, 88 detainees were taken in for interrogation immediately after their arrest, whereas one detainee was taken for interrogation later on. Since 1967, 73 detainees have passed away in Israeli occupation prisons as a result of torture during interrogation.



Graph 1: Distribution of detainees in interrogation centers



Graph 2: Time detainees sent to interrogation



With regard to the detention policy, the occupation authorities deliberately extend the detention of Palestinian detainees during the interrogation stage and before submitting an indictment for long periods of time, as the detention of nearly half of the detainees who are under interrogation is extended for a period of more than 30 days. In this context, Addameer is seeking to confront the occupation's policy of continuously extending the detention of detainees in interrogation centers by submitting appeals against extension periods, but such appeals are usually rejected, as detainees remain in interrogation centers for long periods during which they are subjected to various types of physical and psychological pressure. Thus, the nature of complicity that the illegal occupation courts play in covering up torture crimes is revealed to the public through the continuous extension of interrogation, denying detainees access to their lawyers, and isolating them from the outside world for long periods.

Throughout the year, the Israeli occupation authorities have not backed down from the policy of preventing prisoners from meeting with lawyers, as 158 orders were issued preventing 47 prisoners, who were monitored by Addameer, from meeting with lawyers, including three orders issued by Israeli courts. 46 prisoners were denied access to a lawyer immediately after the start of the interrogation. The number of times of denial differed from one prisoner to another, as some of them were issued one or two orders, while others were issued up to five or six orders. In this context, it should be noted that 30 prisoners were denied access to legal consultation for one to 14 days, whereas 16 prisoners were denied access to legal consultation for 15 to 30 days.

Every year, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association issues this annual as a document to monitor and archive the violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian prisoners, from the moment of their arrest and throughout interrogation and transfer to Israeli occupation prisons, in addition to documenting living conditions in those prisons. This report sheds light on the suffering of prisoners inside Israeli occupation prisons in an attempt to monitor the detention conditions and the ongoing violations against prisoners in order to expose such violations at the local, regional and international levels, and to illustrate the extent to which these practices violate international conventions, in particular the



Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984.

Furthermore, this report not only aims at documenting and exposing the Israeli occupation's practices and policies against Palestinian prisoners, but also seeks the entirety of the Israeli parliament's "Knesset" policies, measures, laws, and bills targeting the prisoners in particular and the rights of the Palestinian people in general.

Additionally, this report comes as part of the continuous efforts made by Addameer to release the Palestinian prisoners who are currently being held in 25 Israeli occupation prisons and interrogation and detention centers in the occupied territories and the 1948 occupied territory. Until the release of all prisoners is achieved, Addameer will continue its efforts, in cooperation with international and local human rights organizations, to expose the crimes of the Israeli occupation affecting all segments of the Palestinian society, including children, women, and the elderly, as well as to protect and guarantee the rights of prisoners enshrined in International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

This report follows a fact-based descriptive, analytical methodology based on the data collected through Addameer's efforts in monitoring, documentation, and legal follow-up. This is part of the association's work in monitoring the Israeli occupation regime's compliance—at the legislative, judicial and executive levels—with IHL and IHRL. This is particularly in regard to the prisoners and their incarceration conditions as these laws are the theoretical framework regulating the prisoners' rights and the principles of treatment of prisoners.

Throughout 2022, Addameer conducted 114 visits, during which lawyers met with 227 prisoners in Israeli interrogation and detention centers. Addameer continued its field and office documentations. During these visits and documentations, lawyers collected information and affidavits on violations against prisoners during arrest, interrogation and transfer, as well as the violations against their families.

## In Review 2022

- **3 March 2022:** Prisoner Khalil Awawdeh began a hunger strike in protest of being held in administrative detention. He suspended his hunger strike that lasted 111 days after reaching an agreement to release him, but due to the Israeli occupation's reneging on the agreement, he resumed his open strike on July 2, lasting a total of 172 days in both strikes, the last of which ended on August 31. Prisoner Awawdeh was not the only one who launched a hunger strike this year, as 11 others separately announced hunger strikes.

- **2 July 2022:** Prisoner Sa'diya Farajallah (Matar), from Ithna, Hebron, died at 68 in Damon prison. Sa'diya, the oldest among women prisoners, was severely beaten during her arrest, with no regard for her age or health condition. She suffered from medical negligence; exacerbating her health condition, as she was suffering from chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart problems. This led to her death after being transferred to Damon prison clinic.

- **28 July 2022:** Prisoner Raed Rayan suspends hunger strike after 113 days after reaching an agreement to release him. However, the agreement was reneged on, and his administrative detention was renewed for an additional four months.

- **18 August 2022:** Israeli occupation forces stormed Ramallah, targeting, forcibly entering, raiding the offices, and confiscating property from the seven designated Palestinian civil society organizations. After raiding and rampaging through the offices, the IOF welded the metal doors shut, attaching military orders designating the organizations as unlawful associations. The raids were carried out following a decision issued by the Israeli Minister of Defence in October 2021, designating seven Palestinian organizations as terrorist institutions. These incursions constitute the latest policy implemented by the occupation forces to target and clamp down on the work of these institutions.



- **5 September 2022:** The Israeli Attorney General announced the closure of the investigations against a number of Shabak [Israeli Security Agency] interrogators for using torture during the interrogation of Rajab Muteir, claiming that there were no grounds to prove the use of <unlawful force.>
- **15 September 2022:** 30 administrative detainees started an open-ended hunger strike to protest the policy of administrative detention. 20 other prisoners joined them later in an act of solidarity, and the hunger strike lasted for nearly 19 days.
- **16 September 2022:** 25 Birzeit University students were arrested while they were in Wadi Lemon Park, which is located near Aboud village, Ramallah. It is noteworthy that during 2022, Addameer documented the arrest of 84 university students as part of the occupation's policy of criminalizing student union activism.
- **18 December 2022:** The occupation authorities deported lawyer and human rights activist 37-year-old Salah Al-Hammouri, a resident of Jerusalem, to France after being held in administrative detention for nine months. Al-Hammouri had already spent more than 10 years in Israeli prisons. Israeli occupation authorities falsely accused Al-Hammouri of violating allegiance to the occupying state, and his permanent Jerusalem residency was revoked.
- **19 December 2022:** The new Israeli government proposed bills to the Knesset to impose severe penalties on prisoners and their families, including the revocation of citizenship and residency of Palestinian prisoners residing in Jerusalem or the 1948 occupied territory who receive financial assistance from the Palestinian Authority. In the same session, another draft law was introduced suggesting the expulsion of families of prisoners or martyrs who are aware of and have expressed support for the resistance attacks.
- **20 December 2022:** Prisoner Nasser Abu Hamid from Ramallah's Al-Am'ari Refugee Camp passed away at age 50 from advanced lung cancer while held captive in Ramleh Prison Clinic. Abu Hamid's passing is thus a direct consequence of the Israeli Prison Service's ongoing and deliberate practice of medical negligence. Abu Hamid, who was diagnosed with lung

cancer, received minimal oncological care at Ramleh Prison Clinic, causing his health to deteriorate rapidly and his cancer to reach a critical stage. Yet, he remained in bondage until his final days, and the occupation authorities continue to withhold his body.

# Chapter 1: Women Prisoners





This year marked a significant increase in the Israeli occupation's abuse and ill-treatment of Palestinian women, as campaigns of arrest and abuse affected numerous women, including minors, elderly women, mothers, and others. From the beginning of this year until the end of December, the Israeli occupation forces arrested 172 Palestinian women, and by the end of 2022, the number of women detained in the occupation prisons reached 29, among them are seven mothers, 10 wounded female prisoners, two female prisoners held under administrative detention, and two girls. All female prisoners are held in Damon Prison, located in Northern Palestine in the forests of Carmel in Haifa.

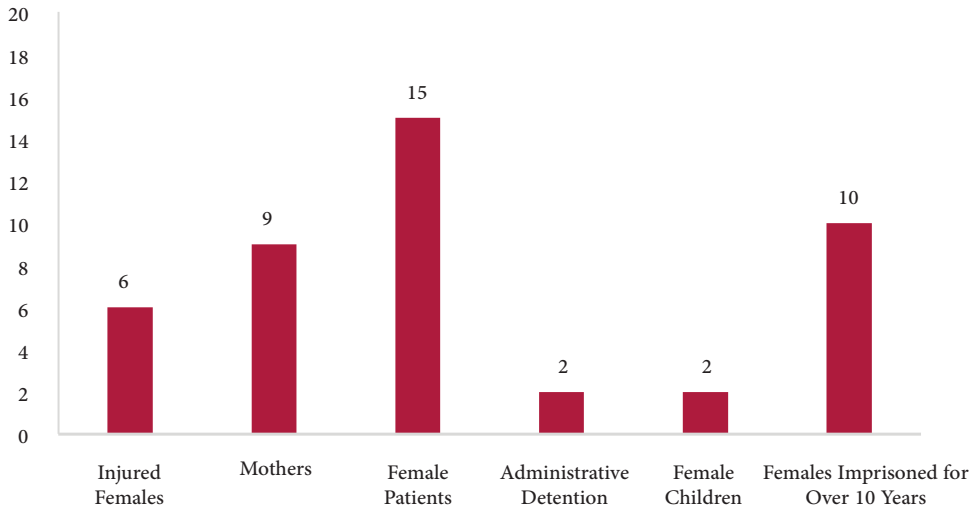
The year 2022 did not differ from previous years in terms of the occupation's policies toward Palestinian women prisoners, who continued to suffer from late night and early dawn house raids, terrorizing their children and their families. They also suffered during transfers to interrogation and detention centers, where they were subjected to various torture techniques and inhuman treatment, including beatings, physical and psychological pressure, death threats, as well as leveraging their children and families against them.

These measures came as part of a systematic policy to put pressure on female prisoners in order to extract their confessions. The detention stage is also not devoid of violations, during which women prisoners are suppressed, held in solitary confinement, their rooms turned into collective isolation rooms, and denied family visits. Furthermore, female students were not spared by the occupation forces, as the occupation forces arrested numerous female students due to their union activities or their affiliation with certain political parties.

The Israeli occupation's practices gravely violate fundamental international human rights conventions, along with the Fourth Geneva Convention that guarantees prisoners' basic rights. Moreover, the Israeli occupation regime is in breach of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT Convention), along with the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules).



Graph 3: Classification of female prisoners in Israeli prisons



## Women Prisoners' Mental Health Complications due to Conditions of Detention

Women prisoners live through shocking and defining events in their lives that affect them physically, especially during their arrest, various stages of interrogation, and their actual imprisonment in Israeli prisons. Some female prisoners are subjected to violent psychological traumas due to the conditions of detention, trial and imprisonment. This is reflected in their resulting temporary or permanent behavior.

The detention experience plays a pivotal role in creating mental disorders. The uncertainty of the future, the lack of mental stimulants, the interruption of communication with the outside world, overcrowding in the cells, the inability to enjoy privacy, and isolation, including solitary confinement, are factors that lead to mental health disorders. Female prisoners who experience mental disorders, such as depression, anxiety, eating disorders, mental schizophrenia, and others, need close medical follow-up so that these disorders do not turn into actions that harm the female prisoner herself or the rest of the female prisoners. In addition, the medical staff

itself lacks the qualifications it must acquire to deal with such cases that require special attention.

Israel Prison Service (IPS) is responsible for following up on and treating female prisoners who have psychological disorders. Yet, the psychological conditions are getting worse in Israeli prisons, mostly amidst the policy of deliberate medical negligence implemented against the female prisoners, as IPS ignores the psychological health of the female prisoners, but rather resorts to the most inhumane methods in dealing with them, including issuing orders to isolate female prisoners who experience mental disorders. Such is a clear policy of the IPS to evade its responsibilities towards the prisoners. Isolation is taken as a punitive or administrative measure against the female prisoners.

Isolation violates the constitutional rights of female prisoners to dignity and bodily integrity. It also violates international treaties. Article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that «All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.»

Isolation causes sleep disorders, depression, fear, and mental disorders, such as visual and auditory hallucinations, fear complex, and loss of awareness of time and place. It is one of the policies that is difficult for those suffering from mental disorders to bear, and it has a serious impact on the deterioration of their health.

## **Inhumane Methods of Dealing with Mental Disorders**

Israel Prison Service continuously shirks its responsibility under international laws in providing medical care to male and female prisoners who need it, both physically and psychologically. Medical services related to the treatment or follow-up of mental disorders are absolutely not available in Israeli prisons. IPS tends to deal with patients by placing them in solitary confinement, in small, dirty cells that are often monitored by cameras; restricting the movement of female prisoners to the maximum extent, as well as violating their right to medical treatment and privacy.



Prisoner F.H. is an example of a female prisoner who suffers from psychological disorders, as she has been held in isolation repeatedly since 2020 due to her mental health condition. She was held in isolation in Al-Jalama Prison for two months in inhumane conditions where she was not allowed out into the prison yard for her usual break, and went through harsh conditions; one of which was malfunctioning in the cell's shower. Consequently, she was unable to take a shower throughout her time in isolation. In addition, she was denied access to an electric hotplate and a water heater. IPS continued to isolate F.H. throughout 2021 and 2022, in addition to isolating other female prisoners with various mental disorders; impacting their behavior and compounding their suffering in prisons. This also affects the rest of the female prisoners as it is their responsibility to take care of these female prisoners and to provide them with psychological support due to the IPS medical negligence policy.

## **Cell No. (1)**

Isolation cell no. (1) is located in Damon Prison, where it comes first in terms of location and numbering next to the wardens' room. Female prisoners are held in this cell as a punitive measure imposed on them by IPS in case they commit any of the violations stipulated in the IPS regulations.

The cell measures 3x3 meters and has a toilet and a showerhead. The toilet door is incomplete and contains a slot at the bottom and another at the top. The cell is monitored by cameras operating around the clock, located above the toilet door; making it difficult for the female prisoners to use the toilet or to take a shower.

The walls of the cell have a rough texture, are filled with humidity, and are difficult to lean on. The cell lacks ventilation sources, as the only source of ventilation is a small window which is part of the room door, covered with reinforced plastic that contains tiny holes to let air come through. There is one bed and a cupboard, both of which are made of wood, and there are no electrical appliances, such as a television set, a water heater, or a hotplate.

The female prisoners suffer from difficult life conditions and constant restrictions while they are in isolation. They are not allowed out into the prison yard for their usual breaks with the rest of the prisoners. When there

are a number of female prisoners in isolation, each of them is allowed out into the yard separately, and sometimes they are completely not allowed out into the yard during the period of isolation. The search procedure is no different from the search of female prisoners in regular cells, as it is conducted twice a day, manually and electronically.

## **Female Prisoner Dies Due to Deliberate Medical Negligence**

Sa'diya Matar, 64, from Ithna near Hebron, was the oldest Palestinian female prisoner. She was arrested on 18 December 2021 while she was visiting one of her children near Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron. She was severely beaten by settlers until she lost consciousness and was hospitalized for a week, after which she was transferred to Damon Prison. During her detention, Matar was subjected to numerous violations, starting with the use of violence during arrest, banning family visits, and procrastination in providing her with treatment as she was suffering from some chronic diseases, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart problems, which negatively affected her physical and psychological health. IPS continuously overlooked the female prisoners' repeated requests to follow up on Matar's medical condition, especially considering her old age and illness. Due to medical negligence, her psychological and physical condition deteriorated.

It was not enough for the IPS to neglect the medical needs of Matar, it also disregarded all standards by holding her in solitary confinement for two months. Her health deteriorated rapidly and dramatically, while the female prisoners were left with no choice but to take care of her themselves.

Shortly before her death, Matar was wheeled in on a wheelchair to attend her court session, during which her lawyer confirmed that she was in immediate need of medical attention by a specialist, and that her condition required intervention. The court, however, ignored all of that, and the prosecution requested that she be sentenced to many years, but the final verdict was not issued.



“In the last ten days, Sa’diya refused to take her medication, and her condition worsened dramatically. A prison nurse diagnosed her symptoms as a mild stroke, and she was transferred to the hospital. Six hours later she was returned to the prison, and we were told that everything was normal and she was fine,” said a cellmate to Matar’s lawyer.

On Saturday morning; 2 July 2022, the female prisoners went to check Matar’s condition. Matar carried out her customary pre-prayer ablution, grabbed the door handle and fell to the ground. In the prison clinic, they tried to resuscitate her, but she died.

Matar’s case is one of hundreds of sick detainees to suffer from deliberate medical negligence, which contradicts the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) which states that prisoners should enjoy the same standards of health care that are available in the community, and should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge.

Photo 1: Martyred prisoner Sa’diya Matar



## **Conditions of Detention and Interrogation Engraved in the Female Prisoners' Memory and Difficult to Forget**

At approximately 2:35 a.m. on 1 March 2022, Israeli occupation forces broke down the house door of Y. Sh., searched her phone, and vandalized her room after her husband and children were separated and held in another room. After being blindfolded, handcuffed in a forward position, Y. Sh. was transferred to Al-Jalama interrogation and detention center, where she was held in Section 8 and given tight and short clothes; overlooking the fact that she was a religious woman who did not wear such clothes.

Y. Sh. remained in solitary confinement at Al-Jalama interrogation and detention center for 34 days, during which she was subjected to continuous interrogation and lost 16 kilograms of her weight due to pressure exerted on her by the Shabak interrogators.

During the interrogation stage, Y. Sh. hands were tied behind her back, and she was allowed to return to her cell twice a day for only 10 minutes in order to have something to eat. Interrogators did not allow her to sleep for about 84 hours at one time, and she was connected to a lie detector machine during the interrogation sessions.

The Israeli occupation interrogators frequently threatened Y. Sh. to extract information from her, as she was threatened with the arrest of her family members and cousins. She was pressured to be connected to a lie detector machine, and when she refused, the interrogator said to her; "interrogation will not end unless you're hooked on the lie detector machine."

As for the cell in which Y. Sh. was held, she said, "The area of the cell is 2x4 meters, and it has a concrete bed. The lights are dim and turned on round the clock, and the walls are gray, and there is a squat toilet."

The conditions of detention and interrogation that Y. Sh. went through are similar to many of the measures taken against other female prisoners. Israeli occupation authorities implement a systematic policy to intimidate the female prisoners, deliberately harming them physically and psychologically, and forcing them to go through long hours of interrogation in order to coerce them into giving confessions to the charges against them; in direct



and explicit contravention of Article 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates that no one must be compelled to testify against himself or to confess guilt. The occupation authorities continue to violate laws and disregard international treaties. The various methods against with Y. Sh. are considered torture, both physically and psychologically.

## **Continuous Violations against Female Prisoners After their Release**

Female prisoners are released carrying the hope of resuming their lives in peace. However, Israeli violations do not end with the end of the imprisonment term of the female prisoners and their release, as the occupation authorities implement policies aimed at tightening the screws on the Palestinian people in general and the prisoners in particular. In an endless series of arbitrary policies pursued against the prisoners aiming at imposing control and sovereignty of the occupation on various aspects of life, the violations imposed on the prisoners take different manifestations, including restrictions imposed on movement from Jerusalem to the West Bank and vice versa, the banning of celebrations welcoming the released prisoners, the banning of waiving the Palestinian flag or factional banners, travel bans against former detainees, in addition to re-arresting ex-detainees, which is considered the most arbitrary policy of all.

The Israeli violations affected prisoner Sh. B., who was repeatedly held in administrative detention a few times, the first of which was in 2019 when she was issued an administrative detention order that was renewed three times. She was released after spending 12 months in prison. At the end of June 2020, less than two months after her release, she was rearrested and issued a four-month administrative detention, which was also renewed upon expiry.

In the same context, another example includes A. T., who spent nine years of her life in Israeli prisons. The way she was treated by the occupation authorities illustrates the manifestations of the policy of re-arresting and restricting the movement of female prisoners.



The house of A. T. was raided on 25 January 2022 by a large number of soldiers accompanied by three police dogs, holding her alone in a room, separated from the rest of the family. “I was interrogated about my activities after my release, and they mentioned my participation in sit-ins in support of the prisoners, and my posts on my Facebook page,” recalls A. T. “The field investigation lasted about half an hour, then a female soldier strip-searched me.” The repeated and illegal raids of female prisoners’ homes and the arrests of female prisoners aim to intimidate the female prisoners, break their solidarity with the rest of the prisoners, and keep them under surveillance.

## **Minor Female Prisoners**

The occupation authorities do not take into account the age of Palestinian women at the time of arrest, deliberately exposing Palestinian children to shocking situations during arrest and interrogation, resorting to physical and psychological violence, and continuously violating the fair trial guarantees that allow children to know the charges against them, have access to legal counsel, and have their cases promptly decided upon.

According to Addameer, three girls were arrested in 2022, two of whom were released later while the third was kept behind bars. By the end of 2022, the number of girls reached two, one of whom was arrested at the end of 2021, and the other was arrested in 2022.

The violations children are exposed to contravene Article 37(a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which stipulates that “no child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”



## Abuse of Minor Female Prisoners during Arrest and Interrogation

During daylight hours, 17-year-old Z. Q. was arrested at the “Container” checkpoint in the city of Hebron on 31 October 2022. She was handcuffed in front of her body and beaten during interrogation. She was slapped across the face by a soldier, kicked by another, and verbally abused by a third.

“After interrogation, I was transferred to a hospital that I did not know its name and I was accompanied by two soldiers – a male and a female – but the female soldier was only present when the doctor came in. A soldier hit me on my right shoulder and took a photo of me on his phone,” said Z.Q. “I was held in isolation in Hasharon Prison for five days, during which I was not given any clothes, and the food I was given was poor, so I only ate packaged foods. I was never allowed out into the yard.”

In the same vein, N. H., who was arrested at the age of 14, recounted the circumstances of her arrest. “My school was raided at around 8:45 a.m., and soldiers were deployed everywhere, even on the rooftop. After searching my schoolbag, they took me to a room near the principal’s office, searched me almost naked, handcuffed me behind my back, blindfolded me with a mask and put me in a car with only males inside. Then I was taken to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center, where I was searched for the second time, almost naked, before I was taken to an interrogation room where there were five to six interrogators. One of the interrogators hit me on the nose, kicked me on my waist, and pulled my hair.”

N. H. was interrogated without the presence of a juvenile interrogator, any of her family members, or her guardian. “I was clearly threatened with the arrest of my family members, the demolition of my family house, and the end of my education. I was taken every day for one and a half weeks from Hasharon Prison to Al-Mascobiya for interrogation. It was really cold, but I was not given any jackets, and my request to close the window [of the vehicle] was denied.”

In an old-new policy, the occupation forces use family members as pressure and threat tools to extract confessions from detainees, a policy that was implemented with N. H., which led to her intimidation and anxiety for her family members. Such methods of detention used against children contradict the Convention on the Rights of the Child, knowing that the occupation authorities continue to use excessive force against children, with the aim of harming them physically and psychologically.

H. S. was arrested during her visit to her imprisoned brothers in Eshel Prison. She was handcuffed behind her back and her feet were shackled during the interrogation. After interrogation, she was transferred to Hasharon Prison, where she was kept in isolation for four days. “The cell [in which I was detained] had a bed, a toilet, and a dirty washbasin. It was small.”

H. S. was taken to court more than once. “I was taken out to the court at six in the morning; a journey that took two and a half hours by Bosta [prisoner transport vehicle] to get to the court, and two and a half hours to get back to the prison.” After that, H.S was transferred to Damon Prison, where she was detained in a small room with two female prisoners. Minor female prisoners suffer from harsh conditions in isolation, in addition to the hardships of traveling by Bosta.

# Chapter II: Child Prisoners



Child prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons suffer from numerous policies that constitute violations of all international treaties and standards pertaining child protection. The systematic policies of the occupation take many forms, including raiding the homes of children's families in the late hours of the night in large numbers. Such a policy is the most common policy utilized when dealing with children. According to Center for the Defence of the Individual (HaMoked), night arrests are still used as the first recourse for bringing children for interrogation rather than summoning them via their parents. Children also suffer from being placed in cruel and inhuman conditions of interrogation or detention, in addition to being subjected to various forms of violence, physically and psychologically, degrading treatment, and solitary confinement.

Such violations are committed from the first moment of arrest and during detention in cells that lack the minimum standards of human living. During detention, children are abused, banned from family visitation, deprived of education, tortured, denied access to fair trial guarantees which stipulate the necessity of prompt resolving of child cases, in addition to the policy of medical negligence.

Every year, nearly 200 children are deprived of education and removed from school due to repeated arrests in various Palestinian governorates and high sentences that may reach more than 15 years. The occupation policy also includes medical negligence, as some of the children suffer from diseases, such as a herniated disc, eye and ear problems, mental disorders, and epileptic seizures. The occupation authorities deliberately disregard these diseases, which leads to a deterioration in the health conditions of minors.

Child prisoners are held in three prisons. Children from southern and central West Bank are held in Ofer Prison, while children from northern West Bank are held in Megiddo Prison, and children from Jerusalem are Damon Prison.

The occupation authorities fail to comply with international protections guaranteed to children by more than 27 international conventions, namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child which stresses the need to protect children; maintain their best interest, proper growth and development;



limits the deprivation of freedom of children; and explicitly clarifies that restricting freedom should be a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time.

Throughout 2022, the Israeli occupation forces arrested 882 children. Such a number is not the highest during the last five years, but 2022 was one of the harshest years in which children were abused. Addameer and other human rights organizations concerned with prisoners' issues monitored the Israeli occupation forces' conduct during the arrest of children and concluded that such conduct included direct shooting of children, and arresting wounded children, in addition to subjecting children to harsh interrogation conditions. Furthermore, administrative detention orders increased, as 19 children were held in administrative detention during 2022. By the end of the year, there were 150 children in Israel prisons, including seven children held in administrative detention.

## Continuous Targeting of Childhood

The Israeli occupation forces deliberately treat children inhumanly, and subject them to psychological and physical torture. They exploit the weakness of the children to push them into confessing to the charges against them or against other Palestinians. They leverage their powers through torture, threats, deception, false promises to end interrogation, inhumane treatment, and harsh conditions of solitary confinement if children refuse to confess. Additionally, the occupation forces use these confessions to submit indictments, impose severe penalties and hefty fines on the families, and issue high sentences against children.

The continuity of these policies against children suggest that the occupation authorities deliberately aim at causing devastating physical and psychological effects to children. "I thought that the only way to get rid of these conditions was to commit suicide. If the means and tools were available, I would have done it," said M. Sh., a 17-year-old boy from Birqin, Jenin, who was arrested on 12 May 2022 from his home and held in solitary confinement for 22 days.

This explains the occupation's unfair policies against Palestinian children, and the huge impact on their lives that is caused by the imprisonment experience, specifically in light of the harsh conditions of detention. Israel Prison Service does not provide recreational and educational tools for the prisoners' healthy growth. For example, Megiddo Prison lacks sports equipment, such as volleyball, tennis, and weights; preventing prisoners from exercising. Minors are punished if they try to breathe life into the cells by hanging drawings on the wall. Sudden searches are carried out, often in the early hours of dawn, leading children to feel worried and insecure.

## **37 Days of Non-Stop Interrogation of A. H.**

On 29 June 2022, the Duvdevan unit stormed the house of A. H. in Silwad near Ramallah, after breaking the door. They went directly to the boy's room, conducted a field interrogation with him, and searched the room and the entire house. The boy was not allowed to say goodbye to his family, and was taken to a military vehicle. "They cuffed my hands behind my back with plastic cuffs and blindfolded me with a piece of cloth. I stayed inside the military vehicle for half an hour, during which I was hit with guns, slapped, and kicked," stated A. H.

After the boy was abused by the Special Forces, he was transferred to Ofer Interrogation Center, where he was strip-searched and detained in a cell measuring 2x1.5 meters. The boy was subjected to a long and harsh interrogation, shouted at, verbally abused, threatened with death more than once, and put under pressure.

"On the fifth day of the interrogation, they [the interrogators] told me that my father had passed away in order to put pressure on me." On the seventh day, the boy was transferred to Ofer Prison, where he was locked up alone in the Asafir [birds; undercover spies] room for three consecutive days, and was visited twice by one of the spies before being transferred to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center. In Al-Mascobiya, he was detained in three different cells; a solitary confinement cell for one week; a cell with three detainees; and another cell with four others. After the end of the interrogation on the 37th day of detention, he was transferred to Ofer Prison for two months, then to Megiddo Prison. During interrogation



and detention, no charges were brought against him, as he was issued a six-month administrative detention order which was later renewed at the end of the year.

The constant moving and transferring of children between Israeli prisons and interrogation centers indicates the failure of the occupation authorities to bring any serious charges against children who are detained and abused for weeks and months, and eventually held in administrative detention without any right, depriving them of enjoying their lives for extended periods that may reach up to a number of years.

## **A Jerusalemite Child under Indefinite House Arrest**

On 18 October 2022, Israeli police officers raided the house of Sh. Kh. in Jerusalem and severely beat the boy in front of his parents and siblings, leaving him with a bleeding nose and a floor covered with his blood. He was not allowed to say goodbye to his family or change his clothes. After being handcuffed behind his back and blindfolded, he was transferred to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center, where he was beaten up brutally that he lost consciousness three times that day.

Children arrested - Shehab News Agency.





“They did not explain my rights to me before I was interrogated, but I refused to answer any questions before seeing a lawyer, so a lawyer came in and I spoke with him before the interrogation began,” explained Sh. Kh. to Addameer. During the interrogation, Sh. Kh. was shouted at by an interrogator, and a police officer entered the room and stood behind him as if he was going to hit him in order to scare him. The interrogation continued for a long time – he does not remember exactly how long – and afterward, he was forced to squat. He said: “I was forced to squat and whenever I moved or fell, police officers would beat and insult me, using racist slurs.”

From the time of his arrest until his first court hearing, Sh. Kh. was not allowed to eat or drink water. When he was brought to a doctor, he was not examined, and the doctor said, «he does not suffer from anything, take him away», despite the fact that signs of beatings on his face and body were all clear, and his clothes were torn. This is an actual display of the medical negligence policy implemented by the entire occupation system, including doctors who play an insignificant role during the examination of prisoners, do not provide them with actual treatment, and are considered implicit in the medical negligence crime.

During his 16 days of detention at Al-Mascobiya, Sh. Kh. was interrogated three times and brought before the court eight times.

The conditions of detention at Al-Mascobiya were harsh. The minor prisoners were allowed out into the prison yard for 30 to 60 minutes a day, and the food provided was of poor quality. They could not buy food from the canteen because sometimes it was closed during yard hours. As for bathing, Sh. Kh. said, «During the 16 days [of detention], IPS provided bathing soap only twice.» The room was cold and empty and did not have a television set. IPS installed a television screen but cut off the power from it and did not give the remote control to the juveniles to further disturb them.

After Sh. Kh. was transferred to Damon Prison, he joined Arabic and mathematics classes that were organized by prisoners and held every day of the week except Friday and Saturday. Detention conditions were better than those of Al-Mascobiya, as the room had a television set, a hotplate, and a water heater.

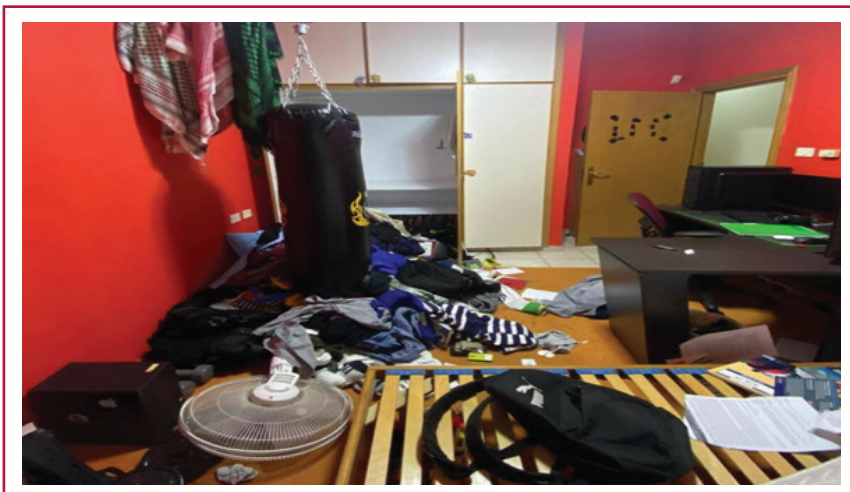


Sh. Kh. was eventually released after 41 days of detention but only to be placed under full house arrest after his family paid a fine of 6,000 shekels ( $\approx$  \$1,500), and five of his family members signed a bond of 15,000 shekels ( $\approx$  \$4,000) for each to be paid in the event of a breach of house arrest and other legal procedures. Because of the ill-treatment and severe beating he was subjected to, it became clear after his release that his nose was broken, in addition to having bruises all over his body. He is to remain under house arrest until the end of the court proceedings.

It should be noted that 654 Jerusalemite children were arrested during the year 2022, and nearly 600 of them were placed under house arrest after their release from Israeli prisons. Children are forced to wear a tracking device; an electronic bracelet, with a GPS location feature so that they can be re-arrested if the house arrest is breached.

House arrest leaves harmful effects and scars on children's lives. It prevents children from practicing their normal lives by being in a healthy environment where there is social contact with the outside world, and by being in school which helps in the proper mental development of children. Furthermore, house arrest affects the child's family, as the family members are jailed inside their own house due to the penalties imposed on them, and are sometimes forced to sell their property and spend their savings in order to deposit large sums of money in the treasury of the occupation courts to guarantee the implementation of the conditions for the release of their children.

Photo 2: Destruction to Sh. Kh's room caused by Israeli police officers during arrest



## Members of the Same Family, including a Child, Held in Administrative Detention

Depriving children of their right to liberty through administrative detention without a clear charge or a trial and referring children's files to 'secret' files amounts to arbitrary detention. Administrative detention generates a state of uncertainty in the hearts of children because it is not limited to a specific period, and it can be renewed more than once. The ongoing use of the administrative detention against children by the Israeli occupation is nothing but a mirror of the violation of international covenants that guarantee children's right to freedom.

This year, the occupation forces continued its policy of administrative detention against children. However, the case of Al-Khatib family was different, as the administrative detention was used to jail the family's father and his two sons, one of whom is a child. Special forces stormed Al-Khatib's house on 12 July 2022 at around 4:00 a.m., threw a stun grenade and told everyone to come out. The forces broke into and searched the house, destroyed the furniture and threw the food on the floor to be scattered and sniffed by police dogs. During the arrest, the father and his two sons were cuffed behind their backs with plastic ties. A. Kh. was deliberately pushed and forced to sit on the floor. When he explained that he was having knee problems, soldiers beat him on his knee.

During interrogation, A. Kh. was asked a few questions. After two days of detention on July 14, his detention was extended for 72 hours, after which he was issued a four-month administrative detention order. His older brother was issued a two-month administrative detention order, which was renewed for another six months. The occupation forces continued to harass the father by calling him and asking about his imprisoned sons until he was eventually arrested and placed under administrative detention shortly after his sons were arrested.

Many children are repeatedly held in administrative detention. For example, A. R. from Qabatiya near Jenin was arrested on 17 March 2022 after the occupation's military and intelligence forces stormed his family house at around 2:00 a.m.



A. R. was interrogated and his detention was extended several times after the military prosecution failed to submit an indictment against him, so the military commander of the region issued a detention order for four months against him based on allegations made by the prosecution that there was ‹secret› information that A. R. was ‹promoting military attacks.›

It is worth noting that during the year 2022, the Israeli occupation forces continued to detain 19 children in administrative detention; four of whom were released during the year, eight of whom exceeded the age of childhood and remained under administrative detention until the end of the year; and seven of whom remained in administrative detention until the end of the year.

## **Children: Easy Prey for the Occupation in Villages Targeted by Settlers**

### **Targeting Children in Deir Nitham**

Deir Nitham village is located to the northwest of Ramallah. Halamish settlement was established on the lands of the villages of Deir Nitham and Nabi Saleh, as parts of the lands were confiscated to build a street for the settlers. The proximity of the settlement streets to the villages made these areas a center of continuous confrontation between the villagers and the settlers. Hence, Israeli occupation authorities crack down on the villagers by setting up checkpoints at the entrances to the village, assaulting citizens and their livestock, and carrying out continuous arrests against local residents, mostly children.

A key manifestation of the restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation forces on Deir Nitham is the continuous closure of its entrances. On 1 December 2021, the Israeli occupation forces set up a checkpoint at the main entrance of the village, which lasted for 50 days, and people entering or leaving the village were stopped and questioned. The closure was accompanied by the firing of tear gas canisters, raiding around 16 houses, and arresting eight residents, including minors.

On 18 January 2022, a number of armed soldiers went into one of the classrooms at a school in Deir Nitham and arrested two students; A. T. and R. T. It was the third attack on the school, but the previous attacks included destruction of property, terrorizing students, and closing off the village. “The occupation forces went into the 11th grade classroom and physically assaulted the two students. Traces of blood were found after the occupation forces left,” recalled Shaher Al-Tamimi , a teacher at the school. The soldiers also attacked the teaching staff and destroyed property in the classrooms.

School attacks and raids lead to obstruction of education, during which students feel they are not safe inside their own schools. In addition, students are arrested and denied their right to a proper educational process. During detention, they do not receive adequate education, leading some of them to drop out altogether after their release.

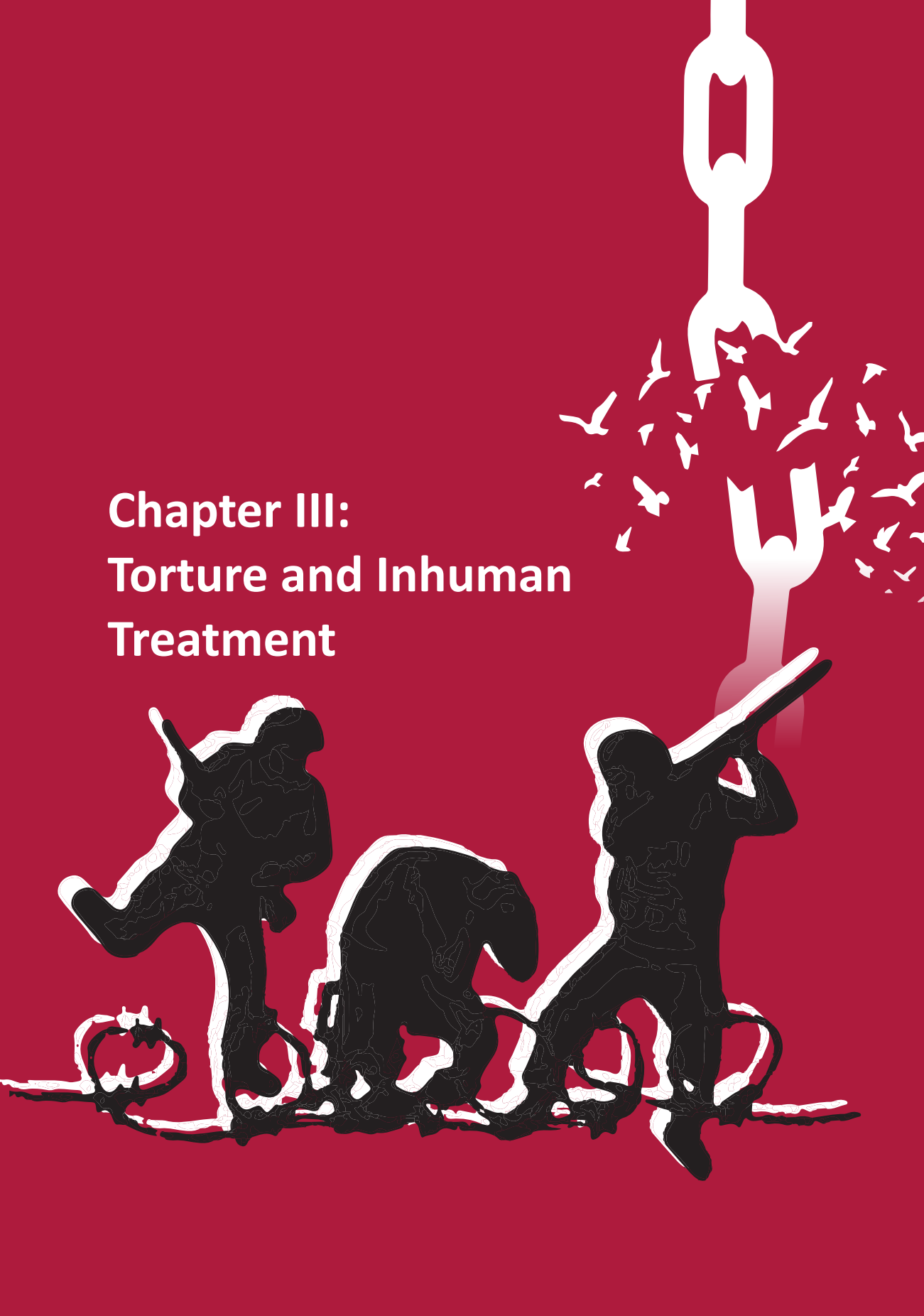
The occupation’s policies focus on treating children as targets and not as children who have special legal protections, in order to tighten the occupation’s control over all aspects of life through the apartheid system. The occupation’s policies of arbitrary arrest and detention, and the failure to ensure children have access to fair trial guarantees reinforce the increase in abuse and persecution by the occupation forces towards the Palestinian children.

Photo 3: Arrest of a student from Deir Nitham School

Photo 4: Destruction of classroom property in Deir Nitham School



**Chapter III:  
Torture and Inhuman  
Treatment**



Since its establishment, the occupying state has deliberately utilized inhumane and degrading treatment methods with the Palestinians, in terms of the aspects of their daily life, and during arrest, interrogation and detention. The Israeli occupation forces deliberately torture Palestinians via numerous methods, such as screaming, insults, sleep deprivation, severe beatings, deprivation of food and water, denial access to the bathroom, shackles, and hands and feet tied for long hours in various positions. Perhaps one of the most inhuman methods used by the occupation forces to threat and put pressure on the prisoners to extract confessions is the use of their family members as pressure cards during interrogation and making threats against them. In some cases, the occupation forces go too far by actually arresting members of a detainee's family and forcing the detainee to watch his/her family members being interrogated. Further, prisoners are forced to watch or hear the voice of other prisoners being subjected to torture and inhumane treatment. The occupation authorities do not exclude any segment of the Palestinian society, as women, children and the elderly are subjected to violations and degrading and inhumane treatment during arrest and/or interrogation.

The Israeli security regime bargains over the most basic rights of the prisoners, such as the right to bodily integrity, the right to life, and the right to freedom. Despite the violation of these rights, Palestinians are still arrested on a daily basis, even the wounded among them, and being wounded does not count as immunity for the detainee from torture during interrogation, which was given legitimacy by a decision of the Israeli Supreme Court issued in 1999, giving an exception to what cannot be excluded and allowing the Israeli security services to exercise «moderate physical pressure» in case of necessity as stipulated in Article (34/1) of the Israeli Penal Code of 1977. Through this decision, the court granted Shabak interrogators the power to continue to exercise torture and inhumane treatment against security detainees suspected of possessing information about «military operations.» It also granted immunity to Shabak interrogators and ensured that they were not held accountable for torture crimes committed against detainees. It expanded the use of the concept of necessity, and the court authorized the use of this interrogation method with cases they claim to have been related to armed acts, but in reality it is used with prisoners involved in peaceful civil activities.



Through these practices, the Israeli occupation forces violate all international treaties that prohibit torture in all its forms, and do not justify any acts of torture under any circumstances. Article 2 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment states that “no exceptional circumstances whatsoever ... may be invoked as a justification of torture.”

The prohibition of torture was not limited to the Convention against Torture, but also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated that no one may be subjected to torture, or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Likewise, the provisions of the Geneva Convention of 1949 and its Additional Protocols of 1977 prohibit cruel treatment and attacks on human dignity.

## **Direct Shooting at Palestinians during Arrest**

The occupation forces implement a policy of torture and abuse against Palestinians during arrests, including severe beatings, dragging, field investigations, the use of police dogs, and direct exposure to stun grenades and tear gas, in addition to direct shooting at the detainees themselves, or members of their families, or even indiscriminate shooting that claimed the lives of dozens of Palestinians. These practices fall within the scope of excessive use of force and extrajudicial executions against detainees and/or their families.

The year 2022 recorded the highest numbers of wounded persons arrested since 2015, as human rights organizations documented around 40 cases who were shot and arrested by the occupation forces; some of whom were seriously injured, and three of them were killed, including Dawoud Al-Zubaidi from Jenin camp; Mohammad Hamed from Silwad near Ramallah; and Rafeeq Ghannam from Jenin. The Israeli occupation forces continue to withhold the body of the martyr Al-Zubaidi. The occupation forces deliberately implemented the field interrogation method with prisoners in the hospital, and some of them were transferred to interrogation centers shortly after their injuries.



## **Nour-Addin Jarbou'**

Nour-Addin Jarbou', a 27-year-old wounded prisoner from Jenin refugee camp, is a living example of the occupation's policies aiming at arresting Palestinians without taking into account any of their conditions, their health in particular. On 9 April 2022, Israeli occupation forces opened fire at Jarbou' during an attempt to arrest him. Multiple bullets struck him in different parts of his body, one of which lodged in his spine, causing fractures to his 9th and 10th vertebrae, resulting in his paralysis.

Jarbou' was first detained in Rambam Hospital for 11 days before he was transferred to Ramleh Prison Clinic, in a direct disregard to the recommendations of the doctors following up his condition at Rambam Hospital not to transfer him to Ramleh Prison Clinic due to the gravity of his health condition and urgent need for medical care. While he was hospitalized in Ramleh Prison Clinic, he was subjected to the policy of medical negligence. In spite of his health condition which impedes him from independently carrying out his daily tasks, and calls for the need for a specialized nurse to help him move his body and bandage his wounds, Jarbou' was denied such a treatment, and this policy of medical neglect caused a serious decline in his health.

Hence, Jarbou' was transferred to Kaplan Hospital due to severe shortness of breath and a diagnosis of a major pulmonary embolism as a result of not giving him the necessary antibiotics recommended by doctors. Due to the medical negligence that Jarbou' was subjected to from the moment of his arrest, he sustained severe infections and ulcers in his body that reached the blood and bones. In addition to being paralyzed, he sustained a gunshot wound to the back; about 25 cm long and 10 cm deep, and the failure to disinfect the wound and the constant change of bandages caused the wound to become infected; compounding his suffering.

Since his arrest and injury, Jarbou' was transferred multiple times between Israeli hospitals and Ramleh Prison Clinic due to the seriousness of his health condition, in addition to the lack of adequate medical care in Ramleh Prison Clinic, as it is not qualified to receive critical medical cases, and lacks specialized medical staff and the necessary medical tools.



Jarbou' was not the only exceptional case of arrest in 2022. On 18 October 2022, Israeli occupation forces shot 18-year-old Said Dwaikat from Beita near Nablus. He was shot with three bullets; one in the pelvic area, and two in the abdomen. Following the incident, Dwaikat was transferred to the Israeli Belinson Hospital, where he was guarded and hospitalized for one month, during which he underwent four surgeries. Due to his pelvis injury, he began to suffer from pain in the leg. Nonetheless, his health condition was disregarded as he was cuffed to the bed for a week and interrogated inside the hospital as well as in the courtroom. Dwaikat was then transferred to Ramleh Prison Clinic for further treatment.

In addition to the suffering of the sick prisoners in Ramleh Prison Clinic from medical negligence and physical and psychological pain, they are subjected to the hardship and trouble of the Bosta that transports them from the clinic to the hospitals or prisons and vice versa, doubling their psychological and physical hardship. Despite the fact that Ramleh Prison Clinic is unequipped and understaffed, it houses 13 prisoners in critical condition who need close medical follow-up and are subjected to continuous medical neglect.

## **Torture and Ill-Treatment during Interrogation**

Israeli occupation authorities commit comprehensive crimes of torture during the interrogation of Palestinian prisoners by permitting the use of various methods of torture despite being a signatory party of the Convention against Torture. However, this Convention in particular and international law in general does not deter the occupation authorities from practicing its violations of abusing Palestinian prisoners. During interrogation, physical and psychological torture is practiced against prisoners to extract their confessions, or to deliver messages to specific persons that torture is the fate of the resistance fighters, which comes as part of the psychological warfare that the occupation forces wage against the Palestinian resistance fighters. Torture methods are not limited to the interrogation stage, but the policies that prisoners face inside prisons constitute a comprehensive system of violence and different methods of torture.

## **Interrogated for 98 Days and Denied Legal Counsel for 39 Days**

24-year-old Mohammad Hamed, a resident of Silwad near Ramallah, was arrested at Beit El military checkpoint while returning to his home on 9 January 2022. Hamed was interrogated for 59 days, the first 25 days of which he was subjected to continuous interrogation for long hours at Ofer Interrogation Center and was given short breaks only to eat or use the bathroom. During this period, Hamed's hands and feet were cuffed to a metal chair, he was yelled at, threatened with the arrest of his family, deprived of sleep, and connected to a lie detector. Hamed was held in a solitary confinement cell, the area of which did not exceed 2x2 meters, and slept on a three-centimeter thick mattress on a metal bed. Hamed described the cell as very cold as he was arrested in the winter, and the IPS made the matter worse by deliberately turning on the air conditioner.

On the 25th day of the interrogation on 2 February 2022, Hamed was taken to his family's house in Silwad, and the house was ransacked before his eyes. His two brothers; Imad and Ahmad, and his 51-year-old father; Yaseen, were all arrested and taken to Ofer interrogation center. An interrogator showed Hamed a video of his father in the interrogation room, and another video of his uncle and his wife who were summoned for interrogation. In a separate testimony taken from Hamed's mother, she confirmed that the occupation forces raided their house twice in large numbers, during which they caused massive damage to their house and the neighboring houses, and the family's livestock farm was also vandalized.

Hamed was interrogated for 59 days, during which he was denied access to legal counsel for 39 days from the beginning of his arrest. He denied access to any legal advice or assistance, multiple orders were issued banning him from meeting with a lawyer, including three orders issued by the court. On the other hand, his brother Imad was interrogated for 33 days, during which the interrogators failed to prove any charges against him, and thus he was released. Hamed, who underwent a harsh interrogation and was banned from meeting the lawyer as well, was issued an indictment of three charges , but the occupation authorities were not satisfied with that and



subjected Hamed for another round of interrogation on 18 April 2022, which lasted for another 39 days until 26 May 2022.

Hamed family is an example of how the occupation authorities utilize all means to torture and pressure the prisoners, and use their families as a pressure card in order for the prisoners to condemn themselves, extract confessions, and subject them to extreme and harsh interrogation conditions while being held in solitary confinement cells for long periods of time. Despite the submission of an appeal by Hamed's defense lawyer to Ofer Court against the extension order, and with the military court reducing the period of the order to four days, the detention order was subsequently renewed several times. Lawyers also submitted a petition to the Israeli Supreme Court against the order banning him from seeing a lawyer, the long extension period of his detention and his right to access legal advice, but the Israeli Supreme Court rejected the petition, and the order banning him from seeing a lawyer was later renewed twice through the military court, bringing the total number of days he was banned from seeing a lawyer to 39 consecutive days. This proves that the Israeli courts of all levels legalize and provide a legal cover for the continuation of torture.

## **Awab Mubarak**

At approximately 3:00 a.m. on 10 January 2022, the Israeli occupation forces raided the home of Awab Mubarak, who lives with his pregnant wife and his two-and-a-half-year-old daughter in Jalazoun refugee camp near Ramallah. The raid came only 50 days after his release on 20 November 2021 after spending eight months in administrative detention. He was arrested four times.

The occupation forces were deployed in Mubarak's house and brought in a dog without a muzzle. The dog attacked Mubarak, but Mubarak managed to deter the dog, so the soldiers pinned Mubarak to the ground and interrogated him. Mubarak was handcuffed, abused and yelled at in front of his wife and daughter, a scene that traumatized his daughter who could not even deal with her mother properly afterwards.

The Israeli forces searched the house, vandalized the furniture by tearing up the sofa and the bed in front of his wife and child. Mubarak's vehicle

was also searched, the vehicle's doors were dismantled and the seats were torn. While searching the house, the soldiers abused Mubarak, using repeated shaking and severe beating methods during the field interrogation. After two hours of field interrogation, Mubarak was led out of the house, handcuffed, and taken to Beit El military base near the city of Ramallah. Although Mubarak suffers from health issues related to his heartbeat and liver enzymes, he was denied access to his own medications.

Mubarak underwent an intensive interrogation at the Ofer interrogation center between 21-23 hours per day, and included a threat to arrest his family. The threats were so serious that the interrogator made Mubarak watch a video clip of the occupation soldiers surrounding his house to arrest his wife. During the interrogation, the interrogator used to shake him very hard. On the fourth day of the interrogation he was informed of the intention to transfer him to «military interrogation», but his health prevented that.

## **Continuously Evading Actual Accountability for Torture Crimes**

The interrogation period is an open space for Israeli interrogators to utilize the most heinous methods of torture and inhumane treatment. Amidst the absence of effective legal accountability for the perpetrators of torture crimes, the frequency of torture in Israeli interrogation centers is increasing year after year. Addameer, along with other human rights organizations, is seeking to pursue the interrogators who commit torture crimes to put an end to these tyrannous methods. In order for these human rights organizations to hold the occupation authorities accountable at the international level, it is necessary for them to exhaust all stages of domestic appeal, by lodging complaints to the Israeli authorities as being responsible for their nationals who commit crimes of torture. Almost every year there are complaints lodged against torture and ill-treatment. However, the vast majority of the complaints – if not all – are disregarded and closed without accountability. The occupation authorities mostly rely on the lack of sufficient evidence confirming the occurrence of the crime of torture, while ignoring the official evidence and documents submitted by experts and doctors in such cases.



The occupation authorities have disavowed dozens of cases in which Shabak interrogators practiced torture during the interrogation of Palestinian detainees by relying on the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court issued in 1999, which ruled that acts of torture were illegal, but the decision made an exception to what should not be excluded by giving the green light to the security services to exercise what is called «moderate physical pressure» in case of necessity, as stipulated in Article (34/1) of the Israeli Penal Code.

Among the cases this year was the case of Rajab Muteir, arrested on 21 January 2016 from his grandmother's house in Qalandia refugee camp. Muteir underwent harsh and continuous «military interrogation», during which he faced isolation, sleep deprivation, different forms of stress positions for long hours, threats with the arrest of family members, administrative detention, and life imprisonment. Muteir was transferred to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem eight months after his arrest. At the hospital, he was x-rayed and informed by a specialist that he suffers from a displaced vertebra in his lower back, but the doctor claimed that Muteir's condition is a birth defect.

On 7 March 2018, a complaint was submitted by Addameer's lawyer to the Israeli Attorney General regarding the torture that Muteir was subjected to during interrogation. With procrastination and deliberate delay in following up on the complaint, the complaint was transferred to the military prosecutor on 15 September 2020; two and a half years after the date of submission. However, the interrogators denied the charges against them, claiming that the main reason of the interrogation was to «put an end to the danger» that Muteir posed to the security of the state as a member of a military cell. A decision was issued to close the file after being reviewed by the Public Prosecutor, claiming that there was no serious breach of the law by the interrogators, and that there were no grounds to prove the use of «unlawful force».

Muteir's case was not the only case in which the occupation shirked its responsibility, as there was a similar case in 2021, when the Israeli General Attorney Avichai Mandelblit announced the closure of the investigations against a number of Shabak interrogators for using torture during the interrogation of prisoner Samer Arbeed, claiming that there were no grounds to prove the use of «unlawful force».

## Significant Torture Methods Used by the Occupation

The Israeli Canine Unit “Oketz” is a unit specializes in training and handling dogs for military applications. This unit brings dogs from the Netherlands at the age of 12-18 months, and dogs are intensively trained on missions that serve the military and security objectives of the Israeli military occupation. When the unit was established, the tasks of the dogs were inspecting and monitoring checkpoints and crossings. Since the beginning of 1974, dogs were used in military operations, and in recent years the Israeli occupation forces have used police dogs during arrests and to suppress prisoners, during which dogs are unleashed towards Palestinians, causing them serious physical harm.

The use of police dogs is a form of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment that is criminalized by international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and the Convention against Torture of 1984. The use of police dogs is part of the occupation’s use of excessive force against the Palestinians, and leads to long-term side effects on the health of those attacked by dogs. During this year, Addameer documented four cases of severe wounds caused by dog attacks, but these cases were not the only cases during the year, as other cases were documented by other human rights organizations.

Among the cases was the case of 31-year-old Hamza Bouzia, a resident of Kifl Haris near Salfit, who was arrested on 2 November 2022 by Israeli occupations forces from his house. According to his testimony to Addameer’s lawyer, when Bouzia opened the door of the house, the soldiers unleashed a dog without a muzzle at him, and the dog attacked Bouzia and grabbed him by the testicles for about five minutes, during which none of the soldiers helped Bouzia. Rather, one of the soldiers violently pinned Bouzia to the ground and cuffed his hands behind his back with plastic ties, only then the dog was removed away from him. The dog caused wounds in various parts of Bouzia’s body, including the testicles and thigh, but the soldiers disregarded his wounds and did not examine him, only bandaging his wounds without providing him with any necessary medical care. While doing so, the soldiers cut the plastic cuffs and handcuffed Bouzia in front of his body.



One of the soldiers hit Bouzia with the stock of the rifle on his head and pressed on his wounds. Then Bouzia was taken half-naked by ambulance to the hospital, where he underwent surgery without his or any of his relatives' verbal or written consent. His testicles were stitched up 16 times, after which Bouzia suffered from medical negligence. "I had to change the bandages and clean up my wounds all by myself," recalled Bouzia. The occupation authorities did not take into account Bouzia's critical condition, as he was transferred to the court on a long and arduous journey, which exacerbated his pain. Amidst medical negligence and lack of consideration for the importance of continuous medical review, it is not known until this moment whether or not he has sustained long-term side effects. In addition to Bouzia, Addameer documented dozens of cases this year in which the occupation forces used dogs, whether during arrests during the suppression of prisoners inside prisons.



# Chapter IV: Palestinian Students





Each year, the Israeli occupation authorities arrest dozens of Palestinian students, including students from schools, universities and postgraduate students, in addition to school and university educational staff. During 2022, Addameer monitored the arrest of roughly 84 university students, the vast majority of whom were from An-Najah National University and Birzeit University. However, the arrests were not limited to these two universities, but also affected other Palestinian universities.

Targeting students and educational facilities is not a new policy implemented by the occupation authorities. However, recent years have witnessed a noticeable increase in the number of arrests among school and university students alike, in arrest campaigns that seek to target students intensively through raids on schools' or campuses' premises, or night-time raids to arrest students from their homes.

Arrest campaigns against university students are often carried out under the pretext of student unions or student activism in its various manifestations, or due to posts on social media deemed as incitement on terrorism by the occupation authorities to serve the occupation's interests; enable it to build fragile indictments against students; or hold students in administrative detention. Most of these practices aim at silencing Palestinian students and suppressing any form of their political life, as the occupation authorities violate students' right to education and participation in political and union life that is guaranteed in numerous international conventions, expressly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two International Covenants.

## **Storming Birzeit University by the Israeli Occupation Forces**

On 10 January 2022, Israeli special forces stormed Birzeit University to arrest a group of students. Heads of the student blocs were on their way to the university to hold a meeting with the university administration to discuss some internal matters. As soon as they reached the campus gate, undercover forces proceeded to shoot in the air and at the gathered students, shooting and wounding student Ismail Al-Barghouti in the thigh. Immediately after the shooting started, the students attempted to flee

the scene but the undercover forces arrested a number of them, namely Waleed Harazneh, Mohammad Al-Khatib, Mohammad Al-Fateh, Ismail Al-Barghouti, Qassam Nakhleh, and Abdel Hafez Al-Sharabati. During the arrest that was carried out by Duvdevan special forces and undercover forces outside the university campus, Ismail Barghouti was shot in the left thigh, and Qassam Nakhleh sustained a broken leg injury.

After being cuffed with plastic cuffs, the students were taken first to Halamish settlement, and then to Beit El, which are close to the city of Ramallah. They were interrogated separately by an Israeli intelligence officer; one hour per each. The students were kept cuffed and blindfolded from the moment of their arrest until the end of the interrogation. During the interrogation, neither the cuffs nor the blindfold were removed. Later, Al-Sharabati, Harazneh, and Al-Khatib were released, while Al-Barghouti and Nakhleh were kept in detention.

In a separate statement taken by Addameer, student Ismail Al-Barghouti, whose left thigh was pierced by the occupation's bullets, said that he was not provided with medical care during the arrest, nor during the interrogation and trial. After the arrest, Al-Barghouti was placed inside a bus with around 20 soldiers, who abused and physically assaulted him even though he was injured, until he arrived at Tel Hashomer Hospital. A doctor in the hospital examined the wound but without any medical intervention. He only cleaned and wrapped the wound with bandages. After that, Al-Barghouti was cuffed with plastic cuffs in front of his body, blindfolded, and placed inside a military vehicle. He was forced to sit on the metal floor of the vehicle for a whole night without food or water. Later, he was transferred to Ofer Prison, However, considering that he is a Palestinian citizen of 1948-occupied territories (holding Israeli citizenship), Ofer prison refused to receive him. During the transfer, he was forced to walk without crutches with no regard for his injury, and was forced to sleep again in the military bus. After that, he was transferred to Megiddo Prison, and due to the medical negligence he was subjected to, and not receiving the necessary treatment and follow-up in the hospital, he had complications due to the injury, severe pain and inflammation, in addition to a high body temperature. Al-Barghouti was interrogated about his student activity without regard to his health condition, and later an indictment was filed



against him with charges related to his student activity at Birzeit University, and a 13-month sentence was issued against him.

Photo 5: Tear gas canisters thrown by the occupation forces at students at the eastern entrance to Birzeit University during an arrest campaign



## Mass Arrests of University Students

On 16 September 2022, around 25 Birzeit University students were present in Wadi Lemon park, located near the village of Aaboud near Ramallah. At approximately 12:30 a.m., around 50 Israeli commando soldiers stormed the place, all of whom were masked and had signs on their uniforms suggesting that they were special units. The forces pointed weapons at the students, ordering them to put their mobile phones and ID cards in front of them. Everyone's hands were cuffed with plastic cuffs behind their backs, and some of them were blindfolded, and everyone was forced to kneel. Two Israeli officers arrived and introduced themselves as 'Captain Miro' and 'Captain Hamza.'

Afterwards, the students were verbally and physically abused and beaten, and force was used against all of them. A student was threatened with drowning in the pool while being handcuffed. After that, military vehicles

arrived, and every two to three students were put in a separate vehicle and taken to different places while they were blindfolded, only to be released afterwards as part of the occupation's policy to humiliate the students and release them after detaining them in areas far from their homes.

In total, 23 students were arrested, 12 of whom were released shortly after their arrest. A few days later, eight more were released while three were kept in detention, including Zaid Qaddumi who was severely beaten during the arrest and issued a four-month administrative detention order; Muath Al-Batma who was also transferred to administrative detention; and Ibrahim Al-Nabali who was put on trial and an indictment was issued against him regarding his student activism.

Birzeit University was previously targeted with another mass arrest of a group of students on 17 May 2022. Following the electoral debate at the university, a number of students, including the Islamic Bloc debater Moatasem Zalloum, headed to the village of Dura Al-Qarae' near Ramallah, after which the Israeli occupation forces stormed the area and arrested the students at gun point. The students were all cuffed behind their backs with plastic cuffs, blindfolded, and taken to Beit El military camp near Ramallah. From the time of their arrest until 2:00 a.m., the students were kept in the open air and in extreme cold without being provided with food or water; pushing them to the verge of fainting. After that, some of them were transferred to Etzion interrogation center, whereas Moatasem Zalloum, Diyaa Zalloum and Wisam Turki were transferred to Ofer interrogation and detention center. Interrogation started immediately with Diyaa Zalloum and Wisam Turki, which lasted 36 and 35 days, respectively.

"I was interrogated once a day for four to 10 hours. I was held in a solitary confinement cell for 15 days, during which I was not interrogated, but the time I spent in isolation was extremely harsh," explained Zalloum in an interview with Addameer. "The content of the interrogation was related to my university and student union activism with the Islamic Bloc, and nothing else was brought up." After the end of the interrogation stage, an indictment was filed against Zalloum, and the charges included providing services to the Islamic Bloc at the university. He was sentenced to two and a half months, and ordered to pay a fine of 7,500 shekels.



The arrest was carried out during the student elections, which is a clear indication that the Israeli occupation forces deliberately arrested students to intimidate them and limit their union activism. As part of their failure to file indictments, the occupation authorities held some of the students in administrative detention. Mohammad Arman was issued a four-month administrative detention order, which was renewed for an additional four months. Mohammad Al-Fateh and Abdul-Rahman Alawi were issued a four-month administrative detention order per each and are still in detention until the date of issuance of this report. Ameen Farah was also held in administrative detention for three months, which were not renewed, whereas Moatasem Zalloum was held in administrative detention for four months and was eventually sentenced to 10 months in prison.

## **False Indictments against Students**

23-year-old Kanaan Ratrout, a law graduate from An-Najah National University, was arrested from his family home in Nablus at around 2:00 a.m. on 8 February 2022, during which the entire house was thoroughly searched, and the furniture was removed and ransacked. As part of the occupation forces' arbitrary measures during arrest and deliberately endangering students, Ratrout was interrogated inside the house and was not allowed to take his medication, despite suffering from heart's electrical problems, and eye and chest sensitivities.

During his interrogation at Petah Tikva interrogation center, Ratrout was denied access to legal counsel for about two weeks, so the defense lawyer filed a petition against the ban and managed to visit Ratrout on 24 February 2022.

A series of 10 court hearings were held to extend Ratrout's detention for further interrogation, as part of the occupation's procrastination policy due to the lack of realistic and concrete charges against Palestinian students. A trial was eventually held on 13 March 2022, during which an indictment was filed against Ratrout, consisting of three items that centered on his membership in Progressive Student Labor Front, a banned student union and bloc organization that carries out activities inside the campus of the university, in addition to membership in the banned Youth Movement under military orders. The charge list included activities in which Ratrout

participated in from 2017 until the end of 2021, but Ratrout was not arrested during this period as the occupation authorities could not to prove the threat he posed as he simply did not pose any threat in the first place.

Despite this, an indictment was filed against Ratrout and he was arrested five years after the date of the violations he had allegedly committed, and he was sentenced to 11 months in prison and fined 1,000 shekels. This sheds light on the arbitrary and high sentences handed down by Israeli military courts against Palestinian students, with the aim of intimidating them and preventing them from participating in any aspect of political, student, or union life, in addition to highlighting the ongoing persecution of students even after the end of their university life.

## **University Female Students at Risk of Torture and Ill-Treatment**

In the recent years, there has been a significant increase in the targeting of female students from various Palestinian universities. The indictments against the female students were similar and centered on their student union activism in the universities. Through these practices, the occupation authorities violate the various rules of international law that guarantee individuals the right to student union activism, freedom of opinion and expression, involvement in political life, and the right to education.

On 7 August 2022, the occupation forces arrested Dina Jaradat, a journalism student at Al-Quds Open University, after breaking the door to her house in Jenin. This happened despite the soldiers being informed that Jaradat would open the door for them. Upon breaking into the house, the occupation soldiers deployed in every room, told Jaradat to bring her identity card and confiscated her phone, laptop, and Apple watch. Jaradat was allowed to enter her room to prepare herself for a thorough search that was later conducted by a female soldier. Although her hand had a plaster cast due to a fracture, her hands were cuffed over the plaster cast and she was taken to Al-Jalama checkpoint.

Following a strip search in a room, Jaradat was transferred by a very small Bosta to a cell, and then to an interrogation room. At the beginning of



the interrogation, her hand plaster was removed and replaced with gauze, even though she told the interrogators that her hand had been broken shortly before the arrest, but they did not care. Rather, they cuffed her hands throughout the interrogation period, which lasted for 14 days at Al-Jalame interrogation center. An interrogation session would sometimes start at 7:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 p.m., with the presence of one to three interrogators.

During the interrogation stage, Jaradat was held in a small cell, monitored by cameras, containing only two metal beds, a toilet, and a shower. The prison administration provided only soap and a towel, and no personal hygiene items, such as toothbrushes or clothes, were provided. The lighting in the cell was strong and was controlled by the prison administration, so it turned it off and on without warning. As for food, it was served twice a day, but it was of poor taste and quality. In the last five days of the interrogation, the mattress on the bed was taken out of the cell and was never returned, forcing Jaradat to sleep on the metal bed.

Jaradat suffers from hydrocephalus, which requires monthly follow-up and examinations to know the amount of fluid that has accumulated in the brain to be withdrawn through the spine. She has to take medications and painkillers to maintain the stability of her condition, in addition to having a broken hand. Nonetheless, Jaradat's health condition was not taken into account, as she was interrogated for 14 days, subjected to inhumane conditions during the interrogation, and then transferred directly to Damon Prison.

Shortly before her arrest, Jaradat was scheduled to undergo surgery to withdraw fluid from the brain, but her arrest prevented that, and the ongoing medical negligence led to a significant deterioration in her condition, as large amounts of water accumulated in the brain, affecting her eye and prompting the female prisoners to protest through closing their section in the prison in rejection of the unfair medical negligence policy against her.

Jaradat was sentenced to 4 and a half months in prison and a fine of 6,000 shekels due to her student activity at the university, and she was released on 23 December 2022.



## **Arrest Campaigns to Curb Student Activism as Main Goal**

On 23 March 2022, Amna Ishtayeh and Aida Al-Masry, two female students from An-Najah National University, were arrested from their homes in Nablus. After being handcuffed and blindfolded, both students were taken to Petah Tikva interrogation and detention center, where they were strip-searched, given prison clothes, photographed, and then placed in a small cell, the walls of which had a rough texture. Ishtayeh and Al-Masry were detained in Petah Tikva for seven days.

Ishtayeh was interrogated five times during these seven days of detention at Petah Tikva; up to nine hours per session and by six interrogators at the same time, during which she was threatened, yelled at and verbally insulted. After that, she was transferred to the Asafir rooms in Ofer Prison, where she was detained for six days.

Al-Masry was transferred to the spies rooms in Askalan prison, and then to Al-Jalama interrogation center for five days, before she was returned to Petah Tikva for a one-day interrogation before she and Ishtayeh were transferred to Al-Jalama, where they were detained in cells that were very bad and isolated, and had concrete beds and a broken bathroom door. After that, they were transferred to Damon Prison.

Ishtayeh and Al-Masry were interrogated about their student and union activism, and the indictments included articles on participation in student and union activities at the university. Ishtayeh was sentenced to six months in prison, and she was released on 2 September 2022. As for Al-Masry, she was sentenced to seven months in prison, and she was released on 1 October 2022.

The occupation authorities' arbitrariness in issuing sentences against Palestinian students and imprisoning them for long periods of time negatively affects their careers and personal lives. Furthermore, prison sentences are accompanied by financial fines, or hefty compensations that increase the economic burdens on the students' families, in addition to suspended sentences as one of the conditions for the release of Palestinian



prisoners, which expose them to re-arrest in the event that they carry out any act deemed a «threat to security» by the occupation authorities.



# Chapter V: Arrest of Journalists





Attacks on journalists and media institutions still constitute a fixed crime among the crimes of the Israeli occupation authorities and the grave violations that the occupation authorities continue to perpetuate against civilians in Palestine. Despite the fact that they enjoy special immunity in international humanitarian law, journalists are still a clear target by the arbitrary measures of the occupation, and are subject to various methods of abuse and degrading treatment.

Prosecution of journalists, whether by preventing them from reporting events by confiscating and breaking their equipment and tools, or arresting and detaining them, aims to falsify facts and prevent them from reporting what is happening in the Palestinian Territory in terms of the Israeli violations and abuses. The occupation forces continue to violate media freedoms and freedom of opinion and expression, not only through arrest, beating and abuse, and confiscating devices and equipment, but also directly targeting journalists with live ammunition, and violating their right to life. Violations against journalists who can be identified by what they wear in the field can amount to a war crime, according to Article 8 of the Rome Statute of 1998.

During this year, the Palestinian Information Center documented 215 cases of targeting journalists with live and rubber-coated steel bullets and humiliating violations, and 85 cases of arrest, summons, and detention, including four cases of house arrest, and six cases in which journalists were used as human shields. By the end of 2022, there were 16 journalists in Israeli prisons, five of whom were under administrative detention.

## **Direct Targeting of Journalists**

### **Journalist Lama Ghosheh**

On 4 September 2022, journalist Lama Ghosheh was arrested from her home in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem, her computer and mobile phone were confiscated, and her detention was extended five times. Ghosheh is a mother of two girls and a graduate student at Birzeit University. During her detention, Ghosheh was subjected to a number of violations, including strip searches, prolonged continuous interrogation sessions, and solitary confinement in Hasharon Prison

The Israeli Military Prosecution claimed that Ghosheh published posts on her Facebook page that support «terrorist organizations and incite violence», and therefore an indictment was filed against Ghosheh, which included charges of «incitement» and «identifying with terrorist organizations.»

After 10 days of being detained in inhumane conditions at Hasharon Prison, it was decided to release Ghosheh but under unfair conditions, as she was placed under house arrest until the end of the trial proceedings and the issuance of a final verdict. “I am facing a challenge in passing time in my favor, and dividing my time to be in an intellectual space that does not break me,” said Ghosheh about her house arrest. “House arrest is a colonial tool used by the occupation to control human senses, and to become a barrier between the prisoner and the people closest to them.”

During the house arrest, Ghosheh was banned from using her mobile phone or any means of social media until her next court hearing. House arrest caused Ghosheh to lose her job, and cut her off from the field she used to transmit the voice of Jerusalemites and Palestinians who are constantly attacked by the Israeli occupation. Her family was forced to pay a fine of approximately 80,000 shekels as part of the occupation’s policy of imposing financial penalties on the prisoners. Her arrest not only affected her, but also affected her children, as she is a mother of two children, and her arrest left them with a trauma, as they had a constant fear of losing her at any moment after she was arrested in front of their eyes.

## **Journalist Mohammad Samreen**

With the continuous targeting of numerous religious places, Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem in particular, journalists are constantly present to cover these violations. On 15 April 2022, after the end of the dawn prayer, the occupation forces, in large numbers of more than 500 soldiers, stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque, and started firing rubber-coated steel bullets intensively and randomly. Meanwhile, journalist Mohammad Samreen was present to cover the events when he was hit in the right leg with a rubber bullet, so he left the mosque and saw dozens of injuries, most of them in the head and face. After Samreen’s return to the mosque, Al-Yamam forces, police, border police, and intelligence officers raided the mosque, and with heavy



gunfire, Samreen was hit with two bullets in his left thigh. During the heavy shooting, bombs were fired and the worshippers were severely beaten.

When Samreen tried to film a video of what was happening, a soldier pounced on him, confiscated his belongings that were not documented as trusts, and beat him. When Samreen told the soldier that he was a journalist and that he had been injured, the soldier did not care and started hitting him on his back and the places of his injuries. After harassing and severely beating the worshippers, two of whom fainted, they were taken to a border police station in Al-Issawiya, where Samreen was interrogated by the Shabak interrogators. Despite his injuries, he was forced to sit on his knees on the dirt, and was hit on his arms by Al-Yamam unit, while others were abused and transferred from Al-Issawiya center to Al-Mascobiya interrogation and detention center and Bir as-Sabi' Prison by the Nahshon Unit.

Later in the afternoon of that day, Samreen and two of the injured were released. Immediately after his release, Samreen went to a medical center in Jerusalem, and it was found that he had fractures and lacerations in the bones of his right leg, and severe bruises in the right thigh, back, and shoulders. His situation was exacerbated by the fact that he was not seen by a doctor during the interrogation.

## **The Killing of Shireen Abu Akleh and Ghufraan Warasneh**

Shireen Abu Akleh was a journalist from Jerusalem who worked as a news reporter for Al Jazeera Media Network from 1997 until the day of her martyrdom. Abu Akleh was distinguished in covering Israeli violations against the Palestinian people, and was present in the most prominent events, such as the Palestinian uprising (Second Intifada) in 2000, and the Israeli incursion into Jenin and Tulkarm camps in 2002. She was the first Palestinian journalist allowed to enter Askalan Prison in 2005 to conduct interviews with long-term prisoners.

At approximately 5:00 a.m. on 11 May 2022, the Israeli occupation forces stormed Jenin refugee camp, with the aim of arresting a group of Palestinian young men. At around 6:00 a.m., several journalists, including Abu Akleh,

arrived to document the events, wearing press jackets and helmets to distinguish them from others in the area and to protect themselves while covering the raid. As the journalists started covering the events amidst news about the arrest of martyr Abdullah Al-Husari's brother, the journalists advanced about 20 meters, but six shots were fired at them from the direction of the Israeli military vehicles to impede their coverage of the occupation forces' crimes.

A colleague of hers, journalist Ali Samudi, was shot and wounded in the shoulder and was immediately taken to the hospital. The other journalists turned back, including Abu Akleh, who tried to hide near a tree by the side of the street. At that point, seven more shots were fired at them, and Abu Akleh was hit and fell to the ground. The bullet hit her in the back of the head. Two minutes later, a camp resident tried to evacuate Abu Akleh, but shots were then fired at him. Eventually, several young Palestinians who were at the scene managed to get Abu Akleh to hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

Abu Akleh was not the only journalist who was killed in 2022. During this year, Ghufraan Warasneh, a journalist and a former prisoner, was also shot and killed by the Israeli occupation forces while she was passing through a military checkpoint in Al-Arrub refugee camp near Hebron.

The Israeli occupation authorities immediately denied any responsibility for the killing of Abu Akleh, claiming that Abu Akleh was shot by a Palestinian, and therefore no impartial official investigation was opened into the incident. The investigations conducted by the Israeli authorities were based on testimonies collected from the Israeli army that was present at the scene, whereas no statement was taken from the Palestinians who were present as well. Following the investigation, the Israeli army stated that it was not possible to unequivocally determine the source of the gunfire which hit and killed Abu Akleh, and the findings of the investigation were submitted to the Military Prosecution, which in turn declared that there was no suspicion of committing a felony that requires opening a criminal investigation with the Military Police.



The Israeli army finally claimed it was possible that Abu Akleh was unintentionally killed by a soldier's gunfire, but no criminal investigation was opened into the incident. This shows the lack of actual accountability for the crimes committed by the occupation forces, and the entire Israeli system's complicity not to bear the responsibility for its crimes against all Palestinians.

The targeting of journalists is a violation of international humanitarian law, which provides special protection for them, and considers them an integral part of civilians, and that their presence in conflict zones cannot be used as a pretext or justification for targeting them, including by arresting and issuing prison sentences against them.

## Fighting Digital Content

On 27 December 2021, the Israeli Ministerial Committee for Legislative Affairs unanimously approved a draft law to criminalize incitement on social networks for the year 2021. This law came amidst the expansion in the use of social media, and the diversity of global digital platforms, as Palestinians are now using such platforms to support their cause and expose the grave Israeli violations taking place on the Palestinian lands. Thus, social media has become an arena of conflict between the Palestinians and the Israeli occupation, turning the digital content into a target by the occupation authorities which seek to criminalize the Palestinian digital content, claiming that such a content constitute a real possibility of harm to person's safety, to public safety, or to the state's security. Violations of digital rights varied, taking the form of suspending/deleting an account, deleting content, restricting access to certain content, hacking into some of the personal accounts of activists or journalists on social media platforms, and submitting continuous requests to social platform companies to delete certain content that the Israeli occupation authorities deem 'hostile'.

According to 7amleh – The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media, the number of digital rights violations reached 2,164 in 2021 and 2022, including 1,109 violations in 2022 alone , including 142 violations against media organizations, and 881 violations against journalists, activists, and human rights defenders.



The work of some journalists and other influencers depends on social media platforms to report the news of Palestinian prisoners, but the continuous violations targeting digital content on these platforms impede the news reports, in addition to exposing the publisher to prosecution, imprisonment, and harsh investigation. Indictments revolve around incitement and are leveled against Jerusalemites based on the Penal Code of 1997, particularly Article 144 which addresses «incitement to violence and terrorism.» The Israeli courts often regard each post as an offense; for example, if the defendant publishes six posts on his personal Facebook account, the court regards them as six separate offenses. Upon sentencing, the court takes into consideration the number of Facebook friends of the defendant, as well the number of likes, comments, and shares the posts garnered.

Violations of the Palestinians' right to express their opinion on social media platforms do not end there. Rather, journalists are unlawfully fired due to their support for the Palestinian cause via posts on their personal accounts on social media platforms, particularly Facebook. Journalist Maram Salem was unlawfully fired by the German state-owned Deutsche Welle after she was accused of anti-Semitism in a report published by a German journalist. Farah Maraqa, a Palestinian-Jordanian journalist, was also fired and said in a Twitter post that she had received a notice without explanation of the termination of her work at Deutsche Welle.

# Chapter VI: Collective Punishment and Forced Displacement



The occupation authorities implement a series of measures that target a group of Palestinians within its policy of collective punishment, which is imposed against any defensive step taken by the Palestinian people. For example, these policies or punishments escalate during popular uprisings. The occupation authorities follow an approach of collective punishment against entire cities, such as the siege on the Gaza Strip that has been going on for more than 15 years. Further, this policy is imposed on Palestinian families for the military acts that a family member carried out against the Israeli occupation. Collective punishment is also imposed against Palestinian prisoners in all Israeli prisons, as prisoners are subjected to repression, which includes plastic or metal cuffs, severe beatings, firing tear gas bombs into the sections, and depriving families of visiting their imprisoned beloved ones.

The large-scale arrest campaigns that large numbers of Palestinians are subjected to, which come within a policy of retaliation against Palestinians in villages, towns, and cities on account of the acts of individuals – as claimed by the occupation authorities – are classified as collective punishment, and amount to war crimes that are prohibited by Article 50 of The Hague Conventions and Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Attempts to displace the residents of Sheikh Jarrah date back to 1967. Since the area fell under Israeli occupation, the occupation authorities hastened to legislate laws allowing settlers to infiltrate the neighborhood, steal Palestinian homes, co-live with or expel the Palestinians from their homes. The Israeli judicial system participated in supporting in such incursion into the neighborhood through discriminatory judicial decisions. The first expulsion case was implemented in 2008 when Al-Kurd family was expelled from their home, followed by repeated eviction and displacement orders against the residents. The Israeli authorities enacted laws to help control property and lands, including the 1950 Absentees' Property Law and the 1970 Legal and Administrative Matters Law. With the continuous displacement in Sheikh Jarrah, and the danger of eviction of families from their homes, local residents began to organize sit-ins against eviction orders, but they were repressed and arrested by the occupation forces, in addition to being issued discriminatory decisions, whether be it children, women, or men.



## House Demolitions

The Israeli occupation policy of demolishing Palestinian homes is an old policy implemented to punish entire families when one of its members commits a violation or poses a threat to the security of the occupying state. The occupation authorities apply this policy to deter other Palestinians from planning or carrying out attacks, out of concern that their families' homes would be demolished. The occupation authorities stopped demolishing homes as punishment in 2005, but resumed it in 2014, pursuant to Regulation 119 of the British Mandate Emergency Defense Regulations 1945, allowing the military commander to issue demolition orders against Palestinian homes.

During the year 2022, the occupation forces demolished eight homes belonging to Palestinian prisoners or their families. On 7 March 2022, the Israeli occupation forces demolished the home of the family of the two brother prisoners, Mohammad and Ghaith Jaradat in Al-Sila Al-Harithiya, west of Jenin. The two brothers were accused of carrying out the shooting attack near the settlement of Homesh, which resulted in the death of a settler and the injury of others. On 13 February 2022, the Israeli occupation forces demolished the house of the family of prisoner Mahmoud Jaradat in Al-Sila Al-Harithiya, west of Jenin. Mahmoud was accused of carrying out the shooting attack with Mohammad and Ghaith Jaradat, and the house was demolished after the family's appeal against the demolition order was dismissed.

Moreover, the house of prisoner Fadi Elyan in Al-Sawiya near Nablus, was demolished. On 26 July 2022, the houses of prisoners Yahya Marei and Yousef Asi in Qarawat Bani Hassan near Salfit were demolished. In addition, the Israeli Supreme Court also approved the decision to demolish the house of prisoner Asad Al-Rifai in Rummaneh near Jenin on 7 July 2022, and the house of the grandparents of prisoner Subhi Sbeihat in Rummaneh on 18 July 2022, which constitutes a collective punishment against the families of Palestinian prisoners.

The Israeli occupation's discriminating policy of collective punishment is not limited to the families of prisoners only, but rather it is practiced during

arrests of Palestinians. On 13 May 2022, the occupation forces blew up five buildings in Jenin refugee camp. In 2021, six homes belonging to prisoners and their families were also demolished. The punitive demolition of prisoners' homes constitutes a violation of international law, in particular Articles 2 and 3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibit collective punishment, including deliberately harming the relatives of those accused of committing crimes, under all circumstances. House demolitions constitute a violation of the right to a fair trial; a fundamental right enshrined in human rights treaties and a customary rule of international law.

## **Families Subjected to Collective Punishment – Taher Saleh's Family**

Taher Saleh was arrested on 29 June 2022 from his house in Silwad near Ramallah at around 3:00 a.m., after he was severely assaulted all over his body, mostly on his leg that was once broken. Saleh was interrogated inside the house, as well electrocuted for 10 seconds. Following the arrest, Saleh was hospitalized for two days at Hadassah Hospital due to the ill-treatment and torture he was subjected to. After that, he was transferred to Ofer Prison, where he was subjected to intensive and harsh interrogation for nearly two months.

The interrogation did not result in any charges being proven against Saleh, despite using excessive force against him during the arrest, and exposing his family to collective punishment at the time. Because of the Military Prosecution's failure to file an indictment against him, the military commander of the region issued a six-month administrative detention order against him starting from 4 August 2022 and ending on 28 December 2022, after counting the days of detention prior to the issuance of the order. A confirmation hearing was held on 9 August 2022, presided by the military judge Ron Daloumi. The prosecution claimed that the detainee was involved in popular terrorism and military activities based on a 'secret' file, and demanded that the administrative order be confirmed as it is.

The defense lawyer indicated that Saleh underwent an investigation that lasted for more than two months, during which Saleh denied all the charges



against him. The lawyer also confirmed that the detainee was questioned and interviewed in April 2022, after which he was released, and should the information that the prosecution spoke about was true, he would not have been released. Saleh talked about being beaten with rifles during his arrest and dragged in the street, which caused him pain in various parts of his body. Prior to his arrest, Saleh sustained a leg health problem and had surgery scheduled for him.

After reviewing the ‹secret› material provided by the prosecution, the judge indicated that it relied on more than one reliable source, and thought it contained evidence that the detainee had links to popular terrorism, illegal activities, and military arrangements. The judge pointed out that the detainee was arrested on multiple occasions, and was released in February 2021. Thus, the judge did not find a way to prevent the threat posed by the detainee except by keeping him in administrative detention for the entire period. Saleh's administrative order was renewed for another six months, ending in June 2023.

Saleh's arrest comes as part of a campaign of collective punishment carried out against all the Palestinian people, and Silwad area in particular. In 2022, the village was hit with mass arrests, restrictions, closures, and frequent raids by the occupation forces. A large number of families were subjected to abuse, and property was destroyed, while many detainees, including a child were transferred to administrative detention, as part of retaliation and abuse against the entire village.

## **Jenin and Dheisheh Camp: A Victim of Collective Punishment**

The Israeli occupation forces continued to cross all red lines while implementing a policy of collective punishment throughout the year, as incursions into various Palestinian cities and villages were carried out, during which mass arrests were made affecting women, children and the elderly. The arrests were accompanied by terrorizing local residents, especially the young, vandalizing property, confiscating money and jewelry of Palestinian women, seriously wounding citizens, and demolishing their

homes under the pretext of arresting the Palestinian resistance fighters for allegedly taking these homes as a safe haven for them.

The city of Jenin – Jenin Camp in particular – witnessed dozens of incursions during the year 2022 to arrest Palestinian resistance fighters. During these violent incursions, the occupation forces used excessive force against the Palestinian resistance fighters and other residents of the area. In every raid, the area was exposed to financial losses and/or heavy human losses due to the use of live ammunition by the occupation forces, and shooting at civilians by Israeli snipers. Through armored military vehicles, soldiers attempted to run over young men in the streets, and destroy citizens' property, including cars and street vendors' stalls, causing huge financial losses.

On 12 December 2022, the occupation forces stormed the eastern neighborhood of Jenin and its camp, with the aim of arresting a group of Palestinian young men, who confronted the occupation forces, leading to intense clashes in Al-Bayader neighborhood. Meanwhile, the Israeli forces damaged a number of vehicles and shops, arrested three young men; 40-year-old Thaer Hithnawi, 33-year-old Mohammad Hithnawi, and 30-year-old Hassan Marei, and moderately wounded another young man. When the occupation forces started firing live bullets, 16-year-old Jana Zakarneh was hit in the head while she was on the roof of her house in Jenin, after being targeted directly. The girl was found after the occupation forces withdrew from the city, and was transferred to Jenin Governmental Hospital, where she was declared dead due to her injury.

In continuous attempts by the occupation authorities to deny its responsibility for the crimes committed, the occupation forces sought to blame the Palestinian resistance fighters. However, the girl's family agreed to an autopsy, and the autopsy results proved that Jana was killed by the occupation forces, and thus the occupation had no choice but to claim that the girl was killed by mistake.

Jana's case was not the only case that embodied collective punishment in its ugliest form in the Jenin area. On 8 April 2022, the occupation forces stormed Jenin and started shooting at the citizens. As a result, Hanan Al-Khdour was wounded by a bullet in the abdomen while she was in a vehicle



on her way to Al-Khansa School for Girls. She was transferred to Ibn Sina Specialized Hospital, and her death was announced as a result of her injury.

## **Inhumane Attacks and Extrajudicial Executions during Arrests – Dheisheh Camp**

The occupation forces escalated their incursions into Dheisheh camp near Bethlehem during the year, during which excessive force was used aimed at arresting local residents. At approximately 5:30 a.m. on 5 December 2022, the occupation forces stormed the camp to arrest a group of young men. Israeli snipers were deployed on the roofs of some houses, while the occupation forces stormed five homes of young men with the aim of arresting them, destroying their belongings, and using force against their families.

Yazan Manna, was one of those wanted young men by the occupation forces. When his family house was raided, Manna and his father were severely beaten and Manna was arrested. Because of the violence that accompanied the raid, young men confronted the occupation forces by throwing stones and Molotov cocktails. The occupation forces fired live bullets directly at the young man, killing Omar Manna; Yazan's brother, and critically wounding Mohammad Shamrukh, who suffered from complications as the injury led to the severing of the main blood artery that transmits blood to the two legs, and is at risk of having one of his legs amputated. The clashes resulted in six injuries, most of which were in the legs, and one in the shoulder. The occupation forces used some Palestinian civilians as human shields to protect themselves from the protesters. As a result, a civilian was wounded in the head.

## **Forced Displacement**

Forced displacement of the Palestinian people began since the 1948 Nakba (Arabic for catastrophe), and such crime has not ended to this day. Rather, the Israeli occupation transformed it into a policy that took many forms over time. Forced displacement constitutes the cornerstone of the Israeli



policy aimed at evicting Palestinians, particularly in Jerusalem, in order to achieve a Jewish majority. While giving the people of Jerusalem permanent residency in the aftermath of the 1967 war, Israeli law allowed residency to be revoked according to certain criteria, including living outside Jerusalem for seven years, acquiring a foreign citizenship, or «breaching allegiance» to the state of Israel which has become enforceable since 2018.

The occupation authorities carry out direct displacement through the use of force, the revocation of Jerusalem ID card and residency, and forcible transfer and deportation to areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority or abroad. As for the indirect displacement, it is exercised by the occupation authorities by using means of pressure and intimidation against the population to transfer and deport them in order to steal their homes and lands, and to seize their property. This policy takes many forms, such as house demolitions, non-issuance of building permits, continuous arrests of Jerusalemites, and other policies that restrict the daily life of Jerusalemites.

Forced displacement is a violation of the rules of international law. Article 49 of the Geneva Convention prohibits the forced displacement of protected populations, and considers it a war crime. The Rome System considers forced displacement a crime against humanity, if it is exercised systematically on a large scale.

## **Residency Revocation Law**

Since the formation of the thirty-seventh Israeli government after a coalition agreement was reached between Benjamin Netanyahu, who returned to power as prime minister, and Itamar Ben Gvir, who held the position of Minister of National Security, the new government has enacted a series of extremist laws that impose harsh penalties on Palestinian prisoners and their families. A draft law was put on the table of the Israeli Knesset on 19 December 2022 to revoke residency of Palestinian prisoners in Jerusalem or the 1948 occupied territory, in the event that it was proven that they received compensation or funds from the Palestinian National Authority. Knesset members voted on the bill without adhering to the two-week period for submitting a draft to the Knesset.



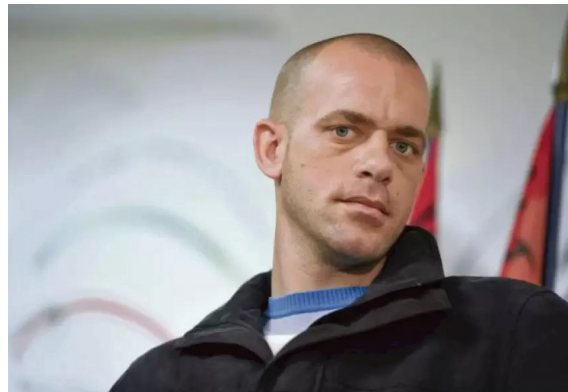
According to this law, a permanent residency license will be revoked by the Minister of Interior, after consultation with an advisory committee and with the consent of the Minister of Justice. Revocation of citizenship will be done by the court, at the request of the Minister of Interior, after consultation with an advisory committee and with the consent of the Minister of Justice. This law comes as a cover for the crime of forced displacement of Palestinian prisoners to forcibly transfer and deport them to other areas within the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or outside Palestine under the guise of legality.

This law was approved, ratified on 15 February 2023, entered into force and became applicable to all Palestinian prisoners as of 19 February 2023. The legitimacy of this law is based on the occupation authorities' claim that the money received by the prisoners is for the purposes of encouraging 'terrorist attacks', as called by the Knesset. However, in reality, this money is paid to prisoners to be able to support themselves in prisons in light of the high cost of all the products in the canteen that the prisoners buy at their own expenses, due to the poor quality of the food provided to them in limited quantities by the IPS, in addition to enabling long-term prisoners to support their families.

The laws were not limited to the prisoners alone, as the laws of the extremist government affected the families of the prisoners in order to place them within the cycle of collective punishment and to forcibly displace them under the guise of the law. On 19 December 2022, a draft law was presented to the Knesset suggesting the deportation of the families of prisoners if they support, are aware of, or praise the military acts that a family member undertakes.

## Deportation of Released Prisoner Salah Al-Hammouri

On the morning of Sunday, 18 December 2022, Israeli occupation authorities enacted the final step of residency revocation and unlawfully forcibly deported Palestinian-French lawyer, Salah Al-Hammouri, exiling him to France.



On 29 November 2022, the Israeli Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked confirmed her decision issued in 2021 to revoke Al-Hammouri's Jerusalem residency based on a secret file and a «breach of allegiance to the State of Israel.»

Such a move constitutes a war crime of forcible deportation of a protected civilian from the occupied territory, as defined in Articles 49 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. More importantly, it stands as a horrifying escalation of Israel's systematic practice of demographic engineering and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem. The criterion for «breaching allegiance» which was relied upon, and the «secret» file and the issuance of the deportation order are considered illegal, as international humanitarian law explicitly prohibits putting any pressure on the population of the occupied territory to take the oath to the occupying power, as stipulated in Article 45 of The Hague Conventions and Article 68/3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Salah Al-Hammouri was not the first case of displacement and deportation, and it was not an exceptional case. According to the Israeli Ministry of Interior's figures obtained by HaMoked – Center for the Defense of the Individual – the Ministry has revoked the residency status of 14,808 East Jerusalem Palestinians since 1967. Such figures were provided to HaMoked



upon its request at the beginning of this year, based on the Freedom of Information Law, demanding data on residency revocation in Jerusalem in 2022. According to the data, 66 requests to retrieve residency were submitted to the Ministry's office in 2022. 26 applications submitted in different years were approved, while four others were rejected.

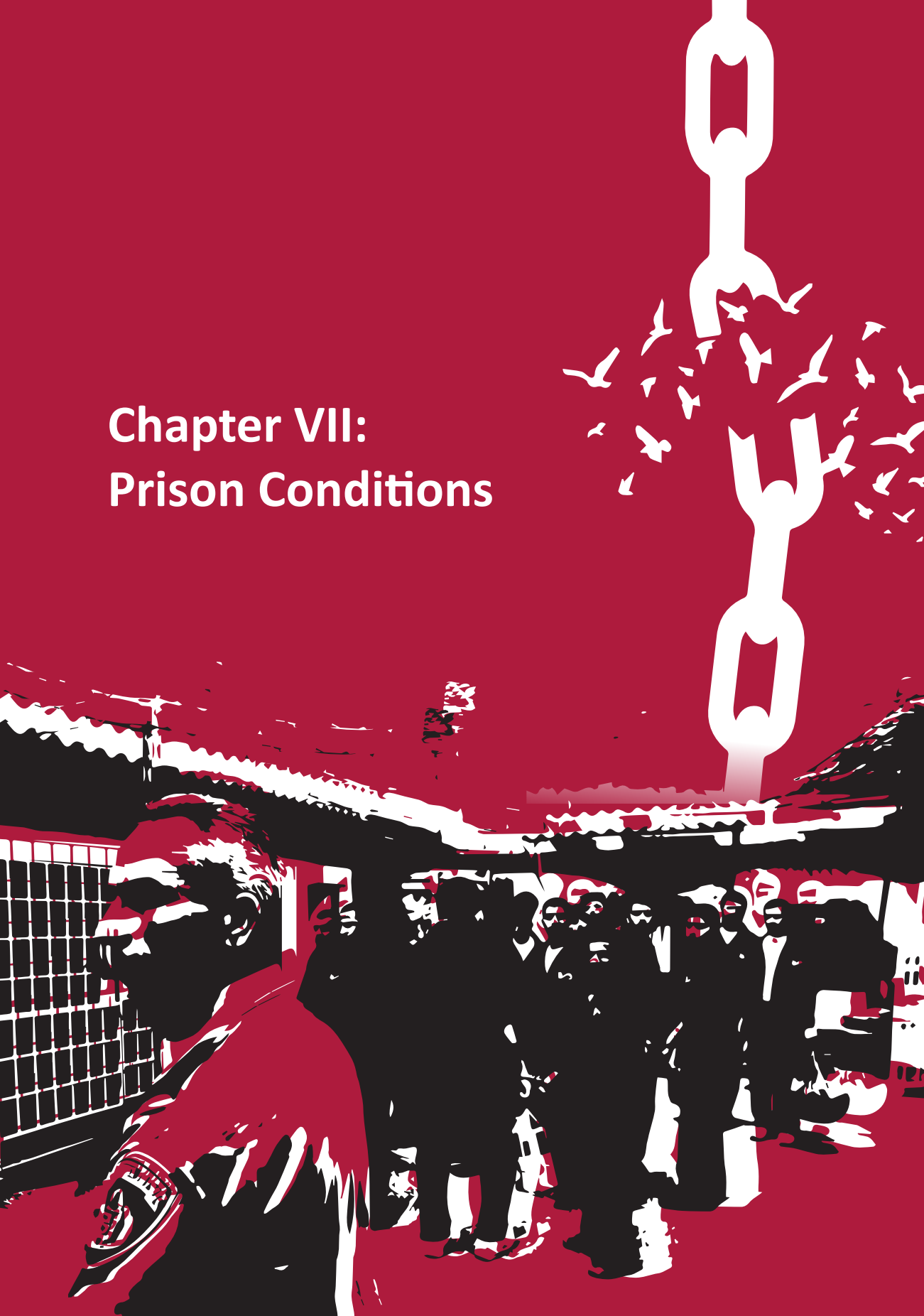
This crime is part of a long list of crimes committed by the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people in a systematic and deliberate manner. The Israeli government facilitates the process of displacement by all means, the latest of which was the introduction of a law in the Israeli Knesset to revoke the residency of those who carry out military acts.

Forced displacement, supported by the law of residency revocation, is an impending threat to the Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, or the presence of Jerusalem Palestinians in the rest of the Palestinian governorates. The occupation authorities leverage the detention of Palestinians against them by issuing forcible transfer orders that are backed by the residency revocation law. The crime of forced displacement is not only a crime against the deported, but also extends to the family as a whole. The consequences of family disintegration that Palestinian families face in the event that one of its members is forcibly relocated constitutes an additional burden on the family, and thus the family remains faced with the option of relocating to stay together, which is somehow an indirect collective punishment for the entire family, or incurring the burden of separation and the additional financial costs needed for the deported to live in a different Palestinian governorate or abroad.

Masafer Yatta area in Hebron, which spans roughly 30,000 dunums and in which approximately 1,300 people currently live, is witnessing systematic forcible transfer since it was deemed «Firing Zone 918.» With the organizations' continuous attempts to halt the forcible transfer of residents by approaching the Israeli courts and challenging the plans to expel Palestinian civilians, the Israeli Supreme Court in October 2022 rejected a request for additional hearing regarding Masafer Yatta, expressing reservations about the ruling's dire and precedential determinations regarding forcible deportation and the preference granted to the military commander's order over international law.

The decision was accompanied by daily harassment of the people of the area, including detentions at checkpoints set up by the occupation forces in that area. Detention operations extend from a few hours to weeks and months inside Israeli prisons, as part of a systematic policy in which the occupation forces leverage all the abusive policies, on top of which are arrest and detention, to serve the settlement incursion and ethnic cleansing practiced by the Israeli authorities in all Palestinian areas.

# Chapter VII: Prison Conditions



Palestinian prisoners live in harsh conditions in Israeli prisons, in cells that lack the minimum necessities of human life. Due to the lack of natural ventilation, the cells are filled with humidity, which increases the rates of disease among the prisoners, especially respiratory, skin and infectious diseases. With all the means available, the Israeli Prison Service (IPS) cracks down on the prisoners, even over the food provided to them in small quantities and of poor quality. Although providing for the needs of the prisoners is the responsibility of the IPS, the occupation authorities exploit the prisoners economically, forcing them to buy their needs from the prison canteen at their own expense, because the food provided by the IPS is of poor quality, and the prisoners are not provided with hygiene items. Thus, the prisoners are forced to buy food, supplies, and cleaning materials, which are usually very expensive and impose additional economic burdens on the prisoners and their families.

Not only the IPS holds the prisoners in harsh living conditions, but it also deliberately continues to abuse the prisoners and make their lives more tragic by implementing further repressive policies, such as the frequent raids of the sections, including women and children sections. Special forces and units of repression assault and terrorize the prisoners, break their furniture, and confiscate their belongings. During the raids, methods of excessive force are implemented, including throwing tear gas bombs into the prisoners' rooms, which leads to cases of suffocation, and indiscriminate severe beating with batons. In addition, prisoners, even the sick ones, are handcuffed during transfer to hospitals, to Ramleh Prison Clinic, or to the military courts. Restraints cause severe pain and scars in their hands, in addition to psychological harm and sense of humiliation.

On 11 September 2022, Al Mezan Center for Human Rights petitioned the Israeli Beer Sheva District Court demanding to stop the use of plastic zip ties on Palestinian detainees held in Israeli jails, as they are unnecessarily harming the prisoners' hands. This practice is illegal under the Israel Prison Services' orders and violates the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners—also known as the Mandela Rules; mainly Articles 33 and 34 thereof. On 11 January 2023, the Israeli District Court in Beersheba rejected the petition, arguing that there is a need to strike a balance between the need to enforce discipline in prison during times



of chaos and the need to ensure the safety of inmates. In addition, since Standing Order No. 04.15.00 of the Israel Prison Service (IPS) does not define the type of materials from which ties must be made, the Court does not believe that using plastic handcuffs is against the law and thereby dismissed the petition.

Prisoners are also affected by climatic changes, as they suffer from extreme cold and high temperatures in the absence of prison infrastructure equipped to deal with climate changes throughout the year. In light of the poor conditions of prisons, the IPS does not provide sufficient numbers of blankets, but only provides light blankets that are insufficient protection from the winter temperatures, in addition to not delivering sufficient numbers of heaters. The situation is no different in the summer, as prisoners in Al-Naqab Prison and Nafha Prison suffer from extreme high temperatures because of their desert location. Despite the fact that fans are not provided by the IPS on the one hand, the IPS sometimes prevents prisoners from buying fans, even at their personal expense. The suffering does not end at this point. Rather, the IPS dominates the bathing water, preventing cold or hot water from reaching some sections, or certain prisoners in solitary or double isolation, as a punitive measure in the summer and winter.

Through its tyrannical practices, the occupation authorities violate many international conventions, including the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, specifically the rules for places of detention that stipulates that requirements for a healthy life must be met in the rooms used by prisoners, such as climate conditions, ventilation, and minimum space allocated to each prisoner.

## Isolation

Isolation constitutes one of the most severe forms of punishment practiced by the Israel Prison Service against Palestinian prisoners. Prisoners held in isolation are held alone or with one other prisoners for long periods, in dark, narrow cell, the walls of which are filled with humidity, and includes a squat or a western-style toilet, from which rodents emerge, causing serious health and psychological complications for the prisoners. The isolation policy aims to humiliate the prisoners, exhaust them physically



and psychologically. The IPS ignores such psychological and physical harm inflicted on prisoners during isolation and afterwards.

The IPS isolates prisoners for security reasons, as a punishment for disciplinary violations, or due to mental illnesses that some prisoners suffer from. Thus, the IPS avoids providing appropriate treatment, and sick prisoners are isolated instead of being treated. Isolation is accompanied by imposing additional penalties on the prisoners, such as a ban on clothes and family visits, or even on electrical tools; a television set, a hotplate, etc. The Israeli Prisons Ordinance lists 44 disciplinary offenses for which solitary confinement may be imposed on prisoners, such as «made noise unnecessarily». This demonstrates the arbitrary nature of the isolation and the accompanying procedures. The rules of the IPS and the military courts legislate the isolation of child prisoners in cases related to the prison security, staff security, and preventing significant harm to discipline and the proper prison routine, and other cases.

## **Prisoners in Solitary Confinement**

Isolation is one of the harshest types of punishment and inhumane treatment practiced by the occupation authorities against Palestinian prisoners, and does not exclude women, children, or the elderly, despite its harshness and implications, which often accompany the isolated person throughout their life.

The occupation authorities escalated its use of isolation in its various forms, whether solitary, bilateral, or collective isolation, and such a policy was one of the most common policies applied inside prisons in 2022. The Israel Prison Service (IPS) began to increasingly utilize the isolation policy following Operation Freedom Tunnel, through which six prisoners escaped from Gilboa Prison. According to Addameer, nearly 70 prisoners were isolated for long periods during this year. By the end of 2022, there are approximately 40 prisoners held in isolation for security or medical reasons. Among those isolated are the prisoners of the Freedom Tunnel Operation, along with their cellmates who were accused by the occupation authorities of providing assistance.



During this year, the six prisoners who managed to escape; Mahmoud Al-Ardah, Mohammad Al-Ardah, Ayham Kamamji, Munadel Nfaiat, Zakaria Zubaidi, and Yaqoub Qadri, were sentenced to six years in prison, while the five prisoners who helped them were sentenced to five years, which is considered additional penalties added to their original sentences, in addition to being held in solitary confinement for security reasons since 2021 by a decision of the occupation intelligence. Further restrictions were imposed on them by the IPS, such as denial of family visits and appropriate treatment, and rejecting the appeal submitted by their lawyers later.

## **A Year and a Half in Solitary Confinement**

13-year-old Ahmad Manasra was arrested when his cousin was shot dead after having been accused of attempting to carry out an attack in Jerusalem. Manasra's long journey of suffering started from the moment he was arrested, as he was subjected to continuous and very harsh interrogation, in addition to a nine-year prison sentence, which led to serious mental health problems.

Instead of providing him with appropriate treatment for his mental condition, the Israel Prison Service continuously held Manasra in isolation, which led to a decline in his condition. Currently, Manasra has been in solitary confinement for more than a year, as isolation constitutes one of the many torture stations that Manasra has been subjected to during his detention since 2015. Manasra has been placed in solitary confinement since November 2021 and denied access to psychiatric services, while all attempts to get him out of isolation and grant him early release have been rejected by the court.

On 24 November 2022, Manasra's solitary confinement was extended for four additional months by the Beersheba District Court, solely relying on secret evidence. Manasra has already been in solitary confinement for the past 12 months. Such a decision highlights the arbitrariness of the rulings issued by Israeli courts against Palestinian prisoners, especially the sick. Manasra is still in solitary confinement until the date of issuance of this report.

## ◀Freedom Tunnel▶ Prisoners

Isolation cells take on a semi-uniform engineering character, but differ in certain characters, such as ventilation and space, but the vast majority of the cells are small in size. “I am held in a very cold cell, the area of which is 2.5x2 meters, including a western-style toilet, a shower, and a floor bed. The window of the cell cannot be fully opened, and therefore natural sunlight does not enter through it; only air comes in,” Prisoner Yaqoub Al-Qadri told Addameer’s lawyer about his isolation cell in Eshel Prison. “As for yard time, I go out alone. I leave the cell with my hands and feet chained, but then the handcuffs are removed when I reach the yard. The yard time usually ranges between an hour and a half to two hours and is spent in a yard, the area of which is 8x10 meters, covered with a metal grid.” With the harsh conditions of isolation, during which Al-Qadri is prevented from communicating with the outside world in a real and effective way, he is denied access to any books and newspapers, as he is only allowed to have the Qur’an. Further, Al-Qadri is subjected to morning and evening searches, through which the occupation forces deliberately destroy his belongings.

In another interview, prisoner Mahmoud Al-Arda talked about his isolation cell in Ohalei Keidar Prison. “This cell is one of the smallest isolation cells, the area of which is 1.5x3 meters, including a western-style toilet and a shower. There is a TV set in the cell, in addition to hotplate, a radio, and a water heater. When I am allowed out into the yard, I am handcuffed and then the handcuffs are removed during the yard time, which lasts an hour or an hour and a half, and is spent in a yard measuring 10x7 meters.”

The testimonies collected by Addameer in the past years indicate that the various cells in Israeli prisons are equally harsh, in which Palestinian prisoners face agonizing loneliness that feeds on their psyche.

## Isolation as Punishment for Hunger Strike

Salah Al-Hammouri, along with 50 prisoners, went on an open mass hunger strike to protest their administrative detention and the occupation’s policies of punishing hunger-striking prisoners. Three days after he started his hunger strike, the prison authorities transferred him to solitary



confinement as a punitive measure. “Three days after I went on hunger strike, I was told by the prison administration to leave the section with my clothes only and not to take anything else. I was transferred to the isolation section in Hadarim Prison, which consisted of nine cells, five of which were small-sized, whereas the other four accommodated two or three persons. I was held in a cell of approximately 2x3 square meters, in the middle of which there was a partition separating the bed, the toilet and the sink. The cell had no windows, and its armored door had a small slot of approximately 21x30 centimeters, and was covered with a metal grid,” explained Al-Hammouri.

“The cell contained a surveillance camera. The bed was five to ten centimeters off the ground, and the mattress I was sleeping on was about three to four centimeters thick. I stayed in the cell for 18 days, during which the sewage water overflowed twice, the cell was filled with insects and bugs, and I suffered a lot because of this. Not only did the IPS put me in isolation, but they also deliberately searched my cell late at night; midnight and at 1:00 a.m. The cell was searched more than five times. And despite the fact that I was on hunger strike, taking water and salt only, the guards refused to replace the water bottle that I used for 15 days, and to provide me with salt for 14 days.”

During isolation, the occupation authorities tyrannize the isolated prisoners, as realized in the case of Al-Hammouri who is a living example of these policies. Despite the difficulty of the hunger strike experience for the prisoner, the occupation authorities increase the bitterness of this experience by deliberately putting the prisoners in harsh conditions, as is the case of Al-Hammouri and many other prisoners who went through this experience.

It should be noted that the cell in which Al-Hammouri was detained was very cold, and he was unable to control the temperature in it, as the air conditioning was the only source of air. As part of the ongoing policies to control the prisoners on hunger strike, the cell had no shower, and bathing was supervised by the Occupier. “The shower was outside the cell, so I would be taken out handcuffed. I was exhausted because I was on hunger strike. I took a shower every other day, and I was not provided with new

clothes until three days after I was brought to the cell,” explained Al-Hammouri.

“The situation in the cell was very difficult. The permanent presence of a surveillance camera, in addition to the harsh living conditions, and being in a section filled with criminal prisoners made it even more difficult. My average sleep in the cell was between four to five hours, and sometimes I was unable to sleep at all because criminal prisoners kept banging on doors and screaming.” It is noteworthy that Al-Hammouri was not allowed out into the yard during isolation. Along with dozens of prisoners who were subjected to isolation during this year, prisoners Khalil Awawdeh and Raed Rayan were isolated in Ramleh Prison Clinic in extremely harsh conditions without good medical care as a punitive measure for their hunger strike.

## **The Bosta: Additional Pain for the Prisoners**

Sick prisoners are transferred from various prisons to Ramleh Prison Clinic via the Bosta, which is supervised by the Nahshon Unit. The Bosta is an armored and sealed vehicle, which cannot be accessed by the sun or the air except through small circular openings. The vehicle contains only metal seats, causing suffering and pain for the prisoners during the transfers, which may last for more than eight hours sometimes, during which the prisoner is handcuffed and the legs are shackled. The Bosta is the main means of transportation by which prisoners are transported from prisons to courts or hospitals. While being transferred via the Bosta, the prisoner cannot eat or relieve himself. To further increase the suffering of the prisoners during the transfer, modifications were made to the shape of the Bosta in 2006.

The Bosta became divided into three sections, two of which are in the form of cells with armored doors, in which the prisoners, whose number may reach up to 40, gather during mass transfers. The front half of the Bosta is designated for members of the Nahshon Unit. By the time the prisoners arrived at Ramleh Prison Clinic, their health condition worsened due to the hardships of the Bosta, and the policies adopted by the occupation forces during the transfer, such as turning on the air conditioner, making the inside of the vehicle very cold, in addition to the restraints. “Even if a prisoner is on the brink of death, he is shackled during the transfer,” prisoner Samer Abu Dyak told Addameer’s lawyer.



Due to this unfair policy that causes physical harm to the prisoners, the prisoners submitted a petition against the use of restraints during the transfer to hospitals, but the petition was rejected. Thus, many prisoners refuse to go out to any of the clinics or hospitals to receive treatment because of the arduous Bosta journey. This reflects negatively on the prisoners' health conditions amidst medical negligence practiced against them. The Israeli violations extend to the repression that occurs during the transfer by the Nahshon forces, which are among the most violent and repressive forces.

## Medical Negligence

Medical care and treatment is one of the most basic rights guaranteed by local and international laws. However, when examining the reality of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, we can realize the grave medical negligence and deliberate failure to provide medical services to prisoners by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and its medical staff.

Medical negligence constitutes a violation of international instruments, especially the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions of 1949 which state that prisoners should have access to health facilities that meet health conditions and observe permanent hygiene, and that prisoners should be seen by doctors, obtain a medical report with a full explanation of the prisoner's medical condition, and undergo periodic medical examinations. International laws did not neglect the importance of the prisoners' mental health, as stated in the UN Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners of 1957, which stressed in Articles 22 and 25 the necessity of providing at least a doctor for each prison, who has sufficient expertise in psychology and psychiatry and conducts daily interviews for all sick prisoners.

Perhaps prisoner Nasser Abu Hamid was one of the most evident examples of Israel Prison Service's ongoing and systematic practice of medical negligence. Despite his late diagnosis with cancer due to the IPS's procrastination in conducting the necessary medical checkups for prisoners, the IPS deliberately enacted a policy of medical negligence (slow killing) against him, and with the gravity of his health condition and his need for urgent medical follow-up, he was kept in detention in Ramleh Prison Clinic,

which lacks the necessary medical tools and equipment, in addition to being unfit to treat such chronic diseases. Even with the continuous legal attempts for Abu Hamid's release so that he could access the necessary medical care, the Israeli occupation courts refused to release him during sessions held to consider his early release request. Abu Hamid's condition worsened due to his difficult conditions in prison until he passed away on 20 December 2022.

The occupation's persecution policies do not end with the slow killing practices practiced against the prisoners, but rather extend to the withholding of the bodies of the prisoners and the resistance fighters after their martyrdom for using them as bargaining chips to serve the occupation's security and political goals. The occupation authorities are still withholding the bodies of 11 prisoners, refusing to hand them over to their families. One of the oldest martyrs whose bodies are withheld is Anis Dawla. As for Nasser Abu Hamid's body, it remains withheld by the occupation authorities till the period of writing this report.

Withholding the martyrs' bodies violates the dignity of the martyrs and their families, and constitutes an insult to the religious beliefs of the Palestinian society, which honor the dead through a burial ceremony that guarantees the dignity of the deceased. This policy is also considered a collective punishment targeting the families of the martyrs and preventing them from taking a last look and saying goodbye to their loved ones. On the other hand, the detention of the prisoners and martyrs' bodies in the occupation's refrigerators hinders the investigation of the circumstances of the extrajudicial executions, and exposure of the torture and the excessive use of force that are extensively practiced by the occupation forces.



## Prisoner Walid Daqqa

Walid Daqqa, a 61-year-old Palestinian writer, activist, intellectual, and political prisoner from the Palestinian city of Baqa Al-Gharbiya, colonized in 1948, was arrested in 1986 and sentenced to life imprisonment, capped at a maximum term of 37 years. Two more years were added to his sentence in 2018 after he was accused of smuggling phones into prison, bringing the total number of his imprisonment years to 39. Daqqa is considered one of the most notable intellectual prisoners, and has published several books while



being behind bars, including “The Melting of Consciousness” and “Geography of Resistance.”

During his detention, Daqqa was subjected to psychological and physical torture, and transfer to multiple Israeli prisons, during which he suffered from medical negligence. Lack of access to medical care, and the prison authority’s inaction to conducting periodic examinations had a negative impact on his health, causing him severe pain in the pelvis and legs, and an enlarged spleen. In 2015, Daqqa was diagnosed with myeloid, in addition to suffering from arterial disease and blood pressure. With the medical negligence that led to the deterioration of his condition, Daqqa underwent chemotherapy in recent years, and was initially diagnosed with leukemia.

After being transferred to the Israeli Barzilai hospital, where his bone marrow was examined, and a sample of the tumor was taken, it was found that Daqqa was suffering from Myelofibrosis; a rare type of bone marrow cancer that disrupted the normal production of blood cells, with an enlarged spleen being one of its symptoms. His health declined amidst medical negligence, and the severity of his disease reached three degrees above the danger threshold. Physicians for Human Rights warned of the serious danger that threatens Daqqa’s life, and that in light of the continuity of not providing treatment, the risk to his life would exacerbate



further. Due to the gravity of his condition, it was recommended to give him Jakavi drug, which provides temporary relief and is not effective, nor does it prolong the expected period for Daqqa to live. The only curative treatment for Daqqa is a bone marrow transplant, which can take years to be approved, and may not be possible in light of the detention conditions and hardships in Israeli prisons.

## **Collective Repression of Prison Sections**

Raids and repression are the most common tools for controlling and monitoring prisoners inside Israeli prisons. Through such policies, Israel Prison Service seeks to strike any stability situation within the prisoner sections. Break-ins and raids have escalated dramatically since 2019, and continued throughout 2022, as most, if not all, prisons were raided and prisoners were abused. The IPS uses special forces for repression operations, including Massada, Alyimaz, Yamam, Nahshon, and Drur; the tasks of which are storming the sections and cells, suppressing prisoners, destroying their personal belongings, and abusing them in a degrading manner.

According to Addameer's documentation, the Special Forces raided section 19 in Ofer Prison on 5 December 2022, searched room 9, forcibly transferring the prisoners from the section to cells that lacked the basic necessities of life, and were not suitable for human living. Following the raid, some sections of Ofer Prison were closed and turned into mass isolation cells. The cells in Hadarim Prison were raided numerous times during the year. On 6 November 2022, the Special Forces raided cells No.30 and 35, abusing and extensively searching the prisoners, while keeping the prison under lockdown for three hours. On 11 December 2022, the Alyimaz and the Drur Units of the Israeli occupation forces raided nine rooms in Hadarim prison, carrying out repressive searches, destroying the prisoners' belongings, and confiscating their books and tools related to sports activity.

Gilboa Prison was not spared from the raids of the Special Forces, as some of its cells were violently raided multiple times, during which prisoners in sections 1 and 5 were abused. The sections were raided by large forces of Massada, Drur and Yamam under the command of an extremist Israeli officer, confiscating fans, closing a number of rooms, and throwing prisoners' food supplies on the floor.

# Chapter VIII: Fair Trial Guarantees



Various international covenants guarantee the human right to a fair trial, including the right to prosecution before properly-constituted, independent and impartial courts; the right to be informed promptly and in detail of the nature and cause of the charges; the right to a public hearing; the right to appoint a lawyer; the right to access the necessary facilities to prepare an adequate defense; and the right to have an interpreter should the trial session be held in a language that the detainee does not understand. However, Israeli military courts consistently fail to provide accurate interpretation services to Palestinian detainees, denying the detainee's right to understand what is going on in the session, whereby interpretation is provided by an Israeli army soldier in military attire, who is neither a professional nor competent interpreter.

Such internationally guaranteed rights are constantly breached by the occupation authorities, as the occupation military courts lack standards of integrity and transparency, especially since military court judges are Israeli army officers.

The policy of subjecting a prisoner to a total ban on all visits by lawyers is one of the violations of fair trial guarantees practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian prisoners during interrogation. Preventing a detainee from meeting with their legal counsel is highly acute, especially during the most sensitive period of detention as any of the statements or confessions made in front of the interrogators under pressure and torture could be used against them and lead to their conviction. A ban on the right to see a lawyer deprives the detainee from his or her right to obtain legal advice or prepare adequate defense, as neither the detainee nor the lawyer are informed of the reason for the arrest and the charges.

The Israeli violations extend to violating the Palestinians' freedom of expression, as dozens of Palestinians are arrested every year and indicted on charges mainly related to incitement on social media. Palestinians' publications on social media are considered by the Israeli authorities as incitement against its regime, and accordingly issue imprisonment sentences for months, bearing in mind that these publications are nothing more than an expression of a political opinion, or support for certain political factions. In addition, hundreds of prisoners are held in administrative detention without charge or trial under the excuse of incitement.



## Lawyer Bans

The denial of meeting a lawyer is one of the guarantees of a fair trial that the occupation authorities constantly violate during interrogation stage, as dozens of Palestinian detainees are denied access every year to legal advice during interrogation, with the aim of completely isolating the detainees from the outside world during this stage, which is considered one of the most critical and sensitive stage during detention. This policy gives ample space to the occupation authorities to manipulate the facts and the files, whereby interrogators deceive the detainee into believing things that are contrary to the truth. This sometimes prompts the detainee to provide confessions or information that could lead to his conviction due to his lack of legal knowledge of his status.

Furthermore, this could give the chance to the occupation authorities to commit crimes of torture and inhumane treatment against detainees, and to have enough time to hide the effects of these practices. The denial of access to counsel obstructs the documentation of torture and the filing of complaints against perpetrators.

According to Articles 58 and 59 of Military Order 1651 “Consolidated Text“, Palestinian detainees may be denied access to a lawyer for a period of up to 60 days. This means that the detainee may spend the entire interrogation stage without seeing a lawyer or accessing legal advice.

Addameer documented 37 cases of detainees who were denied access to counsel during interrogation in 2021, and 47 other cases in 2022, through the issuance of 158 ban orders. For example, prisoner Mohammad Hamed alone was issued 13 ban orders, three of which were issued by an Israeli military court. The increase in the numbers of the ban orders reflects the occupation authorities' intention to deny detainees access to a lawyer to make it easier for pressuring the detainees and subjecting them to harsh interrogation methods.

## Israeli Laws: A Dangerous Tool to Curb the Palestinians

The occupation authorities perpetuate the emergency laws in force since the British Mandate era and use them as a tool to dominate the Palestinians. The occupation authorities also enacted laws and military orders that contradict international laws, with aim of curbing the struggle of the Palestinians for their cause and ending their political and social, specifically in Jerusalem, the 1948 occupied territory, and the rest of the Palestinian territories. The Anti-Terrorism Law was ratified on 15 June 2016, and was amended multiple times to further tighten the screws on the Palestinians. In the Knesset meeting on 26 December 2022, an amendment to this law was proposed to provide for the right to withhold the bodies of Palestinian martyrs as bargaining chips in negotiations.

It is noteworthy that the occupation authorities have been practicing this policy for several years. On 14 December 2017, as a group of human rights organizations submitted a petition on behalf of the martyrs' families to the Israeli Supreme Court to hand over the bodies of the deceased Palestinians, and the ISC ruled at the time that the bodies should not be withheld. However, the ISC issued a decision on 9 September 2019 retracting its previous decision, and authorized the withholding of the bodies as a bargaining chips in negotiations.

A bill was introduced to the Knesset on 19 December 2022 calling for the deportation of families of Palestinians who, in any way, express their support for any of the military acts carried out by a family member, in addition to a law revoking citizenship or Jerusalem residency of Palestinian prisoners who receive financial assistance from the Palestinian Authority for these actions. The law was approved on 15 February 2023.

In a series of racist laws authorizing the occupation authorities to legitimize the forcible transfer of the largest possible number of Palestinians, the dispossession of their lands, homes, and money, and the imposition of collective punishments on their families confirm the lack of fair guarantees



for the Palestinians to defend themselves before the Israeli courts. These laws highlight the arbitrariness of the Israeli occupation's approach to the Palestinians as they are only applicable to them, and not the Israelis who are not treated as unfairly for carrying out the same acts that are punishable by these laws.

## **Arrest of Municipal Elections Candidates**

Following the announcement of the Palestinian National Authority to hold elections for the local councils over two sessions, unlike in previous years, the Israeli occupation forces began to pursue and arrest the electoral lists' candidates. The arrests aimed at obstructing political participation in the electoral process and manifestations of democracy, which constitutes a violation of the right to political participation, the right to run and vote, and other aspects of political life. The occupation forces launched a campaign of mass arrests in March at the beginning of the election campaign due to reasons related to running for the elections, or being involved in preparing for the elections. These acts violate the international legitimacy of human rights.

At dawn on Monday, 21 March 2022, the Israeli occupation forces launched a campaign of arrests against a group of activists and politicians participating in the second round of the local elections in various Palestinian cities. Among them was Islam Al-Taweel, head of 'Al-Bireh Unites Us' list.

At approximately 1:30 a.m., Al-Taweel was arrested from his house in Al-Bireh city by around 12 Israeli occupation soldiers, who broke into the house after detonating three main doors. On 27 March 2022, Al-Taweel was transferred to administrative detention for four months. Al-Taweel's list was the list that won the majority of votes in the municipal elections. However, Al-Taweel was prevented from exercising his role as mayor after winning the elections because he was in detention. The administrative detention order was renewed for another three months. It is reported that Al-Taweel was arrested three times, the last of which was 15 years ago, which proves that his recent arrest was because of his running for the elections.

All Palestinians who participate in any aspect of the elections, whether legislative, local or municipal, are targets of arrest. The occupation forces launched a campaign of arrests of many Hamas leaders and activists, coinciding with the setting up of the legislative elections in 2021 – the elections were canceled by a decision of the President of the Palestinian Authority. On 13 April 2021, Najeh Assi, the representative of «Jerusalem is Our Destiny» list, was arrested after his house in Ramallah was stormed, and was transferred to administrative detention. These practices reflect the occupation's policy and its attempts to obliterate all forms of political participation, and to target the participants in the elections; whether representatives or assistants in the electoral process and campaign.

## **An Appeal against the re-Arrest of Prisoner Nael Al-Barghouti Rejected**

64-year-old Nael Al-Barghouti, a resident of Kobar near Ramallah, is the longest serving Palestinian political prisoner in Israeli prisons. He spent more than 41 years in Israeli prisons, 34 of which were consecutive. He was arrested for the first time in 1978, and was sentenced to life imprisonment and 18 years, but he was released in 2011 as part of the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange deal with Hamas. In 2014, after being released for 32 months, Al-Barghouti was re-arrested along with 49 former prisoners and was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

However, the Israeli authorities refused to release Al-Barghouti once he had served his time and re-imposed the previous ruling against him – life sentence and 18 years – on the basis of the so-called «secret evidence», violating the release agreement. Article 186 of Israeli Military Order 1651 amended in 2009 allows for the re-arrest of Palestinian prisoners who had been released as part of a prisoner exchange to serve the remainder of their original sentences by the instructions of a special Israeli military committee. Effectively, Article 186 gives an Israeli military special committee the power to revoke previously granted amnesties to ex-detainees. The article stipulates, in effect, that an ex-prisoner who was released in a prisoner exchange may be rearrested to serve the remainder of his or her sentence – based on a secret file not accessible to the ex-prisoner or his attorney.



Article 186 is markedly incompatible with international standards and fair trial guarantees, particularly in its use of secret evidence to re-order the detention of ex-prisoners. The use of military order 186 contravenes with the prisoners' right to be promptly informed of any charges against him, so that the prisoners and their lawyers could prepare adequate defense, and thus the occupation authorities deny the prisoners' right to adequately defend themselves.

In May 2022, the Israeli Supreme Court issued a decision referring Al-Barghouti's case to the military appeal committee, which was formed to examine the cases of prisoners re-arrested after their release as part of Wafaa al-Ahrar (Arabic for "Faithful to the free") prisoner exchange deal. On 4 December 2022, the committee, via Ofer military court, rejected the appeal to release Al-Barghouti, and upheld the previous judgment, under the pretext of having a 'secret file' on him. The ruling comes in light of the increased restrictions imposed on the prisoners who were released as part of the deal, to unlawfully hold them hostage since 2014.

## **Recasting the Detention on Charge Sheet to Administrative Detention**

On 26 November 2021, 30-year-old Ibrahim Arafa, a resident of Dheisheh camp near Bethlehem, was arrested, charged with providing services to a banned organization and participating in banned organizational activities, and sentenced to 12 months in prison. On 29 October 2022 and before the end of his sentence, Arafa was issued a six-month administrative detention order by the military commander of the region, and a confirmation session was held on 2 November, but it was adjourned until 13 November by the military judge Renato Yurak. During the session, the Military Prosecution requested the court's approval of the entire period of administrative detention, due to the Arafa's activity in the banned Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), involvement in acts of popular incitement and terror, in addition to the fact that he was found with PFLP flags during his arrest which indicated his support for PFLP, as well as his participation in the celebrations organized to welcome released prisoners. On 16 November, the court confirmed the administrative detention order for the entire period.



Arafa was not interrogated on any new charges. Rather, he was transferred to administrative detention based on the so-called «secret file», which neither Arafa nor his lawyer had access to. Such an arbitrariness shows the intention of the occupation authorities to sentence Arafa, wait until the end of his rule, and then transfer him to administrative detention without any new charges, under the pretext that he poses a threat to the security of the region and the public. Arafa, like other Palestinian prisoners, was tried for the same act twice, in contrary to the laws, as an accused person cannot be tried again on the same charges following an acquittal or conviction.

Arafa was not the only one who was arrested after being indicted and then transferred to administrative detention or vice versa. Throughout this year, Addameer documented a group of prisoners who were accused of incitement, and spent months in Israeli prisons, and on the expected day of their release, they were held in administrative detention and vice versa. Such a practice confirms the occupation authorities» endeavors to deprive prisoners of their liberty, for the maximum possible period, and keep them in detention.

## **Trial for incitement**

The Israeli occupation authorities have expanded the scope of its violations against the Palestinians by persecuting them on their activity in the virtual world. Palestinians in Jerusalem and the 1948 occupied territory, are arrested over social media posts and charged with «incitement» that is criminalized by the Israeli Penal Code of 1977, while Palestinians in the West Bank are arrested according to Israeli military orders. The texts of these laws and orders list the words «encourage, support, or sympathize with terrorism,» which are broad terms, giving the judges wider discretion to interpret these terms, and to list as many online content as possible under them. The occupation forces are using incitement to arrest Palestinians by linking incitement to terrorism.

By this practice, the occupation authorities deny the Palestinian people» right to express their opinion by all means that can convey their voice and expose the Israeli violations to the international community.



Osama Hroub was arrested from his house in the city of Jenin on 23 June 2022 at approximately 4:30 a.m., and his detention was extended four times before an indictment was filed against him on 12 July 2022. The first item of the indictment was about incitement and support for a ‹hostile› organization. The indictment listed some of Hroub›s activities with dates, including his interview with Roya News Channel, during which he talked about the six prisoners who escaped from Gilboa Prison, and ‹incited› and supported a ‹hostile organization.› The interview was published on 19 September 2021 on Al-Quds TV channel on YouTube, which is followed by 312 thousand followers. The interview had 780 viewers and 40 likes.

The indictment also mentioned three other TV interviews conducted with Hroub between 2021-2022 about shooting attacks, the killing of Amjad Al-Fayed, and the status of Jenin and its ongoing struggle. The second item included Hroub›s activity in a ‹banned› organization. From the day the indictment was filed, the court hearings were adjourned nine times in a row, which contravenes the defendant›s right to a speedy trial.

The discretion granted to judges and their interpretation of what is considered as incitement is arbitrary, and highlights the gravity by which the occupation authorities deal with charges of incitement, which are usually sentenced to imprisonment from 6-24 months, and the payment of hefty fines. Although freedom of opinion and expression is one of the rights and principles established in international law, particularly Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in its first and second clauses, the occupation authorities violated international law by criminalizing the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and framing it as ‹incitement›.

## **Student Activism Leads to Arrest**

The Israeli occupation authorities persistently and systematically target Palestinian university students through raids on university campuses. The frequency of arrest and targeting increases when students carry out any activity as party of the student union and activism, most notably the elections that took place at numerous universities this year, in which a group of young men were arrested after the elections were held. The

occupation authorities continued to target Palestinian students, issuing them indictments that included involvement with union and student activism, which were mainly practiced on campuses.

On 2 September 2022, the occupation forces arrested Birzeit student Muath Al-Batma from the village of Aboud, near Ramallah, and a four-month administrative detention order was issued against him on 22 September 2022. The Military Prosecution requested that the order be confirmed for the full period, claiming that Al-Batma is the coordinator and an active member of the Progressive Student Pole at Birzeit University, has a presence in the field and poses a threat to the security of the region.

When Al-Batma's lawyer approached the judge about the existence of clear public materials confirming Al-Batma's activity in the Student Pole, and the fact that he is the coordinator, the judge denied the existence of public materials, and confirmed the existence of such suspicions within a «secret file», and the judge continued saying, "Given the gravity of the situation on the ground, I do not see anything wrong with issuing an administrative detention order." Thus, the administrative detention order was confirmed for the entire period.

Birzeit student Tamer Hajouj was not spared by the occupation forces, as he was arrested on 15 March 2022 from his family's home in Batn Al-Hawa neighborhood in Ramallah. Around 15 Israeli soldiers stormed and searched the family's house after breaking down the front door and beating his brother. Hajouj was issued an indictment of one item centered on his student activism and membership in a banned organization. The indictment listed activities carried out by Hajouj from 2019, including membership of a student bloc, meeting with new students, going on a student trip to Beit Rima village in 2022 and Safa village in 2021, hanging banners of a «hostile» organization on its foundation day, participating in welcoming released prisoner, and hanging pictures of imprisoned students. Accordingly, Hajouj was sentenced on 30 November 2022 to 13 months in prison.

Dozen Palestinian students spend long periods in Israeli prison due to the high sentences that are imposed on them only because of their student activism on campus; an activism that does not constitute any danger or threat to the occupation authorities, but is rather used by the occupation authorities as an excuse to target students and end their student activism.



## High Prison Sentences for the May Uprising Detainees

During the year 2021, Palestine witnessed several crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces, most notably the aggression on the Gaza Strip, the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque, attempts to forcibly transfer the residents of Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem, continuous mass arrests and settler violations. These events came altogether to form a spark that led to the outbreak of a popular uprising within the 1948 occupied territory to protest and reject the Israeli violations in the Palestinian territory, mostly in East Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa. Habat Al-Karama, or the May uprising, started in the city of Lod with a peaceful protest on 10 May 2021, but the Israeli police broke up the protest, causing the situation to turn into riots in various parts of Lod with the Israeli police and settlers.

Clashes with settlers resulted in the death of Musa Hassouna, but the cases against all the suspects were closed and the suspects were released.

On the other hand, the Public Prosecution Office charged a group of Arab young men with the killing of settler Yigal Yehoshua, who died one day after Hassouna's death. The settlers attacked the Arabs in Lod, burning down their property and shooting at them, but the Israeli police did nothing to stop these attacks. The uprising extended to Haifa, Acre, and several other cities, and the occupation forces launched a wide-scale arrest campaign against those involved. Some of the detainees were released shortly afterwards, others were released while awaiting trial, while some were kept in detention and issued indictments by the public prosecution. The charges included participation in riots, stone throwing, burning public property, possession of a weapon, and shooting, in addition to the popular terrorism clause which was included in the vast majority of indictments and upon which the detainees were sentenced before Israeli courts. During this year biased verdicts were issued against some of the detainees, which in some cases reached 15 years.

Such harsh and unfair sentences against the participants in the May uprising illustrate the racism and discrimination in the sentences that

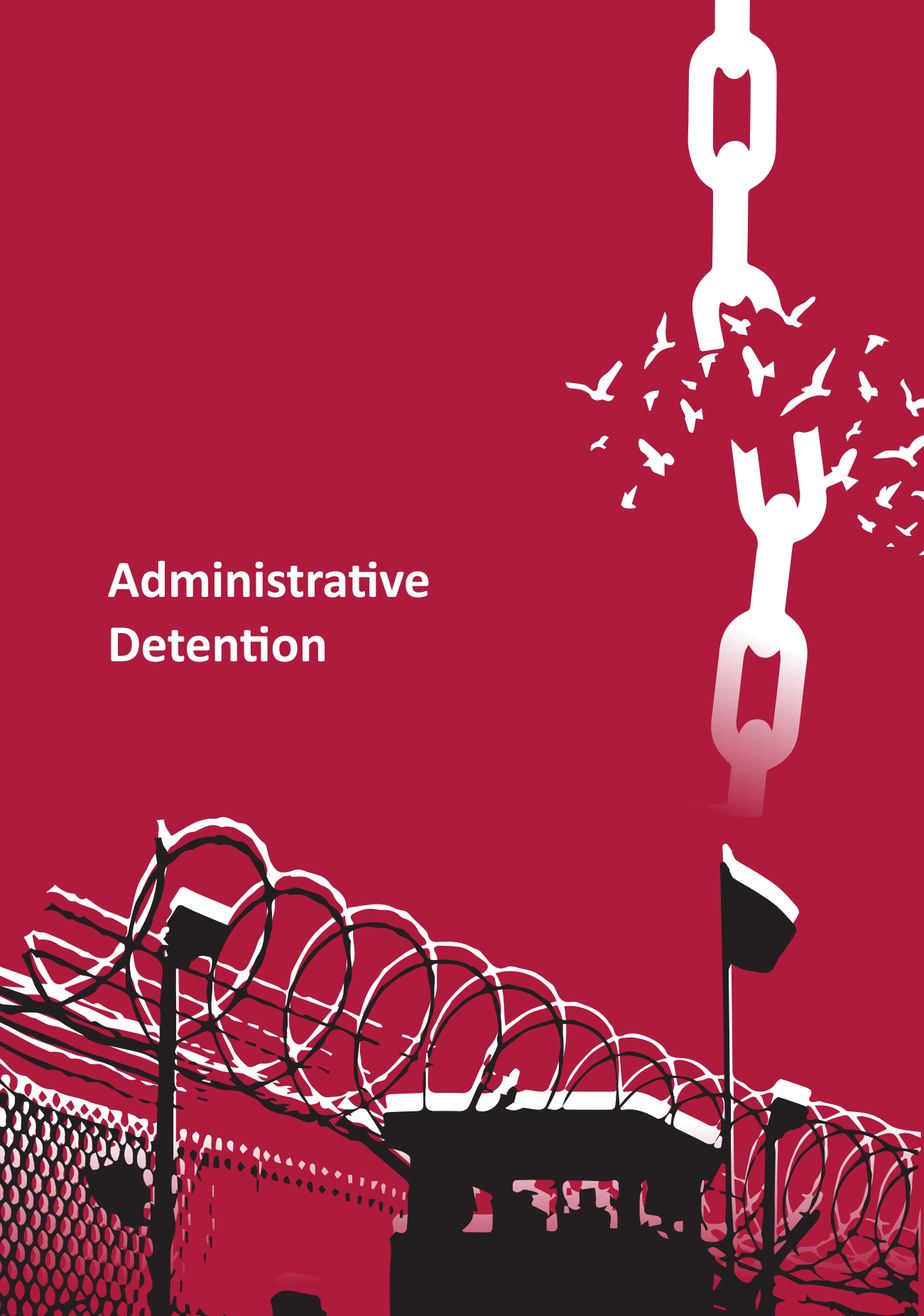
were issued against the Palestinian participants based on indictments that include articles such as popular terrorism, incitement, and reliance on the terrorism law, which alone guarantees the raising of sentences to nearly 25 years. In contrast, dozens of the settlers who participated in acts of vandalism and incitement to murder during the May uprising were not investigated, whereas lenient sentences were issued against some of them only because they were Jews.

## **Case Study: Adham Bashir**

Clashes broke out between Palestinians and Israelis in the city of Lod following the outbreak of the May uprising. On 12 May 2021, a group of Palestinian young men attacked Janashvili, a Jewish Israeli, and threw stones at his vehicle, as a result of which he lost control of the vehicle and was injured. Accordingly, the Haifa District Court was convened to examine the case. Among those involved in the stone throwing was 24-year-old Adham Bashir from Acre, who was convicted of aggravated assault as an act of terror and rioting. During the trial session, the presiding judge said, “The act committed by the young men against Janashvili was out of an ideological and nationalist motive, and therefore the court sentenced Bashir to 10 years in prison, and order him to pay 150,000 shekels in damages to Janashvili.” Along with Bashir, seven Palestinian young men were convicted in the same case, including 50-year-old Assi Hourani, who was accused of committing serious offenses out nationalist motive and participating in terrorist acts.

Such sentences show the racism and arbitrariness in the sentences against the Palestinians who participated in the events of the May uprising, as prison sentences reached more than 10 years, in addition to being ordered to pay hefty fines. In contrast, the Jews who participated in acts of vandalism, incitement to murder, and the killing of an Arab citizen were not held accountable.

# Administrative Detention



Administrative detention is one of the systematic and arbitrary policies and the pillars upon which the occupation authorities rely to arrest and detain Palestinians without charge or fair trial, regardless of ages, health status or gender, based on a «secret» file and evidence; the content of which is not disclosed to the detainee or his lawyer. Administrative detention violates all treaties that stipulate that the detainee has the right to be informed of the charges against them, the reasons for their detention, and prepare adequate defense.

However, what is happening on the ground is different. Administrative detention in the West Bank is regulated by an order regarding security instructions that authorizes the commander of the military forces, or whom he authorizes, to issue arrest warrants if he has reasonable grounds to assume that the security of the area requires the arrest of a person. Arrests of East Jerusalem residents are carried out pursuant to the Emergency Powers (Detentions) Law.

The arbitrariness of administrative detention is illustrated in its indefinite period. In the event that the term of the order expires, and the military commander believes that the reasons for which an individual was arrested in the first order still exist, the military commander has the right to detain the individual for up to six-month renewable periods. Despite the unfairness of this policy against the detainees, the occupation authorities continued this year to issue administrative detention orders that affected all segments of Palestinian society, whether in the West Bank, occupied Jerusalem, or the 1948 occupied territory.

Administrative detention in Palestine is closely linked to the prevailing political situation and the occupation's continuous presence on the ground. It expresses an official government policy of the occupying authorities, as it is used as a tool for punishment and retaliation against the Palestinians.

Administrative detention reaches an arbitrary peak when the occupation authorities issue such orders to detainees after serving their sentence in Israeli prisons based on an indictment. It is a retaliation method and a punitive measure against Palestinian detainees by imprisoning them in Israeli prisons unjustly for as long as possible. The occupation authorities also use administrative detention as a tool to repeatedly target released



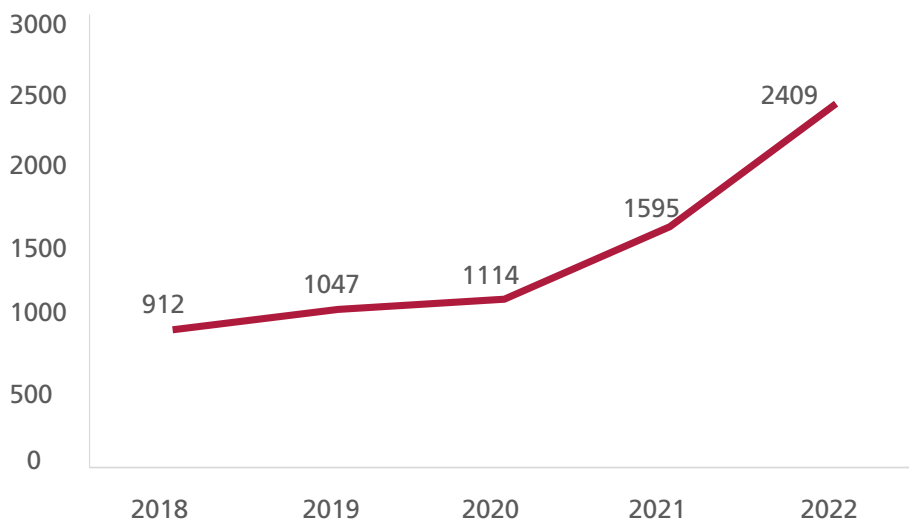
prisoners, who are re-arrested after serving their sentences, without charge or fair trial that guarantee the prisoners their right to defend themselves.

The Israeli occupation authorities issued around 2,409 administrative detention orders during the year 2022 alone, including new orders and renewal orders as well. By the end of 2022, There were around 850 administrative detainees, including seven children and two women, which is the highest number of administrative detainees in 10 years. In comparison, the occupation authorities issued 1,595 and 1,114 new and renewal administrative detention orders in 2021 and 2020, respectively. This indicates a well-established administrative detention policy that the occupation authorities have increasingly utilized over the years, and it also affirms that the occupation military courts are nothing but means of control through which the occupation authorities approve administrative detention decisions on an ongoing basis without real legal review or discussion.

Administrative detention constitutes a grave violation of international humanitarian law, including some articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulate that no one may be arbitrarily arrested or detained, be deprived of his liberty except for reasons stipulated by the law, and in accordance with the procedure established therein; and that any person arrested must be informed of the reasons for his arrest at the time of his arrest, must be informed promptly of any charges brought against him. What proves that the occupation authorities do not implement administrative detention on a small scale is the number of orders issued by the military courts in the past five years, which increased significantly year after year until it reached 7,077 new and renewal orders. These figures do not include the administrative detention orders issued against Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem and the 1948 occupied territory.



Figure 4 below shows that the number of administrative detention orders has doubled between 2018 and 2022.



**Graph 5: Number of administrative orders in the last five years**

## **The Eldest Palestinian Held in Administrative Detention for the Second Time**

76-year-old Jamal Al-Niser was arrested at midnight on 24 August 2022 from his home in Al-Bireh city after it was raided by a group of Israeli intelligence officers and soldiers. Despite his health condition and old age, Al-Niser was handcuffed and violently dragged to a military vehicle and taken to Ofer interrogation and detention center near the city of Ramallah. Al-Niser is a former prisoner, who was previously arrested once on 9 June 2021 and was held in administrative detention for four months.

Four days after his arrest, Al-Niser was transferred to administrative detention after being issued a four-month administrative detention order from 28 August 2022 to 23 December 2022. In the confirmation session held at Ofer military court, the military prosecution requested confirmation of the detention order for the entire period based on secret material submitted to the court, relying on the fact that Al-Niser was an activist and



leader in the banned Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), along with other organizations that were banned by military orders, in addition to posing a threat to the security of the region. Al-Niser's lawyer refuted these allegations, providing a detailed update of the prisoner's health status, suffering from chronic diseases, old age, and need for medical care. Upon hearing the parties to the case and reviewing the secret file submitted by the Israeli security authorities, the judge confirmed the administrative detention order after reducing its length by two months, claiming that administrative detention was the only way to "ward off the danger posed by the detainee."

Ofer military prosecution filed an appeal against the judge's decision to reduce the length of the detention order, an appeal the court accepted and returned the detention period to four months. The four-month administrative detention order was renewed for another four months, ending on 22 April 2023. During the confirmation session that was held on 28 December 2022, the order was confirmed by judge Ariel Dreamos for the entire period.

Al-Niser's case highlights the pivotal role played by the occupation military courts in cases of administrative detention. Military judges are complicit in the arbitrary detention, and are a legal tool used by the military commander to violate international humanitarian law, mainly the Fourth Geneva Convention with regard to the use of administrative detention without being bound by its restrictions and prohibitions. Despite Al-Niser's health and living conditions and age, the judges agreed to continue his detention without conducting any tangible investigation into the suspicions against him, and thus such a detention amounts to war crimes that require prosecution and accountability.

# Mass Hunger Strike and Boycott of Military Courts to Protest Administrative Detention

## Hunger Strike

Palestinian prisoners embarked on a mass hunger strike after exhausting all other steps of struggle and due to the lack of response to their demands through legal means, following a meeting between the occupation authorities and the Prisoner Struggle Committee. An open hunger strike is regarded as a means to achieve a specific goal and not an end in itself, and is one of the key strategies prisoners resort to in order to influence the jailer and extract their demands. An open hunger strike, otherwise known as “Battle of the Empty Stomachs”, is a refusal to eat all types of foodstuffs within the reach of the prisoners, with the exception of water and salt. It is no longer a rare step, as Palestinian prisoners resort to it within clear steps and positions, rejecting the arbitrary policy of administrative detention, to which they are repeatedly subjected for many years, despite its severe physical and psychological harm on prisoners and their families.

Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike are subjected to a number of penalties imposed by the Israel Prison Service (IPS) and the occupation authorities, because hunger strike is considered a violation of the IPS regulations. Previous years witnessed the isolation of dozens of prisoners who initiated individual hunger strikes, or participated in collective hunger strikes, and thus they were deprived of all means of communication with the outside world. In addition to isolation, the IPS imposes a number of penalties, such as hefty fines, denial of family visits, and transfer to other prisons. This creates a state of instability among the prisoners, and difficulty to adapt to every transfer.

On 25 September 2022, Palestinian prisoners in a number of Israeli prisons began an open-ended hunger strike to protest and reject the established policy of administrative detention practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities against them. Around 30 Palestinian prisoners joined the strike, raising the slogan «Our Strike is Freedom». 20 other prisoners joined



the mass hunger strike on 9 October 2022 in solidarity to protest their administrative detention, including a number of former prisoners who were re-arrested and held in administrative detention. This highlights the Israeli occupation's targeting of former Palestinian prisoners who are routinely arbitrarily arrested, released, re-arrested, and placed in administrative detention.

Notably, the current Palestinian administrative detainee joining the collective hunger strike is former prisoner Asem Al-Ka'bi, recently released in April 2021 after finishing an 18-year prison sentence in Naqab prison, and re-arrested under administrative detention for six months on 24 August 2022. Other prisoners who joined the mass hunger strike was prisoner Nidal Abu Akar, who spent more than 16 years in administrative detention and was targeted by the occupation authorities since his childhood, in addition to prisoner Ghassan Zawahra, who has been detained by the occupation since 2022, and spent more than 10 years in Israeli prisons. This mass hunger strike ended on 13 October 2022.

The Palestinian prisoners' recurrent resort to hunger strikes confirms their lack of confidence in the Israeli judicial system, which uses all its power to inflict the most severe punishments on the prisoners, in addition to the failure to provide fair trial guarantees before all military courts. Following the failure of various legal methods, the Palestinian prisoners are left with no other choice but to initiate hunger strikes to extract their freedom from the Israeli illegal detention.

## **Boycott of Israeli Military Courts**

Since the beginning of 2022, the largest number of administrative detainees began boycotting Israeli military courts at all levels, and the boycott continued until September of the same year. The boycott came as a strategic step through which the prisoners sought to consolidate their steadfastness in the face of the crime of administrative detention. The boycott of the military courts continued in conjunction with the open hunger strike initiated by the prisoners, however, the boycott did not end with the end of the strike. Rather, the prisoners continued to boycott the confirmation and appeal sessions as a strategic and central step in

continuing the struggle against this unfair policy. Accordingly, to date, 80 administrative detainees are refusing to participate personally or via their legal counsel in court procedures and hearings.

In addition to disregarding the punitive practices and degrading treatment practiced in an integrated manner by the occupation system, Israeli military courts reject the largest number of appeals filed against administrative detention orders submitted by the hunger-striking prisoners' lawyers, despite the poor health conditions of the hunger-striking prisoners. Israeli military courts invoke the existence of "risk" based on "secret information", and thus confirm renewed administrative detention orders against Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike.

## **Individual Hunger Strikes: More than 100 days in the Face of the Jailer's Injustice**

### **Prisoner Khalil Awawdeh**

40-year-old Prisoner Khalil Awawdeh, a resident of Ithna near Hebron, spent nearly five years in administrative detention. Awawdeh was arrested on 27 December 2021 and was issued a six-month administrative detention order. On 3 March 2022, Awawdeh embarked on an individual, open-ended hunger strike to protest his administrative detention. After being on hunger strike for 111 days, during which his health deteriorated significantly and reached stages of real danger to his life, Awawdeh was promised to be released by the occupation forces, and thus he suspended his strike on 21 June 2022.

The occupation authorities reneged on the agreement, refusing to release Awawdeh and renewed his administrative detention order for an additional four months. Awawdeh, therefore, resumed his hunger strike on 2 July 2022 despite the fact that he only weighed 42 kilograms, and still had not regained his health after the first strike, but he insisted on taking his freedom. Awawdeh continued his strike amidst the significant deterioration of his general health condition.



During his hunger strike, Awawdeh was faced with the arbitrary policies of solitary confinement, and frequent transfers between Ramleh Prison Clinic and the Israeli Shamir Medical Center. Despite warning the occupation authorities that Awawdeh was at risk of sudden death due to his serious and critical health condition, Ofer military court rejected the petition submitted by Awawdeh's lawyer against its ruling to confirm the second administrative detention order, as the military court relied on the 'danger' posed by Awawdeh based on secret information to justify yet another administrative detention order.

On 19 August 2022, the Israeli Supreme Court issued a decision to suspend the administrative detention order due to the fact that Awawdeh's life was in danger, affirming that the decision is valid until another decision is taken in his case. Awawdeh commented on this decision, saying, "Suspending the administrative detention order will not end my hunger strike, until a final decision is issued to release me." Thus, Awawdeh continued his strike, which lasted for 172 days in total over two periods separated by a few days, until he eventually ended it on 31 August 2022 after reaching an official agreement to end his administrative detention on 2 October 2022.

As part of the occupation's attempts to keep Awawdeh in detention and ruin his family's joy at his release on the scheduled date, the Israeli military prosecution filed an indictment against Awawdeh after finding a mobile phone in his possession during a search before he was transferred from a public hospital to Ramleh Prison Clinic, claiming that such a breach required putting him on trial. In conjunction with the end of Awawdeh's administrative file, the file was turned into a case as part of the occupation's policy of procrastination. Accordingly, Awawdeh was issued an indictment and was kept in detention awaiting trial.

Photo 6: Prisoner Khalil Awawdeh during his hunger strike



## Prisoner Raed Rayan

Khalil Awawdeh's open hunger strike was not the only individual hunger strike in 2022. Rather, this year witnessed 11 individual hunger strikes, such as the strike that prisoner Raed Rayan initiated. Rayan, a former prisoner who spent 21 months in administrative detention, was re-arrested on 3 November 2021 shortly after his release, and was handed a six-month administrative detention order. When the order was renewed, Rayan launched an open-ended hunger strike on 7 April 2022, refusing to take vitamins and supplements despite his deteriorating health condition, as he was suffering from severe joint pain, blurred vision, permanent dizziness, in addition to vomiting, and difficulty walking, requiring him a wheelchair to move.

With the continuation of his hunger strike, Rayan began to suffer from severe difficulty in breathing and speaking, and his body refused to receive water. Yet, the prison administration refused to transfer Rayan to any hospital and kept him at Ramleh Prison Clinic, in a small cell with a white light, metal bed, and a window closed with metal bars and grids. The cell was searched daily. Despite Rayan's harsh health condition and extreme danger to his life, the occupation authorities did not make any serious offer to end his administrative file. On the contrary, the prison administration



imposed numerous penalties on Rayan, including denial of family visits, ban on shopping from the canteen, and imposing financial fines.

With his insistence and determination, Rayan was able on 28 July 2022 to extract promises to end his administrative detention after 113 days of hunger strike. Despite the continuous violations and the severe harm he suffered as a result of the strike, the occupation authorities, as usual, reneged on their promises by renewing his administrative detention for another four months. Rayan's case sheds light on the policy of deceit, false promises and disavowal that the occupation authorities pursue with Palestinian prisoners.

## **The Vicious Circle of Indictments and Administrative Detention**

30-year-old prisoner Ahmad Adawi, a resident of Al-Arrub refugee camp near Hebron, was arrested on 8 November 2021, and was handed a five-month administrative detention order by the Israeli military commander. A confirmation session was held on 15 December 2021 before Judge Yachiel Katz. During the hearing, the Military Prosecution claimed that the detainee was active in a banned organization, and that he was an activist and an instigator of popular terrorism, in addition to running the "Free Al-Arrub" on Facebook. The judge stated that after reviewing the secret file, he saw that the detainee had previous arrests that lasted for five years, and that he had previously incited popular terrorism, and due to the danger he posed to the safety of the region, the administrative detention was confirmed for the entire period.

With the end of the first five months of detention, the administrative detention order was renewed for another four months. The order was renewed over and over until its lengthy reached a total of 16 months, the last of which ends on 4 April 2023. With each confirmation session, the judge would raise the same allegations that were raised in the first confirmation session.

On 10 April 2022 and while Adawi was still under administrative detention, an indictment was submitted against him, containing three articles, all of



which related to throwing stones at the Israeli army. Although his trial was based on the indictment and he was handed a suspended sentence for a year, the administrative detention order against him was not annulled. Rather, the occupation authorities continued to renew the detention order in conjunction with the indictment.

With these practices, the occupation authorities violate the minimum guarantees of a fair trial, including no individual may be punished more than once for the same act, or on the same count, as it is confirmed by Article 117 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as Article 14(7) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirmed that no one shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted.



## Conclusions

1. Throughout 2022, the Israeli occupation authorities continued to detain Palestinians in prisons that lack the minimum necessities for a human life, as thousands of prisoners are held in old, worn out prisons filled with humidity. The conditions of detention caused many prisoners to suffer from diseases, in addition to aggravating the health status of the prisoners who already had diseases prior to their detention. Prisoners including Nasser Abu Hamid and Sa'diya Matar passed away due to these conditions and the medical negligence practiced by the Israel Prison Service (IPS).
2. This year witnessed a significant increase in the number of detainees, especially in East Jerusalem which was heavily targeted by the occupation forces, as the number of detainees alone reached around 3,000 detainees.
3. During the year 2022, the Israeli occupation forces continued to practice physical and psychological torture, as well as inhuman and degrading treatment against Palestinian detainees in order to weaken them and break their spirit. Such practices start at the arrest and escalate throughout interrogation, and up to prisons which witness grave violations of the rights of detainees.
4. The Israeli occupation authorities continued to target prisoners and their families by legitimizing laws through the Knesset, increasing cases of deportation and forcible transfer of prisoners and their families in the event that a family member supported any military act carried out by another family member.
5. During the year 2022, the Israeli occupation forces escalated its use of administrative detention of Palestinians in a breach of the most basic guarantees of a fair trial, the rights of detainees to be informed of the charges against them, and the right to prepare a legal defense. The arbitrariness of administrative detention does not stop at this point, but continued during this year by recasting the detention of Palestinians on charge sheets to administrative detention and vice versa.
6. The Israeli occupation authorities escalated its use of collective punishment against the Palestinians of different age groups. During this

year, the occupation forces carried out multiple violent and fierce incursions into various Palestinian cities, villages, and camps, demolishing homes, destroying property, and arrested members of the detainees' families to pressure the detainees in interrogation centers.

7. The Israeli occupation authorities continued to pursue a dangerous escalatory policy against children and women, as part of its systematic policies to destroy all Palestinian society, without taking into account any privacy of the status of children or women, or the protections granted to these groups in international treaties and declarations.

8. The Israeli occupation authorities continued to violate the freedom of opinion and expression of the Palestinians, by arresting dozens for their posts on social media, particularly Facebook, or for televised interviews which the occupation authorities consider as incitement against its regime.



## Recommendations

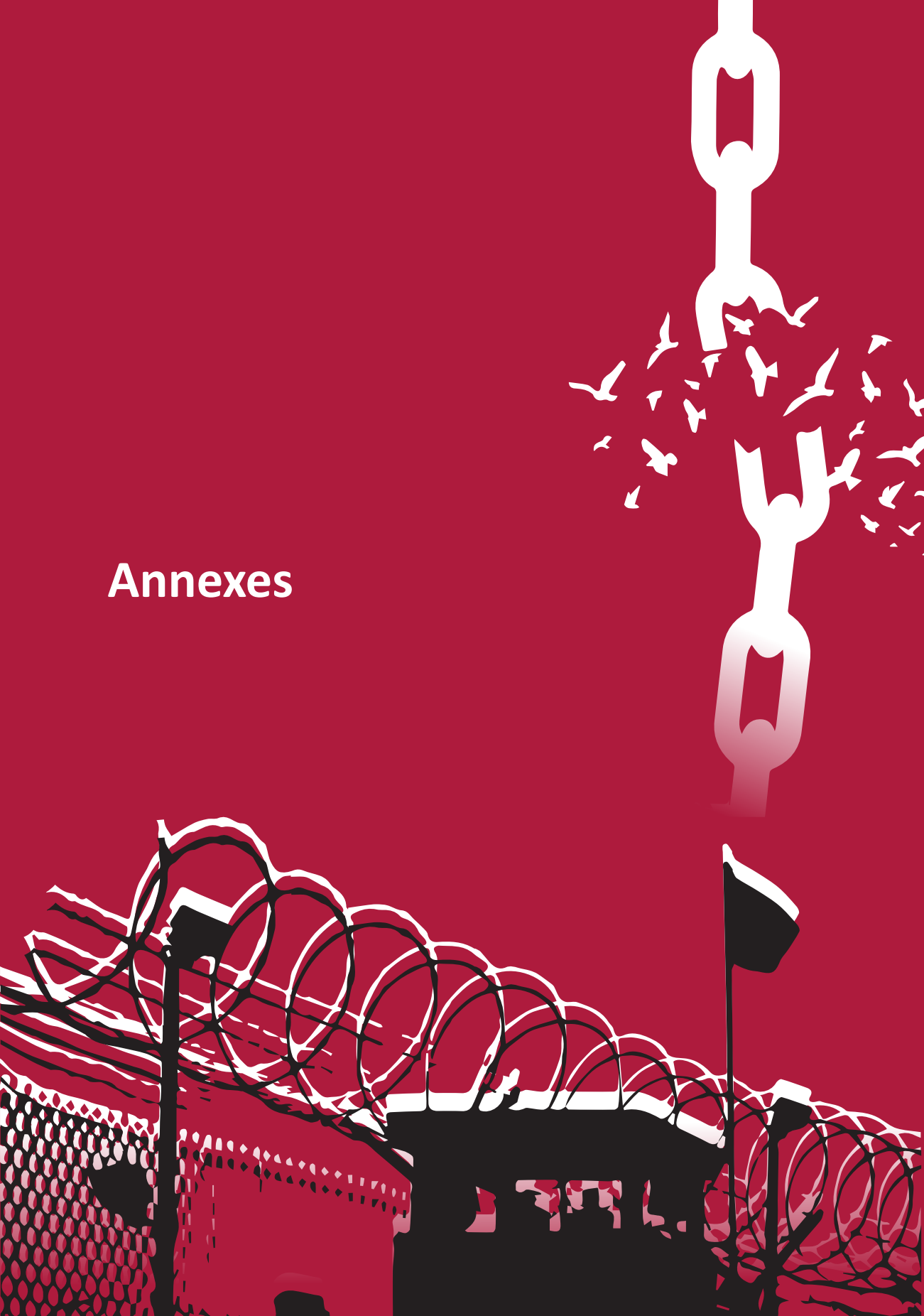
1. Addameer recommends the urgent need to legally pursue and hold accountable the occupation authorities for its crimes against the Palestinian people, including extrajudicial executions; violation of fair trial guarantees for prisoners; continuous transfer of prisoners between prisons by Bosta; administrative detention which deprives prisoners of being informed of the charges against them or the duration of their punishment; collective punishments that the occupation forces escalated during this year; in addition to withholding the bodies of the martyred prisoners.
2. Addameer urges the international community to put pressure on the occupation authorities to fully release all prisoners and detainees, mostly the elderly, the sick, women, and children who are held in extremely harsh conditions. In addition, the occupation authorities must comply with its obligations to provide the minimum space allocated to prisoners approved by the occupation courts, and to improve the conditions of detention places that lack the minimum standards of human life.
3. Addameer calls on the United Nations and the special rapporteurs to exert pressure on the occupation authorities to end the administrative detention practiced against the Palestinian people, and to stop the use of torture.
4. Addameer encourages consolidating efforts between local human rights organizations and the Commission of Detainees' Affairs Authority to expose the crimes of the occupation authorities and the Israel Prison Service (IPS), and to lodge local and international complaints to hold the occupation accountable for its actions. In addition, there is a need to unify the legal and human rights discourse regarding the issue of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, and to call for a boycott of the Israeli military courts.
5. Addameer recommends that prisoners and detainees document the assaults they are subjected to during arrest and detention and to report them to Palestinian and international human rights organizations, in order to activate the tools of accountability of the occupation for its crimes, and to expose the racist treatment with which the occupation authorities deal

with the Palestinians in general and the prisoners in particular, and the incitement practiced by the Israeli public to clamp down on the prisoners.

6. Addameer recommends the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to continue its role and tasks in protecting Palestinian prisoners, and uphold its right to unannounced visits to prisons and detention centers in order to assess conditions of detention and listen to the complaints and demands of the prisoners. In addition, ICRC should call on the Israel Prison Service to immediately fulfill its obligations as an occupier power under international humanitarian law.

7. Addameer recommends that the Special Rapporteur on the right to health and the relevant international organizations to continue to pressure the occupation authorities to comply by its obligations to provide health care to sick prisoners, in light of the medical negligence policy which constitutes a systematic policy against Palestinian prisoners and continues to cause death among the prisoner movement.

# Annexes



## Annex 1: Names of the Palestinian detainees who participated in the open hunger strike

Name	Date of Arrest	Total Administrative Detention Period
Nidal Abu Aker	01/08/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Ehab Mas'oud	17/10/2021	16 months in administrative detention
Asem Al-Ka'bi	24/08/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Ahmad Hajaj	24/08/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Thaer Taha	01/05/2022	4 months in administrative detention
Lutfе Salah	---	---
Salah Hammouri	07/03/2022	9 months in administrative detention
Ghassan Zawahreh	19/08/2022	20 months in administrative detention
Kan'an Mohammad Kan'an	03/08/2022	8 months in administrative detention
Ashraf Abu Iram	07/06/2021	20 months in administrative detention
Ghassan Karajeh	11/08/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Saleh Abu Alia	04/03/2022	12 months in administrative detention
Awad Kan'an	02/05/2022	---
Laith Kasabreh	01/02/2022	12 months in administrative detention
Saleh J'aidi	04/08/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Basel Mizher	12/11/2021	14 months in administrative detention
Majd Al-Khawaja	14/06/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Jihad Shraiteh	08/05/2022	10 months in administrative detention
Haitham Sayaj	03/11/2021	Pre-trial detention



Mustafa Hasanat	03/02/2022	12 months in administrative detention
Azmi Shraiteh	08/05/2022	10 months in administrative detention
Mohammad Abu Ghazi	13/03/2022	10 months in administrative detention
Ahmad Kharouf	13/06/2022	Pre-trial detention
Nasrallah Al-Barghouthi	---	---
Mohammad Fuqaha	15/03/2022	Pre-trial detention
Tamer Hajouj	15/03/2022	Pre-trial detention
Sinar Hamad	18/04/2022	8 months in administrative detention
Raghd Shamrouk	12/09/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Zaid Qaddoumi	16/09/2022	8 months in administrative detention



## Annex 2: Names of journalists in Israel prisons by the end of 2022

Name	Date of Arrest	Legal status
Mahmoud Mohammad Issa	06/03/1996	3 life imprisonments and 46 years
Ahmad Saifi	19/08/2009	19 years
Monther Mefleh	04/09/2003	30 years
Basem Khandaqji	02/11/2004	3 life imprisonments
Qassam Al-Barghouti	26/08/2019	Pre-trial detention
Yazan Abu Salah	21/01/2020	4 years
Haitham Jaber	24/07/2003	28 years
Omar Abu Al-Rob	01/04/2022	Administrative detainee
Rajai>e Hamad	28/03/2022	Administrative detainee
Amer Abu Arafa	19/07/2022	8 months in administrative detention
Faisal Rifai>e	20/07/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Nidal Abu Iker	01/08/2022	6 months in administrative detention
Ibrahim Abu Safiya	06/08/2022	Pre-trial detention
Yaseen Abu Lafeh	12/09/2022	Pre-trial detention
Tahreer Abu Siriyeh	20/08/2022	Pre-trial detention
Mahmoud Abu Al-Hasan	06/08/2022	10 months



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